

February 14, 2008



Dean Brown

Dear ACS Friends and Families,

I would like to congratulate our basketball teams! Last week ACS hosted the first SMAC (South Metro Athletic Conference) where our boys' A Team played against Littleton Academy. After going into overtime, our boys lost 38 to 41. It was a close and exciting game! The boys placed 2nd in the tournament and our girls' A Team placed 4th. Congratulations to both teams!

On Monday, the Governing Board met and had the opportunity to view a presentation from Springboard. Springboard is a before and after school enrichment program. They are a school within a school. Springboard will be sending out a parent survey to see if the ACS community is interested in this program. The Governing Board also approved to complete the purchase of our elementary language arts curriculum, Treasures. The teachers are excited and we want to thank the Governing Board for their support of this needed curriculum!

The SAC was not able to meet this Wednesday. They intend to look into Grant Opportunities for ACS. If anyone has any information about grants, please contact Kristen Wenaas. Her team of SAC members will be helping our teachers apply for these needed grants! The next SAC meeting is March 26th from 5-7 in the library.

On February 28th, the Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers and I will be meeting with our 08/09 Kindergarten parents. These parents will be receiving a letter in the mail notifying them of this meeting. If you have an incoming Kindergartner, please mark your calendar for this evening meeting.

On behalf of the ACS staff and myself, I would like to thank you for your support and belief in our school. As we pursue excellence in teaching and learning, our teachers and staff continue to evaluate themselves, the curriculum, and our process. Your input and participation at ACS is always welcome and encouraged.

"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character."—Albert Einstein

Respectfully,

Yvette Brown
Academy Charter School Dean
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CSAP Released Items

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released_items.html

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Important Dates

- February 15 No School
- February 18 No School
- February 19 PTO Meeting
- February 22 Middle School Valentine Dance
- February 27 Governing Board Meeting/ Working Session
- February 28 New Enrolling Kindergartners Parent Meeting
- February 29 Spelling Bee

Dean Peters

Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

Happy Valentines Day! Here are some upcoming events as well as some reminders regarding ACS policies.

CSAP Testing dates for middle school students:

- 6-8 CSAP testing dates will be on Tuesday, March 4th, 5th, and 6th, from 8:30-11:30 and from 1:20-2:30 each of these days. Our 8th graders will also be testing on Friday, March 7th, at these same times for the science portion of the CSAP. We have tried our best to condense this testing time down to one week in order to provide a minimal disruption to our regular class time.
- Please remember to avoid scheduling appointments during the timeframes listed above and please have your students here on time as we will begin testing first thing each of these mornings. We would greatly appreciate this!

Morning Student Drop-Off and Afternoon Student Pick-Up:

Dean Brown has asked me to remind the ACS community that students are not to be dropped off in the morning prior to 8:05 a.m. We have been having increasing numbers of students who are dropped off prior to this time. Per the policy handbook, any student(s) who are dropped off before this time will be sent to Academy Kids and will be charged accordingly. The “drop-in” fee for the morning is \$7.50 per student. Carpool in the afternoon officially ends at 4:00 p.m. Students not picked up by this time will be sent to the cafeteria. If they are not received by their parents by 4:05 p.m. they will also be placed into Academy Kids and a “drop-in” fee of \$10.00 per student will be charged accordingly. This is specifically outlined on the Parent Contract which all parents signed at the beginning of the year. Our staff and office hours are from 8-4 and we need your assistance in being sure students are dropped off and picked up at the correct times. We appreciate your attention to this matter. We do understand that, at times, unforeseen circumstances may prevent you from picking your student up on time. We ask that you call the office when these infrequent situations occur.

Times to Visit with Teachers:

If you need to visit with your middle school teacher(s) regarding your student’s progress in their class, please remember that carpool is not the time for this type of conversation. Our teachers need to be monitoring their classrooms to ensure students are going promptly to carpool when their numbers appear on the screen. Please call or email your student’s teacher to arrange a time to meet with them to discuss your concerns or questions you may have.

Here are a few of the activities that are scheduled for February-

- Middle School Dance: The next Middle School Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 22nd, in the ACS gym. There is more information regarding this later in the newsletter.
- Virtue Assembly: The next virtue assembly will be held on Friday, February 29th. The elementary assembly will be at 8:50 and the Middle School assembly will be held at 2:50 in the gym. This month’s virtue is “Love of Country.”
- Donations for the Computer Lab: Mrs. Gordon, our MS computer teacher, has asked me to thank the parents and students who have spoken to her about the items needed for the computer lab. We really appreciate your support by procuring these items! For those of you who weren’t aware, we are in need of some items for the computer lab. These items are consumable in nature such as mini video cassettes, DVR-RW with jewel cases, digital camera cables, and a few other items. If you could assist Mrs. Gordon in obtaining some of these items, please contact her directly as there is specific information she needs to tell you regarding them.

I hope you have a wonderful long weekend!

Kendra Peters

ACS Assistant Dean

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PTO

Please see the PTO News letter or [click here](#) to go to the website.



Governing Board News

Board meeting recap

At the board meeting this past Monday evening, Dean Brown reminded parents that CSAP testing will take place March 4 - 14 for 3rd through 8th grades. She also recently visited all three off-site homeschool locations, and was able to observe teachers and students. The Castle Rock location has classes three times a week, while Highlands Ranch and Parker students attend twice a week.

A change in format has been made to the ACS newsletter, and soon the webpage will have a similar look. Dean Brown has been working with our network administrator, Cindy Keeling, to provide a more professional look in these areas.

The board approved an additional \$28,000 to complete the elementary portion of the new McGraw-Hill Language Arts curriculum. The new purchase allows all three teachers in each elementary grade level to have their own curriculum materials, rather than having to share resources.

The Communications Committee is gearing up for the Spring Parent Survey, which will be administered in March around Parent-Teacher Conference Time.

Our next board working session is set for Wednesday, February 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. The regular monthly meeting will be held in the cafeteria on Monday, March 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

School Advisory Council

Unfortunately, our February SAC meeting was cancelled last night due to illnesses among SAC members and their families. The next School Advisory Council meeting is planned for March 26th from 5:00-7:00 in the school library. We'll be talking about curriculum updates, including plans for a new math curriculum. Babysitting and snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Volunteer Information



Happy Valentine's Day! I want each of you to know how much I appreciate all the work you do for Academy Charter. Your hard work and support spells "L-O-V-E" to all of our staff and students. Today it is so refreshing to see so many parents bringing in treats for the Valentine parties and helping the teachers out in many special ways. Please keep logging in your hours, even if you have reached your 20 hour commitment.

I am grateful to work with the wonderful volunteers here at Academy Charter School.

Anne Belfrage

Volunteer Coordinator

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We're on the web!

Academycharter.org

Health Insurance for Kids

Your Child Could Qualify

For Free or Low Cost Health Insurance

Kids 18 and under may be eligible for free or low cost insurance through Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+):

kids with single parents

kids with two parents

kids with working parents

kids living with grandparents

kids who are emancipated

kids living with guardians

The Insurance Covers:

doctor and nurse visits

dental visits

prescriptions

counseling

physical therapy

speech therapy

hospital care

eyeglasses

immunizations

Certain expenses, with verification, may be deducted from a family's gross income, so families can make more than this and still qualify for CHP+:

FAMILY SIZE

MONTHLY INCOME

| | |
|---|----------|
| 1 | \$ 1,702 |
| 2 | \$ 2,282 |
| 3 | \$ 2,862 |
| 4 | \$ 3,442 |
| 5 | \$ 4,022 |
| 6 | \$ 4,602 |

For information, application, or assistance,

Contact the Douglas County School District, Health Services,

Medicaid Reimbursement Program at 303.387.0510, ext. 2

or contact CHP+ directly at 1.800.359.1991

www.CHPplus.org