

January, 2026

State of Anchor Lutheran School 2026

As we reflect on the past year at Anchor Lutheran School (Anchor), we do so with deep gratitude—for God’s faithfulness over 45 years of Anchored Excellence, for the dedication of our staff, for the partnership of our families, and for the generosity of those who believe in our mission. This past year has been one of growth, challenge, and meaningful progress, and we are thankful for the opportunity to pause and share where we’ve been, where we are, and where we are headed.

Looking Back: 45 Years of Anchored Excellence - This past year marked an important chapter in Anchor’s story. We celebrated continued enrollment growth, expanded academic offerings, and the completion of major facility improvements that position us well for the future. These new and renovated spaces have enhanced student learning, expanded fine arts and athletics, and strengthened our ability to serve a growing community.

Academically, we deepened our commitment to concept-based, inquiry-driven education, grounded in the Universal Design for Learning. This approach emphasizes timeless, interdisciplinary skills and real-world applications, positioning our students well for a changing economic landscape, shaped by transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and bioengineering. Students were challenged to think critically, collaborate meaningfully, and apply their learning to solve real problems through research, self-management, leadership and communication.

Throughout all of our programs we saw strong engagement, growing confidence, and a continued strengthening of the community-centered culture that has defined Anchor for 45 years. We also celebrated meaningful milestones, including our first Upper School Christmas Concerts, a whole-school Day of Service, the launch of High School athletics, and our first athletic competition in the new gymnasium. Alongside these moments, we saw increased family involvement in daily classroom life—further enriching our shared learning community.

Our Present State: Anchor is currently in a season of healthy expansion paired with intentional refinement. With nearly 320 students, a committed faculty, and strong family engagement, we are well-positioned as Anchorage’s leading Christ-centered school—preparing students for both college and career pathways. At the same time, growth brings responsibility. This year has required careful stewardship, thoughtful planning, and strategic adjustments to ensure long-term sustainability. We have taken proactive steps to align staffing, programming, and resources with enrollment realities, and we continue to work closely with our Board and Finance Committee to remain fiscally responsible.

Most importantly, our mission remains clear and central to all we do: *Empowering every learner—spiritually, emotionally, and academically—in a Christ-centered community.*

Looking Forward: Anchored Excellence for the Next Generation: As we look ahead, our focus is clear. Beginning next year, Anchor will strengthen leadership and student support through the addition of a Lower School Principal. Dr. Tessa Cushman will step into this role from her current position as a member of our Kindergarten team. Her leadership will allow for increased focus on instructional excellence and family partnership in the Lower School. Dr. Baxter will continue supporting Upper

School students and families as Upper School Principal, while also serving as the Executive Director, allowing more time to focus on strategy, funding, and community relationships. We are also planning to:

- *Expand Arts and Design offerings*
- *Implement targeted and explicit enrichment for gifted students throughout the school*
- *Continue growing athletics, particularly at the high school level*
- *Grow and maintain two grade-level sections, where enrollment allows*
- *Begin the planning phase of establishing Anchor Endowment*

Endowment will be 100% donor-funded and designed to benefit all Anchor families. Earnings from investing the principal held by the endowment would help keep tuition affordable and expand programs over time. If you are interested in serving on the Endowment Committee or contributing financially, please let us know.

Continuous Enrollment: As part of our continued partnership with families, Anchor has transitioned to continuous enrollment. For K–12 families, you may secure your child(ren)’s enrollment for the upcoming school year by **simply paying the early registration fee of \$295 by February 1**, which also **locks in the current tuition rate of \$11,850 per year**. Beginning February 1, the registration fee will increase to \$395, and the new tuition rate will apply.

Tuition Announcement for the 2026–2027 School Year: In order to sustain the high-quality programming and staffing that define Anchor, we are announcing tuition for the 2026–2027 school year:

- *School Age (K–12): \$12,450/yearly*
- *Preschool/Summer Program Full-Time: \$1,450/month*
- *Preschool/Child watch Hourly: \$11.95/hour*

Our updated tuition rate reflects a measured increase aligned with operational costs, including cost-of-living adjustments and rising benefit expenses, which are the reason for the increase in tuition. Over 70% of our budget is dedicated directly to staffing, underscoring our commitment to exceptional educators and student support, while remaining competitive within our market. Anchor remains committed to accessibility. **Tuition assistance will continue to be available, and families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to reach out.** We believe deeply that Anchor is a Christian school for all families, regardless of income.

With Gratitude and Hope: We are deeply thankful for your trust, your prayers, and your partnership. Anchor’s story—45 years of Excellence—is one of faithfulness, resilience, and shared purpose, and that story continues to be written each day through our students, families, and staff. Thank you for being part of the Anchor community. We look forward to the year ahead with confidence, humility, and hope in Christ.

Blessings,



Matthew Baxter, PhD.
Director