



Arkansas Christian Academy

Policy Manual

Combining Christian Values and Traditional Education

with a Spirit of Excellence

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*Policies are subject to change without prior notification

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Policy Manual

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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 registration packet. This form states that you have read and are in agreement with the policies and procedures of Arkansas Christian Academy.

STANDARD OF CONDUCT

All students attending Arkansas Christian Academy should be a result of the parents’ desire to have their child educated in accordance with our educational philosophy. In order for this program to be effective, parental cooperation is essential. Parents who find themselves in disagreement with the program and philosophy at Arkansas Christian Academy retain the right to remove their child. Likewise, the administration of Arkansas Christian Academy 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 7 days prior to withdrawal.
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 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 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.
8. 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 completion of all application forms and payment of all fees in full. Incomplete forms will result in delayed admission.
2. 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.
3. Updated immunization record.
4. Parent involvement and support.
5. All financial obligations satisfied.

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 completed and returned 7 days prior to withdrawal. 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. 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 a yearly 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 \$50 processing fee per child. All fees must be paid, and all paperwork submitted and approved before admittance. Discounts are available for multiple children, 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 year. An exception will be made only if the withdrawal is due to loss of employment, with resultant move or transfer greater than 50 miles from ACA. A \$50 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 regulations of the school to retain his/her place. Regulations are stated in the Policy Manual and Registration Packet. The school reserves the right to insist upon the immediate withdrawal of any student whose presence in the school is considered detrimental, either to the student's or the school's best interest. Tuition will be billed regardless of student's attendance. Failure to provide mandatory notice may forfeit any credits/refunds and may delay bank draft discontinuation.

TUITION PAYMENTS AND FACTS

Arkansas Christian Academy uses FACTS payment processing for all tuition and billing. All families must have a FACTS account. Families can select between 3 payment plans: Yearly Pay (Aug), Semester Pay (Aug and Jan), or Monthly Pay (Aug-May). Tuition payments are made via monthly draft on the 5th day of the month.

TUITION RATES

Students	Elementary K5-5 th grade	Middle School 6 th -8 th grade	High School 9 th – 12 th grade
1 st	\$4500	\$4600	\$4800
2 nd	\$4000	\$4100	\$4300
3 rd +	\$3500	\$3600	\$3800

*SPED/IEP may incur additional charges.

**Annual Security Fee of \$100 per student will be drafted with tuition, according to the designated payment plan.

All fees and tuition payments are non-refundable/non-transferable.

BALANCES AND FEES

Arkansas Christian Academy reserves the right to include all outstanding balances and fees in the bank draft. 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 \$35.00 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. Each family is also 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. Parents are responsible for maintaining a positive balance within the family's Campus Cash account to cover any of the aforementioned purchases.

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	<p>Visible Tattoos - Not allowed.</p> <p>Piercings - Limited to 2 earrings and girl's <i>earlobes</i> only.</p>
HAIR, HAIR ACCESSORIES, AND HEADWEAR	<p>Color/Style - Hair must be neatly combed or brushed for school. No hair styles that disrupt the learning environment and no hair coloring that can be considered unnatural.</p> <p>Hair Length for Boys - Hair should not extend below the eyebrows, tops of ears or top of collar. Facial hair must be neatly trimmed close to the face.</p> <p>Hair Accessories - Optional for girls.</p> <p>Headwear - Restricted to outside areas.</p>
SHIRTS	<p>Uniform Shirts (except undershirts) - Must be purchased from the "Polo Shirts & Long Sleeves" section of our online store, which now includes polos, sweaters, and hoodies. *</p> <p>Polo Shirt-tails - Must be long enough to remain tucked in when reaching up or bending over. No tight/undersized or oversized shirts.</p> <p>Long/Short-sleeved Undershirts (optional) - May be purchased from any store. Color – Solid Purple, Black, or White with no visible logo.</p> <p>Layering - Outermost layer must be a uniform shirt, at all times.</p> <p>ACA Spirit Wear - Must be purchased from the online store and may be worn with blue jeans/uniform bottoms on Fridays for \$1.*</p>
OUTERWEAR	<p>Outerwear with Logo Worn in Class - Must be purchased from the ACA online uniform store and worn with a uniform shirt underneath. *</p> <p>Outerwear without ACA Logo - Restricted to outside areas only.</p>

<p>PANTS AND BELTS</p>	<p>Pants - May be purchased from the ACA online uniform store or the uniform department of any department store, provided they are of a similar style as those in the online store.</p> <p>Color - Khaki or Black</p> <p>Style - Classic or traditional uniform styles with belt loops. May be pleated or flat front.</p> <p>Belt - Required with tucked shirt and must be solid black, brown, or white with modest buckle/fastener.</p> <p>K – 2nd Grade Only - Pants may have elastic waist with no belt loops which would not require a belt.</p> <p>Not Permitted: logos, skinny/tight styles, denim (except Fridays), Capri pants, corduroy, decorations, cargo pants, zip pockets, string/ribbon ties at waist.</p>
<p>SHORTS, SKORTS, AND SKIRTS</p>	<p>Shorts/Skort/Skirts - May be purchased from the ACA online school store or the uniform department of any department store, provided they are of a similar style as those in the online store and meet the length requirement.</p> <p>Skorts/Skirts - May be worn by girls only and shorts must be worn under skirts.</p> <p>Length - No shorter than 2 inches above the knee.</p> <p>Colors - Khaki or Black</p> <p>Style - Classic or traditional uniform styles. Shorts may be pleated or flat front with belt loops. Skirts/Skort do not require beltloops/belts.</p> <p>K – 2nd grade only - Shorts may have elastic waist with no belt loops, which would not require a belt.</p> <p>Not Permitted: logos, skinny/tight styles, denim (except Fridays), corduroy, cargo shorts, decorations, string/ribbon ties at waist</p>
<p>SHOES, SOCKS, AND LEGGINGS</p>	<p>Shoes - Non-marking tennis shoes only.</p> <p>Socks - Visible area must be solid black or white.</p> <p>Tights/Leggings - May only be worn by girls under a uniform skirt/skort and must be solid black or white.</p>

P.E. UNIFORM
6-12th grade only

PE Shirts and Pants/Shorts - Must be purchased from the ACA online uniform store. *

Shorts - No shorter than 2 inches above the knee.

Compression Shorts - May be worn underneath to meet length requirement.

*Official logo apparel from previous years is acceptable

**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.

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 ParentsWeb. 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 ParentsWeb, 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 ParentsWeb 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)
- Any circumstances not covered above that the administration determines are acceptable
- All other absences will be categorized as unexcused and students will receive "zeros" for all assignments/tests/quizzes given that day.

If the absence meets one of the above qualifications, any notes detailing the reason must be submitted within 48 hours of return to school. 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 school work will be one (1) day per each day absent; however, grades will not be awarded until the absence is excused by administration. 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, or those obviously too ill to prepare for school. In case of an extended illness, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher to arrange make-up tests.

Students will not be excused for absences during Achievement Test days, unless there is an illness or death in the immediate family.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

Students are allowed a maximum of 3 unexcused absences per semester. 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

ELEMENTARY

- Students arriving later than 10:30 am or leaving school before 12:00 noon will be marked absent ½ day.
- Students with more than 3 tardies will not be considered to have perfect attendance.
- Students leaving before school has been dismissed will receive a partial absence for the day.
- Tardy students must report to the office prior to going to their classroom.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

- 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.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Arkansas Christian Academy uses ABeka Book Publications and BJU Press as its primary curricula, along with Wordly Wise for vocabulary and Holt McDougal for upper math classes. ABeka Book and BJU are day-by-day teaching curricula 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".

Holt McDougal math books do align with Common Core; however, ACA does not agree with or promote Common Core.

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

ACA offers Concurrent College Credit to students in the 9th through 12th grades. These courses are offered online through The College of the Ouachitas (COTO). Students may take no more than 2 concurrent courses per semester.

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/AccuPlacer minimum scores:

Section	ACT	Accuplacer
Math	21	45
Reading	19	83
Writing	19	80

Upon completion of a concurrent course, students will receive both high school and college credit. For example, completion of Comp I and Comp II with a passing grade will also count as credit for 12th grade English. If a student drops the college course, he/she will receive a "W" on his/her COTO transcript. In this case, the student will have the opportunity to enroll in the equivalent high school course at ACA in order to obtain a passing grade on his/her high school transcript.

****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

The College of the Ouachitas offers students the ability to take two courses for the price of one. Therefore, the total cost is the same for either 1 or 2 courses. Parents are responsible for the COTO 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 a week before the first day of college classes. Tuition will be drafted from your FACTS account. You will be provided a minimum of 10 days notification prior to the draft. ACA will then make a single payment each semester to COTO for all students enrolled.

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.*

STANDARDIZED TESTING

A standardized test (IOWA or ACT Aspire) 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.

ACADEMIC GRADING SYSTEM

Percent	Mark	Grade Point Average	
		Unweighted	Weighted
		Standard	AP/DE
100-98	A+	4.0	5.0
97-94	A	4.0	5.0
93-91	A-	4.0	5.0
90-88	B+	3.0	4.0
87-84	B	3.0	4.0
83-81	B-	3.0	4.0
80-78	C+	2.0	3.0
77-74	C	2.0	3.0
73-71	C-	2.0	3.0
70-68	D+	1.0	2.0
67-64	D	1.0	2.0
63-61	D-	1.0	2.0
60-00	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 ParentsWeb account.

ADVANCEMENT AND RETENTION

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

HIGH SCHOOL

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

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

***Graduation requirements may be altered due to individual needs.**

**** 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.**

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 verbal correction and continues to misbehave he/she will lose recess/free time or other privileges. 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:

- *Showing disrespect to the teacher or another person*
- *Talking without recognition, or interrupting the teacher/class discussion*
- *Lying, cheating, theft, profanity, or other immorality will not be tolerated*

- *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**

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

Any student committing any of the following offenses may be considered for immediate detention/suspension/dismissal by the administration: lying; cheating; stealing; showing disrespect to another student, teacher, or staff member; profanity; immorality; fighting (to include: pushing, hitting, and biting, etc.); and any other behavior deemed by the administration to be uncondusive to the continuity of the program.

NO TOLERANCE POLICY

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. Possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or any weapon is grounds for immediate expulsion. 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, he/she will be taken to the principal’s office. The teacher, student, and principal will discuss the offense. The student will be reminded of the classroom rules and the importance of obedience. The principal 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 principal’s office.

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

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.

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 ParentsWeb online or by downloading the FACTS SIS 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.

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. Lost/broken student ID cards/holders will be billed at \$3/ID and \$2/lanyard or badge reel.

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.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Items such as electronic devices (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.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school day begins at 8:00 am. 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.

EXTENDED CARE

Extended Care is only offered to students beginning in Kindergarten through 12 years old. The Extended Care Program will be available Monday through Friday from 7:00 am–7:30 am and from 3:45 pm–6:00 pm. Drop-ins will be charged \$7.00 per day, due at the time of pick up. Payments may be placed in any drop box on campus. Cash payments will receive a receipt the following week.

IMPORTANT

Should your child be picked up later than 6:00pm, your child's account will be charged \$10.00 plus \$7.00 for every 5-minute increment past 6:00pm. Children who are picked up late repeatedly are subject to dismissal from 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.

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. boy's/girl's teams) for each student will be determined by the gender 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 or snack time 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.

LIBRARY

Students may check out books during their class' regularly-scheduled library time. Any book checked out will be due at the student's next scheduled visit. 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.

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.*

For security purposes, ALL visitors coming to campus to eat lunch with a student (including Middle and High) must first report to the Elementary building to both sign in and receive a Visitor Badge.

*Visitors may use single occupant restrooms only.

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.

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

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 call the school office as soon as possible. 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.

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

We DO NOT allow minors to transport students from the property **during** school hours.

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.

ACA must receive written parental permission before a student will be allowed to leave campus with a student driver. We will NOT allow students to transport other students on and off campus without a driver's license on file. No provisional driver's licenses will be accepted. *

*For more information regarding provisional licenses, please visit <http://www.dmv.org/ar-arkansas/teen-drivers.php>

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 ParentsWeb at any time.

Students have the option to bring a healthy lunch each day or may purchase a hot lunch from the cafeteria. Elementary lunch will be billed at \$3.25 each. Middle/High school lunches will consist of larger portions and will be billed at \$3.75. 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 for 6th – 12th on a limited basis. If your child's food must be hot, please 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 for \$.50 each and billed to your FACTS account.

Soft drinks and energy drinks are not allowed at lunch. No glass containers.

We welcome parents to join their students for lunchtime; however, to allow our staff to provide an environment conducive to proper lunchroom behavior, we ask that younger siblings remain seated and follow lunchroom rules. Parents must **sign in and out** in the office. Any other lunch-time visitors will require parental written notification in advance. All visitors and their students must sit at the designated visitor tables.

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.*

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 for students entering Arkansas Christian Academy is required.

SYMPTOMS REQUIRING REMOVAL/NON-READMITTANCE

- *Fever:* Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- *Sore Throat with Fever and Swollen Glands*
- *Body Rash with Fever*
- *Vomiting:* Vomiting on two or more occasions within the past 24-hour period
- *Diarrhea:* Three or more runny, watery, or bloody stools in a 24-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.**

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.