

TOGETHER



**ADAM J. LEWIS
ACADEMY**

2020 to 2021
Annual Report

The HOPE Quilt by Lizzy Rockwell

We are incredibly grateful to local author and illustrator Lizzy Rockwell who, inspired by our school's motto, *Hope Rising*, created *The HOPE Quilt* especially for AJLA. This project was made possible by a grant received from The Connecticut Center for The Arts and private donations.



The quilt highlights “hope” themed drawings by our students and staff – who also helped stitch it together along with parents, grandparents and volunteer members of “Peace by Piece: The Norwalk Community Quilt Project,” – truly making this an AJLA community project.

We believe that this quilt is a reminder of the hope that continues to inspire our amazing students, their families and our faculty as well as honoring the diversity, inclusion and uniqueness that make up our AJLA community.

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID -19 a pandemic and the US shut down. We were thrown into a world of “social distancing” and isolation like no other time in history.

Built on our legacy that hope rises out of the ashes, Adam J. Lewis Academy did just that. In the fall of 2020, closely following the CDC guidelines, we provided in person learning throughout the entire school year – which meant our students continued to learn and thrive and our parents continued to work and provide for their families.

We maintained a safe, nurturing, engaging environment through unprecedented times. And we remained committed to our vision of growth and helping even MORE underserved families in the Bridgeport community.

As this 2021-22 school year unfolds, we appreciate, more than ever, the importance of being **together**. We celebrate our diversity and the uniqueness of each child as threads of a vibrant, colorful, dynamic community. AJLA will continue to grow, dream, learn and accomplish our goals.

together



120 students
in PreK to
3rd grade



special emphasis
placed on social
emotional
learning



tuition
revenue is only
8.5% of our
total income



9 mandatory
parent
workshop
per year



80% of our
K to 3rd graders
are reading at
or above grade
level

Together, we are unique.

125 fruits and
vegetables
grown and
picked by our
students in
the garden

founded
in 2013



daily
breakfast
program



100% of our
families receive
need-based
financial aid



low student to
teacher ratio
6 to 1: PreK
9 to 1: K to 3rd



28 faculty
members



1000 new bees
in our indoor
beehive



enthusiastic, resilient students



passionate, dedicated teachers



Interview with Devin

Devin joined AJLA in Kindergarten and is currently in 3rd grade.

What do you like best about 3rd grade?

I like hanging out with my friends at recess and during snack. I also love drumming and math. I'm really good at math equations and graphing. This week we made a graph of everyone's favorite ice cream. It was fun.

What are your strengths?

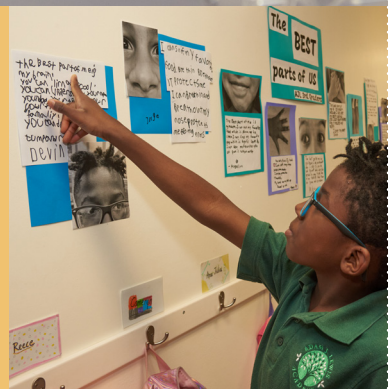
We just started working on our times tables and I'm good at that. I also like coloring with markers and colored pencils. I love to be creative and make things all by myself. I'm also very good at making friends.

What do you find challenging at school?

Math is not always easy, so I have to work hard. I also don't like it when my friends tell me what to do – that's the teacher's job!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I'm thinking about being a fireman or a police officer. I know I need to get my work done and do my best to make this happen.



Interview with Miss Olivia and Miss Abby

What drew you to AJLA in the first place?

Olivia: I was drawn to AJLA the moment I read their mission statement. It radiates throughout the school – children exploring and growing, teachers passionately working to engage learners, and parents meeting to learn how to best support their children at home.

What sets AJLA apart?

Abby: Play. Messy. Friendships. Safe. Create. Explore. Active. Powerful. Hope. AJLA is a building filled with a community that also has a school inside.

What are you most proud of as a teacher here?

Olivia: I am the most proud of how I have grown as a teacher. Working at AJLA has given me the opportunity to grow and change along with the students. I feel supported, trusted and valued as an educator.

What inspires you most?

Abby: My students, no question. When someone asks me what AJLA is like I say it is literally the best of both worlds: making a difference in children's lives while having a support team who believes in me as a teacher.



involved, motivated families



flexible, devoted staff

The Clark Family

We have been fortunate to have Brandon on #teamAJLA from our very beginning. He joined our board in 2013 and has been an active and enthusiastic member ever since. Brooke recently joined AJLA as Director of Family Programs. She is busy planning workshops, organizing grade meetings and social events, and helping to coordinate our partnership program with Housatonic Community College.

She believes in the power of family involvement and is striving to help our school create a warm, welcoming, and supportive environment for families where everyone feels connected and empowered. Noah is a 3rd grader who loves sports and drawing. Ezra is in PreK4 and he loves to make music and use his imagination. Zoe will join AJLA in 2024. As of right now, her interests include long mid-morning naps and laughing at her brothers.

Miss Debbie

Miss Debbie is the glue that holds AJLA together. She sits at our front desk and is the first person everyone turns to for help and support. She wears multiple hats as our nurse, our account manager and our transportation expert. She handles the hustle and bustle of her job with a smile, lots of patience and flexibility. She is an integral and essential member of our AJLA community and we are grateful for all that she does.

Mr. Jamie

Mr. Jamie is a beloved member of AJLA. Not only does he keep us safe and expertly manage both drop off and pick up, but he knows each child by name and makes them feel special. His is the first face they see in the morning and the last one they see as they go home. The students adore him, the parents respect and appreciate him, and we cannot imagine our school without him.



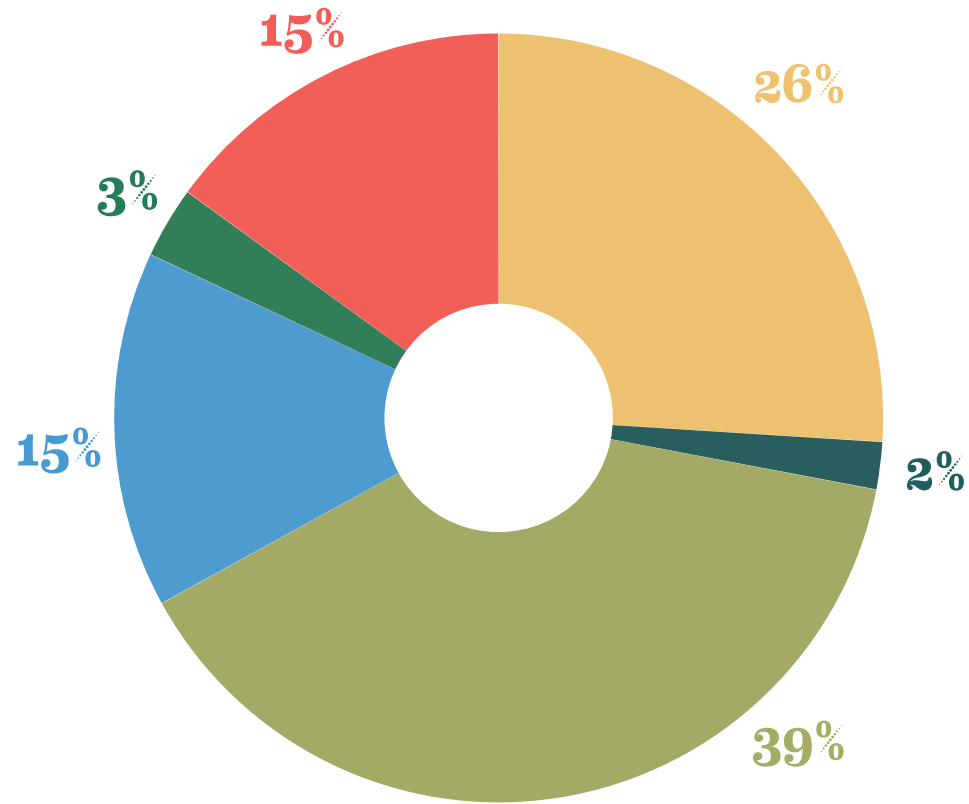
= vibrant Adam J. Lewis

Academy community





Together, we are diverse.



African American, Black
Asian American
Hispanic, Latino

Multiracial
Other
White, Causasian

Partnership with Housatonic Community College

In 2019, AJLA began its partnership with Housatonic Community College. We believe that helping parents further their education is vitally important to the stability of the family and will greatly enhance a child's chances for success both in school and in life.

Our goal is to empower our families to better their life circumstances and improve their quality of living by receiving training for high demand jobs.

We first schedule individual meetings to discuss their interests and what they hope to achieve. Any tuition not covered by financial aid is paid by an AJLA Scholarship at HCC which allows all parents to attend at no cost to them.

HCC course selection includes both certificates and degrees as well as ESL classes which allow parents to contribute and make a difference in their child's education at AJLA and beyond.

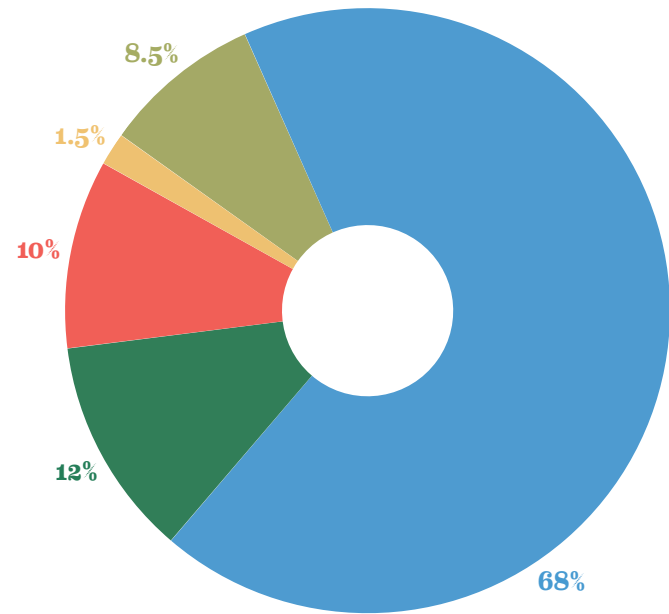


35 parents
enrolled in
AJLA's HCC
program



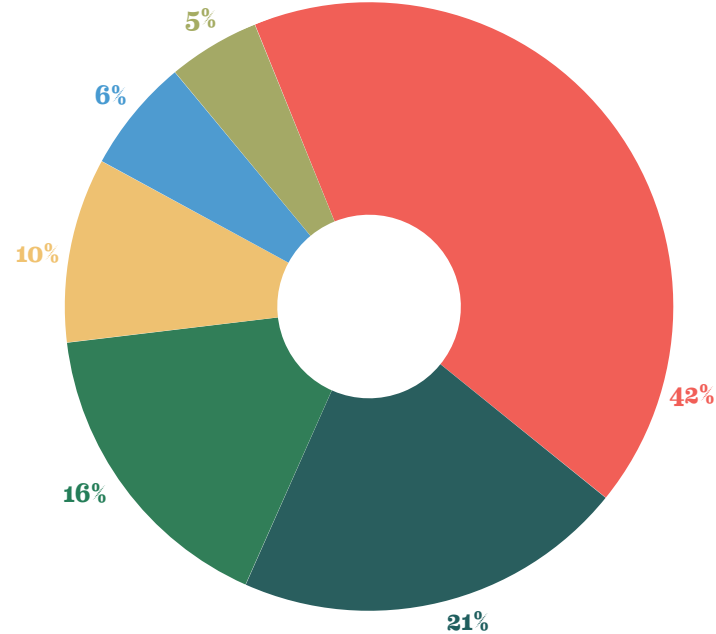
Together, we can make a difference.

INCOME



- Individuals
- Foundations
- Fundraising Events
- Tuition
- Other

EXPENSES



- Teacher Salaries
- Admin Salaries
- Facilities
- Direct Program
- General Admin
- Marketing

OUR DONORS



Redwood \$50,000+

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Conroy, Jim and Roberta
- Goergen Foundation
- McGrath Family Foundation
- Samuelson, Josh and Lollo
- Stranahan Foundation
- Tauck, Peter
- The Levinson Family
- Vanacore, Mark and Tricia

Oak \$20,000 to \$49,999

- Apple Pickers Foundation
- Ashken Family Charitable Foundation
- Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund
- Connell, Brian and Talli
- Davis, Elwood and Catherine
- Duffy, John
- Hodgman Family Foundation
- Kretitler, Tom and Dawn
- Lautenbach Family Foundation
- Munro, Richard and Carol
- Nesi, Victor and Deni
- Poses, Fred and Nancy
- Quinsee Family Foundation
- The McGavick Family Fund
- The Shack-Sackler Foundation
- Walter & Merle Baum Foundation
- The Whittaker Family

Maple \$10,000 to \$19,999

- Allott, Anthony and Allison
- Back To You Fund at Fairfield County's
Community Foundation
- Cretella, Jim and Katie
- Fairfield County's Community Foundation
- Garland, Richard and Lorraine
- Joan F. Dionne Foundation
- Karen & Bob Jones Foundation

- Karen Katen Foundation
- Lenci, Susan and Tom
- McKenna, John and Elly
- Near & Far Aid Association Inc.
- Bromley, Helmi and Douglas Zarookian
- Ronald P. and Susan E. Lynch Foundation
- The Hints Family
- The Knobloch Fund at Fairfield County's
Community Foundation
- The Lamando Family fund
- The Stewart B McKinney Foundation
- The Wyomissing Foundation
- Walsh, Kimberly
- Weigl, Marie
- William and Lynda Steere Foundation





Willow \$5,000 to \$9,999

- A. P. Kirby Jr. Family Fund at the
Community Foundation of New Jersey
- Celentano, Eugene
- Crane Fund for Widows and Children
- Eldh, Rich and Joyce
- Joan S. and Charles W. Coker Foundation
- Kolowsky, Lynn
- Lone Pine Foundation, Inc.
- McDonough, Patrick
- Munro, John and Beth
- Rowland, Stephen and Frances
- The GDL Foundation
- Urquhart, Alex and Judy

Birch \$1,000 to \$5,999

- Ambler Family Giving Fund
- Anonymous
- Banzer, Robert
- Benjamin, Dean and Gaby
- Berg, Chuck and Casey
- Bowes, Diana and James Torrey
- Brown, Spencer and Wendy
- Bruce, Iain and Linda
- Buscher Foundation

Birch
\$1,000 to \$5,999

Clark, Peter and Ana Goizueta
Hodes, Deb
Dunne, Renee
Ford, Charlotte
Furbish, Brian
 Gaudet, Glenn
Hess, Rob and Karen
Hogan, Terry and Mary-Jane
Horton Family Fund
 Hynes, Tom and Eileen
Johnson, Rady and Diane
Jones, Shari and Wagas Wajahat
Kurzer, Adam and Phyllis
Letta, Christopher and Ellen Spatola
MacAllaster Family Foundation
Mara and Thomas Lehrman
Charitable Fund
Nimr, Amer and Kristen
Nye, Dan
O’Hearn, Michael
Feighan, Pat and Steve Zenczak
Rankowitz, Andrew and Elaine
Roth, John and Lauren
 Ryan, Mark and Dawn
Santemma, Jon and Jen Okin
Sherin, Keith and Janet
Siegel, Harold and Carla
Southport Congregational Church
Staikos, Kristen and John
Stephan, Peggy and Keith
Sullivan Family Foundation
Susan Beth Salo Foundation
Tauck Family Foundation
Weismann, Astrid
Westport Rotary Club Foundation
Wirth, Peter
Wolfe, Deron and Kiri
 Wright, Lisa
Yin, Dan and Lee







Spruce
\$1 to \$999

Abramson, Alan and Lynn
Addressi, Mark and Susanne
 Adovasio, Luke and Marie Pomeroy
Amicucci, Joseph and Laura
Asiel, Scott
Auer, Billy and Maureen
 Ball, David and Lucy
Barlow, Kevin and Ellen
Berges, Beny
Berrien, Jim and MJ
Bill Mulcahy
Bowman, Rob and Jennifer Wyman
Brandt, Rob and Deb
 Brill, Aileen
Brown, Doug and Patti
 Brown, Karen
Bruce, Robert and Linda
 Burbank, John and Kris
Burns, OJ and Robin
Callahan, Gerry and Susan
 Caplan, Elizabeth
Cavanaugh, John
Clark, Brandon and Brooke
Coburn, Connie
Cohen, Gary and Carolyn
Cooper, Corti
Coppola, Bob and Kathy
Czuchra, Bert and Alison
de Brito, Alberto
Denton, Frank
Dexheimer, John and Carla Haugen
Doran, Susan
Dunne, Denise
Dunne, Joyce
Dunne, Michael and Chieko
Dzurenda, Bob
Endres, Brian
Ferrare, Dino
Ferrone, Chris and Hilary
Finelli, Paola and Jorge Cevallos
Fisher, Judy and David

Spruce
\$1 to \$999

Fleischmann, Marty
Foster, Bob and Mary
Fox, Wesley and Elizabeth
Friedland, Edward and Lisa
Friedland, Jennifer
Garner, Jerrett and Shelly
Gerstell, Alison
 Gilbert, Peter
Goldblat, Gail
Goldrick, Richard and Cynthia
Gray, Bill and Diana
Griffin, Chris and Dyan
Griffin, Scott
Haeffner, Pete and Maureen
Halper, Jon and Deirdre
 Hanifin, Susan and Kevin Cotter
Hart, Sandra and Damon
Hartwell, John and Janet
Haskel, Jim and Annie
 Hawes, George and Elizabeth
Hennessy, Clay and Heather
Hiller, Paul and Patti
Hoffman, Andrew and Anick Pleven
Hoffman, Bill and Jodi
Hogan, George and Nandita
 Hoover, Hap and Anne
Horn, John and Kate
Horowitz, Julie and Jonathan Alexander
Hoyt, Richard and Janet
Hunt, Carole
Huntington, David and Joan
Ivers, Robert
Jelenik, Kristy
Jinishian, Alex and Nora
Johnson, Sally
Jones, Tripp
Kazanas, Christina
Keenan, Sheila
 Kelly, Vince and Sarah
Koster, Preston and Mary Jean
 Kreitler, William

Spruce
\$1 to \$999

 Leibman, Jules and Mimi
Lennon, Patrick and Tracy
Leonard Jr, Rick and Amy
Lisi, Susie
Mahoney, Scott and Cindy
Meola, Michael
Mombello, Dr. Gary
Mombello, Michael and Julie
Morris, Laurie
 Muggia, Frank and Denise
Murphy, Peter and Linda
Murphy, Tom and Joanne
Murphy, Tom and Sophie
Naiman, Tom
Nochlin, Jason
Norton, Larry and Melissa
Oberkrieser, Emily
Passaretta, Pamela and Angelo
Patten, Scott
 Pawlick, Lock and Ann
Peale Foundation
 Perry, David and Betsy
Pina, Michael and Saba
Propp, Peter and Suzanne
Rago, Sherry
Reardon, Diane
Reed, Lis and Peter
Rice, Mark and Amy
Robson, Tim and Jenny
Rudd, Gordon and Maureen
 Runkel, Rick and Kaelyn
Russell, Martha
Ryan, Barry
Sage, Jim and Sarah
Scott, Bob and Karen
Seath, Sue
Sebor, Andrew and Cathy
Shanahan, Lisa
Smith, Dwayne
Solomon, Andy

Spruce
\$1 to \$999



















Stapleton, Robert and Bonnie
Stockinger, Christopher and Merete
 Stringer, Greg and Nancy
 Stringer, Michael and Suzanne
 Stringer, Neil and Sheila
Stuart, Tim and Tracy
Swenson, Genevieve
The Bee Cause Project
 Tilghman, Joan
TisBest Philanthropy
Tyburczy, Edward
Uhle, Alex and Sally
Van de Berghe, Richard and Claire
Vazquez, Mirellise
Ward, Hilary and Todd Thibodeaux
Whitaker, Alexi
Wiederecht, David and Barbara
Wieser, Jeffrey and Patricia
Winsor, Paul and Barbara
Woodfine, Debbie

In Kind

Bebon, James and Jacqueline
Colorado Daisy
Greens Farms Academy
Hardy, Jim and Anne
Pequot Library
Prince, Stacy and Thomas
Whiteley, Amy and Andrew

Adam J. Lewis Academy is a designated 501(c)(3). As a privately funded school, we neither solicit nor accept public funding. We rely exclusively on the generosity of individuals and foundations.

Dedications

-  In Memory of Adam J. Lewis
-  In Memory of Doris K. Caplan
-  In Honor of Patty Lewis
-  In Honor of Julie Mombello
-  In Honor of Dr. Bruce McEwen
-  In Honor of John Munro
-  In Honor of Tricia Vanacore
-  In Honor of Tony Allott
-  In Honor of Dawn Kreitler
-  In Honor of Carla Patrona
-  In Honor of Devonta Smith
-  In Honor of Jennifer Weinstein
-  In Honor of Anne Hardy
-  In Honor of Kim Walin
-  In Honor of the Stringer Family
-  In Honor of Eliza Perry
-  In Honor of Linda Murphy
-  In Honor of Hilary Ward

Special Thanks

For the beautiful homemade quilts created especially for all our nappers in PreK:

- Cecily Zerega
- Edie Faile
- Louise Warner

For the countless stitches put into The HOPE Quilt:

- Students, faculty, staff, parents and grandparents at AJLA
- Volunteer members of “Peace by Piece: The Norwalk Community Quilt Project”

For all of the incredible photographs in this Annual Report taken pro bono by:

- Pam Einarsen

Ways to Give

All Adam J. Lewis Academy families pay only what they can afford. Tuition revenue accounts for just 8.5% of our total income. All other funding comes from generous donations from individuals and Foundations. We hope you will consider making a gift to support our mission. Every contribution helps enrich the lives of our students and their families.

Gifts by Credit Card

To make a donation with a credit card, please visit our website at ajlacademy.org, or call AJLA 203-333-2211.

Gifts by Check

Mail in your check, made out to AJLA, at 500 State Street, Bridgeport, CT, 06604.

Gifts by Venmo

@AJLAcademy

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of appreciated securities are an excellent way to make a gift to AJLA. Donors receive a deduction for the entire amount of the stock transferred and avoid taxes on capital gains.

Matching Gifts

Please check with your employer to determine if they have a matching gift program.

Gifts from IRAs

If you are over 70.5 years of age, you can make gifts directly from your IRA to charity.

Legacy Giving

Leaving a gift to AJLA in your will is one of the simplest ways you can make a meaningful contribution.

Interested in making a pledge or for other questions and giving help, please contact:

Neal Edelson

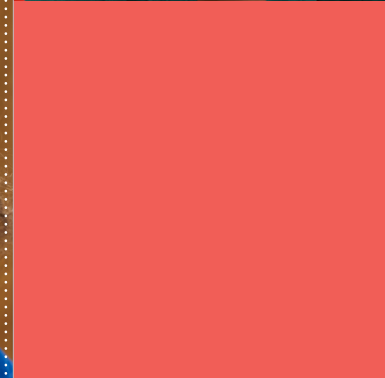
Director of Philanthropy & Strategic Development

203-333-2211

neal@ajlacademy.org



TOGETHER



Board of Directors

David McGrath, Chair

Founding Partner

Sherman Financial Group

Patricia D. Lewis, (ex officio)

Founder and Head of School

Julie Mombello, (ex officio)

Co-Founder and Director

Kimberly Walin, Treasurer

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Arbour Point Advisors LLC

Anthony Allott

Chairman and CEO

Silgan Holdings, Inc.

Brandon Clark

Chief of Staff

Faith Acts for Education

Brian Connell

Managing Director

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Child Advocate

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Dawn Kreidler

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Dwayne Smith

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Housatonic Community College

Tricia Vanacore

Former Chair

Greens Farms Academy (GFA)

Board of Trustees



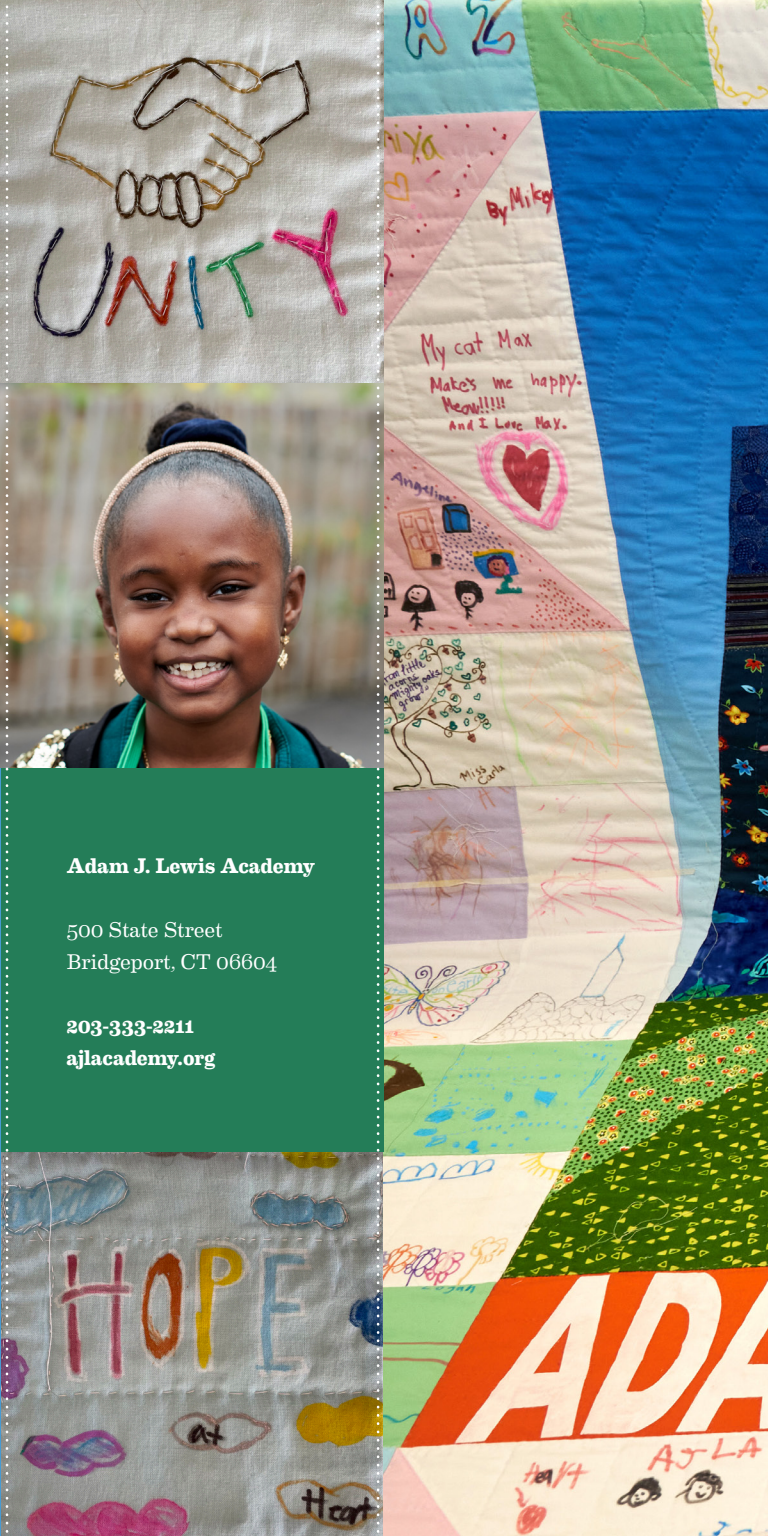
Our Mission

Adam J. Lewis Academy attracts families who believe in the power of education. AJLA inspires children from all backgrounds to achieve their promise.

AJLA is defined and guided by its motto, *Hope Rising*. Through a program of rigorous academics, rich experiential learning, and deep family engagement, AJLA nurtures the potential within each child – preparing students for a lifetime of intellectual exploration, personal growth, and moral citizenship.

Children who graduate from AJLA emerge as leaders, empowered with the knowledge, skills, character and confidence to succeed.

AJLA was founded in memory of Adam J. Lewis, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11 and whose life was enhanced by exceptional education provided at a young age.



Adam J. Lewis Academy

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Bridgeport, CT 06604

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