

THUNDERBIRD ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Summer 2024





Danica A.



Samuel A.



Kuol B.



Jericho B.



Maya B.



Madysen C.B.

Congratulations Class of 2024



Rogger G.



Ronnie G.



Tania I.



Jacob L.



Eder L.



Malayna M.



Sierra M.



Poe Ku M.



Viktoria O.



Kristian P.



Sherlyn R.



Ivette S.



Andres S.



Jacy T.



Malcom T.



Sarha V.



Anakari Y.



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ADMINISTRATION

Michael Tomas
Principal

Kerysa Ford
Registrar and Recruiter

Mikey Stewart-Tapasco
Business Manager

Randall Harrison
Director of Advancement and Engagement

Our mission is for each student to EXCEL:

- EXperience Jesus
- Communicate clearly and think critically
- Embrace service & citizenship
- Live healthfully in body and mind

Our vision is for our students to increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.”

Luke 5:52

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DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

As I reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support we've received from our alumni, churches, parents, teachers, and staff. Your generosity and commitment to our campus and students have truly been a blessing. I cannot thank you enough!

Your support has not only sustained us but propelled us forward, enabling us to make a profound difference in the lives of our students. Together, we've opened doors to endless possibilities and opportunities for growth, shaping a brighter future filled with promise and potential.

Thanks to your support, TAA introduced not one, but two new scholarships, organized a successful golf tournament fundraiser, increased giving for worthy students, and sent 20 students on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic! These achievements are a testament to the incredible impact we can make when we come together as a community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence and for being an invaluable part of our TAA family. I am looking forward to continuing this journey together, making even greater strides in the years to come.

Randall Harrison

Randall Harrison
Director of Advancement & Engagement



THANKYOU:

To those who gave through their local church, anonymously or through a School Tuition Organization (STO). Although we don't know who you are or the amounts you gave, we want to say Thank You for your support of Thunderbird Adventist Academy. We appreciate all you are doing for the students of this school.

Thank you! Your support impacts our students to EXCEL!

Alumni Gifts:

Eric Baumann, Class of 1990
Ernie Bursey, Class of 1959
Bernard Clark, Class of 1974
Patsy Clark, Class of 1964
Martin Corpus, Class of 2017
Lettie Hylarides, Class of 1975
Clifford Rodgers, Class of 1974
Julie Roth, Class of 1969
Eleanor Thacker, Class of 1964
Robert Thacker, Class of 1957
Tyler Thimsen, Class of 2005
Jake Thimsen, Class of 2000
Nathaniel Warren, Class of 2006

Friends of TAA Gifts:

Dr. Troy Anderson
Anonymous
Sharron Banks
Eric & Margie Baumann
Kelly Sue Blake
Shelly Blake
Joe Cala
Tye Davis
Tommie Decano
Diane Denard
Dorma Filson
Catherine Foll
Heather Gantt
Vanessa Guzman
Lori Ann & Jason Haxton
Lisa Heisey
Donna Henderson
Sandra Hrabowy
Julie Jewett
Chris Juhl
Ed Keyes
Adam King

Marilyn LaCount
Reggie Leach
Vic Littman
Cheryl Lindeman
Teryl Loeffler
Ed Loney
Bonnie Loney
Lester Long
John & Susan Loor
Dayv & Gena Lounsbury
Randy & Karen Mateo
Kenneth May
William McSherry
Joedy Melashenko
John Mayer
Calvin Miller
Curtis Miller
Adelaida Ordas
Lynn Ortel
Anthony Oucharek
Danika Ouzouian
Igor Para
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Denice & Wesley Raphael
Gerald Reed
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Alex Smith
Dan Smith
Michael Snow
Wes & Doris Stout
Bonnie Urban
Berit von Pole
Nathaniel Warren
Nathaniel Warren
Gary Willis
Ugonna Woods
David Wyatt
Chandra Young
Scott Young

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Glendale SDA Church
Glendale Spanish SDA Church
Grace in the Desert Adventist
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Church
Shalom Spanish Group
Show Low SDA Church
Springerville SDA Church
Tempe SDA Church
Waukegan Shalem SDA
West Valley Spanish SDA

ALUMNI WEEKEND APRIL 5–7TH

On Friday evening, the TAA auditorium was filled with excitement as alumni from near and far gathered for vespers. It was lively as old friends and classmates reunited, catching up and reminiscing. Storm Ministries led the service with praise and worship, followed by a sermon delivered by Pastor Chris Morris, class of 1991. In his message, Pastor Chris addressed the challenges of navigating life when our expectations lead to disappointment and comparisons. Despite life's ups and downs, we find reassurance in the belief that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

The evening concluded with socializing in the student center and around the fire pit—a wonderful way to kick off alumni weekend!



On Sabbath morning, many of our alumni took advantage of the beautiful weather and walked around, soaking in the sunshine. Ernest Bursey, MA, MDiv, PhD and class of 1959 was the guest speaker for the worship service. His sermon, titled "Jesus' 3' by 5' Card," encouraged both our alumni and students to apply the lessons from the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). He reminded us that we are all on this life's journey, with some of us closer to its end than others. We all anticipate becoming citizens of the kingdom of heaven by fixing our gaze solely on Christ, walking humbly, and treating others as Christ would have us treat them.

The TAA Music Department led out in worship beautifully, with performances from the band, choir, handbells and chorale. Bonnie Weber Eichman, class of 1966 and the TCE Chimes Choir blessed us with special music.

A big thank you to Good News TV for partnering with TAA and live streaming the service. The Sabbath service can be found on our website or contact our office for a link to the service.

Alumni Honor Classes • 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019



Alumni Golf Tournament

Thank you to all the players, sponsors, and volunteers who came out to support the TAA Golf Tournament. The event took place on Friday, April 5th at The Grand Canyon University Golf Course. Thanks to everyone's generous participation we were able to raise over \$24,000 towards the renovation of the TAA Auditorium. A great start for a worthy project!

Despite the occasional threat of rain, the weather held up beautifully, allowing everyone to enjoy a fantastic day of golf and the winning teams walked away with fantastic prizes!

Once again, thank you for participating and supporting the tournament. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back on the green next year. For more information please contact rharrison@taaschool.org or visit our website.

Thank You, Golf Tournament Sponsors

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AA SCHOLARSHIPS | Arizona Adventist Scholarships, Inc.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF REYNALDO MARQUEZ
"GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART AND MY PORTION FOREVER" PSALM 73:26



Newest Alumni Class: Transforming the Senior Store into Café 24

The class of 2024 wanted their class gift to be meaningful and lasting. After much thought and deliberation, they decided to remodel the senior store. Before the remodel, the senior store was little more than a storage closet, lacking both storage space and a proper area to serve students. Recognizing the potential benefits this store could bring to the campus, the seniors took decisive action to transform it into a functional and valuable space for future classes.



The newly remodeled senior store will feature a large, open space for students to work in, along with plenty of storage cabinets and new countertops for food preparation. The new service counter will offer a café-style bar where students can order and purchase their items. Dubbed "Café 24," the senior store is set to become a popular gathering place for years to come.

By creating Café 24, they have provided a space that not only enhances the campus experience but also fosters community and collaboration among students. The class of 2024 has truly left a legacy that will benefit future generations. This project is scheduled to be complete July 2024.



Alumni Updates

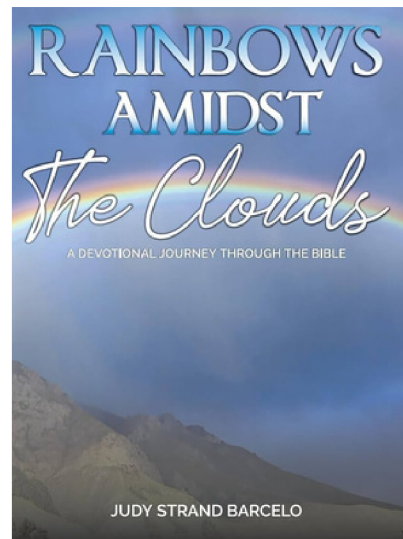
WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!

Please send us updates about education accomplishments, new career opportunities, professional recognition, additions to your family (whether through marriage or birth), or any other news you would like to share to rharrison@taaschool.org

Dr. Judy Barcelo, class of 1969 publishes new devotional "Rainbows Amidst The Clouds." Dr. Barcelo has written this devotional with a view toward relating to the spiritual interests of those who are living out their golden years. This book is available wherever books are sold.

Lenita Skoretz (Neal), class of 1977 was appointed Superior Court judge in the County of San Bernardino, California. She was sworn in December 8, 2023.

Cody Blake, class of 2011 recently accepted a math and science teaching position here at TAA.



TAA Dominican Republic Mission Trip

By Pastor Dayv Lounsbury

In March, a group of twenty TAA students, accompanied by three staff chaperones, arrived in the capital city of Santo Domingo. After boarding a bus and traveling approximately 150 miles west along the southern coast of the Dominican Republic we arrived tired, hungry and eager to get some sleep in the coastal town of Barahona.

It was here in Barahona, that Pastor Teofilo Pichardo established the “Southern Missionary Camp” which would be our primary living and working location for the week. Full-time missionaries do live and serve out of the Southern Missionary Camp, engaging with the local community, teaching English and providing clean water to the community.

Pastor Teofilo Richardo’s vision for the Southern Mission Camp, is to create accommodations and amenities that house up to 1,000 people; complete with a large church, cafeteria, dormitories, activity centers, sports facilities and more to serve the needs of the growing community.

We knew the living conditions would be humble as the “camp” was still in development. Currently, the camp consists of a few two-story cinder block buildings which served as our living quarters, bathrooms, meeting rooms, kitchen, etc. Additional levels, rooms and out-buildings were in a state of partial construction but illustrated Pastor Teofilo Pichardo’s larger vision for the property.



There was no A/C, the electricity frequently went out, and the water was gravity-fed from storage containers on the roof. Daily, a pump truck arrived to refill the containers, which meant showers, toilets, and sinks frequently ran out of water until the truck delivered our new supply. In the beginning, these seemed like tremendous inconveniences, but after a few days, we all adapted to the routine and patterns of camp life.

Our task for the week was to assist local workers in building walls, moving cinder blocks, mixing concrete and general tasks around the main campus. Early on, it was also found that additional translators were needed at some of the evening church programs, so several of our students also volunteered.

A truck would come and deliver shipments of cinder blocks that would be stacked in massive piles near the entrance of the camp. Students would form assembly lines to relocate the blocks to their needed destinations. Blocks had to be hand lifted up to a platform, then hoisted up again to the roof level where students would move them to their new locations. One student estimated that we moved over 40,000 lbs. of blocks one day alone.



It wasn't all work and no play, as Pastor Pichardo made sure to include some sightseeing and visits to some nearby attractions. We saw San Rafael Falls, Los Patos River (the shortest river in the world) and we had Sabbath worship on the mountain next to camp. The most exotic excursion was an all-day trip to Las Aguilas Bay. This is a pristine and protected white sand beach considered to be one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. We spent several hours swimming, snorkeling, and getting sunburnt in this amazing natural wonder. Thankfully, the sun burns were not severe and everyone returned to camp safely.

Despite grueling humidity, a rather unique food experience, traveler's sickness and constantly broken toilets I was delighted in the positive and helpful attitudes our students. We had wonderful, life changing experience, made new friends, helped the camp move closer to its amazing vision of being available to serve 1,000 people, and participated in church programs resulting in 20 baptisms and many commitments to Jesus Christ. We also grew closer to each other and to God through this experience. We know the Lord was with us and we are thankful we had this opportunity to serve Him and participate in this part of the Great Commission.



Royals in Action: TAA's NHS Chapter Champions Scholarship and Service

By Stephani Stack

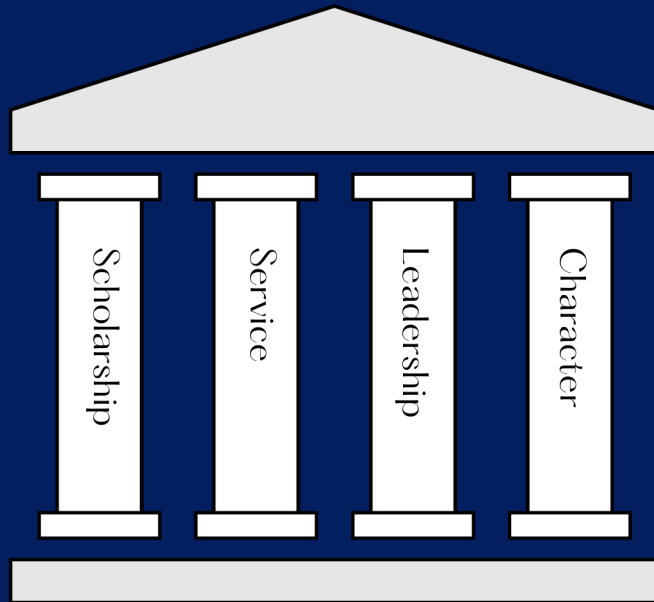
The Royal's Chapter of the National Honor Society has been an active presence at TAA since 2014. Annually, the chapter emphasizes the National Honor Society's four pillars: Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. The members vote each year to determine the focus of their fundraising initiatives. This year, the decision was made to establish an annual scholarship in the name of the Royals for a deserving student at Thunderbird Adventist Academy. They successfully raised \$500 for The Royals Scholarship and had extra funds to kickstart next year's scholarship.

The scholarship will serve as a testament to the values upheld by the Royal's Chapter, recognizing and supporting a student who embodies outstanding character, exemplary leadership, dedication to scholarship, and a strong commitment to serving others.

The fundraising efforts put forth by the chapter will not only help financially but will also inspire and encourage future students to strive for excellence and make a positive impact within their school community. This initiative truly highlights the spirit of unity and generosity that defines the Royal's Chapter of the National Honor Society at Thunderbird Adventist Academy.

This year's recipient of the TAA Royals Scholarship is Juliette Ishimwe. Juliette embodies the core values of the National Honor Society: Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. Her dedication to academic excellence, unwavering commitment to serving her community, and exemplary leadership qualities made her the perfect candidate for this scholarship. Congratulations Juliette, we are very proud of you!

The Four Pillars of NHS



In addition to fundraising, the group volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, packing mana packs for hungry children worldwide. They also organized a toy drive for Arizona Helping Hands, supporting children in foster care. To end the school year, the Royals organized and hosted a food drive, collecting 900 pounds of food in just one week to replenish the Paradise Valley Food Bank to help those need.



Their dedication to service extended beyond just these events. The Royals have made it a priority to give back and engage in acts of kindness, they not only made a difference in the lives of others but also inspired those around them to join in their noble cause. The impact of their efforts is evident throughout the school and beyond, leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and generosity. The Royals truly exemplified the spirit of service and selflessness, making their school a better place for everyone.

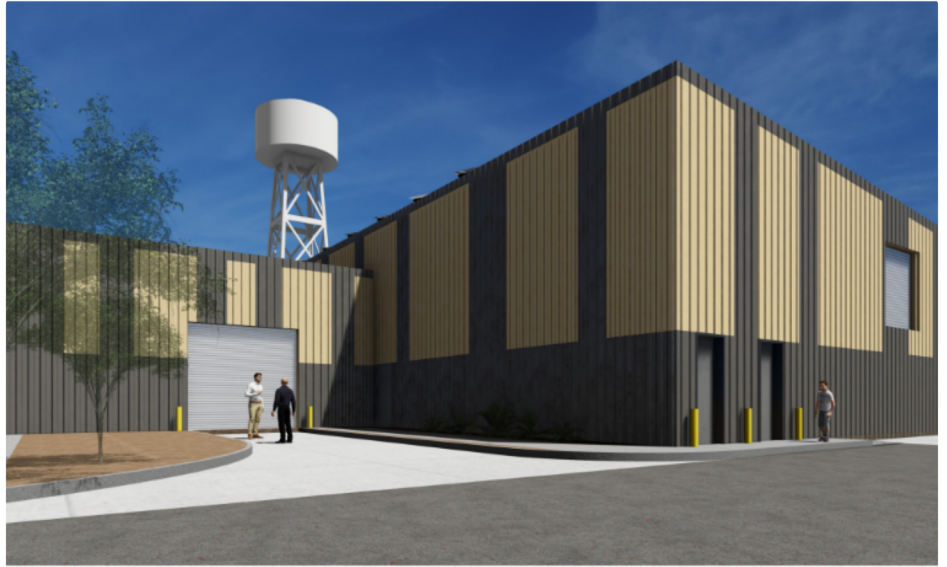


Campus Updates: New Maintenance Facility & Solar Pannels

By Principal Michael Tomas, Ed. S

With a history spanning over 104 years, our TAA campus has undergone a significant transformation. Originally an airfield, it has hosted various industries and opportunities, with buildings being continually repurposed for different uses. For instance, the old TAA maintenance building on the north side of the campus was once an airplane hangar and has since served many purposes, including graduation ceremonies, classes, and class banquets.

The old maintenance building was torn down at the beginning of this year to make way for something new. In its place, TAA is constructing a 16,000-square-foot state-of-the-art maintenance facility. This facility will house various departments, including but not limited to woodworking, metal fabrication, plumbing, storage for our motor pool, and a small office working area. The focus is on looking forward, providing a safe space for our maintenance department to work, and offering a trade school classes and certification for our students.



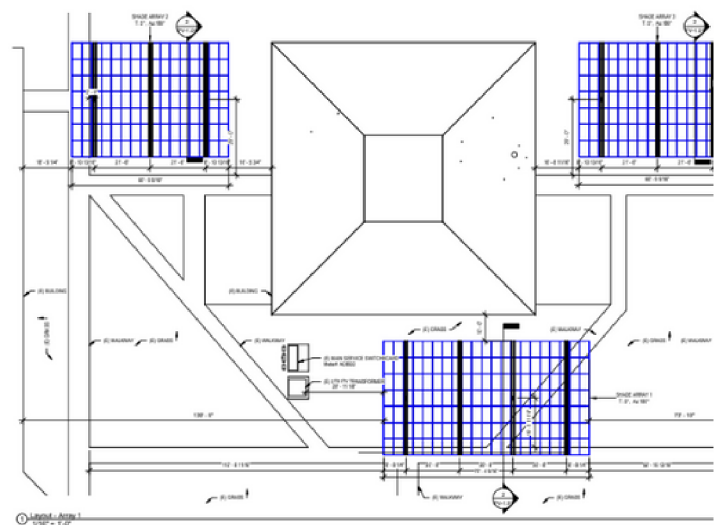
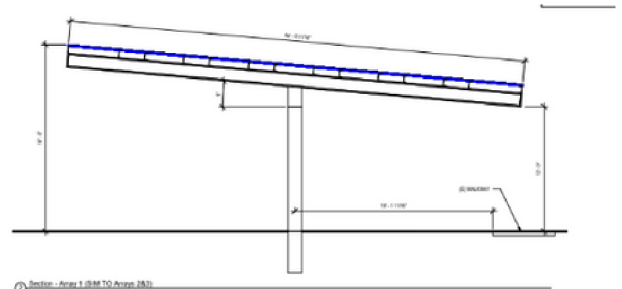
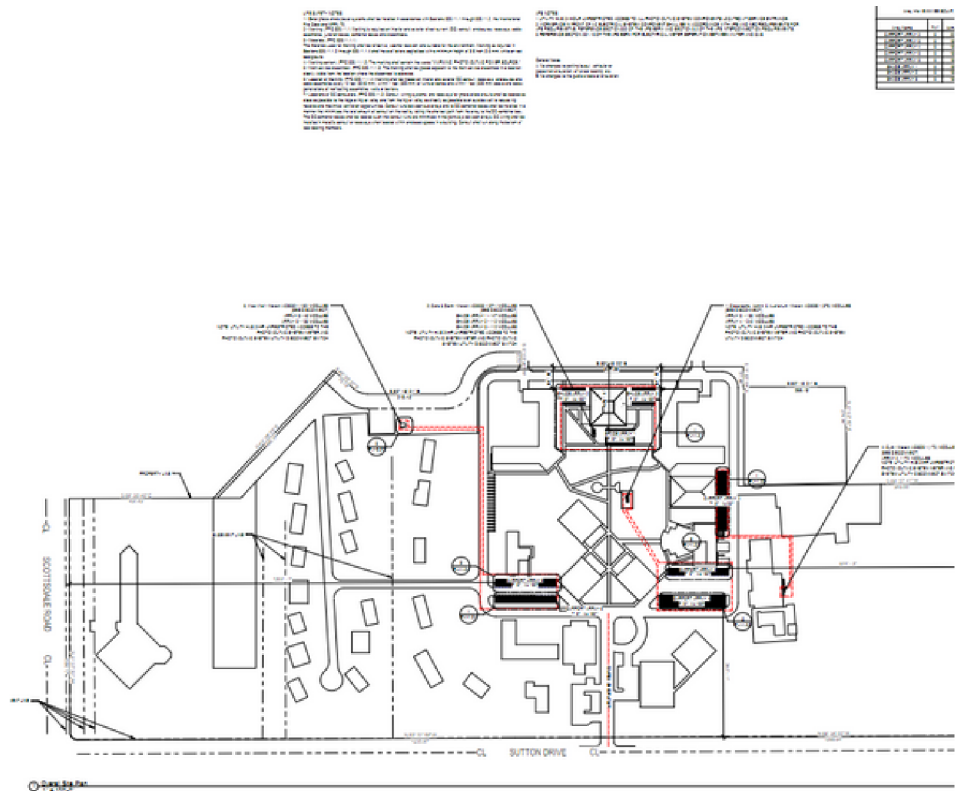
Motor pool storage is a significant addition as well. The new maintenance shop provides space for the fleet of seven vehicles, three buses, two vooses, and two vans, all of which can be stored and maintained under shaded cover from the sun.

We are excited about this new building as we look forward to the future and the opportunities it provides to not only maintain and improve the facilities but also to help serve the students at TAA and providing them with new oppourtunies to EXCEL.

In addition to developing a new maintenance facility, TAA is taking significant steps toward sustainability by installing solar panels on campus. These solar panels will reduce the campus's electricity bill to nearly if not completely, net zero. The panels will be installed on shade structures, including car coverings in the southwest parking lot in front of the administration building, the southeast parking lot in front of the music building, the east side parking lot of the science building, and three shaded areas around the cafeteria.

The shade structures are a welcome addition to the campus, providing not only a means to harness solar energy but shaded areas for student, staff, and visitor parking, as well as covered spaces for students to relax when it is very hot. With the installation of solar panels, TAA will soon be able to power all of the school's facilities, including classrooms, administrative offices, dormitories, the cafeteria, and the gymnasium.

Future expansion of the system will include solar panels to meet the power demands of the new maintenance building. It is an exciting time as we take advantage of Arizona's abundant sunshine, creating a more sustainable future for our campus.



If you have any questions regarding this project please reach out to mtomas@taaschool.org

AUDITORIUM RENOVATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

By Randall Harrison

For decades, the TAA Auditorium has been a cornerstone of campus life, hosting countless of worship services, Friday night vespers, band and choir performances, dramatic plays, and even our beloved alumni weekends. It has witnessed the growth and transformation of generations, serving as a backdrop for memories and milestones for both alumni and current students alike.

While digging through old yearbooks, I searched for the last time this space received any TLC. Aside from the newly renovated lobby restrooms, the building has remained unchanged for many years. I found countless old pictures from the 1970s and 1980s showing the TAA band and choir performing on the same stage, with the same brick walls, lighting, and carpets.

This building has so much potential to become even more! By investing in its renovation, we can transform it into a space that not only preserves its historical significance but also enhances its functionality and appeal for future generations.



In 1981, ASB arranged a campaign to raise money to purchase and hang the stage curtains in the auditorium. Today, those same curtains have stood the test of time, and still look great 43 years later!



Alumni and friends of TAA, it is time to honor the legacy of this building with a much-needed renovation, bringing it the care and attention it deserves. By revitalizing the auditorium, we ensure it continues to inspire and nurture future generations with the same warmth and significance it has always held. This renovation will also meet modern standards and support the growth of our music and performing arts programs.

The project will be divided into three phases to assist with planning and funding: the stage, the ceiling & walls, and the main floor. This year, TAA is focusing on fundraising for the stage renovation.

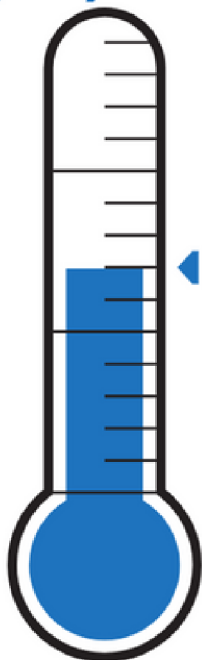
This renovation will include:

- repairing and expanding the stage floor with more durable materials.
- Replace the temporary stage creating more usable stage space and greater visibility for the audience
- Adding a safety handrail for the stage steps
- Adding a curved sound wall and LED video panel on the back wall.
- Installing a stage lighting gallery for better access to spotlights and other updated stage lighting features



Auditorium Stage

\$50,000



**Raised
\$24,715**

ESTIMATED \$50,000 FOR RENOVATION
FOR THE AUDITORIUM STAGE

Your support is invaluable in ensuring the auditorium remains a vibrant and functional space for years to come. Our students need a safe place to practice and perform, together we can make that happen!

If you would like to make a special gift to the Auditorium Renovation Project or have additional questions please contact our office rharrison@taaschool.org or give us a call at (480) 948-3300.

Redirect your state taxes and give the gift of an Adventist education!



Arizona Adventist Scholarships, Inc.

How Tax Credits Work with AASI, Inc.

A tax credit is different than a normal donation made to a charity. Instead of reducing your taxable federal income, the tax credit donation reduces what you owe!

Each year state of Arizona sets a cap on the donation limit for single tax filers and those filing taxes as married/joint. This determines the maximum amount taxpayers can expect to receive as dollar-for-dollar credit against their tax liability. In 2021, this amount is \$1,219 for single taxpayers, and \$2,435 for married taxpayers filing joint.

To get the tax credit, donors must report their donation to the Department of Revenue either on paper tax form or via an online tax filing program. Donations can be made up to April 15th each year but needs to be made prior to filing your taxes. Tax credit donations made on or before April 15th can still be claimed on the previous year's taxes.

Donations must be made through AASI, not sent to a church or to the child's school to receive a tax credit from the State. Donations are received and distributed by AASI in the form of tuition scholarships.



Arizona Adventist Scholarships, Inc.

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Arizona Adventist Scholarships, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to receive and administer donor funds, and provide scholarships for students attending Seventh-day Adventist Schools in Arizona.

Follow these four easy steps to donate to an STO:

1

Make a Donation to AASI



Arizona's Private School Tax Credit allows you to give a donation to Arizona Adventist Scholarships Inc. to provide scholarships for school-aged children.

2

File Your State Taxes



Arizona Adventists Scholarships, Inc. will send you a receipt to include when you file your state taxes.

3

Receive Your Tax Credit



In exchange for your donation, you can get a direct, dollar-for-dollar credit toward the amount you pay in Arizona state taxes.

4

Provide Scholarships



Arizona Adventist Scholarships, Inc. then awards scholarships to children attending Adventist schools in Arizona.

Note: A school tuition organization cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of donor recommendation. A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer's own dependent. A.R.S. § 43-1603 (B) (3)

Donations can be made in person, by mail, online, or via phone call to the AZ Adventist Scholarship office. Scholarships are awarded four times per school year in October, December, February and May. To have your donation included in a particular award date, plan on donating at least three weeks in advance of the award month.

Thank you for making a difference!



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Save the Date!
Alumni Weekend
April 4-6, 2025

