



ON CAMPUS

## The Student Ambassador Program

Since 2000, the Student Ambassador program has been an important link between the Arizona School of the Arts student body and the greater Phoenix community. Originally conceived as a shadow program allowing potential ASA students to attend the school for the day with an Ambassador, it has grown to include campus tours, helping to facilitate ASA events like New Student Orientation and the Club Fair and representing ASA at community events such as Arts Congress and Noche en Blanco.

Led this year by Eleventh Grade English Teacher Chad Kurzawski, this group of exceptional eighth through twelfth graders exemplify the core values of ASA. Ambassadors are chosen through an application process which can attract as many as seventy-five hopeful candidates in a given application cycle. Students join for varying reasons such as seeing it as a way to overcome some innate shyness and become more involved at the school, or joining a sibling as an Ambassador, or even as a means to connect with the Phoenix arts community. The common thread is a group of young adults finding a way to be of service to their school and city.

If one is fortunate enough to sit down and speak with the Lead Ambassadors, you will find a group of poised individuals who will tell you how they have benefited from working in this program as much as they benefitted the school. Comprised of Juniors and Seniors, they take the role modeling one step further by acting as mentors within the program itself. They find satisfaction in connecting with prospective and current students but greatly enjoy guiding the younger Ambassadors, helping them grow up in the program as many of them have.

While the pandemic may have curtailed the demand for campus tours and other public events, the ASA Ambassadors have not been idle. The Ambassadors have used this time to work on revising the application process so that it is streamlined and more equitable, working in partnership with ASA coalition clubs to provide equitable leadership training for all student participants and advocating for more equity in education. The Lead Ambassadors also believe the online meetings have created a new way to see and speak to each other, perhaps in the long run making them a stronger group.

The campus tour is where the Ambassadors shine and it has become a much larger responsibility with the expansion of the campus. While some of you may have attended Arizona School for the Arts when it was held at First Church and maybe the Annex, the school now includes two multi-story buildings known as North and South as well as Main linked together with a lovely violin-shaped courtyard featuring the ASA Bandshell. You can get a pigeon's-eye view of the campus in the video, [A Day at ASA](#) or better yet, take an Ambassador-guided [video tour](#).

Of course, we look forward to the day we can welcome you back to the campus itself and members of the Ambassador team can take you in person to see all the features of which all of us here at ASA are so proud. At the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to move from an Online learning model to a Hybrid model beginning at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. We are excited to bring life back to the school with the return of our staff, teachers and students -- from our fifth graders who have never attended class on campus to our Seniors who will finally get to spend some of their last year at ASA with their friends and classmates. Should conditions continue to improve, we may begin to be able to invite visitors here as well and we hope to see you sometime soon. In the meantime, keep up with us on the [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to find out about school happening and see all the great things our students do.

