

August 14, 2008



Dean Brown

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Dear ACS Parents,

The first week of school is almost over and it's hard to believe that we are in a new school year! The students and teachers are getting into the swing of school once again. The school was so quiet over the summer, it's nice to see all of the kids smiling faces again!

The staggered start with middle school students starting at 8:10 has been working out great! Please remember that middle school students and their elementary siblings and/or carpoolers may be dropped off no earlier than 8:00! All other elementary students may be dropped off no earlier than 8:15! We need to be strict with this so that our middle school students can get to class on time. The number of tardies has been very low this week. Thank you for getting your kids to school on time; the teachers really appreciate it!

Also another quick note about carpool, if we have lightning at arrival or dismissal, we will close carpool. A royal blue and white flag will be visible on our flagpole as well as a sign at the front of our building indicating our carpool closure. **If carpool shuts down for this reason, please park your cars!** You have two options at this point, walk in and retrieve your student(s) or wait safely in your car for the storm to pass at which point carpool will resume. Please be aware that you will not be penalized for retrieving your student(s) late during this situation! Thank you for your support and understanding in making this a safe environment for all of our students and staff!

Important Dates

Aug. 18—Practice begins for fall sports

Aug. 19—Picture Make-ups

Aug. 20—K-5 Testing Day

As the teachers begin to teach our new math curriculum, holes and gaps are being identified. It is our goal to close these gaps to build a solid foundation of math skills. After we analyzed our data, the Saxon Math trainers felt we need to adhere to our placement of students based on the end of the year tests. We feel if we can give this curriculum a true chance, our kids will not just touch on math skills but master them. After a few weeks, we will re-assess our students and then move them to their appropriate level in math. We are not opposed to moving a student up, but we need to see data that supports that move!

Speaking of data, we have purchased a computer program, MAPs (Measuring Academic Progress). This assessment tool tests students in 2nd through 8th grade in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. The students will take these tests

during their computer classes during the first two weeks of September. This tool automatically adjusts to the student's level making the test more or less difficult depending on the child's performance. The data from these tests is available 24 hours after completion. The teachers, during in-service last week, learned how to use the data and will be able to explain it to you during fall conferences. Please expect to see these data sheets. I believe this immediate information is a valuable tool to guide our teachers in their instruction.

On Friday August 22, elementary students will be assessed by their teachers. Sign up sheets for this testing will be posted on the outside of elementary classrooms. Please contact your child's elementary teacher if you have questions! Middle school will still be in session on August 22 and the middle school students will have a Dress of Choice on that day! Lunch will NOT be served on that day so middle school students need to remember to bring a lunch!

The staff and I are so excited for this new school year. It's going to be a great year! If you would like to become more involved with ACS, we have many opportunities like the SAC and PTO. Please join us and find out more about what wonderful things are happening at ACS! Welcome back and go Team USA!

**“What lies behind us and what lies before us are
small matters compared to what lies within us.”**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sincerely,
Yvette Brown
ACS Dean

Respectfully,
Yvette Brown
Academy Charter School Dean
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Governing Board News

Hello and welcome back to a brand new school year! We look forward to a great year at ACS and meeting the members of our parent and staff community. We hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings, or as a member of a sub-committee of the board. You can join one of these committees at any time all year.

Speaking of meetings, the **first** Governing Board meeting of the school year will be held this coming Monday evening, August 18, in the ACS cafeteria. Our general meeting, where we conduct the business of the school, takes place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to see an agenda for the meeting. A working session will be held earlier at 5:00 p.m., and carpool is one of the items on the agenda to be discussed. ACS parents and staff are always welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. Remember, by attending you will earn volunteer hours, and keep up on what's happening at ACS. Hope to see you Monday night!

Box Top Fundraisers

Don't forget the "Big Summer Prize" for the most box tops collected over the summer!! Get your box tops cut, labeled with your name and turned in by **August 22nd** so you can be included in the **August** box top fundraiser.

The student with the most Box Tops cut for **September** will win a **Dress Down Day!**

Keep reading your newsletters to learn what exciting prizes are coming up....

Picture Make-ups

Skow Photography will be here on Tuesday, August 19th, to take pictures of students who were not at registration. Also, all parent volunteers should come in and have your ID badge made at this time. They will be ready starting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday in the Gym.



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We're on the web!

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