

Albany Christian School

“a family ministry of Willamette Community Church”



Parent/Student Handbook

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Who/What is Albany Christian School

*Albany Christian School exists
as a ministry of Willamette Community Church
to **partner** with **families**
to **educate students** with excellence,
from a **biblical foundation**,
that they might personally experience God's love
grow into Christian maturity
and bridge to a local church for a lifetime of learning.*

The purpose of ACS is to come alongside parents and families and help them as they fulfill their calling to nurture their children – spiritually, physically, academically, and socially – in the knowledge and the love of the Lord.

At Albany Christian School, quite literally “Christian” is at the heart of who and what we are. “Christian” is not merely what we teach, but it’s what we are, and what we are striving to be. It’s reflected in the curriculum we use. It’s reflected in the spiritual components of our programs. It’s reflected in the excellence that we strive for. But even beyond these, in every aspect of our life together in this school community we aim to reflect the image of Christ.

A. Our History

47 years ago, under the leadership of Pastor Franklin Dodson, *the people of First Baptist Church stepped out in faith toward the vision of a school that would serve the people of Albany and beyond*, providing an alternative in education that would stress academic excellence, character development, biblical truth, and a spiritual bridge to children and their families. And so in 1964 they purchased the former Albany High School building, which with a 900-seat auditorium, regulation size gymnasium, cafeteria, and many classrooms to become the new home for both the church and it’s new school ministry. And from it’s small beginnings to it’s expansive scope today with over 300 students in Preschool, (founded in September 1985), Elementary School and Junior High – for 4 decades ACS has led the way in providing quality Christian education to families in Albany and throughout the Willamette Valley.

B. What are the standards of ACS teachers?

Every ACS teacher and staff member has demonstrated excellence. Our teachers are excellent educators. They strive to reach our students through a variety of learning methods to effectively and creatively pass knowledge on to children.

Every ACS teacher and staff member has demonstrated character. According to the highest standards, they have the kind of proven Christ-like lifestyle, both publicly and privately, to provide a consistent role model for children to emulate.

Every ACS teacher and staff member has demonstrated compassion. They have a tender heart toward children, and a nurturing heart, so that they not only understand in their minds but feel in their lives that God treasures them.

Admissions

A. Registration and Admission Policies

Preschool:

Parents are to apply for student enrollment through our registration form. Children entering preschool are to be at least 2 ½ years old and fully potty trained. Students entering Preschool will be required to provide for our files an updated immunization form.

Students will be placed in classrooms according to the birth date of the child to enter Kindergarten at age five before September 1st in accordance with the Public School deadline.

Child Care:

Parents are to apply for student enrollment through our registration form. Child Care during the school year accepts children from ages 2 ½ and potty trained through 8th grade. Summer Child Care accepts children from ages 2 ½ and potty trained through 8th grade. Non ACS students entering Child Care will be required to provide for our files an updated immunization form.

Kindergarten:

Children entering kindergarten should be 5 years old, by September 1 of the coming school year in accordance with the Public School deadline. All incoming kindergarten students will receive a readiness screening to determine whether they should begin kindergarten at 5 or wait until they are six years old.

Students entering kindergarten will be required to provide for our files an updated immunization form upon entering school. School administrators are required by law to deny admission to students who have not been immunized.

Grade 1-8:

First time applicants in grades 1–8 will be given a placement test. Families of new students must meet with the principal; students should accompany their parents.

An up-to-date immunization form is required of all students. School administrators are required by law to deny admission to students who have not been immunized.

B. Registration Fee

An annual registration fee is to be paid for each student attending ACS (P-8). A separate registration fee is also required for those students using Child Care and all children in the Summer Child Care program. The registration fee holds your child's place in class. It is not applicable to next year's tuition and is non-refundable unless the school cannot accept the child for enrollment. Registrations will generally not be accepted from families having a delinquent balance on their tuition accounts.

C. Tuition (P-8)

Tuition may be paid in one of three methods:

- 1) a one-time payment by the first day of school with a 2% reduction,
- 2) over a ten-month period beginning September 1.
- 3) over a twelve-month period beginning July 1.

Each family is required to sign a tuition contract that explains the procedures for payments and the penalties for late payments.

Preschool:

Monthly tuition payments are due on the **tenth** of the month. At the end of **a five day grace period** a late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed each month on the delinquent amount. If payment becomes 30 days delinquent, the account will be referred to the School Board. The School Board will establish terms under which the account must be paid for the family to remain in school. Failure to meet the terms established by the School Board will result in removal of the student from classes and/or Child Care until the account is cleared to the satisfaction of the School Board.

K-8:

Monthly tuition payments are due on the **first** of the month. At the end of **a fifteen day grace period** a late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed each month on the delinquent amount. If payment becomes 30 days delinquent, the account will be referred to the School Board. The School Board will establish terms under which the account must be paid for the

family to remain in school. Failure to meet the terms established by the School Board will result in removal of the student from classes until the account is cleared to the satisfaction of the School Board.

D. Child Care Billing

Families who utilize our Child Care program are required to sign a Child Care contract.

Monthly Child Care payments are due on the tenth of the month. At the end of a five day grace period a late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed each month on the delinquent amount. If payment becomes 30 days delinquent, the account will be referred to the School Board. The School Board will establish terms under which the account must be paid for the family to remain in school. Failure to meet the terms established by the School Board will result in removal of the student from Child Care until the account is cleared to the satisfaction of the School Board.

E. Account Responsibility

In the event of divided families, the guardian who has signed the registration form and contracts is ultimately responsible for the full payment of the tuition and Child Care bill.

F. Financial Aid

Financial aid is available to qualifying low income families registered for grades K-8. Applicants for financial aid must submit an Enrollment Application and Registration Fee along with the Financial Aid Form which is to include a recent copy of the 1040 Federal Tax Return form. If a mutually agreeable financial aid award is not forthcoming, the Registration Fee is refundable. Awarding of a financial aid grant is based on a standardized scale. Awards generally will not exceed 50% of tuition costs and do not include registration costs. Financial Aid Applications must be submitted by May 1 in the preceding Spring. Those received later will only be considered as funds become available.

G. DHS

Financial aid is not available to Preschool families, however Albany Christian School works with the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a limited amount of families that qualify for such assistance with Preschool and Child Care costs.

H. The Cost to Educate students

The cost for schooling is far greater than the tuition amount that is charged to each family, thus we have 3 major fundraisers and seek outside donations each year to make up for the tuition shortfall. Every school family is encouraged to participate in the fundraisers in order to help the school and keep tuition costs down.

Character Development / Conduct

A. Training Up a Child...

It is our desire to model and teach a life that honors Jesus Christ. This life is a life filled with God himself and growing in character qualities of love, obedience, service, and many others. Our discipline policies and procedures as well as our rules are intended to point to Jesus Christ and the life He offers to all people.

B. Discipline

“PREMISE of DISCIPLINE” - We want each child to know that he or she is loved. However, love does not equate to tolerance of disobedience, but real love sets the highest of standards for people which directs them to love and good deeds.

Students are expected to behave in a submissive, obedient, and respectful manner at all times and in all school activities, on or off campus. Most of the discipline throughout the day is self-discipline, as children voluntarily comply with these expectations. What is commonly known as “discipline” becomes necessary when students choose not to exercise self-discipline in these areas. Discipline, which derives from the root word “disciple” or “learner,” seeks to help the child learn to make right choices. Positive choices are affirmed with positive results and negative choices are confronted with negative consequences. Students are considered accountable for their behavior at all times.

ROLE of the TEACHER - The goal of the classroom teacher is to educate with excellence. One aspect of this is to maintain a positive learning environment with minimal disturbances. Discipline issues remain within the domain of the classroom teacher who is to administer consequences and rewards as he or she sees fit. Classroom rules and consequences will be established, and parents and students will be informed of these rules

and consequences at the beginning of the year. The teacher will be in contact with parents regarding discipline issues and at times involve the Principal and Director in an advisory capacity or when behavior issues escalate.

ROLE of the PARENTS - Parent support is essential in maintaining an effective discipline policy. Relating to discipline problems, families will be communicated with, for cooperation and assistance in the disciplinary process.

In signing the admissions application form, the parents agree to the judgment and disciplining process of their student. It is stated as follows: "We hereby invest authority in the school to discipline our son/daughter as the school feels necessary. We further agree that we will cooperate and discipline our son/daughter in the home as needed."

CONSEQUENCES - Our school and child care does not use corporal punishment, but inappropriate behaviors are dealt with through other means such as verbal correction, separation from the group, separation into the Principal or Director's office, and Parent Conferences.

ESCALATED BEHAVIOR - A small percentage of discipline problems are referred to the Principal or Director immediately. A disciplinary situation may be referred to the Principal or Director for the following reasons:

- ◆ It is not logistically feasible for the teacher to deal with the situation in a timely manner.
- ◆ An incident involves physically harmful behavior.
- ◆ An incident involves students from different classes.
- ◆ The severity of the situation warrants the Principal or Director's attention.
- ◆ Repeated efforts on the teacher's part have failed to remedy the problem.
- ◆ The child has defied the teacher or deliberately disobeyed him or her.

In the event of students harming or threatening to harm other students or staff members, the school will act swiftly to handle the situation which may include suspensions and/or expulsions. We strive to look out for the many students entrusted to us and we would rather error on the side of caution in these cases.

Children who demonstrate an unwillingness to submit to the school's authority and rules can not be effectively served by the school and may damage the overall ministry. Families of such students will be counseled to seek an alternative educational option.

C. Vandalism / Fines

Assessments will be made to school families whose children willfully or carelessly damage school property. Parents are responsible for fines students incur on overdue or lost library books and lost or damaged textbooks whether the loss was accidental or intentional.

D. Restricted Items

Items that might be disruptive, dangerous, or might adversely affect the educational climate at ACS are not to be brought on the campus. This includes but is not limited to knives, weapons, toy guns, and unauthorized medication. Other items such as radios, ipods, video games, cell phones, pagers, playing cards, unnecessary cash, chewing gum, and candy are not appropriate as well. If brought to school, teachers or staff will confiscate the item until the end of the day. If it continues to be a problem, further measures will be taken. The use of drugs, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or pornographic materials by ACS students, on campus or off, constitutes grounds for dismissal from school.

E. Dress Code (K-8 & Child Care)

Principles

Standards for school dress grow out of (1) biblical principles of modesty and the glorification of God (I Timothy 2:9, I Peter 3:3-4; I Corinthians 10:31), and, (2) appropriateness to the educational setting. When considering these two factors, various schools and families will come to different conclusions. We at ACS do not wish to imply that the standards we have established are the only acceptable standards by which a Christian may dress. Some families may prefer a more conservative approach, while others may prefer a less restrictive standard. We do ask that families enroll at ACS only if they can support these standards of school dress.

Because styles change, the School Board gives the principal the right to define more specifically what is appropriate. Policy updates will be published through newsletters and school bulletins.

The responsibility to uphold the dress standards of the school rests with the parent. If a child's outfit appears to be in violation of the standards, the child's parent may be contacted. In most cases the student will not be approached on the issue. In the case of obvious or flagrant violations, the student may be required to change clothes before attending class.

General Guidelines

Clothing must fit properly and be in good repair; holes in knees, not marked with pen, etc. Clothing should not attract undue attention.

Clothing imprinted with phrases and/or pictures should be appropriate to school, in good taste, and consistent with a Christian commitment.

School shoes should be designed for support and protection yet we understand that fashion may want to be considered. Shoes with wheels in them (ie. Heelys) are not permitted on campus. Heels over 1.5 inches high are not permitted for regular school wear.

- ◆ Shorts are not permitted except on days when the temperature is forecasted to be 75 degrees or warmer. Shorts should be modest in length (no shorter than fingertips when standing with arms at sides) and loose fitting with no slits up the sides.

- ◆ No hats are to be worn in the building.

- ◆ Unnaturally dyed hair is not permitted.

- ◆ Gang apparel and similar styles are not to be worn at school.

- ◆ Clothing with inappropriate or disrespectful designs, slogans, images, or messages are not permitted to be worn at school.

Boys:

Collared, tee, turtleneck, and sweatshirts are permitted. Mesh shirts without under garments, sleeveless shirts and tank tops are not permitted.

Slacks, dress sweats (with side pocket), or jeans are acceptable. Pants are to be full-length. Pants are to be worn at the waist and cover underwear at all times.

Earrings on boys are not appropriate.

Dress-up attire (to be worn at designated school programs) includes: slacks, not jeans, with a collared shirts.

Girls:

Dresses and skirts need to be long enough to be modest and full enough so as not to pull up when seated. A general guideline is that girls' skirt and dress hemlines (except kindergarten) shall be not more than 3 inches from the top of the knee while standing.

Nylon, cotton or Spandex type tights are to be considered hosiery and be worn under a dress, skirt or long top which meets the skirt length requirement. Tights or stretch pants worn by themselves are unacceptable.

Blouses, sweaters, t-shirts, and sweatshirts are permitted. Half shirts, string-tops and halter tops are not acceptable. Extremely tight fitting clothing or low-cut tops are not permitted. Sun dresses shall have at least a 1 inch wide strap. Tops are to cover the midriff when arms are relaxed.

Slacks, jeans, dress sweats (with side pocket), and jumpsuits are acceptable. Capri pants may be worn and must extend below the knees at all times.

Any jewelry and/or make-up is to be used in moderation.

Dress-up attire (to be worn at designated school programs) includes: dresses or slacks with blouses or sweaters.

Attendance Policy

A. Absences

Every day that a student is at school is valuable to teachers and parents. Foreseeable absences should be communicated with the teacher or office (Preschool or school) beforehand. Parents wishing to pick up their children during the school day should send a note to the teacher beforehand if possible. Persistent absences will lead to teacher/administrator and parent conference. Attendance is very important to the success of all our students.

B. Tardies

Every hour that a student is at school is valuable to teachers and parents. To insure the least amount of disruptions and to take full advantage of each school day, we desire to have **students in class ready to learn at 9:00 am** (12:45 for pm Kindergarten).

C. Early Departures

Parents wishing to pick up their children during the school day should send a note to the teacher beforehand if possible or call the school office.

D. Recognizing Sickness

A child who has a fever of 100 or above or who had one during the previous evening should not come to school. The child must be fever free, (unassisted by medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.

E. Medication at School

ACS does not maintain any medication for students (this includes aspirin, Tylenol, etc.). Any and all prescription or “over the counter” medicine requires that an ACS Medication Form be completed in full and filed in the main office for K-8 students and with the Preschool Director’s office for PS students.

F. Classroom Visitation

Parents are welcome to visit a particular class if they wish. Specific questions regarding visitations need to be addressed with the director.

Academics

A. PRESCHOOL

Pre Kindergarten classes (age 4)

Students in Pre-K classes are taught using the A-beka curriculum, a Christian world-view curriculum, as well as a wide variety of other activities. Students are taught the truth of God’s Word, that He created them and loves them, and these principles are integrated into each class throughout the day. Students are introduced to number concepts and letter recognition.

Preschool classes (ages 2 ½ - 4)

Students in Preschool classes are taught more through the environment offered in the classroom setting. Preschool 2 (older students) are also taught using the A-beka curriculum, a Christian world-view curriculum, as well as a wide variety of other activities. We believe that playtime activities with structure help students development emotionally, academically, and socially. Students are taught the truth of God’s Word, that He created them and loves them, and these principles are integrated into each class throughout the day. Students are introduced to number concepts and letter recognition.

School Supplies

Each student is responsible to provide certain supplies as stated in the supply list. Items are not sold at the school and must be brought from home. Teachers may post a list of additional supplies needed for their classes during the first part of the school year.

Conferences

Twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring we offer a time for the families of the children to come into the Pre Kindergarten classrooms (Preschool 1 and 2 classes) to review the assessment we do on all the children enrolled in our Preschool program.

B. KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE

- Students are taught reading through a phonetically based approach.
- Math focuses on basic facts and operations.
- Social studies and Science utilize Christian texts and present a biblical view of history and science.
- History reflects God’s activity in the panorama of world events. It chronicles the tension of a sinful fallen world within the providential care of a sovereign, righteous God.
- Science is taught on the basis of a literal seven day creation. It exalts the Creator in the study of His universe.
- The Bible is taught at all grade levels and the truth of God’s Word is integrated into each class throughout the day. Bible memory work is expected of each student. Teachers focus their instruction around godly character traits on a monthly basis.

School Supplies:

Each student is responsible to provide his own crayons, pencils, pens and paper.

Teachers may post a list of additional supplies needed for their classes in during the first part of the school year.

Students are requested to have a pair of clean gym or tennis shoes for use in the gym. If hard shoes are worn to school, a pair of gym shoes should be kept at school.

Communication between Home and the Classroom:

Our teachers strive to communicate with each family throughout the year. Early in the year, families can plan to receive grading scales and procedures as well as class rules and other classroom specifics. Teachers will communicate with each family through notes and newsletters, typically in a Friday Folder sent home at the end of each week.

Homework Requests:

Families are encouraged to call the office to request homework for a child who is absent.

Conferences:

All families are scheduled for a conference at the conclusion of the first quarter.

A second conference time is scheduled at the conclusion of the third quarter. Conferences at this time are only scheduled at the request of the teacher or parent.

At any time during the year parents should feel free to contact their child's teacher and schedule a conference to share concerns or observations.

Report Cards:

First-quarter report cards are given to parents at the first quarter conference. Second, third, and fourth quarter report cards are sent home. Report cards will contain letter grades for academic subjects and marks will be given for behavior and attitude. Records of absences and tardies will be noted as well as teacher comments.

Final report cards will be distributed after all financial accounts have been cleared.

Progress Reports:

In order for families to know the progress and academic standing of their children, the teacher will partner with families by sending progress reports at least once per nine week grading period.

Achievement Tests:

Students in all grades 1-8 are given standardized achievement tests each spring. These test results will become part of the student's permanent file.

Supplemental Learning Opportunities:

Library

Students in all grades will be able to participate in Library time, usually every week. Students are taught the set up of the library and allowed to check out books for personal use and class assignments.

Music

Students in grades K-8 are taught music throughout the year as a regular class. As they grow in their knowledge of music theory, instruments, and music appreciation, they will be able to share some of their learning through performances at Grandparents Day, the Christmas program and Spring Showcase Week.

Band

Students in grades 4-8 may participate in Concert Band during the school day, three times a week along with a monthly participation fee. These students are taught music history, theory and performance techniques.

Field Trips

Students learn in a variety of ways, and field trips are a fun way to learn outside of the classroom.

For most field trips, parent drivers are requested to transfer students. Parent drivers need to register in the school office as an insured and registered driver.

Summer Child Care school aged children (gr. 1-5) take well supervised, walking field trips during the Summer program.

Family Involvement

A. How can Families get Involved?

Part of our mission at Albany Christian School is to partner with families as we educate students with whom we have been entrusted. *Families are needed in the partnering process in order for ACS to function at a high level of*

efficiency; each family is needed to assist in this process. Although we realize that many families in the school are already volunteering and assisting in their children's education, we need every family to assist in this effort.

Along with the payment of tuition, ACS families (K-8) are asked to serve a minimum of 15 hours per family (or 10 hours per single parent families) throughout the school year. These hours can be used in areas such as the following:

- ◆ **Classroom Help** – parents can regularly assist a teacher in his/her classroom and assist with class parties.

- ◆ **Serving with Special Events** – assist in various events such as Work Days, School Pictures, Christmas Program, Graduations, Spelling Bee, Speech Meet, Math Olympics, Coaching ACS sports teams, Spring Track Meet, Last Day of School Fun and BBQ, etc.

- ◆ **Fundraisers** – all families are requested to assist in our fundraisers: the Read-a-thon, the Walk-a-thon, and the Spring Auction.

In order to make parent involvement work at its highest level, communication with teachers is crucial. We welcome parents helping in the classroom in various capacities, but please be sensitive to the teachers' schedule as they will strive to be sensitive to yours.

Please contact the school office if you are interested in helping.

B. Parental Concerns

Complaints or problems are to be directed only to the people involved, in keeping with the principles of Matthew 18:15–20. If the problem persists or questions remain unanswered, you may contact the director or principal. It is Biblically appropriate to speak only with the person or persons directly involved before going to a higher authority. Seeking the support of those who are not directly related to the problem is contrary to the principles of Scripture.

Making Your Way Around A.C.S.

A. Parking & Loading/Unloading Students

For the safety of the students, the following standards are established for loading and unloading.

Please be sure that any driver picking up your child is aware of these issues and is prepared to work with us in guarding your child's safety.

- ◆ We request that parents escorting children across the street please cross at the crosswalks. While we recognize that once the children are in your care, the school does not have the authority to insist that you not jay walk, for the children's safety, we urge parents to model the behavior we are asking of our children.

- ◆ If you need to talk with a teacher or parent, or conduct business, please park in the lot on Fourth Ave, not at curbside.

- ◆ Please do not double park. Park along side the curb or in the parking lot.

- ◆ The small lot adjacent the building on the west-side is restricted for handicapped parking. Please do not use this as a loading zone.

- ◆ Loading Zones: There are Loading Zones (8am-4pm Weekdays) in front of the Building on 3rd and 4th Streets. These zones along the curb are to be used for dropping off and picking up children, but are not to be used for long term parking.

B. Arrival & Departure Procedures

- ◆ Parents of Preschool and Child Care students are required to escort their children into the center and "clock them in" on the computer system. There must be contact between parent and teacher at the time of drop-off. At no time are the children allowed to use the key pad.

- ◆ Children cannot be released to someone other than parents, or persons on the authorized pick up list unless the center has been given previous authorization to release the child to that particular person.

- ◆ For security reasons the only door that is open before 8:00 am is the entrance near the playground on Fourth Avenue. From 8:00am until 9:15am all entrances are unlocked. From 9:15am throughout the remainder of the day, all doors except the Third Avenue door (main entrance) and the east door on Fourth Avenue are kept locked.

C. Bicycles

Students may ride bicycles to and from school. During the day the bikes are to be kept locked up in the basement bike rack. Students are to walk their bikes on the sidewalks surrounding the school.

D. Check-In Procedures

If as a parent, you are volunteering in the classroom, you must check in at the office. There is a check-in computer that you will sign in when you arrive, pick up a volunteer badge from the secretary, and then check-out on the computer when you are finished and turn in your badge as well.

E. Child Care Nap Time

If your child is in Child Care from 1-3 pm, ACS is required by law to provide a nap and/or quiet time. We provide a cot for your child to rest on, but we ask that you bring a blanket and a small pillow from home. (Please do not bring a bed-sized pillow, we have limited storage space. Travel pillows work best.)

- Children in the quiet room must rest on a cot for 30 minutes (per state law) and will also need a pillow and blanket.
- Your child's blanket may be kept at school during the week, as we have blanket cubbies for the children. On Friday (or your last day of the week) please take the blanket/pillow home to be laundered.

School Hours/Closures

A. School Hours

Preschool begins at 9:00 am and concludes at 11:45 noon.

For students in grades 1 thru 8, **school begins at 9:00 and concludes at 3:30.**

A.M. Kindergarten starts at 9:00 and concludes at 11:45.

P.M. Kindergarten starts at 12:45 and concludes at 3:30.

Before and after school Child Care is available to all students (Preschool age - age 11) **from 6:45 am until 6:00 pm,**

The Elementary School Office is open from 8:00 - Noon and from 1:00 – 4:30.

The Preschool/Child Care Office is typically open from 9:00 – 12:30 and 1:30 – 5:30.

B. Before and After School

The over-riding principle is that students are to be supervised at all times, from arrival at school until departure.

Teachers will supervise students from 8:40 before school until 3:40 after school. Unless students are participating in a supervised activity, for reasons of safety, before 8:40 or after 3:40, they will be placed in the Child Care program at ACS and the cost will be charged to their child care account. From the time students arrive at school until the time they go home, they are not to leave the school grounds except in the company of a parent, guardian or with a school related group. Students are not allowed to roam around the building before or after school.

C. Emergency School Closure

ACS attempts, whenever possible, to follow the decisions of the local school district regarding school closures. ACS closures are announced on radio stations KWIL, KRKT and KGAL. Experience has shown KRKT to be the most frequent announcer of school closures. Also, the school website (www.albanychristianschool.org) has a SCHOOL CLOSURE tab as well that is tied to a service that all local schools use for distribution or emergency information. If GAPS (Greater Albany Public Schools) is closed, we will close, although we may not always reopen on their schedule. Do not call the Principal, Preschool/Child Care Director, or Secretary at home—doing so ties up phone lines that need to be open on an emergency basis. After 7:00a.m. you may call the school office to get the recorded message, it will indicate whether or not the school will be closed. The Preschool and Child Care will follow the lead of the Elementary School in closures and delays.

Other Services

A. Food Services

Preschool: Hot lunches are available Monday through Friday. Please sign your child up for hot lunch with their teacher when you drop them off each day. All meal and milk charges will be posted to your account. The lunch charge is \$2.75 which includes milk. Morning and afternoon snacks are provided each day at 10:15am and again at 3:15pm; this is included in the cost of preschool and Child Care. All meals and snacks are posted on a preschool menu and placed in each child's personal cubby before the beginning of each new month.

Breakfast is not served during morning Child Care, but parents may bring breakfast for children to eat. We ask that all children be fed at home if they arrive after 8:00 am. due to transitioning and movement that occurs after that time.

K-8: Hot lunches are available Monday through Thursday. Tickets may be purchased in the school office. The tickets come in two denominations: a single lunch ticket with milk: \$2.75, or a 10-lunch and milk ticket: \$27.50.

Fridays are typically Pizza Fridays and are headed up by the junior high class as a fund-raiser for their spring 2011 Washington D.C. trip. Sign ups for Pizza come home in your child's Friday Folder and are available in the Elementary School Office.

Milk is available daily in the cafeteria. It must be purchased in advance at the office with a milk ticket, which come in two denominations: a 1-milk ticket on a daily basis: \$.50, or a 20-milk ticket: \$5.50, which offers a discount.

Families may be eligible for either free lunches or a lunch at a reduced price. An application form is available at the school office for those who have an income within the level of eligibility.

B. Athletics

Students may participate with other ACS students either through the Albany Boys' and Girls' Club or with ACS teams (usually grades 6-8). ACS sports include (when there is sufficient numbers for participation): boys basketball, and girls basketball.

Students choosing to participate in athletics will be expected to maintain an academic standard throughout their season. Individual coaches and the principal will make decisions regarding the eligibility of students choosing not to focus on their school work.

C. Chapel

Every week, students in grades K-8 gather together for chapel. Chapels are a time of bonding, worship, and edification through God's Word. With stimulating and thought provoking speakers, chapel is an enjoyable time for ACS students.

Students are separated into three groups, grades PMK-2, grades AMK, 3, 4, and grades 5-8. Once a month, the entire school comes together for chapel in the Church Worship Center.

D. ACSI Events

Students in grades 1-8 are encouraged to participate in ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) academic events. These events include: a spelling bee, a speech meet, and math olympics.

More Background to ACS

A. The Relationship between ACS and WCC

The relationship between the church and school is essentially the same today as it was 47 years ago. While our school family is unique, it is still just one of many ministry arms of the church. The school belongs to the church and operates under its articles of incorporation, tax number, and constitution.

B. Who can attend ACS?

ACS is open to any child and any family without regard to their race, color, ethnic origin, or religious background. Our stated goal is to help families bridge to a Bible teaching local church, but no particular faith is required for admittance to the school. We simply ask that students and families respectfully support the biblical positions of the school, actively learn the faith components that permeate our curriculum, and participate the spiritual activities and values which form the foundation for our school.

While many of our teachers and staff call WCC their home, still others come from a number of other strong evangelical churches. Between our staff and students there is a wonderful, *inter-denominational character to the school*, with literally dozens of Christian traditions represented.

Admission to Albany Christian School is a privilege and will be considered upon receipt of a written application, satisfactory completion of entrance testing, and a personal interview with the prospective student and his or her parents. Due to the limited class enrollments, applications received after classes are filled will be placed on a waiting list.

Albany Christian School is not equipped to serve students who have special disciplinary or educational needs. While we recognize the need for this kind of ministry, our limited tuition and gift resources restrict us from offering specialized educational programs.

Albany Christian School reserves the right to reject any application (from new or returning students) for inability to meet the school's scholastic standards, non-payment of fees, non-cooperation, refusal to work in school or inability to meet the physical requirements.

C. What exactly does ACS believe?

Our statement of faith is as follows:

- ◆ The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were verbally inspired by God the Holy Spirit, and completely inerrant in the original writings and serve as supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- ◆ There is one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit, was born of Mary, a virgin, true God and true man. He died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified by God on the basis of His shed blood.
- ◆ Man was created in the image of God. He sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and in the case of those who reach the age of moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.
- ◆ The crucified body of our Lord Jesus was resurrected. He ascended into heaven, and presently intercedes for us as High Priest and Advocate before God. Likewise, there shall also be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, an everlasting blessedness of the saved and an everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.
- ◆ There shall be the imminent, personal return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- ◆ All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become sons of God, a relationship in which they are eternally secure.

D. What is the structure of the ACS leadership?

Our school, it's staff, and student body is led by our ACS Administrator, Mr. Jason Platt, and is under his direct supervision. He is answerable to the WCC Pastor.

Our Pre-School Director, Katie Miller, gives leadership to our Preschool and Child Care program and works under the direct oversight of the ACS Administrator.

The ACS Board is made up of a number of highly committed men and women who are members of WCC and approved by the WCC Elder Board. In addition, one additional member is selected from outside the WCC body. This Board is subject to the Elder Board of WCC, which is ultimately responsible to the WCC congregation.

Does ACS have a Mascot?

When the school was started in 1964 under the name of Albany Private School, the mascot was an Ape. The APS Apes (hopefully you can see the resemblance) was a big hit, but once the school changed its name to Albany Christian School, a different mascot was established, the Warrior. In the past few years, we have liked the fun and retro look / sound of being Apes and thus in recent days, school shirts have sported both Apes and Warriors.

