

A photograph of four young girls in school uniforms, laughing and interacting with each other. The image is overlaid with a dark blue tint. The girls are wearing white shirts and plaid skirts. One girl on the left is leaning towards the others.

AUGUSTINE CLASSICAL ACADEMY
Annual Report 2014-2015





Nate Ahern // Headmaster

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to offer you the 2014-15 Annual Report for Augustine Classical Academy. During our fifth full year of operation, we have continued to place primary emphasis on our mission to partner with families to provide an education that is both classical and Christian; to equip students to know, love, and practice what is true, virtuous, and beautiful; and to challenge them to strive for excellence as they live for the glory of God and the good of all people.

While upholding our mission, the 2014-15 fiscal year was one of significant growth and change. During key improvements to our Edgewater location, we secured two short-term venues for the year. In the fall, our generous community matched two grants, raising a total of \$66,500 toward building updates, long-term facility investment, and operating expenses. And though the City of Edgewater unexpectedly limited our use to Preschool and Kindergarten, we were able to strategically apply the remainder of funds raised toward a main-campus facility elsewhere while still retaining our ACP presence in Edgewater. That main campus was secured in Lakewood in May 2015, accompanied by our name change from Highlands Classical Academy to Augustine Classical Academy.

Looking back, the 2014-15 year has resulted in excellent field position for the coming years. Here are a few highlights:

- We have more than doubled our main-campus enrollment capacity and are now able to serve approximately 265 students over two locations, up from a 130-student single-location cap.
- With a permanent facility in two locations, in addition to a streamlined staff, we are poised to cover 80 – 90% of operating expenses via tuition within the next 1-3 years—a strategic and sustainable figure for a new school.
- Establishing roots in Lakewood has enabled us to launch The Augustine Campaign, a focused three-year effort to raise \$600,000 and move us to the next level of school growth, while continuing to honor our mission and provide affordable education to all families.

Given the resilience of the ACA community over the past year and its key placement within two Denver communities, I am eager for the future of our school and grateful for God's blessings. We are poised to raise up generations of excellent, godly students in the years to come. Thank you all for your gifts and prayers, and may we continue to be confident in God's generous provisions.

Grace and peace,
Nate Ahern
Head of School



/// Mission & Vision

Augustine Classical Academy is the Denver area's only classical, Christian school serving students from pre-school through 12th grade.

Classical and Christian

The two are inextricably linked. At its core, classical Christian education accomplishes three things:

- Teaches all subjects as components of an integrated whole, created and ordered by God.
- Cultivates wisdom and virtue by feeding the mind and soul works that are true, good, and beautiful.
- Fosters in students a love of learning and equips them with tools for a lifetime of discovery.

What You'll Find at ACA

- An educational approach that recognizes the centrality of Christ
- Staff devoted to creating nurturing, gracious classrooms
- A community devoted to educating the whole child
- Small class sizes with no class larger than 16 students
- A commitment to making this high-quality private education affordable for all families



/// Program Highlights

1

First year with a full-time headmaster

5

Secured five-year lease with five-year renewal option for geographic stability

37

Grammar school students

28

Students received additional help in the form of financial aid for a total aid amount of \$44,100.

23

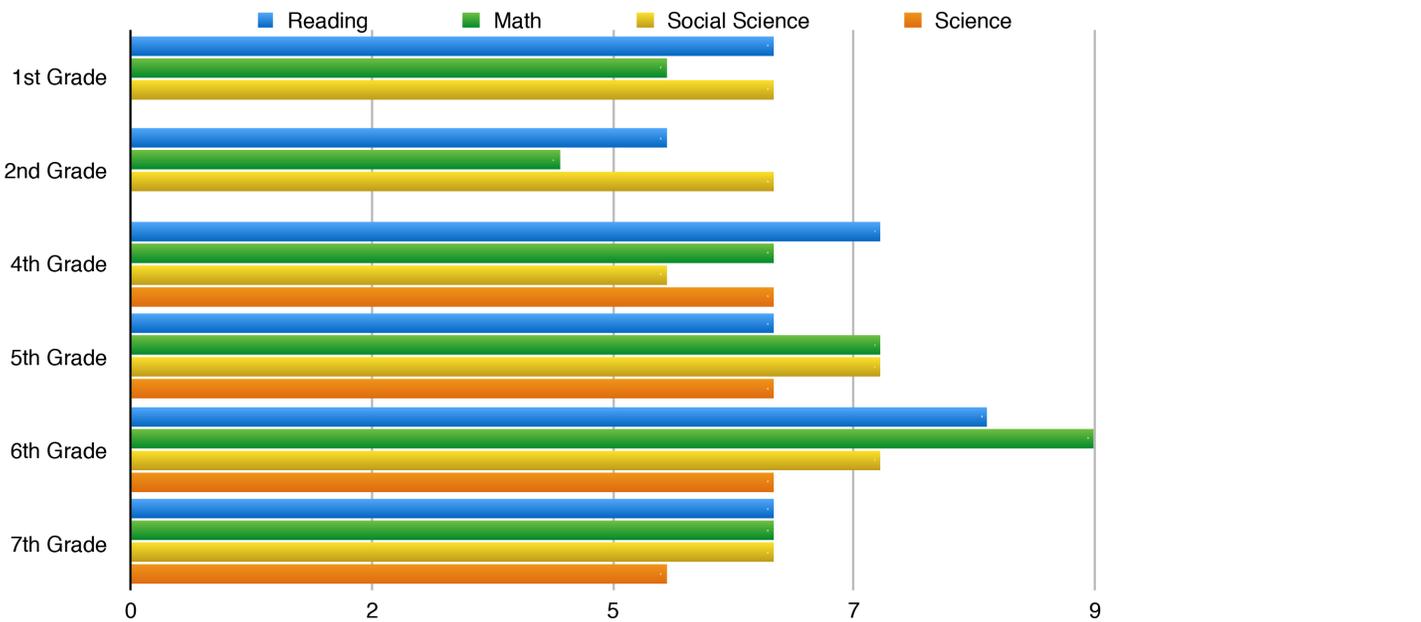
Preschool students



/// Performance

STANFORD 10 Achievement Scores, Spring 2015

Class sample sizes in the grades tested (1st Grade and up) averaged 3.8 students. While ACA students continue to perform above most national averages, standardized tests (such as the Stanford 10) are designed to reflect student progress generally against broader national norms, not to test knowledge of ACA's unique classical curriculum specifically. Though some subjects unique to classical education are not directly tested by standardized assessments, historical data from classical Christian schools generally meet or exceed public- and private-school norms. For more information, see www.accsedu.org.



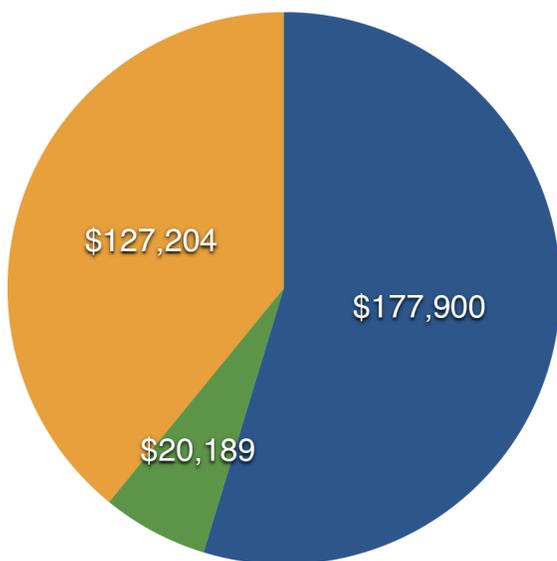
Staines Score on a scale of 1-9, a score of 5 represents average performance

/// Financials

Because we view our resources as gifts from God, we are committed to wise use of those resources, which means that the majority of our budget goes to the essential work of teaching and learning. This commitment can be seen in our administrative leanness, our robust corps of volunteers, our investment in curricula that is both excellent and time-tested (not faddish), and our careful use of supplies.

Even with our conservative fiscal position, ACA needs support from outside donors who are excited about the school's mission and want to ensure its longevity.

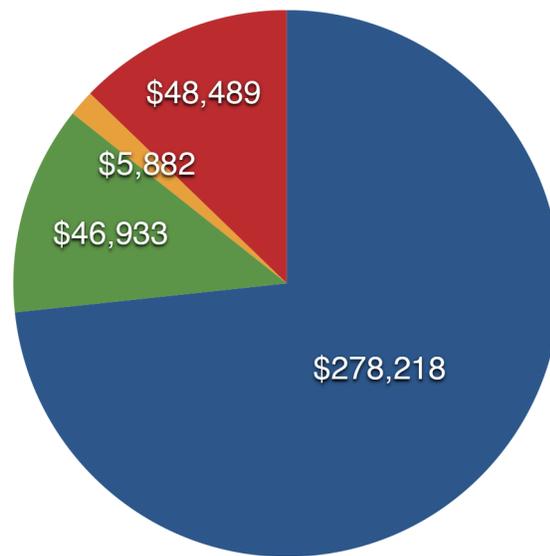
Total Income



Income reduced by more than \$44,000 for need-based tuition discounts.

- Tuition (55%)
- Corporate Contributions (6%)
- Individual Contributions (39%)

Total Expenses



- Staff Payroll & Benefits (73%)
- Operational Expenses (12%)
- Curriculum & Classroom Expenses (2%)
- Costs for Securing Grammar-School Location and Development of Second Preschool Location. (\$12,000 to be recouped with rent credits at Edgewater preschool location)



/// Donors

27 Individual donors giving a total of

\$122,500

8 Corporate donors giving a total of

\$24,350

- Alliance for Choice in Education (ACE)
- CNA
- Insight Financial
- Mac-Bestos, Inc.
- Mile High United Way
- Smith-Walker Foundation
- Suncor Energy
- Vigil Family Foundation
- Samuel Engineering, architectural firm providing discounted services to ACA.
- Polsinelli PC, providing pro-bono legal services, valued greater than \$45,000.

Beginning in the 2015-16 academic year, Augustine Classical Academy launched the school's first-ever multiyear fundraising effort: The Augustine Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$600,000 in three years. This effort has three ongoing components:

Fundraising

Monthly Giving:

Donors register on our giving page for once-a-month donations, charged to their preferred debit or credit card, in the amount they designate. Our goal for the 2015-16 year is to identify 300 donors who will support the work of our school with monthly gifts. The benefits of this program are significant: Regular gifts enable us to budget wisely and save us from costly mailings and other fundraising expenses.

Major Gifts:

Significant gifts to our school support the long-term good of ACA and help catalyze new stages of growth. Unrestricted gifts enable ACA's leadership to invest in most immediate needs, while dollars designated for specific areas of ACA's life—tuition assistance, curriculum, or teacher training, for example—enable a donor to make a large-scale impact on an area that aligns with his or her personal passions. Both types of gifts are great blessings to the school. To discuss a major gift, please contact Nate Ahern, Head of School, at nate.ahern@augustineclassical.org.

Community Outreach:

ACA seeks to develop partnerships with local, like-minded organizations, including churches, school-choice groups, and small businesses who are eager to support a generation of bright, gracious leaders in our community. We would love the opportunity to share our mission with your church's leadership, your neighborhood association, your professional association, or any other group curious about ACA's work. Email board@augustineclassical.org to start the conversation.

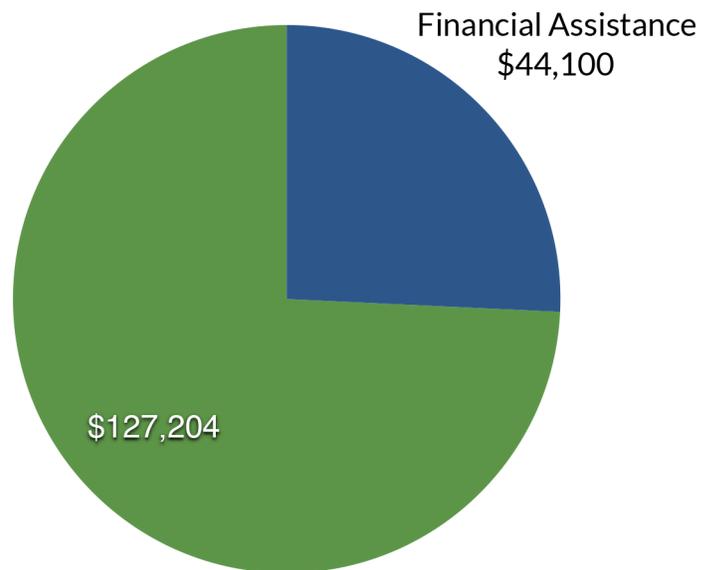
Financial Aid

ACA was founded with a vision for and commitment to affordability. Our student need is significant: While our per-pupil cost in grammar school in 2014-15 was \$8,479, the average per-pupil tuition was \$4,367.*

Thus far in ACA's life, financial assistance (with the exception of ACE scholarships) has come in the form of discounts: The school has no established fund for financial assistance. Instead, ACA's administration calculates discounted tuition based on a family's demonstrated need. We ask prospective donors to prayerfully consider giving support to establish a financial-aid fund.

As ACA grows, our per-pupil cost will decrease. However, we aim to always be a place where families who want this distinctive, high-quality education for their children but cannot afford full tuition find sufficient financial support, so as our enrollment increases, we plan to allocate more dollars to financial-aid funding.

*Average cost of tuition in the Denver metro area is more than \$9,000, according to PrivateSchoolReview.com.



2015-2016 Staff



Nate Ahern
Head of School



Mindy Tipton
*Preschool Director &
Discovery*



Erika Alvis
Kindergarten



Marietta Stechmeyer
1st Grade



Linda Thigpen
2nd Grade



Cassie Collier
3rd Grade



Rob Gove
*Omnibus, Mathematics,
Science, & Logic*



Amanda Rodriguez
*Literature, Writing,
Omnibus, & Mathematics*



Samantha Cohoe
Latin



Matt Morginsky
*History and
Theology*



Hannah Berglund
Preschool & Pre-K



Jenny Brown
*Preschool & Pre-K
Assistant*



Patty Barnes
*Preschool & Pre-K
Assistant*



Nicole Pitman
Preschool & Pre-K

2015-2016 Board



Hilary Oswald
Chair



Kaylyn Wilson
Secretary



C. Joanna Schlecht
Vice-Chair



Brian Brown
Founding Member



Rick Dickson
Member