



FAMILY HANDBOOK

Revised 2018/June/27

Auburn Classical Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions and other school-administered programs.

This handbook does not contractually bind Auburn Classical Academy in any way.

This handbook is subject to change without notice by the school's governing body, and is available on the Auburn Classical Academy website: www.auburnclassicalacademy.com

Dear Families,

Welcome to Auburn Classical Academy! We are so glad you have joined the ACA Family. The following handbook will provide details regarding school life at ACA. We encourage you to read it thoroughly and consult it as needed throughout the year. It is a wonderful resource of information. In turn, the students, we hope, will gain a clear sense of what is expected of them. The environment we desire to create is one conducive to study and charitable interactions between students, parents and teachers.

Furthermore, since we are not using our “own” space, we hope to be as courteous to our hosts at Life Savers Ministries as they have been generous to us. We hope that “creating a few fences” and establishing protocol from the beginning will allow us to focus on the essentials of teaching your children.

Please review these policies with your children in light of these goals, sign and initial the acknowledgement in the Enrollment and Financial Contract.

We look forward to a wonderful year!

Thank you,

ACA Board of Governors

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Mission, Vision, and Distinctives

Mission Statement

Guided by the Gospel, we aspire to provide a traditional, classical education in partnership with parents. We seek to educate to a higher standard so that the whole person may grow in knowledge, wisdom, and virtue, centered on the love of Christ and His holy Church.

Vision

The vision of Auburn Classical Academy is to partner with parents to provide children a distinctively Christ-centered and classical education whereby students learn to know, love and practice what is true, worthy and excellent. We desire to inspire young men and women to be:

- Scholars who think with excellence and love to learn
- Leaders who love the family and live with character
- Missionaries who believe with confidence and love the lost

Distinctives

TRUTH – *Veritas*

As Christ is the Truth, all education rightly leads to knowledge of Him. So, more than a tacked-on Bible class at the end of a school day, ACA is committed to exalting Christ as the One by Whom, through Whom, and for Whom all creation exists. Therefore, we seek to take “every thought captive” by teaching every subject as part of an integrated whole. We teach students to think biblically, discovering His hand at work in all things; and, we encourage each student to grow in faith through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and Christ-centered relationships.

FAMILY – *Familia*

We believe the family is a cherished institution, graciously given to us by God. We offer a shortened school week, helping to slow down the hectic pace of modern life and leaving time for quality family life. We believe it is the parents’ privilege to train their children at home, to teach them Christian values and beliefs, and to assist them academically. Our responsibility as a school is to partner with parents in support of these objectives.

SCHOLARSHIP – *Schola*

An ACA education aims at far more than practical benefits. Based on the time-tested philosophy of the classical tradition - the method for education the scholars of the ancient times, as well as America’s founding fathers - ACA works through a child’s natural developmental stages, teaching them first the fundamentals of learning (Grammar Stage), followed by the art of thinking logically (Logic Stage), which prepares them for the art of effectively communicating (Rhetoric Stage). We offer a challenging curriculum, where we teach students how to think, not what to think. We work diligently to encourage students to develop a strong academic work ethic, as well as, a life-long love of learning. Such instruction is provided by teachers with a wide array of experiences. *An ACA education is a true partnership between parents and school.*

Educational Philosophy

CHRISTIAN

We view all subjects as seen through the prism of Christ. ACA upholds traditional Christian virtues and the Holy Scriptures as the divinely inspired word of God. We also teach according to a Christian worldview. God, the Creator of heaven and earth, cannot rightly be separated from history, literature, mathematics, science, or any other academic discipline. We view every subject in light of God and His Word. This may be more apparent as we study Bible and history, but it is just as true as we study math and science. In these subjects we discern the order and structure of the world that point decisively to the God of the Bible as our Creator.

Our commitment to Christ-centered teaching does not mean, however, that we will only study Christian material, thereby narrowly presenting the world as only the way we see it. On the contrary, our tools of learning and our faith in Jesus Christ help us to confidently affirm truth wherever it is found, for we know that all truth ultimately comes to us from God. Therefore, we wholeheartedly seek a complete liberal arts education.

CLASSICAL

An ACA education aims at far more than practical benefits. We are classical, meaning that we employ the time-tested method of the Trivium, providing students the tools for life-long learning. This philosophy of education is the tradition passed down to us from the ancient scholars of Greece and Rome, to the monasteries of the Middle Ages, to the American schools that shaped the thinking of our founding fathers.

The Trivium works through a child's natural stages of development. It consists of the first three of the seven great Liberal Arts--**Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric**.

During the Grammar Stage, children study the fundamentals (or grammar) of subjects in order to build a foundation of knowledge on which all future subjects can be further built. In the Logic Stage the fundamentals learned during the Grammar Stage years are brought into relationships. We begin to answer not just what, but why. The goal is to equip students with the thinking skills necessary to recognize sound ideas and detect false ones. Toward the end of this stage, the formal study of Logic begins. When students mature to the Rhetoric stage, they can then be trained to effectively use oral and written language to express thoughts eloquently and persuasively. The primary goal of the Trivium is not to train students in *what* to think, but *how* to think, logically, deeply and wisely.

Classical education can be distinguished from modern education in that it does not neglect the important first step of giving students the classical tools for both intellectual development and for understanding their classical, Christian heritage.

THE JOY OF DISCOVERY

We desire that our students would love learning. To ignite this desire and keep it aflame, our school culture adopts the principles of renowned turn-of-the-century educator Charlotte Mason. Her popular method of education believes that children are taught as whole persons through a wide range of interesting living books, firsthand experiences, and good habits. Her method, the Charlotte Mason method, is centered around the idea that education is three-pronged: Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life. We aspire to create an atmosphere and discipline among our students that creates a love of learning, and it is our hope that parents will partner with us to do the same through their lives at home.

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The study of Latin and Greek has practical, cultural and formative benefits. *Practically*, it provides a foundation for English and all other modern languages and helps increase standardized test scores due to its strong vocabulary and grammar emphasis. Latin is a highly organized language, and its intensive study develops the minds of students unlike any other subject. Students who have discovered *how to learn* with Latin become better-equipped to study all other subjects. *Culturally*, the study of classical languages increases cultural literacy and develops knowledge of our own historical heritage which becomes increasingly significant in this age of relativism. *Formatively*, the study of Latin imparts exceptional academic discipline, moral insight and aesthetic judgment. In light of western civilization, education and classical education have always been synonymous.

Statement of Faith

As a Christ-centered school, the faith of our teachers and families is paramount to everything we do. All classes are taught from a biblical worldview, as one of our goals is to integrate faith and learning. All teachers have expressed faith in Christ and maintain a daily walk with Him. Teachers will set a Christ-like example for students, both in the classroom and while off-campus. Likewise, parents represent ACA (and Jesus Christ) throughout the community. We ask that you also maintain decorum of Christ-likeness as you go about your lives. This consistent behavior between ACA faculty and families promotes the partnership of training our children in the Godly way they should go.

The following statements form the foundation of beliefs upon which ACA is established. The substance of these statements is considered primary doctrine. Understanding that we are a school and not a church, issues related to secondary doctrine will be left under the purview of the church as God's appointed authority on such matters.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
The third day He arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

Administration

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ACA is governed by a Board of Governors who facilitate the broad vision and philosophy of the school. The board meets regularly and as needed, to review the objectives of the school and to assess its progress according to the vision and philosophy of Auburn Classical Academy.

Members

Mrs. Paula Deist, Chairman
Mrs. Kelly Davidson, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Andy Jordan, Treasurer
Mr. Gary Vaughan, Secretary
Mr. B.J. England
Mr. Dusty Garnett
Mrs. Judy Van Dyke

HEAD OF SCHOOL/PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Robin Durbin

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL /2nd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Stephanie Roarke

ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Nicole Richburg

ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Mrs. Steffani Bryant

FACULTY

Mrs. Karen Cox
Mr. Chad Cunningham
Mrs. Jenny Goodenough
Mrs. Tracy Kirk
Mrs. Melissa Lewis
Miss Laura Lee Logan
Mrs. Jennie Lombardo
Mrs. Hannah Nichols
Mrs. Jill Roberts
Mrs. Lesley Thornell
Mr. Garrett Walden
Mrs. Heather Walker
Mrs. Amy Wells

ACA CONTACT INFORMATION

Auburn Classical Academy
1901-B Waverly Parkway
Opelika, AL 36801
334.821.7081

www.auburnclassicalacademy.com
Email: information.aca@gmail.com

Operational Policies and Procedures

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

School attendance is imperative for the students' academic success. Frequent student tardiness and absences disrupt class and affect individual academic progress. Students are not successful at ACA, academically or socially, if they routinely arrive late or miss class. Each time a student is tardy or absent, it becomes part of the permanent school record. **For all grades, a student must be present 4 hours to be considered present for the school day.**

Tardiness

Assembly begins, and the entrance doors will be closed *promptly at 8:00 a.m.* Students who are late must wait outside with a parent until the end of Assembly at which time the doors are opened and the parent and student proceed to the office to sign in and receive a tardy slip. Four or more tardies in a grading period could result in course failure, lowered course grade, or could affect a student's re-enrollment for the following year. In addition, **four tardies will be counted as a single unexcused absence.** Each subsequent tardy after 4 will count as an additional unexcused absence.

Absences and Make-Up work

Excused absences include illness or circumstances beyond a students' and/or parents' control. When students have excused absences, parents should notify the **school office before class begins by phone or email.** It is within each teacher's discretion as to how absences and make-up work and/or tests will be handled. However, it is the parents' and students' responsibility to get the missed assignments or classwork. This should be done by first contacting another student in the class. If necessary, parents/students should contact the teacher prior to the next class period to receive missed assignments. It is not the teacher's responsibility to assure completion of missed assignments.

In extenuating circumstances, such as extended illness or hardship, other arrangements for completing assignments may be discussed between teacher and parents. **Excused absences** (illness, death in the family, religious observance) should be limited to 4 or fewer per semester, if possible.

Students will be allowed **4 unexcused absences per semester.** Students will be responsible for the information covered during their absence since it will most likely be included on comprehensive assessments.

Excused and unexcused absences will be included on the student's report card. Should a student's absences exceeded the above limits, a slip will be included with the report card requesting a conference be scheduled with the administration and parents to determine a plan for appropriate academic progress. Should a student exceed the 4 excused and 4 unexcused absences allowed per semester, and the student is not making appropriate academic progress, ACA will report the information to the student's local school district.

Early Dismissal

Early dismissal is an exception for emergency situations only. Parents should inform the teacher and school office indicating the time and reason for early dismissal. Parents should sign students out in the office, and students should wait in their classrooms until an administrator retrieves them.

Illness

While we want all students to attend class, we understand sickness can occur. To maintain the highest standard of hygiene please do not bring a child to class if your child has a fever, contagious cough, green nasal discharge, vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours of class time. We also want to do our best to maintain good hygiene in the classroom, and teachers will encourage students to wash hands after bathroom use and lunch, as well as use hand sanitizer in class.

STUDENT SAFETY

All doors to ACA are locked during the school day. A doorbell is located outside the main hallway entrance and should be used for all who wish to enter the building. An administrator will open the door once the doorbell notifies him/her of a guest. ALL persons entering the school during classroom time, lunch time, or outside time should first report to the office to sign in and receive a "Visitor" lanyard to be worn while on school property. An administrator will escort guests to their destinations. Before leaving ACA, guests should report to the office to sign out and return lanyards.

Any parents with concerns for their children's safety regarding specific individuals and related potential danger should make ACA faculty and administrators aware of the individuals and circumstances.

MEDICAL POLICIES

ACA does not have a school nurse, and ACA is not prepared to administer medical care or treatment. Should students need to be given prescription or homeopathic medicine while at school, parents must complete a **Prescription Medication Authorization Form** or a **Homeopathic Medication Authorization Form** and turn it into the office. Please request these form from the Administrator. Medications should be brought to the office upon arrival to school. They may be dispensed only from the school office.

ACA does maintain a well-equipped first aid kit in the office. Minor scrapes, bruises, bumps, etc. will be attended by an administrator. So that minor issues may be treated, parents should complete a **Medication Authorization Form** (included in the enrollment materials). Any more serious injuries or concerns will be addressed by telephoning a parent. Additionally, any injury requiring significant attention from a teacher or administrator will be noted on an "Injury Report" and placed in a student's file.

When a student has a condition which requires exemption from some school activity, parents should send a written excuse to the Head of School to be disseminated to all appropriate teachers.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, each child enrolled in day care, Head Start, and public or private school in Alabama must have a valid Alabama Certificate of Immunization (Blue Card) on file at the facility that they attend. The certificate may be obtained from the physician or clinic that administers the vaccine or may be completed by any county health department in the State if the parent presents a vaccine record from the provider. For students who are moving to Alabama, out-of-state vaccine records must be transferred to the Alabama Certificate of Immunization prior to day care, Head Start, or school entry. This may be accomplished by taking a vaccine record from the provider to the local county health department, or, if a physician in Alabama has been chosen by the family, the record may be transposed by the physician.

The State of Alabama does not recognize philosophical, moral, or ethical exemption from vaccination. A medical exemption may be issued by a physician or an Alabama Certificate of Religious Exemption may be obtained from the local county health department. More information on vaccination exemptions may be found at www.vaclib.org/exempt/alabama.htm.

CUSTODIAL PARENT POLICY

In cases of divorce or non-parental custody, ACA will communicate with the custodial parent/guardian as to daily issues regarding students. It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to communicate with the non-custodial parent.

Academic Policies

At ACA, we designate K-5 as Lower School, and 6-8 as Middle School. ***Academic expectations and work load increase significantly at each grade transition.*** While all students are subject to reevaluation at the end of every school year, particular scrutiny is given to students at the transition years between Lower and Middle School. The school makes every effort to identify early those students who are struggling and then communicate concerns and recommendations to the parents.

Academic Integrity

ACA expects the highest standards of academic integrity from all students. Students should conduct themselves with a character befitting the classical, Christian ideals which define our school. Academic dishonesty consists of, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or assisting another to engage in such activities. Students who demonstrate a lack of academic integrity in any way are subject to disciplinary action or expulsion.

Academic Probation

A student whose academic performance falls below the acceptable standard as dictated by the classroom teacher and ACA administration is placed on academic probation. Typically a student with a GPA below 2.00 (C-) will be placed on probation. A student on probation is given an additional semester to improve his/her grades to an acceptable level as determined by the classroom teachers, parents, and administration. Failing to meet the requirements of probation may result in dismissal from ACA or jeopardize future enrollment.

Grading Policies

Homework

It is within each teacher's purview to set and maintain a homework policy, including measures to be taken if the student fails to complete his/her homework. Please know that ACA does NOT adhere to a "No Zero Policy"; that is, zeros may be given by a teacher for the failure to complete and/or timely turn in assigned homework.

Planners & Take Home Folders: Recording Homework, Parent Communication, Take-Home Papers

- KINDERGARTEN through 1st GRADE: Primary, daily communication from teachers to parents will be made via the students' daily Take-Home folder. This folder will contain student papers, any homework and comments or notes from the teacher. The Take-Home Folder should return to the school with your child each day.
- 2nd GRADE through 8th GRADE: Each student from 2nd grade through 8th grade will be issued an ACA Planner, which will be used by the student to record all homework, project dates, quizzes/tests and other important dates. The planner may also be used by the teacher to make written comments/notes to students and parents. The Planner should be checked by parents each day.

Each Planner will also contain a pocket insert in which students and teachers will place all paperwork that is to go home for the week. The pocketed insert will indicate papers that are to be brought home and papers that are to be signed and returned to school. Although this portion of the Planner may contain papers each day, the majority of papers will generally be placed in the folder at the end of the week.

Both the Take-Home Folder and the 2nd-8th grade Planner will serve as the **KEY** to communication from teachers and administration, including graded papers and frequent updates. It is the responsibility of parents to check the daily Take-Home Folder and/or Planner (with Take-Home Paper pocketed insert) each day for assignments, returned work, announcements, etc. Assignments and work should be distributed to the appropriate notebooks after review. Any return communication or administrative papers from parents to teachers should be placed in the folder for the student's return to class.

Textbooks

Textbooks are the property of ACA. An inventory list will be given to teachers at the beginning of the school year listing textbooks, books, curriculum resources, and other materials borrowed and assigned to students. Teachers will keep track of all items used by their students. The condition of each book given to students will be recorded by the teacher at the beginning of the year so that the current student will not be held responsible for damage done by previous users. These textbooks will be collected at the end of the year. Fines will be levied on those students who have damaged a book beyond normal wear and tear. If the book is damaged beyond repair, the parents must pay the cost of its replacement. Information about textbook damage should be given to the office at least one week before the end of school.

Grading Philosophy

Our goal at ACA is not for students to “earn good grades.” We utilize grades as a means to an end. The end **goal is the mastery of knowledge and wisdom.** Grades are a means to spur students on to excellence and to give teachers, students and their parents a snapshot of the students’ progress.

The generally accepted average for a regular class in the Grammar School should be approximately 80%. Because ACA is an academically rigorous school, at the Logic stage, the average could be lower. In a typical class, it is reasonable to assume that the average will fall somewhere around a B or C. Scores should generally range from A’s to F’s with a fraction of the students making A’s. We do not grade inflate or grade on a bell curve. For further information, please see the “Top Reasons Not to Enroll in ACA” on our website or in the office.

Grading Scales

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

E (90-100) = Excellent

VG (80-89) = Very Good

S (70-79) = Satisfactory

N (63-69) = Needs Improvement

U (under 63) = Unsatisfactory

2nd-8th Grade Grading Scale

97-100%	A+	73-76%	C
93-96%	A	70-72%	C-
90-92%	A-	67-69%	D+
87-89%	B+	63-66%	D
83-86%	B	60-62%	D-
80-82%	B-	59% and below	F
77-79%	C+		

An “A” is defined as excellent; “B” as above average; “C” as average; “D” as below average; “F” as failing. The highest report card grade a student can obtain in any subject is a “100.” Students typically receive number grades on most assignments.

Academic Warning

A student is placed on *academic warning* for receiving one F or two grades of D+ or lower in a semester. In such cases, a conference among parents, teachers, and the Head of School must be held before students can continue in their current course of study.

Conduct Grades

Students will receive mid-semester and end of semester report cards which will include a "Conduct" grade rated as follows:

- O --- Outstanding
- S --- Satisfactory
- N --- Needs Improvement

Conduct grades include teacher evaluations of the following work traits and behavior: prepared for class with all materials, follows directions, demonstrates self-control, respectful to teachers, completes assigned work, uses time wisely, neat worker, mindful of personal space, respectful to classmates, excessive talking/talking out of turn.

Promotion & Enrollment

ACA reserves the right to assign a student to a grade level based on educational need, as determined by the faculty and administration. Completion of a grade does not guarantee promotion to the subsequent grade.

Although priority is given to current families, ACA is not obligated to place a student in a particular class, does not guarantee re-enrollment based on the completion of a prior year, nor guarantee automatic enrollment because of the successful enrollment or promotion of a sibling(s).

Financial Policies

Tuition

Initial non-refundable commitment fee is due with **Enrollment & Financial Contract**, and is 10% of the year's total financial obligation.

Payment toward the remaining total financial obligation may be made as a single payment, a four-payment quarterly plan, or 12 monthly payments.

- Single payments should be made by June 15th.
- Monthly payments are electronically processed and withdrawn on the 15th of each month, June-May (unless the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday at which time the draft will occur on the next business day). Monthly payments incur a \$10 per month processing fee.
- Quarterly payments are due on the 15th of July, October, January, and April. Quarterly payments do not incur a processing fee.
- There will be a \$25 fee assessed on any returned checks or dishonored debit payments. A \$25 late fee will be assessed after the 20th of every month.

Signed and submitted **Enrollment & Financial Contract** obligates paying a student's tuition for the entire school year except in the following circumstances:

- A. The student moves to a location 50 miles from the school and gives ACA 60 days written notice.
- B. The student experiences a major extended illness or death and is unable to attend school.
- C. The student's parents or caregivers experience a major extended illness or death.
- D. The student's scheduled class does not make and the student is forced to withdraw.

Parents who do not find they fit within one of these exceptions are able to petition the Board of Governors directly for consideration of their hardship. In any event of an exception being granted, ACA will refund tuition on a pro-rated basis.

General School Policies

Building Use

Auburn Classical Academy is not affiliated with Life Savers Ministries (LSM); LSM is simply our very gracious host. Therefore, all students, teachers and families of ACA must strive to be gracious guests. It is the LSM building first and foremost. We need to actively reduce the wear and tear we might cause on the facilities. Specific instructions as to building/grounds use are subject to revision throughout the school year.

Therefore, we ask the following:

- Do not enter the brick building closest to Waverly Parkway.
- Do not call the LSM office for any ACA business.
- Park and drive only in areas designated for ACA use. Work to stay on designated driveway and parking area; avoid parking on grassy areas.
- Always leave facilities better than we found them – DO NOT borrow/use any supplies other than paper products in the bathrooms. All black/white boards should be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each class. Be neat and clean in the bathroom, lunch, and outdoor areas.
- NO FOOD or DRINK may be consumed anywhere other than in the lunchroom or designated classrooms. Students may only have water in study hall or class in order to reduce the incidence of sticky spills.
- DO NOT enter any rooms that we are not using for class.
- Return chairs and tables to the state they were in originally by the end of class on Thursday.

Morning Drop-off Procedure

Please enter the parking lot from the west driving entrance (right side of the property when facing LSM). Proceed around the property to the building in the rear to drop off your student (from the right side of your vehicle). Children will be greeted by an adult at the drop off point. They should then quietly proceed to their classroom to drop off their backpack and then make their way to the Assembly Room. Children must be dropped off between 7:40-7:55 a.m. If you arrive earlier, please wait in the car line in your vehicle with your child. If you are late, please follow procedures for being tardy (page 9).

Due to reduced space in the car-line area, **students may only be dropped off and NOT walked into school by a parent/caretaker** at the beginning of the school day. The only exception to the drop-off policy is for kindergarten children during the first week of school. Parents of those children may park in a designated area and walk their child to the classroom. If for some extenuating circumstance your older student must be walked into school, please park in a designated area not blocking the drop-off traffic. **Parking space is extremely limited, and we would appreciate your cooperation in accommodating all our families.**

School Day Pick-Up Procedure

Please use the same path and procedure as the morning drop-off, and wait for your child to be escorted to your vehicle. You must post a large visible sign in the front window of your vehicle with the surnames of all children you are picking up at this time (a sign will be provided in your family's white packet of information at our Back to School Orientation, Thursday, August 2, 2018). Children may not go to their rides until they have checked out with the teacher/adult in charge.

Back to School Orientation Day

Since at least one parent will be attending "school" on August 2, 2018 from 8:00-11:00 a.m., parking will be extremely tight. Please fill the designated parking areas first and then follow designated directions.

Middle School students (grades 6-8) are expected to review this Family Handbook and sign a written agreement statement affirming that they have read, are in agreement with, and are willing to abide by the established standards of the school as outlined in it (middle school teacher will administer in class).

Outdoor Space and Parking Lot Use

The outdoor area of the LSM property may only be used under adult supervision, regardless of the age of the students or siblings. Once your child is finished with class for the day, they must be checked out and ACA is no longer responsible for them. If parents and siblings use the property, maintain reasonable safety precautions and noise levels. Remember to clean up after yourselves and respect the facility.

Lunch Orders and Lunchroom Procedure

Local restaurants cater lunches at ACA each day. Families should keep up with days that their child has not ordered lunch from a vendor and send lunch from home on those days. Student lunches brought from home should not require refrigeration or heating. When lunches are brought from home, eating utensils, napkins, etc. should be brought as well. Soft drinks are not to be brought to school. Catered lunches are purchased for a month at the time through mymealorder.com. Catered lunches may be ordered the 1st through the 15th of the month prior (e.g. August 1-15 for September lunches).

Parents are welcome, and are encouraged, to come at any time to eat with their children. No advance notice has to be given. You are always welcome!

All students staying for lunch will be walked to the lunchroom by their teacher. The student code of conduct (see p. 17 of Family Handbook) is enforced during lunch period and we expect our students to use this time to encourage friendships and build each other up. We desire the development of good manners and Christ-like conversation. Students will eat and visit until given the direction from the monitor to clean up.

Lunch will begin after all students have arrived and we stand together to recite *The Doxology (Table Blessing)*. Upon finishing lunch, students will clean their immediate area and line up for dismissal.

Student Electronics Policy

Unless otherwise directed by lead teachers for specific classroom needs (e.g. algebra calculators), students may not bring electronic devices of any kind to the school. Particularly, there will never be a reason for students to have cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops or personal devices which are capable of accessing the internet, or with a camera function. All such devices are strictly prohibited. A drop box for all phones and other personal devices will be maintained in the school office. If communication must be had between a student and parent, the ACA office phone will be used.

Special Academic Accommodations Policy

All ACA students are required to participate in every subject designated for the student's grade level. Any tutoring by a non-ACA entity shall take place apart from designated school hours.

Dress Code

Students attending Auburn Classical Academy follow a dress code. Coming dressed in clothes associated with diligent work elevates a student's mindset toward doing their best and frees the environment from distraction.

ACA maintains a dress code in order to underscore ACA's seriousness of purpose by encouraging students to think of their attire as an aspect of their work and to promote a sense of unity with the school and with the students as a group. All students are required to abide by the dress code whenever they are at school or at school-related functions. The 2018-2019 Dress Code is posted on the ACA website. On Wednesday students are to wear "chapel" attire, and on Thursday students may wear an ACA T-shirt with dress code appropriate attire.

Approved uniform choices may be found at dennisuniform.com; ACA's school code is: BABNCL

Teachers and administrators will inspect students when they arrive. Parents of those students who are not in compliance with the dress code will be telephoned to provide the appropriate items within a reasonable period of time.

Please see our website <http://www.auburnclassicalacademy.com> for up-to-date information on the dress code.

Personal Appearance:

- Clothes should be clean and well-fitted; there should be NO visible undergarments.
- Jewelry should be minimal, simple, and worn by girls only.
 - Girls' earrings should be stud earrings or petit hoops in solid color; one per lobe.
 - Girls' may wear a single necklace, petite in size with a modest charm.
- Neither smart watches, nor bracelets, nor rings are allowed for girls or boys.
- Hair should be neat and well-groomed. Hair should not be dyed any unnatural colors.
 - Boys' hair shall be above the collar and above the brow-line.
 - Girls' bangs should be above the brow-line.
- No visible tattoos or body piercings allowed on either boys or girls.

Fire Evacuation

In the event that an alarm sounds for drill or a real fire, students will line up in their classroom with the teacher or monitor. They will not take any belongings with them. The classes will then proceed out the nearest door in a quiet manner where they will line up with their teacher until given further directions.

Tornado Warnings

If a tornado siren sounds or a warning is received for the area, students will line up at the door quietly and leave all their belongings in class. Teachers will lead their classes down the hallway to designated spaces. Students will then sit quietly in these locations and wait until given permission to return to their classrooms.

Prohibited Items

If prohibited items are brought onto the grounds by any student, the items will be confiscated immediately and depending on the severity of the offense the parent may be called to pick up the student, and a parent/administrative conference scheduled before the student may return to class. This list includes but is not limited to: weapons or knives of any kind; drugs, alcohol, cigarettes; and inappropriate printed material of any kind.

Field Trips

Field trips generally will be scheduled on Fridays in order to provide maximum class time instruction. Parents are encouraged to attend field trips, but sibling inclusion will be subject to the teacher's discretion based on the nature, destination, and purpose of the field trip. Any parent attending a field trip is considered a chaperone and thus possesses responsibility for holding students within their care to ACA standards of behavior. Chaperones must read and sign a "Chaperone Information and Responsibilities" agreement form before participating in an ACA field trip.

Birthdays and Classroom Parties

Children with birthdays (or those with summer birthdays to be recognized in May) will be sung "Happy Birthday" during morning Assembly. At the Teachers' discretion, parents may send small treats to be enjoyed by the student and classmates during a break or after lunch.

Invitations to parties should NOT be distributed at school unless the entire class (or all boys or all girls) are invited. Parents who want to have smaller, more specific parties should use the ACA directory to mail invitations. Please follow the same guidelines with thank you notes. Students are to refrain from talking about small parties, sleep-overs, etc. when all students from the class were not invited.

The manner in which a holiday is celebrated shall be determined by the teacher in accordance to the school's philosophy. It is the position of the school that holiday celebrations should focus on the significance of the particular holiday, and on our sense of community and family.

Behavioral, Social & Cultural Policies

Student Code of Conduct

ACA assists parents primarily in the academic education of their children. Parents are principally responsible for their children's conduct; they are God's agents of discipline. Basic manners, morality and social graces must be taught at home. Teachers and staff will seek to reinforce these, but will not be responsible for teaching them. Likewise, discipline is properly executed by parents, although staff may exercise minor correction and discipline when necessary during school hours. Standards of behavior used throughout the school are scripturally based and made with reference to the example of Christ.

Our Code of Conduct centers around the word HONOR – we want to collectively honor God, and honor each other, as well as the facility we use.

Students are expected to:

- Honor all adults at all times, by speaking and acting respectfully and obeying cheerfully and immediately.
- Honor each other in words and actions, treating each other with kindness, purity, respect, and using words that build each other up.
- Maintain an absolute standard of honesty and integrity, academically and otherwise.
- Exhibit modesty in work, appearance, words and deeds.
- Act appropriately on school grounds – follow rules for building use and restrictions, exhibit self-control, and work diligently.
- Abstain from any intimate sexual conduct.

School Rules

- Have reverence for God and obey His commandments. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- Honor others above yourself. (Romans 12:10)
- Do your work as unto the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)
- Do everything without complaining or grumbling. (Philippians 2:14-15)
- Encourage one another and build each other up. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Practically speaking...
 1. We cheerfully and promptly obey the authority under which we are placed.
 2. We can appeal respectfully and courteously. We do not argue or negotiate.
 3. We love and honor one another.
 4. We give encouragement to each other.
 5. We do not point out the shortcomings of others in order to build ourselves up.
 6. We tell the truth.
 7. We do not disrespect the classroom and teacher by passing notes or otherwise interrupting.
 8. We do not spread rumors or gossip.
 9. We will not make excuses for our wrong actions but will admit them.
 10. We avoid cliques, clubs, or games that exclude others.
 11. When others are sorry, we forgive them.
 12. When others are sad, we comfort them.
 13. When we have work to do, we do it without complaining.
 14. If we make a mess, we clean it up.
 15. We treat one another with respect and patience.

ACA reserves the right to discipline or ask a student to withdraw for any reason. Failure to comply with expected standards of conduct will subject the student to potential disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or dismissal.

Conflicts Between Students

Conflicts between students that occur during school time, when observed by teachers, will be corrected within the code of conduct and discipline procedure. However, since parents are considered the primary trainer of students, we ask that any conflicts between students that students bring up at home be addressed from parent to parent. Teachers should be made aware of ongoing issues so that they can watch for them and assist in correction and protection of students, but we encourage families to be proactive in trying to resolve these issues between children in a Godly manner.

Discipline Policy

Students should be aware of the class and school rules and be encouraged to exercise self-discipline. Teachers are expected to correct and discipline students within the classroom. If a situation arises in which a student does not correct his/her behavior when asked to do so by the teacher, the student may be asked to sit in the hallway and silently work or to sit in the office. If a situation warrants, parents will be called to the school. Further disciplinary issues will be handled quickly between the Head of School and parents. Corporal punishment is never used at ACA.

Social Media Policy

ACA teachers are not to communicate with ACA students via social networking sites.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Auburn Classical Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions and other school-administered programs.

Sexual Conduct, Orientation, and Identity

ACA considers the marital union to be between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24).

- Abstinence from all intimate sexual conduct outside the marital union of one man and one woman shall be strictly observed.

ACA considers a child's sex to be that which is God-given; male or female, and that which he or she is biologically categorized at birth.

- Males and females will use separate restrooms designated by their biological sex, unless an emergency requires otherwise.
- Biological males will follow the ACA Boys' Dress Code; biological females will follow the ACA Girls' Dress Code.

Parent Volunteers

ACA depends on parents who volunteer their time, skills, and resources to make our school successful. Each year parents have the opportunity to sign up for events they would like to help with and list skills they would be willing to share. ACA values the talented hands and willing hearts of our parents, and seeks to use them efficiently. Please indicate your willingness to serve as a volunteer by contacting the ACA office or speaking with Mrs. Bryant.

Communication

Teacher Communication

Most of our teachers have consecutive classes and cannot stop for parent conversations in between classes or in the car line. Teachers are responsible for transitioning students from class to class, as well as cleaning up and preparing for class, so please do not use this time to ask questions or tell them about absences, etc. Teachers will provide parents with contact information at the start of the year with the best time and method of contacting them. Please use these means to communicate with them or arrange a conference.

Addressing Concerns

Parents shall copy Mrs. Bryant (information.aca@gmail.com) when emailing teachers in order to keep the administration informed of classroom circumstances. Teachers will do the same when emailing parents.

- If you have a concern about curriculum content, school policy or philosophy, ask to speak with an administrator.
- If you have questions about the day-to-day workings of a particular classroom (grading, discipline, homework load, etc.) contact the teacher first in person or via phone call and if necessary, follow up with an e-mail message.
- In the rare instances that a parent and teacher cannot come to an agreement you may take the issue to the administration.
- **At no time should an individual student's problem be addressed to non-involved parties.** In the great majority of cases if you have worked patiently and in good faith with the teacher or administrator you will find a satisfactory resolution.

Weekly Newsletter

A primary means of communication for us is the weekly **ACA Column**. This is a brief newsletter available weekly on the ACA website. Please read this document faithfully. We want to inform parents in a timely manner of important dates, events, or alterations from our regular policies and procedures. We also include fund raising information, and other important documents as attachments to the **ACA Column**. Please read it carefully!

*Information in the **Family Handbook** is subject to change without notice by the school's governing body, and is available on the Auburn Classical Academy website: www.auburnclassicalacademy.com*