



ANNA JULIA
COOPER

SCHOOL

faith • knowledge • pride

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



From Our Head of School

Dear Friends of AJC,

The 2020-2021 school year was a year unlike any other---for all of us. Despite the extraordinary difficulties of the pandemic, teachers, students, and graduates alike rose to the challenge. Beginning with our four-week summer school in July, we did not miss one day of in-person schooling. For the first half of the year, and following CDC and VDH guidelines, we could only have boys one week and girls one week while those at home worked virtually. By January we were able to creatively bring back all the 8th graders in-person, and by March all the 4th and 5th graders as well.



It wasn't perfect, and it certainly wasn't always pretty, but by some measures this year may prove to be our most successful, i.e., resilient, yet as a School. Teachers and staff worked harder than ever. All of us balanced our own anxieties around Covid with the need to carry out our mission of working with students who are at greatest risk from the collateral damage of not being at school in-person. Throughout the year we prudently welcomed volunteer support, the after-school high school program with UP RVA continued, and we managed to weave into the core academic program a significant amount of extra-curriculars. **The arrival of the vaccine in late winter brought palpable relief!**

Graduates, whether in high school, college, the work force, or just plain struggling, faced disproportionate challenges as well. Happily, we had their backs, and the graduate support staff managed to stay in touch and continue to do extraordinary work. In the Fall, all but two of our 8th grade graduates headed off to independent schools, and eleven of the graduates from the AJC class of '17 headed off to college. Two graduates are employed at AJC. We had our first official alumni gathering as well, while the number and quality of connections and interactions with graduates continued to amaze us all. Our community of affection runs deep and is now twelve-years-long and counting.

With the help of a one-day certificate of occupancy, we held the 8th grade graduation in our new gymnasium. The new middle school building and gymnasium will be officially occupied in the Fall of 2021. What a thrill that will be for all of us!

On a sad note, Gordon Wallace, a founding leader, Board chair for the School's first eight years, and active board member and supporter until the spring of this year, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Friends and family came together to create an endowment in his honor and his name will grace the hall at the entrance to the new building.

Finally, our supporters rose to the occasion as well, as generous as ever, continuing to bet on us, and we once again surpassed our financial goal for the year. **Thanks to all of you who continue to make AJC possible.**

Sincerely,

Michael Maruca
Head of School

At A Glance

4th-8th Grades + Graduate Support



119

STUDENTS
(ALL WHO RECEIVE
FULL-TUITION
SCHOLARSHIPS)

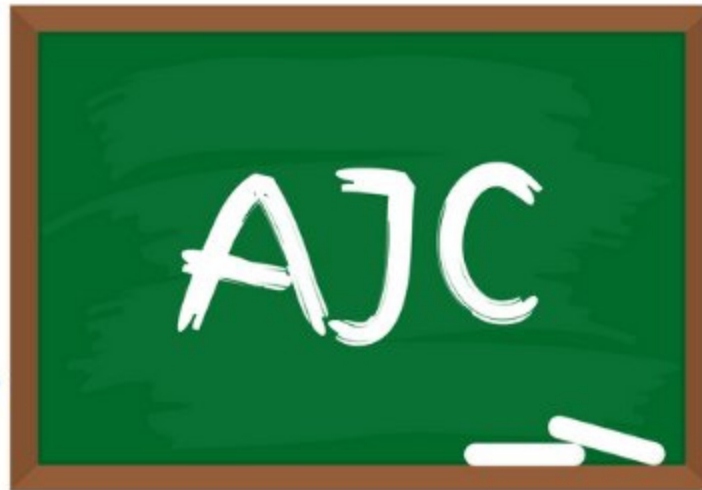
94%

OF GRADUATES
REMAIN IN TOUCH
WITH US



100%

PARTICIPATION IN
PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT
CONFERENCES



96%

HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION RATE



40 WEEKS

IN-PERSON LEARNING
(WITH ZERO KNOWN
COVID
TRANSMISSIONS)



192

TOTAL GRADUATES



2020-2021 Highlights

July

*In-person summer school begins

*Building Hope Campaign groundbreaking event

September

*Back to school following CDC guidelines

*Hybrid learning (boys/girls alternate in-person weekly)

January

*"West Campus" satellite location opens for 8th grade

*Hiring & enrollment begin for new 2nd & 3rd grades

June

*8th grade Graduation Celebration is held in new gymnasium

*School year ends (with zero in-person Covid transmissions)





Financial Summary

**These figures do not include capital expenses, contributions or pledges to the Building Hope campaign, donated goods/services, or existing restricted endowment funds, all of which are included in our audit and may be found on our website, ajcschool.org.

Revenue**

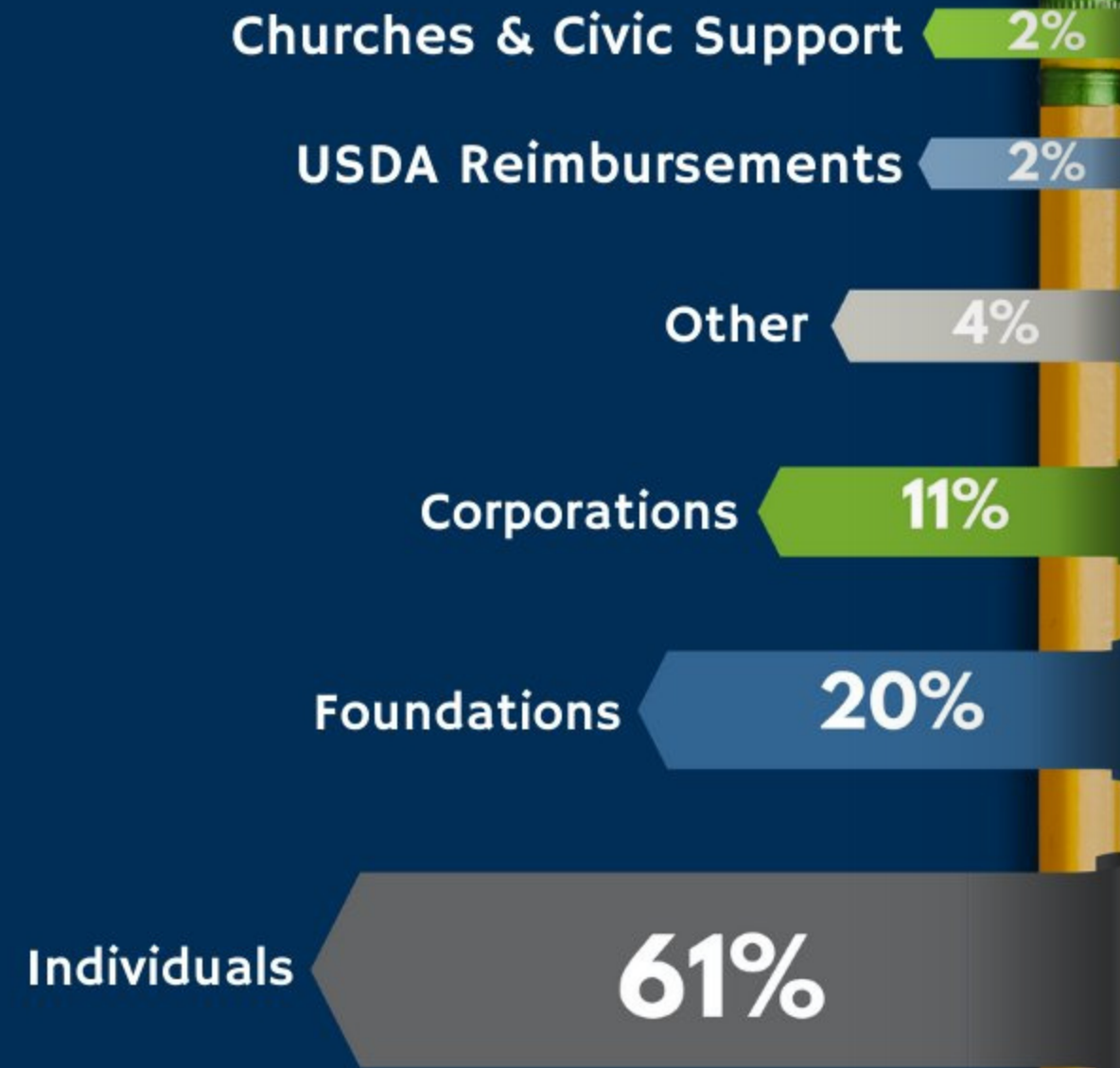
Donor Type	Amount
Individuals	\$1,786,860
Foundations	\$602,238
Corporations	\$325,814
Churches/Civic Support	\$66,040
USDA Reimbursements	\$54,624
Other	\$120,069
Total	\$2,955,645

Expenses**

Category	Amount
Program	\$1,546,097
Graduate Support	\$162,716
Mangement & General	\$371,479
Fundraising	\$272,666
Total	\$2,352,958

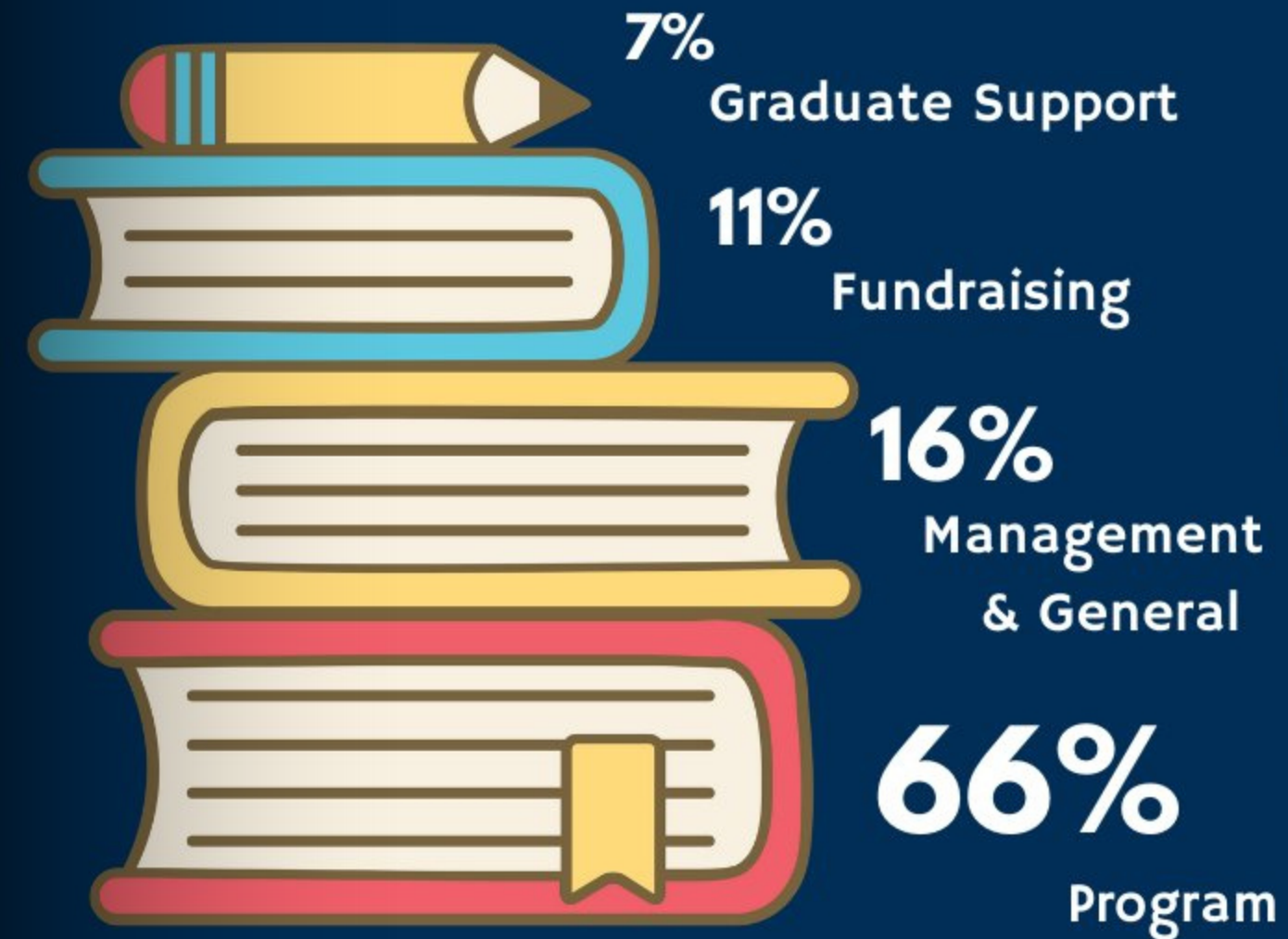
Revenue

Total
Operating
Revenue**
\$2,955,645



Expenses

Total
Operating
Expenses**
\$2,352,958



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Building Hope

AJC initiated a plan in 2018 to expand our mission and reach, providing new opportunities for our students, and nearly doubling the number of students we serve. Our Building Hope campaign has three components:



Building Expansion (\$8 million)

- Build a middle school academic campus and an athletic center
- Create space to establish a K-3rd grade program
- Expand space for UP RVA and graduate support services to better guide students into and through high school, college, and career

Increased Operational Funds (\$3 million)

- Raise operating funds to cover increased annual expenses resulting from the building and program expansion

Establishment Of An Endowment (\$5 million)

- Create a reserve fund to ensure the long-term viability of the School



Through the generosity of many individuals, foundations, and corporations, by the end of the 2020-21 school year we reached \$15 million (in donations and multi-year pledges) of the \$16 million campaign goal. We hope to complete the campaign in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.



Tribute to Gordon Wallace

Our Friend and Advocate

Gordon was a principal founder and driving force behind the Anna Julia Cooper School (AJC). Gordon loved AJC and was instrumental in shaping every essential element of it.



In his unassuming yet soundly tenacious manner, he shepherded the School from its very beginning, and served as the Board Chair for the School's first eight years. He continued his service on the board until his passing in May 2021. He believed in the students and in the teachers and staff. Steady, hopeful, determined, optimistic, courageous, and kind--all these qualities in Gordon helped make AJC possible. The first floor of the new middle school building will be named in his honor, in recognition of both his impact on the School and of the affection and esteem the AJC community holds for him.

His family and friends have established an Endowment Fund at AJC in his memory.

Leadership

Mike Maruca, Head of School
Yolanda Gilliam, Principal
Ingrid Addison, Director of Admissions
Susan Barstow, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Christa Benton, Director of Counseling & Student Life
Mary Desch, Director of Graduate Support
Laura McGowan, Director of Development & Communications
Katie Snipes, School Administrator
Linton Wade, Dean of Students/Athletic Director

Faculty & Staff

Jayne Alexander, Title I Reading Teacher
Carol Allen, Librarian
Micheal Crane, Science Teacher
Noel Fauntleroy, Kitchen Staff
Christy Gore, 4th Grade Teacher
Abby Harsh, Math Teacher
Mereal Hughes, English & Science Teacher
Lorin Johnson, Graduate Support Coordinator
DeAndre Louis-Jean, Kitchen Staff
Brian Keiper, History Teacher
Steve McNamee, 5th Grade Teacher
Krissi Morley, Development & Communications Assistant
Laurie Shadowen, English & Math Teacher
Paige Trivett, Development & Communications Assistant
James Wake, Custodial Staff
Shola Walker, Coordinator of Food Services
Ian Weber, Administrative Coordinator
Kelly Weber, English Teacher

Staff & Board

Board of Directors

Gussie Bannard
Rae Cousins
Ed Cowell
Betsy Fauntleroy, **Secretary**
Shelton Horsley
Tom Horton
Jill Hunter, **Chair**
Charles Kleindienst
Deb Lawrence
Margaret McGeorge
Tanisha Moyer
John Pullen
William "Mo" Shumate
Christopher Snow, **Treasurer**
Meg Walker
Mike Walker
Elizabeth Wallace
Gordon Wallace, Jr.
Brent Winn

John Stanchina, *Trustee Emeritus*
Wesley Wright, *Trustee Emeritus*

Our Mission

Anna Julia Cooper School is an independent, faith-based school providing full-tuition scholarships to 4th – 8th grade students of limited economic resources primarily from Richmond's East End. Through a program focused on the whole child, we help empower students and graduates to change the trajectory of their lives, setting their sights on success in high school, college, and serving their communities. We value all staff, parents and volunteers as integral to our success as a School and a 'community of affection.'



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**2100 N. 29th Street
Richmond, VA 23223
ajcschool.org**