



ECCLESIAL
SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission & Vision	1	Extraordinary Education	7
The Opportune Moment	2	Ecclesial Community	8
Start-up to Sustainable	3	Meet the Board	9
The Need	4	Financial Highlights	10
Our Solution	5	Partner Sponsorship	12
Expanding Access	6	An Opportunity to Partner with Us . . .	13



MISSION & VISION



“This is it: that God’s wisdom, in all its rich variety, was to be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places—
through the church!”

Ephesians 3:10

OUR MISSION

Access

We exist to expand access to extraordinary Christian education by offering a rich learning atmosphere, classical liberal arts curriculum, and formative Christian practices to children of diverse social and economic backgrounds.

OUR VISION

Rooted, Known, Loved

We are educating a generation of men and women, nurtured at the heart of the church and prepared to serve the life of the world.



THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT

What comes to mind when you read these words? An image, a feeling? Perhaps a particular memory of when you had exactly the right words in a critical conversation, or when you found yourself in precisely the right place at the right time. The phrase is captivating. Nothing compares to the experience of being ready to seize the moment when the opportunity arrives.

We founded The Ecclesial Schools Initiative in 2019 with a profound sense that the opportune moment had arrived to expand access to extraordinary Christian education.

Like never before, children in our community needed an education that would root them in the faith and give them the skills and confidence to learn for themselves. Yet, with tuition at independent schools in Florida averaging more than \$16,000 per year, we knew this kind of education was hopelessly out of reach for most families. Generous scholarships from private schools offered one-off solutions for some families, but we wanted to create a solution that could extend access to all families. Meeting this goal would mean creating a new kind of school. The Ecclesial Schools Initiative was born.

It starts by driving down the cost of education through partnerships with local congregations. Sharing spaces and services allows us to lower costs across the network without sacrificing the quality of education or an educator's quality of life. Lowering costs, however, not only makes shares of tuition more affordable for more families, it unleashes the potential of tax credit scholarships and multiplies the effect of sponsorship giving. It is a simple idea, but leveraging partnerships to lower costs and create sustainable funding is the heart of the ESI model.

We opened the doors of our first campus to 46 young scholars in grades K-5 in 2020. These children entered a rich learning environment and received a classical curriculum—and face-to-face instruction in the midst of a global pandemic. In August 2022, we welcomed 134 students in grades K-7, more than 85% of whom qualify



for tax credit scholarships. We could not have anticipated this kind of growth and impact, but we believe it is only the beginning.

As we look to the future, we sense the arrival of another opportune moment—the opportunity to expand our network to meet a growing need. The St. Alban's campus will be at full capacity in August 2023, with more than 180 students in grades K-8. To meet the demands of growth, we raised nearly \$700K to create approximately 6,000 additional square feet of learning space at St. Alban's and raised \$250K of start-up funding for the launch of our next campus. This means that we are poised to dramatically increase our ability to serve more families and children in our community. It also means that there are more opportunities than ever to partner with ESI, so that together we can expand access to extraordinary Christian education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kevin Clark, ESI Founder & President
Dean of the Ecclesial School at St. Alban's

START-UP TO SUSTAINABLE



THE NEED



LOOKING FOR AN ACCESSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

We could not have anticipated the demand for educational choice when we founded ESI in 2019. It hit like a wave in 2020.

Like never before, parents have the sense that schooling is leaving their children morally and spiritually unrooted and academically unprepared. Low and middle income families in particular are looking for an alternative. Charter and magnet schools offer great academic preparation, but as public schools they must leave faith at the front door. There are excellent Christian schools, but with annual tuition exceeding \$16,000, they are simply not accessible for most families.

FUNDING HOPE

Florida's Tax Credit and Family Empowerment scholarships offer real hope to low and middle income families seeking an educational alternative for their children. Approved by the Florida legislature in 2001, funded by gifts from Florida corporations, and directed by parents, these scholarships can be used at any qualified Florida private school the parents choose. These generous and sustainable scholarship funds have the potential to transform access to Christian education in our community.

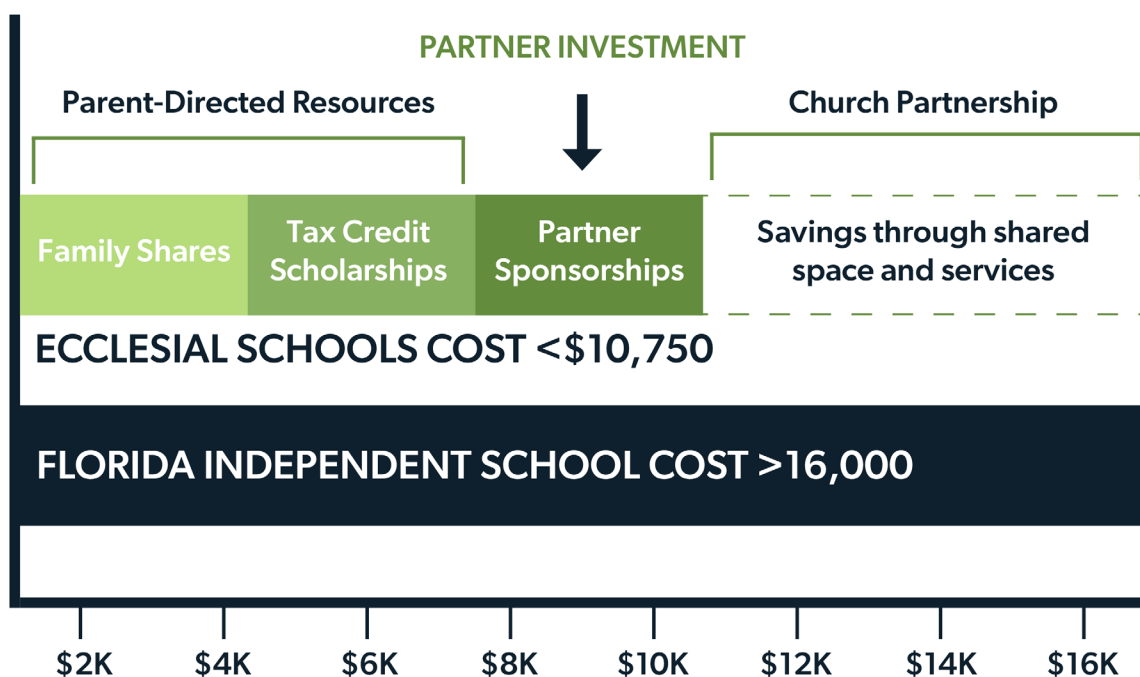
OUR SOLUTION

There is no word that better captures the heart of ESI than **partnership**.

Beginning with the church. ESI partners with congregations to share spaces and services, driving down costs.

Empowering families. Teachers partner with parents to support children’s education.

Blessing children. Sponsors partner with families to multiply the effect of tax credit scholarships and shares of tuition.



FAMILY SHARES

All families contribute a share of tuition according to their AGI. Shares for our lowest income families are \$500/year for the entire family.

PARTNER SPONSORSHIPS

With annually renewable gifts of \$2,500-\$5,000, partners transform these parent directed resources into accessible education. That is a remarkable return on philanthropic investment.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

More than \$7,000/year per child is available to families earning less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level.

EXPANDING ACCESS



“We joined the Ecclesial School family this year after specifically moving into the area to be near the school. To say it’s been an incredible experience, would be an understatement! Our children look forward to school each day and light up as they share their experiences about their classroom lessons, garden time, music and art! We are so thankful for the way each teacher and the administration have genuinely cared for our children and have thoughtfully come alongside us as we raise our children.”

Emily Skehan

“I’ll never forget our tour of The Ecclesial School back in early 2021. I was so happy that we found a place not only where my son could be challenged academically, but nurtured spiritually. My son was attending virtual school through his public elementary school at the time and it was such a tough season for him.

The Ecclesial School is less than 3 minutes from our home and has been such an answer to prayer for our family. In Kindergarten I had hoped to send my son to a local Classical Conversations school, but financially it was way out of reach. The Ecclesial School has made it possible for my son to have such a rich, multifaceted education and made it financially accessible. We are so grateful for the caliber of education he is receiving, along with the focus on building faith and character.”

Lorie Coka



EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATION

ESI provides every child with a classical liberal arts education. There is no better statement of the content and aims of this model of education than the words W.E.B. Du Bois used to describe Atlanta University more than a century ago: “Nothing new, no time-saving devices,—simply old time-glorified methods of delving for Truth, and searching out the hidden beauties of life, and learning the good of living. . . not to earn meat, but to know the end and aim of that life which meat nourishes.”



ESI EDUCATION IN NUMBERS

- 170+ Days in School
- 170+ Days begun in Morning Prayer and ended singing the Doxology
- 1000+ Hours learning
- 170+ Hours Mathematics
- 170+ Hours Language Arts
- 170+ Hours History and Literature
- 80+ Hours Reading
- 80+ Hours Nature Study
- 80+ Hours Music and Singing

“My students walk into class in the mornings with a big smile on their faces (and usually a book in their hands!) ready to engage in the world around them, from manipulating base ten blocks to narrating Shakespeare to singing the Ancient Civilizations timeline song. When we get in the car each afternoon, my own kids excitedly tell me the highlight of their day, which is almost always the Garden! It brings me so much joy to see their little hearts be tuned to sing God’s praises through Morning Prayer and Bible classes each day.”

Brittany Mann
2nd Grade Teacher and ESI Parent

ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY



OUR DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

“Children are my favorite people on the planet. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to serve them by engaging with parents and partner sponsors on their behalf. This isn’t easy. People are passionate about their children and careful with their money. But that is why I love my job at ESI. I know that we are loving our students and our partners well. What is even more rewarding, is that I get to work alongside passionate teachers and professionals who share my love for children and desire to offer them an exceptional education.”

Patti Rader

Director of Engagement and ESI Board Emeritus

OUR HOST CHURCH

“Our church family is thrilled that our parish hall, constructed over twenty years ago, is finally being utilized for its original intended purpose. As public education deteriorates and religious institutions come under cultural pressures, The Ecclesial School and St. Alban’s Anglican Church act as two sides of the same coin in which is the answer to today’s societal changes. A classical Christian education at the Ecclesial School and worship in a church that is rooted in the early traditions provide the foundations one needs to know, love and worship our Lord. Congratulations to Dr. Clark and the Ecclesial School staff, from the St. Alban’s family, on this third year of growth and impact. We’re proud to play a role in your school.”

Fr. Ralph Waterhouse

Rector at St. Alban’s Church



MEET THE BOARD



Dr. Kevin Clark
ESI Founder & President
Dean of The Ecclesial
School at St. Alban's



Dr. Brian Polk
Assoc. Professor of Science
at College of the Ozarks
Board Chairman & Founding
Director



Ron Hines
Vice President of Themed
Entertainment, Paramount
Director



Rudy Reudelhuber
Managing Director at
Hodges Ward Elliott
Founding Director



Chrissie Schutz
COO at Cities Project Global
Director



Dave McDaniel
Partner at
M3 Development
Director

"As we enter our fourth year, I could not be more excited and humbled by the work God is doing through the Ecclesial Schools Initiative. We have a flourishing school on the campus of St. Alban's that's about to reach capacity and we have additional network campuses on the horizon. When we started this initiative, we really only had two convictions: every child should have access to a classical Christian education and the church should play a key role in making that happen. To see our mission embodied is beyond exciting, and I can't wait to see what the next few years hold!"

Dr. Brian Polk, Board Chairman & Founding Director

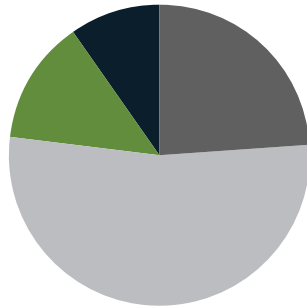
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A SNAPSHOT OF THIS YEAR'S IMPACT (2021-2022)



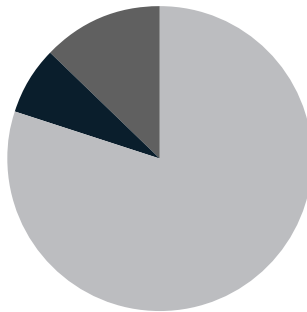
EXPANDING CAPACITY FOR IMPACT

To meet the demands of growth, we raised nearly \$700K to create approx. 6,000 additional square feet of learning space at St. Alban's and raised \$250K of start-up funding for the launch of a second campus.



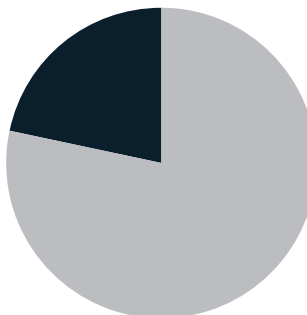
ANNUAL REVENUE

- Tax-Credit Scholarships \$509,297/53.1%
- Family Shares \$230,822/24.1%
- Partner Sponsorships \$127,590/13.3%
- Grants \$91,400/9.5%
- Total \$959,109**



ANNUAL EXPENSES

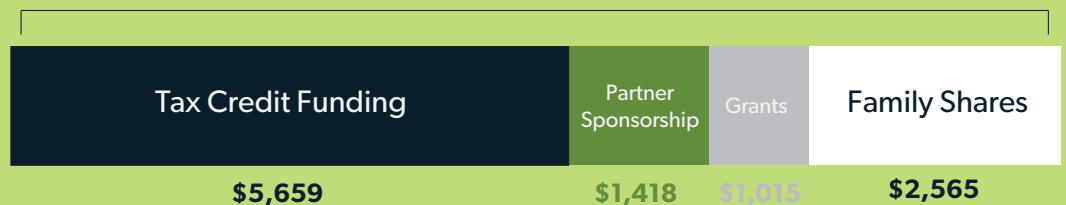
- Academic Expenses \$752,362/78.6%
- Management \$152,911/15.9%
- Facilities & Operations \$52,207/5.5%
- Total \$957,480**



TOTAL CHARITABLE GIVING

- Capital \$465,986/78.5%
- Annual \$127,590/21.5%
- Total \$593,576**

Average Source of Revenue Per Child \$10,657



Please note that numbers are preliminary and unaudited. Audited financials for 2021-2022 can be provided upon request, once completed.

School Year	20-21	21-22	22-23
Free or Reduced Lunch	36%	41%	34%
Tax Credit Scholarships	79%	80%	85%

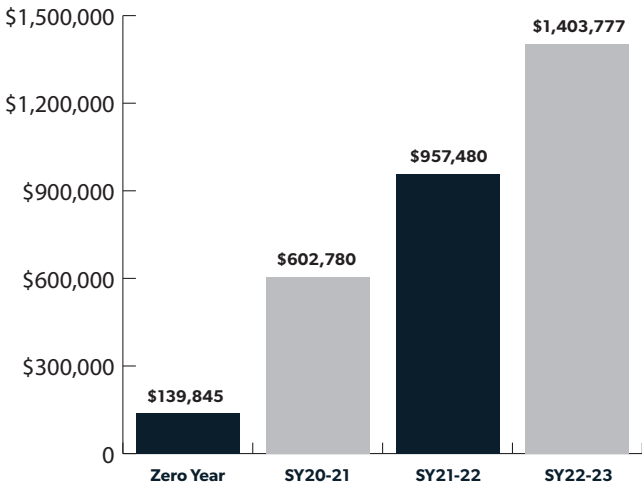
MEETING OUR GOALS

We met our target enrollment goal each year, with no fewer than 33% qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch, no fewer than 75% qualifying for Tax Credit Scholarships.

WHAT COULD YOU DO WITH \$140,000?

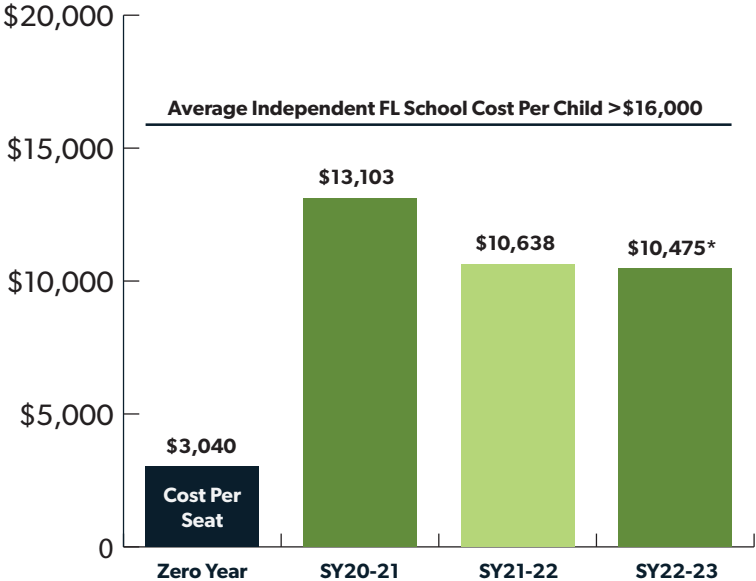
We launched the First Ecclesial School Campus.

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET



COST OF EDUCATION PER CHILD

*projected



AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Originally, we hoped to drive down the cost of education to less than \$10,750 per child by our fourth year. But we achieved this goal in our second year and will do so again this year.

PARTNER SPONSORSHIP

ANNUAL VISION BREAKFAST


The Vision Breakfast is designed to share ESI's mission of expanding access to extraordinary Christian education. Our partner sponsors play a key role in the success of this event by inviting their friends and colleagues to attend.





PARTNER DAY


Partner Day is designed for our partner sponsors to experience for themselves the extraordinary education their partnership makes possible every day. Twice a year, in the fall and spring, partners are invited to the school to engage with students in their classes and to enjoy a time of fellowship with them over lunch.


PARTNER SPONSORS...

 **Give.** Partners bridge the gap between the cost of education and the shares and tax credit scholarships provided by parents.

 **Match.** Partners are "matched" with students, and invited to meet face-to-face at Partner Day events.

 **Engage.** Partners are invited to two Partner Day events annually to interact with students and hear inspiring stories.

 **Impact.** Partners receive handwritten thank-you notes from the students they sponsor, newsletters from ESI, and other insider updates communicating impact.

 **Share.** Partners share their joy with friends by inviting them to a tour or to attend the annual Vision Breakfast.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH US

“Thirty years ago, who ever thought that there would be public funding for low-income families to get a classical Christian education? By the grace of God this ministry appeared at the time it is most needed, as our public education system reveals profound institutional and moral failures. Now, the kind of education that was previously only available to the middle class or rich, is available to everyone, regardless of financial means. In fact, ESI’s program and curriculum are better than what’s offered at most private schools. I’m happy to support a ministry that has such a direct impact on children.”

Michael A. Nardella, Managing Partner at Nardella & Nardella Law and ESI Partner



HOW TO PARTNER WITH THE ECCLESIAL SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Sponsor a Site

- Help to expand ESI’s capacity to serve more families with a gift of \$10,000+

Sponsor a Scholar

- Make an annually renewable gift of \$2,500-\$5,000
- Make a monthly recurring gift of \$200-\$450

Sponsor a Seat

- Make an annually renewable gift of \$300-\$600
- Make a monthly recurring gift of \$25-\$50

Please Contact Us to:

- Discuss your gift
- Invite a friend to visit
- Host a conversation
- Meet for coffee and more information

Other Ways to Give

- Appreciated Property
- Planned Giving
- One-Time Gift



Scan this QR code or go to www.esischools.org/donate to give online. Go to www.esischools.org/contact to contact us.

ABOUT THE ECCLESIAL SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Founded in 2019, we are expanding access to extraordinary Christian Education by offering a rich learning atmosphere, classical liberal arts curriculum, and formative Christian practices to children of diverse social and economic backgrounds.



THE ECCLESIAL SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

3348 West State Road 426, Oviedo, FL 32765
321-274-6540 • www.esischools.org