



ANKENY CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY



Annual **Report**

30 Years of Faithfulness

2023

As a Christ centered school, dedicated to teaching the next generation the gospel and making disciples, we will continue to rely on the Lord's faithfulness to draw students and families to salvation and use them as partners with ACA.



Message From Our Board of Education

The Lord is faithful. In Exodus the scripture speaks to the Lord abounding in faithfulness. His faithfulness is overflowing, unlimited and is the same yesterday, today and forever. His faithfulness is woven through the history of Ankeny Christian Academy. The Lord began a good work over 30 years ago by planting a small Christian school in Ankeny, Iowa and He has sustained us through today. The future is bright as we continue to entrust this school to the Lord and He will sustain the steps ahead. What an immense blessing it is to be able to look back on our history and note His faithfulness throughout the years.

From the sacrifices of many devoted Christ followers, to the teachers investing in students still today, the Lord is the sustainer of our school. As a Christ centered school, dedicated to teaching the next generation the gospel and making disciples, we will continue to rely on the Lord's faithfulness to draw students and families to salvation and use them as partners with ACA. Our focus and aim will remain on bringing God glory in all we do. Our prayer is that we continue to be an evident display of His faithfulness for many generations to come!

Leah Davenport

Board of Education
Board Chair

We must continue to have a shared commitment to God alone and His living Word in our lives. Seasons come and seasons go but God's grace and love for His children never fails.



Message From Our Head of School

The Bible from beginning to end records countless examples of God's faithfulness from generation to generation. From Ankeny Christian Academy's inception thirty years ago to the present, God remains faithful to His purpose and plan in the lives of the ACA family. ACA began with a small group of people hoping and praying for what the Lord might do in Ankeny. The question was asked, what about a Christian school? God planted a seed in the hearts of that small group of people and His faithfulness is clearly evident today.

ACA has seen many changes over the past thirty years but there have been a few key things that have not changed. A strong commitment to a Christ-centered education that is rooted in Truth which steers our faith and practice. Parents and families that value and hold dear the partnership between their home, their church and their school. A faculty and staff that diligently serves students through teaching, loving, and discipling from hearts that have been transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

At ACA, we must continue to have a shared commitment to God alone and His living Word in our lives. Seasons come and seasons go but God's grace and love for His children never fails. God's faithfulness at ACA is a clear reminder to us and our community of His unending love. Let's celebrate His faithfulness together as you look through the many highlights in this Annual Report. God's faithfulness precedes ours and will continue on. Praise His name!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Brent Knoll".

Brent Knoll
Head of School

PRESCHOOL

FAITHFULLY TEACHING THE LITTLE ONES ABOUT JESUS

Ankeny Christian Academy offers a 3 and 4 year old Preschool program. There is a theme each week along with a letter from the alphabet, colors and numbers. The Preschool Department is currently using the ABeka curriculum. Our Preschool curriculum is taught from a biblical worldview, and our teachers are allowed to show the love of Christ in practical ways. Preschool teachers work directly with ACA kindergarten teachers to prepare students for kindergarten.

There are two programs each year including a Christmas Program in December and a Spring Program in April. Our 4 year old Preschool visits the Apple Orchard in the Fall and the Zoo in the Spring.



TERI STRONG ELLWANGER
25 Years of Experience at ACA



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



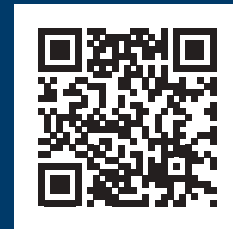
Kids come from loving Christian homes whose priority is to partner with us to train up a child in the way they should go.

PROVERBS 22:6



Our Preschool curriculum is taught from a biblical worldview. Teachers are allowed to show the love of Christ in practical ways.

—TERI STRONG ELLWANGER



Hear from Preschool teachers, Teri Strong Ellwanger and Wendy Reitsma, about Preschool at Ankeny Christian Academy



Beginnergarten is a unique program offered by ACA for children who turn five by October 5th.

It is a full-day, five-day schedule during which students receive:

- » Daily Bible lessons teach God’s story and emphasize Biblical character traits
- » Phonics/reading instruction to learn letters, sounds, reading fundamentals
- » Hands-on math learning
- » Themed units to explore science, literature and social studies
- » Small group instruction and play centers provide time to practice social skills, self-regulation, listening and oral language
- » Specials teachers give instruction in Art, Music, Library and PE
- » Every Beginnergarten student will enter kindergarten the next year

ELEMENTARY

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AT ACA ELEMENTARY

At ACA, children are taught about Jesus Christ as Savior and their teachers disciple them to follow after Him.

- » Mr. Nate builds discipling relationships with the children by talking with them at recess, lunchtime, and in the classroom.
- » Children, with their teacher and sometimes with help from parents or guardians, adopted a ministry and put their hands and feet to serve that ministry.
- » Fifth grade students volunteered weekly through Kingdom Kids to learn about Jesus and how he served, then put their hands to great work in classrooms and on the school grounds.



229

Students in Kindergarden
through 5th Grade

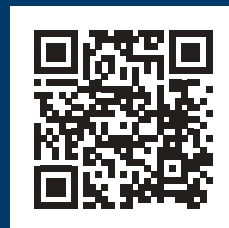
'22-'23

Teacher Associates were
hired to assist teachers.

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After thirty years God is still equipping those of us who work at ACA to testify to HIS faithfulness. As a discipleship school, we at Ankeny Christian Academy take seriously our mission, Building Christian Character for Tomorrow's Leaders, and it is by God's faithfulness and the Spirit's power that this can happen in the students' lives!

—JOYCE HANSEN



Hear from Elementary teacher,
Kelli Moore, about Elementary
at Ankeny Christian Academy



ISASP 2022 STUDENT TESTING RESULTS

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced

Grade	ACA PERCENTAGES			IOWA PERCENTAGES		
	English	Math	Science	English	Math	Science
3	92	94		65	73	
4	97	79		74	69	
5	83	83	83	67	65	61

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AT ACA MIDDLE SCHOOL

ACA's Middle School uses a team-based approach to learning. Our team of six teachers each teaches their own core subject. The 2022–2023 school year was the first year that combined grades six, seven and eight under the umbrella of middle school. The Middle School Team planned and implemented a Fall Retreat, a Thanksgiving Feast, and Breakout (which is our Spring Conference). The students participated in speech meet, science fair (6th grade), homecoming festivities, Project Serve, and many extracurricular sports and activities. The Middle Schoolers also teamed up with our K-12 school by participating in mixed-grade chapel groups and buddy groups between 8th graders and early elementary students.

- » A Middle School Choir (7th and 8th grade) was started this year.
- » Exploratory Classes were offered in 6th, 7th and 8th grade including Music, Art, Computer, and Foreign Language.



102

Middle School students in
6th, 7th and 8th grade.

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ACA not only grew my faith, but strengthened it. My faith is now way deeper than before and now I read the Bible more often, pray daily, and strive to be more like Christ. One of my favorite Bible verses is Proverbs 1:7 “Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

—8TH GRADE STUDENT



Hear from Middle School teacher, Jay Nihart, about Ankeny Christian Academy Middle School.



ISASP 2022 STUDENT TESTING RESULTS

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced

Grade	ACA PERCENTAGES		
	English	Math	Science
6	97	86	
7	97	80	
8	100	64	85

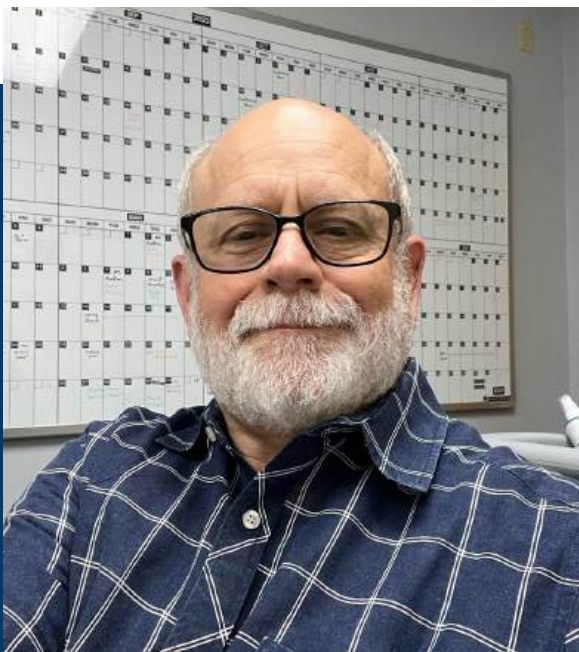
IOWA PERCENTAGES		
English	Math	Science
69	67	
73	65	
75	66	67

HIGH SCHOOL

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AT ACA HIGH SCHOOL

High School students attend a Fall Retreat and a Winter Retreat where they are challenged in their faith and where unity in Christ is celebrated!

Leadership development is important at ACA. Students work closely with teachers and administration to help build a culture of learning Christ-likeness in the way they lead and interact with others. Many opportunities are available to develop and nurture leadership skills and Christ-like character. Among them are Student Council, the Worship Leadership Team, the National Honor Society, student-led volunteer opportunities, and planning activities such as Homecoming, Prom and Senior Trip.



106

High School students in
9th through 12th grade.

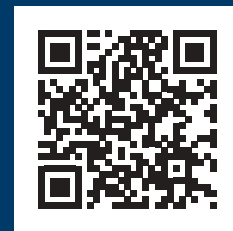
90%+

of ACA seniors were accepted
into colleges and universities.

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Faithfulness is the foundation of all of the service that we perform for the Lord. He was faithful to us in his provision for our redemption. We need to be faithful to him in all that we do.

—STEVE ROBINSON



Hear from High School teacher,
Jenny Anderson, about Ankeny
Christian Academy High School.



ISASP 2022 STUDENT TESTING RESULTS

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced

Grade	ACA PERCENTAGES			IOWA PERCENTAGES		
	English	Math	Science	English	Math	Science
9	96	67		71	58	
10	92	65	90	73	61	65
11	85	60		70	60	



DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is the cornerstone of the ACA educational philosophy. ACA equips the students to be able to engage with God and others biblically and trains the students to think, act, and believe like Jesus Christ. This is in alignment with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

CHAPEL SPEAKERS

- » Joel Willoughby from Brains & Bible
- » Shon Lundberg from Community Baptist Church
- » Nathan Gast from Urbandale Baptist
- » Willie Felderman from IRBC
- » James Mambo from Agrihope
- » Jared Segerstrom from Soteria
- » Jerrod Leonard from Saylorville

RETREATS

- » High School Retreat at Hidden Acres
- » Breakout Middle School Retreat at Ankeny Free Church
- » High School Winter Retreat at Saylorville



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Faithfulness is to continually serve the Master's cause while longing for His return (Matt 24:45-46). Here at ACA, it has been our mission to "build Christian character for tomorrow's leaders" for the past 29 years. I am excited to work at ACA in order to continue that mission in order to serve our God fervently until He returns.

—NATE PELLETIER

ADVANCEMENT

The ACA Advancement Department works to move the school mission forward by connecting the school with greater Ankeny and central Iowa communities through relationship building, creating volunteer opportunities, and developing lasting partnerships.



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ACA has always been a sign of God’s faithfulness. To have a small group of families take this calling, plant it, nurture it, and watch it grow to serve almost 500 students is proof of the Lord’s faithfulness.

—HANS HOEKSEMA

Our students serve by cleaning, organizing, and working with people at these ministries and community organizations for our Community Service Workday:

- » Agape Pregnancy Center
- » Ankeny Christian Academy
- » Ankeny Evangelical Free Church
- » Ankeny Fire Department
- » Camp Sunnyside
- » Faith Baptist Bible College
- » First Family Church
- » Freedom for Youth
- » Habitat for Humanity Construction
- » Habitat for Humanity Restore Store
- » Hope Ministries
- » Independence Village, nursing home
- » Joppa Ministries
- » Lutheran Church of Hope Ankeny
- » Mill Pond Retirement Village
- » Safe Families
- » Word of Victory Church

More than \$500,000 was donated to support ACA in the 2022 school year. These funds were used to bless students, teachers and the school.



\$143,522
Project Serve



\$43,030
Teacher Christmas
Fund



\$300,853
Student Tuition
Organization



\$66,840
2022 Legacy Gala

ATHLETICS

Athletes at ACA realize that all things should be done for God's glory, including sports. One of the ways athletes bring glory to God is by giving 100% to be the best possible team player they can be.

It was an exciting year for the ACA Athletics Program! The Girls Volleyball team won the Class 1A State Championship Title. The Girls Basketball team were conference champions and the boys took 2nd place in the Conference. Daniel Schoening and Belle Oshirak were State Qualifiers in Track & Field and Daniel Schoening in Cross Country. Concluding the athletic season, the baseball team placed 2nd in the Conference with Landon Curtis hitting the first grand slam in ACA history! ACA also won the All-Sports trophy this year.

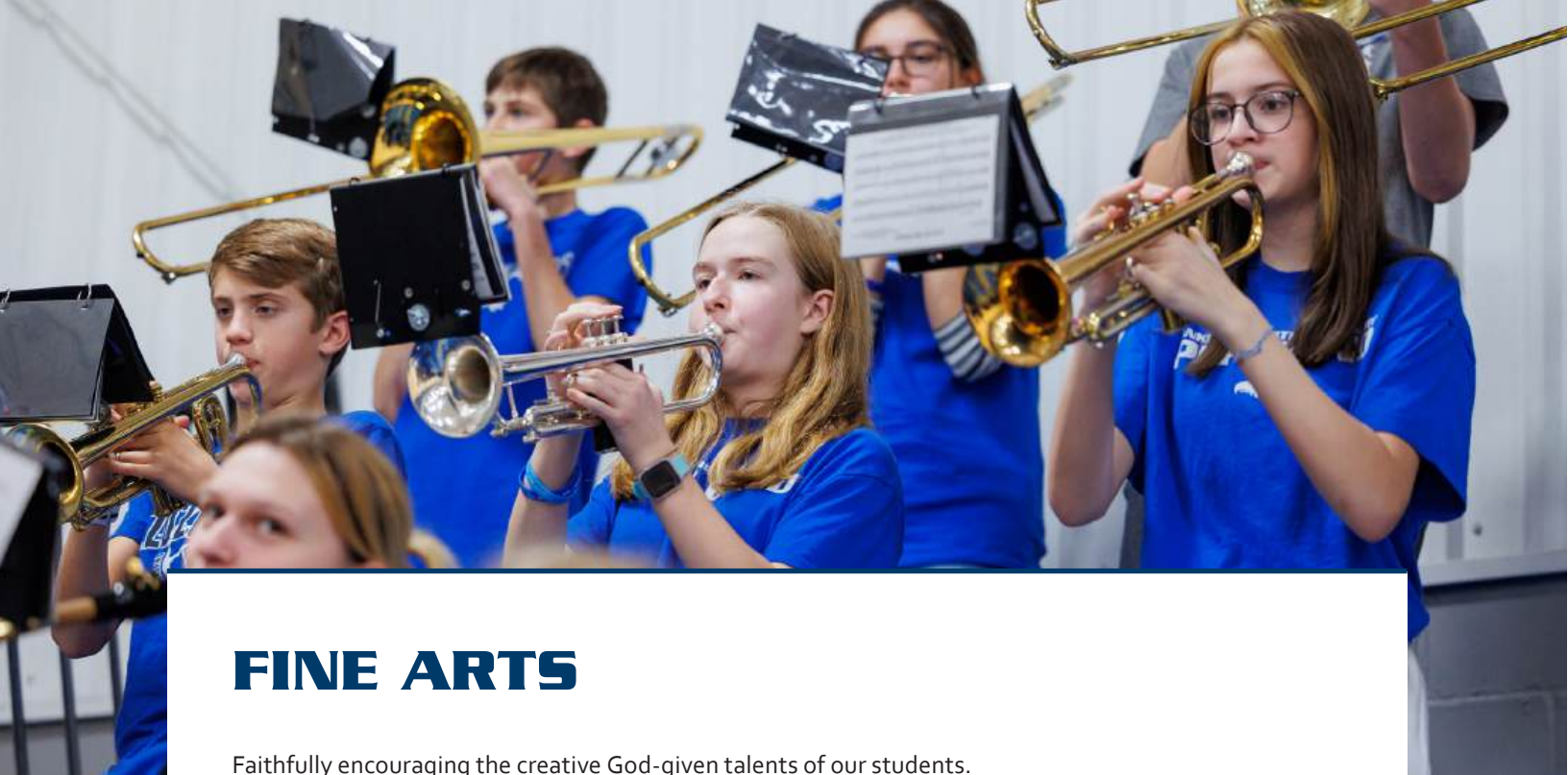


Athletics at ACA is an opportunity for students to show Godly character to other schools. It is a privilege to see and support our students in this way.

—DAVE WALTER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR







FINE ARTS

Faithfully encouraging the creative God-given talents of our students.

- » High school students produce a play every Fall and a musical every Spring giving the students many opportunities to engage in theatrical productions either onstage or backstage. The Sound of Music was a fun way to have elementary and middle school students be a part of the production!
- » Band and music lessons.
- » Band gives students the opportunity to hone their musical skills in a fun and engaging way.
- » Band and choir concerts every Christmas and Spring.
- » Students participate in Speech Meet every year.
- » Art instruction at the Elementary, Middle School and High School levels.
- » Mr. Ryan Weathers directs the Middle School and High School Choirs.
- » Mr. Michael Burrows directs 5th Grade, Middle School and High School Bands.
- » Mrs. Kirstin Burrows teaches Elementary vocal music classes and directs the High School musicals.



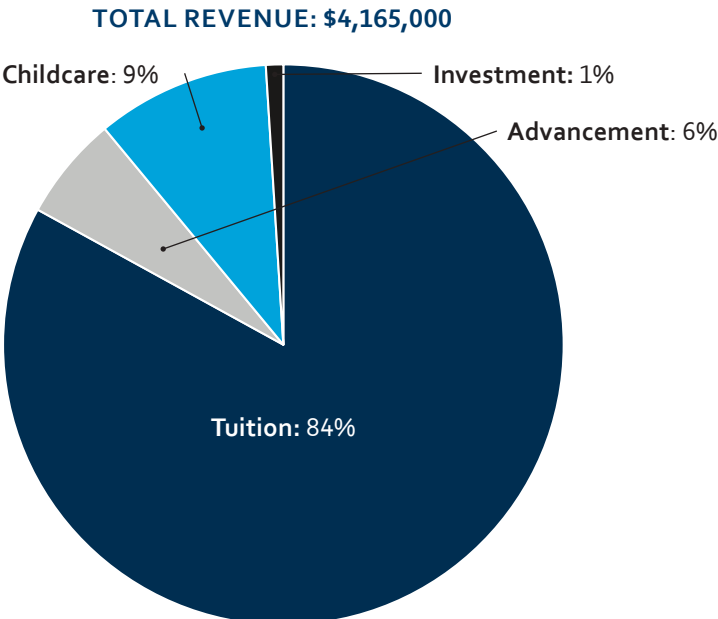
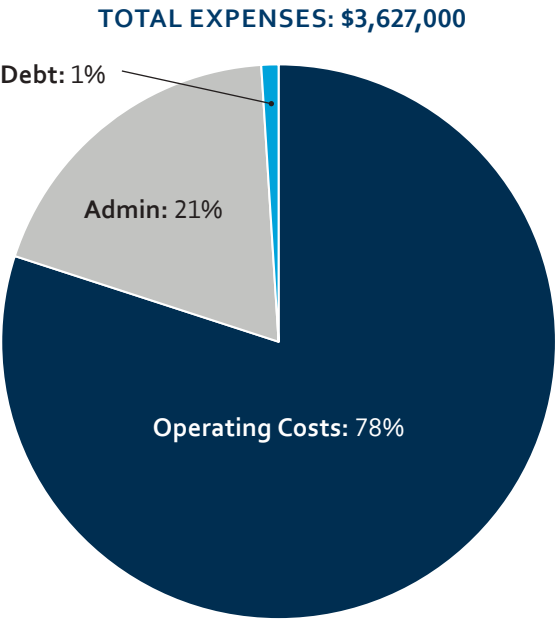
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I am thankful to have spent 13 years at ACA! Not only did my education prepare me for Cedarville University, but the biblical worldview in each class has greatly benefited me. It is vitally important to ground ourselves in the Word of God, something that ACA teachers demonstrate and communicate on a daily basis. I could not be more grateful for the ways that ACA set me up for success after graduation!

—JOSIAH DAVENPORT ('22)



FINANCE



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Faithfulness is God's unwavering protection and provision for our school. Faithfulness is our founding fathers, alumni families and current association members' continued prayers and support of ACA, over many years.

—DIANE SCOTT



GLAD
YOU'RE
HERE!

The image shows two young women standing in a parking lot, holding a large white sign. The woman on the left has long brown hair, wears glasses, a white lace dress, and a tan cardigan. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and wears a dark red dress. The sign they are holding has the text 'GLAD YOU'RE HERE!' written in a hand-drawn style. 'GLAD' is in purple with vertical lines, 'YOU'RE' is in blue with vertical lines, and 'HERE!' is in solid blue. In the background, there is a white SUV with 'NP' and a logo on its side, a blue building, and a cloudy sky.



ANKENY CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

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