



VALOR

Avail Academy Newsletter

Voice

Spring 2021

We value our community at Avail Academy! Without a network of partnerships and community friends, the educational enterprise would be much more difficult. Our network includes families, churches, businesses, and much more.

It has been an exciting year! We welcomed 407 students to all 3 campuses in September and we have been grateful to offer face-to-face instruction for the entire year. We praise God for his provisions over Avail Academy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your partnership and prayers for our school!

Bethany J. Schuttinga, PhD
President



In history/social studies classes, Avail students are quick to notice that we live in a fallen world, but our hope is that they see how God is sovereign and at work through the course of history. While all of Avail's Throughlines apply to History/Social Studies, most common throughlines include: Community Builder, Justice Seeker, or Servant Worker. When our students wrestle with and better understand history and how communities interact, we know they will be better equipped to use their gifts for God's glory. What a gift that He invites us to be a part of His Kingdom and story.

Kyle Mast, Blaine Principal

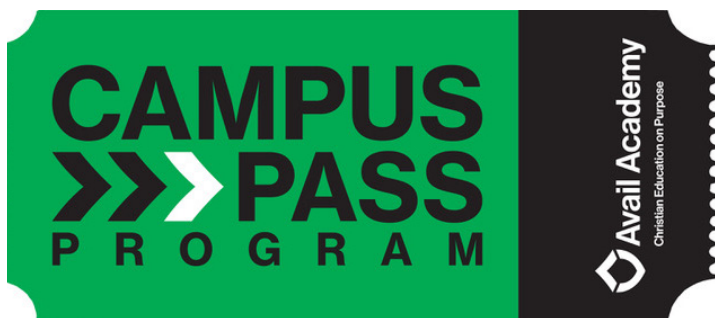
HIGH SCHOOL – FRIDLEY CAMPUS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

On April 6th, our high school team launched an exciting new program option called the Campus

Pass. The Campus Pass provides Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) students with access to the amazing on-campus Avail community while also providing flexibility with daily schedule.

Some of the perks include access to our Commuter Lounge, Advisory, Chapel, Student Organizations and Committees, Academic Guidance Counseling, PSEO Advising, Retreats, IBU, Leadership Development, Chaplain Mentorship, and more! The goal of our Campus Pass Program is to anchor Avail Academy students to the discipleship focused community of Avail.



HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED

ATHLETICS:

Athletics at Avail Academy High School is more than just sports on the court or on the field. At Avail, we seek to live out our place in God's story not just through academics, but through athletics as well. We are very pleased to announce that the Avail Academy High School will begin a Coaching for Transformation program through the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education (CACE).

Four players have been honored as some of the top players in our Eastern Minnesota Athletic Conference (EMAC) for their individual performance, teamwork, and character. Students were selected by the soccer coach, Athletic Director, and our athletic conference chair. These students are Luke Van Geest (9th grade), Josiah Schaap (11th grade), Joey Ritzema (12th grade) and Mitchell Pfeifer (12th grade).



The Avail Boys' High School Basketball won the Academic Award for Section 4A! The Avail Academy Boys' Basketball team had the highest average GPA in section 4A and won the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association Team Academic Section Championship! Avail Academy's academic accomplishment will be displayed periodically on the scoreboard at the Target Center throughout the entire course of the State Basketball Tournament!

The Avail Girls' High School Basketball Came in 2nd for the Academic Award for Section 4A!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Some of the high school students have been doing real work for real people with real needs in the following ways:

Covenant Village: Avail HS students create weekly video "broadcasts" to share with assisted living facility residents at Covenant Living including recordings of our students reading poems, sharing artwork, playing music, singing, BINGO games, news reports, jokes, and more. This will bring JOY to the residents on a weekly basis.

Salvation Army: Students help to sort, organize and stock items in the Salvation Army store. This helps to provide essential everyday items to people in need.

Hope for the Community: Food shelf, students aid in weekly food distribution for over 700 families and help push carts of over 40,000 pounds of food.

Elevate Hope House: Students bake items for the single mothers and children who live at Elevate Hope House. This provides JOY and demonstrates care and generosity which will brighten the days of these women and their children.

ELEMENTARY – BLAINE CAMPUS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Math Masters: In March, 6th grade students had the opportunity to compete in the Math Masters competition. Our team placed 5th out of 25 teams and several of our students received individual awards!

Science Fair: Five 7th graders received awards at the Twins Cities Regional Science Fair and two of those students also received awards at the MN State Science Fair. Lily Stel received a Grand Prize which is awarded to the top 5% projects submitted to the MN State Science Fair. Her project was titled, *“On Your Mark, Get Set, Bake.”*

History Day: The 8th grade class had ten History Day projects compete at regionals. Of those projects, seven received awards and the opportunity to compete at the State History Day. At the state competition, Maely Hall was awarded fourth place for her research paper. Carrick Mick, Caedon Mick, Lauren Brockmeier, and Kyla Fish were awarded Honorable Mentions for their projects.

End of Year Concerts/Plays: Teachers and students have been preparing to share their gifts of music and acting.

5th grade Musical: Mr. Kroeze, Mrs. Kroeze, and Mrs. Hunt has been working with 5th grade students as they prepare to present Once upon a Parable.

Middle School Play: Mrs. Kubacki Postma and Mr. Norton are directing 7th and 8th grade students as they plan to perform 2 short fairy tales.

Band and Choir Concert: Mrs. Schevenius (Band) and Mrs. Wirth (Choir) are preparing Middle School students to perform a spring concert.



ATHLETICS

Basketball: In February/March, Avail Academy girls participated in the NSPSL basketball season. This year, we had a girls' B squad team that was mostly 5th/6th grade girls. Jenna Powers and Maree Lee served as co-coaches for the season and Jennell Bandstra helped with live stream, volunteer coordination, and served as the site supervisor for several home games.



Volleyball: At the end of March, the girls' volleyball season began and will continue through April 20. This year, we have a B squad team (5th grade) and a JV team (middle school). The teams are coached by Maree Lee (B squad), Jenna Powers (B squad), and Kevin Anderson (JV).



Track and Field: Several of our middle school students have joined the High School track team and we are grateful that they have the opportunity to participate. All of our middle school students plan to attend the Classic Track meet in Edina on April 30.

ELEMENTARY – EDINA CAMPUS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Science Fair: Eleven 7th graders received awards at the Twins Cities Regional Science Fair and six of those students also received awards at the MN State Science Fair. Hannah Grosser received a Grand Prize which is awarded to the top 5% projects submitted to the MN State Science Fair. Her project was titled, *“If You Plant It, They will Come: Planting for Pollinator Diversity in Your Home Garden.”*



Avail Geography Bee: All students in grades 4 – 8 participated in the Geography Bee. Congratulations to 7th grader, Levi Abbring (Champion) and 6th grader, Isaac Tarnowski (Runner-up).

MN Zoo Design Contest: 5th graders Olivia Byers, Svea Gears, and Aurora Paskar were awarded the “Conservation Award” as part of the ZOOM Design Contest sponsored by the MN Zoo. This group researched and created a model of a new exhibit for the Red Panda.

Exploratory Classes: The middle school students are participating in one of several exploratory classes on Friday afternoons over the next several weeks. The classes being offered this year include golf at Ernie Rose Golf Academy and led by a PGA instructor, bridge building, dance, fishing, woodworking, video editing, photography, and outdoor adventures.

History Day: 8th grade class had ten students who participated in the Regional History Day contest, and seven students were selected to move on to the state competition. Over 900 students in MN participated in the State History Day competition this year. Isaiah Miles was awarded first place for his research paper. Lou Swenson and Gavin Ziemer received first place for their exhibit. Logan Kimmel and Brayden Beckering were awarded Honorable Mentions. Kara Fager and Cecelia Wheaton were state qualifiers. First place finishers will participate in the National History Day competition this June.



ATHLETICS

Four different Avail Basketball Teams have all completed their basketball season. The teams were able to practice and play many basketball games even amid the Covid pandemic. Thirty-two students participated on an Avail basketball team this past winter. The 7th/8th grade team (pictured) had an undefeated season.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Avail Academy continues to develop its network of business partnerships. If your business would like to partner with us as an Avail Accelerator, please contact Heather Wessman at hwessman@availacademy.org. If you make use of one of our business partners' services, thank them for their support of Avail Academy. We value the partnership!

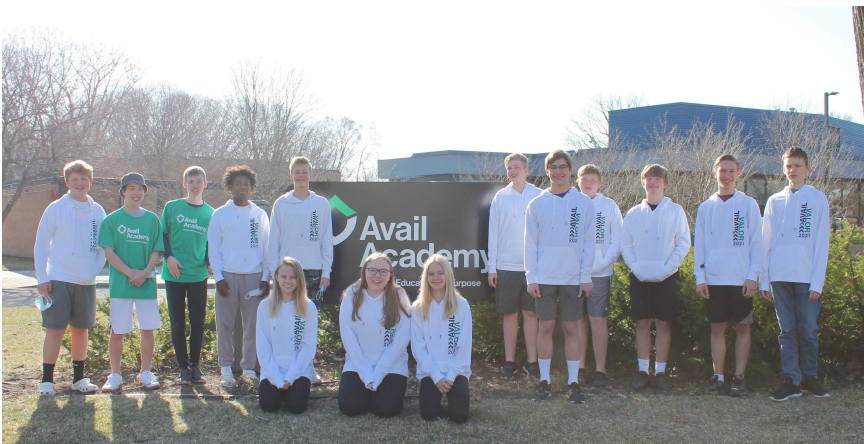
Thank you to our 20 Avail Accelerators who have continued to support Christian education at Avail Academy.



ALL CAMPUS NEWS

We have GREAT news! We are just \$49,074 away from our year end goal by July 31, 2021 to meet our needs for this academic year. In January, President Schuttinga shared the news that we received a very generous matching gift to close out our academic year on July 31, 2021! The matching gift will be matched up to \$100,000 from now until July 31, 2021.

If interested in supporting Avail Academy financially, you can donate on our secure website: www.availacademy.org/donate



Avail Accelerators

PLATINUM PARTNERS

Aaron Hall, Attorney

Bethel University

Dougherty, Molenda, Solfest,
Hills & Bauer, P.A.

Erickson and Wessman, P.A.

KKMS Radio

Highland Bank

Letterman Sports

PrinsBank

Salmon Wealth Management

Twin Cities Filter Service

GOLD PARTNERS

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Plantscape, Inc

RE/Max Advantage Plus-
Clint Kuipers

University of Northwestern

Dale Carnegie

BRONZE PARTNERS

Grant-Shannon Staffing

The Platinum Group

Four Corners Exploration

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next **Society meeting** will be held virtually on Friday, June 11th at 6:30pm. A virtual meeting invitation will be sent via email prior to the date.

We have already been planning for our annual **2021 Valor Challenge** in the fall! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 2nd! Stay tuned for more details to come!



Our Annual **Fellowship dinner** will be held at International Market Square on Saturday, November 13th, 2021. We look forward to having you join us for a night of fun and fellowship!

Would you like to be added to our Avail Academy email updates? Sign up **HERE** or go to our website: www.availacademy.org.

What we believe

Mission: Avail Academy provides quality education that is fully integrated with a biblical knowledge of God and his world, supporting Christian parents and the church in nurturing children as disciples of Christ.

Vision: Avail Academy will thrive as a provider of distinctively Christian elementary and secondary education and will lead the larger community to adopt Christian education as a priority.

Values: Cultural Connectedness, Thoughtful Discipleship, Nurturing Community, Transforming Education, Opening Opportunities



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