

ACADEMY HILL



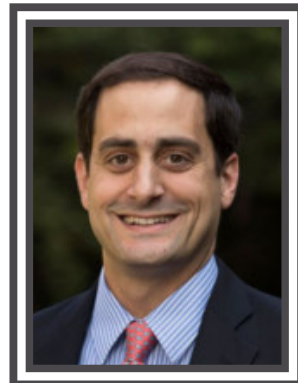
Est. 1986

Annual Report

2023 - 2024



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Academy Hill Community,

It is my pleasure to present to you the school's Annual Report for the 2023-2024 academic year.

During our five years at Academy Hill, we have watched our sons, Thomas and Carter, develop a true love of learning. This is a testament to Academy Hill School, its wonderful faculty, and supportive environment that promotes intellectual curiosity. The longstanding AHS tradition of the Good Morning Show and Forum presentations are the embodiment of these strengths.

Having spent fifteen years teaching middle and high school history at private schools in Connecticut, and then more than five years fundraising in higher education, I recognize that the strong foundation our children build while at Academy Hill will serve them well for years to come. I trust that you and your families are keenly aware of this as well.

My wife, Kari, and I are grateful that our children have teachers who care so deeply about their growth as students and as individuals; as a result, it is important to us to give back however we can - as advocates, volunteers, and as donors. As we begin our new school year, I hope that you will join us by:

- * sharing with your friends and neighbors the many things that make the school so special
- * encouraging others to consider AHS for their children
- * attending the various events and programs that celebrate our students' many accomplishments
- * joining our amazing faculty (who participate at 100%) by supporting the Annual Fund with your philanthropy

In doing so you will enable Academy Hill to continue its mission to develop tomorrow's visionaries, innovators, and leaders.

DAVE KAYIATOS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FATHER OF THOMAS '28 AND CARTER '30



A WORD FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Academy Hill Family,

I appreciate sentiments from Academy Hill School Board of Trustees Chair David Kayiatos and would like to thank him and our entire Board of Trustees for their leadership.

In my time at Academy Hill, our community has evolved and developed in many fantastic ways. In addition to our traditional small classes, care, rigorous curriculum, and most importantly, expert instructors, we have also improved our facility, reimagined many routines, updated pedagogy and lead teacher support, offered new classes, enhanced technology in the classroom, and welcomed fantastic new faces to bring insights from outside of the building that encourage our entire community to continue to flourish.

A major driver of impact that enables us to enrich our families at Academy Hill is The Annual Fund, which contributes directly to the school's mission through financial gifts that support outstanding instruction in a safe and loving environment. We hope that you will join the entire Academy Hill faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees in supporting The Annual Fund with a contribution today. Your children's teachers have demonstrated through their own donations that they are committed to the continued success of the school and fulfillment of our mission.

Thank you for supporting our Academy Hill mission with your generosity.

Zach Verriden
Head of School
Father of Katherine '30 and Samuel '32



Board of Trustees

2023-2024

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EX OFFICIO

Mission Statement

Academy Hill emphasizes progression without limits through enriched curriculum that celebrates differences, nourishes creative thought and critical inquiry, and cultivates authentic learning, leading to the success of our students. Our goal is to develop tomorrow's visionaries, innovators, and leaders.



Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Academy Hill School has been engaged in diversity work since our founding. We recognize diversity alone does not lead to inclusion, and we are committed to taking active steps to create an environment in which the identities and cultural backgrounds of our families, students, and employees are valued and respected.

At Academy Hill we believe that diversity, equity and inclusion are essential to achieving educational and academic excellence, and that students' learning experiences are enriched by the diversity of the curriculum, student body, and adult community. Academy Hill is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable community in which all individuals can participate in and contribute to the life of the school, regardless of race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, or any other aspect of their identity. We are actively working to gain a deeper understanding of difference and how we honor it in our daily lives at school.

As a NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) member school, we believe in and subscribe to the Association's Principles of Good Practice as they concern Equity and Justice.

Our School History

The Academy Hill Center (known originally as The Ames Hill Center for Gifted Children, Inc.) began in 1979. The Center was founded by a group of parents and professionals dedicated to providing enrichment classes for intellectually gifted children in the greater Springfield, Massachusetts, area. At that time, parents were driving children to Worcester, MA, for similar programs. Saturday and summer classes were held from 1979 - 1981 at the MacDuffie School for Girls in Springfield. In December of 1981, Wilbraham and Monson Academy invited The Center to merge with them and move to the Academy's campus in Wilbraham. A year later, The Center was renamed The Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children. Mary Crist was named executive director of the Center.

Well-known for its popular Saturday and summer classes, The Academy Hill Center was often encouraged to open a day school for the gifted. This step was taken in September 1986. The opening day enrollment of 51 grew to 55 by the end of the year. Classes were held in two buildings on the Wilbraham and Monson Academy campus. Members of our first kindergarten class graduated from the school in June 1993.

Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children was incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in July 1988. Mary Crist became the first head of school. Its classes continued to meet on the Wilbraham and Monson Academy campus.

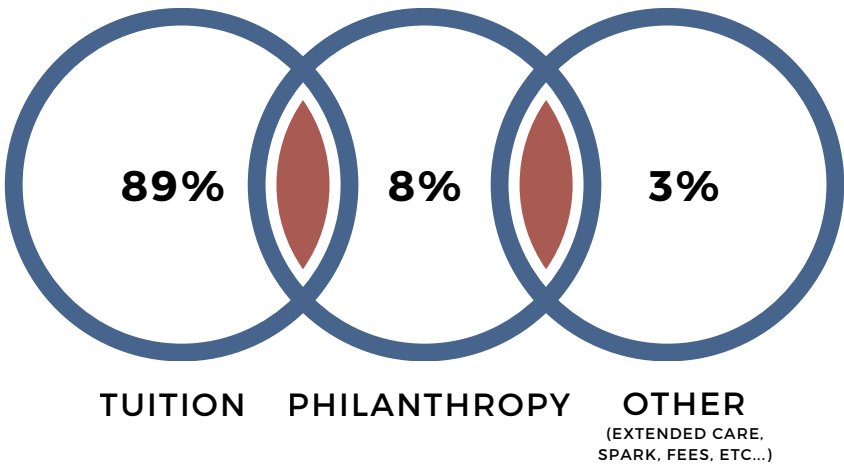
In 1993, the Board of Trustees of Academy Hill School voted to return to the original site on the fourteen-acre MacDuffie School campus in Springfield. After several years on the MacDuffie campus, the board determined that the school's long-term goals could be better met by purchasing a larger building, which was done in the year 2000. The 2000-2001 school year opened in our new facility, located on Liberty Street in Springfield. In 2003 the Board of Trustees approved the extension of grade levels to include a middle school component. Seventh grade was added in September 2004, followed by the opening of the eighth grade in 2005. In 2013 - 2014, the Board of Trustees voted to add an early learner (pre-kindergarten) classroom to our program.

In 2018 the Board of Trustees made the decision to no longer include the term "gifted" in our mission. AHS maintains its commitment to challenging each student individually and fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity and excellence. Furthermore, in 2022 the Board of Trustees reaffirmed our commitment to individual students by adopting a Statement of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

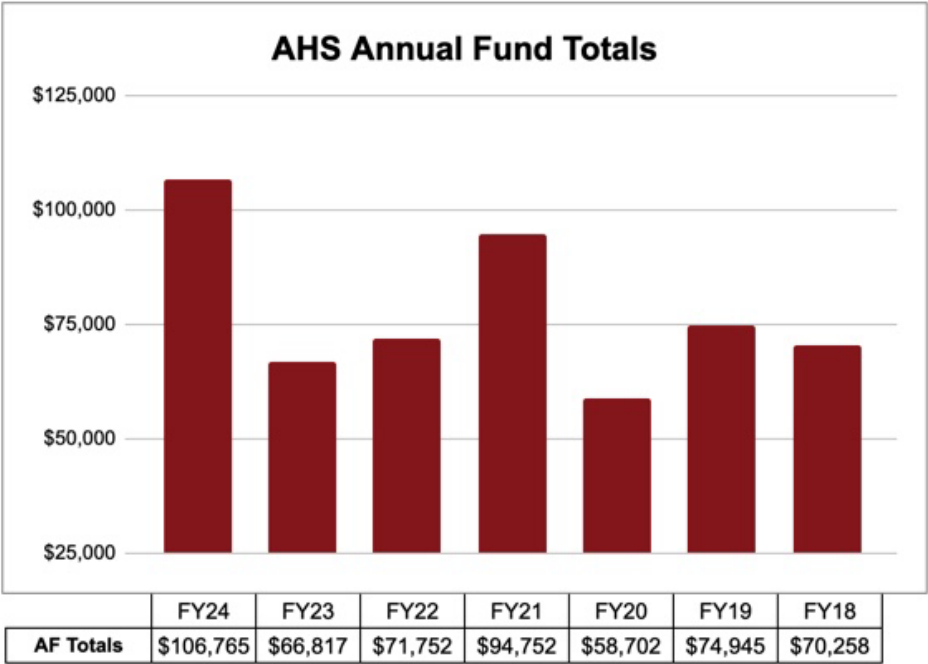
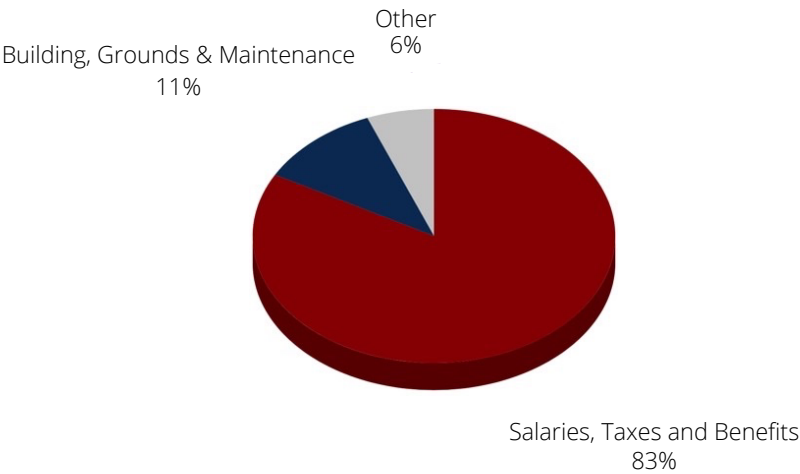
Our enrollment currently sits at nearly 80 students in pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Academy Hill welcomed its first student from an alumna in 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,392,643



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,348,219





Anonymous



Gifts to a school's endowment are vital to the long term financial stability of the institution.
Total Endowment - \$ 193 , 150



In Memory Of



CAROL S. MATHISON



Co-Founder of Academy Hill School

The Academy Hill School community extends its heartfelt gratitude to those who generously contributed in memory of Carol, a visionary educator, loving mother, and co-founder of our beloved school. Carol's dedication to Academy Hill's growth and success has left an indelible mark on all of us.

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

Melanie Demetriou

Kathleen Goodchild

Carolyn Kenyon

William Mathison



IN MEMORY OF

*Michael
Stewart*

**BELOVED
GRANDFATHER OF
PATRICK, BRADY AND
JACK BINNALL**



The Academy Hill School community expresses its heartfelt thanks to those who made generous contributions in memory of Michael Stewart, a cherished Papa, father, husband, and friend. Michael was a good-natured, kind-hearted soul loved by all who knew him. May his spirit live on in the hearts and minds of all those who continue to benefit from the warmth and generosity he so freely shared.

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

Brian and Melanie Binnall

Eleanor Binnall

Christopher and Susan Carlotto

James and Doreen Costello

John Ging

Joanne Miller

William Togneri and Kathleen Tremble



Annual Fund Giving

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

Snowy Owl Giving Level up to \$999

Anonymous	Len Haggerty and Jenn Samale
David Balise	Bea Heinrichs <i>In Honor of all the AHS Faculty and Administrators</i>
James and Tara Balise	Christine Horan
Jeffrey and Angela Belz	Jonathan Insler
Marena Bennett	John and Nicole Kane
Robert and Dorrie Boyd	Sujan and Sandhya Kota
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Eric and Vicki Corbiere	Kathy Marks
Sharon Desjarlais	David and Danielle Mazur
Adam Diamond and Lauren Knacke	Gwen McNierney
Fidelity Charitable	Sean and Kristen Murphy <i>In Honor of the Dedicated Teachers at AHS</i>
Vijay Gaddam and Paulomi Naik	Brendan and Brooke O'Brien
Nick and Alison Gauthier	Jimmy Pica and Cora Carpenter-Pica
Erin Gauthier	Amy Plela
Nicole Gebo	Nandakumar Ponnusamy and Suji Palanichamy
Brian and Jennifer Grenier	

We have tried our best to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within these pages. If you come across an error or omission, please accept our apologies and let us know of the error so that we may take the appropriate actions to correct it. To make a correction, contact the front desk at 413-788-0300.



Annual Fund Giving

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

Laki Rousou and Maureen Quinlan

Yasameen Salehi

Jacob Smith and Indira Sadhu

David Sparks and Susan Bell

Aseesh Sreedharala and Laxmitejaswi Mittapalli

Stop and Shop

Gary and Kristin Walker

Betsy Wells

Innovator Giving Level \$1986

Anonymous

Amea Kantesaria

Andy Champagne and Heather Nealon-Champagne

Leadership Giving Level \$1000

Anonymous

Joseph and Jaimie Cambi

Vincent and Laura Cardillo

Tom Cerasulo and Celeste Donovan

David and Kari Kayiatos

Venkatrao Medarametla and Lalitha Devi Guntupalli
In Honor of Ms. Gebo

Mary Reardon-Johnson
In Honor of Fiona Johnson

Zachary and Anya Verriden

Visionary Giving Level \$2,500 and up

Anonymous

Grise Funeral Home

Jean Deliso and Lisa Doherty

David and Elizabeth Wells

Michael and Jana Bertera

The Children's Education Initiative

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David and Janice Battey	In Honor of Elijah Battey
Andrew Bellotti	In Honor of Nicolas Cardillo
Ann Belz	In Honor of Angelina and Phoenix Belz
Eleanor Binnall	In Honor of Jack, Brady and Patrick Binnall
Prabhudai Boodhoo	In Honor of Emerson & Sara Smith
Kristen Bushaw	In Honor of Elle Cambi
Caroline Cardillo	In Honor of Nicolas Cardillo
Nicola Cardillo	In Honor of Nicolas Cardillo
Madeline Carpenter	In Honor of Ava Pica
Tom and Nancy Cerasulo	In Honor of Dean Cerasulo
Janice Conlin	In Honor of Quinton Bertera
Clement Deliso	In Honor of CJ Deliso
Jeffrey and Wendy Diamond	In Honor of Thomas and Carter Kayiatos
Bob and Gail Eldridge	In Honor of Scarlet Rossi
Thomas Furlano and Richard Phillips	In Honor of Elijah Battey

Grandfriends Day Giving

Sophie Gaynor	In Honor of Emaline Corbiere
Eugene and Ann Gustinucci	In Honor of Emerson Ocampo
Mary Hall	In Honor of Mia Bennett
Harry and Patricia Hoar	In Honor of Colin and Lily Hoar
Dennis and Cindy Hogan	In Honor of Scarlet Rossi
Walter and Irene Hope	In Honor of Carissa Ryb
Mary R. Johnson*	In Honor of Fiona Johnson
Rick and Jean Jusko	In Honor of Anya, Owen and Pierce Jusko
Eileen Kane	In Honor of Rory Kane
Lauren Kane	In Honor of Rory Kane
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Gary and Debby Knacke	In Honor of Luca Diamond
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Katarzyna Landry	In Honor of Abigail Walker
Evilin Lopez	In Honor of Leonardo Feliberty
Kathryn M. Lord	In Honor of Dean Cerasulo
Anna Luciano	In Honor of Lily and Colin Hoar
Herbert and Louise Lyon	In Honor of Brendan Lyon
Carlos Mendez and Aurea Wenzel	In Honor of Ben Valenzuela & Keilani Martinez
Zbigniew and Helena Milik	In Honor of Lila and Luka Kowalski
Joseph and Linda Mulcahy	In Honor of Henrik Gauthier

***Leadership Level Donor**

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Grandfriends Day Giving

Joann Nahabedian	In Honor of Carter and Thomas Kayiatos
Jack and Suzanne Nealon	In Honor of Corinne Champagne
Joe Newkirk	In Honor of Lincoln Saremi
Dean and Mary Novasad	In Honor of Owen and Pierce Jusko
Bill and Karen O'Brien	In Honor of Grant and Davis O'Brien
Kathleen Quinlan	In Honor of Leo Rousou
John and Maria Rousou	In Honor of Leo Rousou
Madhu Sachdev	In Honor of Bodhi Sachdev
Nadia Sadhu and Ben Ways	In Honor of Emerson and Sara Smith
Debbie Saremi	In Honor of Lincoln Saremi
Sean and Marilyn Smith	In Honor of Emerson and Sara Smith
Michael and Deb Stewart	In Honor of Brady, Jack and Patrick Binnall
Rajendra and Gargi Swadia	In Honor of Navya Swadia
Brenda Thomas	In Honor of Mia Bennett
James and Barbara Tini	In Honor of Cora Tini
Betsy Wells	In Honor of Eleanor and James Wells

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Giving Tuesday Donors

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

Michael and Jana Bertera

Brian and Kelly Binnall

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts*

Brooke Depelteau

Sean and Ashley Hoffman*

Nick Hopkins and Lindsay Duffy

Andrew and Jillian Jusko

David and Kari Kayiatos*

Sujan and Sandhya Kota

Siobhan Most

James and Janelle Ocampo

Vijayakumar Paramasivam and Vidya Ramasamy

Nathan and Carol Rosenthal

Alex and Jennifer Rossi

David and Elizabeth Wells

***Leadership Level Donor**

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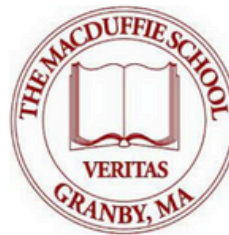
Academy Hill Spring Fundraiser

We'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to the following sponsors.



ACADEMY HILL SCHOOL
FAMILY FUNDAY
SPONSORS

Thank  You



Academy Hill Spring Fundraiser

We would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time and contributed in-kind donations to our annual spring fundraiser.



AHS Parents Association
A Generous AHS Family
Bark Box
Big Y
Boston Crawling
Boston Duck Tours
Boston Red Sox
Bueno Y Sano
Charles Riverboat Company
Chipotle
Costco West Springfield
EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature
Gwen McNierney
Jennifer Grenier
Laurie Andruss
Len Haggerty
New England Air Museum
Nicole Gebo
Old Sturbridge Village
Raising Cane's
Salem Witch Museum

Sarah Gallagher Studios
Six Flags New England
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The Hartford Yard Goats
The Hopkins Family
The House of Seven Gables
The Kayiatos Family
The Mark Twain House & Museum
The Wells Family
Tree House Brewing Company
TreeTop Adventures
Zachary Verriden



How to Make a Gift

Check

Make checks payable to "Academy Hill School" and mail to:

Academy Hill School
1190 Liberty Street
Springfield, MA 01104

Credit Card

The quickest way to make a donation to Academy Hill School is by visiting the "Support" page on our website. www.AcademyHill.org

Recurring Gifts Payments

You can choose to make monthly, quarterly or yearly payments to Academy Hill School. Contact the Finance Office at 413-788-0300 to set up a payment schedule.

Matching Gifts

Academy Hill School received **\$2,750** in matching employee contributions last year from organizations like MassMutual and New York Life. Please check with your employer to see if a matching gift program is an employee benefit that is available to you.

Donate to the Annual Fund today!