

FORT WORTH ACADEMY

Year in Review 2024-2025



Annual
Report



Letter from the Head of School

Dear Fort Worth Academy Families,

When I reflect on this past year, I think of the great oak trees that line the streets of my neighborhood. Some grow so large their branches reach across to one another, creating a canopy of strength and beauty. It is humbling to remember that each one began with the planting of a single acorn.

During the 2024–2025 school year, Fort Worth Academy planted an acorn of its own. We established the Trailblazers of Tomorrow Endowment Fund, an initiative that, like an oak tree, begins with humble roots but with care and commitment will grow strong and enduring. As Susie Helm, Lauren Parker, and Jennifer Slimmer so eloquently shared at Extravaganza, creating an endowment is about honoring the past while elevating the future. Once FWA students themselves and now parents of FWA students, they spoke from a rare generational perspective that underscored why this work matters. With our endowment in place, we are ensuring that FWA will thrive for generations to come.

Another accomplishment that blossomed this year came from a group affectionately known as the “Swingles.” After a year and a half of dedication and perseverance, they reached their fundraising goal and gifted the school six new swings for our playground. Their hard work brought to life a simple joy that our students now enjoy every day.

Just as mighty oak trees grow from small acorns, the seeds we planted this year through the creation of our endowment, the joy of new swings, and the countless daily moments of learning and leading are already shaping the FWA of tomorrow. These beginnings remind us that what we nurture today will shelter, inspire, and strengthen the generations of Trailblazers yet to come.

Warmly,

Shannon



Our Mission



Fort Worth Academy empowers young people to think critically, lead with empathy, and collaborate effectively, to become the innovators and problem solvers of tomorrow. Our students become self-aware, self-driven, courageous, confident, and creative Trailblazers.

Community & Connections

👉 Parents' Club

At Fort Worth Academy, the sense of **community** and **connection** is a big part of what makes us special—and the Parents' Club is at the heart of it all. Through fun, rewarding, and inclusive volunteer opportunities, **Parents' Club helps celebrate and enrich the FWA experience for every student and family!**

As our school's biggest cheerleaders, the Parents' Club members bring a **positive, can-do spirit** that strengthens the mission and keeps the FWA community thriving.

👉 FWAmily Events

Throughout the year, there are many fun opportunities to **plug-in, support the school, and build relationships!**

- Boo-Hoo Woo-Hoo Coffee
- Grade Level Coffees
- Back-to-School BBQ
- Fall Family Carnival
- Grandparents and Special Friends' Day
- Parents' Club Social Events
- FWA Field Day
- Spring Family Picnic

👉 Extravaganza

Extravaganza is FWA's beloved party parent tradition! This is the one night where parents, former parents, faculty and staff come together to celebrate, have fun and raise some funds to **support the school we love!**

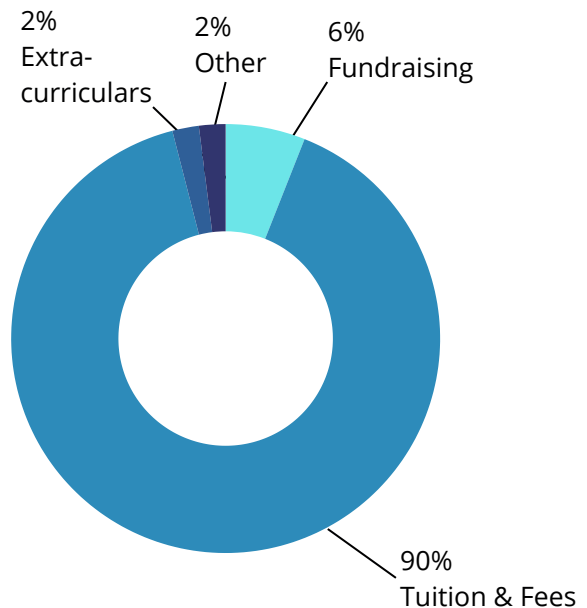


Financial Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

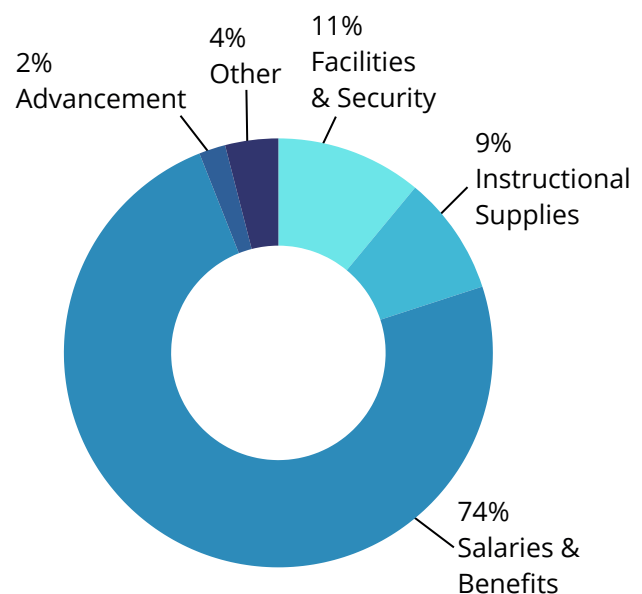
Revenues

Tuition & Fees	90%
Fundraising	6%
Extracurricular Activities	2%
Other	2%



Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	74%
Instructional Supplies & Student Events	9%
Facilities & Security	11%
Advancement	2%
Other Expenses*	4%



Student Driven Trailblazers of Tomorrow FWA Endowment Fund Successfully Launched



It all began with our students. When NJHS and Student Council came together, and said, *“We want more kids to have this opportunity.”* Their vision, supported by the FWA Board of Trustees, sparked the launch of the Trailblazers of Tomorrow Endowment Fund.

During Extravaganza 2025, three very special Fort Worth Academy alumni—who are also current parents—**Lauren Parker**, **Susie Norton Helm**, and **Jennifer Slimmer**, took the stage to share their passion for this endowment effort and explain the importance for our school.

The response from our community was incredible. **Together, we raised more than \$85,000 to kick off this exciting initiative!**

This fund isn't just about today; it's about securing FWA's future. By building an endowment, we are ensuring that generations of students to come will benefit from a strong, independent, and thriving school. This milestone is a powerful reminder of what the FWA community can achieve when we dream big and work together.



Trailblazers of Tomorrow

Endowment Fund Founders

Emmanuel Abiamuwe and Nene Nwoko

Farhan and Semi Ali

Bauer Family

Bridget and Joe Belyeu

Andrew and Melinda Bermejo

Angela Bly

Elizabeth and Lizann Bonin

Buck Family

Bui Family

Karen, Abbey and Tommy Bullock

Holten and Rachel Campbell

Kristin Castillo and Nova Diaz

Hira Chaudhary

Bruno, Luiza and Helena Coêlho

Brad and Paige Cochran

Dr. Joseph and Maurine Dajcs

Matt and Yvette Dzurik

Skip and Shannon Elders

Leslie Erwin

Michael and Courtney Gilson

Hazel K. Gonzalez and Weston Ryder
Heffernan

Daisy Hamadeh

Tim and Christina Hardman

Hatch Family

Doremi Hejny

Helm Family

Jessica Hutchinson

Orlando Jaimes

Trey, Andrea and Owen Jordan

Alena Keene-Carlson

Jami and Jason Kern

Killebrew Family

Max J. Kirkwood

Debra, Aaron, and Liam Koppelberger

Lindsay and Dan Koss

Kimberly Kowalski

Laura Laurent

Anna and Dale LeMaster

Nicole Qiaozhi Lu

Martin Family

Brett and Remy May

Jacque and Jackson McCollum

Zach, Ericka, and Ellie Miller

Charles and Leslie Mitchell

Mowery Family

Murphy Family

Drs. Lauren Cunningham and Ted Nagel

Jim and Lara Newman

Jan M. Norton

Maria Novoa

Arely Y. Ogaz

Ashley, Kipper and Harper Overstreet

Cari and Jeremy Parcels

Bill and MaryEmily Pardue

Lauren and Bradley Parker

Tim Pease and Beth Kush

Mindy and Brian Poitevent

Donald Porter

Hannah Raasch

Shanda and Brantley Ranelle

John, Darla and Kate Robinson

Michael, April, and Alara Sawey

Simons Family

Chris and Jennifer Slimmer

Rob and Lauren Sorokolit

Rosie Staal

Paige and Scott Stephens

Chris and Katey Stimek

Clay, Jolee and Shelbi Tidwell

Tomechko Family

Sharon Turner

Kathy Uhr

Keith and Amy Webster

Bartley and Hilary Zaino

Empowering Students to Develop Solutions



Swings added to FWA Campus

What started as a fourth-grade dream has become a reality! The “Swingles” set out to bring new swings to FWA, and **through creativity, leadership, and perseverance, these students successfully raised funds to install six brand-new swings on Fort Worth Academy’s playground.**

Congratulations to these inspiring students—and to everyone who supported their vision! This project is a **shining example of the innovation, generosity, and community spirit** that make FWA so special.

Sweet Success: Students Bake Up Support for FWA’s Endowment

In May, students put their entrepreneurial skills to the test in a spirited competitive Marketing Bake-Off. Two student-led companies, Baked Bliss and Curly Cravings, applied project-based learning to branding, pricing, marketing, and, of course, baking.

Together, **the two teams raised \$500 for the Trailblazers of Tomorrow Endowment Fund**, supporting the future of Fort Worth Academy. This project perfectly showcased the creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning that define the FWA experience—along with our students’ generosity and commitment to their school community.



Cultivating Excellence



Leslie Erwin

In 2024, Ms. Erwin had the incredible opportunity to attend the Klingenstein Center Summer Institute at Columbia University Teachers College. There she collaborated with educators from around the world, diving into project-based learning, DEI, and leadership while sharing and refining exciting new project ideas. From studying with Columbia faculty to exploring makerspace innovations at Princeton Day School, Leslie describes the experience as inspiring, energizing, and one she has carried back to FWA in big ways. *"I will sing the praises of this program forever and ever. It was genuinely a highlight of my life."*

Bridget Belyeu

We're thrilled to celebrate Mrs. Belyeu, who recently completed her Master's in Gifted Education from Johns Hopkins University, where she was recognized as a Student of Excellence. In addition to this achievement, she has expanded her role at FWA as Lower School Lead Teacher and Gifted & Talent Development Specialist. We are so excited for Mrs. Belyeu and deeply grateful for the expertise and passion she continues to bring to our community.



FWA Becomes a Heart Safe School

Thanks to the leadership of School Nurse Ericka Miller and the enthusiastic dedication from our volunteer faculty and staff cardiac response team, Fort Worth Academy is proud to be recognized as a Heart Safe School through Project ADAM and Cook Children's Hospital. This recognition celebrates FWA's preparedness, with a practiced emergency action plan designed to protect our students, staff, and visitors. Earning the Heart Safe School designation is also a proud reflection of the teamwork, care, and commitment that make FWA such a safe and supportive place to learn and grow.

Laura Laurent Celebrates 25 Years

Having first joined Fort Worth Academy in the 2000-2001 school year, Mrs. Laurent has taught in first grade ever since! Over the years, Mrs. Laurent has created countless meaningful traditions that make learning come alive for her students. From hosting a beloved Mother's Day Tea—complete with songs and rice "babies" to guiding students as they raise caterpillars into butterflies for Earth Day, Mrs. Laurent ensures that her students don't just read about the world, they experience it. Her creativity and dedication have made her classroom a place of joy, discovery, and lasting memories for generations of FWA students and families.



A Collaborative Community



What is 'Blazer Giving'?

'Blazer Giving is Fort Worth Academy's annual fund campaign—the one time each year when our community unites to show its support. Every gift directly impacts our greatest assets—our students and our teachers.

"Why do I give?"

"We choose to support Fort Worth Academy because it has reignited our son's love for learning. The personalized attention, project-based approach, and supportive community transformed his experience from disengaged to thriving. FWA isn't just a school, it's where curiosity, creativity, and growth truly come alive."

FWA Parent

"The Fort Worth Academy community has given our children so much; we give in gratitude to their mission of acceptance, belonging, and inspiration."

FWA Alumni Parent



"We give because we believe that this school is an educational pillar in Fort Worth. No other school in the area provides the environment that FWA does, and it deserves our support."

FWA Parent

'Blazer Giving Donor List

2024-2025

Leadership Donors

\$1,000 – \$25,000+

Anonymous (2)

In honor of the students and teachers of
2024/25

Saiyeda and Farhan Ali

Linda and Chad Bradford

Angela and Scott Bauer

Priya and John Bui

Rachel and Holten Campbell

Virginia Dalbeck and Hunter Dobbratz

Shannon and Skip Elders

Courtney and Michael Gilson

Whitney and Bryan Gaydos

Karen and Stephen Howell

Nancy L. Hallman

Hartley Family

Hatch Family

Susie and Jason Helm

Jordan Family

Pam Johnson

Katie and Mark Kalpakis

Jennifer and Johnathan Killebrew

Diana and Kenneth Kirkwood

Cherie and Don Livingston

Victoria LeMaster

Nicole Lu and Daniel Beltran Villegas

Alison and Shawn McMahon

Maggie and Jason Mowery

Lara and Jim Newman

Kennetha and Dhananjaya Perera

Lynn and Brian Ranelle

Matthew Renfro

Jennifer and Chris Slimmer

Tomechko Family

Loyalty Donors

\$1 – \$999

Anonymous (26)

Emily and Alex Aronoff

Katie and Tommy Abercrombie

Nene Nwoko and Emmanuel Abiamuwe

Talha Calim and Leo Alba

Ulises Asprilla

Luiza Barros and Bruno Cohêlo

Raquel and Matthew Baker

Katie and Derek Bell

The Belyeu Family

Melinda and Andrew Bermejo

Angela Bly

Elizabeth Bonin

Stacey and Courtney Boone

Rachel Bradford

Karen Bullock

Emily and Austin Burke

Amber and Chris Butler

Kim and Brandon Canard

Liz and Ricardo Carillo

Kristin Castillo

Leocardia and David Chatsama

Hira Chaudhary

Nischa and Amit Chawla

Judith Clinkscales

Paige and Brad Cochran

Ana Cole

Morgan and Kevin Cooper

Tiffeny and Ronnie Cunningham

Melanie and Monte Davis

Julie Dean

Lorena Gomez Delgado and Fernando Ortiz

Delta Kappa Gamma Society

Emily Dito

'Blazer Giving Donor List

2024-2025

Loyalty Donors

\$1 – \$999

Abigail Dzurik and John Dzurik
Siouxsie and Ed Easter
Leslie Erwin
Anthony Farnsworth
Chris and John Fershtand
Emma and Mark Fitz
Melissa and Joseph Fitzwater
FWA Employee
Garraway Family
Pamela and Ken Gaydos
Lori Connel Geehan and D.B. Geehan
Shawna Gibson
Hazel Gonzalez
Candace Fyfe and Steve Gordan
Kelli and David Grace
Jaylee and Eric Greenway
Christina and Timothy Hardman
Amanda Harris
Doremi Hejny
Kendall and Jonathan Herod
Tiffany and Clayton Holbrook
Jacklyn and Blake Howell
Jason Howell
Killiane and Adam Hubbell
Rosie Staal and Raed Jabaji
Orlando Jaimes
Alena Keene-Carlson
Jami and Jason Kern
Lindsay and Dan Koss
Kimberly Kowalski
Paulette and Dean Krehlik
Krystal and Wesley Ladda
Laura Laurent
Katie Lemons

Maria Lerma
Rachel and John Lock
Jaime Loke Family
Mary Luker
Megan Martin
Amber Hernandez and Angel Martinez
Mary May
Remy May
Kenneth McBride
Megan McBurnett
Megan and Ryan McConnell Family
Garrett McNutt
Ericka, Zach and Ellie Miller
Hannah Raasch and Michael Milliken
Leslie Mitchell
Jody Moyer
Maria Neblett
Katie Tran and Anthony Nguywn
Stephanie and Jason Nolen
Ashley and Kipper Overstreet
Arely Ogaz
Nancy Palmer
Carolyn and Jeremy Parcels
MaryEmily Pardue
Depal and Keith Parikh
Hilary Parker
Lauren and Bradley Parker
Jennifer DeWitt and David Parks
Beth Kush and Tim Pease
Maykatherine and Erick Pedroza
Sara and Paul Phillips
Abbey Kendall and David Pickard
Mindy and Brian Poitevent
Marsha and Pat Powers
Malina Kawan and Mahesh Prajapati
Charlene and Boyan Radic
Shanda and Brantley Ranelle
Darla and John Robinson

'Blazer Giving Donor List

2024-2025

Loyalty Donors

\$1 – \$999

Mia Rojas and Patrick Rojas
Danielle Rosenberg
April Sawey
Anna and Daniel Seethaler
Lauren Singh
Paige and Scott Stephens
Angela and Michael Sweeny
Alice and Azeem Tajani Family
Gavin, Mackenzie and Correy Thompson
Jolee Tidwell
Susan and Mark Titus
The Trager/Resnick Family
Shad and Katie Turner
Sharon Turner
Kathy Uhr
Emily LaBori and Joe Villa
Sulian Suarez Sierra and Arnaldo Villalonga
Kayly and Kenneth Walker
Amy and Keith Webster
Susan Wilson
Risa and Kosuke Yoshida
Sky-Bleu' Young

Every effort has been made to list names in accordance with donor preferences.

'Blazer Giving Totals

202

donations
made

\$102K

funds
raised

93%

families
participating

Your Impact

Because of our donors...

Fort Worth Academy students have access to **extraordinary opportunities** that bring learning to life. For example, the **E.L.I.T.E. Speaker Series** connects Trailblazers with successful entrepreneurs, leaders, and innovators who share their **real-world experiences** and inspire our students to dream bigger. Thanks to donor support and the commitment of our Board of Trustees, this initiative continues to expand, bringing even more expert voices to campus.

Your generosity also fuels **robust and diverse elective options**, giving FWA students the chance to explore new passions, build critical skills, and grow into confident leaders.

Additionally, donor support also allows FWA to proudly uphold its strong commitment to **safety and security**, with a full-time security officer on campus ensuring our Trailblazers can thrive in a **safe, nurturing environment**.

Because of you, our students don't just imagine the future—they're preparing to shape it.

- ➔ 100% of FWA 8th grade students are selected to attend their high school of choice.
- ➔ FWA hires and retains elite educators.
- ➔ FWA remains deeply committed to small class sizes, ensuring every student is truly known, supported, and able to benefit from personalized instruction.
- ➔ FWA teachers are encouraged to expand their knowledge with professional development opportunities.
- ➔ FWA offers and maintains new and modern facilities that inspire and encourage innovation and collaboration.



Your Impact

Because of our donors, FWA graduates are...

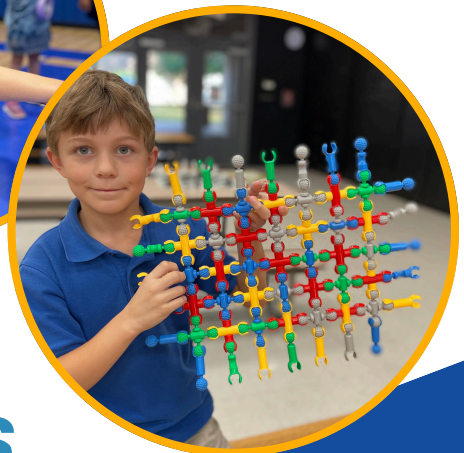
Self-aware



Self-driven



Courageous



Confident



Trailblazers



**You Can
Make Your
2025-26
'Blazer Giving
Gift NOW!**



**Parents, grandparents, and
Fort Worth Academy friends,**

**'Blazer Giving, Fort Worth Academy's
annual fund, *bridges the gap between
tuition and the true cost of an FWA
education*—keeping our school
attainable, diverse, inclusive, and full
of opportunities for every student.**

**Your gift, in any amount, sends a
powerful message:
*We believe in FWA, and we are all in!***

**IMAGINE MORE for our students
Join 'Blazer Giving today and
*power what's possible!***

IMAGINE
more

**Purpose-driven, Project-based,
POWERED BY YOU!**