



the next 50 years: phase II

50 ACAD

ATHENS ACADEMY

CASE STATEMENT 2024

Athens Academy's six founders dreamed of creating a school that would provide an excellent educational option for all the families of Northeast Georgia. They invested their time, talent and treasure to make our school a reality. If not for Athens Academy, where would our current students and the Academy's nearly 3,000 alumni be educated? How would their experiences and lives differ today?

Our mission remains, ***Athens Academy seeks excellence with honor in the educational and personal experience of each student.*** Having celebrated more than 55 years as an educational leader, it's exciting to look ahead to our next half-century and the strong commitment being made in the lives of young people. If not for your philanthropic contributions and support, who will allow us to thrive and prosper in the foreseeable future? **We need your leadership and financial help to accomplish the goals set forth in our strategic plan. It will guide our progress over the next several years in achieving our mission and focusing on the well-being and growth of our young people in K3 through Grade 12.**

"I am so grateful for the generous supporters of Athens Academy who helped create this wonderful environment over the school's first 55 years. I realize it's now our turn to step up and give generously so our school enters this next era ready to accomplish great things!"

--Greta Covington '82, alumni parent



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DID YOU KNOW?

Athens Academy is ranked among the top ten private schools in the state of Georgia and is the #8 STEM program in the state for public or private schools.

In addition, Athens Academy has been voted "Best Private School" and "Best Preschool" in Athens as part of the Community Choice Awards.

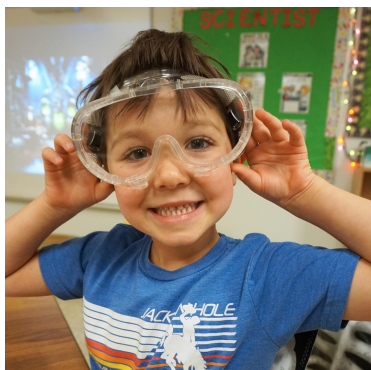


Thanks to our latest benefactors, Athens Academy has successfully raised \$27,350,000 in gifts and pledges from nearly 3,400 donors since 2015 (\$3.3M per year). These tax-deductible gifts have made a difference. Over the last several years, projects have concentrated on renovating and building many instructional and multi-purpose spaces. With the generosity of donors and excellent stewardship of financial resources, the following projects are complete:

- Athletics upgrades (new baseball infield, tennis courts, track and bleachers)
- Daughtry Building renovation and common space (Grade 5)
- Drew Swan Building (Grades 7 & 8)
- Farmer Field House
- Lower School playground and play structures
- Preschool playground upgrades
- Schacht Building renovation (Upper School English)
- Trustees and Williams renovation (Upper School humanities and college counseling)
- Tillman Center kitchen enhancements
- Middle School Activity Building
- Ferguson Stadium videoboard and lighting

We have improved the daily experience for all of our students with this work, and we have a few important projects still remaining. You can be a difference maker, along with fellow parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty and friends. It will take all of us united behind these goals to realize success. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to ask--we are here to help.

To accomplish our Phase Two future goals, Athens Academy seeks to raise \$7M toward capital campaign building enhancements and \$7M toward endowment to maintain tuition accessibility for our families and enhance faculty compensation. Additionally, we look to raise \$7M in planned gift commitments, for an overall goal of \$21M. In coordination with this campaign goal, Annual Excellence Fund efforts will continue to offset annual operating expenses, and the Georgia Tuition Tax Credit allows families to shift tax liability to the school in support of our need-based financial aid program.



“Athens Academy is more than a school for our children – it’s a community. We view our support as investments in that community, and we make them with confidence that leadership and the Board of Trustees will be good stewards of those investments. The dividends are obvious every time we set foot on campus.”

--Cress & Spence Johnson, current parents

Infrastructure (\$7M) - Provide facilities that inspire each of our students to learn, grow and prepare for college and life with first-rate, passionate faculty and coaches leading them.

- (\$1.35M) Complete renovation of Erwin Hall, home to our Lower School classrooms and teaching spaces. We want this building to be welcoming and comfortable for our second, third and fourth graders. This 8,000+ square feet of renovation can be accomplished over a summer, and we want to make this a reality for our children.
- (\$1.3M) Our tennis program is one of our most successful athletic programs in school history, with 35 consecutive boys’ region titles. In 2018, new tennis courts provided an updated playing surface, and new LED lights were added. A new tennis building would include permanent restrooms, locker rooms, storage, a coaching space, and tiered spectator seating.
- (\$500,000) Upgrades to the Tillman Center for the benefit of our Middle and Upper School students and faculty. With 650 students and faculty using the Tillman Center daily, this project offers updates to the facility and enhancements to food service with respect to better food prep, serving options, and overall dining experience.
- (\$1.3M) Additional instructional and physical education space adjacent to and similar to the Reigle Baseball Facility, which will be utilized by students in the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools for a variety of programming.
- (\$250,000) New outdoor pavilion style teaching and meeting space adjacent to the lake and the Middle and Upper Schools, where students can learn from teachers or gather with cohorts for outdoor active learning opportunities.
- (\$2.3M) Campus-wide renovations to include a new playing surface for the Harrison Center playground; technological infrastructure advancements and renovations in multiple locations; updates for the Old Gym floor, locker rooms and bathrooms; improvements to campus roadways and security systems; and upgrades to HVAC systems campus wide.



Endowment (\$14M) – Gifts, one-time or multi-year, and estate gifts are vital to maintaining our exceptional independent learning opportunities and securing the future of Athens Academy. Our hope is to realize \$7M of this in current gifts and pledges and the other \$7M in future estate gifts. Endowment funds support our teachers with competitive compensation, provide opportunities for professional growth, increase need-based financial aid for qualified students, and help mitigate tuition increases for all. When completed, Athens Academy will have more than \$25,000 per student in our endowment. This results in sustainability and momentum for our future. Currently, Athens Academy's endowment is valued at over \$14,900,000 (as of December 2023).

Thank you for considering the future of Athens Academy and our students! Make a tangible difference with a gift, multi-year capital pledge, and/or estate gift. Please contact DeDe Guest or Josh Alexander on the Development team or John Thorsen, Head of School, to speak further about matching your passions with Athens Academy's people, program, and future. We would love your engagement and support of these initiatives.

“Athens Academy is truly an anomaly in the world of private education. Consultants have shared that a school of this caliber and its impressive facilities shouldn't exist, let alone thrive, given the geographical and economic environment we serve.

“The value of Athens Academy goes beyond the academic, art, service, and sports experiences for our students and enhances our community's quality of life and commerce in profound ways. For those individuals and organizations who are on campus regularly, or rarely visit the campus, know that no gift of financial support generates a broader and more positive impact across the socio-economic spectrum in and around Athens than a donation to Athens Academy!” --William T. Trigleth III, alumni parent

If not you, who will come forward and make this vision become a reality for Athens Academy students and faculty? With your leadership and engagement, Athens Academy is confident that our efforts can surpass this ambitious \$21 million goal. Be a partner and help us continue our long list of successes and make these necessary enhancements happen. We have a lot to celebrate, and we can do this together to benefit our teachers, students and programs. **Thank you for believing in Athens Academy and considering a gift in support of our young people and this campaign!**

Scan the code at right for more information and to make a gift today. Please let us know if you have questions about the Next 50 Years Phase II campaign; contact John Thorsen, DeDe Guest, or Josh Alexander. Thank you!



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