



**Preschool-5th Grade Parent/Student
Handbook**

Revised July 2025

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Section I - About ACS

School Address and Contact

Aurora Christian Schools - Main Campus
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Preschool Office: 630.264.3894
Fax: 630.892.1692
web: aurorachristian.org

Aurora Christian Schools - Sycamore Campus
355 N. Cross Street
Sycamore, IL 60178
Main Office: 815.895.8522
Fax: 815.895.8717
web: aurorachristian.org

Mission Statement of Aurora Christian Schools

To lead students to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, educate them from a Christian worldview, and prepare them for a life of service to Christ and their world.

Vision Statement

The vision of Aurora Christian Schools is to be an authentic Christian community, unified by our common faith in Jesus Christ. As a cooperative body of believers, we will encourage each other to daily pursue righteousness. Together, we will strive to energize and equip each student to succeed in whatever path the Lord directs. Our desire is to see our students impact their communities and become purposeful, productive Christian adults.

Statement of Faith

We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and practice.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.

We believe that God created Adam and Eve, labeling them male & female and man & woman. Biological sex and gender are divinely connected and represent the image of God in people.

We believe that God has ordained marriage solely as the exclusive union of one man and one woman.

We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our own sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His Ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate.

We believe in "that Blessed Hope": the personal, visible, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

*This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. The Board of Directors of Aurora Christian Schools is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application for the purposes of Aurora Christian Schools' faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline.

Christian Philosophy of Education

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." -Psalm 90:2 (ESV)

A Christian Philosophy of Education must begin, have as its continual frame of reference, and end with the eternal God. In doing so, it acknowledges that:

1. There is only one God (Deut. 6:4), who exists eternally in three persons: God the Father (2 Cor 1:3), God the Son (Heb 1:1-8), and God the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30).
2. The universe and all within was created for the purpose of the glorification of, and is sustained by, God (Ge 1-2; Ex 20:11; Col. 1:16-17; Jn 1:1-3; Rev 4-11).
3. This eternal God has revealed Himself to man through the creation (Ps 19:1; Ro 1:19-20), and through His inspired, inerrant, infallible, eternal Word, the Bible (Heb 1:1-2; 2 Ti 3:16-17; Ps 119:89; Jn 1:1; 2 Pe 1:20-21).
4. Man's relationship to God was broken by the sin of Adam and Eve (Ge 3); therefore, all men since Adam are born with a sinful nature and are under the sentence of death from a Holy God (1 Co 15:22; Ro 3:23, 5:14, 6:23; Eze 18:4).
5. Jesus Christ, through the miracle of the incarnation, lived among men and voluntarily offered Himself as our substitute, dying on the cross to appease the wrath of God and make possible an eternal relationship of man with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14-17, 3:16; Eph 2:8).
6. A life of holiness is possible for the believer by means of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, who teaches us regarding the things of God and causes us to discern areas of personal sin, which exist as a result of the ongoing conflict of our two natures, sinful and righteous (Jn 14:16-18,26, 16:7-15; Ro 7:14-25).

Based on the above assertions, it is possible to establish certain definitive statements in regard to the educational process. True Christian Education will recognize that:

7. God is the ultimate source of all truth (Jn 14:6). Therefore, His Word (revealed truth) holds a position of priority over human reason and enables all of life, in both its temporal and eternal aspects, to be viewed from the perspective of the centrality of God rather than the centrality of man (Ps 1:18-32). Any distinction between "sacred truth" and "secular truth" is, therefore, a false dichotomy.
8. A differentiation must be made between earthly wisdom (1 Co 1-2; Jas 3:15) and Christian wisdom (1Co 1:30, 7:10-16; Jas 3:13,17), while acknowledging that the source of all true wisdom and understanding is God Himself (Pr 1:7, 9:10, 15:33; Col 2:3). We affirm the importance of knowledge in the development of godly wisdom, but do not support any systems of thought that are incompatible with biblical truth.
9. The primary purposes of Christian education are:
 - a. to persuade the student of his need for a personal, saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - b. to nurture, admonish, & encourage the student to live in conformity with the revealed will of God;
 - c. to live a life of service, wholly dedicated to and dependent upon God (Ro 12).
10. Christian education requires the natural integration and consistent application of God's Word into every area (academic, extracurricular, administrative, etc.) of the school program (Eph 4:4-6).
11. Parents bear the sole responsibility for the education of their children. Christian parents, in particular, should be aware of their duty to raise and educate their children in accordance with God's way and experience the resulting blessing of obedience or consequences of disobedience which will result from their decision regarding the provision of a God-honoring education (Dt 4:10, 6:6-7, 20:17-18; Ps 106:34-37; Jer 10:2; Mt 12:30; 2 Co 6:17; Eze 44:5; Ezr 7:25; Pr 22:6).
12. God has ordained marriage between one man and one woman (Ge 2:18, 22, 24), the family (Ge 1:27, 28; 3:18-24), and the Church (Mt 16:13-18; Eph 5:23-32) as the institutions which He desires to use to accomplish His divine will on Earth. Local gatherings of believers called churches, the visible entity of the universal Church, serve their families in the area of education by training and equipping parents to be the primary providers of spiritual instruction for their children. To assist parents in this area there are two types of schools: the Sunday school and the Monday through Friday Christian school. The Christian school also provides a well-rounded program of Christ-centered academics and extracurricular activities. The goal of the three - parents, church, and Christian school - is to work together to carry out the mandate of Scripture to "Train up a child in the way he should go: even when he is old he will not depart from it." -Pr 22:6 (ESV)
13. The biblical and philosophical goal of Aurora Christian Schools is to develop students into mature, Christlike individuals who will be able to exhibit a Christlike life. Of necessity, this involves the school's understanding and belief of what qualities or characteristics exemplify a Christlike life. Even though parents may personally believe differently, while enrolled at Aurora Christian Schools, all employees and students are expected to exhibit the qualities of a Christlike life espoused and taught by the school and to refrain from certain activities or behavior. Thus, Aurora Christian Schools retains the right to terminate any employee or refuse enrollment to or expel any student who engages in sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) or who identifies as homosexual/bisexual/transgender or is a practicing homosexual/bisexual/transgender (Ge 1-2, Lev 20:10-16; Mt 15:18-20; Ro 1:26-27; I Co 6:9-10).

Core Values

As is highlighted in our Mission Statement, Aurora Christian Schools seeks to promote the following core values:

1. RELATIONSHIP
 - a. Our greatest desire is to encourage and support students in their development of a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

- b. We endeavor to provide both curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students and families to develop meaningful relationships within a Christian community.
2. EDUCATION
- a. Our primary responsibility is to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview.
 - b. Our goal is to assist and encourage each student to reach his or her maximum academic potential.
 - c. We believe that each student should be provided with the academic foundation to succeed in further education/training for whatever career/life path the Lord directs.
3. SERVICE
- a. We believe that Scripture commands Christians to love and serve one another.
 - b. We believe that we are called to help students develop habits of service that will continue throughout a lifetime.

History of Aurora Christian Schools

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

Aurora Christian Schools (ACS) began as a dream in the hearts of concerned parents and Christian citizens, and on January 7, 1975, about 40 persons met to discuss the possibilities of such a school. A board was formed, curriculum chosen, teachers selected, and, on September 3, 1975 school opened with 82 students (Grade K – 9) in facilities loaned by Claim Street Baptist Church. Enrollment was 114 at the end of the first year.

Pupil population grew to 220 at the beginning of the school year 1976-77. The Aurora Christian Preschool and the 10th grade were added. This enrollment required additional facilities which were provided by First Presbyterian Church.

The need for our own building was clear. A large building, with adequate land, central to the Fox Valley and surrounding communities was urgent if ACS was to continue to grow. The Milford Tool and Rivet Company was selling just such a building and on July 30, 1976, escrow was closed and remodeling construction began at 801 W. Illinois Ave.

The resulting facility was the product of thousands of hours of volunteer work, some contracted labor, and many love gifts from interested and caring friends. The building was an open beamed, high-ceilinged, concrete and steel factory. It became a warm, comfortable, pleasant school building—the result of “love going to work.”

By the end of the 1977-78 school year, pupil population had swelled to well over 380 students...once again we faced the need for larger facilities. On Saturday, June 3, 1978, a public auction was held at 14 Blackhawk St. The old Benjamin Franklin Junior High School—a building of 73,000 square feet of classrooms, office, gymnasium, auditorium, etc.—became the property of ACS. Families and friends of our school again performed a monumental task of completely redecorating the “new” building by August 28th, the first day of classes for 1978-79.

Over the next several years, pupil population continued its steady climb. June of 1986 saw the groundbreaking for a new addition to our 801 W. Illinois Ave. campus. One year later, there was 26,000 more square feet at 801, containing 18 new classrooms, a full size gymnasium, and a dramatic 145 foot long two story atrium connecting the two buildings—enough space for 500 new students!

Two major milestones were reached in 1988. Our school received full accreditation from ACSI (Association of Christian Schools, Int.) and full recognition from the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education). The latter enabled us to join the IHSA (Illinois High School Association) as full members for athletic and other competitions. In 2003, our school also received full accreditation from NCA (North

Central Association. ACS maintains ACSI Accreditation, ISBE Recognition, IHSA membership, and adheres to all applicable sections of the Illinois School Code .

In April of 1997, God continued the miracle called ACS with the addition of 116 acres along I-88 near Orchard Rd. In 2003, portions of this property were sold to allow the purchase of an office/warehouse facility on Sullivan Road. Renovation occurred during the spring and summer of 2004. The Sullivan Road Campus was fully occupied during the spring semester of 2005.

This beautiful facility has enabled our high school enrollment to flourish, stabilizing around 360 students. Through generous donations of time and talents, a state-of-the-art football field and track were added to the campus for kickoff in the fall of 2008. During the summer of 2010, the decision was made to consolidate our campuses. All Preschool through 12th grade students officially came “Under One Roof” on Sullivan Road in February, 2011.

In November, 2012, the Lord provided another miracle with the refinancing of our debt! We were overjoyed to Celebrate His Faithfulness!!

The founders of Aurora Christian [Paul and Loretta House] and Cornerstone (then DeKalb) Christian [Walter and Ruthana Rodatz] collaborated in 1975-1976 as they opened nearby schools with similar missions. In August, 2019, Cornerstone Christian Academy joined our ACS family and became Aurora Christian Schools - Cornerstone Campus. ACS Cornerstone offers a quality PreK-8 program in Sycamore while all high school students attend our main ACS campus in Aurora. We believe the Lord is using our combined ministries to sustain and strengthen Christian education in northwest Illinois.

Our Sullivan Road property was completely paid off in December, 2023! This miracle was accomplished through fiscally responsible budgeting, a mission-aligned lender, and significant donations from long-time generous supporters of ACS. We are overwhelmed and in awe of the Lord’s continued faithfulness to Aurora Christian!!

In fall of the 2024-2025 school year, all of our students became ACS Eagles. Cornerstone Campus officially re-branded to become ACS Sycamore Campus, and now proudly shares our district-wide colors of Red, White, & Gray.

In 2025, we are proudly celebrating 50 years of Aurora Christian Schools! As we look back at five decades of the Lord’s faithfulness, we also look forward to the miracles and blessings that are yet to come! Isaiah 40:31 promises, “...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

We are glad you are a part of the Aurora Christian Schools Family. To God be the Glory; great things He has done!

Accreditation and Illinois State (ISBE) Recognition

Aurora Christian Schools is fully K-12 accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). ACS also adheres to all applicable sections of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5] and maintains full recognition status as a nonpublic school with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Nondiscrimination Policy

Aurora Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to ACS students. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of our educational policies, admissions procedures, tuition assistance awards, athletic and other school administered programs. We do, however, reserve the right to deny admission to any individual who cannot benefit from enrollment based on past academic achievement, disqualifying disability, or whose personal life-style is not in harmony with the stated philosophy and purpose of Aurora Christian Schools.

If there is reason to believe that unlawful discrimination has occurred, a complaint may be filed.

1. Complaints must be in writing and delivered by mail, email, or hand delivery to the superintendent within 180 days of the date of the incident. The written complaint must describe the conduct or incident; explain details leading to belief that unlawful discrimination has occurred; and include the complainant's name, contact information, and signature. Anonymous complaints will not be investigated.
2. Upon receipt of a signed written complaint, the superintendent or designee will conduct an investigation and respond in writing within 30 days. If the complaint involves exceptional circumstances that require a lengthier investigation, the school will respond in writing to explain the need for an extension and a new date for a written response.
3. The school's written response will include a summary of the results of the investigation.

The school will work to provide a summary of this policy for a family that needs it in their native language.

Organizational Structure

The Aurora Christian Schools Board of Directors is a self-perpetuating, policy governance board. All operational and educational responsibilities and decisions are delegated to the Superintendent and his/her designees.

Aurora Christian Schools functions best when all involved follow a simple principle of communication and problem resolution: involve the least number of people and at the lowest level possible. This approach is based on the teaching of Scripture as found in Matthew 18. When seeking resolution, we encourage students to meet individually with the teacher. Should no resolution result, the student and parent together should schedule a meeting with the teacher. Should no resolution result, all parties should together consult with the next level supervisor. Requests for meetings with supervisors prior to initial steps will be redirected appropriately.

Expected Student Outcomes

- ✓ Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Students will develop meaningful relationships within a Christian community.
- ✓ Students will demonstrate respect for authority and others.
- ✓ Students will develop a Biblical worldview.
- ✓ Students will be able to think critically and solve problems.
- ✓ Students will be college-accepted and academically prepared to succeed.
- ✓ Students will identify how they may use their gifts and talents in pursuit of God's calling for their lives.
- ✓ Students will develop a natural, self-motivated awareness of everyday opportunities to serve those around them.
- ✓ Students will engage in opportunities to serve in their communities and beyond.

Parent Statement Of Cooperation

The following statement is printed on each enrollment application. Annually, parents and MS/HS students affirm the statement by their signature on the Handbook Acknowledgment.

We understand that enrollment in Aurora Christian Schools is not a right, but a privilege, and do affirm that there are standards that must be maintained for the welfare of each student as well as for the entire school. Therefore, if this application is accepted, we hereby give permission for our student's teachers and/or other agents of the school to make and enforce classroom regulations in a manner consistent with biblical principles of discipline as set forth in Scripture. We also understand that all students, regardless of age, must live with a parent or legal guardian to maintain enrollment. We will continue to uphold the authority of the teachers and staff of Aurora Christian Schools by recognizing their right to use necessary disciplinary measures.

We will acquaint ourselves with the grounds for dismissal in both academic and disciplinary circumstances outlined in the handbook, and we will cooperate fully in this regard. If we ever find that we cannot accept the disciplinary standards of ACS or if our student fails to meet the minimum academic requirements, we may withdraw our student or face possible dismissal. In the event of academic failure where no alternatives are available, or if, for disciplinary reasons, the school must expel our child, we will forfeit all fees and tuition monies paid. All tuition paid is nonrefundable, including the Tuition Deposit. We understand that we have entered into a contractual relationship with ACS for the payment of all tuition and related fees for the entire school year, and that we agree to abide by the tuition policies of ACS as stated above and in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Educator Code of Conduct

Educators fundamentally believe that meeting the educational needs of each student is critical to the profession. Aurora Christian Schools adheres to the Illinois Educators' Code of Ethics (core principles, values, and responsibilities) and has set expectations to guide practice and inspire professional excellence in relation to federal, state, and local policies, rules, and regulations.

- **Responsibility to Students:** Aurora Christian educators are committed to creating, promoting, and implementing a learning environment that is accessible to each student, enables students to achieve the highest academic potential, and maximizes their ability to succeed in academic and employment settings as a responsible member of society. Teachers at ACS:
 - Embody the standards for educators in the learning environment;
 - Respect the inherent dignity and worth of each student by assuring that the learning environment is characterized by respect and equal opportunity for each student, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, language or socioeconomic status;
 - Maintain a professional relationship with students at all times;
 - Provide a curriculum based on high expectations for each student that addresses individual differences through the design, implementation, and adaptation of effective instruction; and
 - Foster in each student the development of attributes that will enhance skills and knowledge necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- **Responsibility to Self:** Aurora Christian educators are committed to establishing high professional standards for their practice and striving to meet these standards through their performance. Teachers at ACS:
 - Assume responsibility and accountability for their performance and continually strive to demonstrate proficiency and currency in both content knowledge and professional practice;
 - Develop and implement personal and professional goals with attention to professional standards through a process of self assessment and professional development;
 - Represent their professional credentials and qualifications accurately; and
 - Demonstrate a high level of professional judgment.
- **Responsibility to Colleagues and the Profession:** Aurora Christian educators are committed to collaborating with school and district colleagues and other professionals in the interest of student learning. Teachers at ACS:
 - Collaborate with colleagues to meet school, state and/or national educational standards;

- Work together to create a respectful, professional and supportive school climate that allows all educators to maintain their individual professional integrity;
- Seek out and engage in activities that contribute to the ongoing development of the profession;
- Promote participation in educational decision making processes;
- Encourage promising candidates to enter the education profession; and
- Support the preparation, induction, mentoring and professional development of educators
- **Responsibility to Parents, Families, and the Community:** Aurora Christian educators will collaborate, build trust, and respect confidentiality with parents, families, and the community to create effective instruction and learning environments for each student. Teachers at ACS:
 - Aspire to understand and respect the values and traditions of the diversity represented in the community and the learning environments through a biblical worldview lense;
 - Encourage and advocate for fair and equal educational opportunities for each student;
 - Develop and maintain professional relationships with parents, families, and communities;
 - Promote collaboration and support student learning through regular and meaningful communication with parents, families, and communities; and
 - Cooperate with the district that provides resources and services to enhance the learning environment.
- **Responsibility to Aurora Christian School:** Aurora Christian educators are committed to supporting the Administrative and School Codes, district and federal laws and regulations, and the standards for highly qualified educators. Teachers at ACS:
 - Provide accurate communication to the school's HR Director concerning all certification matters;
 - Maintain appropriate certification as required for employment; and
 - Comply with school and/or state as well as federal codes, laws, and regulations.

from 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)

Revision Policy

Aurora Christian Schools reserves the right to change policy or procedure in the Parent/Student Handbook at any time when, at the discretion of the administration, it deems the change to be in the best interest of the school.

Section II - General Policies and Procedures

Accidents/Injuries

Aurora Christian Schools does not employ a school nurse; however, faculty members are trained in First Aid and CPR. Minor injuries will be treated in the office. All accidents/injuries that occur during the school day or on any school sponsored trip will be reported to the office immediately. Students with serious injuries will be taken immediately to the hospital (911 will be called if necessary) and parents will be notified by phone. It is the parent's responsibility to see that the office has on file emergency telephone numbers where a parent, relative, or emergency contact can be reached in case of emergency.

A Medical Release/Parental Permission form must be signed by a parent/guardian and kept on file in the office for each student. This form provides the school with authorization for emergency medical treatment. Parents of students with special health needs (e.g. diabetes, anaphylaxis) must complete a Special Medical Procedures form. A staffing with appropriate school personnel will be coordinated.

All students will be required to fulfill the State of Illinois requirements concerning health examinations (entering grades K, 6th, 9th, annual sports physicals, transfer students, etc.) and immunizations. Reports of compliance will be submitted annually to the appropriate state agencies as required.

Animals

Animals should not be brought into the school or to athletic events on campus. Service or therapy animals may be approved by the administration.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Aurora Christian Schools is committed to using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in an ethical, transparent and responsible manner. We acknowledge that AI technologies have the potential to enhance student learning and engagement, but we also recognize the importance of protecting student privacy and ensuring that the use of these technologies is consistent with ethical considerations.

The use of AI technologies at ACS aligns with our purpose of providing an education that prepares our students for success. While AI tools can contribute to brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creatively engaging with class materials and ideas, it is the expectation that all assignments will be fully prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in the skills associated with each course will prepare students for success at ACS and beyond.

It is the responsibility of each student to clearly cite the use of any AI tools any time they are used.

The use of AI without permission and/or the uncited use of AI will be treated as academic dishonesty and will result in academic and disciplinary consequences.

Athletics

ACS offers interscholastic athletics for boys and girls. A participation fee is mandatory for each sport to offset costs involved. Participating students must have had a physical examination within the past year. All student-athletes are expected to exemplify Christ-like values in conduct, sportsmanship, effort, and attitude.

One of our most powerful opportunities to witness to the power of Christ in our lives is during sporting contests. Therefore, sportsmanship is demanded of all coaches, athletes and ACS spectators of Aurora Christian School. "To whom much has been given, much more will be required." (Luke 12:48) Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct including but not limited to swearing, speaking inappropriately to an official,

coach, player, or spectator, and/or any general conduct unbecoming a representative of Aurora Christian Schools will lead to consequences.

The administration reserves the right to escalate consequences depending on the severity of the unsportsmanlike conduct. The standard consequences for discipline accumulate as follows:

Athletes and student spectators:

Subject to the handbook violations as outlined in the student handbook

Spectators:

If a spectator is warned during an event and continues to exhibit inappropriate behavior, he/she will be asked to leave the event immediately. A repeated occurrence will result in a meeting with the Athletic Director.

Awards

Students will be recognized with awards for academic progress and Christian character.

Honor Roll certificates will be awarded to elementary students at the end of each semester and to middle and high school students at the end of the year. Students earning High Honor Roll must have achieved A's in every class. Students earning Honor Roll must have achieved grades of at least B in every class.

Bible

The Bible is of primary importance at Aurora Christian Schools, and all subjects are taught from a biblical perspective. Each student will also be enrolled in a Bible course every semester of attendance. Students will perform Christian service and memorize Scripture appropriate to their age levels.

Book Agreement

At some grade levels/classes, students will be issued textbooks at the start of the school year. Students must return these books to the school at the end of the school year in relatively the same condition in which they were received. If a book is lost or damaged, a fee will be charged to the student account for the cost of replacement or repair.

Bullying / Harassment

Aurora Christian Schools is committed to maintaining an academic environment in which all individuals treat each other with dignity and respect and which is free from all forms of intimidation, exploitation and harassment. This includes cyber, verbal, visual, social, physical, and sexual harassment. The school is prepared to take action to prevent and correct any violations of this policy. Anyone who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination or expulsion. Our policy prohibits Employee-Student Harassment, Student-Student Harassment, and Student-Employee Harassment.

At Aurora Christian Schools, bullying is considered a form of harassment. The administration will discern the difference between conflict and bullying. To be considered bullying, all three of these elements must be present:

- Aggressive Behavior – overt action intended to cause harm to another person
- Imbalance of Power – intimidation of another person which creates fear
- Continuous Behavior – repeated action over an extended course of time

Suspected incidents of harassment will be investigated in a timely manner and will include interviews with the individuals involved.

"Bullying" includes cyber-bullying and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student (or students) that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property;
- causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health;
- substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or
- substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

Cyber-bullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication. Cyber-bullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects described above as bullying. Cyber-bullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects described above as bullying.

Bullying is in conflict with the mission of Aurora Christian Schools. It is against state law and ACS policy. Incidents of bullying should be promptly reported to the principal via phone (ACS: 630-892-1551, Sycamore: 815.895.8522) or email ACS Preschool & Elementary: danielle.kullum@aurorachristian.org, ACS Sycamore Preschool through Middle School: amanda.leonhart@aurorachristian.org, ACS Middle & High School: natalie.henderson@aurorachristian.org. Formal disciplinary action is not permitted solely based on an anonymous report.

Upon report of an alleged bullying incident, the principal will conduct an investigation including personal interviews and review of documents or electronic communication. The principal will inform parents or guardians of students involved and will explain potential disciplinary measures (which range from detention to expulsion), recommend appropriate counseling or other interventions, and discuss possible restorative measures. Parents may request to meet with the principal to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying. All reasonable efforts will be made to complete investigations of alleged incidents of bullying within 10 school days after the report date.

Retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. Reprisal or retaliation (by student or adult) for reporting an act of bullying will result in immediate student suspension and hearing for possible dismissal from Aurora Christian Schools.

False accusations of bullying as a means of retaliation or as a means of bullying will result in disciplinary consequences ranging from detention to expulsion.

Cell Phones/Electronic Equipment

Aurora Christian Schools aims to provide an environment that is conducive to learning and growth, grounded in Christian values. A cell-phone free policy aligns with this mission by minimizing distractions in the classroom, and helping students to focus on their spiritual, academic, and personal development.

Elementary & Sycamore Middle School students must secure their cell phones in their lockers for the duration of the school day. Phones are not permitted to be in use during the school day or on school field trips unless initiated by classroom teachers for educational use, or approval is given by administration. Students should obtain approval from staff to use any type of cellular device before or after school in extended care.

Aurora Middle School & High School students will be required to check-in their cell phones with their first (1st) hour teacher, and may retrieve their cell phones at the end of the school day. Cell phone technology

is not permitted to be in use during the school day or on school field trips unless initiated by classroom teachers for educational use, or approval is given by administration.

Personal laptops/Chromebooks/tablets will be used for academic purposes. No video or audio recording is permitted without the consent of all individuals. Cameras or picture phones are NEVER to be used in locker rooms or bathrooms.

- Students who are found with a cell phone in their possession, without administrative approval, will be automatically assigned a Saturday detention, and the phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Parents may be required to retrieve the phone in the school office after multiple infractions.

Administration reserves the right to view information on student devices on school property or while on school sponsored events/trips. Students who view inappropriate material or participate in inappropriate or offensive text, picture, or video messaging will be subject to disciplinary action. The school assumes no responsibility for loss or theft of electronic equipment.

Please do not attempt to contact your student on his/her cell phone during the school day, as he/she will not have access to the phone. In cases of family emergency, the school secretary will take a message and notify your student. Students will be allowed to return emergency calls in the Main Office.

Chapel

Chapel is held weekly. Chapel is designed using music, special speakers, Christian films, and chapel talks by our staff to provide a positive, meaningful experience for all students. Chapel attendance is required of all students. Students are expected to be courteous and respectful to chapel guests at all times.

Child Safety

All Aurora Christian faculty and staff are annually trained as mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect. Aurora Christian adheres to written child safety policies and procedures. These policies are available for review by contacting your principal.

Communication

School Communication

ACS is committed to providing strong school-home communications. Communication regarding class activities, special events, volunteer opportunities, etc. will be made through email blasts. Each classroom teacher provides regular communication to parents and will make every effort to respond to individual parent messages within 24 hours (during the work week). Weekly digital newsletters will be sent via email. Event calendars and lunch menus will be posted on the school's websites.

Teachers are engaged in student instruction and supervision throughout the school day; therefore, please direct urgent or time-sensitive school day communication to the main office.

Although we are committed to timely communication, we must protect the well-being and family lives of our employees. Faculty and staff are not expected to respond to messages over the weekend or on school days before 7:00 AM or after 4:00 PM. Emails, calls, or Google Chats received after 4:00 PM on Friday evening may not be seen over the weekend and will be considered "received Monday morning at 7:00 AM."

If you are having a problem reaching a faculty/staff member and are not receiving a response to your requests for communication, please contact that employee's supervisor.

FACTS is a primary source of communication. Homework assignments, student grades, lunch menus, announcements, family accounts, discipline notes, medication logs, and teacher email addresses may be accessed through the parent login on FACTS. A link to FACTS is available on the school website. To access these tools, each family must have a valid email account on file with the school. Please update your email information through FACTS or in the school office whenever changes occur.

Teacher Communication

Grades are updated weekly in FACTS. Please realize that it is unrealistic to expect teachers to initiate frequent contact beyond the normal reporting procedures. It is the fundamental responsibility of the parent(s) to monitor their student's academic progress and initiate further communication. Teachers can be contacted directly by email. Teachers will make every effort to respond to individual parent messages within a timely manner on school days (Monday-Friday).

Due to confidentiality concerns, parent requests to observe in the classroom will not be approved. Parents may request a meeting with a classroom teacher to discuss concerns and work together for the student's success.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in the fall. Spring conferences can be held by request. Dates will be viewable on the school website calendar. PS/ES conferences are scheduled with the classroom teachers. MS/HS conference fairs provide opportunity for parents to meet with any or all of their student's teachers with no appointments required.

Additional conferences throughout the school year may be scheduled by contacting the teacher.

Computer Use

Students in grades 8-12 are required to bring a Chromebook/Laptop to school for classroom use. Desktop computers are provided in our Tech Lab and Halo Lab for student use for educational purposes only. Students may not use faculty/staff computers. Students may only enter the computer facilities while under faculty/staff supervision. No food, beverages, or candy are permitted in any of the computer labs. Filtered Internet access is available through the network on campus.

The following uses of electronic devices are not permitted:

- Accessing, displaying, or sending offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Accessing Facebook, YouTube, Instant Messenger, or other communication web pages without teacher permission
- Downloading programs, games, or music on school devices
- Moving equipment, altering/adding/deleting any system/program/file settings, or making electrical/hardware/system connections on school devices (Violation of this rule will be considered vandalism.)
- Damaging computers, printers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Copying software or another student's files without teacher authorization
- Employing the school network for commercial purposes
- Violating copyright laws

Each violation of this Computer Use policy will be referred to the administration for possible disciplinary action. Extreme or repeated offenses will result in the loss of electronic device privileges on campus, and if the student is enrolled in a technology course, a grade of WF (withdraw/failing) will occur. Disciplinary action may also include suspension, expulsion, or legal prosecution.

Emergency Closing

Nearly all ACS students are privately transported to school by family/friends and spend minimal time outside before entering a heated building. We endeavor to keep school open when possible to advance instruction and so that parents are not overly burdened with finding childcare. Therefore, we will rarely close school prematurely at the *threat* of inclement weather. Decisions will be posted by 5:00am on the day of closure. However, we do understand that ACS students travel from many different locations with varying weather and road conditions. If you deem conditions unsafe and choose to keep your child at home, please report the absence to the school office.

Information regarding emergency closings will be relayed via Parent Alert (text), email, posted on the home page of the school websites, and posted on the school Facebook pages. Please be sure that all contact information is updated regularly through FACTS SIS. Remote learning will only be instituted if there are extended emergency closures. Students will be expected to turn in assigned work on the day school resumes after an emergency closing. Homework assignments not turned in during the period in which they are due on the first day back in school after an emergency closing will be considered late.

Emergency / Crisis

Aurora Christian Schools has developed a comprehensive crisis plan in cooperation with local and state authorities and utilizing ALICE protocols. Multiple safety drills approved by local fire and police departments are held each year. Faculty members are trained in First Aid/CPR, and the school is equipped with Automated External Defibrillators. A Parent Advisory Committee composed of law enforcement officers and safety professionals meets at least annually to review security protocols and assist administration with planning for the safety of students.

FACTS SIS (Student Information System)

FACTS SIS is the school's administrative software which provides parents with access to lesson plans, homework assignments, student grades, daily announcements, lunch menus, accounting summaries, and school directory information. Settings may be marked to provide instant grade and behavior email alerts. Parents are encouraged to contact the office for assistance when technical difficulties arise. A link to FACTS SIS may be found at aurorachristian.org.

Field Trips

Students will have the opportunity to attend field trips throughout the year. Participation in a school-sponsored field trip is recorded as a day of school attendance. Students may be charged a fee for school-sponsored field trips. Permission slips will be sent home in advance, including information about attire, transportation, and cost. All field trips are optional; however an alternate activity may be assigned to students not participating. MS/HS students assume full responsibility for all other missed classes and assignments. All assignments are due as regularly scheduled. Quizzes/tests not taken and projects/assignments not completed will not be awarded credit.

Aurora Christian Schools greatly depends on the involvement of parents for transportation and chaperoning of field trips and other off-site events. Please notify your student's teacher or class sponsor if you would be willing to serve in this manner. Students may not transport other students during the school day without specific parental and administrative permission. Drivers and chaperones will be asked to read and abide by school guidelines, present a valid driver's license, and show proof of auto insurance. Adults who volunteer to drive/chaperone field trips must supervise more than one student at all times (unless the single student is his/her child). Additional chaperone guidelines may be distributed to volunteers.

Illinois State safety belt regulations will be followed. All children will be required to be properly secured according to the laws.

Finances

All family financial balances may be viewed online at any time through the Accounting tab of FACTS. Account balances may be paid online through FACTS or in the school's Finance Office. All tuition payment plans are managed through FACTS. Information regarding FACTS may be found on the school website or by calling the school's Finance Office. Please note that registration and FACTS fees are nonrefundable.

MS/HS students with outstanding balances on student accounts (tuition, lunch, fees, fines, etc.) will not be allowed to take final exams. Parents who are in arrears with regard to educational expenses for their student(s) face the probability of attendance interruption until the deficit is removed. Aurora Christian reserves the right to dismiss a student from school or take other appropriate action until all tuition and fees have been paid. Transcripts, access to final grade reports through FACTS, summer athletic participation, summer child care, and high school diplomas will be restricted until all tuition and fees have been paid.

Need-based financial aid applications are available through the school's Finance Office and are subject to submission due dates posted on the school website.

Grade Reports

Individual class grades are available online through FACTS SIS, accessible via a link on the school website. Report cards will be accessible on FACTS SIS at the end of each semester when all tuition and fees have been paid. An email will be sent notifying parents that final grades have been posted.

Grievance Procedure

At Aurora Christian Schools, a formal student complaint/grievance is defined as any nontrivial complaint, either academic or non-academic in nature. The complaint must be submitted formally in writing by a student to a member of the school administrative team.

Examples of items which would be considered a formal complaint include but are not limited to:

- Discrimination (e.g., sexual, racial, gender) complaint against a faculty, staff or student of Aurora Christian Schools.
- Harassment (e.g., sexual, racial, gender) complaint against a faculty, staff or student of Aurora Christian Schools.
- Complaint about the failure of a faculty or staff member to allow a student to pursue his/her rights to an appeal under school grievance procedure.
- Complaint about issues regarding payment and/or payment plans.
- Non-compliance with the school's stated Non-Discrimination Policy.

Not every written communication from a student is considered a complaint. Examples include: written letters expressing a general dislike of a policy not connected to any of the complaint items listed above, letters from other people on a student's behalf, requests for exceptions to the policies of Aurora Christian Schools, or written letters expressing a dislike of personnel not connected to any of the complaint items listed above.

Students with a complaint or a grievance related to their experience at the school should follow the grievance process outlined below:

- Step One: The student should first request a conference with the faculty or staff member who is directly involved in the matter. The student should discuss the issues and seek a resolution.
- Step Two: If a mutually satisfactory resolution cannot be reached through a direct conference, the aggrieved party should request a conference with the staff member's immediate supervisor (Principal in the case of academic matters).
- Step Three: If, after all the above steps have been completed and the grievance is still not satisfactorily resolved, the aggrieved party may present all facts relevant to the grievance in writing to the Superintendent who will schedule a Grievance Committee Hearing and notify all parties concerned. The Committee will consist of the Superintendent or designee and two staff members not involved in the matter in question. All persons directly involved, or their representatives must be present at the hearing. Both parties will be given the opportunity to discuss the grievance at that time. The Grievance Committee will then excuse the parties and immediately review and rule on the case. The decision of the Committee will be communicated to those involved in the grievance within five school days. The Committee's decision will be final.

While ACS does its best to resolve student complaints, students who remain unsatisfied after exhausting their remedies with ACS may elect to seek enrollment at another educational institution.

Insurance

All students will be covered during school hours and while involved in any school activity by a blanket student accident insurance policy. This insurance is secondary to your personal (primary) insurance. There is no extra charge for this service. No additional insurance will be available through the school.

International Student Language Policy

International students must meet the following requirements:

- Student must be 12-19 years of age and enrolled in junior high or high school or the equivalent.
- Student cannot have graduated from, be enrolled in, or be pursuing acceptance to a college or university until graduated from Aurora Christian Schools.
- Student must be proficient in English and be able to read and understand the scheduled course material. Secondary Level English Proficiency (SLEP) scores are required for every foreign exchange student who has not met the required TOEFL (IBT) score of 55.
- If a hosting agency is involved, it must be credible, recognized, and approved by SEVIS. Other options might include working through a Christian organization, an ACSI member school, pastor, or missionary.

All language is a gift from God; no particular language is better or more righteous than another. However, in order to help our international students honor their parents by learning English while studying in the US and to show consideration for those around them, the following English immersion policy has been implemented:

English shall be spoken at all times, in all locations, and at all school events. The only exceptions to this policy are when no speakers of other languages are within hearing distance or when a staff member gives direct permission to a student. Willful infractions of this policy may result in disciplinary consequences.

All international students must willingly abide by school policies, rules, and the handbook. The host families will be local, have a sincere Christian faith, and attend church on a regular basis.

Lost and Found

The school maintains a lost and found. Please make sure all personal items are properly labeled. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. At the end of each semester, the lost and found will be cleared and leftover items will be donated.

Lunch

Students are encouraged to visit with each other during this period; but horseplay, music, and unnecessarily loud talking or noise is not permitted. Throwing food is not allowed. All students eating hot lunch will wait their turn in line. All students are responsible to clean their areas after they have finished eating. All trash is to be placed in trash receptacles.

Aurora Christian Schools is a closed campus for lunch. Students may bring lunch or purchase hot lunch.

Medical

A Medical Release/Parental Permission form must be signed by a parent/guardian and kept on file in the office for each student. This form provides the school with authorization for emergency medical treatment. Parents of students with special health needs must complete a Special Medical Procedures form. Aurora Christian Schools does not employ a school nurse; however, faculty members are trained in First Aid and CPR. All accidents which occur during the school day or on any school sponsored trip will be reported to the office immediately. All injuries are immediately cared for and parents are notified. In an emergency situation, 911 will be called. In cases of student illness, a parent is notified and encouraged to come pick up the student. All student medications are administered and documented through the main office.

Health Examinations and Immunization Records

All students will be required to fulfill the State of Illinois requirements concerning health examinations (entering grades K, 6th, 9th, annual sports physicals, transfer students, etc.) and immunizations. If a family chooses not to immunize their student(s) due to religious reasons or otherwise, a letter stating this must be on file in the school office. Reports of compliance will be submitted annually to the appropriate state agencies as required. Students will be excluded from school on October 15 if requirements for health examinations and immunizations have not been met [105 ILCS 5/27-8.1].

Vision and Hearing Screening

The State of Illinois mandates vision screening for all preschool, kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 8th grade students. The State of Illinois also mandates hearing screening for all preschool, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students. These screenings will be offered on campus and required for each student.

General Health Guidelines

A Medical Information and Emergency Care Plan must be completed each school year for students with special medical needs including life-threatening allergies, severe food intolerances, and self-administration of medication.

If a student is determined to have a fever during the school day, a parent must arrange for pickup within 30 minutes of notification. A student should not return to school until he/she has been fever-free, free from vomiting, and diarrhea-free for 24 hours.

Please note these specific guidelines for return to school:

- Chicken Pox: All pox must have a dry scab and no new pox must have appeared for the last 3 or 4 days.
- Pinkeye: Eyes must be clear with no redness or secretion and must be on medication for 24 hours.
- Ringworm: The child must have been receiving treatment (medication) for 48 hours and the ring must be completely covered by a bandage.
- Strep Throat: We must have a doctor's note, and the child must have been on an antibiotic and fever free for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Head Lice: Parents are encouraged to examine their child's head if symptoms of head lice are observed and to report any positive identification to the school office. When a case of head lice is reported, a generic notice will be sent to parents in the affected student's classroom. If a case of head lice is recognized at school, the affected student's parents will be called to pick up their child and his/her coat, hat, backpack, etc. Based on CDC guidance, students with lice may return to class after beginning appropriate treatment. Parents must send written verification to the office that prescription or OTC treatment has begun. (<https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/124331>)
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease: When a case of HFMD is reported, a letter will be sent home to all students who could get infected. HFMD is a contagious disease caused by a virus and spread by direct contact. See www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/comm_disease_guide.pdf for details. A student infected may return to school when there are no blisters in the mouth or secreting lesions and fever free for 24 hours and well enough to actively and comfortably participate in school activities.
- Fever: Student must be fever-free for 24 hours.
- Vomiting or Diarrhea (even though he/she may not have a temperature): the parent will be required to pick-up the child within 30 minutes of our call. Also, if your child has been vomiting or has diarrhea during the night, before school, or on the way to school, he/she needs to stay home that day. He/She must be free from vomiting or diarrhea for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- Food Allergy: Students with severe and/or life threatening food allergies must register this information with the principal. A procedure must be in place in case an allergic reaction occurs on school property. Please schedule an appointment with the principal at the beginning of the school year to see that a procedure is established for your child. A child with severe and/or life threatening food allergies will not be able to attend Aurora Christian Schools until a procedure is established.

We reserve the right to refuse a child returning to school with any unknown skin rash or other unknown illness until a doctor's note has been obtained.

Health forms (new or updated) must be turned in at Block Party or by the first day of school.

Medication and Self-Administration

The Medical Release/Parental Permission form, signed by a parent/guardian and kept on file in the office for each student, contains an acetaminophen release option. Acetaminophen is commonly sold in drug stores under the brand names of Tylenol or Anacin III. Every dosage administered will be documented in your student's record. This record is available for your review in FACTS SIS.

A Medical Information and Emergency Care Plan must be completed each school year for students with special medical needs. A plan should be created for students with life-threatening allergies (bee sting, nuts, etc.) or severe food intolerances. A plan is required for a student to be permitted to self-administer medication for asthma (including albuterol treatments or nebulizers), diabetes, or an anaphylactic emergency. The school and school personnel incur no liability for injuries occurring when administering medications.

If a student must take a prescription or over-the-counter medication (except asthma, diabetic, and emergency anaphylaxis medication) during school hours, a note indicating time and dosage must be on

file in the school office. The container must bear the student's name and name of the medication. If a student has been prescribed medical cannabis and is in need of administration during school hours or while on a school-sponsored activity, a parent/guardian must provide the school with a copy of a current Medical Cannabis Registry Card issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Information regarding prescription information, purpose for prescription, and IDPH designated caregiver(s) must also be provided. The student's caregiver or a school administrator may administer a prescribed medical cannabis-infused product. Based on the medical plan developed by school personnel with parents/guardians, the student may be allowed to self-administer under the direct supervision of a school administrator. Topical cannabis-infused products will not be administered on school grounds. No student will be allowed to smoke or vape cannabis products.

Music

It is the policy of our school to encourage wholesome and uplifting music. No sensual or suggestive music, or music which tends to encourage rebellion to authority, will be used or allowed to be a part of any activities related to our school, including school sponsored transportation.

Orientation Block Party

An all-school Block Party will be held during the week before school starts. Parents and students should attend the Block Party to complete school year start-up details and to become familiar with important policies and procedures. All necessary forms must be signed at the beginning of the school year, and parents are responsible for all information concerning their student's enrollment at Aurora Christian School.

Parent Involvement

There are many opportunities for parents to be engaged in the ACS community. Parent Connect-Aurora, & Parent Connect-Sycamore are parent organizations that support the general administration and faculty at each campus. Aurora Music Boosters and Sports Boosters actively support specific departments. Throughout the year, various event planning or chaperone needs may arise for short-term parent involvement. Additionally, parents with expertise in a field may be recruited for participation in a specific Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

Patriotism

We expect students to respect our country and the government. Students will be asked to pledge to the American Flag. Out of respect for those who have served or are currently serving our nation, we celebrate Veterans' Day and observe Memorial Day.

Physical Education

Physical education is part of the regular school program. Participation is anticipated from every student. In the case of broken bones, surgery, or other medical situations, the need may arise for a student to be excused from P.E. A parent may excuse his/her child from PE for one day per incident. If a student needs to be excused for an additional period, a doctor's note is required. More information may be requested if necessary.

Safety

School safety and security are of paramount importance. A video surveillance system is in use and may be used for disciplinary purposes in cases of school policy violation or criminal prosecution. If surveillance reveals a serious violation of school policy or state or federal law, it may be used by authorities to pursue recompense and/or justice.

- All exterior doors are locked during school hours. Students will be admitted during arrival according to procedures distributed at Block Party. At all other times during the school day, students must enter the building and sign in through the main office.
- All visitors and volunteers must enter through the main office and exchange a government-issued picture ID for a "Visitor's Pass."
- Emergency procedures are regularly reviewed, practiced, and in compliance with local and state regulations.
- High school students may carry clear/mesh backpacks to class. All other bags must be stored inside assigned lockers.
- No weapons of any kind are allowed on school property at any time (except by law enforcement).
- Students should never prop open an exterior door or open a locked door for anyone (including other students).
- All threats against teachers or students will be taken seriously and may be reported to local authorities.
- Student lockers must remain closed and locked at all times.
- For safety concerns, the administration reserves the right to search and/or wand students, student lockers, locker contents, book bags, purses, and automobiles. Students may also be asked to empty their pockets.
- Students who leave campus after the school day ends are no longer the responsibility of ACS. (Students may not leave campus and return to extended supervision.)

School Directory

An ACS directory is available to school families through ParentsWeb. This directory is not intended as a source for solicitation purposes beyond regular school functions. Please respect this intent. The directory includes student name, grade, parent name, home number, and address of students. Parents who choose to exempt their address and phone number from the directory may do so by modifying their family information in FACTS SIS.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taken each fall by a professional photographer and are available for parents to purchase. These pictures are used for yearbooks and in the school administrative software. Details will be sent home in advance by the office.

School Photographs

Photographs of students will be taken in the course of school activities throughout the year and will be used for promotional and advertising materials including the ACS websites and Facebook. Consent or denial is part of the initial enrollment application. Parents may contact the office to deny school use of a child's photo.

School Supplies

Supplies are to be purchased prior to the beginning of school. The school supply list is available in the office or on the school's website at aurorachristian.org.

Skateboards, etc.

Due to potential injury and liability issues, in-line skates, wheeled shoes, skateboards, longboards, hoverboards, scooters and any other items that could be damaging to persons or property are not permitted on school grounds. Violation will result in confiscation of the device, to be reclaimed by a parent in the office upon payment of a \$15 fine. The school is not responsible for injury or death as a result of disregarding this policy.

Standardized Testing

Standardized testing will be given at various times to various grade levels for the purpose of monitoring student growth. Information regarding testing dates will be sent home in weekly announcement emails. Parents will be notified when test results are available. Students in grades 8, 9, and 10 will take the PreACT. Eleventh grade students will complete the PSAT in the fall and the ACT in the spring. Aurora Christian Schools also hosts ACT exams during the April and June national testing dates.

Student Activities

Student activities at Aurora Christian Schools are intended to purposely promote the school's vision. We desire to offer opportunities for all students and families with varied interests. ACS activities are designed to build community and provide a venue for Christian witness. In addition, we determine to never be an offense or "stumbling block" through our activities. (1 Cor. 10, Rom. 14:13)

The school has a variety of scheduled events throughout the school year. Privately sponsored events may not be publicized on school grounds without specific permission from the administration. Use of vaping devices, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol will in no way be allowed before, during, or after an event.

Student Records

Student cumulative files are securely maintained by the school office. Custodial parents may view these files upon request, and must give written permission for any outside professional viewing or transfer of records to another school.

It is the responsibility of parents to provide the school with up-to-date legal paperwork/documentation regarding custody or parental rights. Legal paperwork will be reviewed by the principal, shared with appropriate and necessary school personnel, and added to the student's file.

Student Services

Aurora Christian Schools desires to work with parents to help students with learning difficulties to succeed academically. However, we cannot provide services for every student with special needs. Test scores, current IEPs, current ISPs, and current 504 Plans will be reviewed in order to determine if we are capable of meeting a student's needs. Failure to submit prior testing/special educational records upon admission may result in student dismissal. Upon admission, administration will develop an Aurora Christian Plan for Student Success (PSS). Copies of current testing must be on file at Aurora Christian Schools in order for a PSS to be developed and/or implemented. Plans will be reviewed annually to determine any revisions to PSS accommodations.

Referral Process

If a parent or teacher recognizes a possible learning difficulty, the principal should be notified. A process to determine the scope of difficulty will be initiated. This process may include referral for testing (through the student's public school district or a private service), discussion with each of the student's teachers,

and placement in Focus/Resource. We will cooperate with the public school districts by attending staffings and reviewing recommendations for accommodations.

Students' needs for support services such as counseling and social work will be considered when there are tragedies, major events among the student body, or stresses within the surrounding community. Administration will consider the needs of the student body when making staffing decisions.

Accommodations Policy

Accommodations are academic changes made for a specific student because of a current medical diagnosis that impedes learning. Accommodations are an adjustment involving classroom, schoolwork, and /or homework for the purpose of helping a student be successful. All accommodations must be approved by the administration, documented in a Plan for Student Success, and reviewed regularly to determine their continued validity.

A student receiving accommodations will be evaluated by a team (principal, teacher(s), parents, and/or others) to determine the validity of accommodations and for recommended modification of current accommodations. Outside services could also be considered in the PSS. The decision to accommodate will be made by the principal.

All accommodations will be reviewed annually to determine their continued validity.

Focus (ACS) / Resource (Sycamore)

General organizational and motivational help, as well as some class-specific tutoring, will be given during Focus to students who are having difficulty “across the board” in classes. Elementary students may receive pull-out or push-in support. Students in grades 6-12 may be assigned a period of Focus/Resource (in place of study hall) if they are referred by teachers and/or the administration. Focus/Resource teachers will supervise implementation of accommodations noted in a student’s Plan for Student Success. Parents of students in Focus/Resource will be routinely contacted. Please make sure that contact information is routinely updated in FACTS SIS.

Supplies

General supply lists are available in the office or on the school websites. High School course-specific supply needs will be explained during the first week of classes.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for forming carpools for the purpose of transportation of their students to and from school. The office can provide a listing of all school families living in your area at the beginning of the school year upon request. The school cannot be responsible for the safety of the child in any carpool. It is the parents’ responsibility to provide valid insurance coverage for their vehicles if they or their student is driving others to school, extracurricular events, or any other school related activity. It is also the parents’ responsibility to monitor with whom their student is riding. All students are to be dropped off on school property, and are not to leave campus until picked up in the afternoon. The school cannot be responsible for the safety of any child who independently or with parent permission leaves campus.

Students who drive to school may purchase parking permits in the Finance Office. Students who are participating in off-campus educational experiences approved by the administration must have a parent-signed transportation waiver in the office.

Transportation for HS students/siblings from Sycamore (or a nearby DeKalb location) to ACS will be provided and billed monthly. Contact the ACS office for details.

Before-school and after-school busing may be available for eligible students living in District 129 (West Aurora) or District 427 (Sycamore). Arrangements for this service must be made in advance in the school office. The administration of Aurora Christian Schools will partner with all transportation providers to enforce appropriate behavior.

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

Partial tuition assistance awards are available for Kindergarten through High School. Applications are accessed through the Finance page of our websites and should be submitted as early as possible to be eligible for available funds. All families receiving tuition assistance agree to participate in a volunteer work study program.

Visitors

Any person other than students, staff, faculty, administration, or board members are considered visitors on campus. Visitors will be limited and must be pre-approved through the principal's office.

All visitors must enter through the main office and provide a government-issued picture ID for a "Visitor's Pass." Non-faculty adults will only be permitted to meet with students while under the supervision of a school employee. Adults who volunteer to drive/chaperone field trips must supervise more than one student at all times (unless the single student is his/her child).

High school students not currently enrolled at Aurora Christian Schools should not be on campus during school hours unless officially shadowing through the admissions office or with permission from the principal.

Voicemail

Voicemail is available for all administrative and teaching staff. Parents can call the school office (ACS: 630.892.1551, Sycamore: 815.895.8522) and be transferred to voicemail to leave a message.

Volunteers

Parents and grandparents are encouraged to volunteer a part of their time on a regular basis to assist office staff, cafeteria staff, library staff, maintenance, fundraisers, etc. Our school could not function without our volunteers. Please contact Parent Connect or your child's classroom teacher for volunteer opportunities. All volunteers must enter through the main office and exchange a government-issued picture ID for a "Visitor's Pass."

All volunteers who may work alone with a student must fill out an application and submit to a fingerprint background check. Regular volunteers who have been cleared through application and background check may be issued a school ID.

Website and Email

Please bookmark the ACS website at aurorachristian.org.

Faculty and staff members may be contacted via email at firstname.lastname@aurorachristian.org.

Withdrawals

Withdrawals must be completed by notifying the Finance Office in writing via email.

Section III - ACS Preschool-5th Grade Handbook Addendum

Academics

Academic instruction is provided in Bible, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, and physical development. Any student failing three or more subjects at the conclusion of the quarter will be subject to review and possible dismissal.

If your student seems to be struggling with his/her work, you should meet with the teacher to discuss options regarding your child's progress and opportunities for tutoring.

Academic Observation

Academic observation is not a punishment. It is a reminder to students and parents of the seriousness of school work and the need to stay caught up in each subject. When a student is placed on academic observation, his/her parents will receive notification from the principal. The goal is to work together to help students succeed.

Academic observation can begin prior to the beginning of a quarter, grading period, or when deemed necessary by the principal. A student may be placed on academic observation if progress needs to be monitored due to entrance exam results, if progress needs to be monitored due to the previous year's work, or if there is a year-to-date grade average below 65% in one or more subjects.

A review will be made at the end of the observation period to determine the child's academic status for removal from academic observation, continuation of academic observation, elevation to academic probation, or dismissal from Aurora Christian Schools.

Academic Probation

Students may be placed on academic probation if they are not meeting expectations regarding work completion and/or classroom engagement. A student shall be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular school activities while on academic probation. This includes clubs, practices, and games in athletics.

A review will be made at the end of the probation period to determine the child's academic status for removal from academic probation, continuation of academic probation, or dismissal from Aurora Christian Schools.

Attendance, Absence, & Tardy Policy

Aurora Christian Schools is a closed campus. Punctual and daily attendance is required at school and is a shared responsibility between the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). Regular attendance prepares the student for the world of work and adult responsibilities. Aurora Christian Schools expects all students to attend school, to be punctual to school and to classes, and to bring appropriate school materials with them. Attendance is taken every day.

There is no real substitute for actual classroom attendance. It is always the student's responsibility to make up all homework and class assignments that are missed because of any absence. One make-up day will be allowed for each day of excused absence (non-vacation days). Assignments are posted in student assignment notebooks or newsletters and will be due based upon the number of days gone from school (1st day, 1st day things due, 2nd day, 2nd day things due, 3rd day, 3rd day things due, etc.).

Quizzes and/or tests that were missed will be made up at the rate of two per day in the order they occurred. These will be made up only during the student's independent work time, before school, recess, or after school.

Definition of Terms:

1. Tardy to Class – A student is marked tardy to class if not present when class begins. Parents dropping students off after 8:00am (when the drop-off lane is closed) must drive to door #2 and the student **must** be signed in at the main office by a parent/guardian. If your child comes to school after 9:00am, the child will be marked as absent for half a day and should have a pass from the office. Tardies count against attendance records.
2. Chronic or Habitual Absence/Truant – Defined as a student who is absent without valid cause from attendance on regular school days. A doctor's note may be required for each health-related absence deemed necessary by school administration. Habitual absence is considered more than 10 days of absence per semester, and this will be considered truant. A phone conference with the principal will be scheduled when a student reaches 8 absences in a semester. Legally, the State of Illinois considers any unexcused absence truancy.
3. Excused Absence or Excused Tardy/Pre-Planned Absence – Defined as an absence or tardy that is reported for a valid cause as defined in the Illinois School Code: "Illness, death in the immediate family, family emergency, observance of a religious holiday and shall include such other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the school administration, or such other circumstances which cause concern to the parent/guardian for the safety or health of the student." These include and are not limited to pre-planned family vacation, car trouble, medical and dental appointments will be considered excused. Excused absences and excused tardies are documented as absence/tardy in attendance records. If your child is ill, please call the office and email the teacher by 8:00am on the day of the absence with the reason for the absence. At the request of the parent, teachers may be able to gather homework each day with the expectation that the student will return with the assignments completed. This work can be picked up in the main office between 3pm and 4pm the day of the absence.
It is encouraged that families schedule vacations around the school calendar. But when necessary, for pre-planned vacations during school hours and days, the parent/guardian must contact via email the office and classroom teacher at least 5 days in advance to inform them of the absence. If the teacher puts together a packet of work to be completed while away on a vacation, the assignments may be given to the family only 2 days before the vacation. Work for only 3-5 vacation days will be provided in advance. If the work is not completed, a "0" will be given.
4. Extended Absence – If an absence (3 or more days) is due to a serious illness or contagious disease, a note from a physician is required for readmission.
5. Unexcused Absence or Unexcused Tardy – These include and are not limited to unnecessary parent sign outs, missing carpool, oversleeping, shopping, needed to stay home (babysitting, waiting for repairman, etc.), or other avoidable absences. Students who leave campus without permission will be considered unexcused and subject to discipline. All assignments missed due to an unexcused absence must be completed or a "0" will be recorded.
6. Early Dismissal – Defined as removing a student from school before dismissal time. The school does not encourage early dismissals. It is encouraged that parents attempt to make appointments after school hours. Early dismissal from school creates gaps in student learning and interrupts academic time and end of the day procedures and organizations. Students absent for early dismissal will be responsible to make up and complete work missed. If your child leaves school after being in attendance for one hour, the child will be marked as absent for half a day. Procedures for early dismissal include:
 - a. For prearranged early dismissal for medical, dental, or other appointments, parents should use the Pikmykid app to schedule early dismissal including the time and reason for the dismissal.
 - b. For early dismissal for family transportation to attend siblings' events, use the Pikmykid app to schedule early dismissal including the time and reason for the dismissal. These early dismissals will not be counted as absences.
 - c. Procedures for signing out your child for early dismissal:
 - i. Report to the office (do not go to the classroom to get student)

- ii. Sign your student out (sign back in if returning after an appointment)
- iii. The office staff will call the student to the office (unless the teacher has already sent the student to the office)

Notification of an Absence – Each day a student is absent from school the parent/guardian must report the absence in the Pikmykid app, email the teacher, or call the attendance line (630.264.4055 and leave a VM if not able to reach the attendant) to report absence and reason before 8:00am. If the absence is not reported through Pikmykid, email, or call, the absence may be considered unexcused.

If academic progress is impacted due to absences or tardies, the teacher will communicate these details with the parents and the principal. Excessive absence or tardiness will be addressed by the principal.

A student absent during the day of an extracurricular activity/club is ineligible to participate in the activity that day or evening. All participants must be in full attendance the day of any event. Any participant absent on the day of the event will be ineligible to participate in the event/program. To attend practice, a student may not be absent any part of that school day. Exceptions may be made for medical reasons.

Book Club

Many teachers participate in book clubs in the classroom, for example, Scholastic Book Club. In these programs, students may order and pay for books or other items to take home and add to their library at home. Teachers earn points from these programs and then purchase items for their classroom with these points.

Occasionally, there are books that are controversial in nature because of content. We request that you as parents closely monitor the materials that your child desires from these programs.

Chewing Gum and Candy

Food, gum, and candy may be eaten only under the supervision of a teacher.

Class Assignments

Parental requests for specific teachers or classmates are not considered in determining class assignments. Class assignments are made for the duration of the year.

When there are multiple classes of a grade level, kindergarten through fifth grade class assignments are made based upon gender, student learning style, student needs, ratio of new students and returning students, the instructor's teaching style, and the individual student personalities. When there are multiple preschool classrooms, assignments are made based upon schedule (half day/full day), gender, ratio of new students and returning students, and the individual student personalities.

Discipline

Discipline

Enrollment at Aurora Christian is a privilege, and, as a result, certain disciplinary measures are necessary for the welfare of each student. Teachers and staff are responsible for enforcing school and classroom regulations in a manner consistent with Christian principles of discipline as set forth in the Scriptures. "For the moment, all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11). We believe that children should be taught to obey and respect their parents and those in authority over them.

ACS has adopted uniform behavioral expectations for our students to be used in common spaces of the building: arrival/dismissal, hallways, lunch/recess, bathroom, gymnasium, and classrooms. Expectations

will be posted throughout the building. Each expectation is connected to scripture denoting the importance of teaching behaviors that honor and glorify the Lord. These will be taught throughout the first week of school. We want our students to be **EAGLES**.

- **Excellent** - Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men."
- **Accountable** - Galatians 6:5, "For we are each responsible for our own conduct." & Romans 14:12, "So, then, each of us will give an account of himself to God."
- **Glorifying God** - 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
- **Leaders** - Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."
- **Encouraging** - Hebrews 10:24-25 "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." & 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing".
- **Servant-hearted** - 1 Peter 4:9-10 "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Teachers and staff will encourage appropriate behavior through the use of consistent, clear rules and expectations and involve children in problem solving to foster the child's own ability to become self-disciplined. Teachers and staff will encourage children to respect other people, to be fair, respect property, and learn to be responsible for their actions. Teachers and staff will use discipline that is developmentally appropriate and understandable to the child. They will help children learn to persist when frustrated, play cooperatively with other children, use language to communicate needs, and learn turn taking.

Teachers and staff will help students learn to control their own behavior and to make good behavioral decisions. Our goal is to help students learn emotional control in order to discipline themselves. Assisting the student to problem-solve, adjust to social experiences, develop independence, make wise decisions, and learn cooperation enables the child to grow in understanding emotional responses.

The definition of challenging behavior is, "any behavior that 1) interferes with children's learning, development and success at play, 2) is harmful to the child, other children, or adults, or 3) puts a child at high risk for later social problems or school failure." (Kaiser & Rasminsky, Challenging Behavior in Young Children (2nd Ed.), Pearson Education Inc., 2007, p. 8). Examples of challenging behavior include physical aggression (hitting, biting, shoving, hitting with a toy, etc.), relational aggression ("You can't play with us" or verbal aggression), tantrums, whining, testing limits, refusal to follow directions or observe classroom rules. We will make every attempt to work with each child and family. If there are continual discipline problems with significant disruptive or aggressive behaviors, the parent(s) will be called in for a conference with the teacher and/or principal. Our goal is to work together to help your child.

Teachers and staff make every effort to communicate with parents so that we can work together in helping your child.

Discipline Purpose

- Character Development. Discipline, when administered properly, will encourage and enhance daily growth in each child's spiritual, mental, emotional, social, and physical life.
- Classroom Environment. Use of discipline helps to ensure an orderly environment, which promotes security and safety for each child.

Discipline Procedure

1. General Principles
 - a. Each staff member will be primarily responsible for administering discipline.

- b. Each staff member will seek to identify and reinforce positive behavior demonstrated by each child whenever possible.
 - Verbal acknowledgment and praise.
 - Granting special privileges.
 - Physical affirmation (hug, high-five, etc).
 - c. Each staff member will seek to maintain a calm and controlled posture while interacting with an individual or a group of children.
2. Specific Practices
 - a. Each staff member will allow a period of orientation (about 2 weeks) for each new child to become acquainted with classroom schedule and behavioral guidelines.
 - b. Each staff member will attempt to redirect minor inappropriate child behavior and response.
 - c. If redirection attempts of minor offenses prove unsuccessful, or if the child's inappropriate behavior or response is considered major (i.e., hitting another person), then the principal will be consulted and the teacher will communicate with the parent.
 3. If a child is referred to the Principal for discipline
 - The Principal will contact the parents regarding the discipline.
 - If necessary, the staff member will initiate a parent-teacher conference.
 4. Office procedures for continued disobedience
 - Parent/Teacher/Principal conference.
 - Suspension from school. If this occurs, the Principal will call the parents and ask them to come to school to pick the child up for the day. Suspension may be for the remainder of the day or may be for up to 3 school days.
 - Behavior Contract. A preschool child placed on a behavior contract has demonstrated continued disobedience with multiple visits to the Principal. A student on a behavior contract is in danger of expulsion or may be denied enrollment for the next school year.
 - Dismissal or Expulsion. If the discipline process is ineffective in producing the behavior desired in the child's life, a child can be dismissed or expelled from school. A student can also be dismissed or expelled because of a specific behavior or action if the administration determines that a student's behavior is of a nature that for the student to continue at ACS would be inadvisable.

Disciplinary Protocol - Elementary

Disciplinary Investigation:

- The principal will conduct interviews of all students or teachers involved in/with the situation prior to any consequence.
- If evidence is found that warrants a consequence of any kind to the student, parents will be contacted via phone for either a phone conversation or face-to-face meeting.
- Incidents of Level II or III Misconduct (as outlined in this handbook) may result in immediate suspension to allow time for a disciplinary hearing.

Search and Seizure:

- The administration is authorized to conduct searches based upon reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school policy.
- School authorities may also inspect and search places such as lockers, desks, personal belongings, and other school property and equipment without notice to or consent of the student.
- Any evidence found during a search will be confiscated.
- School authorities may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's social media account(s) that violates the school's disciplinary rules or policies.
- School authorities may require a student to share the reported content from the student's account(s) as part of the investigation in order to make a factual determination, but may not request or require a student to provide the password(s) or other related account information to

gain access to the student's account(s) or profile on a social media website or app. Parental contact or consent is not warranted prior to search and seizure by school authorities.

Disciplinary Hearing:

Upon parent notice of suspension that may lead to dismissal or expulsion, a disciplinary hearing will be scheduled. Parents will be notified of hearing procedures at that time. The disciplinary committee will be composed of administration and faculty. The superintendent or designee will observe the hearing and ensure compliance with board policy. Results of the investigation will be heard, the student and/or the student's parents will be given an opportunity to speak, and the committee will adjourn to a closed session to determine disciplinary action. Decisions of the disciplinary committee will be final.

Student Conduct:

All ACS student conduct rules are in effect from the time the student enrolls on and off campus.

Level 1 Misconduct (Faculty and staff will address Level 1 misbehavior and may refer the student to the principal)	Range of Consequences
Loud, disruptive talking/noises that interrupt instruction	Classroom consequence first and communication to parents by teacher. Warning through disciplinary observation - repeated incidents can lead to a detention assigned by the principal.
Energetic play that should be kept for recess or P.E.	
Disorderly conduct (talking without permission, shouting, disrupting class, getting out of seat without permission, bothering others, roughness in line, disrupting the educational process/climate, repeatedly not completing homework, etc.)	
Dress code violation	
Electronic device violation	

Level 2 Misconduct (The student will be referred to the principal. Reporting to the local law enforcement authorities and SIRS may be warranted.)	Range on Consequences
Destruction of personal or school property	Principal communicating and meeting with parents. Repeated Incidents: Can lead to suspension and/or expulsion from ACS.
Throwing objects (including snow and/or snowballs)	
Inappropriate or coarse language (rude, crude, lack of respect, profanity, etc.)	
Academic dishonesty (including forging signatures)	
Intimidation, mockery, bullying, or treatment of others in a disrespectful manner or hurtful way	
Dishonesty (lying or trying to deceive school personnel)	
Disobedience (refusal to comply or obey authority)	
Endangering the health, safety, or well-being of others	
Insubordination (disrespect of authority, refusal to obey authority, etc.)	
Offensive materials (possession of pictures, drawing, words, etc.)	
Profanity, vulgar, obscene language or actions (including "replacement" words)	
Possession of incendiary devices (lighter, fireworks, etc.)	
Tampering with emergency equipment, including but not limited to fire alarm pulls, AED, extinguishers, etc. (Family may be required to pay for repairs, city fines, and/or replacement)	
Theft (taking and removing personal property; possession of another's property without permission)	
Threats (an expression of intent to inflict evil, injury, damage, etc.)	

Any other action/behavior not listed, but that is in opposition to reasonable and normal expected behaviors, plus any Level 1 Misconducts that are ongoing	
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Level 3 Misconduct (The student will be referred to the principal. Parents will be contacted and a meeting will be requested. Reporting to the local law enforcement authorities and SIRS may be warranted.)	Range of Consequences
Antagonistic behavior (actions or words that are in opposition to the basic goals and objectives of the school and/or have an adverse effect on others)	Principal communicating and meeting with parents. If there is a drug or firearm incident, local law enforcement and the parents will be notified immediately. Repeated Incidents: Can lead to immediate suspension and/or expulsion from ACS. The student may be placed on disciplinary observation, and a behavior contract may be put into effect.
Harassment (Verbal or physical gestures or remarks that may be considered sexual in nature, repetitive teasing, etc.)	
Threats, violence, will actions that directly or indirectly jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of school personnel or other students	
Possession or use of inappropriate items (alcohol, drugs or paraphernalia, tobacco or electronic cigarettes, real or play weapons, etc.) on or off school grounds	
Possession or use of explosives, firearms, or any other weapons at school	
Any gang affiliations, plus any Level 1 and Level 2 Misconducts that are ongoing	

Behavior Contract

After evaluation and consultation with administration, faculty, and/or parents, or after misconduct by the student, circumstances may warrant that a student be placed on a behavior contract. This status may be achieved by, but not limited to, excessive discipline violations, or the demonstration of an attitude deemed outside the expectations of ACS. The administration reserves the right to extend a behavior contract at any time to any student that warrants such, regardless of the students' position in the discipline system.

A student who is placed on a behavior contract at any time during the school year is disqualified from taking part in all extracurricular activities. This includes athletic involvement with practices and games, music programs not required for a course grade, talent shows, plays, competitions, meets, fairs, festivals, ACSI events, etc. for the contract period.

1. A behavior contract will be for a time period determined by the administration. It will be at least 9 weeks long. However, the administration reserves the right to expel a student on disciplinary observation status at any time should the behavior warrant.
2. A student on a behavior contract may be denied enrollment for the next school year.

At the end of the contract period there will be an evaluation of the student at which time the administration will determine if the student is to remain on contract, to be removed from school, or released from contract status.

Discipline – Grounds for Dismissal

It is not our desire ever to have to ask a student to leave Aurora Christian Schools. Yet, we understand that these difficult times may come. The following are grounds for possible dismissal. At Aurora Christian, we believe that attitude is often more crucial than visible actions.

Attitudes reflecting a "Flaunting of Sin."

If a student's attitude begins to transmit an undercurrent of glamorizing sin, or sets a continuing non-Christian tenor, he or she may be asked to leave the school. This type of wrong attitude and conduct may include possible "bragging" about sinful conduct that may or may not be true.

Attitudes which Create Negative Tenor for Other Students

Proverbs speaks repeatedly about the power of a person's influence in others' lives. We realize that each student has to make his own choices and that no student can force others into wrong attitudes or actions. Yet we do often see that one or two individuals can create a negative atmosphere and tenor which continues to pull others down into wrong attitudes or conduct. Students do not have to be Christians in order to attend ACS. We do not know of any Christian school that is composed of a totally Christian student body, no matter how much a handbook might attempt to legislate such. However, students will not be allowed to create a negative tenor for the rest of the individuals within the school.

Attitudes which Continue to "Dampen" Spiritual Growth in Others

We will not allow any kind of mocking of the things of God, or the creation of a "peer pressure" that would make spiritual growth difficult for others.

A Progressive Hardening Against the Things of God

For the benefit of all students, we cannot allow willful disobedience of school policies or a continuing spiritual resistance in any student.

Verbal Abuse to Fellow Students and/or Teachers

It is crucial to us that ACS be a safe place, even emotionally. Although we realize that "kids will be kids," it is imperative that verbal abuse will not be allowed.

The Inability, or Unwillingness, of Parents to Work with us When Problems Arise with Their Student

We, at ACS, believe that teamwork with parents is both biblical and essential. Should a disciplinary issue arise with a student, we will endeavor to clearly communicate with parents. Unfortunately, it is difficult to work with parents who do not allow their children to accept personal responsibility for wrong actions. Should the overall attitude of the parents be one of continual blame-shifting, denial, or defensiveness, it will not be possible to work together for the good of the student. If parents demonstrate an unwillingness to cooperate, their student may be dismissed.

Dress Code

The ACS dress code is intended to reflect principles of good taste and modesty. Students should dress in a way that neither dishonors God nor draws undue attention to themselves. (I Tim 2:9; I Cor 10:31; I John 2:15-17)

The dress standards which follow are intended as expressions of those principles. They are not designed to promote legalism nor regimentation. Within the guidelines there is sufficient latitude for individual expression and taste. However, fads or extremes of any kind in dress or hairstyles are not acceptable and will require corrective action by the administration. Any writing or emblems that are offensive or antagonistic to the values and beliefs of ACS, as determined by the administration, will not be allowed.

It is the parents' responsibility to see that their student is dressed properly for school before leaving home each day. If a student is out of dress code, he/she will be required to change to meet the dress code policy in order to return to classes for the day.

The dress code of ACS is to be observed each day during the school year and for all participants in school programs, performances outside school, field trips, etc. unless specific permission has been given by the office.

If any staff member deems a student immodest or out of code in any way, the student must correct the issue immediately or will be sent to the office for correction.

Dress Code

We want to create a good self-image in a child that is vital to good Christian growth. To do this, we feel that we must encourage cleanliness and dress that is becoming to young boys and girls, in accordance with the principles of modesty which is set forth in Scripture.

The dress code of Aurora Christian ~~Preschool~~ is to be observed each day during the school year for all school programs, performances outside school, field trips, etc., unless specific written exceptions have been made by the office for special occasions and a note sent home in advance. Any writing or emblems that are offensive or antagonistic to the values and beliefs of ACS, as determined by the administration, will not be allowed.

Parents have the responsibility to see that their child is dressed properly for school before leaving home each day. We recommend that students come to school dressed to play. This would include appropriate apparel for weather, sneakers with socks, and jeans or shorts. Please save fancy clothing and dresses for Sundays or special events. If there are questions concerning your child's attire, please contact the office prior to sending him/her to school wearing the item or style in question.

Writing or pictures on shirts that could be determined as mockery, a put-down, inappropriate humor, or defaming in any way should not be worn to school. Statements like "blame my parents," "I'm with stupid," "so wanted," "got attitude," "you're dumb – I like that," and "I'm probably lying" are the types of examples of sayings that should not be worn to school.

Please keep in mind when dressing your child for school that you should send him or her in clothing that is easy for your child to manage. If clothing worn to school begins to distract any student from classroom orderliness or interrupt the educational process, parents may be asked to keep the student from wearing it to school.

ACS - Preschool

All clothing should be labeled with your child's name. This includes jackets, coats, and blankets.

General Guidelines

1. Acceptable school attire:

- Pants: clean and neat slacks, shorts, blue jeans, pants, or clean/neat sweats with no holes worn at the waist – pants may not be frayed or have excessive holes and should be clean
- Girls: dresses, skirts (recommend that girls wear shorts under skirts/dresses)
 - * Tunics worn with leggings/spandex
 - * Modest sun dresses, sleeveless, and spaghetti straps
- Shirts: collared, button-down, sweatshirt, pullover, t-shirt, tank top
- Shoes: dress shoes, gym shoes, or boots (Velcro tennis shoes are best for preschoolers)

2. Restricted attire:

- "Pull-ups" (disposable pants which are a transition from diapers to regular underwear) or training pants.
- Shirts or outfits with any writing/emblems that are offensive or antagonistic to the values and beliefs of Aurora Christian Schools as determined by the administration. Do not send your child to school in clothing that bears a skull and/or cross bones.
- Bodysuits or clothing with snapped crotches
- Immodest fit, bare midriff, halter, cut-off, or see-through clothing
- Clothing that displays secular artists, skulls, skeletons, weapons, or offensive material, or writing across the seat of the pants.
- Shoes untied, with open toes, wheels in soles, slippers, sandals, or backless shoes
- Hats or headwear, including a raised hood or sweatband (unless approved for hat day)
- Outside clothing (coats, jackets, gloves, etc.) inside the classroom unless permitted by the teacher
- Belts, sunglasses, watches, chains, spikes or jewelry considered potentially harmful. (i.e. – wallet chains, spiked rings or necklace, etc.)

- Clothing that is excessively frayed
- Pajama clothing or clothing that looks like PJs (unless there is a PJ Day at school)

Appearance Standards for Boys

- Hair should be clean, well groomed, away from the eyes, and off the collar on the back of the neck.
- Headbands, barrettes, ponytails, will not be allowed
- Nail color, earrings, or body piercings are not permitted for boys

Appearance Standards for Girls

- Hair should be clean, well groomed, and away from the eyes.

Dress Code Violations

When a child is in violation, the following procedure will be followed:

1. First Offense: The teacher will contact the parent to inform them of the dress code violation.
2. Second Offense: The Principal will contact the parent to inform them of the second dress code violation and establish a plan for future violations.

ACS - Elementary

General Guidelines

1. Acceptable school attire:
 - Pants: modest fit dress pants, jeans, or sweats with no holes, and to be worn at the waist
 - Dresses, skirts, (girls only) must reach mid thigh
 - *Tunics or oversized shirts worn with leggings/spandex (4th/5th) covering one's bottom
 - *In K-3rd, girls may wear modest sun dresses, sleeveless, and spaghetti straps
 - A tank top or shirt must be worn under rompers/jumpsuits/overalls
 - Shorts: modest fit dress, cargo, hiking, athletic shorts, or denim with no holes that are a minimum of finger-tip length (4th/5th)
 - Shirts: collared, button-down, sweatshirt, pullover, t-shirt, loose fitting, non-spaghetti strap tank top
 - Shoes: closed-toed casual shoes, dress shoes, gym shoes, crocs, or boots
2. Restricted attire:
 - Immodest fit, bare midriff, or see-through clothing
 - Clothing that displays secular artists, skulls, skeletons, weapons, or offensive material, or writing across the seat of the pants
 - Shoes untied, wheels in soles, slippers, socks only, bare feet
 - Hats or headwear (except Hat Day)
 - Outside clothing (coats, jackets, gloves, etc.) inside the classroom unless permitted by the teacher - the hood part of the hoodie should not be covering the head
 - Chains, spikes or jewelry considered potentially harmful. (i.e. – wallet chains, spiked rings or necklace, etc.)

Appearance Standards for Boys

- Hair should be clean, well groomed away from the eyes, and off the collar on the back of the neck.
- Headbands, barrettes, ponytails, buns will not be allowed
- Nail color, visible tattoos, brands, body mutilations, earrings, or body piercings (including any magnetic jewelry and gauges) are not permitted for boys. Earrings may not be worn on school grounds and whenever representing Aurora Christian Schools at school functions or activities

Appearance Standards for Girls

- Hair should be clean, well groomed, and away from the eyes

- Wear foundation garments when appropriate
- Visible tattoos, brands, body mutilations, or body piercings (including any magnetic jewelry and gauges) other than ear piercings, are not permitted for girls

Dress Code Violations

When a child is in violation, the following procedure will be followed:

1. First Offense: The teacher will contact the parent to inform them of the dress code violation.
2. Second Offense: Principal will contact the parent to inform them of the second dress code violation and establish a plan for future violations.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedure

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures (ACS Preschool)

Drop-Off Procedures:

6:30am-7:30am - Drop-off students at door 7 for extended care, Monday-Friday. Extended Care services are provided to families that need to drop their child(ren) off at school before the general drop-off time. Extended care fee is \$5 an hour before and after school.

7:30am-8:00am – General drop-off time. Parent/guardian park in the parking lot near door 7, walk your child to door 7 and check-in your child with the staff member checking in.

Pick-Up Procedures:

Half-Day Preschool:

11:30am - Pick up students at door 7. Parents/Guardians park near door 7 and walk to door 7 to pick up their child.

Full-Day Preschool:

3:05pm - Student pick up begins. Parents/Guardians park in the parking lot by door 7 and pick up their child at door 7. Any student who is not picked up by 3:25pm, will be dropped off at extended care. Parents will then pick up their child from extended care, door 7.

To change the pickup person for your child, you must use the Pikmykid app to assign a pickup person for that day or contact the office to make a change. Anyone who is not the typical pickup person must be on the pickup list and be prepared to show a photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.), so all pick-up persons should carry a photo ID whenever they come to pick up your child.

No one younger than a fifth grader may escort a child into the building or pick-up a child from school. Anyone picking-up a child must be listed on the emergency contacts.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures (ACS Elementary)

Arrival of Elementary Students

Drop-Off Procedures:

- 6:30am-7:30am - Drop-off students at door 7 for extended care. Extended Care services are provided to families that need to drop their child(ren) off at school before the general drop-off time. Extended care is \$5 the hour before and after school.
- 7:30am-8:00am – General drop-off time, students are dropped off at door 11 (student access only).

- Enter campus using the first Bowman Drive access on the west side of the building (this lane is a one way driveway).
- Proceed through the preschool lot and turn left into the 2nd entrance of the main parking lot.
- Use the drop-off lanes outside of door 11 (7:45-8:00am is the best time for elementary drop-off).
- Students should exit the vehicle from the passenger's side if in the right lane, or exit the vehicle from the driver's side if in the left lane and proceed to the crosswalk..
- Students will enter the building through door 11.
- At 8:00am, door 11 will be secured with no buzz-in access.
- Exit using the second Bowman Drive access on the west side of the building or Sullivan Road.
- After 8:00am, parents should drop students off at door 2, the main entrance, AND sign their child in. Students will then receive a tardy pass from the office.

Pick-Up Procedures:

Half-Day Kindergarten

- Pick-up time is at 11:30am at the main office.

Full-Day Kindergarten through 5th Grade:

- Student release begins at 3:05pm.
 - Enter campus on Eagle Drive from Sullivan Road (by football field).
 - Proceed on the road between the building and football bleachers, follow the roadway *behind* the gym, follow the cones (set up in door 16 lot) and turn around, proceed back toward the football field, follow the right turn and line up behind all the other vehicles.
 - Proceed through the pick-up lane.
 - Student(s) will be released from inside the building to come to your vehicle.
 - Exit campus on Eagle Drive onto Sullivan Road.
- * Middle/High School students may pick up sibling/carpool students or meet them in the cafeteria and walk together to door 11.

After School Clubs (when clubs begin):

- When After School Clubs are taking place, the after school club will communicate with parents on a pick-up location and time.

GENERAL NOTES:

- To change the pick-up person for your child, you must use the Pikmykid app to assign a pick-up person for that day or contact the office to make a change. All pick-up persons should carry a photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.) whenever they come to pick up a child.
- REMAIN HANDS-FREE FROM YOUR CELL PHONE DURING PICK-UP TIME!
- PROCEED WITH CAUTION (SAFE SPEED LIMIT!!!), ALWAYS WATCHING THE VEHICLE IN FRONT OF YOU!
- If you carpool or will be giving another student a ride home or having a playdate, make sure the teacher or office has been communicated about this change.
- Teachers, staff, and volunteer parents will rotate outside supervisory duties to help students into vehicles and to monitor student safety.

Extended Care

Before and after school extended care will be provided for all students of working parents who must drop off their child before 7:30am or who cannot pick him/her up until after 3:30pm.

- Extended care hours are 6:30-7:30am and 3:30-6:00pm.
- The charge is \$5.00 for any part of an hour. Beyond 6:00pm, parents will be called.
- Frequent failure to observe the student pick-up deadline of 6:00pm may result in loss of after school extended care privileges.

- Charges are made to the FACTS account.
- Failure to keep bills current or payments returned due to insufficient funds may result in the requirement to have advanced payment for extended care privileges on a cash only basis or may result in loss of extended care privileges.
- Students in extended care beyond 4:30 will be permitted to have a snack and/or juice brought from home.
- Please contact the office immediately with any registration changes, phone numbers, persons picking up your child, etc OR update that information on the emergency contacts section of your child's information on FACTS.

Grading Scale (Elementary)

Grading scale:

A	100-92	C+	82-80	D+	71-70
B+	91-90	C	79-75	D	69-65
B	89-85	C-	74-72	F	64-0
B-	84-83				

* Numerical or letter grades are assigned for the majority of academic subjects in grades K-5.

* O/S/U (Outstanding, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory) are assigned for art, band, music, physical education, conduct, effort and some academic areas in Kindergarten through 1st grade.

Help Classes

Help classes may be offered by the classroom teacher if a student is struggling with an academic area or failing a subject.

Homework

Homework is assigned for the purpose of review and reinforcement, not for teaching. Homework assignments not turned in when they are due will be considered late. Late assignments will result in the assignment being scored from a starting maximum grade of 80% or no participation credit given.

Students who habitually fail to do homework will be referred to the principal for disciplinary action. It is the student's responsibility to see that homework is completed. Students are responsible to get their parent's signature on the assignment notebook. Parents are responsible for checking the child's assignment(s) to confirm the assignment(s) are completed before signing the assignment notebook.

No homework (i.e., regular daily assignments) will be given over holiday vacations. Students may, however, be required to study for a test if the scheduled testing period for that class falls on the day following a vacation. If possible, and depending on the length of the tests, no more than three tests will be scheduled on any one day.

ACS produces assignment notebooks for students to use during the school year. Assignment notebooks may show work not completed during the school day and homework assigned by the teacher. Teachers will orient parents to the assignment notebook procedures in their classroom.

Library

We are pleased to provide a quality library for our K through fifth grade students. Books are checked out for one week and due the following scheduled class library day.

Use of our school library is a privilege, which may be revoked because of improper behavior in the library or repeated failure to return materials on time. If a student has outstanding fees in the library, that student will not be able to check out more books until the fees are paid.

The library will host a book fair yearly to help students build their own library at home and to raise funds to buy new books for the library.

Lunch Program

Lunch Program (ACS - Preschool)

A daily hot lunch is offered for all preschoolers who stay longer than half-day. It is included in the tuition if your child is here for 7 hours or longer. You will be billed for lunch (\$4.00) if your child is a half-day student staying longer on any given day. All children need to be able to feed themselves. Lunch menus will be available online. Preschool children may bring a sack lunch, but no discount will be provided for those who choose to bring their own lunch.

1. If your child does bring lunch from home, please train your child to open all containers and eat the food in the lunch from home.
2. Students bringing lunch are to use disposable goods such as zip lock baggies, etc.

Lunch Program (ACS - Elementary)

A hot lunch program is available for students who do not bring a sack lunch. Lunch prices are \$4.00 per day.

Except for special occasions, no food will be permitted outside of the cafeteria and must be kept in bags or lunch boxes in the designated location until lunchtime. Only students in 3rd-5th grade may use the microwaves to reheat food. Students are expected to observe the following standards of table manners and etiquette:

- Students will remain seated during their lunch period until the designated time for disposal of trash and return of lunch trays.
- Students are to leave their place at the table free of debris. All trays, silverware, and trash are to be placed in the proper areas when the lunch period is over.

Party Invitations / Birthdays

If children are having a birthday party and wish to hand out birthday party invitations at school, the entire class must be invited or all of the boys or all of the girls. If only selected students are invited, the family should obtain home addresses and mail those invitations to the child's home. Please do not distribute selected student invitations on school grounds.

Birthday treats celebrating a child's birthday are acceptable. If these birthday treats differ from the approved snack list, coordinate with the classroom teacher prior to the event. These treats are best served at lunchtime.

Potty Training (Preschool)

Being "potty trained" means independently:

1. being able to communicate the need to use the potty.
2. taking pants and/or tights down.
3. getting on the potty.
4. cleaning self appropriately and thoroughly.
5. getting clothes back on correctly.
6. washing and drying hands.

Our desire as a preschool is to provide a clean, healthy environment for the students attending. When students have “accidents,” it creates an unhealthy environment for the child as well as the other children in school. “Accidents” also take teaching staff away from their responsibilities as a teacher to assist with properly cleaning a child.

There should be no more than one accident per week during the first month of school enrollment. There should be no more than one accident per month during the remainder of the school year.

If there is an existing medical condition, a doctor’s note should be submitted and on file explaining all of the details.

Recess

Teachers attempt to provide recess daily to students. Recess is held either outside (when weather permits) or inside (in the classroom or another part of the school). In the case of broken bones, surgery, or other medical situations, the need may arise for a student to be excused from recess. Please submit your request to the teacher. More information may be requested if necessary.

We believe in the value of play time; therefore, students are expected to participate in recess. When recess is outside, we encourage students to be actively playing. When recess is inside, we encourage appropriate play in the classroom. We ask that playing cards not be brought to school. Toys should not be brought from home, as they could be lost, damaged, or destroyed; unless approved by the classroom teacher and principal.

Elementary students may go outside for recess until the temperature drops to 15 degrees F with wind chill. Children should come to school prepared to be outside in the elements. Gloves, hats, scarves, boots, etc. help make this time outside more enjoyable.

Retention Policy

Retention Policy (ACS - Preschool)

At the end of the school year, a determination must be made regarding a student’s progress. At the preschool level, every student passes. Retention might be recommended/required based upon a child’s developmental/classroom performance. A principal’s recommendation, teacher’s recommendation, overall classroom performance, academic analysis, input from outside of ACS, and/or parental input may all be used to help in making a retention recommendation/decision. A parent may also choose to retain their child.

Retention Policy (ACS - Elementary)

At the end of the school year, a determination must be made regarding a student’s progress. At the elementary level, a student shall be retained in the current grade level if there is a failing grade (64% or below) in two or more subjects for the final evaluation. This is to be based upon the cumulative average for the school year. The report card and the permanent record sheet shall be marked appropriately.

Retention might also be recommended/required based upon a child’s classroom performance. A principal’s recommendation, teacher’s recommendation, overall classroom performance, academic analysis, standardized test results, input from outside of ACS, and/or parental input may all be used to help in making a retention recommendation/decision.

Snacks

Each classroom teacher may establish a snack time for the students during the school day. Please see the Approved Snacks list provided at the Block Party and available online or in the office. Water is the

only drink permitted for snack time. Each class is a peanut-free classroom. Please follow the guidelines the teacher provides for the classroom snack time.

Student Support Resources

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

988

Suicide Prevention Services (Batavia)

630.482.9699

National Crisis Counseling Text Line

Text HOME to 741741

SAFE2HELP Illinois

Seek Help Before Harm

844.4.SAFEIL

Text - 72332

Download the SAFE2HELP Illinois mobile app

Bookmark the page: www.safe2helpIL.com

Faith's Law Resource Guide

Resource Guide: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Faiths-Law-Resource-Guide.pdf>

Traffic and Parking Procedure

General Parking Lot Rules

1. Parking at Aurora Christian is to be in the designated parking spaces only.
2. No car is to be parked in a fire lane (red curbs) or traffic lane.
3. Do not leave your engine running while you "run in" to the building.
4. Do not leave children unattended in the vehicle.
5. Misuse of the traffic parking procedures may result in children being dismissed from Aurora Christian Schools.
6. Campus speed limit is 5 mph.

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Parent/Student Handbook Signature Page

(Please submit this form digitally via Google Forms.) [LINK](#)

By signing this page, I affirm that I have read and agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook.

*This handbook is also available online at aurorachristian.org.

I knowingly and voluntarily accept and assume responsibility for the risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, attending Aurora Christian Schools. I also acknowledge my duty to notify the school and self-isolate if I am waiting for a test result or am diagnosed with a communicable disease.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature (only by MS/HS Students)

Date

Print Student Name

Grade