



THE EAGLE UPDATE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - August 16, 2024

Hansen's Highlights

1. **Hear from Mrs. Hansen** a thank you to those who attended the open house last night. Many came to introduce yourself to Dr. Jo Aukes, our Elementary Assistant Principal. Thank you! The founders of ACA traveled from Texas to see the auditorium's remodel. This Thursday evening and Friday night Mrs. Hansen hopes all will be able to participate in our Back to School Night as well as PTF's Back to School Bash! Mrs. Hansen is praying and planning for a fabulous year ahead. 2024-2024 will be a great school year!
2. Brothers Peyton and Cale Leever, graduates of ACA, undertook the construction of the five offices and auditorium remodel this summer. The men work for their family's construction company, Leever Incorporated. What a fabulous job they did. **Click here** to view these two men celebrating the project on Aug. 15 with current ACA elementary and middle school students who came to the school to celebrate together.
3. **Celebrating the school's remodeled auditorium** and new offices, founders of ACA, Jane and Jack McWilliams, join other school pioneers who worked with Carolyn Cole, the school's first administrator. Pictured row one from left to right: Jane and Jack McWilliams, Les Leonard, Steve Mickelson, Doug and Judy Reed. Back row: Leslie and Bob Deo, Dave and Sandy Swanson, Phil and Karen Swift and Melanie Frericks. Thanks to all of them who listened to the Lord, started Ankeny Christian Academy or worked tirelessly to turn the movie theatre into ACA! You not only worked diligently for your children's education, but also for God's children in generations to come!
4. The summer was filled with celebrating grade level teams of teachers and teacher associates at **luncheons in Mrs. Hansen's home**. We are blessed to have incredible instructors who pray for their students and families. We praise God for our talented TAs!
5. **Dr. Aukes and Mrs. Hansen visited** three sisters who will start at ACA this year. We welcome our new students and families to Ankeny Christian Academy!
6. **Thank you** to the seven high school students, the one elementary student and the four adults who helped Mrs. Hansen on Aug. 10 with the playground clean up.
7. The **playground's Little Tyke play structure** was dismantled last Saturday. If you are interested in purchasing it or hauling it away as salvage please contact **Mr. Justin Porter**.
8. New Faculty- New teachers, Marcia Budnik (Kindergarten), Alyssa Baccam (2nd grade) and Morgan Crossman (4th grade) reported on Aug. 14 to begin their important work. We had a wonderful time together with Dr. Aukes getting acclimated!
9. **Here we go!** Returning faculty and staff reported to work on Friday Aug. 16 to hear from Head of Schools, Mr. Brent Knoll. We praise God for the great year that lies ahead and look forward to the start of school very soon!

Save the Date - Back to School Night!

Save the date for Thursday, August 22, from 6-8 PM for Back to School night at ACA! This is for students beginning kindergarten through 12th grade. There will also be meetings for certain grades; if you have a

child in one of those grades, please plan to attend that meeting!

- 6:00 - New Parent Meeting for students begingergarten through 12th grade or parents who'd like an ACA refresher! (Auditorium)
- 6:20 - 6th Grade Parent Meeting (Auditorium)
- 6:40 - 9th Grade Parent Meeting (Auditorium)
- 7:00 - 12th Grade Parent Meeting (Auditorium)

Things to do that evening:

- Get your back to school pictures taken tonight at our photo booth!
- Check your desk or homeroom for ACA apparel, athletic passes, PTF info sheet, and the annual report!
- Have questions? See our leadership team in the cafeteria!
- Pick up your chapel shirts, annual report, locker assignment, schedule and more from your homeroom!
- Stop by your classroom or homeroom to drop off your supplies and meet your teacher!
- Stop by the gym to see the high school volleyball scrimmage from 6-8, meet the coaches: Coach Quick, Coach Steudemann, Coach Treybal, Coach Crossman. The varsity team will do a meet and greet from 6-7 and the JV from 7-8. There will also be volleyball shirts for sale in the gym.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!



THINGS TO DO

- Meet your teachers and see your classroom!
- Take back to school pictures at our photo booth
- Pick up your ACA apparel in your classroom/homeroom

PARENT MEETINGS

- 6:00 - New Parents (6th-12th Grade) or parent refreshers
- 6:20 - 6th grade parent meeting
- 6:40 - 9th grade parent meeting
- 7:00 - 12th grade parent meeting

BE SURE TO

- Visit the ACA team in the cafeteria to answer any questions you have

Back to School Bash!

You're invited to join us Friday, August 23, for the PTF's Back to School Bash! This will be held at Sandpiper Recreation Area in Polk City and will have a potluck and a social time for the students and parents. We will not be holding Principals and Popsicles in the Park this year, so the Bash will be a great opportunity for students to connect with each other before school begins.



Family Faith Night

Join ACA at Faith Baptist Bible College on Friday, September 6, for a night of fellowship and fun! It will be from 5:30-7:30 at Faith by the pavilion and pond. A hot dog supper will be provided. There will be an inflatable obstacle course and slide, singing, a fun challenge, games and more. If you'd like to sit outside, please bring a chair. The Outside Scoop will be there if you'd like to purchase ice cream. We hope to see you there!



Cashless Preferred at Games

ACA will be moving to a cashless preferred system at games. We will have card readers to accept credit card payments. ACA students can attend all home ACA sporting events (outside of district and tournament play) for no charge!

Volleyball and Cross Country Spirit Wear

The fall sports store is open for volleyball and cross country spirit wear! The store will close 8/25.

[Shop Here](#)

Important - Lunch Ordering Changes

Lots of changes happening this year with lunch! We announced last week about our new partnership for lunch providers. This week, we're sharing that we have partnered with a software vendor called HotLunch for the upcoming school year. This software will administer our lunch ordering process. Parents will log directly into HotLunch and work with their students' in ordering school lunches. There are several benefits to moving to an online order system -

1. The parents are engaged by knowing what and when their student's order school lunches. No parent will have to make calls to the school to ask why their student ordered/didn't order a school lunch.
2. Lunch ordering is streamlined as teachers are no longer a 'middleman'. Parents work directly with their students to order lunch and the lunch coordinator will print a report for students who have ordered lunch.
3. Mobile access to HotLunch so orders can be made or cancelled anytime prior to the cutoff. A student does not need to be present during homeroom to order lunch. Please be aware, all lunch orders will be due by 9pm two school days before the lunch day. Example: lunch orders for Monday will be due the previous Thursday at 9pm (assuming a 5-day school week).
4. Orders can be made for the calendar month in a single order. Cancellations to the order can be made up to the deadline, 9pm two school days prior to the lunch day.
5. Efficiency with the lunch staff & volunteers. Primary focus will be distributing lunches rather than making purchases on JMC. Milk/lemonade will be ordered via the online Lunch Order Administration system as well. If your student plans to have milk/lemonade at lunch, with or without a school lunch purchase, it will need to be done via HotLunch. Milk orders will not be taken during the lunch period!

Other information you will want to be aware of as we transition -

- Unclaimed lunches due to illness will be credited back to the account. Any other reason in which a student does not claim their lunch ordered will not be credited.
- If a student forgets their lunch and has not ordered one in advance, we will call the parents to ask them if they prefer to bring in lunch or eat an ala carte. We will call parents to bring their student a lunch if they repeatedly 'forget' their lunch and do not bring one from home.
- A la carte items can be purchased by secondary with a prefunded lunch account. Milk/lemonade should be purchased on Hotlunch prior to the order deadline as it is not considered an a la carte item. The HotLunch link is not yet available. We will send out the link to sign up as soon as it is available.

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Lunch Vendor FAQ

We're excited about the new lunch vendor, and we anticipate lots of questions as we transition. We're including an FAQ to answer the questions we received this week.

Are we still having Chick-Fil-A and Papa John's?

Yes; we are still having Chick-Fil-A (the first Friday of each month) and Papa John's Pizza (the second through fifth Fridays of each month) that school is in session.

Will the price of Chick-Fil-A and Papa John's also increase?

Yes, these prices will increase alongside the regular lunch prices. Pizza lunch prices will be as follows:

Pizza Lunch for BK through 4th grade-

- Regular pizza (regular sausage, cheese, or pepperoni) includes: 2 slices of pizza, baby carrots and a fruit cup for \$6
- Gluten-free and dairy free pizza is available for ordering also; this meal includes the whole, small allergen friendly pizza (the student gets their own pizza box) along with baby carrots and a fruit cup for \$7.50

Pizza Lunch for 5th through 12th grade-

- Regular pizza (regular sausage, cheese or pepperoni) includes 3 slices of pizza, baby carrots and a fruit cup for \$7
- Gluten-free and dairy free pizza is available for ordering also; this meal includes the whole, small allergen friendly pizza (the student gets their own pizza box) along with baby carrots and a fruit cup for \$7.50

Chick-Fil-A lunch for BK-4:

- A Chick-Fil-A original sandwich (they cannot make any substitutions), potato chips, and a choice of fruit cup or baby carrots for \$6.
- Chick-fil-A lunch for 5th through 12th grades includes: A Chick-Fil-A original sandwich (they cannot make any substitutions), potato chips, baby carrots and a fruit cup for \$7.
- Chick-Fil-A sandwiches can be purchased separately for \$5 a piece.
- Unfortunately, Chick-Fil-A is not able to offer any allergen friendly items for catering orders (they are able to accommodate this for dine in and carry out orders but not for school catering)

Is there a cost for beverages?

Beverages (chocolate milk, white milk and lemonade) can be purchased for \$0.50 each.

Office Hours

The office will not be open until 10am the week during the week of August 19-23 due to staff training. The office hours for the week of August 19 will be Monday - Thursday 10:00-3:45, Friday 10:00-2:30.

One Lunch Volunteer Needed!

If you would like to help serve lunch at ACA please reach out to Natalie Whittemore at (515) 289-6556 or natalie.whittemore@aca eagles.net.

Lunch Service Volunteer Shifts Available (10:30am-1:30pm approximately):

Thursday—1st Thursday of each month

Friday---1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th (where applicable) Fridays of each month

You can also volunteer to be included in our Lunch Service Volunteer or Lunch Teacher Assistant Volunteer Substitute List! There are times when circumstances arise that prevent our regular volunteers from serving. In these instances, we reach out to our substitute volunteers. Lunch Service volunteers serve from 10:30am until 1:30pm approximately and Teacher Assistant volunteers serve from 10:45 until 12:15pm approximately. Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in helping out with lunch service! Volunteering with the lunch program is a great way to get involved at ACA!

REMINDERS FROM LAST WEEK

Teacher Wish Lists

If you'd like to bless the ACA teachers as they start out the year, you can find their classroom wish lists [here](#).

New Lunch Vendor!

We have heard the feedback on school lunch program. Over the summer ACA looked in to multiple options for school lunches. We are excited to announce we will be partnering with Smokey D's for school lunches for 2024-2025! Smokey D's is committed so supporting the educational mission of Ankeny Christian by providing wholesome, satisfying meals that help students thrive academically. By delivering high-quality, minimally processed meals, Smokey D's brings a trusted name in culinary excellence to our school's lunch program. The lunch program will feature a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, with portion sizes carefully tailored to be age appropriate, providing the right amount of food for each student's nutritional needs. To keep things interesting and appealing, Smokey D's will offer a different weekly cold entrée option in addition to the daily hot entrée, giving students the choice of their preferred entrée. Prices are below; milk will be separate. [A sample menu can be found here.](#)

Each meal item will include:

- A hot entrée item (different daily) or a cold entree option (rotated weekly).
- Protein, grain, fruit, and vegetable will be offered daily.
- Dessert is included once a week as a treat to enhancing the dining experience for students.

K-4th Grade Pricing: \$6 per student per day

- Slightly smaller entrée portions to accommodate younger appetites
- Vegetable servings: ¼ cup each
- Fruit servings: ½ cap each

5th-12th Grade pricing: \$7 per day

- Larger entrée portions suitable for older students
- Vegetable servings: ½ cup each
- Fruit servings: ½ cup each

Entrée Only: \$5 per hot or cold entrée

Smokey D's goal is to help students stay focused and attentive in their classes, making it easier for teachers to deliver lessons and engage with their students. When students are properly nourished, they are more likely to participate actively in classroom's activities and retain the information being taught. With Smokey's expertise in child nutrition and dedication to planning menus that align with USDA meal patterns, Smokey D's is confident that their lunches will contribute to a positive and productive learning environment.



K-4th Grade



5th-12th Grade



K-4th Cold Entrée



5th-12th Cold Entrée



Upcoming Events

August

22

5:00 - 3-year-old Preschool Open House
 6:00 - 4-year-old Preschool Open House
 6:00-8:00: Back to School Night

August

23

PTF Back to School Bash at Sandpiper Recreation Area

August

1st-12th Grade: First Day of School

26

August

Beginnergarten and Kindergarten First Day of School

27



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