

2023-2024
Praise Report
Edition

the
LION'S SHARE

SAN ANTONIO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SAN ANTONIO CHRISTIAN

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“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name
give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love
and your faithfulness.” **Psalm 115:1**



A message from

Rob Brown, D. Min

Head of School

Dear Family and Friends of San Antonio Christian School,

On behalf of the SACS Board of Directors, faculty, and administration, we are pleased to share this first of many more annual praise reports summarizing highlights of the 2023-24 school year. With every day that passes, I am more thankful for the partnerships the Lord has chosen in His grace to forge together so that we may freely “foster a life of faith and service” within every student. Our collective determination to pursue God’s best and provide the most excellent school and environment for our children reminds me of the Apostle Paul with his admonition to the believers in the church of Colosse: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for man, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3: 23-24). I love being part of a school family that is willing to roll up their sleeves and get things done and done well for the glory of our Lord.

Today, with a firm foundation of over 50 years of serving children and their families, and over 2,500 thriving alumni, we are truly blessed that we remain committed to our roots and convictions in God’s Word while seeking His direction and provision for the next 50 years. As you will read in this praise report, much of what was introduced this past year will be a springboard for what lies ahead for SACS in the coming years. As we look back at 2023-24, this year’s senior graduating class was the largest we have experienced, and we have shared several of their accomplishments in this publication.

In this report you will find information on the following high points that include:

Campus and Student Life – the hiring of Bill Tanner and Pastor Matt O’Brien brought tremendous intentionality in both the spiritual and student life experiences on and off campus.

4H – students received several awards for showing animals, and the year was highlighted with the construction of a new barn, and gate pens housing our students’ show animals.

Elementary, Middle and High School – each Principal has provided a wonderful overview of the year in their respective campuses in this report.

Arts – whether it is our sold-out K-12 theatre productions or Rock Band achievements, the Arts at SACS provides an excellent avenue to discover and release our students’ creative gifts for the Lord.

Athletics – SACS athletics had an outstanding year at every level. Their vision to perform for an “audience of one” keeps everyone excited and focused on the prize.

Technology and Security – as you will see on page 7, SACS was the highest recipient of all private schools in Texas in which we applied and received approximately \$2 million in GAPS state funds to upgrade school safety and educational technology.

Alumni – keeping in touch with our alumni and celebrating their accomplishments is an area of importance and we are excited that our beloved Rusty Sugg will be investing more of his time and energy in reconnecting with and engaging our alumni.

Generosity Giving – through the incredible generosity of our school families and booster clubs, so many additional improvements and projects were funded outside of our budget so that we may continue to invest in improving our teacher salaries and student programming.

“With the premise of fully acknowledging God’s mercy and blessings, we want to recognize and celebrate all the great things that happened throughout campus, while looking for even greater years and experiences for your children.”

SACS Finances – The Board of Directors and Finance Committee have made concerted efforts this year via email, recorded videos, and podcasts regarding the school’s transparency of our finances. In this section you will find an overview of our income and expenses, Vision 2030, and a Development update.

Vision 2030 Strategic Plan – after two years of collaboration, many surveys, and focus groups, the culmination and emphasis of our strategic plan was released back in December. We are thankful for every parent, staff, and student who provided valuable input to the board and leadership team in this process. We are fully convinced the Lord has led us throughout this critical school improvement initiative and we look forward to the great things He has in store for all of us in the coming years.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study - Last spring the Board of Directors hired an independent consulting firm to help us gather as much data as possible to evaluate our capacity and support for a number of our initiatives. That study will be completed in August, and we look forward to the Lord’s leading in this critical area.

Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA) - CESA is highly regarded as the premier accrediting agency validating some of the finest independent Christian schools across the country, with rigorous standards far exceeding typical accreditation cycles. The Board and leadership team began the comprehensive effort to seek full institutional accreditation with them beginning in January of 2023. Please feel free to view the website and see for yourself why we have chosen to pursue membership with this highly recognized organization (cesaschools.org).

Completing the CESA process in January 2025, and though our regional accreditation with COGNIA and ACSI, we will host all three accreditation groups to ensure we are meeting the highest levels of academic standards and accountability within the framework of God’s excellence and unchanging Word.

For the reasons above and many more that you will find in this report, we are excited to see the Lord’s goodness and faithfulness to us. He has chosen to bless His school and we’re even more excited to see how He will provide next. Please pray that we will continue to submit ourselves to the Lord and His leading and be faithful stewards of all that He has provided for us, keeping our eyes and hearts grounded in the Lord and faithfully seeking His good and glory in all that we do. Once again, thank you for your trust, your confidence, and your support in this noble endeavor of molding young lives and helping them understand and discover God’s desire for each and every one of your incredible children.



Worship Team Now



SACS Legacy

In 1972, a group of families prayerfully followed the will of the Lord to establish a school where their children could be immersed in a Christ-centered educational environment. San Antonio Christian School was born, a school that does not shield them from the world, but prepares them for it, rooted in the beautiful truths of Scripture. Today, SACS is a robust, college-prep covenant school that seeks to partner with our families to raise up sons and daughters through that same Christ-centered education while fostering a life of faith and service.

Today, our student body is 940 strong, with more than 150 educators and administrators here to help grow our students into who the Lord has intended for them to be. We are honored to partner with our families, and trust that the Lord will continue to do amazing things through San Antonio Christian School!



Worship Team Then

Mission:

“Partnering with families to provide students a Christ-centered education while fostering a life of faith and service.”



Motto:

“Faith,
Character,
Academic Excellence.”



Core Values:

- Integrity
- Devotion
- Biblical Worldview
- Sustaining Ministry
- Discipleship
- Partnership
- Stewardship
- Academic Excellence
- Guiding Ethic

By the Numbers

2023-2024 was a hallmark year for San Antonio Christian School. The Lord's hand was evident in so many ways, and we are thankful for how we were blessed, and how we were able, in turn, to bless our school community. Our year was full of service, support, and dedication by our students, families, faculty, and administrators.

Let's look at this past school year and celebrate some outstanding achievements!

5,400 Service Hours Completed Campus Wide

92%

Student Retention

96%

*Compared to 64% state passing average

Passing rate for AP precalculus students



10.47 Million in Offered Scholarships to the class of 2024

20%

of SACS families, staff, and faculty have current or former military service members

1000 Universities that offered acceptance to the class of 2024

1600

Attendants to "Christmas on Mane"

\$1,942,000

in grants invested in campus technology and security upgrades

95%

Faculty
Retention

71%

of Middle School
students actively
engaged in
athletics



1150

Average tickets
sold for each SACS
Theatre production

National Merit Scholarship Program

3 Finalists, including Jack Hawkins, our
National Merit Scholar

Academic All-
State Awards
for our high
school athletes

43

2 First place trophies brought
home by the SACS band from
the 61st Annual Fiesta
Jazz Festival



42%

of student
body represented
diverse ethnic
backgrounds

On Campus

Investments in Campus Security

Campus security is one of our utmost priorities at San Antonio Christian School. We are blessed to have Rick Morgan as our Director of Security and his team ensuring that we are well protected at all times. The Board of Directors, Dr. Brown, Mr. Morgan, and SACS CFO, Ed McCabe all saw fit to make substantial investments into campus security and technology in the 2023-2024 school year through rare and God-ordained access to grants of approximately \$2 Million! Those projects include the following exciting upgrades:

- Surveillance cameras in the PreK playground
- Surveillance cameras to cover the Back 40 parking lot
- Buzz-entry door system from elementary school lobby into the office
- Keyless access to all exterior doors
- 6ft gate to enclose the elementary school playground with swing and pedestrian gates

Investments in Campus

Throughout the year and into summer, the campus was abuzz with constant upgrades to technology in all of the classrooms. Through blessings of a grant from the State of Texas and through the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide brand new desktops in each classroom, and new Surface Pro devices for all faculty and staff. Additionally:

- All computer network cabling was upgraded.
- Campus WiFi equipment was upgraded and expanded with an "access point" device in the center of each classroom.
- Each classroom received a new laser projector and wall mounted soundbar for outstanding audio and visual support to learning.
- A new wireless display receiver for each projector connected to the projector wirelessly from each teacher's Surface or desktop computer.
- Dramatically improved speed and accessibility.



All faculty and staff received new Surface Pros.

Student Life

Campus-wide fellowship events are integral to the spirit of SACS, and this year provided us with many wonderful opportunities to grow closer to one another, and to share with our friends and family what makes SACS a unique and blessed place.

Christmas On Mane

The Behind the Lions Fine Arts Booster Club hosted a spectacular “The Light of Christmas” event for Christmas on Mane, featuring more than 300 performers, shopping opportunities for students and parents, and various food trucks to satisfy hungry families, culminating in a festive parade. More than 1,500 people attended this memorable event where we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!



Homecoming



This weeklong celebration was full of exciting events for current students and families and alumni alike. Students enjoyed dress-up days, pep rallies, and a win for our football team! Alumni were welcomed back for the outstanding Homecoming tailgate, and dozens of our Legacy families reconnected at our Legacy Dinner. None of our high schoolers were “late for a very important date” as they ventured Down the Rabbit Hole and into the SLC for the eagerly anticipated Homecoming Dance!

Student Life

Senior BBQ

Each year, the senior class officers select a charity to benefit from the funds raised at the Senior BBQ lunch. This year, the class of 2024 chose to support SAMMinistries, an organization dedicated to aiding the homeless. The event truly embodied the spirit of the class, with entertainment provided by the Tejano Travelers, a band comprised of SACS students, adding a vibrant touch to the celebration.



Elementary School Fun

Message with Mom, Devotions with Dad, the Daddy/Daughter Dance, and the Mother/Son Nerf battle brought life to our campus through our littlest lions and their families, and we are so thankful to the dedication of our wonderful volunteers who help make these events run so smoothly.





“Cloud 9” Junior-Senior Prom 2024 marked the inaugural prom for SACS, with students dancing the night away at the Witte Museum. It was a wonderful celebration, providing seniors with a memorable send-off before they embark on their next journey.



Spiritual

Life

A message from

Matt O'Brien

Director of Spiritual Development

What an incredible year it has been! I am filled with gratitude and awe for the remarkable ways God moved within our school community this year. Our mission to partner with Christian families and educators in cultivating an environment grounded in faith, character, and academic excellence bore fruit time and again. To God be all the glory!

At the heart of San Antonio Christian School is our unwavering commitment to nurturing not just the minds, but the hearts and souls of our students. During the 2023/2024 school year, every class was infused with a biblical worldview, ensuring that our children grew in their knowledge of the Lord alongside their academic pursuits. Our upper school teachers also invested in mentoring students in huddle groups during retreats and small groups. This comprehensive approach is the cornerstone of our mission, and it was evident in the vibrant spiritual life that flourished among our students and faculty.

One of the highlights this year was our focus on strengthening parent partnerships. Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of parents to discuss how we could better partner with parents in middle and high school. We explored ideas around chapel, shadow days, potential events, and even expanding our beloved Daddy/Daughter dance. This discussion was promising, opening doors for our service days and beyond. In the upcoming year, we plan to add morning devotions for all parents. Additionally, we scheduled parental seminars that will directly aim to help our young image bearers live for Christ in a broken world.

Chapel is such a sweet time for our students from PreK through seniors. This year, we listened to the feedback we received and explored various chapel formats. One of the changes we implemented was inviting community members and friends of the school to share testimonials with our students. These testimonies from community members resonated deeply with our students. Inspired by speakers like Louis Barrios, owner of La Hacienda, and San Antonio Police Officer Doug Greene, our students were eager to grow in their faith and to engage with their community. On the May student survey, most middle school and high school students indicated that the continued development of chapel is moving in the right direction. We praise the Lord for this!

The Lord worked through and in our students this year during our campus-wide service days; they served ministries such as Presbyterian Children's Center of San Antonio, Young Life Downtown Garden, One by One Ministries, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Christian Assistance Ministry, Haven for Hope, CARE, and La Hacienda. More than 95% of our high school and middle school students want to do service days again, and they found it brought them closer to the Lord, and realizing the spiritual impact they can have on others.

Mission Trip

Another significant milestone was our Go Trip to Costa Rica. Every student that joined this mission's trip articulated how they grew spiritually, and the PTL communal journal was nearly 20 pages in length. These students participated in numerous kingdom activities, including prayer walks, evangelism, communal projects, teaching biblical lessons to elementary kids, soccer camps, and spending time with locals. This year, we are expanding the program to include two options: Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. By 2030, our goal is to offer 4-6 mission trips, as witnessing God's Kingdom in action locally and internationally is crucial to our discipleship plan. These trips help confront selfishness, entitlement, and covetousness; they also address materialism, which is a growing temptation for our students (May 2023 student survey).



“At the heart of San Antonio Christian School is our unwavering commitment to nurturing not just the minds, but the hearts and souls of our students.”





After much prayer and feedback from students, parents, and faculty members, we have decided on the following theme for the 2024-2025 school year:

God first – not about **us**, all about **Him**.

Each month, we will focus on a different attribute or characteristic of God. We will communally marvel at His splendor and, with the Lord's help, prioritize the mission of Scripture in all areas of life. Jesus is the main character in Scripture, and He must take priority in the SACS narrative.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to faith, character, and academic excellence. With God's guidance and your continued support, we are confident that the best is yet to come.



Elementary School

A message from

Cheryl Womack

Elementary School Principal

Year-in-Review

What an amazing year we had at SACS Elementary School! We are thrilled to share so many positive achievements and moments! It has been a year filled with growth, friendship, and partnership. The Lord has blessed all the efforts of our partnership, contributing to the enhancement of the educational experience for all of our students.

In the 2023-2024 school year, Vision 2030, the vision that the Lord has laid upon the hearts of our school's leadership, was rolled out. The praises and victories for the 2023-2024 year at SACS Elementary School are outlined according to the pillars of that plan, and we are so excited to see how the Lord continues to work and bring His plan to life on our campus!

Spiritual Development:

We have expanded our spiritual emphasis initiatives by introducing an Easter Celebration. This special event is not a classroom party, rather, it is a special time of intentional focus on helping students understand and share the Gospel. This is yet another way that we are helping to partner with parents in our commitment to raise "fishers of men". Additionally, Praise the Lord, we are ecstatic to report that we had at least 5 baptisms among our elementary school students, a testament to their spiritual growth and the supportive community here at SACS.



Academic Distinction:

This year each grade level experienced an immersive learning day designed to enrich our curriculum and engage students in hands-on educational experiences. These curriculum-enhancing days are instrumental in fostering creativity and critical thinking among our students. These special event days could not take place without the support from our many volunteers who collaborate with teachers to create educational and experiential opportunities for our students! SACS Elementary is blessed with amazing teachers who pour into our students every single day to help them grow academically, and spiritually. Their dedication is unmatched, and the fruits of those academic labors shine every day. One example of these fruits is our students who showcased their academic prowess at the annual ACSI Math Olympics competition, with two Elementary School students qualifying at the national level. Congratulations to these students and teachers for their dedication and commitment!

Faculty Advancement:

Our teachers have actively engaged in Professional Learning Communities, collaborating to enhance teaching practices and student outcomes. Each teacher has completed at least 30 hours of professional development over the course of the academic year, ensuring that our educational standards remain high.

Christian Community and Service:

Field trips continue to play a vital role in our curriculum, combining academic learning with community service. A notable trip this year was the fourth-grade visit to Austin, where students had the opportunity to see the Gutenberg Bible, enriching their connection to the Word.

High School and Elementary School Cross-programming:

The awe and respect that the PreK students showed toward the high schoolers who helped them plant in our sustainable garden, and then later encouraged them with cards and words of affirmation, exemplifies our strong commitment to service, both beyond our gates and within our own community. We are so thankful for how the Lord is growing the spirit of community and service in our little ones' hearts!

Stewardship of Finances & Facilities:

We are excited to announce several improvements to our school infrastructure, made possible through generous donations to the school's Annual Fund from our parents and our community. These include:

- A brand-new public-address sound system in the cafeteria, ensuring clear communication during chapel and school events.
- The addition of the Accelerated Reader Program (AR), which is an incentive-based reading system that helps students hone their reading skills through authentic practice and encourage growth.
- A newly renovated elementary gym which includes freshly painted walls, branding and new flooring! Our new gym will be a vibrant and welcoming environment not only for PE but for the gatherings that we have come to cherish: First Day of School Prayer, Message with Mom, Devotions with Dad, and the Daddy/Daughter Dance.

Thanks to grant funding, our school's technology has been updated with new projectors in each classroom, a mobile technology cart which also contains new student tablets, and new desktop computers and monitors in the elementary tech center. These advancements are crucial in the process of exposing our students incrementally to technology and preparing them for future success.

As we look ahead, we are reminded of the words of Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." At SACS, we hold the conviction that each student is a cherished gift entrusted to us by our God. Together, we cultivate the seeds of knowledge and faith, nurturing young minds to grow into compassionate leaders and lifelong learners, guided by the enduring truths of God's word. Thank you for your continued support and partnership! Join us in praying for another year of growth, achievement, and success!



Middle School

Middle School can be an **adventure** like no other, and at SACS, that is what we are all about!

A message from

Catherine Sheats

Middle School Principal

Someone once asked if it was good to be in the middle? "Sometimes it's not, like when you're in the middle seat on a long car ride. But sometimes it is like when you're in the middle of a great movie. What will happen next?" If you have ever had a middle schooler then you know the truth of this statement. The days are full of feeling awkward and wanting to fit in, dealing with increased academic expectations and then forgetting your homework, navigating friendships and so many changes. BUT Middle School can be an **adventure** like no other, and at SACS that is what we are all about.

SACS middle school students find ways to help and serve others. This year our Middle School students gave over 2,180 hours in service to their school community and the greater San Antonio area. Several of our students participated in mission trips around the world. Our students are ready and willing to be the hands and feet of Christ. Opportunities to help others is just one small part of what we do to help our students

"It was a joy to see the looks on the faces of students who made those connections and now memories of their own."

- Mary Ruth Lynch

7TH GRADE ENGLISH TEACHER

grow in "faith and service". Through chapels, retreats, and heartfelt conversations our students are not only deepening their faith but also discovering the profound art of selfless giving. We are grateful for the parents, community leaders, and others that speak into the lives of our students as they endeavor to live out their faith.

What could be more **adventurous** than leaving home to learn more about our world through our MS educational trips. Since 2005, more than 1,000 middle school students

from SACS have embarked on educational adventures. This year, 35 students and seven chaperones experienced a taste of New England. They experienced View Boston from floors 50-52 of the Prudential Tower, learned everything there was about the life of a lobster on the Lobster Tales cruise, and had a blast solving puzzles, both intellectual and physical at Boda Borg. Students stepped back in time at Plymouth Plantation, the Old North Church, Lexington and Concord, and

the Freedom Trail. Walking through the New England Holocaust Memorial provided reflection and true meaning to the books read during their 7th grade year. Students were making connections to what has been taught in the classroom.



Along with strong academics, we stand committed to helping our students explore their creativity and areas of interest through unique electives such as

Animal Care, Sports 101, Business 101, Cinematography, and 2D Animation.

These electives, designed by our faculty, help our students discover hidden talents and abilities and provide a place for them to use those talents for the benefit of others. We are grateful for the donations made to the Middle School that allow us to continue providing these avenues for our students. Without your support, many of these opportunities would not happen.



If you really want to talk about **adventures**, then recognizing the incredible impact athletics and the fine arts have on our students must be noted. This year alone over 180 MS students participated in our fine arts program. From our incredible band program to the drawings that line our hallway, “a school our size should not have as much strong talent as we do” says Katie Pritz SACS Theater director. The exponential growth of our fine arts program has surpassed all expectations and is a testament to the incredible talents of our students and the unwavering support of our dedicated parent volunteers. In Athletics, over 71% of our students are actively engaged in our athletic program participating in ten different competitive sports. Robin Gerlich, SACS Athletic Director reminds us that “Middle School athletics significantly benefit students by fostering teamwork, leadership, and a sense of community, while also enhancing academic focus and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The integration of spirituality through sports offers students a platform to embody their faith, instilling purpose and resilience that contribute to improved academic outcomes.”

88% of MS students participated in fine arts

71% of students engaged in the MS athletic program

students who competed in the ACSI Math Olympics **18**

2180
Hours of community service

High School

A message from

Keith Wilke

High School Principal

In December 2023, Sam and I gathered our three daughters together, stepped onto an airplane and made our way to San Antonio to begin a new chapter in our story. It was a step of faith, believing that God knew where he was taking us and that he would provide for all our needs as we stepped into this adventure. We truly serve an awesome God, and we praise him for his never-ending provision and faithfulness. We are more convinced than ever that God has us where he wants us to be, and we rest in this every day.

As everyone knows, however, life is not easy, and a move of this magnitude has not been without hiccups, so the people around us have become monumentally important when it comes to settling in. Our thankfulness runs deep, and we hope that the SACS community feels how grateful we are for all the care and support that we have received.

Leading a high school is an incredible job all over the world, but it is especially incredible at SACS. It has been a joy seeing the Lord at work in our students and in this school.

As I reflect on my first semester at SACS, I am awed by the Lord's hand of provision. The academic performance of our high schoolers is incredibly promising, and the commitment of our students to success and fulfilling the Lord's plan is admirable.



From athletics to fine arts to academic achievement to Christian service, we can look back on the 2023-2024 school year with pride at San Antonio Christian School High School. If we were to put together a highlights reel, this is what it would feature:

- **SACS is home to three National Merit Finalists**, including a 2024 National Merit Scholar, Jack Hawkins. This is no small feat, and we are incredibly proud of these students. This accomplishment speaks highly of their dedication and the quality of education provided at SACS.
- **Our senior class was a talented group**, and we proudly share that they have been accepted into more than 100 institutions and were offered \$10.47 million in scholarships. Of our senior class, 98% are attending an institution of higher education, one is pursuing entrepreneurship, and one is enlisting in the United States Navy to serve our country.
- **A significant investment was made in our college and career guidance program** this past year. The Guidance Office offers a range of services to help students and their families with educational and career development. Tailored programs for all grade levels prepare students for their academic and professional futures. To assist with college admissions, it organizes events like college fairs, application workshops, and financial aid seminars, and holds grade-level meetings to guide families through the process. These meetings provide clear steps and timelines, ensuring students and parents are supported throughout their high school journey.
- **The students at SACS are committed to service** and the programs that are in place are helping to create well-rounded, student leaders who will stand out in college applications and carry this with them for the remainder of their lives. In the 2023-2024 school year, our high school students completed an amazing 3200+ number of service hours, giving back to our community in a variety of ways.
- **Interim Week was fantastic, and we saw the eyes of our students opened as they enjoyed new experiences.** An incredible array of opportunities, from internships and real-world experiences to unique hobbies and local adventures was offered. Students explored ancient history in Rome and Athens, served in Costa Rica, and participated in various local activities like art and museum trips, Sea World behind-the-scenes tours, the Air Force "Alpha to Zulu" program, and a wide variety of sports, music and hobby courses. They also engaged in community service projects, science and engineering field trips to SAWS, CPS Energy, and Southwest Research Institute, sports medicine with CPR certification, and learned skills ranging from leather crafting to Italian cooking. This interim week experience, when coupled with the multiple retreats and trips offered to our students, creates a fully-immersive educational experience!
- **Our extracurricular offerings at SACS are second to none!** SACS offers exceptional extracurricular programs that truly enrich our students' lives. The band, led by the esteemed David Eskridge, dazzled halftime with Rock Band performances at football games and took home awards at the Fiesta Jazz Festival, showcasing both staff dedication and the cultivation of students' God-given talents. Our theater program, guided by Katie Pritz, inspires students to step out of their comfort zones, building confidence and camaraderie as they take the stage. Additionally, our athletics programs are taken very seriously, and provide a competitive environment to develop the skills of our student athletes. For these students, we provide strong examples of faith and service, encouraging students to pursue excellence as men and women of God through FCA, service projects, and participation in 10 different sports.

"SACS is an exciting place to be right now and knowing that God is leading and guiding us forward means that from athletics to arts to 4-H, our SACS students have only the best to look forward to!" -**Keith Wilke**



Arts

At pretty much any time around the SACS campus, you can encounter the Arts. Whether it's rehearsals in the Band Hall, the sweet sound of little voices in the Elementary School, a student working the kilns in the pottery studio, or a dramatic interpretation in the SLC, fine arts are found all around. This year, our arts programs flourished under the spectacular leadership of our staff and a host of parent volunteers, and we are so thankful for how the Lord is using the arts on our campus, and we pray we are bringing Him glory in all that we bring to the stage!

Our music programs won individual and team awards, our production involvement has grown significantly, and we have even branched into original productions, showcasing the many talents the Lord has bestowed upon our children and our Directors. Read on for highlights of our outstanding year!

“Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing” **Psalm 100:2**



Band

“When the San Antonio Christian School Rock Band hits the football field, they thrill...”

Those were the words of San Antonio Express-News journalist Vincent T. Davis when he spotlighted our unique band and their outstanding director David Eskridge. Mr. Eskridge, a longtime arranger with the world-renowned soul group Tower of Power, brings an amazing talent to the music department at SACS. Our Rock Band which performs not only under those Friday night lights, but throughout the year to the joy of our students, parents, and visiting fans alike, is a unique opportunity for SACS students as the only Rock Band of its type in town. Eskridge brings unmatched experience, offering not only Rock Band, but all of our middle and high school band students a dedication and selfless leadership that shows in all aspects of their performances.

In addition to Rock Band, Eskridge leads our Jazz Band which won first place at this year's St. Mary's Jazz Festival, competing against schools twice its size. We are so blessed to have Mr. Eskridge's experience and leadership to help develop the God-given talent of our students! As Mr. Davis noted when observing Rock Band rehearsal this year, “[a]ll of the band members are proud of the loud, robust wall of sound that's their signature,” and we are so proud of them!





Theatre



The numbers in the Middle and High School theatre program speak for themselves. More than 70 students participated in each production totaling more than 150 students involved throughout the year! More than 50 parent volunteers rallied “Behind the Lions” to help bring these productions to life, where on average 1,150 tickets per production were sold! We had outstanding presentations of *Shrek Jr.* and *Matilda Jr.*, both audience (and student) hits, but we also produced a SACS original! *Unveiled, a Mystery Dinner Theatre*, three different shows with three different endings, with all the same characters, was a resounding success!

Bringing these shows to life is a collaborative effort that extends past the theatre department to include the art department for props and set design. SACS cinematography students help record the shows, and our photography class helps take photos of the actors for the program. Our theatre students also help with sewing, lighting design, hair and makeup, and set design, skills they can take with them to stages around the world once they leave our halls!



The elementary school performances were full of quality, enthusiasm, and fantastic outcomes! This year, we hosted two shows—a dramatic theater play in the fall and a musical in the spring. Our fall play, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, featured 20 students from grades 3-5. Students met for about two hours after school one day a week for ten weeks with the culmination being a sold-out performance in front of approximately 250 guests! High school theatre students assisted with rehearsals and the performance, and parents volunteered time throughout, which was priceless!



Through ticket sales, front row seat auction, and concession sales, we were able to raise a significant amount of money that helped with the purchase of the new ES sound system in the cafeteria. Our fall production of *101 Dalmatians* was perfect for our Elementary School thespians, and engaged 42 cast and crew from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The after-school art club and the cast and crew collaborated on the set design, as well as running sound, lights, and covering backstage duties. Congratulations to these kiddos, staff, and parents for a wonderful example of what the Lord can do with the smallest of these!

Athletics

A message from

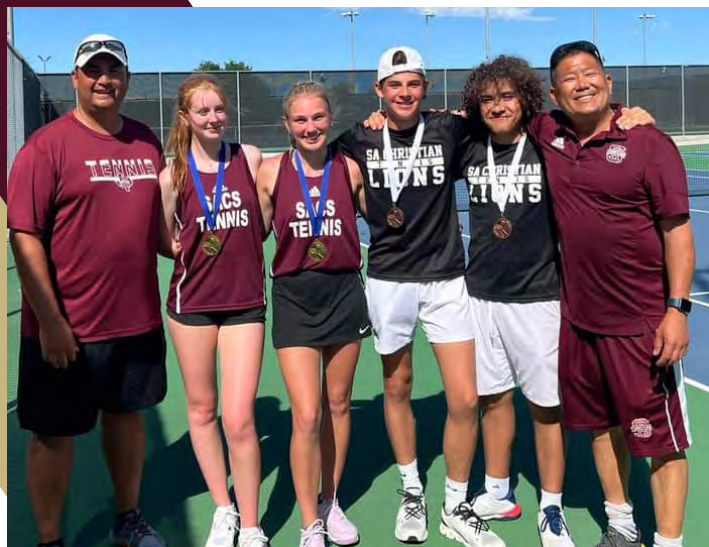
Robin Gerlich

Athletic Director

Performing for the Audience of One

Our San Antonio Christian School athletic program strives to align with our mission of “faith and service”. Our vision is to represent our school by always performing for the “Audience of One.” We always praise the Lord, especially for the dedication of our administrative leadership, families, and Lion Backer Booster club who are all dedicated to providing an exceptional athletic experience for our students. Through the generous support of our community, we have been able to upgrade the Elementary and High School gym spirit branding and paint the athletic track to help enhance the experience of our student athletes!

We had an outstanding year in athletics at SACS. The students grew closer to one another, to their coaches, and most importantly to the Lord. They learned life lessons in winning and losing, and every team and individual sport advanced to the playoffs for the 2023-2024 school year! While winning is an important indicator of successful preparation and performance, victory is even more importantly achieved when Christ is glorified through each step of the process, and this is something we saw so clearly **this** school year through the dedication of our students and staff. I’m most proud of the exceptional efforts our coaches made to connect with the student athletes at our **monthly** FCA huddle meetings where they were able to **share and discuss** the gospel with their athletes and how **they can live** this out both on and off the field.



Joy Pritz was invited to share her testimony at the Annual FCA city-wide breakfast, which had more than 1,000 attendees. She spoke about how San Antonio Christian athletics, specifically, the Girl’s Basketball team led by Coach Stephanie Yowell, played a significant role in her growing relationship with the Lord. Her story highlights the positive impact that athletics can have on the character and spiritual growth of all our athletes.

We are blessed to have coaches that are strong Christian role models for our student athletes, individuals who are gifted not only in their field and can successfully prepare the students to compete at their highest level of play but can teach their athletes to apply biblical principals in a competitive environment. Our most recent hire, Coach Austin Smithey, Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator, is a wonderful embodiment of those characteristics, someone who will help grow our athletes up into the men and women the Lord has planned for them. He was able to articulate through the hiring process his commitment to Christian education and bringing his family into a strong Christian school committed to excellence, and we are so excited to welcome him to the SACS family!

Our Athletic Director, Robin Gerlich, also serves on the Texas Association of Private and Parochial School (TAPPS) executive committee. Robin sets a great example of leadership for our student by her service on this TAPPS board, and allows SACS to serve in a role of service and honor in a way that impacts more than 40,000 student athletes across the State of Texas.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

At SACS, we are committed to our Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) program as an opportunity for all athletes and coaches to gather on a regular basis to discuss the opportunity to glorify God, and how we do that while using our athletic platforms. These students and coaches gather once a month to discuss how they can glorify God both on and off the court, and this year's meetings averaged 75 to 100 students! In a time called "Multi-Sport Huddle," Coaches and students both have the opportunity to lead the meetings and the small group discussion times, with "Team Huddle" time where sport-specific groups dive into God's Word together with their coaches to build, strengthen, and encourage the Christ-focused team culture. Coaches are also encouraged to meet in "Coaches Huddle" to be in the scriptures together with the hopes that they will continue to grow their faith together to be able to encourage the athletes to do the same.



We are confident that FCA and our athletic programs are having a kingdom-level impact on our student athletes. At the last meeting of the school year, the athletes were asked to write down how they have grown by being involved in FCA during the 2023-24 school year. The responses were phenomenal, stating the Lord taught them through FCA "that I can continue to praise Him when things get tough because He uses it to build my faith" and "that I have to be patient and to trust the process and His plan for my life," among so many others. These students are learning valuable lessons that will help anchor them in their faith for many years to come. To God be the glory!

"The Lord taught me through FCA this year that I have to be patient and to trust the process and His plan for my life."

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ALL DISTRICT AWARDS

BASEBALL DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



SOFTBALL DISTRICT 3RD PLACE

GIRLS DISTRICT 3RD PLACE



BOYS DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



8-4
DISTRICT RUNNER-UP

TRACK DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

1 STATE CHAMPION



GIRLS DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



6 STATE QUALIFIERS



1 DISTRICT CHAMPION
11 STATE QUALIFIERS



Annual Report

Board of Directors Letter

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our SACS families and friends for your continued support of San Antonio Christian School. Over the past two years, and after a great amount of prayer, planning, and seeking much counsel, the Board of Directors and Administration are very pleased to have delivered Vision 2030, a strategic document that will help guide our school for the next several years. This plan is grounded in four major pillars which will help us reach our objectives and remain focused on the major priorities and improvements which will benefit our students, families, faculty, and community at large.

As we ended the 2023-24 school year, we shared that we hired a capital campaign firm, The Timothy Group, to help lead us through a feasibility study to help investigate our school's readiness to launch a campaign to help meet the vision of our strategic plan, including assessing building needs across campus.

The Board of Directors is comprised of self-perpetuating members made up of men and women of currently enrolled parents and alumni of the school. We meet quarterly to provide oversight and establish policies for the administration of the school designed to promote accountability, unity, educational excellence, and institutional best practice. The school follows the Carver model of corporate governance for non-profit organizations and places an emphasis on vision, strategic leadership, clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles, and proactivity rather than reactivity. We designate the Head of School as the primary employee of the Board with authority over the school's vital operations.

We take our responsibility of governing the school with a great amount of humility and thankfulness in serving Him and you the parents. Thank you for this trust and support. Please join us in praying for the ministry of SACS regularly. We believe God's wisdom and guidance is most critical as we lead and navigate the times in which we live every day.

May God continue to bless each of your families as we continue to partner together, not only for the benefit of our children, but also and for the glory of the Lord.

Jon McDowell
Board of Directors, Chairman

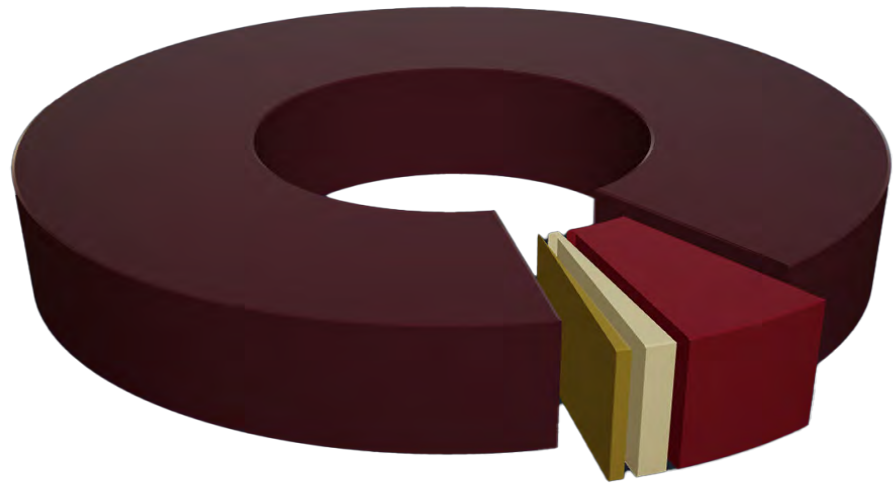


Financial Statements

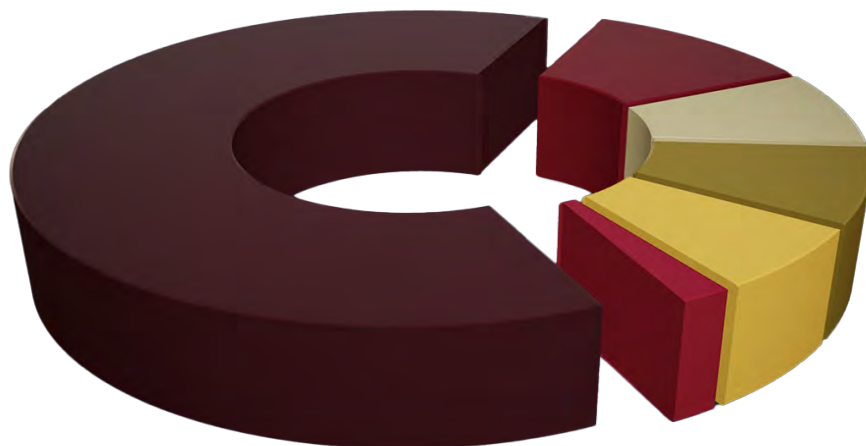
Unlike most private schools, SACS pulls out as many campus projects from the budget as possible, with tuition and fees generally covering all recurring operations expenses such as salaries, utilities, security, and maintenance.

Revenue

- Tuition (less discounts) 92.1%
- Fees 5.6%
- Interest and Other Revenue 1.4%
- Rental Income .9%



Expenses



- Payroll and Employee Benefits (including Tuition Discount) 63.4%
- Operations, Security, IT 11.5%
- Maintenance and Utilities 8.2%
- Depreciation and Amortization 8.1%
- Student Services and Curriculum 6.6%
- Interest 2.2%

Annual Report

Vision 2030 Launch/Summary

The SACS Board of Directors and our administration constantly seek the Lord's will for the future of our beloved school. After two years of collecting a lot of data and input, there was a concentrated and collaborative effort to discern His direction for us for the next few years. In answer to those prayers, Vision 2030, the vision for our school that the Lord has laid upon the hearts of our stakeholders and school's leadership, was rolled out in the 2023-2024 school year.

As we seek to pursue God's excellence, Vision 2030 will keep our board and leadership team focused on our major priorities and goals while intentionally upholding our commitment of instilling a life of faith and service within our students.

The four major priorities of the Strategic Plan include the following:

- Spiritual Development
- Academic Distinction
- Christian Community and Service
- Stewardship of Finances and Facilities

We are so thankful for the Lord's faithfulness to our school over the past 50+ years, and we are excited about what He has in store for the next 50 years. We are confident the Lord has led us to help define this ambitious roadmap to help us meet this vision, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you to bring it to life in these four strategic areas. Please feel free to contact the main office for a copy of the full Vision 2030 plan and please keep our school in your prayers trusting the Lord to move the hearts of those willing to step in and help us fulfill our school improvement initiatives.

Development

To our Donors,

It is with profound gratefulness that I say "Thank you!" Your donations to the Above and Beyond Annual Fund provide a Biblically integrated and unparalleled education for our PK-12 students. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference in San Antonio Christian School. God's hand of provision remains faithful to SACS, and his protection and sustainment of our beloved school is our richest blessing. Please enjoy this edition of "The Lion's Share," and the Annual Financial Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. May God continue to be glorified by San Antonio Christian School, and may He bless each of our generous donors immensely. To God be the glory!

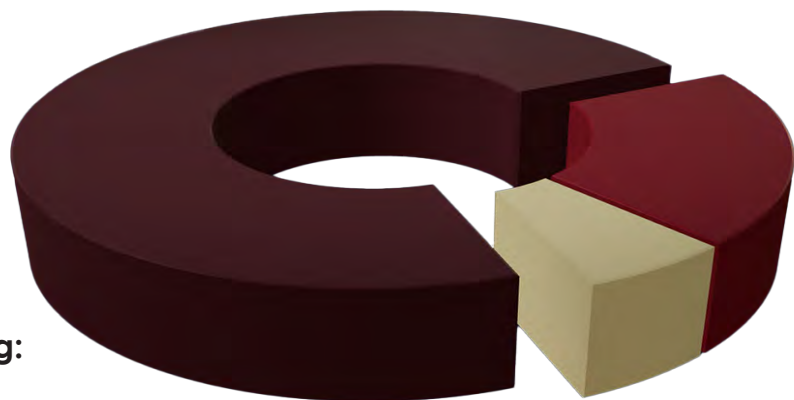
Best Regards,

Lydia Adams

Director of Development

2023-2024 Giving Totals

- Annual Fund: \$533,000, 73.5%
- Booster Clubs Giving: \$146,900, 20.3%
- SACS Foundation Giving: \$45,000, 6.2%



You gave... \$724,900

\$142,000

In-Kind

2023-2024 in-kind goods and services resulted in \$142,000 of savings to our school! In-kind giving is donations of talents or resources and are a great way to help SACS accomplish our goals outside of tuition and fee dollars.



What is the SACS Foundation?

The SACS Foundation is a nonprofit organization that manages designated endowments and other planned giving gifts for the continued benefit of SACS students and teachers. These gifts can include cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, and many more. To learn more, contact Lydia Adams, Director of Development.

\$45,000

Foundation Giving

- \$30,000 from Superintendent's Scholarship endowment for tuition assistance.
- \$15,000 from Faculty Chair and Johnson Math endowments. Faculty Chair endowment supports teachers through increased salaries, stipends, and professional development. The Johnson Math endowment provides continuing education for high school math teachers to prepare SACS students for college-level mathematics courses.

2023-2024 Donor-funded Projects

- Elementary Gym improvements, including a new floor, general remodeling, and installation of exciting graphics
- Installation of new banners, flags, and graphics in the middle and high school gyms
- Phase 2 of the secondary library renovation, including new furniture, graphics, and technology
- New guard house (Fall 2024)
- New permanent 4-H barn
- Creation of a Secondary College and Career Center
- Investments in animal care living curriculum for school-wide instruction
- Elementary cafeteria sound system
- New band keyboards
- Increased teacher salaries



Alumni

A Familiar Face to Former Students

We are excited to announce that a familiar face will be joining our alumni relations and development team! Mr. Rusty Sugg, who has been part of the SACS family since 1996 and has worn MANY hats including SACS parent, grandparent, Bible Teacher, Coach, Principal, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Head of School, will be getting back to a position he temporarily held in 2019-2020, and work to connect with our more than 2500 former students and families.

Mr. Sugg is excited to again turn his attention toward reconnecting former students and families with each other and with the school to share the ongoing ministry of what God continues to do through SACS. "I have seen firsthand the good work that the Lord has done and continues to do at this school, and that involves the many lives that have been impacted as students and families here." says Rusty. "I look forward to connecting with so many of you to hear about how your lives were impacted while you were

here and work to build a wonderful, strong, active network of formers beyond just the once-a-year Homecoming festivities!"

During the 2019-2020 school year, Rusty Sugg served in the new position of Legacy Director. It was a big year of reconnecting with alumni and former students, celebrating 50 years of graduates and God's faithfulness, launching the Legacy Scholarship (for former students returning with their children), and hosting a first time reunion of Grace Bible College Preparatory School (we count their graduating classes of '70, '71, and '72 in our numbers) with San Antonio Christian School alumni/former students from the '60s and '70s on our campus. When COVID struck during spring break that year, it necessitated the school redirecting Mr. Sugg into other areas of more immediate need, but he is excited to be back in this role and help bring life to our alumni motto: "Once a Lion, Always a Lion."



Once a Lion, Always a Lion.



Legacy Families



A message from

Rusty Sugg

Development and Alumni Relations

Did you know that we are expecting 35 legacy families enrolled at SACS, including one family whose current students are their third generation of Lions? Legacy Families are a true testament to the Lord's faithfulness in our school, and love hearing the stories of how former students desire their children to continue the family legacy of attending SACS. The Board of Directors even recognized the importance of Legacy families by creating a scholarship to the children of SACS alumni as a way of celebrating this amazing group!

We have always been blessed to see former students returning to SACS as employees, or parents, or both! What makes SACS a special place are its people and the Christ-centered relationships which foster lives of faith and service. Over the more than 5 decades of its existence, the word "FAMILY" has been used more than any other word to describe the SACS experience. Even amid change or growing pains, SACS has aspired to be a Christ-centered community

that places Jesus at the forefront of who we long to look like and replicate. I like this quote from the widow of a founding SACS Board member, "It may be that decisions which seem to change the character of the work will have to be made. But if the root principles which have governed SACS from the beginning are held fast, there will be no real change. The river may flow in a new channel, but it will still be the same river."



SAN ANTONIO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL





2023-2024





SAN ANTONIO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Faith. Character. Academic Excellence.

