



THE EAGLE UPDATE

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - August 7, 2026

ACA Building Update

Following the July 3-4 rainstorm, the elementary building experienced water intrusion, resulting in water damage to portions of the building. We responded promptly by assessing the affected areas and hiring a professional restoration contractor to perform the necessary drying, cleanup, and restoration work. Our primary focus has been ensuring that all elementary classrooms are safe for students and staff. The restoration contractor is completing the necessary repairs and verifying that all affected materials have been properly addressed before the classrooms are returned to normal use. We wanted to make you aware of the situation and assure you that we are taking all appropriate steps to address the damage properly, restore the affected areas, and maintain a safe learning environment.

Helpful Apps

We recognize there are lots of systems and apps used at ACA to keep everything running smoothly and to communicate well with parents and teachers. [Here's a quick guide \(with links\) of helpful apps to download and websites for use throughout the year.](#)

First Grade Parent Meeting

There will be a first grade parent meeting on September 3 from 5-6 in the auditorium. At least one parent needs to be in attendance at this meeting. We ask that no children are there and there will be no childcare. We will be covering many important things that you will need to know as a first grade parent. We will talk about JMC, specific information about 1st grade, as well as Google Classroom, which will be an important communication tool.

Lunch Orders & Updates

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

It's time to activate your lunch accounts for 2026-2027! Be sure to get your lunch orders for **Monday, August 24th completed by 7:00am Friday, August 21st**. This is when the ordering window closes due to the weekend. Also, remember--the ordering window for each lunch closes two business days prior to that day's lunch. This can also be impacted by holidays or inservice days.

We heard your feedback and have re-arranged our pizza days. Chick-fil-A will now move to the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and Papa John's will be served on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays.

Helpful Guide for Activating Your Student(s) Lunch Account for the 2026-2027 School Year

- Open your app or log into your lunch account app(HotLunch). Select the student you wish to order for. The app will display, "Welcome to the new school year! You must update the grade and classroom before a new order can be placed." Click "update now" to proceed. Your student's name will be listed; click the green "edit" tab nearby. In the campus code section; type "acalunch" (all lowercase, no spaces), and then click the green "verify" tab. The domain "Ankeny Christian Academy" will then be displayed. Next, select the student's grade and classroom/homeroom/advisor designation. Then, after making the updates, select the "save" white tab located in the upper right hand corner.
- A message will then be displayed that "your student has been successfully updated." Follow this same process for each student in your family account. Your account will then be ready to create lunch orders!
- For more information about the lunch program at ACA; please go to the ACA website and under the 'parent resources' menu ---find the tab "school lunch program." Here you will find information about the lunch

program at ACA: vendor information, allergen lists, weekly caterer schedule, pricing, lunch cancellation policy, etc. Printable calendar style menus for each month will also be available as well!

- Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need help! email: natalie.whittemore@aca eagles.net or text: (515)-289-6556

Lunch prices for 26-27

5th-12th Lunches - \$7.25

BG-4th Lunches - \$6.25

Entree Only - \$5.25

Other item updates:

Allergy Friendly Pizza - \$8.50

Hot Pockets & Corn Dogs - \$2.50

Drinks - \$.60

Miscellaneous a la carte - \$1.85

Parking

With the purchase of the Admin building, we are updating our parking. Our goals are to ensure our student safety, safety of our drivers, and courtesy to the neighbors around ACA. These changes will impact our students who drive, parents who visit or volunteer during the day, or those who park to drop-off or pick-up their children. [Please see this parking map for a visual.](#)

Seniors - you will have reserved parking from 7:45-12:00. There is a reserved section for seniors to park in; you do not have an assigned spot. If you come after 12:00 for a class or spots practice, you can park in senior parking if there is a spot available. If not, you will need to find an empty parking spot in the underclassmen lot or on the street. Seniors must have their parking pass visible in their windshield. Those can be picked up at the Back to School Bash on August 20.

Underclassmen - there is a designated section for underclassmen parking. This is for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors and is available on a first come, first serve basis. So if you arrive at 7:55, there is a very good chance you will need to park on the road. If you park on the road, you will need to park on 2nd Street or on Sharmin north of 2nd. There is absolutely no parking on Sharmin south of 2nd street or in senior, admin, or staff parking. Those who do so will receive a demerit and will be asked to move. High school students must have their parking pass visible in their windshield. Those can be picked up at the Back to School Bash on August 20.

Visitors/Volunteers - You are welcome to park in the senior parking spots **after** 12:00. If you arrive before 12:00, you are welcome to park in an empty staff spot or on the street.

Parents parking at drop-off and pick-up - You may use the senior parking spots for drop-off if you leave before 7:45. If you are there past 7:45, one of our staff members may ask you to move so our seniors can arrive and get to class in a timely manner. For pick-up, you may park in the senior spots as well. For both drop-off and pick-up, please plan to exit in the west (secondary) exit.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance to us. Drop-off and pick-up times make our parking lot (and the neighborhood) a very busy place. There is a very specific drop-off and pick-up procedure that is outlined below, and [a diagram is provided for those who would like to see it visually.](#)

There will be staff that will be directing you; please follow their instructions. The staff may be direct at times because their primary concern is the safety of our students and ensuring a smooth drop-off and pick-up process. Car signs will be available for pick up at the Back to School Bash. Please do not use signs from previous years. If you need additional signs, please contact the office.

SECONDARY DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Enter from the entrance on Sharmin and follow the arrows on the map and exit heading west on First Street. There will be no left turns permitted out of the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up hours. If you need to get out of

your car for any reason (good-bye hugs, getting band instruments out of the trunk, walking them to the sidewalk), you must park in one of the spaces south of the gym PRIOR to 7:45. Because every parking spot is assigned to a student, please do not park anywhere else. You may not enter from Sharmin from the south. You will be asked to drive down Sharmin, turn around, and come back.

SECONDARY PICK-UP PROCEDURES

6th grade - will be picked up on the EAST side. Please follow Elementary Pick-Up Procedures

Please come at your OLDEST child's time. If you arrive earlier, you will be asked circle around and come back. This year, we will be using color-coded signs and you will be asked to circle around and come back until your color is being picked up. Signs will be available to pick up at Back to School Night on August 20.

Please arrive at 3:35 to pick up your 7th-12th grader as the final bell rings at 3:30 and students need time to pack up. Please enter the parking lot on Sharmin from the north. Entering from the south will not be permitted. The staff will call the names as far as they can see on Sharmin. This year, we will be requiring all cars to go through the parking lot to pick up. We will not have parents park on the street, as crossing the street has become dangerous with the amount of traffic on Sharmin. As you go through the parking lot, please yield to the cars at the chiropractor's office and turn right (west) out of the parking lot. Staff will not call names for cars entering on Sharmin from the south or who are parked on the road. If you are parking and asking your child to walk, please park on 3rd Street.

If you have an elementary child and secondary student, your secondary student will need to meet your elementary child within the building and exit together out the west lobby doors.

No elementary students will be allowed to stay for secondary student practices after school. They will be escorted to Little Eagles Nest, our after school program.

Student drivers may not back up in to carline. They need to follow the instructions of the staff monitoring the lot at pick-up.

When you are picking up your children, we want to be good neighbors. Please do not park at Casey's or the strip mall.

After students are dismissed and have collected their things from their locker, they should pick up their siblings (if necessary) and stay in the lunch room to listen for their name.

If the student is participating in a fall sport, they need to be in your assigned classroom or the gym. They should not be in the lunchroom socializing

ELEMENTARY DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Before school care is available from 6:45am-7:30am. This will be over at our preschool and childcare facility at Faith Baptist Bible College located at 900 NW 4th St, Building 14 at the far west end of 4th St. At 7:30 a.m., students will be transported to ACA in the school van.

You may drop off your child starting at 7:30 at ACA; there is supervision for them in the cafeteria. Enter off of First Street and use the far right lane. Pull up to the tree on the southwest corner and let your child out of the car. Please see the diagram to see the spots where children should be let out of the car. Please do not let your child out of the car unless you're in one of the designated places or you have parked. Do NOT let your child out in front of the doors, as that backs up traffic. If you need to get out of your car for any reason (good-bye hugs, getting band instruments out of the trunk, walking them to the sidewalk), you must park in a designated volunteer parking spots on the south side of the gym (please see those noted on the diagram). Please note our parking spots are very limited, so we encourage you to use the carline as much as possible. Please exit the parking lot through the east driveway and turn right (west) out of the lot. Do not go in front of the gym to turn left out of the west entrance. Left turns out of the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times will not be permitted.

BK-6th PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Please come at your OLDEST child's time. If you arrive earlier, you will be asked to park or come back at the correct time.

2/3 - 2:55

4/5 - 3:00

6th - 3:05

At 3:15, all remaining students BK-6th grade will be escorted to after school care.

Our main goal during pick-up time is to get cars off of First Street, so please follow these instructions to ensure a smooth, quick process. This year, we will be using color-coded signs and you will be asked to circle around and come back until your color is being picked up. Please have your car signs with last names to be shown on passengers side front window or dash. To pick-up your child in carline, please enter from First Street. You will follow the arrows (on the provided map) around the parking lot. Staff will load your child as they are able. As soon as your child is loaded, please exit the parking lot by heading west on First Street. No left turns will be permitted, nor will staff allow cars to go in front of the gym to exit through the west driveway. It is recommended you go west to Abilene to turn north as Sharmin is very busy during this time for Middle School/High School pick-up. Please remain in your car in carline.

In an effort to get cars off of First Street, staff may instruct you to go down the center aisle. Please stay as far to the right as possible. If you are instructed to pull down the center aisle, your student will be loaded into the car in that aisle. DO NOT pull into the drop-off line. After your child is loaded, you can pass the cars on the left and exit the parking lot.

If your child cannot buckle their seatbelts, you must park and walk up to the door to get your child. Staff will not buckle any students. If you are parking, please enter and exit through the secondary lot.

If you have an elementary child and secondary student, your secondary student will need to meet your elementary child within the building and exit together out the west lobby doors.

No elementary students will be allowed to stay for secondary student practices after school. They will be escorted to Little Eagles Nest, our after school program.

When you are picking up your children, we want to be good neighbors. Please do not park at Casey's or the strip mall.

Free Basketball Camp at ACA through Faith!

Faith Baptist Bible College would like to host another FREE basketball clinic at ACA on August 19 from 3-4pm. This would be for boys and girls entering 6-9th grade. [Please complete this form so they know how many to expect.](#)

Grades 7-12 Athletic Registration

Fall sports registrations must be complete prior to participation!

Volleyball high school season begins Monday Aug 10th 6-9pm at ACA

High school cross country begins Wednesday Aug 12th 3:30 at ACA.

Middle school sports will start after school begins - more information will be sent later.

[Click here to register in Bound.](#)



Volleyball Apparel - store closes August 9

Volleyball apparel is available [here](#). The store closes August 9.

Cross Country Apparel - store closes August 9

Cross Country apparel is available [here](#). The store closes August 9.

Note from TPUSA ACA Club

[Click here to learn more about the TPUSA Club at ACA.](#) This club is for high school students.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Back to School Bash

The Back to School Bash will be held Thursday, August 20 from 4-7.

- New parent (grades K-12) meeting at 6:00 that evening.
 - Bring your school supplies and meet your teacher
 - 9-12th graders - pick up your parking sticker. If your high schooler plans to drive to school this year, [please complete this form](#) by August 15.
-

School Supply Lists

[The school supply lists are available on our website.](#) The PTF is not offering school supply boxes this year.

ESA Notice

You should have received an email from Odyssey, the website that controls the ESA funds that help you pay tuition. Please sign into your Odyssey account and verify the funds can be transferred to the school.

To do this, click the link in the Odyssey email, click review tuition and fees, and click confirm. Please let the office know if you have any questions.

Eagles Strength Program

We're excited to share that we will continue our partnership with Goldfinch Athletics through the school year for the Eagles Strength program!

(6) Weekly Schedule Options:

Wednesday and Friday mornings: 6:30 - 7:15am

Monday and Thursday evenings: 6:00 - 6:45pm

Saturday mornings: 7:30 - 8:15am AND 9:30 - 10:15am

Registration link - [click here](#)

You will see two registration options, both with our ACA Eagles team discounted rates applied:

(1) Month to month - you can start / pause this any time

(2) ALL IN school year pass with a pre-pay option to receive additional 25% off, **this deal ends Friday, August 14.**

***All school year sessions hosted at **Goldfinch Athletics** with these (6) time slots blocked off for ACA Eagles --- athletes are encouraged to pick between 1-3 of the weekly sessions depending on their schedule, can attend any of the sessions each week with flexible scheduling allowed (not locked in to specific days)

***Sessions will be primarily strength focused with in-season athletes, with continued speed training at specific times of each season

2026-2027 School Handbook

[The 2026-2027 school handbook is available on our website.](#)

Phone Registration

ACA is a smart-device free school. You can read our updated guidelines regarding smart phones and smart watches below. [All 6-12 students need to complete this form](#) prior to the first day of school to let ACA know whether or not your child will be bringing a phone/smart watch to school.

Join the lunch volunteer team!

Calling all parents, grandparents, and family members of ACA students! Do you have a heart to serve ACA? Are you looking for a great way to get involved? Join ACA's lunch volunteer lunch team!

Volunteering for lunch at ACA is a great way to serve our school and see your children during the school day!

If you have family members who do not receive the newsletter (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc), feel free to share this information. Many grandparents and family members enjoy being involved and serving in ACA's lunch program!

Background Check Forms: If you are interested in volunteering at ACA; please fill out the volunteer background check forms available on our school website.

Volunteer Roles:

TA's (Teacher's Assistants) -This shift is from **10:40am-11:40pm approximately**. These volunteers help students at the kitchen window and then aid students in the cafeteria with their lunchtime needs. They also aid in cleanup as classes are dismissed. Extra TAs are always welcome during this time as well on any day! Contact Mrs. Whittemore to schedule a time to serve as an extra TA.

Lunch Servers--This shift is from **10:30am-1:30pm approximately**. Lunch servers serve lunch for our students and then aid in kitchen clean up.

Substitute Volunteers-These are volunteers who fill in for volunteers (TA's and Lunch Servers) who are unable to serve on their regularly scheduled shift. This may be short notice or advanced notice. There is a great need for volunteers for our substitute volunteer lists. If you have a flexible schedule (even if it's only one day per week), please consider joining our substitute volunteer lists.

Open Volunteer Shifts for the 2026-2027 School Year:

Lunch Service --This shift is from 10:30am-1:30pm approximately

Monday--The 1st, 4th, and 5th (where applicable) Monday of each month

Tuesday-- The 1st and 2nd Tuesday of each month

Wednesday--The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month

Thursday-- The 5th (where applicable) Thursday of each month

Friday-- The 5th (where applicable) Friday of each month

TA --This shift is from 10:40am-11:40pm approximately

Monday--No openings

Tuesday--The 4th Tuesday of each month

Wednesday--The 1st and 5th (where applicable) Wednesdays of each month

Thursday--The 2nd Thursday of each month

Friday--No openings

Volunteers are also welcome to join the "substitute list" for shift openings! Substitutes are always needed regularly throughout the school year!

Substitute Lists

Consider joining the substitute lists (Lunch Service and TA)! There is a great need for lunch substitute volunteers.

Please contact Natalie Whittemore for more information about serving in ACA's lunch program!

email: natalie.whittemore@aca eagles.net

phone/text: 515-289-6556

Student Health Forms

All returning students MUST have a health form completed prior to school beginning in August. [Please complete the form here.](#) There will be one form completed per child.



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