

A Communication Link Between Our Students, Faculty and Administration

School Year 2021-2022, Quarter 4



“A bridge is a device that supports the strings on a stringed musical instrument and transmits the vibration of those strings to another structural component of the instrument – typically a soundboard, such as the top of a guitar or violin – which transfers the sound to the surrounding air.” - Wikipedia



THIS QUARTER'S
TOP STORIES

CET Times

Hear ye, hear ye!

The Core Equity Team has been busy this term with two major tasks.

First, the Restorative Justice Committee has been working hard to design and implement clear and equitable guidelines, interventions, and consequences for actions taken in the ASA community. The goal is to have a resource that students, parents, staff -- all stakeholders -- can use to determine what is and is not acceptable on campus, and make it clear what potential action steps may be taken when guidelines and policies are violated. Next steps for the Restorative Justice Committee will be to ensure that training and systems are put in place to ensure implementation of these new guidelines.

Secondly, the Equity Statement Committee has put together that survey that you (hopefully) responded to! They are going to synthesize responses from across every stakeholder population of the ASA community and develop an ASA Equity Statement that will hold us all accountable for creating and sustaining an equitable school in which all students are seen, valued, and able to

thrive. It is the Committee's goal to have this statement ready to roll out for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. They are thrilled that so many of you are open to be part of the discussions next year as the work continues to evolve!

Core Equity Team Member Feature

Last quarter we showed you who the CET is and the group's goals for the ASA community. This quarter, we would like to highlight two very important members, because they come from among our student population: Amara Washington-Bess and Amalia Nevarez. As Honorary Student Board Members, both Amara and Amalia were invited to join the CET. They have been able to share their unique experiences as students and as young adults of color.

An honors student, Amalia Nevarez is a Junior who is a member of Concert Choir and studies Piano.



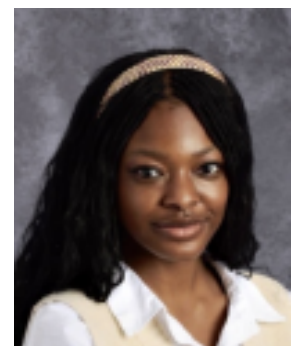
She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M, Mu Alpha Theta, Model United Nations, the Hispanic Student Union, and Coalition. Amalia is equally active outside of school as a member of the Arizona Department of Education's Latinx Advisory Council and the Arizona Science Center Teen Advisory Board.

When asked why being an Honorary Student Board Member as well as a part of the Core Equity Team was important to her, Amalia gave this thoughtful response, "For me the most important part of being a Student Honorary Board Member is helping improve the student-admin connection.

Communicating the work of the board to my classmates helps create a more unified campus and allows for more clarity all around. Vice versa, I feel that it is equally important to communicate the needs and general sentiments of the student body to the board so that they can have an accurate depiction of student life and make fully informed decisions. Being an Honorary Board Member comes with the privilege of being part of the Core Equity Team, which I would say is definitely my favorite part of the position. Getting to hear and take part in the discussions being had around the issues that affect me and classmates has been incredibly rewarding as well as insightful. It is so important to have the student voice in decisions being made about students, and being able to be half of that representation this past year has been an amazing experience. From attending an equity training with the staff to participating in our early morning Power Wednesday calls, I have been able to gain new perspectives as well as share my own. I can't wait for this next year!" And we are looking forward to more of Amalia's insights and usual active participation during her Senior year.

Senior Amara Washington-Bess is also an excellent student who received early acceptance to Fordham University in New York City; and they are lucky to get such a well-rounded person! Not only does she play violin in the Chamber Orchestra, but she is also a Strings Teaching Assistant. Amara is also Vice President of her class, President of the Black Student Union, and a member of Coalition.

We are so pleased that Amara will be continuing on the Board of Directors as our Honorary Alumni Board Member next year. Her voice has been an important one at ASA and we are lucky to still have a share of her time while she simultaneously makes her mark at Fordham.





With Amara's impending graduation, we knew we had big shoes to fill. Earlier this month, a panel consisting of Honorary Board Members, a member of the Governance Committee and our Head of School, interviewed seven excellent candidates for the upcoming Honorary Student Board Member opening. Junior Madeline Yang was selected and we are looking forward to her service and hearing her perspectives next year.

Happenings Around Campus

A Letter from the Head of School

Dear ASA Students,

For the last several months, ASA has been working with Avenir Consulting Partners to collect feedback from students, parents, faculty and the ASA Board of Directors to understand how we can make enhancements to the ASA organization, culture, operations and overall arts and academic experience. For several months, I have been working to determine the best organizational and leadership structure to support ASA's mission and to build trust through transparency, new capacity, re-structured roles and ultimately, a safe and inclusive culture.

As we approach the end of the school year, I wanted to share some organizational changes with you. The reason for sharing this information now is because we wanted to give you a chance to process and ask questions before you depart for your well deserved summer break. We are sharing what we know right now, which is what the senior leadership level will look like. There is still work to be done and we will continue to refine roles, and responsibilities throughout the summer.

First, after 25 years at ASA, Sara Maline will be leaving ASA at the end of the year. Throughout Sara's tenure with ASA, she has held multiple roles - teacher, mentor, counselor, Vice Principal and Principal, colleague and friend. She led ASA through the transition from 400 to over 800 students and through complex times of growth, change, and a pandemic. We are grateful to Sara for her support of our school and parents throughout her years here. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. An expansive search for the next ASA Principal will begin immediately.

Drew Maxwell has resigned his position as Operations Director at ASA and is no longer with the school. Drew spent the last several years at ASA, building a 1:1 technology environment, school and neighborhood safety initiatives and took a leadership role with all operations and health matters related to COVID-19. We want to thank Drew for his care of our campus, students and teams and wish Drew the best on his new journey. We have already begun the search for a new Operations Director.

In addition to hiring a new Principal and Operations Director, We will begin the 2022-2023 school year with some significant shifts in our senior leadership organizational structure. We have replaced the current two vice principal level positions with three new positions: Dean of Arts; Dean of Academics; and Dean of Students. These roles will report to the Principal and will work in close partnership to accomplish the mission and vision of ASA. This new structure will provide more adequate support for our faculty and students. I will be meeting with the faculty regularly during the transition. Monica Anthony will assume the role of Dean of Arts and Eva Miles will assume the role of Dean of Students. The job description for the Dean of Academics will be posted and we will begin recruitment immediately.

I am attaching a copy of a revised organizational chart showing the new senior leadership structure in order to give you a visual reference to the changes I have discussed.

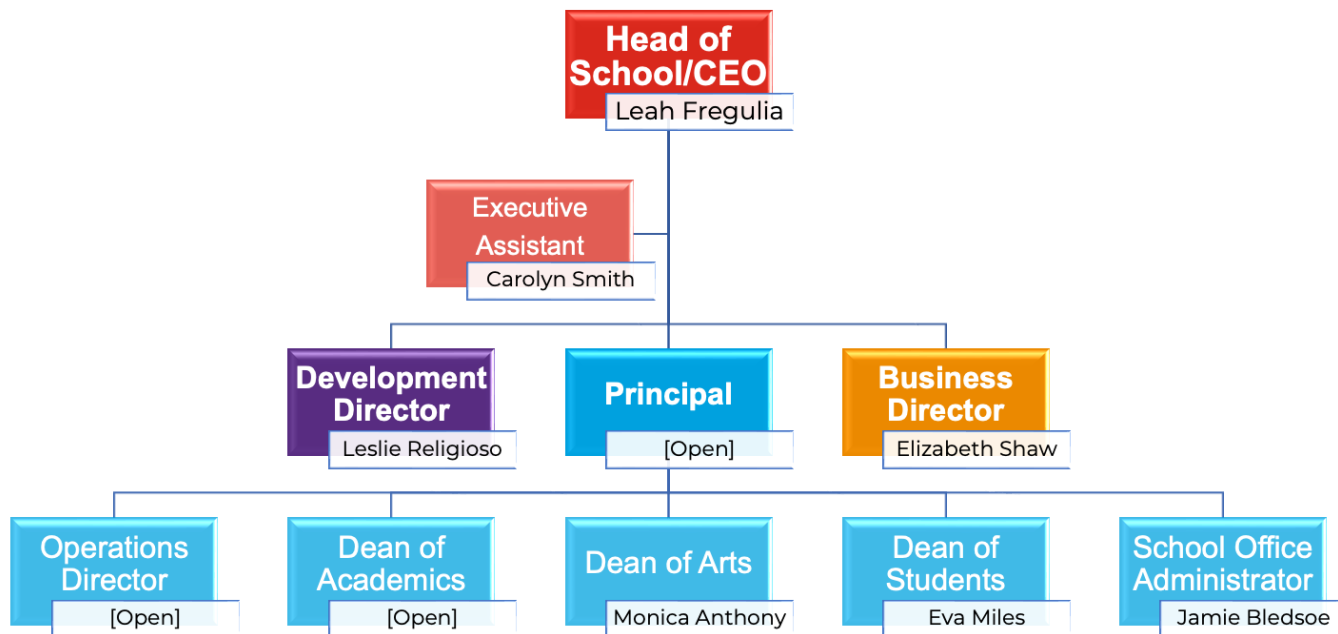
We know how important it is that ASA has a new vision for leadership, and clear roles and responsibilities. We will spend the summer continuing to refine the additional layers of the organizational structure and bringing clarity to all roles and responsibilities. We can't wait to share more with you in August before we return to school!

Sincerely,

Ms. Fregulia

Head of School/CEO

Revised Organizational Chart



Something to Share?

Do you have an article on a student activity or celebration to contribute? Please send the information to: thebridge@goasa.org

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