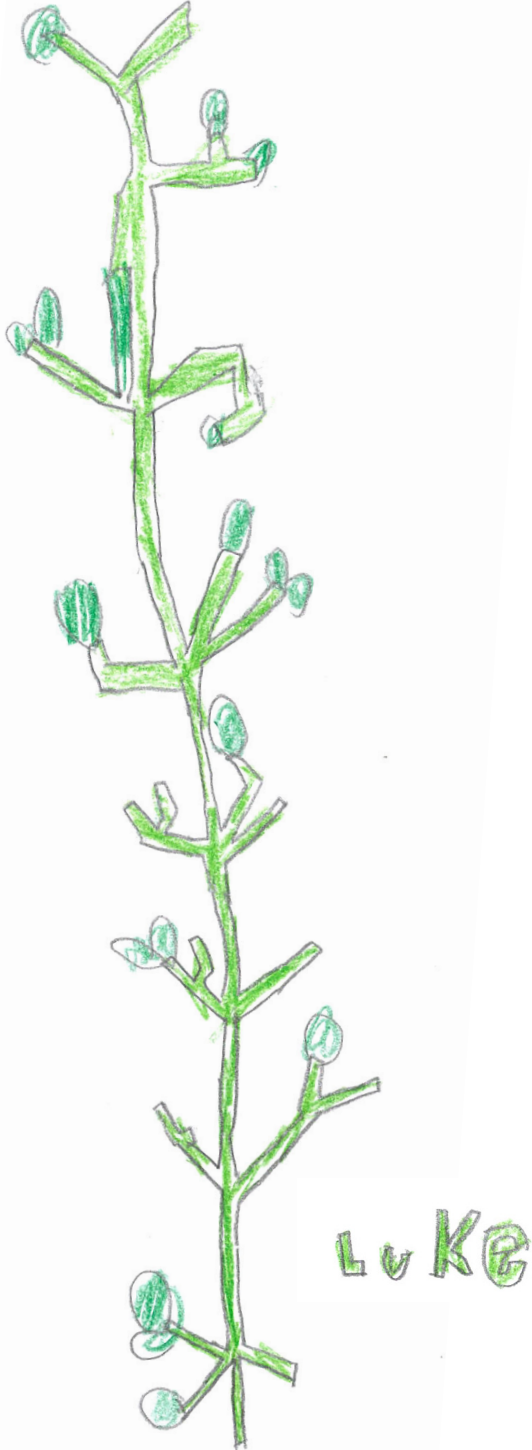


**ADAM J. LEWIS
ACADEMY**



GROWING

2019 to 2020 Annual Report



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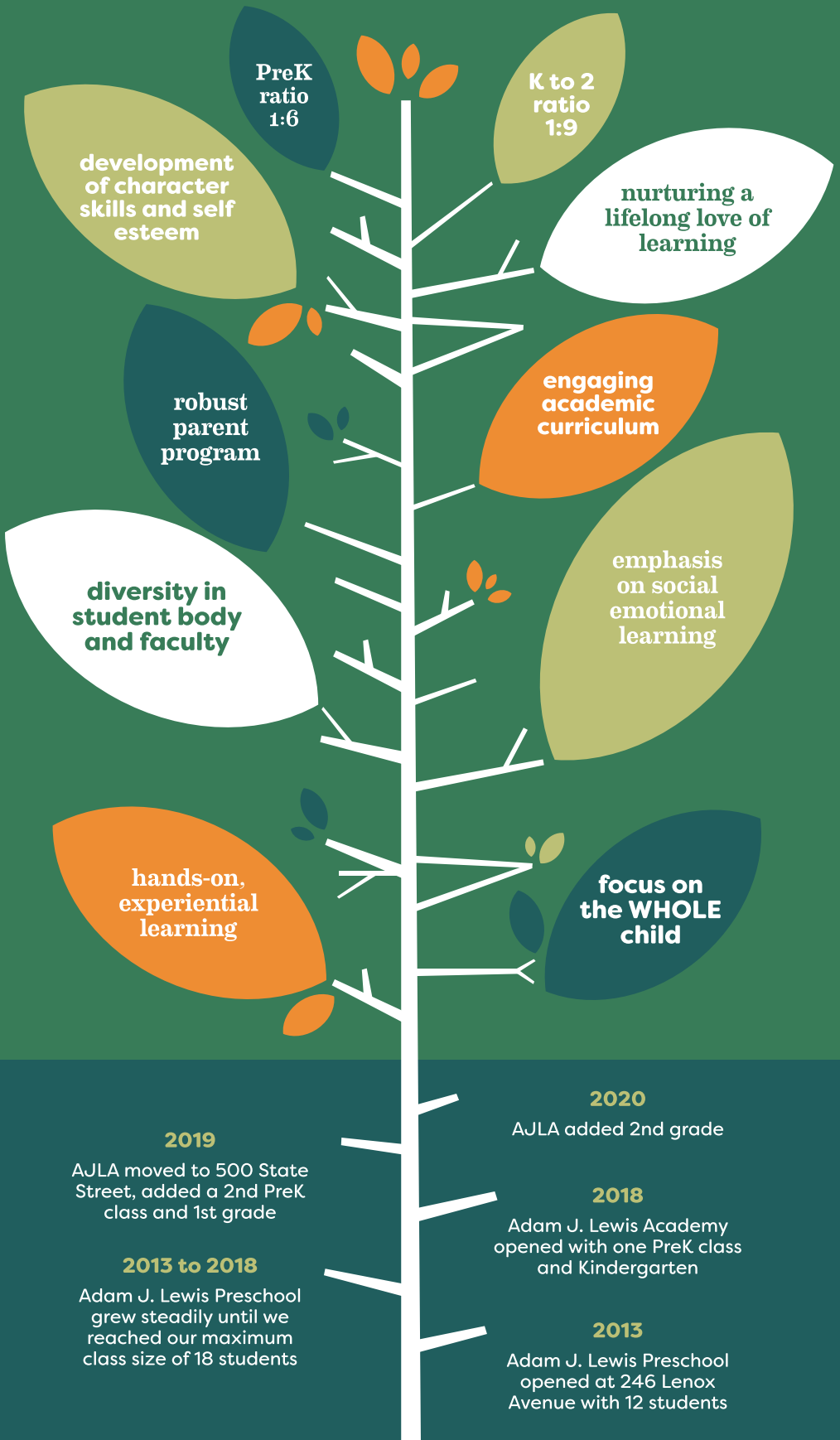
GROWING

HOPE



DID YOU KNOW?

- Our doors opened on August 28, 2020 **TWO WEEKS EARLY**
- AJLA is 100% open, 5 days a week, 8:00am to 3:30pm **IN PERSON**
- During spring quarantine, we stayed connected with ALL of our AJLA families
- AJLA welcomed 27 new students for the 2020-2021 school year
- We expanded to the 2nd floor for 1st grade and opened our brand new 2nd grade
- We acquired the lower level which is used for PE and African Drumming
- We enlarged our outdoor playground for our **GROWING** students
- We added 3 new Orton-Gillingham trained tutors to our Academic Support Program
- Our 1st AJLA parent successfully completed his Sterile Processing Certification as a part of our **PARTNERSHIP** with Housatonic Community College
- A high-quality early childhood educational experience is directly linked to better lifetime outcome such as higher graduation rates, better health and increased self-esteem
- **PARENT INVOLVEMENT** in a child's education is twice as predictive of a student's success as socioeconomic status and AJLA provides an enriched parent program to all our families
- The results of our standardized testing showed both the 1st and 2nd grade class averages have jumped approximately 12 percentile points in both Language Arts and Math since last fall. This puts AJLA scholars in the **92 PERCENTILE** nationally!



our roots are in early childhood

GROWING STORY

GROWING DEVELOPMENTALLY



Academic Support Program

We added 3 new Orton-Gillingham trained tutors who provide an extra 2 hours of support for targeted students (donor funded).



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

SEL continues to be an essential part of our overall program. This fall we introduced “Persona Dolls” to all AJLA classrooms. These lifelike dolls, which represent different ethnicities, join the classroom and help develop empathy, conflict resolution and problem-solving skills. Please meet Nick who joins Miss Doreen in PreK4.



Students

We are excited to highlight our 4 AJLA “LIFERS” who started with us as 3-year-olds in 2016. Oh, how they have grown both physically and developmentally!

GROWING

STAFF



Elijah Langston

We are thrilled to welcome Elijah to our 2nd grade team. He prides himself on being a native of Bridgeport and is excited to join AJLA where he can directly give back to his hometown. He grew up having a passion for sports and ended up playing Division III Football and competing in Track and Field at Amherst College where he also majored in Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought. He spent the last 2 years working as a co-teacher at Greenwich Country Day School - first in Kindergarten and then in 2nd grade. At his core, Elijah would describe himself as deeply family orientated and always learning more about his roots and culture, as well as being a lover of spending time outdoors and traveling!



Laura Huertas

We are so delighted that Laura has joined the PreK4 Dream Team. She graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BA in Human Development Family Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Development. She also holds an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Norwalk Community College. For the past five years, she has been working at Greenwich Country Day School where she spent three years in the Daycare department and two years as a preschool Co-Teacher. When Laura is not at school, she enjoys doing Zumba, going hiking and spending time with her family.



Terilyn Esse

It is with great pleasure that we announce Terilyn has joined AJLA as our new Director of Community Relations and Development. Terilyn has been an active member of the local community for over a decade. She volunteered her time at the Beardsley School, The Discovery Museum, and served on the Boards of both Bethel Recovery Center and The Sheehan Center. She organizes a Holiday Food Drive each year which has provided over 3000 meals to the Bridgeport community. She spent six years on the Board at Fairfield Country Day School where she chaired their development committee. She then transitioned to an interim position at FCDS as their Director of Development. Terilyn graduated from Boston College with a BA in Economics. She and her husband Todd reside in Fairfield and have six children.



Expanded sport court for our older students



Repurposed lower level for African Drumming and PE

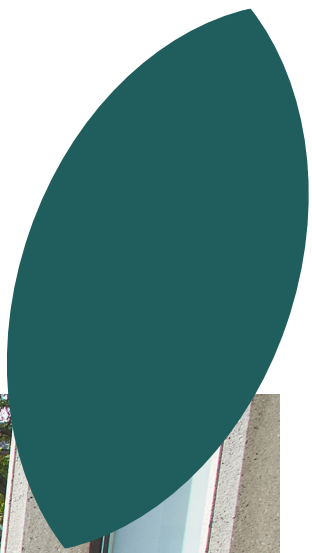


1st and 2nd graders love their new classrooms on our renovated second floor

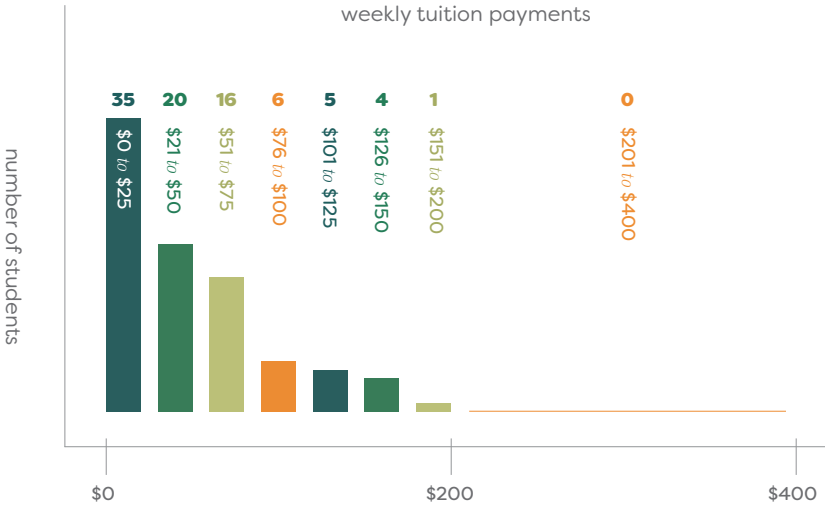
GROWING
CAMPUS

WE *are* GROWING

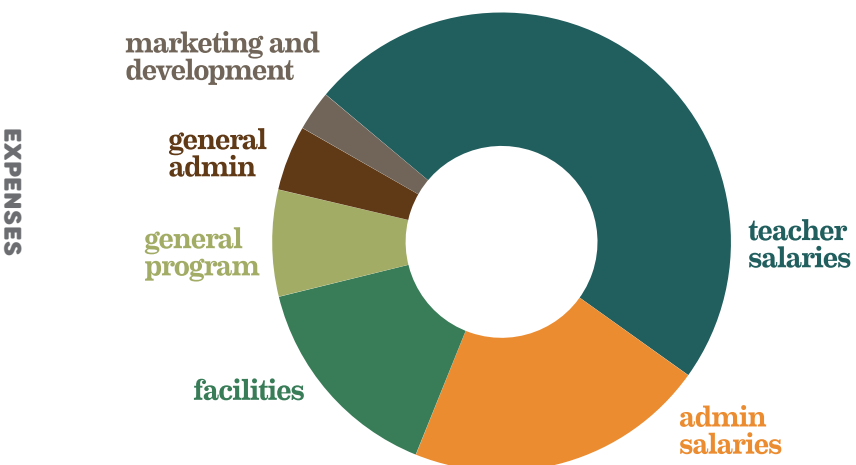
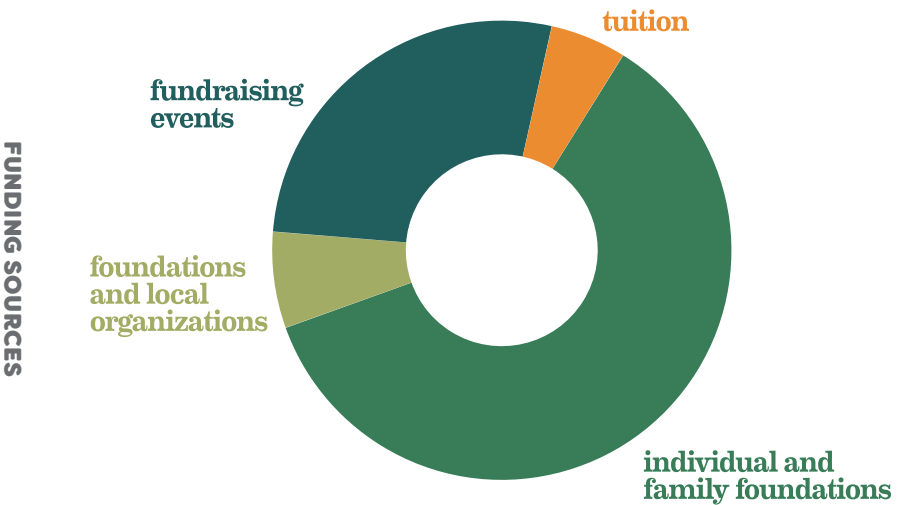




GROWING NEED



It costs \$400 per week or \$16,000 per year to educate a child at Adam J. Lewis Academy.



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*Handmade Quilts for PreK3 and
PreK4 Classrooms*

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Photography

Russo, Carolyn

Photography

- In Memory of Adam Lewis
- In Honor of Patty Lewis
- In Honor of Julie Mombello
- In Honor of John Munro
- In Honor of Liz Caplan
- In Honor of Dawn Krietler
- In Honor of Catherine and Elwood Davis
- In Honor of Rev. Laura Whitmore
- In Honor of The Stringer Brothers



WAYS TO GIVE



All Adam J. Lewis Academy families pay only what they can afford based on demonstrated financial need. Tuition revenue accounts for just 9% of the school's budget. 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 makes a direct impact on enriching 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, call AJLA 203-333-2211 or use the attached remittance envelope.

GIFTS BY CHECK

Please use the remittance envelope to mail your check made out to AJLA to 500 State Street, Bridgeport, CT, 06604.

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.

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Many companies will match contributions made by an employee (or by an employee's spouse) to a non-profit. Please check with your employer to determine if they have a matching gift program. The donor receives credit for both the original gift and the match.

LEGACY GIVING

Leaving a gift to AJLA in your will is one of the simplest ways you make a meaningful contribution. If you have questions about legacy gifts or need more information on how to remember AJLA in your will, please call Terilyn Esse.

CONTACT

If you have questions about making a gift, please contact us at 203-333-2211 or info@ajlacademy.org

OUR MISSION

Adam J. Lewis Academy is a co-educational PreK to Grade 5 independent school serving children and families in Bridgeport, CT.

The Academy attracts families who believe in the power of education and inspires children from all backgrounds to achieve their promise.

Adam J. Lewis Academy is defined and guided by its motto, Hope Rising. Through a program of rigorous academics, rich experiential and creative 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 graduate from the Academy as leaders, empowered with the knowledge, skills, character and confidence to succeed.

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



GROWING

Adam J. Lewis Academy
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