



CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

a ministry of XCF

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

akilichristianhs.org



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Akili Supporters,

Welcome to our 2022-2023 Annual Report! I am thrilled that you are taking the time to learn more about Akili and celebrate our successes from the previous school year. We are committed to achieving our mission of educating, training, and developing low-income students into community leaders. This year brought us even closer to our goal through our approach to holistic education.

This year, students improved in state testing scores and chronic absenteeism rates. Our career development program advanced as each grade level had additional opportunities to investigate future careers through shadowing experiences and internships. Our students also became more involved in Christian community within local churches.

Please welcome Assistant Principal, Lorenzo Hoyos. “Mr. Lorenzo,” as the students call him, has settled into his role of coordinating student life and events. We continue to be grateful for the amazing staff at our school who are devoted to our students’ growth and success!

As Akili looks towards its future, our goal is to mobilize students in even more career opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships. Our first class of seniors will graduate in June of this year, and although we are sad to see them go, we know that we are one step closer to our goal.

Thank you again for your support of Akili!



Ariana Adkins – Principal



Meet “Mr. Lorenzo”

Lorenzo Hoyos
Assistant Principal

Lorenzo was born and raised in Columbus. After high school, he attended the Columbus Culinary Institute and received a degree in Applied Science of Culinary Arts in 2009. He also attended Franklin University and earned a degree in Human Resource Management this past May.

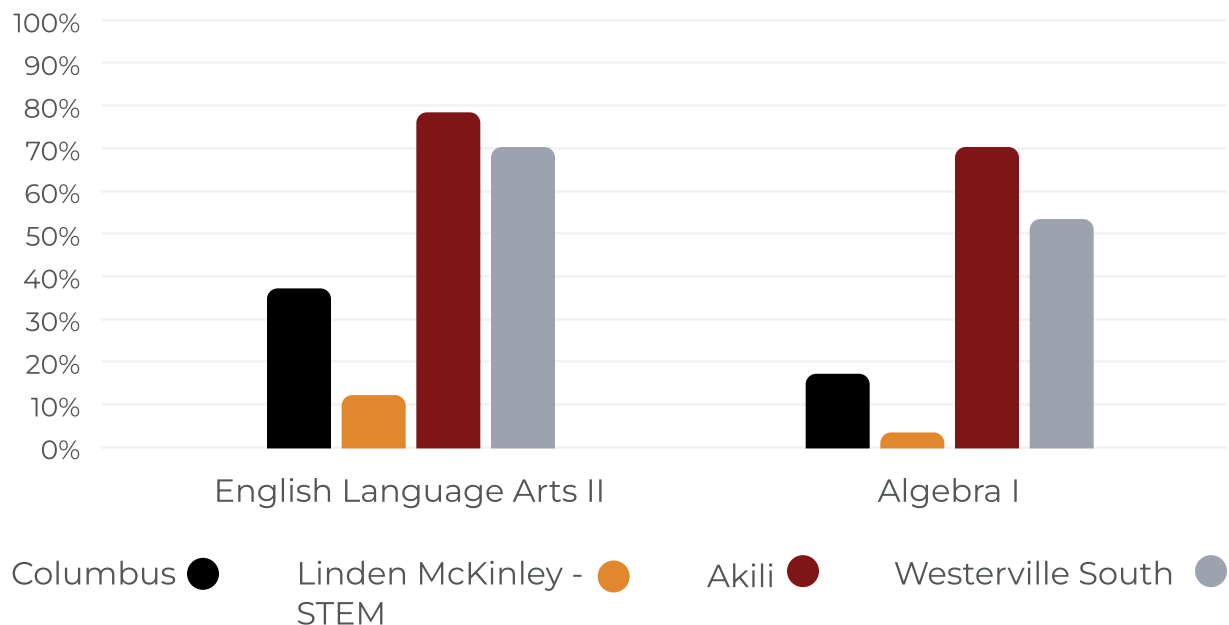
Outside his professional background, Lorenzo has been dedicated to his faith over the last ten years. He currently leads a Bible study alongside his wife through Dwell Community Church, and he also has experience mentoring and teaching students through Youth for Christ.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Akili students are receiving access to a great education they might not otherwise get. In the 2022-23 school year, standardized state testing scores rivaled a local area suburban high school and significantly outperformed Columbus City High schools, which is where most of Akili students would have gone.

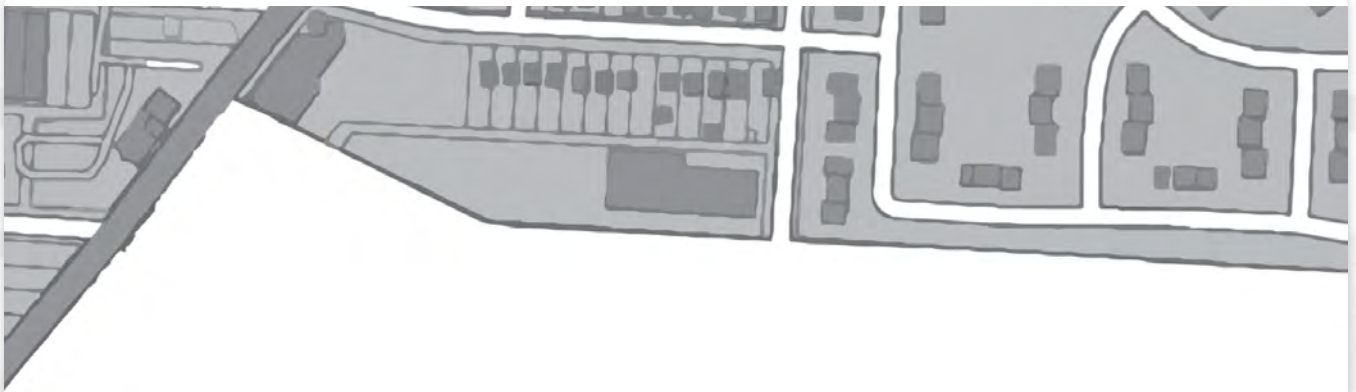
Academic Achievement

State Testing¹ 2022-2023



¹ Private charter school scores do not get published on the ODE website. Akili scores are based on students who took the tests while enrolled at Akili. Public school scores are based only on currently enrolled students and available at <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>

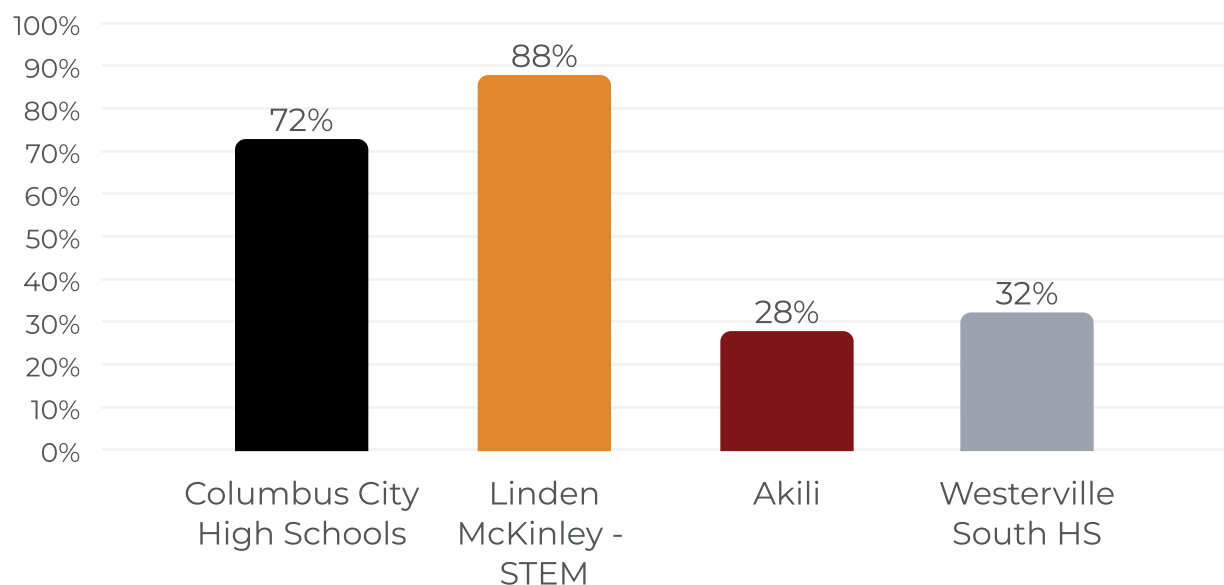




Chronic absenteeism at Akili is much lower than Columbus City high schools and even better than a local suburban high school. Research shows that chronically absent students are less likely to be proficient readers and more likely to drop out.¹ Students from low-income families are about three times likely to miss a significant amount of school.² This is not the case at Akili.

Academic Achievement

Chronic Absenteeism Rates 2022-2023



Good attendance rates are linked to graduation success. Absenteeism rates are defined by the % of students who miss 10% or more of school instruction (about 18 days or more).

The lower the % the lower the absenteeism rate.

STUDENT IN FOCUS

Jalissa H.



Jalissa came to Akili as a sophomore. She and her twin brother learned about Akili from their Dwell Community Church high school Bible study mentors. Jalissa's previous school was unsafe due to gun violence and frequent lockdowns, and her family wanted their children to attend a school where they could learn without fear of violence and receive more individualized attention.

Once Jalissa and her brother began attending Akili, they struggled to adjust to the high academic and behavior expectations. Jalissa had frequent conflicts and felt overwhelmed by the amount of schoolwork. However, Jalissa refused to give up and began to pray about her struggles. She also took advantage of the resources Akili offers students to be successful, such as Life Coaching, tutoring, and internships.

Over the course of her sophomore year, Jalissa formed new friendships, progressed in her academic skills, and got on track to graduate on time. She built good relationships with her teachers despite her initial skepticism towards them. Jalissa now claims, "The teachers work with you and really care about you. It wasn't like that at my other schools."

Jalissa is now a senior in the Class of 2024. During her three years at Akili, she participated in a 30-week internship at Equip Skills Center and earned the OhioMeansJobs diploma seal! With the help of her life coach, she also got her drivers permit and was able to purchase a car! After high school, Jalissa plans to go to cosmetology school and move into a house with other girls from her college Bible study.

IT TAKES MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE

High school graduation is key to success in life. Yet it takes more than that to succeed. Students need a pathway for accomplishment in this competitive world. Akili offers career pathways in the Trades and Tech through shadowing and internship experiences. Akili also helps students focus on college prep by partnering with College Credit Plus, enabling them to complete free college courses while they attend Akili.



“

We chose Akili because it would be very beneficial for her in a spiritual and academic way. Kamiyah loves serving as a leader and when they mentioned how they would help our children figure out their career paths, I found that so helpful.

”

- Mica Anderson, parent

LIFE COACHING



Students have desire to pursue good careers, but need functional help getting started. Akili offers Life Coaches to help students launch into adulthood. Coaches help them get a driver's permit, apply for jobs, learn soft skills, and know how to buy a used car. Not only that, but support teams of teachers, youth group leaders, life coaches and school administrators collaborate on the best ways to meet the holistic needs of students.



“

I was also raised in a single parent family without much money. I faced similar situations as my student and was excited about the chance to help someone else walk through these kinds of decisions.

- John Matthews
Akili Life Coach

”

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Even a good education and career direction are not enough. Students need to grow in their relational and spiritual lives setting a foundation for a healthy marriage and family life. Akili helps students get involved in the local church where they will experience authentic life change. About half of the Akili students are involved in an offsite Dwell High School Bible Study. And, about the same meet with a youth group leader for one on one mentoring.

Holistic investment helps students build relational skills, increasing their chances of a happy family life and career.



STUDENT IN FOCUS

Mike W.

Mike came to Akili as a freshman. He graduated 8th grade from Harambee Christian School where he received an excellent education before enrolling at Akili.

Over the last three years, Mike has become a wonderful leader, demonstrating Akili's core values of Love and Influence on a consistent basis. Although he struggled academically his freshman year, he worked hard to improve his grades and organizational skills. As a result, Mike brought up his GPA dramatically.

Outside of the classroom, Mike is invested in a home group Bible study and also meets with a mentor who teaches him the Bible in a one-on-one setting. He is known as being eager to pray for others around the school, as well as inviting friends to Bible studies and warmly welcoming new students. These relational skills pay big dividends now but will also pay off for him in the future.



“

I used to be a quiet kid with only a small circle of friends. But since I have been at Akili and in high school home church, I have felt more confident talking to new people. I can also go to teachers and ask for help without any issues.

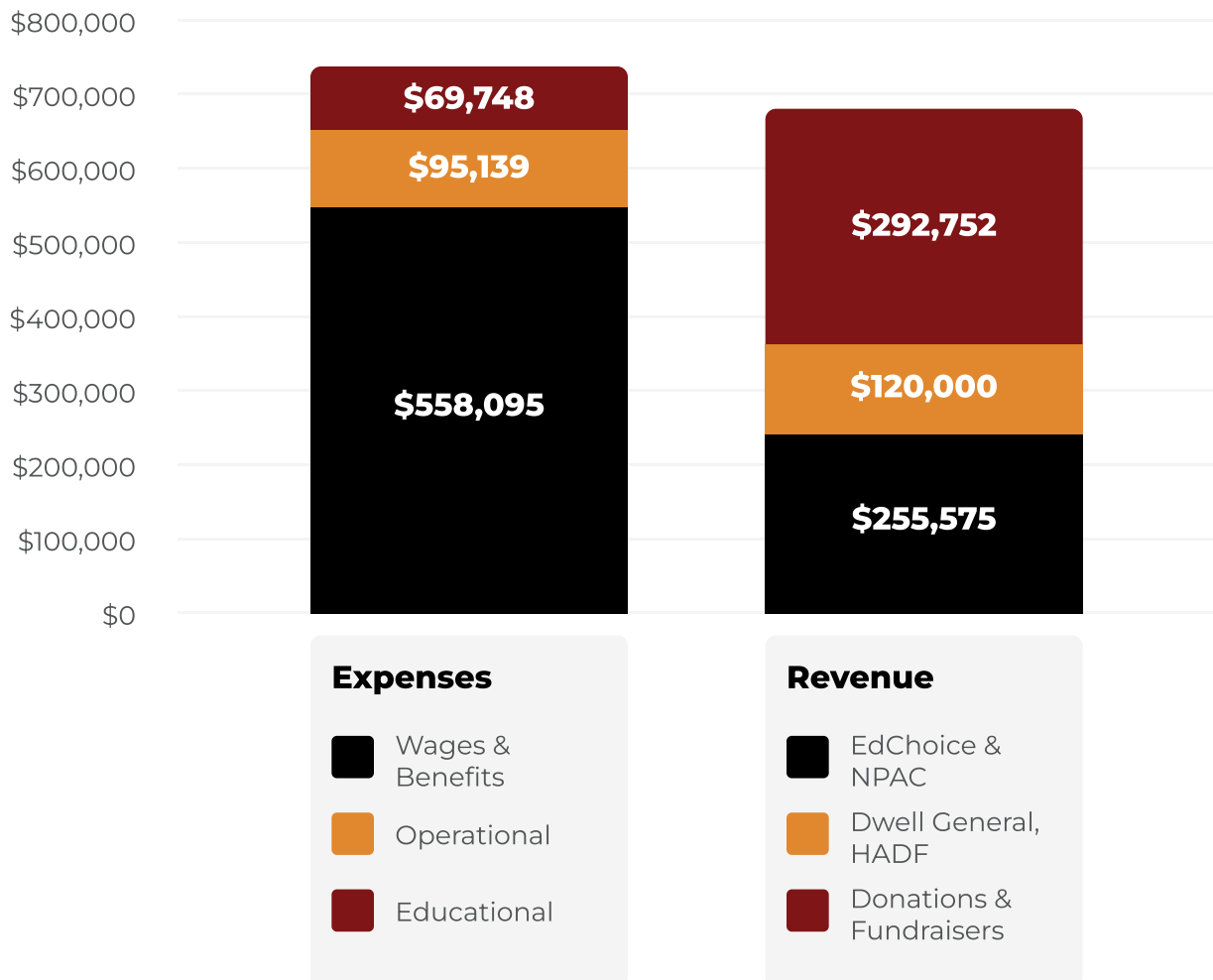
”

- Mike Watson, jr.

FINANCES

We met our fundraising goal this year by raising almost \$300,000. We thank each and everyone of our donors. Here is a picture of what donation dollars cover.

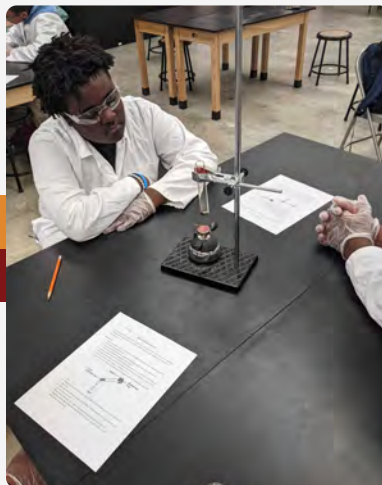
2022 - 2023 Year End Actual



WHAT YOUR GIVING CAN ACCOMPLISH

A gift to Akili will change a life, just like it has with Jalissa and Mike! Here are some ideas on what your donation can accomplish:

- \$250 Provides a life changing experience for one student at Epic summer camp.
- \$500 Gives all freshmen a vision towards a possible career. This amount provides each freshmen a Strong Interest Inventory (career assessment).
- \$1,000 Provides a full year of breakfast and lunch for 1 student. Students learn much easier on a full stomach.
- \$2,000 Provides field trips for the entire school year to enrich and enlarge each student's world.
- \$3,500 Supplies each classroom with enough materials for the entire school year.
- \$8,500 Full Tuition scholarship (supplements the EdChoice scholarship)



Our School Board

Joe Botti

Akili School Board Chair
Calumet Christian School Board Chair

Vince Alger

CPA Akili Treasurer
Director of Finance, American Dairy
Association Mideast

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Principal of Akili

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Chemist at Franklin International

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Hospital

Alex Steinman

Executive Director, Harambee
Christian School

Larry Williamson

Research Analyst, Longwoods
International

Sam Zafris

Vice President on the Community
Impact Team, JPMorgan Chase

Special thanks to those who have come alongside Akili's mission

- Franklin University for their hospitality in hosting our school.
- The Dwell Community Church community for its continued support in helping underwrite Akili and all the volunteers who pray regularly and contribute their time to make programs work.
- Equip Skills Center which graciously teaches and trains our students in automotive technology.
- Nationwide Children's Hospital for the opportunities they offer in shadowing and internships.
- Our partnership with Columbus State Community College and the College Credit Plus program
- To Missions Increase for its sacrificial and ongoing equipping in developing ministry champions

If you are interested in helping us financially, please go to our [website](#) and click on the “Donate” button in the top right corner. Or, scan the QR code below. It will take you directly to our giving page.

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly prayer newsletter, please go to our website and find the “Get Involved” tab. From there, scroll down to the “Pray.” graphic.

CONTACT

614.745.3732
akilichristianhs.org

303 S. Grant Ave Columbus,
OH 43215

GIVE



[aplos.com/aws/give/
AkiliChristianHighSchool/](https://aplos.com/aws/give/AkiliChristianHighSchool/)

¹ Woolard, Chris. “Central Ohio Schools Tackle Increased Chronic Absenteeism as Students Head Back to Class.” Allie Vugrincic. Here and Now, WOSU 89.7 NPR News (2023):08-28

<https://news.wosu.org/news/2023-08-28/central-ohio-schools-tackle-increased-chronic-absenteeism-as-students-head-back-to-class>

² Allie Vugrincic, “Central Ohio Schools Tackle Increased Chronic Absenteeism as Students Head Back to Class.”

