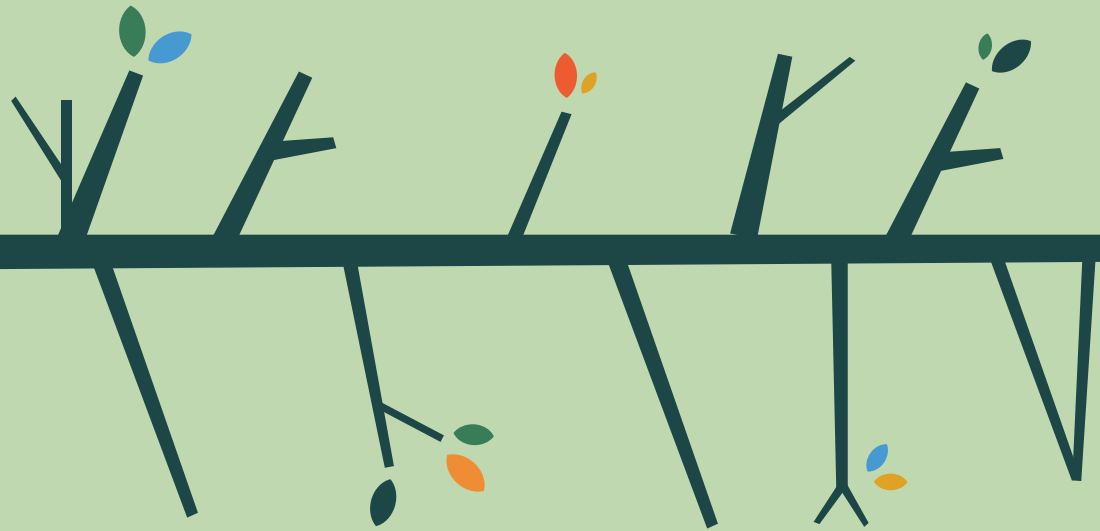




ADAM J. LEWIS
ACADEMY



500 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

203-333-2211
ajlacademy.org



Adam J. Lewis Academy

EXPANDING

ANNUAL REPORT
2021 to 2022

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
Founder and Partner
Arbour Point Advisors

Anthony Allott
Chairman and CEO
Silgan Holdings, Inc.

Brandon Clark
Chief of Staff
Faith Acts for Education

Brian Connell
Managing Director
J.P. Morgan Chase

Jim Conroy
Managing Partner
Olympus Partners

Jim Cretella
Partner
Otterbourg P.C. Law

Catherine Davis
Child Advocate
Court Appointed Special
Advocates for Children (CASA)

John Duffy
Former Chairman and CEO
Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.

Chris Griffin
Market Leader
Bank of America Private Bank

Anne Juge
Former Managing Director
JP Morgan Chase and
Banc of America Securities

Mark Kirsch, Esq.
Principal
Cohen & Wolf

Dawn Kreidler
Member
Social Venture Partners

Susan Lenci
Licensed Professional Counselor

John Munro
Head of School Elect
The Gow School

Dwayne Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Housatonic Community College

Tricia Vanacore
Former Chair
Greens Farms Academy (GFA)
Board of Trustees



This year, we are all about

EXPANDING

In 2013, a small team of teachers and thirteen preschoolers gathered in a one room schoolhouse on the West End of Bridgeport with the goal of creating a high-quality preschool program for those deserving families. Ten years later, we are in an exciting time of growth, with 150 students and a remarkable story of success.

Beginning in 2018, we became an Academy and have been growing UP by adding a grade a year – with Grade 4 being our highest class this year.

Our story is not complete yet! We plan to add a middle school and grow to 8th grade. In anticipation of this growth, AJLA recently acquired the facility adjacent to our current building, which will create a beautiful, cohesive campus. Over the next 5 years, this new 30,000 sq ft building will be filled with the future leaders of tomorrow.

Throughout this exciting time of expansion, our commitment to excellence continues to be our top priority. Last year our entire faculty completed a year-long self-study which celebrated best practices and helped us identify ways we can grow. We are proud to say that we received full accreditation by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. This self-study provides a framework for the development of a future strategic plan that will help to guide our growth over the next 5 years.

We have much to celebrate as we look ahead to the next chapter in our school's story. Our students are thriving, our program is expanding and our mission is more important than ever. For the last decade we have seen our school evolve in remarkable ways. We have come a long way from that one room Preschool, yet our goal remains the same – forging a path of educational excellence in Bridgeport, one student at a time.

Thank you for continuing to be part of this journey.
Hope continues to rise at 500 and 430 State Street!

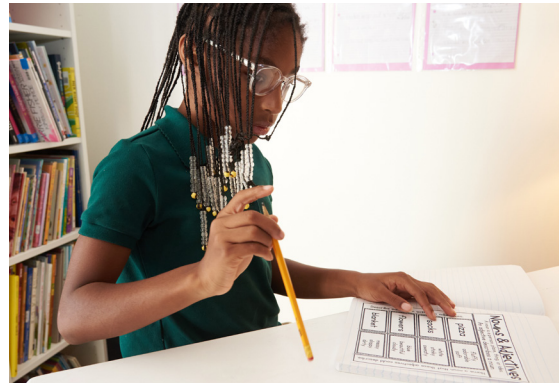
♥ Patty + Julie



EXPANDING

STUDENTS

NEW CLASS OF GRADE 4 THIS YEAR!



AJLA Grade 4:

We empower our students to take *ownership* of their learning.

- 1 Set goals for themselves
- 2 Monitor their progress
- 3 Reflect on learning and behavior

the benefits are

- Better prepared to take on challenges and persevere
- Personally invested in their education
- Higher engagement levels
- Increased academic achievement and productivity

“ We are so happy our son has a warm, loving environment that he enjoys so much outside our family.”

- AJLA Parent



WHY ARE WE EXPANDING TO 8TH GRADE?

- 1 To hold onto our families for 11 years to develop deeper relationships and increased consistency and skill development
- 2 To develop deeper social emotional and character skills during the delicate middle school years
- 3 To minimize the number of transitions – one transition from AJLA into high school will result in less student drop out
- 4 To maximize educational opportunities for our 8th grade graduates
- 5 To explore more diverse options for high school students such as private, boarding, charter, parochial and trade schools
- 6 To reduce the amount of financial aid needed for four years (Grade 9) vs. seven years (Grade 6) after AJLA graduation

FALL 2023

GRADE 4
moves up to
GRADE 5

FALL 2024

GRADE 5
moves up to
GRADE 6

FALL 2025

GRADE 6
moves up to
GRADE 7

FALL 2026

GRADE 7
moves up to
GRADE 8

“ We feel like AJLA really sees and understands our child, in both areas of strength and areas for growth.”

- AJLA Parent



AJLA athletics program has grown by leaps and bounds! All students continue to have physical education with Coach Brad twice per week. Every grade has supplementary athletics.

PreK4 to Grade 1

RespeCT Hoops runs an introductory basketball clinic

JumpBunch offers a fun, interactive sports and fitness program

Grade 2 to Grade 4

Through a partnership with Bridgeport Youth Sports Academy and their founder Don Wilson, older students take a bus to an afternoon sports program twice a week

Students develop specific skills in soccer, basketball and lacrosse clinics run by trained, local professionals and held at Veterans Park and in a gym off campus

Additional connections have been made to a variety of sports leagues in Bridgeport



Future Middle School

Afternoon sports five days per week

Interscholastic Sports Program in which AJLA teams play other Middle School teams

Our First AJLA Soccer Team!

Students in Grade 3 and Grade 4 spend Saturday mornings as part of the Bridgeport Youth Sports Academy Saturday Soccer League playing with other students from the City of Bridgeport.



EXPANDING PARENT PROGRAM

Inspiring Parent Workshop Series

hosted by Brandon Sherrod



Workshop topics include:

- Defining Hope: My Story
- Beginning with the End in Mind – Planning for Your Child’s Future
- Networking – Popping the Bubble (*resources to expand your network*)
- Financial Health and Job Prep

Brandon will share how he and his family navigated the challenges of growing up in Bridgeport and ultimately succeeded in his life’s work.

Brandon Sherrod was born and raised in Bridgeport. He received his BA in Political Science from Yale University and was a member of the 2016 Men’s Basketball team leading them to their first NCAA Tournament victory in school history. He played professional basketball for 6 years after which he founded BS35 Basketball, a mentorship and training company.

English Language Classes

taught by Samantha Ferro



This year Samantha brought her English Language Program STRIVE to the AJLA community and has 43 parents enrolled.

These classes include:

- A comprehensive online program which teaches students at all levels
- In-person meetings once a week at AJLA
- Increased English literacy through e-books, conversations and one-on-one tutorials

Samantha will also be offering these classes to students in the greater Bridgeport community.

Samantha Ferro was born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She received her BA in Masters of Education, Portuguese and English from the University of Americana - SP. She taught ESL while at the university and has continued to do so since moving to the United States in 2007.

“AJLA does a wonderful job incorporating the entire family and making sure their needs are met.”

- AJLA Parent

EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

**NEW TURF
FIELD**

**UPDATED
PLAYGROUND**

“We feel completely
blessed that this school
exists in Bridgeport.”

- AJLA Parent

**NEW STEAM
MAKERSPACE**

**UNIFIED
CAMPUS**

**NEW UPPER
ELEMENTARY**

**ADDITIONAL
30K SQUARE
FEET**



EXPANDING ACADEMICS

2013

Thirteen preschoolers gathered in a one room schoolhouse

2018

Became an Academy and moved to 500 State Street

2023

Expansion to 430 State Street begins

2027

First 8th Grade class to graduate

nwea

This nationally-normed test is taken by nearly 4.4 million students in the US each year. Results indicate academic progress as well as student readiness to learn more advanced concepts and skills. AJLA students overwhelmingly demonstrate great progress and readiness.

Mathematics

On the NWEA MAP Growth test in 2021 to 2022, AJLA students surpassed nationally-normed average scores in Mathematics at every grade level, K to Grade 3.

Reading

On the NWEA MAP Growth test in 2021 to 2022, AJLA students surpassed growth targets in Reading at every grade level, K to Grade 3.



“AJLA is committed to our growth – it’s a different level from what I’ve seen at other schools.”

– AJLA Parent

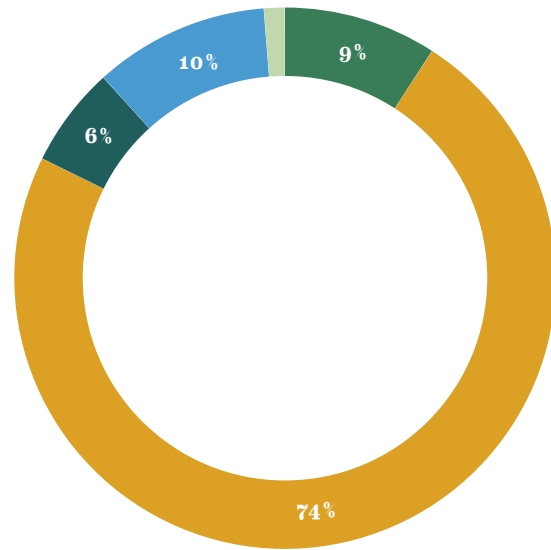


FINANCIALS

2021 to 2022

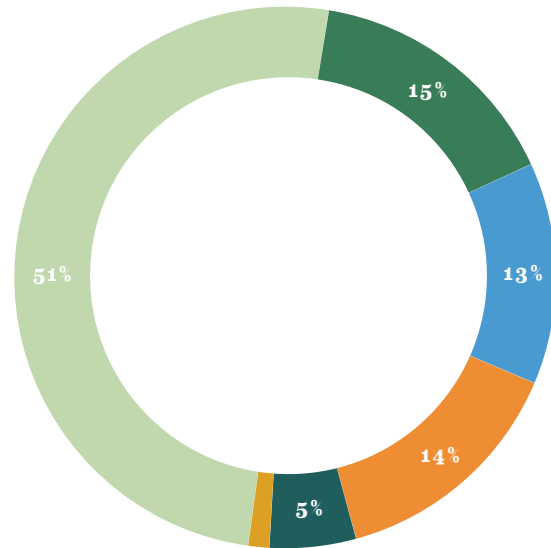
INCOME

TUITION	9%
INDIVIDUALS	74%
FOUNDATIONS	6%
FUNDRAISING	10%
OTHER	1%



EXPENSES

TEACHER SALARIES	51%
ADMIN SALARIES	15%
FACILITIES	13%
PROGRAM	14%
GENERAL ADMIN	5%
MARKETING	2%



“It is comforting to know that the AJLA faculty is guiding my child’s future.”

- AJLA Parent

EXPANDING DONORS

The following donors have generously supported AJLA between July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

REDWOOD \$50,000+

Anonymous
 Anthony and Allison Allott
 Apple Pickers Foundation
 Bill and Kara Bohnsack
 Jim and Roberta Conroy
 Elwood and Catherine Davis
 John Duffy
 Goergen Foundation
 Hodgman Family Foundation
 Karen & Bob Jones Foundation
 The Levinson Family
 McGrath Family Foundation
 Victor and Deni Nesi
 Josh and Lollo Samuelson
 Bill and Bonnie Strittmatter
 Peter Tauck
 Mark and Tricia Vanacore

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

Anonymous
 Ashken Family Charitable Foundation
 Walter & Merle Baum Foundation
 Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund
 Gene and Nancy Celentano
 Scott and Lexie Clifford
 Brian and Talli Connell
 Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
 Richard and Lorraine Garland
 John and Arlene Howard
 Brian Keane
 Tom and Dawn Kreidler
 Lautenbach Family Foundation
 Tom and Susan Lenci
 The McGavick Family Fund
 John and Elly McKenna
 John and Beth Munro
 Richard and Carol Munro
 Fred and Nancy Poses
 Stephen Sander
 Jon Santemma and Jen Okin
 The Shack Sackler Foundation
 William and Lynda Steere Foundation
 Stranahan Foundation
 Tom and Lisa Vacheron
 Kimberly Walin
 Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation
 Marie Weigl
 The Whittaker Family

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

Dean and Gaby Benjamin
 Jim Burgett
 Chris Cantwell
 The GDL Foundation
 The Hints Family
 Andy and Karen Hirschberg
 David and Anne Juge
 A. P. Kirby Jr. Family Fund at the Community Foundation of New Jersey
 The Knobloch Fund at Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
 The Lamando Family Fund
 Ronald P. & Susan E. Lynch Foundation
 The Stewart B. McKinney Foundation
 Near & Far Aid Association Inc.
 The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts
 Edith Sullivan

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

Anonymous
 Tyler and Ellen Baldwin
 Buscher Foundation
 James Cleaver
 Joan S. and Charles W. Coker Foundation
 Joan F Dionne Foundation
 Chuck and Linda Googe
 Harold Heck, Jr.
 Jules and Mimi Leibman
 Lone Pine Foundation, Inc.
 Robert and Catherine Lowe
 Elizabeth and Joseph Massoud Family Foundation
 Max and Kathi Moran
 Joe and Meg Serino
 Christopher and Joanne Stavrou
 The Watters Family Fund
 Westport Rotary Club Foundation
 Westport Sunrise Rotary
 ZAC Foundation for Children’s Safety
in honor of Peter Nussbaum



BIRCH \$1,000 to \$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Charlie and Georgia Adams
Ambler Family Giving Fund
Robert Banzer
Chris and Jen Bargas
Chuck and Casey Berg
Beny Berges
Michael Bernstein
Spencer and Wendy Brown
Iain and Linda Bruce
Don and Lisa Callahan
Gary and Carolyn Cohen
Michael and Chieko Dunne
Renee Dunne
Fairfield Christmas Tree Foundation
in honor of Cecily Zerenga
John and Heather Fargis
Grace J Fippingger Foundation
Heidi and Chris Flagg
Wesley and Elizabeth Fox
Brian Furbish
Glenn Gaudet
Ken and Mara Ginsberg
Chris and Dyan Griffin
Rob and Karen Hess
Terry and Mary-Jane Hogan
Liz Holland
Tom and Eileen Hynes
Jewish Communal Fund
Rady and Diane Johnson
Liz and Kyle Keogh
Mark Kirsch
Kreitler Foundation
Adam and Phyllis Kurzer
Christopher Letta and Ann Spatola
Scott Lippstreu and Jessica Golden
MacAllaster Family Foundation
Mellen Foundation Inc.
Michael Meola
Sylvia Montero
in honor of Elwood and Catherine Davis
Luke Morrison
Tom and Joanne Murphy
Amer and Kristen Nimr
Dan Nye
Michael O'Hearn
Michael and Carla Patrona
Diane Plowman
Rob and Julie Potack
Andrew and Elaine Rankowitz
Martha Russell
in honor of Julie Mombello and Patty Lewis
Mark and Dawn Ryan
in memory of Adam J. Lewis
Susan Beth Salo Foundation
Pietrina Saxton
*in memory of Dorothy Lee,
beloved mother of Catherine Davis*
Ted and Nancy Schwartz
Andrew and Cathy Sebor
Senchak Family Donor Advised Fund
Bob and Francine Shanfield

Gregg and LeVerne Srinivasan
Robert and Bonnie Stapleton
Steve and Meg Staunton
Keith and Peggy Stephan
Sullivan Family Foundation
Richard and Claire Van de Berghe
Peter and Liz Van Duyne
Waqas Wajahat and Shari Jones
Astrid Weismann
Deron and Kiri Wolfe
*in memory of Adam J. Lewis and
in honor of the Adam J. Lewis Academy Staff*
Dan and Lee Yin
Steve Zenczak and Pat Feighan
in honor of John Munro

SPRUCE \$1 to \$999

Randall Abrams
Mark and Susanne Addressi
Jonathan Alexander and Julie Horowitz
Andrew and Chasey Allen
Joseph and Laura Amicucci
Scott Asiel
Billy and Maureen Auer
Seth Bair
Frances Baldwin
Dave and Christy Ball
David and Lucy Ball
in honor of Tricia Vanacore
Judith Baumhover
Rob Bowman and Jennifer Wyman
The Gusti Brandt Foundation
Doug and Patti Brill
OJ and Robin Burns
Clem Butt and Kitty Ijams
in honor of Julie Mombello
Carl and Florisca Carter
Rob and Laurie Casper
John Cavanaugh
The Children's School
John Cissel and Peggy Harwood
John Ciulla
Bob and Kathy Coppola
John Copulos
Bert and Alison Czuchra
Peggy Dau
Sandy Dauk
Rev. Frank Denton
John Dexheimer and Carla Haugen
Peter and Bridgett diBonaventura
Susan Doran
The Duennebier Family
Joyce Dunne
Kevin W. English Sr. & E. Elizabeth English Fund
Ted Eyes and Jennifer (Bebon)
Livia Feig
Dino Ferrare
Ernest and Heidi Finch
Michael Fleischer
Jamie and Mari Flicker
Edward and Lisa Friedland
John and Mary Ellen Gallagher
Gary and Patricia Ginsberg

Gail Goldblat
William and Diana Romney
Gray Family Foundation
Harry Groome
Kent and Lisa Haines
in memory of Adam J. Lewis
Jon and Deirdre Halper
James Healey Jr. and Pamela Dowling
David and Letty Helgans
Clay and Heather Hennessy
Alison Hill
Paul and Patti Hiller
Andrew Hoffman and Anick Pleven
Horton Family Fund
Bill Humphrey and Nancy Saipe
Mr. Robert Ivers
Douglas Jack Family Charitable Fund
Tripp Jones
Diane Karmen
Michael and Kristen Keden
Sheila Keenan
Jill Kelly
Thomas Kelly and Julia Benzinger
Dennis and MaryEllen Keresev
David Koehler
Preston and Mary Jean Koster
Mark and Nancy Langston
Jerry Joseph and Sharon Lauer
Sheryl Lawrence
in honor of Patty Lewis
Joanne Lenci
Richard and Joanne Liddy
in honor of Elwood and Catherine Davis
Jessica Manela
Jane Mastrianni
Charlie and Brooke McIlvaine
Tony and Sarah Menchaca
Dr. Gary Mombello
Karen Mombello
Laurie Morris
Kristin Murphy
Maureen Murphy
Peter and Linda Murphy
Heidi Niblack
*in memory of Dorothy Lee,
beloved mother of Catherine Davis*
Larry and Melissa Norton
O'Shea Family
*in memory of Dorothy Lee and
in honor of Catherine Davis*
James and Anne Orvis
Lock and Ann Pawlick
in honor of Anne Hardy
Peale Foundation
Michael and Saba Pina
Lisa Potter
Sherry Rago
Tim and Jenny Robson
Andrew Rolfe and Fabiola Arredondo
Corinne Samon
Jeff Sandreuter and Lisa Ferrante
Sue Seath
Perry and Karen Seelert
Christine Segalas
in memory of Adam J. Lewis

Aimee Smith
Gloria Smithson
Brian and Olivia Snarr
Andy Solomon
Joseph Spalluto
State Street Foundation
Andrew Stewart
Russell and Tracey Stidolph
Greg and Nancy Stringer
in honor of the Stringer Family
Michael and Suzanne Stringer
in honor of the Stringer Family
Neil and Sheila Stringer
in honor of the Stringer Family
Vicki Tananbaum
Tauck Family Foundation
Scott and Susan Telesz
Lauren Teran
in honor of Dalton Newton
Joan Tilghman
Tisbest Philanthropy
Alex and Sally Uhle
The Unitarian Church in Westport
Alex and Judy Urquhart
Jim and Whitney Vose
Eric Wandler
Louise Warner
Diane Wein
David and Barbara Wiederecht
Jeffrey and Patricia Wieser
Vianda Williams Foundation
Paul and Barbara Winsor

SPECIAL THANKS

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

Cecily Zerega
Edie Faile
Louise Warner

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

Pam Einarsen

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.

“ I love how the faculty works together as a community to help better each individual.”

- AJLA Parent

EXPAND YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Adam J. Lewis Academy uses a sliding-scale tuition model that enables each family to pay only what they can afford. Tuition revenue accounts for just 9% of our total income. All other funding comes from individuals and Foundations. We hope your generosity will grow with us and ask that you consider a gift in support 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 scan below.



Gifts by Venmo

@AJLAcademy or scan below



Gifts by Check

Mail in your check, made out to AJLA, at 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.

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 about giving, please contact:

Max Dixon

Chief Development & Marketing Officer
908-616-4826
max@ajlacademy.org



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.

