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Dear Friends,

From our beginning, we have asked ourselves:
“**What makes a high-quality, impactful education?**”

After 12 years, the answer is both simple and complex.

It begins with relationships. The personal connection between student and teacher is the cornerstone of learning and it must come first. It is where confidence grows, curiosity is inspired, and children discover what they are capable of.

From this foundation, our work grows more complex. A robust curriculum blends explicit skill instruction with meaningful hands-on learning. Field trips deepen understanding by bringing lessons to life and inspiring students to see the world with curiosity and possibility.

Extracurricular experiences further enrich our students’ growth. Through athletics, the arts, leadership, service, and social-emotional development, students are inspired to broaden their interests, build character, and envision new futures for themselves.

And what binds all of this together is joy. While many schools have become driven primarily by data, we remain driven by curiosity. Children naturally love to learn, and at AJLA we nurture that spark so they grow into lifelong learners inspired by their own potential.

Three essential elements define AJLA:

- 1. Exceptional teachers** who inspire every child by creating safe, supportive, and joyful classrooms.
- 2. A thoughtful curriculum** that balances strong skill development with engaging, project-based learning to inspire deep thinking and exploration.
- 3. Growing extracurricular opportunities** that inspire students to stretch themselves, take risks, and discover new passions beyond academics.

Above all, joy fills our classrooms and fuels hard work, resilience, and achievement.

We invite you to read this year’s Annual Report and to visit us in person. Experience the warmth, energy, and community that make AJLA a place where children thrive. We are proud to be a school of excellence, and grateful to have you with us as we continue to create an education that inspires and transforms—today and for years to come.

Warmly,

Patty + Julie



Sixth Grade Sustainability Projects

At AJLA, our academic program goes beyond the classroom to spark joy in learning for every student. We believe students learn best when a strong foundation of skills meets real-world application. Our hybrid curriculum builds that foundation in reading, writing, and math through explicit

instruction, then extends learning through project-based, thematic work. The 6th-grade independent studies are a powerful example of this approach. Each student selected a sustainability topic that ignited their curiosity, researched it in depth, and interviewed an expert in the field to deepen their understanding.

They organized their findings in essays, then designed and built projects that brought their ideas to life, applying their skills to solve real-world problems. The hands-on nature of this work fueled both engagement and enthusiasm, driving deeper learning and helping students see the impact of their ideas in action.



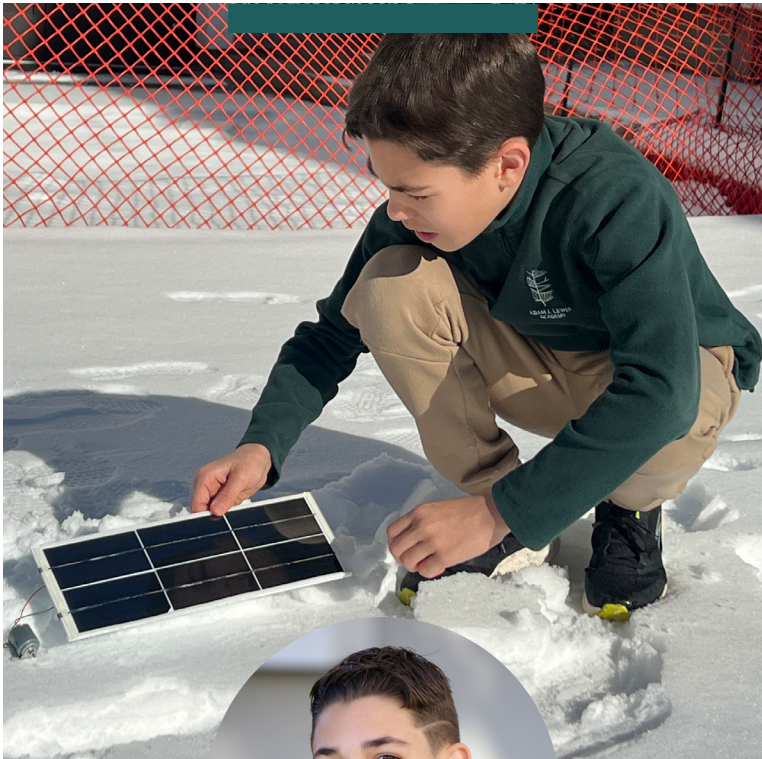
Amar'e

explored the role of ospreys in Connecticut's ecosystem and built a scale model perch to encourage nesting.



Angeline

researched how chemicals in sunscreen cause coral bleaching and developed her own reef-safe alternative.



Pedro

studied the potential of solar power in transportation and built a model car powered by solar panels to test efficiency.



Setaish

identified cigarette litter as a threat to sea life and built two freestanding ashtrays for Bridgeport to reduce pollution.

9/11 Day of Service

This year, AJLA was honored to take part in the National 9/11 Day of Service for the first time, dedicating the day to acts of kindness and community service on campus and throughout Bridgeport. Service is a vital part of our students’ education, building empathy, responsibility, and leadership while showing that even small actions can make a meaningful difference. We are proud to have turned a day of tragedy into one of compassion, connection, and hope.



PreK3 and Grade 3
made dog biscuits for an animal shelter



PreK4 and Grade 4
created cards and tissue paper flowers for senior residents



Kindergarten and Grade 1
planted flowers to brighten our school campus



Grade 2
baked cookies and made cards for a local fire station



Grade 4 and Grade 5
sang and played Bingo with senior residents



Grade 5
built a mud kitchen for our PreK students



Grade 6, Grade 7 and Parents
assembled meal packages for those in need at Webster Bank Arena



Every Grade
painted rocks for our new Hope Rising Garden





SCAN HERE to watch the video of our day of service!

Field Trips

At AJLA, field trips are not extras—they are essential to how we teach. Each experience is intentionally tied to classroom themes, fueling curiosity, sparking new questions, and showing students how their

lessons come alive in the real world. Whether visiting museums, exploring nature, or engaging with local organizations, students discover that learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. These adventures deepen

understanding, strengthen connections, and inspire a lifelong love of exploration. We hope to continue to offer our students the opportunities to learn beyond the borders of Connecticut.

Additional Field Trips

PreK
Palmieri Farm
Easton, CT

Kindergarten
CT Audubon Society
Fairfield, CT

First Grade
Keeler Tavern
Ridgefield, CT

Second Grade
Wolfe Park
Monroe, CT

Second Grade
Maritime Aquarium
Norwalk, CT

Third Grade
Downtown Cabaret Theatre
Bridgeport, CT

Fourth Grade
New Pond Farm
Redding, CT

Fifth Grade
Sleeping Giant
Hamden, CT

Sixth Grade
Seaside Park
Bridgeport, CT

Sixth Grade
Green Village Initiative
Bridgeport, CT



PreK
Peabody Museum
New Haven, CT



Kindergarten
Common Ground
New Haven, CT



First Grade
Colorful Bridgeport
Bridgeport, CT



Second Grade
SoundWaters Schooner
Bridgeport, CT



Fifth Grade
Sturbridge Village
Sturbridge, MA



Sixth Grade
Hartford Capitol Building
Hartford, CT



Third Grade
Yale University Art Gallery
New Haven, CT



Fourth Grade
Connecticut Museum
Hartford, CT



Choir

Every student in grades 1–7 participates in weekly chorus, developing confidence, teamwork, and a lifelong love of music. Students may also audition for the United Girls’ Choir of Bridgeport, which welcomes singers from across the region. Rehearsing at AJLA and performing statewide—from community events to major sporting venues—the choir gives our young musicians an inspiring stage to share their voices.



Theatre

Theatre at AJLA is offered in partnership with the Music Theatre of Connecticut’s School of Performing Arts. All middle school students take part in this program and perform in two musicals each year. Through acting, singing, and collaboration, students step outside their comfort zones, explore new creative strengths, and build confidence that extends far beyond the stage.



STEAM

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math is woven into the heart of learning. In our new STEAM lab, students design, experiment, and bring ideas to life through hands-on exploration. By blending coding, robotics, art, and design, students learn to think critically and creatively. STEAM empowers them to turn curiosity into innovation, preparing the next generation of thinkers and problem-solvers.

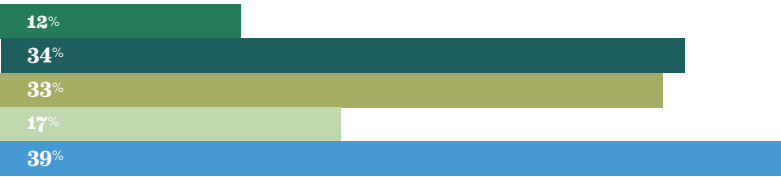


Key Insights

Student-Teacher Ratio

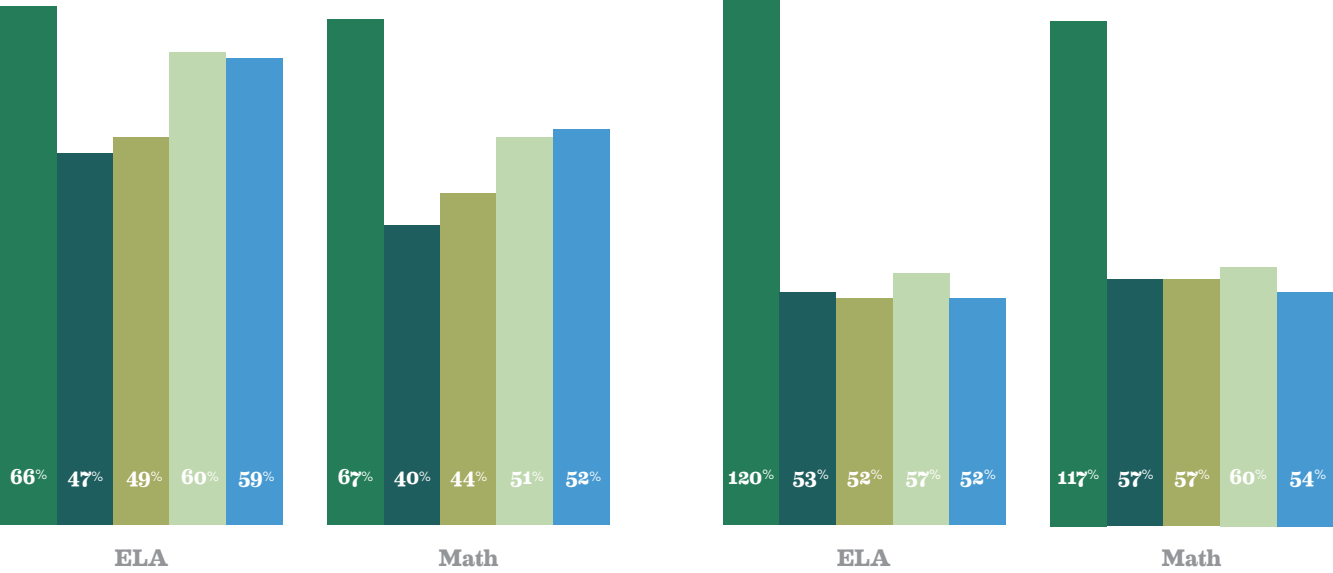
- Adam J. Lewis Academy 7:1
- Bryant Public School 14:1
- Bridgeport Public School District 17:1
- High Horizons Magnet School 18:1
- New Beginnings Charter School 13:1

At Adam J. Lewis Academy, we believe a truly excellent education can—and should—be both rigorous and inspiring. While test scores alone don’t tell the full story, they provide valuable insight into how effectively our students are growing, learning, and thriving compared to peers across the city. At the heart of our success is the relationship between students and teachers, which forms the foundation of every child’s learning experience. This connection also drives engagement and consistent attendance. Key data from the 2024–25 school year highlights how AJLA compares to other schools across Bridgeport, see below.



Chronic Absenteeism

Students missing ≥10% of school days

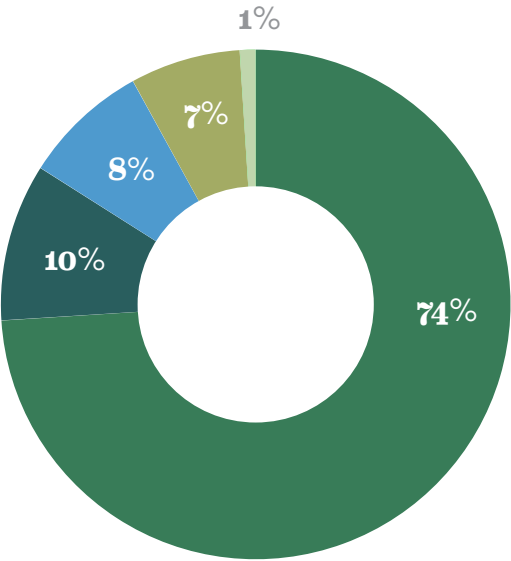


Student Performance

These results show how our students performed on Connecticut’s state assessments.

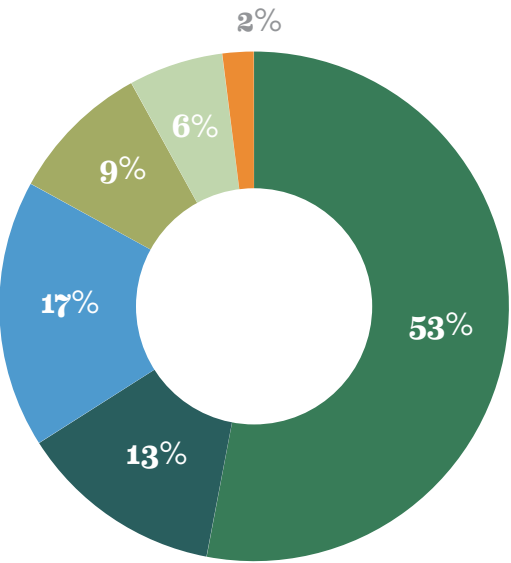
Student Growth

This data shows how much academic growth our students made over the year.



Income

- Individuals and Foundations
- Spring Event
- Other
- Tuition
- Grants



Expenses

- Faculty Salaries
- Staff Salaries
- Program
- Facilities
- General Admin
- Marketing

WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts by Credit Card

Donors can securely and quickly pay online at ajlacademy.org/donation



Gifts by Check

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

Wire Transfer

Donors can securely and quickly give via bank transfers, contact Max Dixon max@ajlacademy.org

Gifts of Stock

Donors may receive an additional benefit by avoiding capital gains tax

Matching Gifts

Check with your employer to determine if they have a matching gift program

Gifts from IRA's

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

Legacy Giving

Including AJLA in your will is a an impactful way to make a lasting contribution

DONORS

The following donors have generously supported AJLA between July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Sequoia \$100,000+

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Anthony and Allison Allott
Apple Pickers Foundation
Jim and Roberta Conroy
Elwood and Catherine Davis
John Duffy
Goergen Foundation
McGrath Family Foundation
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Mark and Tricia Vanacore
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Sam and Missy Palmisano
Josh and Lollo Samuelson
The Whittaker Family

Oak \$25,000 to \$49,999

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Maple \$10,000 to \$24,999

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and the Arts
Southport Congregational Church
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William and Laura Wilson
Peter Wirth

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

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Buscher Foundation
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City National Bank
James Cleaver
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Southern Connecticut Gas
Robert De Jong
Joan F Dionne Foundation
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Community Foundation
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Steve and Meg Staunton
Timothy and Tracy Stuart
Sullivan Family Foundation
Tudor Investment Company
Richard Upton
Rosalind Walrath
Deron and Kiri Wolfe
Pat Feighan and Steve Zenczak
in memory of Dick Munro

Spruce \$1 to \$999

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in memory of Wynne J. Abrams
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Chasey and Andrew Allen
Joseph and Laura Amicucci
Lisa Anderson
Carolyn Arnold
Billy and Maureen Auer
Elisabeth and Edward Babington
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Seth Bair
Frances Baldwin
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in honor of Tricia Vanacore
Christy and Dave Ball
Chris and Jen Bargas
Steve and Tammy Barry
in honor of Tony Allott
Judith Baumhover
Theo Bergschneider
Patricia Botticelli
in honor of granddaughter Nayla Schalkham
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OJ and Robin Burns
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Nyla Carleton
Carl and Florisca Carter
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in memory of Adam J. Lewis
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Peggy Dau
Alberto de Brito
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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Peter and Linda Murphy
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Kathryn Wells
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Jeffrey and Patricia Wieser
Paul and Barbara Winsor
Stephen and Cathlin Wolanske
Allison and Steve Wolowitz

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

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.

OUR MISSION

Adam J. Lewis Academy is a co-educational PreK-Grade 8 independent school located in Bridgeport, CT. The Academy attracts families who believe in the power of education to inspire children from all backgrounds to achieve their promise and embody the school's 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.

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