Overcoming Together: AAD’s COVID-19 Response

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, and the resulting statewide school closures and unemployment increases, An Achievable Dream (AAD) students and their families needed our support and wrap-around services more than ever. Ahead of Governor Northam’s initial order for all Virginia schools to close for a minimum of two weeks due to the Coronavirus outbreak, AAD staff and volunteers purchased, packed, and delivered two-week supply bags of food, school supplies, and hygiene items to 430 families. This included families at all five AAD schools (elementary, middle and high schools) as well as families at Newsome Park Elementary School in Newport News, Parkway Elementary School in Virginia Beach, and Fair Oaks Elementary School in Henrico County.

As COVID-19 cases continued to rise, schools in Virginia closed for the remainder of the school year, completely changing how life would operate as “normal” for all of our students, families, our staff, and our teachers. Our team knew that the support we provide to our students and families would not only need to continue, but increase during the challenging times ahead as well.

An Achievable Dream continued to provide food and hygiene bags as well as laptops, wireless hotspots as needed, and school supplies for students and our alumni college students thanks to donations from individuals and numerous community organization grants to support the COVID-19 relief effort. Teachers transitioned to teaching completely virtual lessons for all students and found ways to become innovative, going above and beyond to ensure students would succeed from home. “We know that providing food and supplies during the school closure could make all the difference for these families who may not have the resources to purchase food during this time,” shared Dr. Lee Vreeland, president and CEO of An Achievable Dream. “However, our support goes far beyond tangible items, and we are working hard to also provide for our students and families’ social-emotional and mental health.”

As a team, AAD also adapted. Our team transitioned to working remotely to still serve our students and community. As teams everywhere are, we utilize virtual platforms such as Zoom, to meet and communicate with each other and foster a sense of connection. As challenges increase, so does our resiliency and creativity as a team. Our team has found perhaps more connection during the challenges of the last several months than ever before.

During July, all five AAD campuses held a completely virtual four-week Summer Intersession. During these four weeks, students at each campus had their own unique theme, and students were able to continue their virtual instruction while

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Congratulations, Class of 2020!

We are celebrating the amazing Class of 2020! We are limited in many ways due to COVID-19. However, in conjunction with Newport News Public Schools we found creative ways to make our Dreamers’ graduation celebration as memorable as possible.

The Class of 2020 Class Sponsors, the executive leadership team at Newport News Shipbuilding, are extremely excited for and proud of the graduating class. The class sponsors were able to watch the graduation via live stream and provided gift bags and a special video presentation to the Class of 2020.

The Class of 2020 with their class sponsors, the Newport News Shipbuilding executive leadership team, at the 27th Annual Tennis Ball.

Class of 2020 at a Glance

- **42** Graduates
- **188** Total college acceptances
- **$1,440,829** Total amount of scholarship funds awarded
- **47%** of the Class of 2020 will graduate with a 3.0 or higher grade point average
- **7%** of the Class of 2020 will graduate with a 4.0 or higher grade point average
- **92%** of the Class of 2020 will graduate with an advanced studies diploma
- **76%** will be attending a 4-year or 2-year college
- **5%** will be attending a trade school
- **14%** will be joining the military

Ashley Aguilar
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Psychology

Aaron Apedo
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Business

Dante Baldwin
Attending Old Dominion University and majoring in Computer Science

Ashani Banyan
Attending Bowie State University and majoring in Nursing/Biology

Ashanti Boothe
Attending Virginia State University and majoring in Psychology

Trinity Bowens
Attending Virginia Wesleyan University and majoring in Chemistry

Bryanna Buford
Attending George Mason University and majoring in Neuroscience

Malaki Burns
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Business

Mario Byrd
Attending Old Dominion University and majoring in Electrical Engineering

Kaleb Coleman
Entering the workforce at the Newport News Shipyard to practice welding

Jailyn Collins
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Business

Mariah Dawson
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Physical Therapy

Trevon Draughn
Joining the US Navy

Isabella Falvo
Joining the US Army
Joseph Fuller
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Fine Arts

Annalicia Goodman
Attending James Madison University and majoring in Nursing

Joycie Hagan
Attending George Mason University and majoring in Medical Laboratory Science

Serenidy Harris
Attending Virginia State University and majoring in Graphic Design and Visual Arts

Montiece Joyner
Attending Newport News Apprentice School to study Engineering

Jeremiah Lamberty
Attending Virginia State University and majoring in History

Angel Lundy
Attending Virginia State University and majoring in Law and Psychology

Jamar Nicholson
Joining the US Air Force

Alonzo Parker
Attending New Horizons Regional Educational Center and studying HVAC systems

Kahleal Parker
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Business

Ramon Perry
Joining the US Army

Jayvon Ricks
Attending Old Dominion University and majoring in Graphic Design

Keziah Scott
Attending Virginia State University and majoring in Music and Visual Arts

Kahron Sharpe-Totten
Joining the US Navy

Jamari Sherin
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Business

Taliyah Southall
Attending Virginia Commonwealth University and majoring in Dentistry

Nasha’ Taylor
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Criminal Justice

Janaya Thompson
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Nursing

Omarion Thornton
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Business and Marketing

Aaron Tyler
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Business Administration

Draymond Walker
Attending Virginia Tech and majoring in Mathematics

Precious Wall
Attending Radford University and majoring in Pre-med/General Arts

Makhi Wallace
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Exercise Science

Lakaiya Ware
Joining the US Army

Rashawn Watson
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Business

Maurice White
Attending Thomas Nelson Community College and majoring in Marine Science

Shalijah White
Attending the VA School of Hair Design and studying Cosmetology

Kayla White-Stagg
Attending Richard Bland College and majoring in Political Science
A NIGHT TO DREAM

The inaugural A Night to Dream was held on February 7, 2020 at the Historic Cavalier Hotel. Guests enjoyed the beauty of the Cavalier Hotel, a silent and live auction, open bars, heavy hors d’oeuvres, live music from Good Shot Judy, and a special keynote address from AAD Alumnus Lt. Franklin Roberson.
COVID-19 Response, continued from page 1

also participating in social rotation classes, going on virtual field trips, and much more!

Knowing the importance of engaging with students as much as possible and providing a sense of normalcy, teachers and school staff showed creativity and dedication while continuing to work with our students virtually. These virtual methods included a virtual morning program, virtual social rotation videos such as etiquette, conflict resolution and mindfulness and meditation; Zoom check-ins; Google classrooms; and much more! This creative virtual instruction continued as we entered our four-week summer intersession and will continue as we look ahead to the fall, in accordance with federal, state, and district guidelines.

Throughout the challenges we’ve seen this year, we’ve developed a motto: “Positivity is greater than pandemic.” According to Dr. Vreeland, “When difficult times arise, we come together to help each other and our neighbors. It’s who we are and what we do.”
PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP:
An Interview with Dr. George Parker,
Superintendent of Newport News Public Schools

The COVID-19 outbreak has been one of the most challenging periods that any of us have faced in our lifetimes. This is especially true for all of our educators, administrators, and school leaders who have had to adjust and find the best ways to provide a quality education for all students despite the state-wide school closure.

One of these leaders in education is Dr. George Parker, superintendent of Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). Dr. Parker has held his role of superintendent since the 2018 school year. Although this was a new challenge for all of us, he adapted to the changes to ensure that the needs of our students and our families would continue to be met during this time.

We sat down virtually with Dr. Parker to ask him some questions and to get his insight on decision-making during this time:

Q: What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?
A: Maintaining safety has always been at the forefront of our thinking and planning. If someone contracted COVID-19 because of something that we initiated, I would feel terrible. As the pandemic began, we were dealing with a disease that, at the time, we did not know much about, but we knew decisions that we were making could literally be life-or-death decisions. We also wanted to continue to provide some level of normalcy for all of our students and provide resources that would help them during this difficult situation.

Q: What are some of the positive things that you’ve seen during this time?
A: The most positive thing that I’ve seen during this time is the love and dedication from our staff and also our students’ love for our staff and each other. Those are things that in normal circumstances are easy to take for granted. Seeing the individual interactions that take place, whether on Zoom or other virtual platforms, have really stood out to me.

Q: What are you most proud of as your team has navigated through this time?
A: The willingness to go above and beyond and the daily dedication of our Child Nutrition Services, security, and bus drivers who kept our meal distribution sites running efficiently have been a blessing to the community, our students, and families. Also our teachers who go above and beyond the requirements in connecting with their students multiple times a day to provide a sense of normalcy and consistency for them. These demonstrations of dedication have been exceptional among our staff.

Q: What community partnerships have been beneficial to NNPS during this time?
A: We worked very closely with the Library System and Soundscapes who have rolled into summer programming and are still trying to find new ways that they can provide opportunities for their students who they no longer see face-to-face. We also worked very closely with the City of Newport news as we transitioned into Phase Two, to bring back some level of childcare and Parks and Recreation. We have also partnered with the Newport News Police Department with our graduation ceremonies, which was a huge puzzle piece as we transitioned toward the end of the year. In addition, we partnered with the World Food Kitchen and the Virginia Peninsula FoodBank, who utilized our food distribution sites to provide additional resources for those who may be in need throughout our community.

Q: Tell us a little more about the tremendous planning that went into the Class of 2020 graduation.
A: First, we surveyed all of our seniors. My student advisory team, SAGE, which includes some AAD students, let me know that it would be a good idea to survey all of our seniors and ask them what would be ideal for them for graduation under these conditions. Overwhelmingly, our seniors indicated that they did not want a solely virtual graduation and that they wanted to walk across a stage in their caps and gowns and have their close family participate in some form of a ceremony. So we put together a program to do just that. Students received their caps, gowns, and regalia and physically attended a program...
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

What a year it has been. I don’t think anything will ever compare to the last few months in terms of both challenges and growth.

We’ve faced a history-making pandemic and all of the challenges and opportunities it has brought. We’ve endured the heartbreaking loss of two members of the Dream family: one of our own Dreamers, Hector Martinez Jr., Class of 2018, and long-time teacher at AAD Academy, Coach Kim Mason. The Dream family continues to grieve these losses even as we seek to honor the memories of Hector and Coach Mason.

Through a worldwide awakening to the racial inequalities so deeply ingrained in our society and structures, we continue to have crucial, courageous conversations as a team. We established an always-safe forum for sharing our feelings, and we committed, together, to continue to forge the way for equity. We have formed the Dreamers for Change Task Force consisting of community members, staff members, and Dreamer alumni, with the goal of helping to build awareness, create solutions, and bring equity to communities through justice reforms, community outreach, and social and moral education. As we continue to take action, we hope and believe that change will occur.

Through it all, I am reminded time and again of the power of resilience. That of our families and students, our teachers, staff, alumni, supporters, and board members. We are committed and we are together. We have an incredible Dream community supporting us. If there is anything this season has taught us, it is how much we need each other and how truly resilient we are.

I am so thankful that you are on this journey with us, and it humbles me to know we have your support, no matter what challenges we face.

We know that positivity > pandemic, and together, we will come out stronger on the other side!

Sincerely,
Lee Vreeland, Ed.D.
President and CEO
An Achievable Dream

As we continue to take action, we hope and believe that change will occur.
Job Shadow Day 2020

In February, An Achievable Dream partnered with nine local companies to provide a one-day job shadowing experience to our AAD Middle and High School junior class. Students chose a company to visit based on their career aspirations.

"Job Shadow Day gives our juniors an opportunity to experience careers they are interested in while they are still considering colleges and majors. Our students get to hear about the educational paths and options from professionals who are already in the field," AAD Director of Alumni Services Elizabeth Aultice shared. "Students who participated shared how this encouraged them to push even harder towards their goals and exposed them to different options they had never heard of or considered."

Corporate sponsors participating in Job Shadow Day were Brian Gillespie State Farm, Busch Gardens, Chick-fil-A, Corey Jones State Farm, Cox Communications, Gather, Riverside College of Health Careers, Troutman Sanders, LLP, and Virginia Media.

"While at Riverside I was able to watch students do surgical prep," said Laila, who spent the day at Riverside College of Health Careers. "I learned medical terminology and how to properly package organs for transport. Speaking one-on-one with the instructor really encouraged me to pursue anesthesiology."

Dreamers Keep the Music Going with Virtual Band Class!

As a result of all Virginia schools closing due to the COVID-19 crisis, teachers and students are having to think of new, innovative ways to stay connected with lesson plans during this time. This includes all of our Dreamers and staff at our five An Achievable Dream campuses. Although this time is challenging for all, the stories of perseverance by our students and how our teachers and staff go above and beyond to stay connected with them is truly inspiring.

One of the amazing ways that we’ve seen our Dreamers continue their learning during this time is at An Achievable Dream Middle & High School where band director, Jason Davis, continues to have virtual lessons with band students so that they can continue sharpening their skills while at home.

Upon initially hearing about the school closure, Davis and students in the band were disappointed and upset to know that all of their performances for the remainder of the year had been canceled, including the Concert State Assessment which was canceled the day before it was to take place.

"The students were heartbroken because we had all worked so hard to prepare for the State Assessment. It was my responsibility to continue to encourage them and let them know that this was not the end, and that we would work even harder to prepare for next year’s State Assessment," Davis said.

The next reaction is one that we all can relate to during this time: what would happen next? What could the band students do while not being in school to continue to learn and practice their instruments with the guidance of their teacher? That’s when Davis implemented the idea of having a virtual band class with his students and their instruments.

"I had a talk with my students and we all decided to keep the class as normal as possible during this time.

AAD Middle & High School 7th grader, Jaymi, practices her flute at home.

I did not want the students to lose any musical techniques that they had learned so far. I really wanted them to keep playing during this time so that when school is re-opened the band program will not be behind."

In the virtual band lessons, the students are tasked with learning a brand new scale or reviewing older

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In honor of the late Alan Diamonstein, a true champion of An Achievable Dream who passed away last October, An Achievable Dream received more than $11,000 in donations in his memory. With these memorial donations, An Achievable Dream has created the Alan A. Diamonstein Memorial Fund and the Alan A. Diamonstein Scholarship. Two annual scholarships, each in the amount of $500, will be awarded to two students each year who are planning to attend the University of Virginia.

Since beginning his political career, Alan Diamonstein was a tireless and passionate advocate for education, racial and socioeconomic equality, and women’s rights, to name a few. He provided many years of wise counsel as both a friend of AAD founder, Walter Segaloff, later attorney and board member for AAD, and as mentor and dear friend to current AAD president and CEO, Dr. Vreeland.

Mr. Diamonstein’s 34 years representing Newport News in the Virginia House of Delegates were spent connecting people, building relationships, and working ceaselessly to make the world and our region a better place. When once asked his greatest hope, he replied “That people understand each other, appreciate each other, and work with each other.”

During his long and distinguished career, he fought for greater state investment in higher education, backing legislation to allow the admission of undergraduate women to the University of Virginia (where he was an alumnus) and supporting bills to increase funding for the public university system’s general operations and student aid. He was a champion not only of education and women’s rights, but the rights of minorities and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds as well. He helped create the Virginia Housing Development Authority to help low-income residents obtain affordable housing and used his influence to push for diversity, placing women and minorities on state boards and commissions. In the 1960s, he was an outspoken proponent of the desegregation of Newport News schools, in spite of many local politicians strongly opposing it.

Yet, Mr. Diamonstein’s passion and activism was not limited to the State Capitol. He was energetically and passionately engaged with An Achievable Dream since the program’s founding. He loved the students, loved to visit the school, and loved to find creative and impactful ways to support the program and its families.

Mr. Diamonstein would frequently say that experience and exposure to the world are the most important opportunities a student could have. This past school year, to commemorate that vision and provide Dreamers with opportunities to experience the world beyond our local community, the Diamonstein Memorial Fund also helped two UVA Dreamer alumni, Janeen Graves and Najla Mills, travel to Africa to study abroad. Janeen and Najla traveled through different parts of Ghana learning about the cultures and conditions that emerged following colonization. They toured historical sites such as Assin Manso in Kumasi, both the Cape Coast and Elmina Castles in the Cape Coast Colony, and the W.E.B. DuBois center in Accra. Experiencing these sites were essential to their cultivated understanding of The Year of Return and what it means within the African diaspora.

“It means so much to the Diamonstein family to know that Alan’s lifelong passion for education and equitable opportunities for all students lives on through this scholarship fund,” shares Beverly Diamonstein, wife of the late Mr. Diamonstein. “We are incredibly proud of the Dreamers and we know Alan would be too.”

Mr. Diamonstein’s legacy and commitment to education will continue to live on through our Dreamers to whom he was so dedicated.

“We know many, many students have been touched by Alan’s hard work and unending dedication over the years,” shares Dr. Vreeland. “And we know it does not end here. His memory and legacy are alive and well at the Dream, and I know Alan would be immensely proud not only of the Diamonstein Scholarship recipients, but of each and every one of our Dreamers as well. Theirs are the bright futures he worked to make possible every day.”
Casey Auto Group Provides Summer Experience for AAD Alumni

An Achievable Dream has always had a wonderful relationship with Art Casey and Casey Auto Group. This summer, Mr. Casey took a challenge and turned it into an opportunity for An Achievable Dream alumni!

With the pandemic, extra emphasis was placed on sanitation and cleanliness at all Casey dealerships. To tackle this project, Mr. Casey hired eight AAD alumni to sanitize door handles, waiting areas, and other high-traffic areas of the dealership to make sure customers felt more comfortable about being in the dealership.

The initial group of alumni were so successful that Mr. Casey hired additional alumni as well! These alumni were given the nickname of the “Casey Sanitation Crew” and they immediately made a great impression on all who came in contact with them in their roles. These students’ strong work ethic translated so well in the dealerships that additional opportunities in the parts department and customer service center were also made available to the alumni employees!

Jordan Alston is one alumnus who now works in the parts department at Casey Chevrolet, assisting with call-in orders, inventory checks, and even driving the parts truck.

“An Achievable Dream helped prepare me. I learned to pay attention to detail. An Achievable Dream also taught me integrity. Here we have the freedom to do what we want at our own pace, but because of the integrity that we learned, we do our work promptly,” Alston said. “It’s like having the perfect last name. It makes a lot of things possible, a lot of doors open because they already know we’re awesome because we went to An Achievable Dream. I’ve always heard to network, but here I’ve learned the importance. We have met a lot of people and they are teaching and helping us with our personal cars as well. This experience reminds me to remember where I came from and connect with it.”

Shirelle Linzy, who works at Casey Toyota said, “It’s very important for me to represent AAD very well in this position because they are the reason I am here and they stand for something greater than me! I am honored to be able to represent AAD.”

Our alumni are excelling in their roles at Casey Auto Group and are truly representing AAD well in doing so!

“Casey Auto Group has partnered with An Achievable Dream since its inception. I can truly say that of the things we have done so far, having the graduates of An Achievable Dream intern for us has been one of my favorites,” Art Casey said. “The graduates are customer-facing in our dealerships and they are doing a wonderful job. We are giving them a glimpse into the business side of operations while they are helping us maintain relationships. It’s a win-win.”

Virtual Band, continued from page 8
scales on a weekly basis. Students also have to complete music exercises in their method books. Davis provides a video lesson for the students in conjunction with the method book so that they can better understand the musical techniques that are being taught.

“I try to motivate my students by implementing fun ways for them to learn their scales and musical techniques. In the future I will task the students to have Zoom sectional practices to make sure they are still playing as a section together so that we can continue to grow as a band,” Davis said.

Although this is a difficult time for so many, including our Dreamers and their families, seeing our teachers continuing to interact with their students even while being at home and seeing our students continuing to push themselves to learn is truly inspiring. We can all take this lesson and use it as motivation to continue accomplishing our own personal goals during this time!

“This time has shown me how resilient my band students are and how they continue to become better musicians on their own,” Davis shared. “I am truly thankful for my students and if this experience has shown me anything, it’s to not take what we do in the classroom for granted once we do return.”
Candace Mason  
AAD Class of 2016

Candace graduated this spring from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Science. Among her honors, Candace graduated Cum Laude with a 3.5 GPA, was a recipient of the Black History in the Making Award, selected as Treasurer of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, recognized as a University Student Scholar at VCU, and accepted as a member of Delta Delta Epsilon Forensic Science Honor Society. Candace will be attending Towson University in Fall 2020 to continue her education! “If I could give advice to fellow Dreamers starting college, it would be to stay focused, make many connections, and enjoy every bit of it,” Mason said.

Zania Parker  
AAD Class of 2016

Zania graduated from Virginia State University this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. While at Virginia State, Zania served as VANITY’s treasurer and fundraising director for spring 2019 – spring 2020. Zania will be embarking on her entrepreneurial journey and attending Empire Beauty School in the fall to become a licensed cosmetologist. “My advice to the Class of 2020 preparing to enter college would be to take care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally, even on your most challenging days. College will expose you to many layers of life and they will all challenge you to evolve into a bigger and better you, at all costs,” Parker said. “Aligning your steps and actions with the future that you dream of manifesting will always be key, and taking the initiative to build connections among your colleagues, professors, and staff will always serve you well. Believe in yourself, stay safe, and never cease continuing to be great.”

Mekhi Garner  
AAD Class of 2015

Mekhi graduated from Old Dominion University in the spring with a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. After graduation, Mekhi began working at Huntington Ingalls Industries. “My advice to the Class of 2020 Dreamers is to never give up,” Garner said. “Many challenges will arise while you are in college or in your adult life in general, but it is up to you to be resilient and find ways to succeed no matter what. That is what builds strong character.”
What’s Happening at An Achievable Dream?

Activities and events prior to COVID-19 school closures

Our awesome partners at Newport News Sheriff’s Office took time out to learn some archery skills with AAD Middle and High School students!

Seatack Elementary hosted an African-American Read-In in celebration of Black History Month! This event featured guest readers from all over the Hampton Roads community, coming to read African-American children’s literature to our Dreamers.

We are excited to announce that thanks to Charles Barker Automotive, we now have our very own "Dream-Mobile" that will assist us in transporting our Dreamers to various field trips and new learning opportunities as well as delivering food and supplies during school closures!

Our partners at the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) stopped by for a game of hoops with our high school intramural boys! Members of the NNPD visit AAD Middle and High School twice a week to play basketball and engage in other mentorship opportunities with our students.

Our partners at Christopher Newport University visited AAD Middle & High School to make Captain’s Day a success! High school students participated in interactive sessions featuring STEM and college prep activities.

AAD staff brought breakfast and a little pick-me-up to our friends at Grafton High School on their first Saturday morning following their re-opening after a school fire.
Staying connected during COVID-19

Chef Kip, Chef Barry and Ms. Culver practiced their social distancing and planted a Victory Garden! The garden will be ready for our families this summer for Watering and Weeding Wednesdays, and families can come to harvest this Fall. Healthy food will be shared with our school community!

Third grade Dreamer, Kymani, stayed in the Dream spirit and in routine by choosing to put on her school uniform every day while she worked on her schoolwork at home.

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, teachers at AAD Middle & High School were treated to a “Pull-Up Appreciation Lunch!”

AAD teacher, Mrs. Culver, used FaceTime to check in on her student Zoe’s virtual art project. Zoe was able to share her project and what inspired her and also share chalk rainbows that she created on a nice day outside!

AAD Middle and High School AP English students Tylicia and Trey showcased their virtual learning skills and stayed on top of all of their assignments!
Being at home didn’t stop the creativity of our Dreamers. Siblings Maritza, Madison, Joella, and Quincy created homemade volcanoes for an interactive activity! Their mom worked with them to do a STEM activity each week of the school closure.

An Achievable Dream staff packed and delivered 50 bags of food to Ivy Baptist Church to supply 25 families in our community with food for two weeks!

Siblings Braden and Illyria showed how to stay creative and demonstrate teamwork while at home by doing various art and science projects together!
Since our spring and summer 2020 college graduates were not able to participate in a traditional ceremony with their peers, we wanted to let them know that we are proud of their accomplishments and it is still something to celebrate! Our staff visited our alumni graduates and surprised them with handwritten cards and gift cards!

AAD staff teamed up to surprise our seniors and rockstar underclassmen who finished their classes out strong with “Sunshine Baskets” and words of encouragement!

An Achievable Dream Academy sent off our 5th graders in style with a drive-through Promotion Ceremony! Good luck to all of our rising 6th graders!
As we navigate this season of uncertainty, we know we will need each other more than ever. Our students and their families are strongly affected by the COVID-19 epidemic and accompanying precautions, and the needs vary widely from food, supplies, and academic support. An Achievable Dream will need the support of our friends and partners during this time as we work hard to ensure that our students are still equipped to succeed, no matter what happens.

Here are 3 ways you can help AAD students and their families:

1. **Give to Annual Fund**

   Help keep AAD operating by supporting our annual fund. This will be a difficult season as many regular fundraising activities have been interrupted or halted altogether. We don’t know what recovery will look like yet, but we do know that nothing can stand in the way of providing our students with the education, resources and opportunities they deserve!

2. **Give to Food for Families fund**

   We are providing—and will continue to provide as long as necessary—food, school supplies and hygiene items to our families. The cost of a two-week supply bag is $100. Please consider giving to support this effort! Just $100 can supply food and supplies for a family for two weeks.

3. **Give to support college students**

   Help us support our college students as they navigate this stressful and unexpected change! We are providing food for our college students who are now at home after campus closures, as well as technology support and other supplies needed to complete their coursework.

Visit AchievableDream.org to help support our Dreamers through the challenges of COVID-19!