



THE EAGLE UPDATE

Blue Cord Opportunities

There will be many opportunities at ACA for students to earn blue cord hours August 11-15. Students are welcome to come serve between 8:30 and 4:00. As a reminder, students need 80 volunteer hours to wear the blue cords at graduation, 40 of which can be served at ACA. We will need help moving furniture, doing landscape clean up, etc. If you have any questions, please contact [Abby Bogaards](#).

Smart-Device Policy Update

In a recent Eagle Update, ACA shared its new smart devices policy. As a brief reminder, all ACA students in grades 6-12 will be required to turn in their smart devices when they arrive at school each day. This process will be supervised by school personnel and the devices will be stored in a secure location throughout the day. The only exceptions to this policy are:

- If your son or daughter has a documented medical need to have a smart device accessible during the school day.
- If your son or daughter does not have a smart device.
- **(New option for parents): If parents commit to keeping the smart device at home throughout the school day.**

[Please complete the form below to make us aware if any of these situations above apply to your family.](#) This needs to be completed by August 14. Please note that if you do not complete the form, we will assume that your children will be turning in their smart devices each morning.

If you have an elementary student, you do not need to fill out the form as this policy applies to students in grades 6-12.

Smart-Device Policy FAQ

We have received great support and questions around our new smart-device free policy. We will continue to provide clarity as we roll out this new policy.

Can you share more about how this will work logistically? Will my student be late to class or need to leave earlier to drop-off their phone/watch?

There will be two carts (see photo). The carts will be in the west lobby starting at 7:30 when the doors open. Students will drop their phone in their assigned slot when they walk in to school. At 8:00, the carts will be wheeled to the office. Students who are late or need to leave early can drop/grab their phone from the office. At 3:25, the carts will be wheeled back to the west lobby where students can pick them up as they leave.



What's the difference for high schoolers versus middle schoolers?

The big difference was that we would require all high schoolers to turn in a phone; leaving it at home or in their car was not an option. We have amended the policy to allow parents to commit to keeping the phone at home.

Will ACA assume liability over the devices while at ACA?

No.

How does this policy impact my elementary student?

The elementary policy on smart-devices/phones has not changed. The policy is copied below from the handbook. Please note that this policy does include smart watches. Elementary students cannot wear a smart watch (i.e. Apple

watch, Gizmo, Gabb, etc.) even in school mode.

ELEMENTARY SMART DEVICES POLICY

- Smartphones and personal smart devices (ex: smart watches, video game devices) may not be used by students upon arrival and during school hours (8:00am-3:30pm). We understand that many students will bring phones to school for travel emergencies and after school responsibilities and activities; our expectation is that we will not see them and students will not use them during the school day.
- Upon arrival to their classrooms, elementary students will place their device(s) into their backpack and/or in their lockers.

Athletic Registration

Athletic Registration is Live on BOUND - [click here](#) or scan the QR Code on the flyer.

Volleyball and Cross Country are due before Monday, August 11.

All other sports registrations are open now and will remain open until that season begins. You can register now or wait; however, you will need to update your student athlete's sports physical in the registration process. ALL student athletes must complete registration - 7th grade through 12th grade.



Board Agenda

The Board of Directors will meet Thursday, August 14. [The agenda can be found here.](#)

Parent Prayer Meeting

The last parent prayer will be at Sarah Wetzel's house (1016 NE 41st St, Ankeny, 50021) on Thursday, August 14 from 7-8pm.

PTF Meets Tuesday

The Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) committee is a parent-led committee that works to bless teachers throughout the year. **This committee will meet on Tuesday, August 14 at 6:30 at ACA.** Please come in the main entrance. Join us to talk about ways we can bless the teachers as they start a new year and ways to support the Back to School Bash.

Parent Meetings - Back to School Bash

If you are the parent of a new student at ACA, or a parent of a 6th, 9th, or 12th grader, please plan to attend a meeting on Back to School Night.

6:00 - New Parents (or Parent Refresher) Meeting

6:35 - 6th Grade Parent Meeting

7:00 - 9th Grade Parent Meeting

7:25 - 12th Grade Parent Meeting

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Back to School Bash - Save the Date!

Save the date for our annual Back to School Bash! It will be held on Thursday, August 21 from 6-8 PM at ACA. This is a great opportunity to meet your teachers, drop off your school supplies, take your first day of school photos, meet the leadership and administration, and so much more! There will be specific meetings that evening for all new parents, 6th graders, 9th graders, and 12th graders; a specific schedule will be sent out prior to the event.

Teacher Wish Lists

If you would like to bless an ACA teacher before the school year, many of them have wish lists for their classroom. [You can find the lists here.](#) We will continue to add to the website as we receive lists. Thank you for supporting our teachers!

[View Wish Lists](#)

ACA Career Fair

Our mission at ACA is to equip students to be Christ-centered disciples who engage the world with the Gospel. Part of doing that is helping our high school students find their God-given gifts and talents and how to use those to better God's kingdom. We are hosting a career fair on Thursday, September 11, for our high school students to explore opportunities post-graduation. If your organization is interested in participating, [please register here.](#) Please contact [Lindsey Haley](#) with any questions.

Volunteer Background Checks

We will be doing background checks on ALL volunteers this next year. This includes lunch monitors and classroom helpers. If you have had an ACA background check in the last four years, that will suffice for what we need, but if you're aren't sure, please fill out the paperwork. Please complete the two forms and bring them to the office or [email them to Mrs. Frericks. Form 1 | Form 2](#)

Lunch Volunteers Needed

We are still in need of lunch volunteers and substitutes! Please see the email sent earlier this week with specifics. Please email [Mrs. Whittemore](#) with questions.



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