



ACADEMY
**HILL**
Est. 1986

2021-2022

**Annual
Report**



Dear Academy Hill Community,

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for Academy Hill School and welcome everyone to the 2022-2023 school year.

For those who do not know me or my family, this is my ninth year as a parent at Academy Hill. My son, James, came to Academy Hill in first grade. He graduated last June and our daughter, Eleanor, is blazing her own path in the sixth grade. My wife, E'beth Wells, serves as the President of the Parents' Association as well as acting as a long-term substitute teacher in the lower school classrooms.

During our time at Academy Hill, we have found that Academy Hill's approach to instruction and community matches closely with our family's values. We see the importance of small class sizes, student-led inquiry, and highly creative and dedicated teachers and the impact these elements have had on our children. I can only hope that you and your families have found the same connection to Academy Hill. One of the best ways to attract new families to Academy Hill is through "word of mouth." Please tell your friends, family, and colleagues about your experiences at Academy Hill.

Academy Hill is experiencing a renaissance now. We are transitioning from one Head of School to another, which is a significant change for any institution. I'm glad that Mr. Zachary Verriden has joined us for our interim year and helped reinstate some of the traditions we couldn't enjoy during the pandemic.

While Academy Hill continues to maintain break-even financials, we can only do so with the support from the many donors to our Annual Fund. The Annual Fund represents a small portion of our operating budget, but it enables Academy Hill to fulfill its mission to its students, staff, and community. Contributing whatever amount you can to the Annual Fund maintains the high-quality education at Academy Hill.

Academy Hill's resilience through these challenges is thanks to the school's administration, faculty, and extended community. Everyone has taken part in maintaining the best education possible for our students, which shows what a special community we have. Thanks to you all!

Best Wishes,

David G. Wells
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Father of James ('22) and Eleanor ('25)

Letter from the Head of School



Dear Academy Hill Family,

I appreciate the insights and sentiments from Academy Hill School Board of Trustees Chairperson David Wells and echo much the same.

It has become clear to me in my brief time at AHS that when you are here, you are family. My wife Anya and I have been overwhelmed by the warmth of our welcome to The Academy Hill School community. Three of our children, Tommy (3rd), Katy (1st) and Sammy (pre-K), have joined me here on the Hill and have had a tremendous experience. We have witnessed in our children a level of intellectual curiosity and zest for learning that has truly been on a whole new level.

The small classes, rigorous curriculum, expert instruction and careful preparation are an incredible combination for the students we are fortunate enough to serve here on the Hill and we hope you feel the same. An important driver of the success of our school is continuing to grow the number of families that we serve and I hope that you feel energized to share more about your experience with friends and family.

Another major driver of impact at AHS is The Annual Fund, which contributes directly to the mission of our school through financial gifts that support outstanding instruction in a safe, loving environment.

It is our hope that you are able to join the 100% of Academy Hill faculty and staff in supporting The Annual Fund with a contribution today. The contributions of 100% of our faculty and staff is perhaps the most perfect testimonial we can offer to the commitment we see and feel every day. 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.

As an Academy Hill parent, I now know why families have entrusted Academy Hill with supporting children to reach their full potential. Thank you for recognizing our Academy Hill Family and its mission with your generosity.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "Z" and a long, sweeping underline.

Zach Verriden P'28, '30, '32



Mr. David Wells
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ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr. Robert Boyd
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PARENT

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PARENT

Ms. Jazzy Salehi
MEMBER

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.

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, 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. The Academy Hill School is a division of The Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children. Mary Crist became the first head of school. Its classes continued to meet on the Wilbraham and Monson Academy campus.

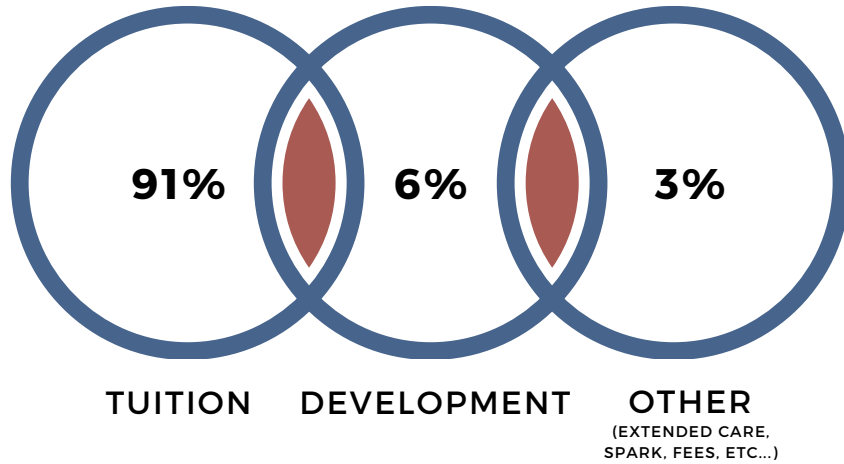
In 1993, the Board of Trustees of Academy Hill School voted to return to the original site on the fourteen-acre MacDuffie School campus in Springfield. The school was able to house all students in one building and to utilize the cultural and educational resources of the greater Springfield area. After 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.

Our enrollment currently sits at nearly 100 students in pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Academy Hill welcomed its first student from an alumna in 2019.

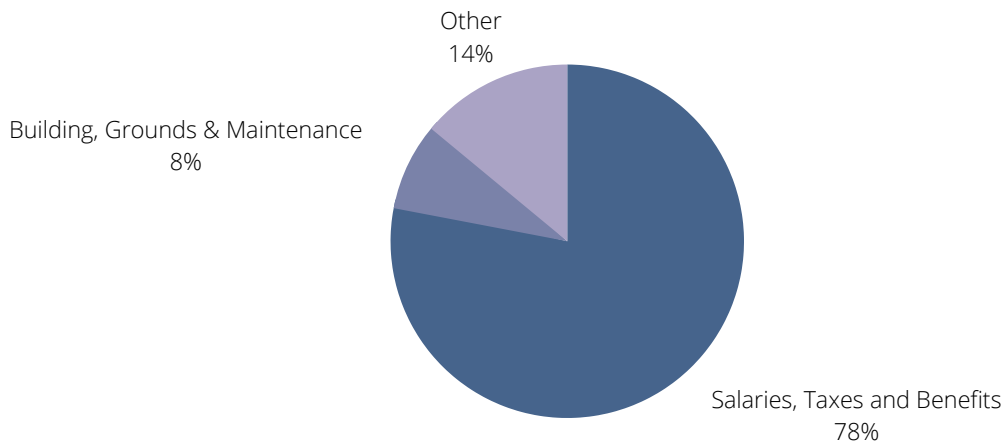
An independent non-profit corporation, Academy Hill continues to be committed to providing excellence in educational services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

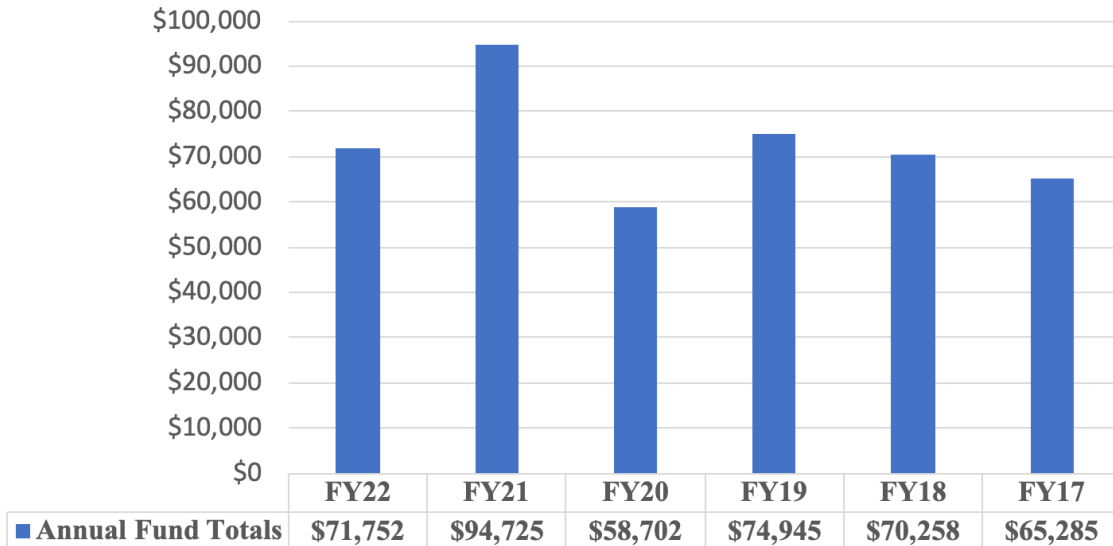
TOTAL INCOME: \$1,287,634



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,252,610



Annual Fund Totals





Anonymous
Astro Chemicals, Inc.
BigVooDoo Interactive
Mark E. Salomone and Pamela O'Connell



Gifts to a school's endowment are vital to the long term financial stability of the institution.
Total Endowment - \$163,008



General Annual Fund Giving

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

**All States Materials Group Charitable Fund
at Community Foundation of Western
Massachusetts***

Amazon Smile

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**The Doherty Family Charity Fund at Community
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In Honor of AHS Teachers and Faculty

The Hopkins Family*

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***Leadership Level Donor**

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.

General Annual Fund Giving

With gratitude, we recognize the following:

Jonathan Insler

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In Honor of the Teachers and Staff at Academy Hill

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In Honor of All of the AHS Faculty and Staff

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In Honor of the Fabulous Teachers and Staff

Network for Good

Shoucheng Ni and Tong Zhou

James and Janelle Ocampo

Amy Piela*

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David and Janice Battey	In Honor of Elijah Battey
Anthony and Phyllis Bellotti	In Honor of Nicolas Cardillo
Lynn Boodhoo	In Honor of Emerson Smith
Barbara Bowman	In Honor of West Greene
Alan and Lesley Brown	In Honor of Gabriel Ostrander
Nicola Cardillo	In Honor of Nicolas Cardillo
Tom and Nancy Cerasulo	In Honor of Dean Cerasulo
Michael and Ann Chechile	In Honor of Arielle Chechile
Jeffrey and Wendy Diamond	In Honor of Thomas Kayiatos
Dianne Doherty	In Honor of CJ Deliso
Linda Dumais	In Honor of Gabriel Ostrander
Andrew and Diane Gale	In Honor of Denali Boyd and Everett Gentile
Kerry and Christine Granfield	In Honor of McKayla O'Donnell
Shashi Gupta	In Honor of Andrej Gupta
Eugene and Ann Gustinucci	In Honor of Emerson Ocampo

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Grandfriends Day Giving

Harry and Patricia Hoar	In Honor of Colin and Lily Hoar
Edward and Sharon Hoffman	In Honor of Myles Hoffman
Rick and Jean Jusko	In Honor of Owen and Pierce Jusko
Doug Kayiatos	In Honor of Carter and Thomas Kayiatos
Gordon and Marilyn Kenyon	In Honor of Amory and Camden Dow
James and Terry Lamica	In Honor of Carter and Chloe Blake
Sandra Leary	In Honor of Adrianna Chechile
Kent and Christine Littleton	In Honor of Tovah Woldorf
Kathryn M. Lord	In Honor of Dean Cerasulo
Richard and Elaine May	In Honor of Callie May
Matt and Laureen Moran	In Honor of Callie May
Patrick and Ann Morris	In Honor of Avo Castillo
Joann Nahabedian	In Honor of Carter and Thomas Kayiatos
Frank and Janice Orszulak	In Honor of Elizabeth and Joseph Orszulak
Paul and Cynthia Picknelly	In Honor of Sawyer Vassallo
Ron and Pat Piela	In Honor of Lauryn Piela
Kathleen Quinlan	In Honor of Ella and Leo Rousou
Mary Reardon-Johnson	In Honor of Fiona Johnson
Jose and Amanda Reyes	In Honor of Genevieve Hill
Richard Santore	In Honor of Anthony Santore
Charles and Lois Shaddock SR.	In Honor of Pelar Campbell
David and Diane Siska	In Honor of Anthony Santore
Stanley and Elizabeth Smolski	In Honor of Lauryn Piela

Grandfriends Day Giving

Sue Smolski

In Honor of Lauryn Piela

Michael and Deb Stewart

In Honor of Brady, Jack and Patrick Binnall

Brenda Thomas

In Honor of Mia Bennett

James and Barbara Tini

In Honor of Andrew and Cora Tini

Betsy Wells

In Honor of Eleanor and James Wells



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Giving Tuesday Donors

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Robert and Dorrie Boyd

Robert and Kelli Brodhagen

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Vincent and Laura Cardillo

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Eric and Aimee Lunden

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Dan Piela

Nathan and Carol Rosenthal

Yasameen Salehi

Joseph and Nancy Sklar

Jacob and Indira Smith

Betsy Wells

***Leadership Level Donor**

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Facebook Donations

Melissa Earls 2021 Giving Tuesday fundraiser for Academy Hill School

Anonymous
Susan Brogan
Marianne Howe
Amy Piela
Carol Silver Rosenthal

Celebrate your big day by hosting a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser to make your birthday extra special and to raise funds for Academy Hill School.

Every donation, however small or large makes a positive difference – thank you!

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Academy Hill "Non-Gala" Gala

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



Thank you

Academy Hill "Non-Gala" Gala

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

Academy Hill School Parent Association

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The Brody Family
The Cardillo Family
The Conway Family
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The Kayiatos Family
The Lunden Family
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The May Family
The Santore Family
The Wells Family
Tom Cerasulo and Celeste Donovan
Tree House Brewing Company
Tree Top Adventures
Vineyard Vines
Wachusett Mountain
Westfield River Brewing Company

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 \$ in matching employee contributions last year from organizations like MassMutual, New York Life, and Verizon. 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!