



THE EAGLE UPDATE

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - September 4, 2026

Enjoy the long weekend!

ACA will be closed on Monday for Labor Day - no school and no staff will be available. We hope this weekend is a time for rest for you and your families!

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Legacy Gala: Forward in Faith - Purchase your tickets today!

Just one week left to purchase your tickets for ACA's Legacy Gala. We're excited to share ACA's future vision plans for the first time at the event! There will be lots of fun auction items, as well as a delicious meal and dessert.

[Purchase your tickets here.](#)

We're also looking for additional baskets to be donated to our ticket drop auction. Please reach out to Mr. Johnson or Mrs. Bogaards if you're interested in donating a basket to the gala.

While we hope to raise funds for our future vision plans, we pray that the Holy Spirit surrounds our event. We're looking for individuals to commit to praying during the event. If you'd be willing to pray for 15 minutes that evening, [please sign up here.](#)

Middle School Retreat

Overview

This year our MS Fall Retreat will be held at **The Ridge** (825 NW 36th St, Ankeny, IA 50023) here in Ankeny on Friday, September 11th. You can drop students off at the church beginning at **7:45am**. The retreat will begin at **8:15am**. We will end and dismiss students at **2:30pm** to allow time for those parents who need to pick up other students at ACA to make it over there. If you need additional pickup time or if you would like your student to be transported back to ACA, please contact **Mr. Willis** so that it can be coordinated. Due to concrete repair in the south parking lot, you must enter/exit via NW 36th St. See picture.



This year's theme is "Starting Small". We're going to be talking about the importance of the small (not discrediting the small stuff). We'll be looking at how God uses small things that others overlook to do big things in life. We'll also be looking at planning out and identifying small habits that we can adopt over the year to grow in life and faith.

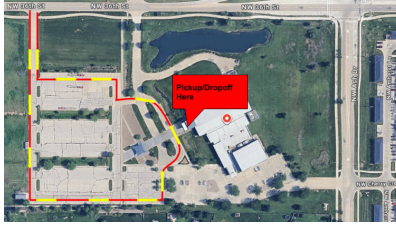
Our speaker for this year's retreat is Patrick Willis, ACA's Discipleship Director.

What to Bring

- Bible
- Water bottle
- Something to write on and something to write with

Lunch Opportunity

Lunch will be provided by Flame. We will have a taco bar (3 per student) with options of black beans, chicken, & beef, along with sides of chips & salsa. If you would like to help with serving lunch during our retreat, [please sign up here](#).



ACA Annual Athletic Passes

Cost:

- Individual: \$125, two passes for \$200
- Senior Pass (65+): \$100, two senior passes for \$150

Home Events Admission Fees

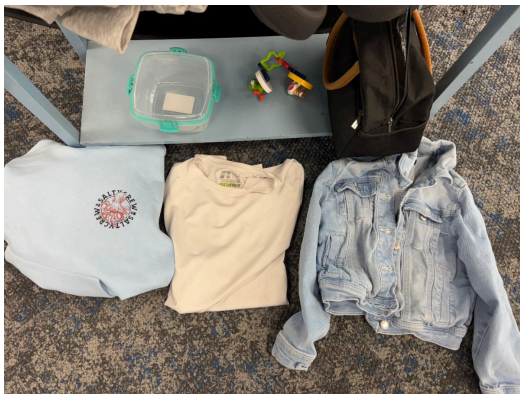
- Varsity: \$7
- MS/JV admission: \$5

ACA has an estimated 13 home volleyball games, 16-18 home basketball games, and 15-18 home baseball/softball games. The average annual cost to attend ACA sporting events is \$308. ACA students, staff and spouses, coaches and spouses, and board members and spouses attend free to all regular season home events.

Lost & Found

We've been in school seven days, and our lost and found is already full! Please claim these items by end of day Tuesday (9/8). They will be donated after that date.

This is also a reminder to label your child's water bottle, lunch bag, etc. so it can be returned to its owner.



High School Sports Pictures

If your child plays a sport outside of ACA (football, tennis, golf, etc.), we'd love to share their photos/results on social media like we do for our ACA sports. Please send any pictures and results to [Mrs. Bogaards](#) or [Mrs. Quick](#). Thank you!

A Grand Day at ACA - Celebrating Grandparents' Day at ACA

When is Grandparents' Day?

Grandparents' Day will be held Friday, September 11, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Ankeny Christian Academy (**1604 W 1st Street, Ankeny**).

Who is invited to attend?

ACA students grades Kindergartener through 5th grade are invited to bring their grandparents. If your child does not have a grandparent who can come, feel free to invite a grandpa from church or your neighborhood. If your child's grandparent cannot attend and you want to bring your child to the event, feel free to attend this Grandparents' Open House event with them. Please forward this invite on to your grandparents or grandpas!

What will Grandparents' Day include?

The guests will get to meet the teachers, visit their classroom as well as the art room, music room, library, and gym, tour the school, and more! They'll get to make a bookmark to take home as well. Those who complete our Grand Day Bingo that day will be entered to win two tickets to our Legacy Gala on September 26!

Do we need to RSVP?

No RSVP is necessary.

PTF Ice Cream Day Fundraiser - Volunteers Needed!

It's a new school year and we'd like to continue our tradition of hosting a monthly Ice Cream/Frozen Treat Day, **once a month**, where the **kids can bring \$1 to purchase a frozen treat, at lunchtime!** For this to happen we need volunteers to serve a couple of hours, to hand out the frozen treats. **Please consider signing up for a spot at the link provided below.**

The kids have always loved this monthly tradition and **every dollar earned is used by PTF to bless the teachers.** This year the frozen treats available will be Ice Cream Sandwiches and Outshine Mini Fruit Pops. Also, this year kids who DO NOT have food allergies will be allowed to purchase the Outshine Mini Fruit Pops.

All Frozen Treats are donated by Tier3 Technology, meaning ALL proceeds go to PTF to bless the teachers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4FA5A72CAAF94-44604033-ptfice/92298784#/>

Have You Registered for the Musical Reveal Party?

The mystery is building! ACA students in 8th–12th grade are invited to attend the Spring Musical Reveal Party on Saturday, September 19, from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM in the Auditorium.

There will be theatre games, lunch, clues, team activities, and the official reveal of this year's spring musical.

Dough Co. Pizza in Ankeny is generously donating pizza for the event, so come hungry and ready to have fun!

Students can register using this link: <https://forms.gle/za8fZaP8dwA6tUKJ9>

Once registered, students will receive their first clue. For students who have already registered, they should have a few clues now...

Dress Code Reminder

While we hope cooler weather is coming soon, a few reminders on our dress code. The expectation is that shorts worn by both girls and boys be mid-thigh in length. For clarification, mid-thigh is measured from the point where the hip and leg bones meet down to the middle of the knee. Please also remember that tank tops are not allowed; shirts must have sleeves.

Parent Meeting

We're grateful to partner with parents and guardians at ACA and hope you are as excited about the new school year as we are. Our leadership team and board are holding a parent meeting on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 in the auditorium. This will be a time to hear updates from the leadership team and the board of directors. During this meeting the board will be presenting a bylaw proposal regarding the election process. In previous years, these meetings have included a time for questions to the leadership team and board. This time, we will not be doing a Q&A in the large group setting, but the leadership team and board will be available for questions after the meeting. We encourage you to attend the meeting in person, but if not the meeting will be recorded and posted online [here](#).

School Picture Volunteers

We are looking for a few volunteers to help at ACA during the school pictures. If you would like to help, [please sign up here](#).

Middle School/High School Demerits

As we settle into our routines for the school year, we will be moving toward more regular accountability when expectations are not met. Students have been encouraged by their teachers of the importance of being prepared for class, arriving on time, following the dress code, and meeting the various expectations we have for them. Our goal is to help students develop good habits and understand that these expectations are an important part of being a responsible member of our school community.

Beginning Tuesday, September 8, demerits, which are written warnings, may be given when students do not meet these expectations. Teachers will continue to extend grace and mercy at their discretion, but students should not expect exceptions to be made on a regular basis.

When a demerit is given, teachers will inform the student in a respectful, non-embarrassing manner and will email parents in a timely fashion, normally on the same day.

If your child receives a demerit, please remember that there are different perspectives involved in any situation. If you have questions about a demerit or the circumstances surrounding it, we ask that you respectfully contact the teacher via email and approach the conversation in the spirit of unity and partnership.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help our students grow in responsibility, character, and respect for the expectations of our school community.

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

Our school campus code is: **"acalunch"** (all lowercase and no spaces)

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 lunch program information; please go to the ACA website, click on "Parent Resources" then click on "School Lunch Program Information."

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need help!
email: natalie.whitemore@aca eagles.net

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 10:35am-11:40am 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 (2 openings for this shift) and 3rd 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 10:35am-11:40am approximately

Monday--extra volunteers welcome

Tuesday--The 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month

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

Thursday--extra volunteers welcome

Friday--The 2nd Friday of each month

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**

Upcoming Important Dates

More information will be provided about these as the dates get closer!

September 11 - Middle School Retreat

September 14 - Parent Meeting at 6:30 in the Auditorium

September 23 - See You At the Pole (led by ACA Student Council)

September 24-25 - School Pictures

Upcoming Events

These are taken from the [school calendar](#). Please note that schedules (especially with sports) could be different from what's listed on the calendar.

September

7

No School - Labor Day

September

8

4:30 - MS Volleyball at ACA
5:00 - JV Volleyball at Southview
6:00 - JV Volleyball at Southview

September

10

5:30 - JV Volleyball at ACA
6:30 - JV Volleyball at ACA
7:45 - Varsity Volleyball at ACA

September

11

Middle School Retreat
4:30-6:00 - A Grand Day at ACA

September

12

Volleyball at Aplington-Parkersburg

September

14

4:30 - MS Girls Volleyball at ACA
4:30 - JV/Varsity Volleyball at Ames
6:30 - Parent Meeting

September

15

4:30 - MS Girls Volleyball at Oskaloosa Christian
4:30 - JV Volleyball at ACA
4:30 - MS and Varsity Boys Cross Country at Colo-Nesco
6:30 - Parent Meeting

September

16

4:15 - MS Girls Volleyball at ACA
5:30 - JV Volleyball at Diagonal
7:00 - Varsity Volleyball at Diagonal



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