

Jr./Sr. High School

Policy Manual

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www.ARChristian.org

*Policies are subject to change without prior notification

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Mission Statement

To provide an excellent education based on God's Word and help students realize their unique purpose in God's plan. To teach students how to respond productively to God's call.

After reading the Arkansas Christian Academy Policy Manual, parents must read and sign the Statement of Responsibility located in the online enrollment packet. This form states that you have read, and are in agreement with, the policies and procedures of Arkansas Christian Academy. It is the responsibility of both parents and students to stay informed regarding any changes or updates to this Policy Manual, which will be kept current on the school website.

VISION STATEMENT

Arkansas Christian Academy exists to provide a quality Christian education, empowering and equipping students to walk in their God given purpose and become strong Christian leaders who will serve the Lord.

COOPERATION EXPECTATIONS

All parents with children attending Arkansas Christian Academy and Preschool should desire to have their child educated in accordance with our conservative, fundamental Judeo-Christian scriptural position, which includes but is not limited to, the following beliefs:

1. Sanctity of life at conception (Jeremiah 1:5)
2. All people are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27-28)
3. Traditional model of marriage (Genesis 2:21-24, Ephesians 5:21-33)
4. One's body is the temple of Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 5:19-21, Galatians 5:16-25)
5. See Statement of Faith, which can be found on the school website at https://www.archristian.org/about-aca/statement-of-faith.cfm

Parents who find themselves in disagreement with the program and scriptural position at Arkansas Christian Academy or Preschool retain the right to remove their child. Likewise, the Administration of Arkansas Christian Academy or Preschool retains the right to dismiss anyone from the program who, in the sole judgment of the Administration, is considered to be uncooperative with the program.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following are the goals and objectives of Arkansas Christian Academy:

1. Arkansas Christian Academy accepts the responsibility of providing a quality Christian education to all students, both spiritually and academically.

2. Our goals are to support the home and to provide excellent facilities, equipment, and Godly instructors for the development of Christian character in the lives of the students entrusted to our care.

3. We believe that the heart of character training is obedience. To obey, to do right, and to love God and our country are the qualities we want to instill in each student.

4. It is our desire to minister to the whole child: spirit, soul, and body.

5. We endeavor to provide opportunities that will equip students to become strong Christian leaders who will serve the Lord in their vocation.

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

"Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and the man that gets understanding" *(Proverbs 3:13).* The Christian Philosophy of Education at Arkansas Christian Academy is as follows:

1. We believe that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" and that all knowledge has its foundation in the Word of God.

2. We teach the Bible as God's inspired Word and assist the students in developing attitudes of love and respect in relation to it.

3. We train students to hope in the Lord, to love Him, and to keep His commandments.

4. We encourage students to know and obey the will of God, as revealed in Scripture.

5. We seek to impart an understanding of the purpose of discipline and to teach students to govern themselves by the power of the Holy Spirit.

6. We strive to stimulate and enlarge the student's involvement in the Church and its worldwide tasks of witnessing and evangelizing.

7. We encourage students to develop "the mind of Christ" toward Godliness, to overcome, and to live victoriously.

8. We teach the Biblical principles of healing, deliverance, and prosperity.

TEACHING STAFF

CODE OF ETHICS OF ARKANSAS EDUCATORS

Standard 1:

An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both inside and outside the classroom.

Standard 2:

An educator maintains competence regarding skills, knowledge, and dispositions relating to his/her organizational position, subject matter, and/or pedagogical practice.

Standard 3:

An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.

Standard 4:

An educator, entrusted with ministry funds and property, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.

Standard 5:

An educator maintains integrity regarding the acceptance of any gratuity, gift, compensation, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decision or action and shall refrain from using the educator's position for personal gain.

Standard 6:

An educator keeps in confidence secure standardized test material, as well as information about students and colleagues obtained during professional service, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose or is allowed or required by law.

Standard 7:

An educator refrains from using, possessing, and/or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or unauthorized drugs while on school premises or at school-sponsored activities involving students. (See Code of Conduct for ACA staff.)

The faculty and staff of Arkansas Christian Academy are committed Christians, called of God to teach, train, and minister to the whole child: spirit, soul, and body. We believe our teachers are important role models and have a tremendous impact on the lives of our students. We recognize the importance of parental involvement in the educational process, and we encourage parents to be active in their child's school experiences. Cooperation between the school and parents is essential to a successful education.

Arkansas Christian Academy Administration reserves the right to dismiss a teacher whose presence is considered detrimental to the best interests of the school, in general. We further realize there may be occasions when administrative discussions are not fully understood or even agreed upon by students, parents, and staff. In such cases, we expect said parties to be supportive and submissive to authority and to stand in unity with administration. Teachers are required to communicate and conduct themselves with professional Christian conduct before students, parents, and coworkers. Those failing to do so may be reprimanded, suspended without pay, or terminated without severance.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL POLICIES GOVERNING ALL ADMISSIONS

1. Final acceptance of students and grade level placement is based upon interview between parents, child, and administrator.
2. Enrollment for students is understood to be for the full school year. Withdrawals from school must be made through the school office and a Withdrawal Form must be completed **immediately** to avoid unnecessary charges to a student's account. Withdrawal Form is accessible online at https://www.archristian.org/admissions/student_withdrawal_form.cfm.

3. A student is expected to meet the academic standards of the school. He/She must be willing to abide by the regulations and customs of ACA in attitude and action.
4. ACA Administration reserves the right to dismiss a student whose presence is considered detrimental to the best interests of the school, in general. The school reserves the right to refuse re-admittance to any student at the beginning of any semester.

NEW STUDENTS

A student is admitted to Arkansas Christian Academy based on the following:

1. Satisfactory completion of all application/enrollment forms and payment of all fees in full.
2. **Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by August 1st.**
3. Interview with parent and student by administration.
4. Current report card, test scores, and list of references from previous school (including names, emails, and phone numbers).
5. Satisfactory results on placement test, if applicable (grade placement will be determined by administration).
6. Must provide a copy of current immunization record, birth certificate, and transcript from former school(s).
7. Agreement to comply with policies and procedures of Arkansas Christian Academy.

ACA does not admit students who have been suspended or expelled from another school/preschool.

RETURNING STUDENTS

A returning student is admitted to Arkansas Christian Academy based on the following:

1. Satisfactory academic performance and conduct. NOTE: Students not maintaining a C average, suspended, expelled, or exceeding 3 office referrals will be accepted on a probationary status only.
2. Current immunization record on file.
3. Parent involvement and support.
4. All financial obligations satisfied.
5. Payment of enrollment deposit and Enrollment Agreement submitted.

RE-ENROLLMENT PROCESS

ACA operates on a Continuous Enrollment Model, which means all students are considered returning and are automatically re-enrolled each year, unless opted out. If a student WILL NOT be returning for the next academic year, parents must complete the Continuous Enrollment Opt-out Form by the designated deadline in order to avoid the non-refundable enrollment deposit. Completion of the Continuous Enrollment process includes receipt and submission of the Enrollment Agreement, followed by an invoice and subsequent draft of the enrollment deposit, as outlined on the school website. Failure to submit the Enrollment Agreement by the deadline will be considered an opt-out and result in immediate withdrawal of the student for the upcoming school year.

If a student opts out of Continuous Enrollment, but later decides to re-enroll, a $250 re-enrollment fee will be due at the time of re-enrollment, in addition to the enrollment deposit. Please visit our school website for complete information, including forms, fees, and deadlines.

WITHDRAWAL/DISMISSAL FROM ACA

All fees are non-refundable/non-transferable. Withdrawals from school must be made through the school office and a withdrawal form must be immediately completed online. Records will not be released until the account is current. If a student attends any portion of a month, the entire month's tuition must be paid.

Please refer to your Enrollment Agreement for all terms of your contract. Mid-year withdrawals are subject to the entire remaining annual tuition immediately becoming due and payable, including the addition of a $500 withdrawal fee.

All withdrawals are subject to approval from the administration. A student may be dismissed when he/she is found out of harmony with the rules and policies of the school.

TUITION, FEES, AND PAYMENTS

TUITION AND FEES AGREEMENT

Arkansas Christian Academy hires teachers on an annual basis, secures equipment, and makes necessary provision on the strength of student enrollment. Our ability to meet the needs of the school depends upon your adherence to this tuition contract. Please seriously consider the obligation before signing. Any refunds issued are at the discretion of administration, and any approved refunds will be provided less a $100 processing fee per child. All financial obligations must be satisfied, and all paperwork submitted and approved before admittance. Discounts may be available for multiple students, who are dependent children living under the same roof, and must be approved by administration prior to admittance. Please contact the office for more information. This contract is binding for an entire school year. A $250 re-enrollment fee will be charged if a student leaves and returns during the same school year.

A student is expected to meet the academic standards of the school and to conform to the policies of the school to retain his/her place. The school reserves the right to insist upon the immediate dismissal of any student whose presence in the school is considered detrimental to ACA. Tuition will be billed regardless of student's attendance. Failure to provide written notice may forfeit any credits/refunds and may delay discontinuation of bank draft.

TUITION PAYMENTS AND FACTS

Tuition rates and fees information may be viewed at www.ARChristian.org. SPED/IEP may incur additional charges.

Arkansas Christian Academy uses FACTS payment processing for all tuition and billing. All families must have a FACTS account. Families can select between 4 payment plans: Yearly Pay (Aug), Semester Pay (Aug and Jan), 10-Month Plan (Aug-May), or 11-Month Plan (July-May). Tuition payments are made via monthly draft on the 5th day of the month. **All fees and tuition payments are non-refundable/non-transferable.**

EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNT (EFA) TUITION FUNDING

The LEARNS Act, which became Arkansas law in 2023, authorizes state funded tuition credits that qualified and approved parents may use to help pay tuition at Arkansas private schools, including Arkansas Christian Academy. Parents must apply through the Arkansas Department of Education and meet certain criteria to be approved for and receive this funding. The tuition payments are in the name of the student/family and are made directly to the school

from the Department of Education, by way of an online payment portal. Receipt of EFA funding does not in any way reduce the parent responsibility for their tuition obligation, but rather, parents can use this funding to pay a part of their tuition obligation. These payments reduce a family's out-of-pocket expense while the student remains enrolled at our school if all required steps are completed, as outlined by the program.

Parents must provide documentation of tuition charges to the Department of Education via the EFA Online Portal, and the school is required to verify ongoing enrollment of the student. EFA payments are then electronically disbursed to the school quarterly.

Parents must continue to reaffirm attendance and tuition charges throughout attendance at Arkansas Christian Academy to continue to receive the EFA funding in subsequent years.

BALANCES AND FEES

Arkansas Christian Academy reserves the right to include all outstanding balances and fees in the bank draft. In the case of split families where financial responsibility is shared, it is our policy that the enrolling parent will assume total responsibility of his/her student's account should the secondary party become delinquent. **No report cards or records will be released if accounts are not paid in full.** Your account must be cleared 7 days from the date the school notifies you of your insufficient funds or this could result in the dismissal of your student.

Failed Draft	Resulting Fee
Insufficient Funds	Accounts will be charged $50.00 for funds returned as insufficient, in addition to any fees charged by FACTS

All billing is initiated through the FACTS system. Families will receive email notification of any incidental bills placed on their account, as well as the date of the draft relating to that bill, if applicable. Items billed through Incidental Billing include, but are not limited to, athletic fees, field trip fees, library fees, lost/damaged textbooks, etc.

Administrative Processing Fee - There will be a $3.00 fee per page for any requested photocopied documents from your file. All documents must be approved by administration prior to release.

CAMPUS CASH – STUDENT ACCOUNTS AND PURCHASES

Each family is given a prepaid account within the FACTS system, known as a Campus Cash account. This account will be utilized by students/families to pay for items purchased on the ACA campus, such as lunches, concessions, game admission, etc. Campus Cash accounts must be maintained with sufficient funds to cover purchases. Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring Campus Cash balances and ensuring adequate funds are available for all students associated with their household account.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

FACTS will send an email notification when a Campus Cash balance falls below $15. Parents/guardians are responsible for reviewing these notifications and adding funds, as needed, to prevent the account from becoming negative.

If a Campus Cash account becomes negative, a $20 insufficient funds fee will be charged.

If the account is not brought current immediately:

- The Campus Cash account will be suspended, and no additional charges will be permitted.
- If a student does not have a lunch provided, ACA will provide the student with a hot lunch and charge the cost to the Campus Cash account, plus a $5 processing fee.

If a negative balance becomes an ongoing issue, the Campus Cash account may be permanently suspended.

For households with multiple students, the parent/guardian is responsible for maintaining adequate funds in the account to cover purchases for all students and to prevent the account from becoming negative.

STUDENT PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS

When using Campus Cash at any ACA location:

- K5-6th grade: Students must be accompanied by a parent when making a Campus Cash purchase (not including those made within the school day from 7:30am-3:25pm).
- 7th-12th grade: Students must present their ACA student ID when making a Campus Cash purchase.

REFERRAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

To show our appreciation for the good word you are spreading throughout Saline County and the surrounding area about ACA, we offer a referral incentive program. We will issue a $50.00 credit to your ACA account for each new family that lists your name on their enrollment application, as a referral.

Only one referral may be listed on the application for admission, and this must be included during the initial registration. Referrals given after the registration has been completed will not be credited. Returning students will not be considered as a new referral and are not eligible for credit.

The credit will be deducted from your ACA draft as soon as the referred child has attended for 90 days.

UNIFORM

Arkansas Christian Academy's Uniform Policy is intended to honor God and encourage modesty, decency, and propriety. Furthermore, a uniform allows the teacher to focus on academics without wasting precious classroom time on clothing discussions. It is expected that students always maintain high standards of modesty and decency. All elements of the uniform policy should be honored upon student arrival at school and remain in effect until the end of the school day. Provisions and standards relating to modesty and decency should be respected by the students and are enforceable by the staff anywhere on the campus (inside the building or on the grounds) and at all times.

Uniform Policy

BODY DECORATIONS	**Visible Tattoos** - Not allowed. **Piercings** - Limited to girls' *ears* only. No gauges. **Nail Polish** - Limited to girls only.
HAIR, HAIR ACCESSORIES,	**Color/Style** - Hair must be neatly combed or brushed for school. No hairstyles that disrupt the learning environment and no hair coloring that can be considered unnatural. This

AND HEADWEAR	includes hair extensions, tinsel, etc. Small fro styles are allowed if the hair is no more than approximately 2" off the scalp. **Boys' Hair** – Traditional haircuts only. Hair should not extend below the eyebrows, tops of ears or top of collar. No mullets, mohawks/fauxhawks, braids, buns, ponytails, etc. **Facial hair -** Must be neatly trimmed close to the face. **Hair Accessories** - Optional for girls. **Headwear** - Restricted to outside areas.
SHIRTS	**Uniform Shirts** (except undershirts) - Must be purchased from our official uniform supplier (includes polos and pullover tops). Pullover tops require an approved undershirt to be worn underneath. Uniform shirts will always display this logo: **Polo Shirt-tails** - Must be long enough to not show the midriff when reaching up or bending over. No tight/undersized or oversized shirts. MS/HS students' shirttails may remain untucked. **Long/Short-sleeved Undershirts** (optional) - May be purchased from any store. Color – Solid Purple, Black, White, or Grey with no visible logo. **Layering** - Outermost layer must be a uniform shirt at all times. **ACA Spirit Wear** - Must be purchased from our official uniform supplier and may be worn with blue jeans/uniform bottoms on Fridays for $1.
OUTERWEAR	**Outerwear with Logo Worn in Class** - Must be purchased from our official uniform supplier and worn with a uniform shirt underneath. Outerwear is defined as full-zip items. **Outerwear without ACA Logo** - Restricted to outside areas **only**.
PANTS AND BELTS	**Pants** - May be purchased from our official uniform supplier or the uniform department of any department store, provided they are of a similar style as those provided by uniform supplier. **Color** - Khaki or Black **Style** - Classic or traditional uniform styles. May be pleated or flat front. **Belt -** Required with tucked shirt and must be solid black, brown, or white with modest buckle/fastener. **K – 2nd Grade Only** - Pants may have elastic waist. **Not Permitted**: logos, skinny/tight styles, denim (except Fridays), Capri or jogger-style pants, corduroy, decorations, cargo pants, zip pockets, string/ribbon ties at waist.

SHORTS, SKORTS, AND SKIRTS	**Shorts/Skorts/Skirts** - May be purchased from our official uniform supplier or the uniform department of any department store, provided they are of a similar style as those provided by the official uniform supplier and meet the length requirement. **Skorts/Skirts** - May be worn by girls only and shorts must be worn under skirts. **Length** - No shorter than 2 inches above the knee. **Colors** - Khaki or Black (Skirts/skorts only may be ACA plaid, purchased from official uniform supplier only.) **Style** - Classic or traditional uniform styles. Shorts may be pleated or flat front. **K – 2nd grade only** - Shorts may have elastic waist. **Not Permitted**: logos, skinny/tight styles, denim (except Fridays), corduroy, cargo shorts, decorations, string/ribbon ties at waist
SHOES, SOCKS, AND LEGGINGS	**Shoes** – Elementary: Tennis shoes only. Middle/High: Non-marking loafer or tennis shoes (lace-up or slip-on) only. **Socks** - Must be solid black, white, grey, or purple and coordinate with uniform shirt. **Tights/Leggings** - May only be worn by girls under a uniform skirt/skort and must be solid black, white, or grey.
P.E. UNIFORM 6-12th grade only	**PE Shirts** - Must be purchased from our official uniform supplier. **Shorts** - No shorter than 2 inches above the knee. May be purchased from official uniform supplier or any store provided they are of a similar style and meet the length requirement. **Compression Shorts** - May be worn underneath to meet length requirement.
****All logos are the property of Arkansas Christian Academy; any replication is strictly prohibited**	

BLUE JEAN FRIDAYS

As a school-wide fundraiser, students may wear jeans with Spirit Wear or other ACA-approved shirts on Fridays with payment of $1. Jeans must be free from any rips, holes, or patches.

MS/HS: Rubber sole boots are allowed to be worn on Blue Jean Friday.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school day begins at 8:00am. Students may arrive as early as 7:30am without being considered in Extended Care. Students who are not in class when the bell rings at 8:00am will be marked as tardy. All students are to be picked up promptly at 3:30 pm, unless under the supervision of a coach or teacher at an after-school activity. Those students (through age 12) remaining after carline will be taken to Extended Care.

DROP OFF / PICK UP

- **Please observe a 5mph speed limit and proceed cautiously while on school grounds.**

- **DO NOT** leave your vehicle unattended in line while waiting for school to dismiss.
- **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle; someone will assist your child(ren) into your vehicle.
- Please park in designated parking areas only if you are picking up/dropping off early, or if you are picking up both ACA and preschool students. In such cases, you are permitted to use the crosswalk to enter/exit building.
- **Per AR Code 27-51-1609, "A driver of a motor vehicle shall not use a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle when passing a school building or school zone during school hours when children are present and outside the building, except for an emergency purpose."**

PARENT/TEACHER INTERACTION

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Valuable information is available at regularly-scheduled Parent-Teacher Meetings. Policies vital to the consistent training of the child will be discussed. The nature of the Parent-Teacher Meetings will vary from time to time, but the general objectives of the meeting are as follows:

1. To acquaint the parent with the philosophy of Christian education and the curriculum of the school.
2. To acquaint both the teacher and the parent with the importance of recognizing and fulfilling the emotional, spiritual, academic, and disciplinary needs of the child.
3. To provide the parents an opportunity to see and discuss the achievements of the child in the classroom.

Teachers are always happy to meet with parents at a scheduled time. After-school and phone appointments are available for parents who desire to speak with their child's teacher. Please contact the teacher directly via email to schedule an appointment or arrangements can be made through the school office. We discourage phone calls to the teacher's home in the evening. Parent-Teacher Conferences are mandatory in the fall semester for all students unless approved by the administration.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to write a note, email the teacher, or call the office to arrange a conference if a need arises. Parents are not to interrupt a class during school hours but may go through the office to contact a student or teacher.

FACTS SIS

FACTS SIS School Management Software is an online tool used by ACA to facilitate communication regarding your students' progress throughout the year. You can easily view your child's homework, grades, conduct, attendance, etc. through FACTS Family Portal or by downloading the RenWeb Home App.

PARENT-STAFF COMMUNICATION

Only the administration can give approval for any exceptions to the written policy. These exceptions MUST be written and signed by administration. Conversations and agreements with staff and faculty that are contrary to policy will not be accepted without written confirmation from the administration.

ATTENDANCE

Prompt and regular attendance is expected. An early bedtime, a good breakfast, and a happy send off from home help children succeed in school. Good attendance is the responsibility of the parent. Many routines are being formed in these early years that will affect your student's learning habits as they mature.

Arkansas Christian Academy and its staff are committed to creating an environment of maximum spiritual, academic and social development. Excessive absences and tardies hinder this objective.

Please attempt to schedule any doctor or dental appointments after school.

Parents should notify the school office by 8:00 am on days when their child is absent.

After arriving at school, a student may not leave for any reason, without permission from the school office.

STUDENT RELEASE

All changes to the student's pick-up list must be made from within FACTS Family Portal. If a change is made that differs from the student's established routine, a note or phone call **must** be received by the school, prior to 3:00pm the day of release, to notify staff of the change. Changes requiring school notification include both additions to **and** subtractions from the list.

No student will be released to any person that is not on the student's pick-up list. If you are unable to update your student's pickup list in FACTS Family Portal, due to a last-minute change of plans or a technological issue, you must send an email to the school **and** follow up with a phone call prior to release.

EARLY WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

Early withdrawal from class is strongly discouraged as it disrupts the flow of academic procedure. If a student must be withdrawn from class early, the following procedures must be followed:

CHECK OUT BY ADULT

1. Please send a note signed by a parent containing the following information, should you plan to have your student checked out early: name of person checking student out, reason, time, and date of early checkout. *Phone calls alone will not be accepted as authorization for pick up*. To ensure your child's safety, fax and phone will not be acceptable to alter the pick-up list. You must make all adjustments to the student's pick-up list from within your FACTS Family Portal account.

2. If anyone other than the parent who wrote the note is to pick up the student, **that person must be on the student's pick-up list and have the proper photo ID or student will not be checked out.** The supervising adult must come to the school office to check out and sign student back in upon returning to school.

SELF-CHECK OUT BY STUDENT DRIVER

1. Students must bring a note signed by a parent containing the date, time, and reason for check out.
2. The parent must also call the school and verify the note.

*If there is a last-minute change of plans and a note was not sent with the student, parents must **email and call** the school to release the student.

Phone calls alone will not be accepted as authorization for pick up.

***Checkout after 3:00PM is prohibited**

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Student absences will be excused for the following reasons:

- **Court appearance** - Must have documentation
- **Medical appointments** - Must have doctor's note
- **Serious illness in the immediate family** - Parents/guardians, siblings, and grandparents
- **Death in the family** - Must have a note from parent
- **Student illness** - Up to 2 parent notes will be accepted per nine weeks for student illness ONLY. Each note may excuse an occurrence of illness of up to 2 consecutive days.
- **Approved Personal Use (APU) Absences** - Students are allowed 3 approved personal use absences per school year. Parents must request written approval by emailing the office no later than 9am at least 2 school days in advance for these absences. Students will be given all classwork/homework prior to departure and are expected to submit these assignments immediately on the day of return (or they will receive zeros). Tests/Quizzes given during APU Absences will be made up promptly upon return.
- **Non-School Sponsored Activities (NSA)** – Explained below. NSA Absences must meet all required criteria in order to be excused.
- **"Black Out Days" - Students cannot request APU or NSA absences during:**
    - **1) Standardized testing week**
    - **2) High School semester tests**
    - **3) The last week of each grading period**
- Any circumstances not covered above that the administration determines are acceptable.

NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES (NSA)

At ACA we have many middle and high school students that are active in the community through sports, arts, and volunteering activities. While we do not want to penalize students for pursuing talents, academics must be our primary concern and excessive absences can negatively impact academics.

Per school attendance policy, absences other than illness, medical appointments, court appearances, or death in the immediate family are not considered excused. However, principals can approve absences due to extracurricular activities or extenuating circumstances.

Participation in non-school sponsored activities will be considered excused if ALL of the following conditions are met:

1. Student is in 4-12th grade.
2. Student has at least a "B" average *in all classes* at the time of the absence.
3. Parent has provided a note requesting absence to the school office *at least 2 weeks* prior to the absence.
4. Activity, sport, or competition must have a collegiate representation or be through a recognized organization.

5. Proof of participation is provided to the office immediately upon return to school. Proof can be a note from coach or artistic director on organization letterhead, email from coach/artistic director originating from organization domain, or article mentioning student by name. Documentation is the responsibility of the parent. School staff will not access websites for proof of participation.

6. Students must not already have excessive absences or be truant by ACA policy/state law.

Absences for non-school sponsored events that occur during achievement testing periods will not be excused. Students will be given all classwork/homework prior to departure and are expected to submit these assignments immediately on the day of return (or they will receive zeros). Tests/Quizzes given during NSA Absences will be made up promptly upon return.

ACA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

ACA sponsored activities will be considered as school activities and will not count as absences from school, but must still have verification from the ACA authorized coach or artistic director

EXCUSED ABSENCE PROCEDURE

If the absence meets one of the above Excused Absence qualifications, any notes detailing the reason must be submitted within 48 hours of return to school, with the exception of Approved Personal Use absences and Non-school Sponsored Activities, which require approval in advance. This will allow the student to make up any missed assignments due to the excused absence. Students are responsible for ensuring that work missed during an excused absence is completed. The time allowed to make up any missed schoolwork will be one (1) day per each day absent, except for APU and NSA Absences which require submission upon return. Students should not expect the teacher to delay tests or allow extra time because he/she missed a day of school. Consideration will be given to students missing several days in a row, due to being too ill to prepare for school. In case of an extended illness, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher to arrange make-up tests.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

All absences that do not qualify as excused or exceed the 3 unexcused absences allotted (see below) will be categorized as unexcused and students will receive "zeros" for all assignments/tests/quizzes given that day. Students will not be excused for absences during Achievement Test days, unless there is an illness or death in the immediate family.

Students are allowed a maximum of 3 unexcused absences *per semester*. Missed work for these 3 allowed unexcused absences per semester may be made up, as outlined in the section above. After three (3) unexcused absences in a semester, the student's parent/guardian may be notified. **Students will receive a zero for all work missed due to additional unexcused absences.** If a middle/high school student misses 8 or more minutes of any class period, he/she will be marked as absent for that period. This absence will be considered unexcused, unless proper documentation is presented. All suspensions will be considered unexcused absences.

TARDIES

- Absences and tardies are based on individual period attendance.

- Students missing 7 minutes or less of a class period will be marked as unexcused tardy unless proper documentation is provided.

***Excessive Absences & Excessive Tardies**: Four (4) unexcused absences or ten (10) tardies per semester are considered excessive.

ATTENDANCE HONOR SYSTEM

ACA's Attendance Policy is an honor system that is not to be abused. As such, parent notes for illness may not be used as an excuse for personal reasons, such as vacations or trips. If dishonesty is noted, parents understand that their students' absence(s) will be marked unexcused, and he/she may not receive credit for missing work.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Grades 3-12 of Arkansas Christian Academy use BJU Press as its primary curriculum. BJU is a day-by-day teaching curriculum produced by Christian teachers and administrators, aimed at building Christian character. Arkansas Christian Academy wants to support parents in their task of raising children in the "instruction of the Lord".

BLENDED LEARNING

Every 9th-12th grade student receives a Chromebook as part of their learning curriculum. The Chromebooks are utilized every day throughout the school year.

Arkansas Christian has strategically chosen Chromebooks due to the enhancement they provide in the learning environment, the increased communication and correspondence students have with their teachers, and the proven security only a school issued Chromebook can provide. There is a fee associated with the issuance of these devices.

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

ACA offers Concurrent College Credit to students in the 9th through 12th grades. These courses are offered online through the Arkansas State University Three Rivers **DEAL** (Dual Enrollment Accelerated Learning) Program.

ELIGIBILITY

- Teacher recommendations
- In order to register for concurrent courses to be taken during freshmen year, 8th Grade students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- ACT/Next Generation AccuPlacer minimum scores:

Section	ACT	Next Generation Accuplacer
Math	21	264
Reading	19	256
Writing	19	256

Upon completion of a concurrent course, students will receive both high school and college credit.

ACA's concurrent coordinator does not have access to student Blackboard accounts. To ensure that students maintain a passing grade in their course(s), we ask that students submit their grades to the concurrent coordinator monthly. **Please note: It is the sole responsibility of the student/parent to submit grades each month.**
Students have the option to drop the course by the date designated by the college. However, if a student has a failing grade after the drop date has passed, they can no longer withdraw from the course and the grade will stand.

****It is important to note that if a student does not pass the college course, he/she will not receive college or high school credit for that course.****

COST

ASU Three Rivers offers a special discount for DEAL students. **Each concurrent course is offered to ACA students at ½ price. The Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship is also available to further defray costs for students in 11th and 12th grades only.** Parents are responsible for the ASU tuition costs, as well as the costs of required books and related materials. These costs are not included in your ACA tuition. Tuition payment for the fall and spring semesters of Dual Enrollment courses will be due one week before the first day of college classes. Tuition will be drafted from your FACTS account.

HOMEWORK

Believing that homework is an integral part of the school program, teachers are at liberty to give homework to aid each student in advancing his or her studies. Students are expected to successfully complete their assignments each day. Requiring the completion of homework assignments is an important aspect of teaching students to be responsible.

In order to simulate the academic skills acquired in school, it is essential that good study habits be fostered in the home. It is suggested that a regularly-scheduled time and a quiet place are established for homework completion. We will endeavor not to assign homework on Wednesdays to enable students to attend church. Exceptions may be made in the event of school holidays and other unforeseen circumstances.

The purpose of homework:

- Develop good study habits.
- Give opportunity for enrichment.
- Reinforce the day's work in academic skills.
- Encourage creativity and diligence at home.
- Complete unfinished class work.
- Bridge the gap between home and school academically.
- Enable the completion of special projects. Book reports, special research assignments, and projects are some of the activities that are frequently the subject of homework attention.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Arkansas Christian Academy recognizes outstanding student achievement through the presentation of student awards during an Awards Ceremony held at the end of each academic year. Outlined below are the criteria a student needs to meet to receive each type of award:

- A Honor Roll – Demonstrates superior academic achievement by earning an A average for the school year.
- A/B Honor Roll – Demonstrates excellent academic achievement by earning an A/B average for the school year.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

A standardized test of basic skills will be given each spring to all K5-10th grade students. Results of these tests will be placed in student record files and a copy will be sent to the parents/guardians. Students will not be excused for absences during achievement test days unless there is an illness or death in the immediate family.

SEMESTER TESTING

Junior and senior high school students may be exempt from semester testing if they meet the following guidelines.

- Make an A or B for each 9 weeks of the semester **and**
- Have 3 or fewer **unexcused** absences from the class in a semester **and**
- Have not received any school suspensions during the semester

ACADEMIC GRADING SYSTEM

Percent	Mark	Grade Point Average	
		Unweighted	Weighted
		Standard	AP/DE
97	A+	4.0	5.0
93	A	4.0	5.0
90	A-	4.0	5.0
87	B+	3.0	4.0
83	B	3.0	4.0
80	B-	3.0	4.0
77	C+	2.0	3.0
73	C	2.0	3.0
70	C-	2.0	3.0
67	D+	1.0	2.0
63	D	1.0	2.0
60	D-	1.0	2.0
00	F	0.0	0.0

GRADE REPORTS

Digital report cards will be accessible every nine (9) weeks during the school year. Report cards are designed to give parents and students an indication of the progress or lack of progress being made. Parents are invited to contact a teacher for a conference if the need arises.

You can check your child's progress at any time by logging in to your FACT Family Portal account.

ADVANCEMENT AND RETENTION

SEVENTH-EIGHTH GRADES

If a student fails 2 or more core subjects, an administrative meeting will be held to determine promotion to the next grade level.

NINTH-TWELFTH GRADES

Any core subject failed must be repeated the next year. Credit will only be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Should a student fail a course, or part of one, credit recovery may be offered. In such a case, the original grade will appear on the transcript and be calculated into the student's GPA. The credit recovery course, if passed, will also be factored into the GPA, and credit for completion will be awarded.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Below are the requirements for graduation from Arkansas Christian Academy. A minimum of 27 credits earned in grades 9 – 12 are required to graduate. Exception: Credit earned in 8th grade Algebra I and Physical Science will count toward graduation credits.

English	4 credits	Physical Education	½ credit
Math	4 credits	Fine Arts	½ credit
Bible	4 credits	Health and Safety	½ credit
Science	3 credits	Oral Communication	½ credit
History / Social Studies	3 credits	Electives	7 credits
Total		**27 credits**	

***Graduation requirements may be altered to fit individual student needs, when needed.**

**** If a student is enrolled in Athletics or Office Aide for 2 or more years, the additional grades earned will be excluded from the cumulative GPA calculation; however, credits toward graduation will still be awarded.**

GRADUATION HONORS

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN HONORS

The distinction of Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors will be granted to students who meet the following criteria:

1. Have completed no more than 8 semesters of high school, to include one year each of grades 9-12. High school credit earning courses taken in 8th grade shall be included in GPA calculations.
2. Have been enrolled in and completed a minimum of 4 semesters of high school at Arkansas Christian Academy, to include the fall and spring terms of their junior and senior years.
3. Have completed the required credits in order to qualify for graduation.
4. Have not received any major disciplinary infractions during their junior and senior years.

Once the above qualifications are met, the distinction of Valedictorian will be given to the honor student with the highest weighted GPA of his/her graduating class. In the event of a tie, Co-Valedictorians will be named in lieu of naming a Salutatorian.

If no tie exists for Valedictorian, Salutatorian honors will be presented to the honor student with the second highest weighted GPA of his/her graduating class. In the event of a tie in grade point average for Salutatorian honors, Co-Salutatorians will be named.

DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY

In order to provide suitable educational opportunities for all students in the classroom and to enhance the effective moral training of the students, Arkansas Christian Academy adheres to the following philosophies:

- The responsibility and authority to discipline comes from God (*Ephesians 6:1–4*). A teacher stands in the parent's stead. He or she has the same God-given authority as they; however, corporal punishment ***will not be*** administered by ACA faculty or staff.
- Christian love should be at the heart of all discipline. Correction and chastening are essential parts of the firmness of love. Firmness without love becomes harsh; whereas love without firmness is a sentimentality (*Proverbs 3:11–12*).

The school seeks to assist in developing the following characteristics in our students:

- Cheerful obedience to all authority
- Responsibility in doing assigned or expected tasks
- Cooperation with others within and outside the classroom
- Courtesy and respect for others
- Cleanliness in person and property
- Truthfulness and honesty in work and life
- Respect for property that belongs to others
- Promptness in attendance and assignments

- Morally good conduct in recreation, social relationships, and language

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The principal monitors each teacher to implement the disciplinary procedures set forth in the Arkansas Christian Academy Policy Manual. Teachers will begin each school year by explaining and reminding the students of the classroom rules. Teachers will use a system of discipline that focuses on positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior. When a student has been given a verbal correction and continues to misbehave, he/she could possibly receive lunch detention or suspension. Parents will be notified by phone, or in writing, if their child's behavior required disciplinary action by the teacher or administration. Arkansas Christian Academy does not use corporal punishment.

AREAS OF OFFENSE

Any behavior or display of attitude in opposition to the basic principles and purpose of the school, or which restrict the spiritual or academic atmosphere of the school, is strongly discouraged. A complete list of specific offenses would be impractical in this handbook. The following is a general list of unacceptable behaviors, which will earn consequences:

- Showing disrespect to the teacher or another person
- Talking without recognition, or interrupting the teacher/class discussion
- Writing or passing notes, throwing objects indoors, chewing gum, eating in class
- Dress Code violations
- Violation of Cell Phone Policy
- Fighting, excessive noise, or disorderly conduct in restrooms, halls, lunchroom, playground, or classroom
- Public display of affection: Holding hands, hugging, kissing, and any other acts, as deemed by administration
- Talking, laughing, or playing during Fire or Tornado Drills
- Tampering with school or church equipment or destroying property in any manner*
- Lying, cheating, plagiarism, theft, profanity, etc.
- Other Minor Offenses

*Parents & students will be financially responsible for all damages.

Any student committing any of the following offenses may be considered for immediate suspension/dismissal by the administration.

- Drug and Alcohol Policy violations
- Possession of Weapon
- Sexual Immorality
- Death Threats
- Major Vandalism
- Accessing/Sharing Pornography
- Other major offenses at the discretion of administration

STUDENT INCOMPATABILITY

Arkansas Christian Academy has a "No Tolerance" policy regarding profanity, obscenity in word or action, dishonor to the Holy Trinity or the Word of God, or disrespect to the personnel of the school. Threats of any kind toward students, faculty, or others will not be tolerated. It is understood that attendance is a privilege and not a right. Any student who does not conform to the standards and regulations of the institution may forfeit this privilege. The school may request the withdrawal of any student at any time that, in the opinion of the administration, does not fit into the spirit of the school, regardless of whether he/she conforms to the specific rules and regulations of the school.

OFFICE VISITS

If a student must be removed from the classroom, the teacher should notify the school office and an admin member will come to get the student. The teacher, student, and admin member will discuss the offense. The student will be reminded of the classroom rules and the importance of obedience. The admin member and student may pray, and student may be returned to class. Correspondence will be sent to parents from the teacher that day to notify them of the problem. A copy of the report is placed on file in the office, as needed.

Time-out from recess or detention may be assigned at the discretion of the administration. If the student is sent to the office twice for the same offense within a week, the parents will be notified by telephone and advised of the problem. Parents may be requested to come and take the student for the remainder of the day. The student may not be allowed to return to class until the offense has been resolved. *A student may be dismissed when he/she is found out of harmony with the rules and policies of the school.*

DETENTION PROCEDURES

1. Detention will be served the day after administration assigns it.
2. If a student is not able to serve a detention at the assigned time for any reason, he/she must serve an extra day.
3. Upon the third detention (for same offense), in a nine-week grading period, a Parent-Administration Conference will be conducted.

SUSPENSION

If issues are not adequately resolved via detention and other disciplinary measures, a student will be considered for suspension. Students will receive a "0" on all graded assignments during this suspension. If behavioral issues persist beyond suspension, a student may be considered by the administration for expulsion.

If a student is suspended for any reason, the family and student will have at least one meeting with our school counselor or a school administrator to encourage, reassure, and restore said student. The purpose of ACA discipline is not punishment but rather correction and accountability in order to develop Christlike character and to glorify God in our daily life.

EXPULSION

Any expelled student will be dismissed from ACA for the remainder of that current year. Parents will be notified by a conference with the administration. A letter will be sent home following this meeting.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Arkansas Christian Academy has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for the use or possession of illicit drugs or alcohol while on school grounds or while at an ACA-sponsored trip or activity. This includes coming on campus under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from ACA.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Arkansas Christian Academy is committed to providing a drug and alcohol-free campus and student body. We are committed to the welfare of our students and fully understand the lasting effects of underage substance abuse. To accomplish the goal of a safe and clean campus, the school will strictly enforce the contents of this drug and alcohol policy. This will be accomplished by prevention education as well as disciplinary action.

As a condition of enrollment at Arkansas Christian Academy all students must abide by the Drug and Alcohol Policy and random/suspicion testing as outlined. The school may, at any time, take disciplinary action, including expulsion, without the necessity of a drug test.

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

ALCOHOL - Drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal. Selling, giving, or otherwise distributing alcohol to a minor is a crime. The possession or use of alcohol in any form is prohibited on school property or at any school event, trip, or function. Illegally using, buying, selling, possessing, storing, or distributing alcohol, or assisting another to do so, will not be tolerated by ACA on or off school grounds.

TOBACCO AND NICOTINE - It is illegal to use or possess tobacco under the age of 21. In addition, all student use of products containing tobacco or nicotine, including e-cigarettes and vaporizers, is strictly prohibited at school-sponsored events, trips or functions, as well as on or off school grounds.

ILLEGAL DRUGS - All illegal drug use violates school policy. This includes the use, purchase, sale, possession, storage, manufacture, or distribution of prohibited drugs or drug paraphernalia. Use of any other substance resembling the foregoing or used for a similar purpose, or assisting another to do so, will not be tolerated by ACA on or off school grounds.

Any of the following actions constitutes a violation of this policy and may subject a student to disciplinary action as determined by the school in its sole discretion, including expulsion:

1. Using, selling, purchasing, transferring, possessing, manufacturing, processing, preparing or storing alcohol or prohibited drugs (excluding prescription or over-the counter drugs in accordance with medical treatment) or any other illegal substance. The possession of any drug paraphernalia, or assisting another to do so, anytime or anyplace.
2. Switching, adulterating, or attempting to tamper with any sample submitted for testing or otherwise interfering or attempting to interfere with the testing process.

SUBSTANCE SCREENING

In order to reinforce the expectation that ACA is a school where drug and alcohol use is neither present nor tolerated, ACA has adopted a substance screening policy to hold students accountable for their actions and direct students in need to the appropriate support.

RANDOM TESTING

Students in grades 4-12 as a condition of enrollment, may be randomly screened for drug and alcohol use throughout the year. Additionally, ACA reserves the right to conduct drug and alcohol testing in other circumstances, including reasonable suspicion or after an incident.

A contracted, outside collection agency will conduct the screenings and notify parents and the designated school official of the results. A numerical selection process will be used that will keep the student's identity unknown until selections are complete. Because of the random selection process, individual students may be screened multiple times during the year. Results will be a matter of school record and will not be forwarded to law enforcement authorities unless required by law or deemed necessary by administration

Students refusing to test or caught tampering with a viable sample will be in violation of his/her consent for enrollment and will be sent home immediately on suspension. In order to return to school, the student must submit to a drug screening administered by the schools contracted provider. Students suspected of unlawful use of drugs or alcohol while at school or at a school event, function, or trip, will be sent home immediately on suspension and remain suspended until the final test results are reviewed by the school and a parent meeting is scheduled.

REASONABLE SUSPICION TESTING

In addition to random screenings, if a school administrator has reasonable suspicion that a student has violated ACA's Drug and Alcohol Policy, he or she may require a drug screening test to be administered by an appropriate testing agency and/or search of the individual(s) in question. Reasonable suspicion may result from the following, or other circumstances giving rise to reasonable suspicion: (a) observed behaviors; (b) receipt of credible reports by two or more reliable witnesses; (c) detection of odor by a school employee; or (d) discovery of a prohibited substance on the student, in the possession of the student, in or around school premises, school property, vehicles, or other areas in which the student has had access.

Any student, based upon reasonable suspicion, will be required to immediately submit to the administration to provide a breath sample for the purpose of determining alcohol consumption. Such screening may occur during the school day or in route to or at a school activity. A student refusing to comply is in violation of school policy and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. If a student produces a result of .02 or greater the school representative will use reasonable efforts to detain the student in his custody until released directly to the student's parents.

POLICY VIOLATIONS

Any student found in violation of the Alcohol and Drug Policy will be subject to disciplinary action as detailed within this policy.

Students who test positive may be immediately sent home on suspension until we can schedule a parent meeting. Attempts will be made to schedule this meeting the same day to resolve the matter quickly. Our goals during this meeting are to work with parents and students to realign our mission and to determine appropriate consequences to draw the student into compliance. A first offense can range from suspension, mandatory treatment programs, removal from leadership positions or campus organizations, or even expulsion. The student will also be subject to follow-up screenings for the next three months, at the parent's expense. At the end of this three-month period, the student will be placed back into the random sampling pool but may still be subject to mandatory testing at the

discretion of the Administration. Students who test positive a second time on any subsequent screenings while at ACA will be subject to permanent dismissal. Student test results are to be kept CONFIDENTIAL by all parties involved.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The school will be financially responsible for random and reasonable suspicion testing should the results be negative. Should the drug testing result be positive, parents will be billed for their students' testing fees. Parents opting for split sample testing, in the case of a positive result, will also be financially responsible for that secondary test.

SELF-REFERRAL OR PARENT-INITIATED ACTION

The goal of this policy is to encourage students to make healthy choices for themselves and the community, as well as to identify students struggling with substance abuse and direct them to support. With this in mind, the school will consider self-referral or action initiated by the student or parents to obtain assistance with the use of alcohol or drugs prior to being called for testing as a factor when considering suspension or expulsion. However, the weight given to such factors shall be within the sole discretion of the school and does not preclude sanctions. Failure on the part of the student to abide by sanctions and/or treatment shall be grounds for disciplinary action, including without limitation, expulsion. Any testing fees incurred due to self-referral/parent-initiated action will be the parent's responsibility regardless of results.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Arkansas Christian Academy respects the right of students to privacy and security against arbitrary invasion of their person or property. School officials do have the right, however, to search students and their property in the interest of the overall welfare of other students or when necessary to preserve order and discipline in the school. School officials will seize illegal contraband, weapons, drugs, alcohol, or stolen property found in a search. The search of a student's person may be conducted only if school officials have reasonable suspicion to believe that a student's clothing, purse or other personal possessions contain stolen items or items prohibited by law or school policy. Personal searches must be conducted by a school official of the same sex and with an adult witness of the same sex present.

If law enforcement authorities are involved, complete cooperation will be given to them by school authorities in their investigation

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to recognize that God has placed them at ACA and must be a reflection of their commitment to Jesus Christ. Therefore, there are areas of conduct that students must endeavor to never violate. For these reasons, a complete Code of Conduct will be provided and discussed during the application process and must be signed by each student and his/her family during Online Enrollment.

Students are responsible for accepting the consequences, which could include immediate withdrawal or dismissal by the administration, if any one of these areas has been violated. I also give the Pastor/Administration's permission to approach me if any area of my life is questionable. If questionable acts have been witnessed by me of my fellow student's behavior, I will bring this to the Pastor/Administration's attention immediately.

CONDUCT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Behaviors contrary to Christian values and Christian beliefs cast a negative reflection upon the student and the school no matter where they occur (i.e., national and international travel, sports trips, field trips, etc.). Serious violations occurring off campus may be subject to school disciplinary action. In addition, offenses committed when school is not in session (i.e. summer vacations) may cause a student to forfeit enrollment at ACA. Disciplinary responses for such activities may include probation, suspension or removal from leadership positions, suspension or removal from extra-curricular groups or graduation activities, and/or suspension or expulsion from school.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

As a student of Arkansas Christian Academy, you will be seen by church members, parents of other students, community members, and supporters as a representative of our ministry, and of ACA. This means, while you may view your online presence as a personal project, many readers will associate you, and the views you express, with those of Arkansas Christian Academy. All social media is considered a public forum and we will judge all online interactions as though you were speaking at a public gathering. With this in mind, the following guidelines will apply to all ACA students and any student found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Use good judgment: Represent God, not yourself. Make sure your communications are above reproach. Remember that anything you write is public. You should always assume that anything you post will be read by your parents, teachers, principal, pastor, volunteers, etc. Always ask yourself if you are comfortable with these people reading the content you plan to post.

Notify your principal: If you have a personal website or blog or are considering creating one, please discuss this with your principal and get written approval from Administration.

Maintain confidentiality: Do not post confidential information about other students. Do not post photos of students that could be considered provocative (ex. girls' swimsuit pictures, pictures of boys without shirts, etc.)

Adhere to Christian values: Do not post anything that could be considered adverse to Biblical teachings or the teachings of our ministry. Your online behavior should reflect the same, if not greater, standards of honesty, respect, and consideration that you would apply to a face to face conversation. Use caution when "sharing" posts from unknown individuals. These sites can sometimes contain inappropriate content, that would violate the guidelines in this policy.

Keep it positive: Remember that frustrations are best expressed in person. Do not post negative comments about staff, politics, policies, students, volunteers, or anyone/anything else associated with our program.

Choose topics wisely: Some ideas are best discussed in a personal conversation rather than a public forum. These might include controversial political or religious views. Do not participate in arguments on social media; these are rarely productive.

Media coverage: Your posts may generate media coverage. If a member of the media contacts you about an FCB, ACA or 2CYR related post, or requests information of any kind, contact the principal and administrator for direction on how to respond.

Respect your audience: Do not use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, or engage in any conversation that would not be acceptable on the Arkansas Christian Academy campus.

Represent yourself well: Make a conscious effort to present a positive image of yourself. Personal struggles that you are experiencing are best discussed in privacy with a close friend, rather than the public forum of social media.

Cautious picture posting: Be mindful of what pictures you are posting or allowing yourself to be tagged in. Check the background of pictures before posting. Only post pictures of yourself/others in publicly appropriate clothing and situation. No public displays of affection on social media.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CUSTODIAL RIGHTS

It is the responsibility of the parents/legal guardians to share any official custodial information decided through the courts. Official custodial agreements will be kept in a confidential file in the office of the principal. In the absence of any court document, the school will view each parent/legal guardian as having full legal custody of his/her child(ren). In the absence of a court order to the contrary, non-custodial parents/legal guardians have the right to receive records about their child(ren)'s academic progress or lack thereof. Non-Custodial parents/legal guardians are not to use the school as a meeting place to visit with their child(ren).

TEXTBOOK AND STUDENT ID CARD RETURN/REPLACEMENT

Please be aware that some textbooks will be returned at the end of the school year. Families will be held financially responsible for the replacement of lost or damaged textbooks, as well as lost/damaged student ID cards. The replacement cost of lost/damaged student ID cards/holders will be billed to parents via FACTS during the school year as necessary.

ID Card/Reel Replacement Costs

- Lost/broken student ID only: $5
- Lost/broken ID reel only: $5
- Lost/broken ID and reel: $10

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Arkansas Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available to students at the school. Arkansas Christian Academy also does not discriminate based on race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships, and other school-administered programs.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones must remain **turned off** and placed in the caddy in the secretary's office during school hours. The first time a student is found to be in possession of a cell phone, it will be confiscated and stored in the secretary's office. The student may collect the device upon departure at the end of the school day. Upon the second violation, the phone will be confiscated and taken to secretary's office; however, a parent/guardian must then collect the device. Upon the third offense, the student will lose the privilege of bringing a cell phone to school for a period of 6 months from the date of violation.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Arkansas Christian Academy recognizes that access to technology in school gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate, and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life, and citizenship. We are committed to helping students develop 21st Century technology and communication skills. To that end, we provide access to technologies for student and staff use.

The Acceptable Use Policy, which may be accessed under the Documents and Forms section of the Resource tab at archristian.org, outlines the guidelines and behaviors that students are expected to follow when using technologies in school or when using their computer or other electronic device on the Arkansas Christian Academy campus. All technologies provided by or used at Arkansas Christian Academy are intended for educational purposes.

Violations of ACA's Acceptable Use Policy may have disciplinary repercussions.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Items such as electronic devices that can send/receive communication (excluding cell phones), questionable literature/magazines, glass containers, gum, skateboards, and play guns (or any weapon-like toys) are prohibited

Weapons, matches, lighters, tobacco, drugs, pornographic materials, etc. are NOT PERMITTED ON ACA PROPERTY. Disciplinary action will be taken and may result in suspension or expulsion, depending on offense.

NATIONAL ANTHEM PROTOCOL

The following protocol will be followed by all ACA staff, students, and athletes during the playing or singing of the National Anthem:

1. Any type of head covering, such as hats, visors, helmets, etc. must be removed.
2. Stand with body facing, and eyes fixed upon, the United States Flag.
3. The right hand is to be placed over the heart (not required for international students, although they are welcome to do so).
4. Remain in this posture for the entirety of the Anthem.

Any outward display, other than those listed above, in an effort to promote a personal or political agenda during the playing of the National Anthem will be viewed as a form of disrespect. Those participating will be subject to disciplinary action by ACA administration. Athletes will be removed from the sidelines immediately, be prohibited from participating in the contest, and face disciplinary action by the coach, as well as administration.

ACA UNIFORM/RESTROOM/ATHLETIC POLICY

The appropriate uniform, restroom use, and designated athletic team (i.e. boys'/girls' teams) for each student will be determined by the gender/sex designated on the student's original birth certificate, as determined by the attending physician or person responsible at such time.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Professional photographs will be taken in the fall and spring of each year. Parents will be notified of the date and cost. Yearbook pictures will be taken in the fall; school uniforms must be worn for this session. Spring photo attire is as follows: School uniforms or school-appropriate clothing. Items which are not permitted include spaghetti straps, tank tops, ripped jeans, excessively tight/revealing clothing, suggestive themes/slogans, and shorts/skirts/dresses shorter than 2" above the knee.

Individual and group graduation pictures will be taken for the K5 classes. Parents will be notified in advance of the date and cost.

BIRTHDAYS

This is an important time for your children, but too many parties prove to be a problem for the teacher. If you wish to send cupcakes or other simple refreshments on your child's birthday, please notify the teacher in advance. **The refreshments may be shared with the class during lunch and must be prepared by either a store or restaurant.** No invitations for parties outside of school will be distributed at school unless all classmates are invited.

VISITORS

Parents or other visitors are encouraged to make advance arrangements to visit the school. Parents must check in through the office to receive a Visitor Badge. Parents will be allowed to observe their child(ren) in the classroom setting only if pre-approved by the administration. **No one outside of school and office personnel will be allowed in the school building without first signing in at the office and receiving a Visitor Badge.**

Do not go directly to any classroom. *If you have items to be delivered to your child(ren), you may bring them to the office, and they will be delivered.*

*Visitors may use single occupant restrooms only.

LIBRARY

Library books are carefully reviewed and selected by administration to align with ACA's Christian values. Students may have the opportunity to check out library books. Any book checked out will be due as specified at the time of check-out. A consent form to check out books is included in the online enrollment packet and must be signed at the time of enrollment. After two overdue book notices are sent home, the price for the book plus shipping and handling will be charged to your account via incidental billing. Failure to return or pay for books will result in loss of library privileges until the book is either returned or fees are paid.

CLASS PARTIES/EVENTS

Parents are welcome to join students for a class event or party, as communicated in advance by the teacher. In such events, any food items being brought on campus and provided to the class must be store bought. Careful consideration must be taken to ensure that any dietary restrictions, such as allergies or food sensitivities have been taken into account. Any liquid (including Jell-O) containing RED or BLUE food coloring is not permitted in the classroom. **Food deliveries from outside companies, such as Door Dash, Bite Squad, Chick-fil-A, etc. are not allowed.**

Due to space restrictions, ACA does not allow siblings or other minor guests to accompany a parent or guardian to such classroom events/parties.

SCHOOL SPONSORED DANCES OR FUNCTIONS

Only officially enrolled students of Arkansas Christian Academy and their approved guests will be allowed to attend school-sponsored dances or functions. Administration must approve all guests prior to the dance, party, or function (application for approval may be found at https://www.archristian.org/NonACA_Guest_Attendee_Application.pdf).

A student bringing an approved guest will be responsible for the conduct of the guest while on school premises. No one 21 or older will be allowed to attend school dances as a student's guest.

FIELD TRIPS

All grades may participate in field trips, supervised by the teaching staff, away from the school campus to nearby points of interest. Parents will be notified in advance of field trips. A Parental Permission and Release Form for field trips is included in the registration packet and must be signed during online enrollment. Parents are welcome to join their child on field trips, but please understand that siblings are not allowed to attend, and all students must ride in the ACA-provided transportation. If you need to check your child out after a field trip, the student must return to ACA and be signed out in the office. Any child not attending the field trip will stay at school and do assignments related to the field trip or, in the case of illness, must provide a doctor's note to excuse their absence.

LOST AND FOUND

All items such as coats, sweaters, lunch boxes, money envelopes, etc., are to be **labeled** at home with the student's name for easy identification. Unclaimed items will be donated to missionaries or charity.

ADDRESS CHANGES

If there is a change of address or telephone number, please update this information in your FACTS Family Portal Account. Changes in physician, emergency telephone numbers, and authorized individuals to sign your child out should be updated regularly.

DISTRIBUTION OF OUTSIDE LITERATURE AND FUNDRAISING SALES

No literature is to be distributed at school or products sold without first being approved in writing by the administration.

DRILLS

Fire, tornado, and other safety drills will be held regularly. When the signal is given, all class activities will cease, and exit will be made promptly. An emergency exit map is displayed in each classroom.

Students must follow all instructions given by teachers/administrators during drills.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Should it become necessary to cancel or dismiss school early due to inclement weather, or any other reason, parents will be notified as soon as possible via email, social media, and/or television. Our inclement weather school dismissal will coincide with that of the Bryant School District, as announced on local television stations.

In the event of an early dismissal, or if school is closed the entire day due to inclement weather or other emergency, it is the normal procedure to cancel all afternoon and evening events. There may occasionally be an exception to this rule.

TELEPHONE USE

Students' use of the telephone is limited. **Teachers and students will only be called to the telephone for an emergency.** Personal matters between parents and students should be handled at home before the student leaves for school. Your child should be aware of arrangements for after-school transportation and how to contact you during the day, in case you are needed.

STUDENT DRIVING POLICY

Arkansas Christian Academy will allow only students age 16 years and older with a valid Arkansas Driver's License to drive themselves to school. A signature from the student's parent is also required. NO learner's permits or hardships are accepted. Students may not, for any reason, leave campus with another student in their automobile without prior written parental permission that has been approved through administration in writing.

Those students who are planning to drive to school must complete and return a "Student Driver's Registration Application" from the school office. Driving to school is a privilege that can be revoked at any time by the school administration. Possible reasons for revocation of driving privileges could include, but are not limited to reckless driving, speeding, leaving school grounds without permission, and loitering in the parking lot before, during, or after school. Once at school, students will not be allowed to return to their car for any reason. Students need to ensure they bring everything they need for the school day into class prior to school. Cars are to be used for transportation ONLY. Students driving different vehicles to school must register all vehicles in the office.

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEMSELVES TO OUT OF TOWN EVENTS, SUCH AS AWAY GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, FIELD TRIPS, ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS, CONVENTIONS, OR OTHER SCHOOL FUNCTIONS.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Arkansas Christian Academy operates on a closed campus basis during school hours (8am – 3:30pm). Student drivers **will not** be allowed to leave school grounds for any reason unless prior written parental permission is presented to school administration (see "self-checkout by student" section of policy manual). All appointments that are planned for the day should be reported to the office for approval. **No student will be allowed to leave school during the lunch period and return after lunch.** A student may only check out at his/her lunch time if he/she is not returning to campus or if he/she presents a doctor's excuse to the office immediately upon returning to school.

STUDENT PARKING GUIDELINES

1. Cars will be parked in designated parking spaces on campus.
2. Do not park in front of driveways.
3. Students must register their cars and purchase a $10 annual parking tag in the office. The tag must be displayed in the car when it is parked on campus. Replacement tags will be available for $5.
4. Any student who parks his/her vehicle illegally (double-parked, blocking a driveway or sidewalk, in non-parking areas) is subject to student discipline and their car is subject to tow.
5. Students are not to sit in parked cars or loiter around them. Parking lots are off limits during the school day.
6. No person shall sit in, drive, or ride in any car except to and from school during the school day.
7. A 5-mph speed limit will be enforced on campus. Reckless driving will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action and loss of student driving privileges.
8. Arkansas Christian Academy assumes no responsibility for any damage to vehicles parked on campus. Students park at their own risk.

DRIVERS TRANSPORTING OTHER STUDENTS

Only 9th-12th grade students may carpool. However, they are not permitted to check out or transport non-siblings to/from our campus. If your child is carpooling with another student, they must stay at school for the entire school day. An early dismissal will require parent pick up for any child who normally rides with another student.

For a 9th-12th grade ACA student to carpool with another high school student, a Student Passenger Authorization Form must be on file for both the driver and the passenger. This form is student specific and cannot be transferred to another student. Forms can be obtained in the MS/HS office.

*For more information regarding intermediate (updated *provisional* to *intermediate* to reflect current term for this type of license) licenses, please visit https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/driver-services/license-id-and-permits/graduated-licenses/learners-and-intermediate-license (updated link)

NUTRITION, HEALTH, AND SAFETY

Foodborne illness can result from food that is improperly prepared or stored. Parents are requested to consider this when preparing for special events, such as birthdays. We require that any food or special treats brought into Arkansas Christian Academy, for distributing to the class or student body, be prepared by a store or restaurant. This will help protect our students from any gastrointestinal illness, including infectious hepatitis, which can be associated with home-prepared foods.

LUNCH

Lunch purchases will be charged to your prepaid Campus Cash account. Parents are responsible for maintaining a positive balance in this account to cover any purchases made on campus. Lunch menus and purchase history may be viewed in FACTS Family Portal at any time.

Students have the option to bring a healthy lunch each day or may purchase a hot lunch from the cafeteria. Current lunch prices and menus can be found on our school website. If your child forgets to bring a lunch, the cost will be charged to your online account and a lunch will be provided to him/her.

Microwaves will only be available on a limited basis. If your child's food must be hot, it is preferred that you send it in a thermos that will keep it warm until lunchtime.

Water will be provided to all students who do not bring a drink from home. The student's choice of lemonade (1 refill included) or a carton of milk is included with each lunch purchase. An additional lemonade or milk may be purchased and billed to your FACTS account.

Energy drinks are not allowed at lunch. No glass containers. Soft drinks (all carbonated beverages) may be purchased but not brought from home.

Food deliveries from outside companies, such as Door Dash, Bite Squad, Chick-fil-A, etc. are not allowed. Lunches dropped off by parents must be labeled and brought to the Elementary Office (Bldg. 4).

LUNCHROOM PROCEDURE

Lunchtime is an enjoyable break in the day's schedule. Please note the following procedure:

1. Students and teachers will enter the lunchroom and quietly proceed to a table with their lunch.
2. Students are to remain in the lunchroom during lunch. Food is not permitted in any other area.
3. Common manners and courtesy must be shown during lunch, including:
    - Talking in conversational tones and only at one's own table.

- Using proper table manners.
- Keeping all four legs of the chair on the floor.
- Staying at the table during the meal.
- Picking up any food or paper dropped on tables or floor.

WATER BOTTLES

Students may bring resealable, leak-proof water bottles containing plain, unflavored water to school each day. Teachers will instruct students on the classroom procedures for storing and accessing water bottles throughout the school day.

MEDICAL REGULATIONS

CHILD MALTREATMENT

The statewide Child Maltreatment "Hot Line" number is 1-800-482-5964. Arkansas Christian Academy faculty and staff are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Arkansas law requires that students attending any school must show proof that they have been immunized for **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Chicken Pox, Measles,** and **Rubella (German measles)**. Verification of immunization must be received by the school office prior to the beginning of the school year. Health records from a previous school showing immunizations **will** be accepted.

A Birth Certificate is required for students entering Arkansas Christian Academy.

SYMPTOMS REQUIRING REMOVAL/NON-READMITTANCE

- Fever: Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Sore Throat with Fever and Swollen Glands
- Body rash with fever
- Vomiting: vomiting on two or more occasions within the past 48-hour period
- Diarrhea: Three or more runny, watery, or bloody stools in a 48-hour period
- Earache
- Severe Cough: Episodes of coughing which may lead to repeated gagging, vomiting, or difficulty breathing
- Eye Drainage: Thick mucus or colored drainage
- Pink Eye: Pink or red eye(s) which may be swollen with white or yellow discharge, until on antibiotics for 24 hours
- Irritable: Continuously crying or requires more attention than we can provide without jeopardizing the health and safety of the other students

***Students who have or have had a fever and/or vomiting must remain at home for 24 hours AFTER the fever has broken and/or vomiting has subsided.**

HEAD LICE POLICY

Students found to have an active head lice infestation or nits will be immediately sent home for treatment. Once treatment is complete students may return to school. Upon return, the student's head will be examined by the school nurse or appropriate staff member. The student will not be allowed into the classroom if any evidence remains of nits and/or live lice.

FIRST AID SERVICES

Children who become ill or injured will be brought to the nurse's office. You may be called to pick up your child. In the meantime, every effort will be made to ensure the wellbeing of your child. In the case of small, superficial cuts and abrasions, the injury will be gently cleaned and bandaged. Students are not permitted to help themselves to First Aid materials.

No oral medication will be administered by the school unless a **Medical Liability Release** form has been completed.

RULES GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

All medication must be supplied by the parent to the school in the container in which it was purchased. All medications will be administered according to the labeling directions on the medication container. Unless authorized to self-administer medications, students are not allowed to carry any medications while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the school nurse. The school nurse or designee shall administer all prescription and non-prescription medications. An exception will be made for students to carry/self-administer asthma inhalers or emergency medications for specific health conditions with an order from a licensed prescriber, written parental consent, and school nurse approval. These students will require an emergency health care plan and a Medication Administration Release Form (MARF) on file with the school nurse. Parents will need to furnish proper medical documentation.

The parent/guardian must give the initial dose of any new medication outside of the school setting. The parent or guardian must also certify, in writing, that at least one dose of the medication has been previously administered to the student and no adverse reactions were experienced by the student.

The parent or guardian must bring the initial medications to the school nurse to complete the MARF. A parent, guardian, or designated adult may bring in medication refills.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

A current, written prescription from a licensed physician and written parental consent are required. The container dispensed by the pharmacy must contain the name of the prescribing medical provider, the child's name, name of the medication, dosage, and time(s) to be given. The pharmacy label is acceptable as the physician's order only if the prescription was filled within thirty (30) days prior to the time the prescription medication is brought to school. The morning dose of all prescription medications must be administered at home unless the medication is prescribed to be administered after 8:00 am.

ADMINISTRATION OF OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Over-the-counter medications may be administered by school nurses during school hours in limited situations as determined by the school nurse and with written parent/guardian consent. This policy does not prohibit a parent or guardian from administering an over-the-counter medication to their child or ward at school.

NARCOTIC PAIN MEDICATIONS

Narcotic pain medication (Codeine, OxyContin, etc.) will not be administered at school. Students who have recently had surgery or other medical procedure should not return to school until the student's pain can be managed during school hours without the use of narcotic pain medication.