

This fall we gathered to celebrate our 50th Anniversary! I told our collective story of the Lord's faithfulness over the first five decades of Aurora Christian Schools. I also shared my vision for Enhancing the Eagle Experience, based on our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan (SP).

To support and sustain our Kingdom Impact for another 50 years, we have established a Development Department (SP Goal 1). This team is committed to engaging the ACS community and expanding participation in our mission. The team's first major task was **instituting the Eagles Fund** to provide *avenues for greater parent/alumni/community partnership and financial support of facilities and programs* (SP 3.3). We are seeding this new annual fund through our 50 for 50 campaign, and we are already using the Eagles Fund to support multiple strategic initiatives:

- **Launch of a district-wide [educational robotics program](#)** (SP Goal 2)

This spring, select middle and high school students in STEM electives will pioneer our EagleBots program! All elementary and middle school students at both campuses will also have an opportunity to engage in an experiential robotics lab activity in anticipation of regular elective rotations next fall. In addition to developing coding and basic engineering skills, EagleBots will encourage creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving. Interested middle and high school students will also be able to dive deeper and advance to competition.



- **Campus branding** (SP 3.2)

We have been boosting Eagle spirit by adding school and mission branding to windows, exterior doors, and interior walls. Be watching for more!

- **Development of external spaces for play and refreshing** (SP Goal 3)

A sport half-court and gaga ball pit were built out in The Aerie, along with a shed of equipment dedicated to student activity. The Vantage was fenced in, providing a dedicated space that will be enhanced for older students to get fresh air and recharge. The Sycamore sport court is scheduled for a refresh this spring.



These are just a few of the tangible ways we can report early progress on our goals. Our leadership team is working diligently on all of our strategic initiatives, and we are excited about the future of ACS! I hope you will catch our excitement and join us by spreading the word, giving to the Eagles Fund, and supporting our mission of Relationship / Education

Collette R. Aruse

/ Service!