

January 24, 2008



## Dean Brown

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Dear ACS Friends and Families,

Cindy Keeling, our Network Administrator, and I have been working on a new format for our website and newsletter design for ACS. This newsletter showcases our new design and format. Hope you like it! Our new format will be completed in February!

Last Friday was a wonderful time for the ACS staff to work together in a collaborative fashion to improve our educational process. The elementary staff met with the new Language Arts curriculum representative. During this time, they were able to ask questions and find out better ways to use this new curriculum. The middle school staff met and discussed differentiation and how to implement this better into their classrooms. A lot was accomplished on this day and we hope you see this within the classrooms.

The Governing Board, ACS staff and I met and discussed our homework policy. After much discussion and collaboration, we developed a new policy. Our goal is to prepare our students for the future and create an environment of academic rigor. I am including the major change to this policy below. If you would like to read the entire homework policy, please refer to our handbook on our website.

Homework is due on the assigned date. If circumstances exist, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the teacher(s) at school so that necessary accommodations can be made for the student. In the case that a test has been missed due to an absence, the parent(s) must contact the teacher(s) to arrange for the test to be taken within two days. To protect instructional time, the missed test will be taken at the teacher's discretion for

K-8 and/or during Access time in the middle school.

Students will have one class day for each absence to make up their work. They will receive full credit if it is turned in within the allotted timeframe. After this time has expired or the due date passed, students will be graded accordingly:

1<sup>st</sup> day late=50% off final grade

2<sup>nd</sup> day late=a zero

This scale applies to all late work whether it is homework, class work, or projects. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of being late, the assignment will be an automatic zero in the grade book. It is the parents' and/or student's responsibility to contact the teacher to determine what assignments were missed.

Studies have shown that parents who read and model reading, have children who read. Below are a couple of pointers to help your children with reading!

Reduce TV viewing time and videogame time, and increase reading time.

Set aside a time each day when you and your child will read. Make reading a routine!

Read aloud to your child. Reading with expression shows a child that you love books and that you enjoy reading!

Share what you have read with your child and ask your child to do the same with you.

As always, thank you for your support and allowing us the opportunity to teach your children. The ACS staff is passionately committed to the success of your kids.

### Important Dates

January 30	Governing Board Working Session
February 5-6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading CSAP
February 13	SAC meeting
February 15	No School
February 18	No School
February 19	PTO Meeting

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“All learning begins with the simple phrase, ‘I don’t know.’”

Author Unknown



Respectfully,

Yvette Brown  
Academy Charter School Dean  
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**CSAP Released Items**

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released\\_items.html](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released_items.html)

**Core Knowledge Is:**

**What about the argument that in curriculum, “less is more”? Should schools avoid trying to cover a lot of content, and instead focus on helping students master a few areas in depth and detail?**

The slogan “less is more” has tremendous appeal, and there are situations in which we can learn more when we are confronted with less and allowed to investigate specific issues and questions in depth and detail.

But — particularly in the elementary years — it does not follow that deep knowledge of a few things is better than broad knowledge of many things. In fact, one needs both — both deep knowledge and broad knowledge. To help children gain breadth of knowledge is to help them lay the foundation on which they can build new knowledge, including more in-depth, specialized knowledge. The best time to acquire broad general knowledge is in the early years, when children are most curious and receptive. In these early years, the idea that “less is more” is misleading and even potentially damaging, especially for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may be left behind while some advantaged students acquire a desirable breadth of knowledge at home.

There is, however, one sense in which “less is more” does apply to elementary education. This sense is not in opposition to broad and rich knowledge, but in encouraging selectivity about the way in which broad and rich knowledge is chosen. Educational planners need to take on the responsibility of selecting a rich core of important knowledge, defined in an explicit sequence. It is this particular sense of “less is more” that informs the process of selection and consensus-building that went into the *Core Knowledge Sequence*.

## Dean Peters

Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

It’s hard to believe that January is almost over and we’re heading into February. I am definitely ready for warmer weather! We have several reminders as we have had some policy changes to keep in mind as well as some events that are occurring this week and in the next few weeks.

**CSAP Testing window dates:**

- Third grade CSAP reading tests will be given on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9-10 a.m. each day. It is imperative you have your student here on time as there are many things teachers are going over from 8:30-9:00 prior to the actual

starting of the test. Please refrain from scheduling appointments on these testing dates.

- 3-8 CSAP testing window is from March 4-14 and March24-April 4<sup>th</sup>. Although this seems like a lot of time, we are trying our best to condense our actual testing days down so that we can be done with regular testing before leaving for Spring Break. This will enable us to conduct any make-up tests when we return and provide plenty of time in which to process all the books. We hope to have our final schedule to all of our parents by the end of the month.
- I did want to give you an idea of the possible testing weeks so you can avoid sched-



*CSAP is coming Soon!*

*(Continued from page 2)*

uling appointments during these timeframes. It is very important to have all students here on testing days. I hope this advance notice will assist you in scheduling appointments and extending vacation plans around these times, especially the first two weeks of March. We would greatly appreciate this!

#### Changes to the Middle School Discipline Policy:

As you know, the middle school teachers, along with Dean Brown made some changes regarding our current middle school policy. I included this information right before break. As a reminder:

- We will continue to run detentions after school on Tuesday and Thursdays.
- Teachers may assign this if a student's behavior results in them going to Level 2.
- Please click on the link to access the new [ACS Behavior Management Policy](#).
- This only applies to our middle school students and teachers who teach students in grades 6-8.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or anyone of the middle school teachers.

#### Changes to Homework and Late and Missing Work Policies:

Please see Dean Brown's article in this week's newsletter for the new changes in the homework, late and missing work policies. This applies to all students grades K-8.

#### Long-term Substitutes:

As you know, we have two of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

who will be on maternity leave this next semester. John Grebe, our long-term substitute for Mrs. Spangler, is here now and is shadowing her. The purpose for this is to familiarize the substitute teacher with the procedures for the classroom as well as a chance to work with the regular classroom teacher before they go on leave. We are in the process of collecting resumes for Mrs. Lindburg's long-term sub and planning for interviews. As soon as we know who the substitute will be, we will let you know!

**ILP Review:** If your student is on an ILP (Individual Literacy Plan), your student's teacher will be calling you to set up a time to review the ILP. These reviews will be taking place in January.

Here are a few of the activities that are scheduled for January and the next few months:

- **Movie Night:** Student Council is having a movie night for January 25<sup>th</sup>. There is more information regarding this event as well as information for the next middle school dance which will be held in February.
- **Virtue Assembly:** Our next virtue assembly will be on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, for middle school students at 2:50 in the cafeteria. This month's virtue is "Courage."
- **Bully Assembly:** Our next Bully assembly will be held on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. The elementary students will be held at 9:00-9:20 grades 3-5; 9:40-10:00 K-2; MS 2:50-3:10.

Thank you for all your support of ACS, our staff and our students!

Kendra Peters

ACS Assistant Dean  
[petersk@academycharter.org](mailto:petersk@academycharter.org)

## Governing Board News

### School Advisory Council

Our monthly SAC meeting was last Wednesday evening. In addition to hearing an update on how the McGraw Hill curriculum is being used, we also discussed the new homework policy, the charter renewal process and upcoming CSAP testing among other topics. Thanks to Mr. Delimont, our SAC teacher representative, and Dean Brown for their time and the valuable information! Our next meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 in the school library.

### Next board meeting

The board will meet for a working session Wednesday, January 30, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. The next general meeting has been set for Monday, February 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. All interested parents and staff are welcome to attend.

## PTO

### Enrichment

**THE PTO** will be sponsoring several enrichment opportunities in the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

**Taekwondo:** Watch for Grand Master Lee to teach your PE class!!!! You can also register you child to join him at Han Lee Taekwondo Center (formally U.S. Taekwondo Center). Classes begin the week of 01/28. The price is \$40 per person and all of the money goes to Academy Charter School. Classes will be held at the Taekwondo Center (across from Target). Watch your Friday Folder for registration forms!!!!



**Science Matters** –Don't miss out on Pop,Bang,Fizz! Make a slushie treat, create a fizzy bath bomb and design your own bubblearium! Classes will be Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 beginning 2/05. The price is \$83. Register BEFORE 01/18 and the price is \$76 !!! Register online at [www.sciencematters.tv](http://www.sciencematters.tv) .

**Golf** - We are looking into Golf Enrichment to take place around mid-April through May, and should have the details in February.

For more information on these programs, please contact Julie Harkin: [toddpaco@aol.com](mailto:toddpaco@aol.com) or Emily Ragan: [ceragan1@msn.com](mailto:ceragan1@msn.com).



## Volunteer Information

Last week I had a chance to sing the praises of the many families who have reached their 20 hour mark, 13 families who have reached the 50 hour mark and the two that have really over-achieved with 100 plus hours.

Unfortunately, this week I would like to talk to the 59 families who have not logged even one hour of volunteer time. I know that some of you have done volunteer activities, but you have failed to log them in under your family name. Please take the time to log your hours or you can email them to me and I will post them for you. There are lots of ways you can contribute your time here at the school. Attending Governing Board meetings and PTO meetings is an easy way to add volunteer hours. Hopefully this will be the last time I need to mention this subject of zero hours.

Thanks again for making a difference at ACS!

Anne Belfrage

Volunteer Coordinator

[belfragea@academycharter.org](mailto:belfragea@academycharter.org)

## Student Council News

Dear Middle School Parents,

Student Council at ACS has planned and scheduled 2 big events for the Middle School student body. STUCO asked for interested and available parents to chaperone these events in the weekly ACS Newsletter. Due to a lack of response, we, STUCO, and its teacher sponsors, are asking for your help!!

We are lacking parent chaperones for this Friday, January 25, which is a movie night. The original newsletter announcement is found below. **We must have 3 parents in addition to the 3 teachers who have volunteered their Friday evening to chaperone Movie Night. You can use this time for volunteer hours!**

If we cannot adequately chaperone **this Movie Night** or the upcoming **February 22<sup>nd</sup> Middle School Dance**, we will have no choice but to cancel these events.

Please consider joining us tomorrow by either emailing or calling Ms. Hollister, Mrs. Matlock or Dean Peters if you can help us out in this way.

### Chaperones needed for Middle School Student Events

Dear Parents,

We are looking for a few great parents to help us chaperone 2 events coming up for Middle School students in the coming weeks. We would love to have you join us as we sponsor the following events for students to socialize in a safe environment:

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Double Feature Movie Night at ACS 5:00-9:30

We will show 2 movies:

Radio and National Treasure

**\*\*We would like to have 3 Dads and 3 Moms to circulate and help us monitor bathrooms, and the gymnasium during the movie and intermissions.**

The Students can purchase Pizza, chips, candy and pop

“Dress-down” day attire, sleeping bags, pillows or field chairs will be allowed

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Valentine’s Dance

**\*\* This is a formal dance**

**\*We usually ask for parents to sign up and bring in finger foods, beverages and dessert items to provide a nice smorgasbord for students at no additional cost.**

**\* We would love to have at least 5 Dads and 5 Moms in addition to teachers to circulate and help us monitor bathrooms, cafeteria and the gymnasium---and yes, if you can dance, join them on the floor.**



Please email or call the staff sponsors below as soon as possible if you can help!

Christy Matlock [matlockc@academycharter.org](mailto:matlockc@academycharter.org) 303-660-4881 EXT. 221

Wendy Hollister [hollisterw@academycharter.org](mailto:hollisterw@academycharter.org) 303-660-4881 EXT. 252

Thank you for considering participating and it is a fun way to fulfill your volunteer hours.



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We're on the web!

[Academycharter.org](http://Academycharter.org)