



Dear Asheville Christian Academy Parents, Grandparents, Alumni, Staff and Friends,

It has been one month since Hurricane Helene brought destruction to WNC and specifically to our own beloved school. We wanted to take a moment to update our entire community, including our sister schools and friends from around the country who have reached out to us offering support. ***We have some encouraging news to share, so please keep reading!***



***Therapy dogs greeted students on their first day back to school!***

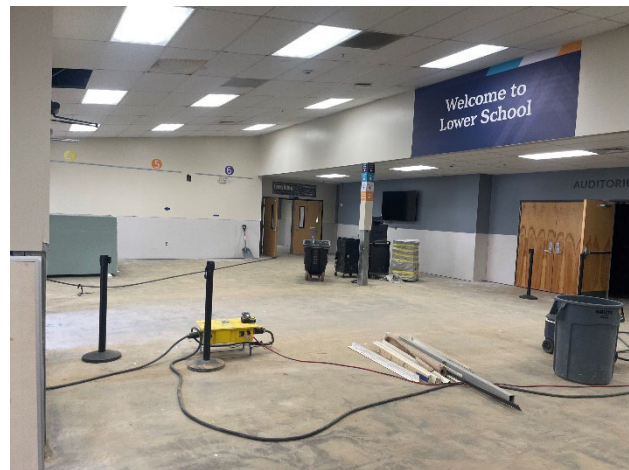
**Where are we currently?**

Our PreK-8<sup>th</sup> graders have been back to school for a week of half-days now at our temporary location at the main campus of Biltmore Church in Arden (South Asheville). Our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders completed classwork online the first week while we got the East campus of Biltmore Church set and ready for them to begin in person on the 28<sup>th</sup>. (Our seniors are currently on their senior trip to D.C. this week and they will get down to business on November 4<sup>th</sup> when we transition to full days of school).

We are incredibly grateful to Biltmore Church and their staff for working with us and hosting us for the next two months while our academic buildings are restored.

**Inside our Academic Buildings:**

Mitigation inside our academic buildings is now complete and reconstruction has begun! Environmental testing inside our lower school is complete and we are happy to report that it came back completely clean and free of all hazardous substances, biological or otherwise. Power was also restored to our buildings as of Thursday, October 24 and drywall is being replaced.

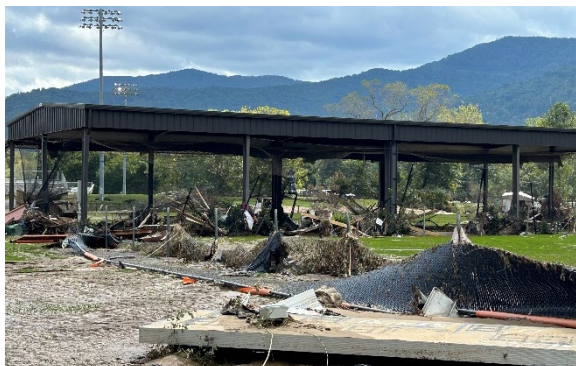


***Power restored in the lobby of the Lower School with new drywall.***

An interiors committee has been formed to finalize flooring, paint, and furniture replacements. Based on current timelines, we should *tentatively* be able to move back into our classrooms just before the Christmas break so that we will be ready to start back to school on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Outside Fields and Facilities:**

The first step toward outdoor recovery is large debris removal, including mobile homes, sheds, trees, and vehicles. We are finalizing plans this week to manage the clean-up of our outdoor spaces. We plan for the clean-up to coincide with the interior rebuild.



***The baseball batting cages at ACA.***

## Financial Updates:

The total cost of restoring our campus will be close to \$15 million. While that is a staggering amount, insurance will likely cover approximately \$4-5 million (essentially paying our fee with SRM).

The school has engaged a consultant to assist us in navigating the FEMA Public Assistance Grant process. We are optimistic that 75% or more of our costs will fall under FEMA approved work, however the timing and final amount is unknown at this time. In order for us to move quickly through the rebuilding process, we need adequate funding to cover costs prior to any FEMA award.

We are committed to minimizing the school's debt burden on future generations and assisting families who have been impacted.



## Volunteer Updates & Needs:

So what does all of this mean for you and ***how you can help?***

Visit our [Disaster Relief webpage](#). We are keeping the information there up-to-date.

We are beyond grateful for every outpouring of love, care, support, and assistance that has been offered over the last month. Many of you have directly answered the call to give financially or to purchase items from our wishlist to get us up and running at our temporary location. We will be adding to this list as needs arise, and as we begin to inventory classroom resources that will need to be replaced. Feel free to check it out: <https://a.co/2M8gtQH>

Our primary volunteer opportunity will be our move-back days late-December. Due to the nature of the dangerous conditions on our fields, and thanks to the insurance coverage, we will be allowing a professional crew to handle the mitigation of the outdoor spaces. But we will need all-hands-on-deck when it comes time to reoccupy our school. Please be on the look-out for details and sign-up information. At this point, we do not yet know what additional long-term service opportunities might arise, but our community will need help for months, if not years to come. We are currently investigating ways that we can partner with established ministries in our area and help serve our neighbors as they seek to rebuild their homes and lives.



We are not a people without hope – a present hope of God's provision and a future hope of His eternal presence. To God be the Glory!

In Christ,

Jason Putnam  
Interim Head of School



***\*A Cool Story About How We Connected with SRM (ServiceMaster Recovery Management)***

For those who haven't heard the story, the Saturday after the storm, members of our administrative team stood outside the school assessing the damage and did the only thing we could do: we prayed. We were about to go into the building to start taking pictures and documenting what got destroyed. As we finished praying, a man walked up to us and said, "My name is Mike. How can I help?" Once we established that he was with SRM, we incredulously said, "You are either the biggest scam we've ever encountered, or you are sent from God." We didn't have to call anyone. Why they chose to drive down Riverwood Road in Swannanoa, we may never fully understand, but the only thing we know is that God provided and continues to provide exactly what we need.



***SRM team gathered before going to work a shift at ACA.***



***Diane Poole with Mike from SRM.***

