

Looking Forward



Report for Stakeholders - 2023

From the President



Dear Stakeholders,

About a month ago, my colleague Gabrielle Martin and I were meeting to review the various active projects in which we are engaged when Gabby commented, “You realize that we’ve made it, don’t you?” Admittedly, I didn’t know what she was talking about. She then pointed to our original aspirations at the time of our founding - to be a resource and connecting point for Catholic schools as they consider the ways in which they use time, space, and technology to address challenges and improve learning. She then recalled conversations we had had about what success might look like. One of the major markers we envisioned was the day when much of our agenda was defined by program ideas flowing *in from* rather than *out to* our member schools. This characterizes our current state.

Yes, we have made it and there is certainly something gratifying in this. However, I think it’s important to recognize *where* we have made it *to*. Most often, the words “we’ve made it” are reserved for the goal achieved, the final destination, the finish line. However, as I see it, our true journey is just beginning. After fourteen years, we’ve “made it” to the *starting* line. Our current and previous work is still very important and relevant. There is, however, much more to do in support of our schools.

Fourteen years is a long prelude. That time has been marked by more trials, disappointments, and setbacks than I care to remember - so many in fact that it’s fair to wonder why we kept going. However, the same could be said for many others in education these past few years. The simple truth is that education is plain hard. But it is also pocked with moments of such tremendous grace and gratitude that I cannot think of anything more important or life-giving. This is what sustains and keeps us looking forward.

A number of years ago we adopted the tagline *Looking Forward* for our Stakeholders’ Report, and the following captures some of our movement. But I think it is important to recognize that our capacity extends only as far as the imaginations and desires that our 97 partner schools have for their students. Thank you for allowing us to walk this journey with you. Here’s to reaching the starting line.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jeff".

Jeff Hausman
President & Founder



OUR MISSION

We are the leading resource for technology-infused Catholic education. Our mission is to provide the best **online and blended** college preparatory coursework for students, professional development for educators, and collaborative opportunities for Catholic schools.

The Big Question

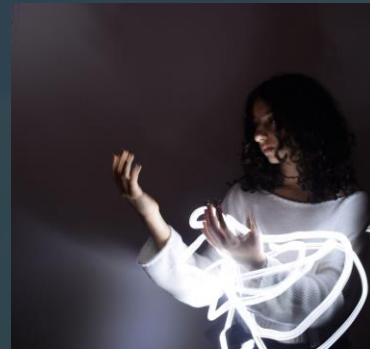
How can we **capitalize on the power of the online environment** to build **authentic learning experiences** where students explore and construct a richer, more complete understanding of course concepts through **the exchange of perspective**?

AVLI's Distinct Advantages

- ❖ AVLI students are geographically, ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse.
- ❖ Our member schools' Catholic identity provides rich soil for meaningful dialogue.
- ❖ Our classrooms are not bound by elements of time and physical space.

Looking Back

We serve schools and, by extension, their students. The following are a few highlights and a sampling of affirming comments provided from the 2022-23 school year. Technology is important but note how often our **teachers** are mentioned.



Highlights

8 out of 10 students would recommend us to their friends. (Still room for growth.)

9 out of 10 consider our courses to be valuable parts of their academic program.

100 students received college credit through dual-enrollment with Creighton University.

From Students

The most special thing that I take with me in this course is the experience and the joy of learning more about the camera, the profession and the methods that give magic to the image, I was fascinated by all the truth but more the part in which I went out to take photos to the new world (realities through the lens)

- Advanced Digital Photograph student

This year taking AVLI, I loved the class as a whole. The due dates every week were convenient, Mr. Nardella was very flexible and was one of the best teachers I had this year. Although the class was not in person, I learned as well as I would in an in-person class. Overall, I felt prepared for the AP Exam. I learned a lot of useful information this year.

- AP Environmental Science student

I think all AVLI AP classes should model how my World History teacher taught his class. He presented information in a way that demanded us to deeply understand the material and perform in depth analysis of the information, identify and interpret common themes, and apply what we learned to different situations. His assignments, while there were many, were all relatively straightforward and presented in a way that required us to actually learn which prepared us for our tests and essays without much studying needed. His name is James Zucker and I really enjoyed and valued his class this year.

- AP World History student

Looking Back



From Parents

*"I am both humbled and appreciative of all you are doing at AVLI to help Joseph. This is one of the many reasons I LOVE AVLI."**

- Parent

*"We'd like to take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks to his AP Microeconomics teacher, Mr. Aaron Tague. Mr. Tague is a great teacher, and Brian enjoyed his class very much. Brian experienced some serious health issues this semester while taking the course. Mr. Tague provided strong support to him and to our family and worked extra hours to accommodate Brian's situation. We will never forget his kindness and assistance during the difficult time. Many thanks to AVLI for having recruited such a wonderful teacher!"**

- Parent

From Schools

I just wanted to send a quick note to let you know how pleased we are partnering with Arrupe this year. A student of ours has been struggling for a variety of reasons. Steve (Nicollerat) reached out to me, and we were able to schedule a Zoom meeting with one of the students, her mother, and him. He is giving her a chance to get back on track. I am grateful for your instructors being so invested in our students. It has been such a difference from our experiences with online programs in the past. Thank you!

- Megan dos Santos, Vice Principal of Academic Affairs, Bishop Connolly High School

*Student name changed.



Looking Forward

More and more, our call of servant leadership draws us into deeper relationship with our schools. The following initiatives highlight our movement onward.

Custom Support for Students

This past year, with the intention of supporting our schools and students as much as possible with the resources at our disposal, we have been in the privileged position of being able to help a small number of students to continue with their coursework when coping with extended absences from schools. We are humbled and grateful to have been entrusted with this responsibility, and it has meant a great deal to us that we were able to help in challenging circumstances. This will be a growing part of our service to our member schools moving forward.

Setting the Table for Algebra I

Studies show that success in Algebra I is a major indicator of success in many other aspects of high school. The Math department at **Fairfield Prep** has been noticing certain gaps in the skill sets of their incoming freshman students that have been affecting some students' capacity to thrive. They were investigating options for a summer bridging program that would help all incoming Algebra I students review and polish the pre-algebra skills essential to their success. Working with Katherine Brennan, Math Department Chair at Fairfield, AVLI put together a custom online program targeting the skill deficits identified by the Fairfield math teachers. The program will be available to students in the weeks leading up to their fall term, and additional resources will be made available throughout the year to continue to support students through their Algebra I experience.

Proper Placement at Saint Ignatius

In a similar vein, AVLI has been working with Sheila Walsh at **Saint Ignatius College Prep** (Chicago) on a program to help properly place incoming freshman students with demonstrated skills beyond Algebra I. Traditionally, such determinations have been made based on HSPT entrance exam scores and school created content exams. But with any such assessment, there are students who fall clearly on one end or another, and a third group falling somewhere in the middle. The SICP math department has been exploring ways to give those students in the middle the best opportunity to succeed through accurate placement. As a result, this summer, select students will be undertaking a 6-week online program developed in collaboration with AVLI to help them review topics, and practice skills. A Saint Ignatius teacher will also staff an online help desk twice a week to address any student questions. At the conclusion of the six weeks, students will retake the math placement exam, and Saint Ignatius will make determinations armed with this additional evidence of competencies.

Looking Forward



Advancing Student Learning Through Teacher Transitions

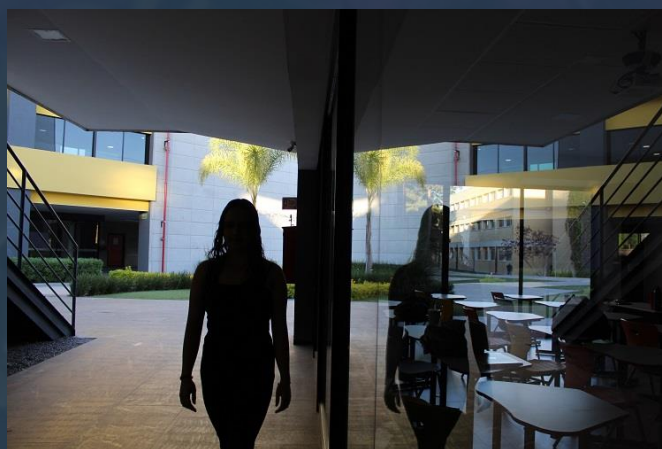
Occasionally within the course of a school term, circumstances lead to the loss of a teacher mid-year. When this occurs, the first course of action is to expedite the hiring of a replacement. Noting the immediacy of the situation, these searches can be unsuccessful, leading schools to hire long term substitutes whose requisite knowledge of some advanced subject matter topics may be lacking, particularly in areas such as Math and Science. The **Archdiocese of Omaha** is experimenting with a new approach whereby, in lieu of a long-term substitute, the school leverages a customized online instructional curriculum provided by AVLI with oversight and support by a qualified in-house teacher to provide a more suitable student learning experience.

Learning to Listen

There is a listening crisis in America and around the world that is heightened by the influence of social media and an aggressive, polarized, agenda-driven approach to cause-based conversation. AVLI, with the support of the **Jesuit Schools Network**, is developing resources and coursework to promote the practice of intentional listening through the specific use of spiritual conversations within schools, particularly among students.

Navigating the Complexities of Language Learning

Our member schools are becoming more diverse. As a result, language programs face a unique set of challenges in meeting the needs and desires of their students. AVLI is helping schools address these challenges through the introduction of **American Sign Language (ASL)** and our new **flu-N-C Initiative**, a multi-year, deep-dive experience targeting students whose goal is to become fluent in either Spanish or French.



The People



2022-23 Teachers

Chabli Balcom

Matt Bernard

Jenn Carter

Greg Chambers

Bro. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.

Zach Dehm

Eileen Diaz

George dos Santos

Jessica Finkler

Adam Green

Bill Haardt

Taiko Haessler

Jeff Hausman

Carol Kelly

Dan LaVallee

Gabrielle Martin

Kelli Mattacchione

Peggy Martin

Joe Nardella

Steve Nicollerat

Tom Noonan

Greg Owsley

Beth Tittl

Brian Tittl

Juan Carlos Vega

James Zucker

SUMMER REMEDIATION

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Mario Morales-Bermúdez

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PHOTOGRAPHY

*All photos were taken by students in
Jenn Carter's Advanced Digital Photography course.*

Background : Luke P., Scranton Preparatory School, Scranton PA

Front Cover: Lila O., Institutio Lux, Leon, Guanajuato MX

Page 4 #1: Lila O., Institutio Lux, Leon, Guanajuato MX

Page 4 #2: Violet C., Bishop Canevin High School, Pittsburgh, PA

Page 4 #3: Karina H., Institutio Lux, Leon, Guanajuato MX

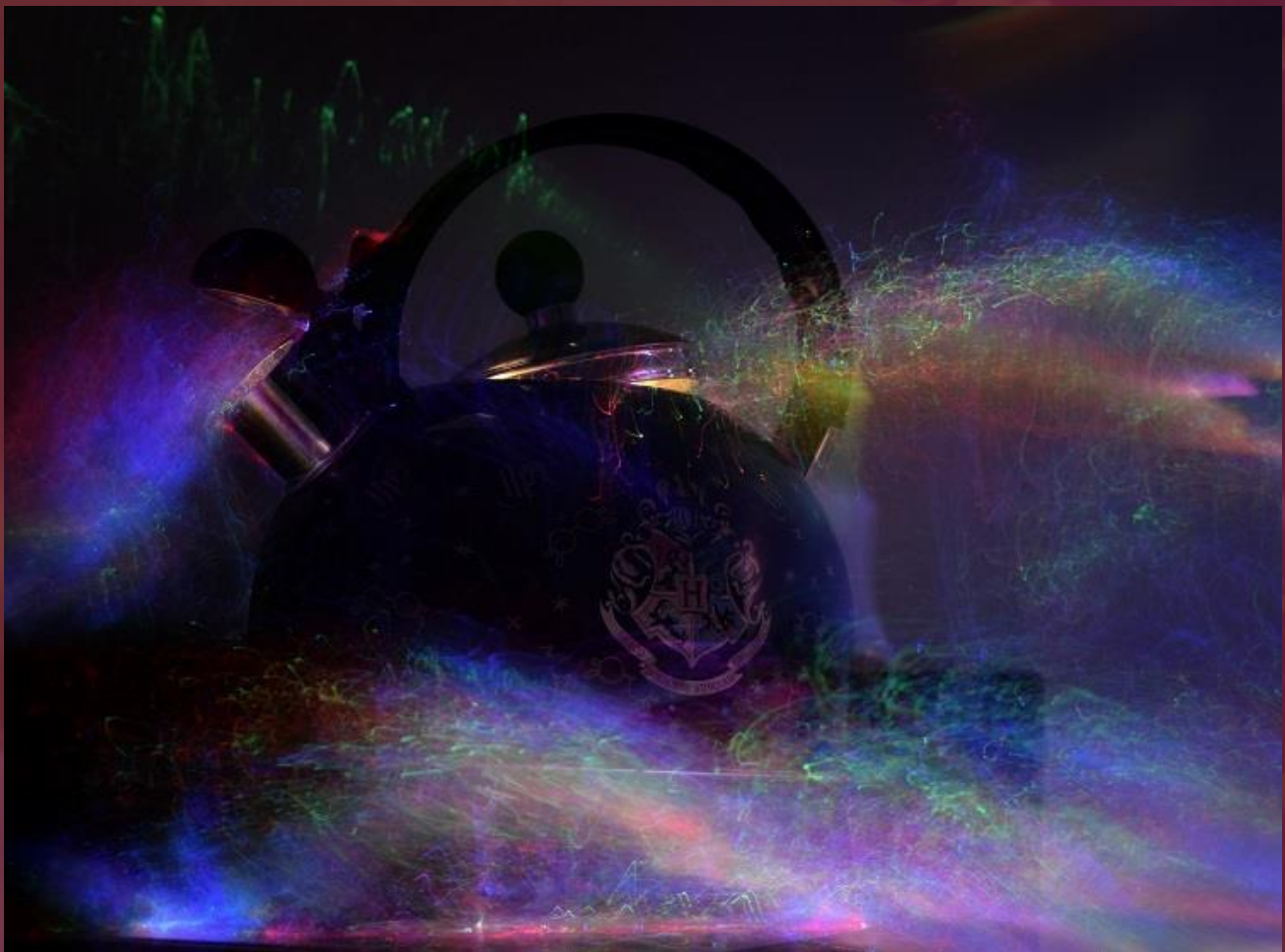
Page 5 #1: Gianna M., Little Flower Catholic High School, Philadelphia PA


Page 5 #2: Luke P., Scranton Preparatory School, Scranton PA

Page 7 #1: Gianna M., Little Flower Catholic High School, Philadelphia PA

Page 7 #2: Lila O., Lila O., Institutio Lux, Leon, Guanajuato MX

Below: Karina H., Institutio Lux, Leon, Guanajuato MX





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