

Diocesan Report for Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School, September 2017

We are in our 9th year at Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School and off to our best start yet. Below, in bulleted form, are some data points reflecting the state of the school.

- Our enrollment is now 108 students; 18 in 4th, 18 in 5th, 24 in 6th, 24 in 7th, and 24 in 8th. This is our highest enrollment to date, and reflects the expansion in growth from 12 to 18 in this our second year of 4th grade. We have no plans to expand higher than this.
- We successfully completed an addition on our building at a cost of a little over \$600,000, all of which we raised by the time the project was completed. We did not have to borrow any money. The addition doubled the size of our cafeteria/gathering space, expanded our kitchen, and added a large room for our graduate support services, one bathroom, and a small conference room. The most significant aspect of the addition is that it allows the entire School to now gather together in one place, e.g. for meals, morning assembly, chapel, etc. It also provides a much more updated and welcoming space for the graduates to use when they return in the late afternoon and early evening to do homework, reconnect, and have dinner.
- Because of the added space made available by the addition, we are now able to free up two rooms which had been used for overflow meals and transform them into a dedicated library and a dedicated art/music room.
- For the second year in a row we are beginning the fiscal year (July 1) forward-funded for the year, i.e. with sufficient funds on hand to cover expenses for the coming year.
- Our annual audit was successfully completed with no concerns.
- We have added another full-time person to the Graduate Support Program, which now serves 122 graduates and a handful of others who have come into the AJC fold. With each passing year it becomes increasingly clear that we are focused as much on those who are in 11th grade, college, working full-time, or struggling to find their way as we are on those who are in 5th. In other words, we are committed to all of our students and we are committed to them for the long haul.
- We have been able to invest a significant amount of time and resources in several areas of professional development this year. Primary among these are: 1) a new math curriculum for all five grades, and 2) trauma-informed education through a program from CT3 called No Nonsense Nurturing (NNN). We are already seeing the fruits of the investment in both areas.
- 24 students graduated this past year. Ten of those graduates are attending area independent high schools, three are in IB programs, 11 are attending standard public high schools and one has moved.

- Our Board of Directors has expanded to 18, double the number from when we originally began in 2009. We successfully transitioned to our second board chair since the School began (the former chair remains on the Board) and have also strengthened our committee structure.
- We continue to be fortunate to have healthy and helpful relationships with a host of schools and organizations throughout the Richmond area. (See the attached document from our Yearbook highlighting those with whom we work most closely.)
- We remain committed to enrolling and serving a minimum of 75% of our children and families from neighboring public housing communities. This is a reflection of our desire not to skim the more able, stable or motivated students, and an intentional effort to serve those families in greatest need.
- We are in the preliminary stages of the possible purchase of adjacent property for further building and expansion of the School and it's growing number of programs. We anticipate having more specific news about this during the winter of this year.
- Despite all the successes AJC continues to enjoy, the work continues to be enormously challenging, a reality which we take pains to communicate to our supporters. Along with so many successes, we lose a number of battles as well. Or put another way, we fail to fulfill with each student our mission to 'help our students change the trajectory of their lives.' However for each of our students we remain as strongly committed to our mission as ever.

Michael Maruca, Head of School
September 25, 2017

Volunteers



A big thank you to all of those who volunteered this year!
We really appreciate you.

Special Thanks

Many institutions enrich the life and community of A/C through their kind and in-kind support. We would like to especially thank the following organizations who have enriched our lives immeasurably:

- Art for the Journey
- Benedictine College Prep
- Blue Sky Fund
- Bon Secours Richmond Health System
- Boys to Men Mentoring
- Church Hill Activities and Tutoring
- Collegiate School
- Diocese of Virginia
- Direct Mail Solutions
- Elk Hill
- Entrust Financial Credit Union
- First Precinct, Richmond Police
- Junior League of Richmond
- Lotsey & Hardy Tire Company
- MacBrand Foods
- Peter Paul Development Center
- Gordon Stettinius Photography
- Helen Horsley Photography
- Richmond's First Baptist Church
- RockIt Sports
- Sabot at Stony Point School
- Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
- St. Bridget's School
- St. Catherine's School
- St. Christopher's School
- St. James Episcopal Church
- St. Gertrude High School
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- The Steward School
- Trinity Episcopal School
- UpRVA
- YMCA of Greater Richmond

"Our money, our schools, our governments, our free institutions, our systems of religion and forms of creeds are all first and last to be judged by this standard: what sort of men and women do they grow?"

- Anna Julia Cooper

