



ANCHOR

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Anchor Christian Academy, a developing Christian University-Model® school. Our mission is to **collaborate with parents to educate and biblically anchor students**. This collaboration goes well beyond the typical partnership expected with a traditional school. Believing that parents are the primary influencers of a student's spiritual, emotional, and social development, our program seeks to give families the gift of time and experiences through a balanced instructional schedule and collaborative educational mindset. The combination of our talented professional educators and intentional curriculum brings joy back to learning and allows us to foster the unique gifts, talents and ideas of individual students and faculty. The heart of our school is our Christ-honoring community where we seek to cultivate character, servant leadership, and compassion. We hope that this information packet will provide you with a thorough overview and answer many of your questions.

The following documents are contained within this information folder:

- Program Overview: Education Reimagined
- Admission Policy and Process
- Statement of Faith
- Listing of Courses
- Academic Calendar

Please pray diligently with your spouse for discernment of the Lord's will for the education of your child(ren). If He leads you to apply to Anchor Christian Academy, you will find the application documents on our website at www.anchorchristianacademy.org/hub. We look forward to visiting with you at length in a family interview in the very near future.

In His Service,

Rachel Mohler
Administrator

Both parental involvement and student cooperation are essential if Anchor Christian Academy (ACA) is to successfully collaborate with parents to educate and biblically anchor students. Therefore, as a condition of acceptance to this academy, the parents of each student applying for admission must agree with the academy's doctrinal position, mission, vision, and core values. Parent and student admission requirements facilitate the selection of those students appropriately suited for a University-Model school format.

Admission Requirements

- The supervising parent and student must agree with ACA's Statement of Faith, mission, vision, core values, Program Overview and be regularly active in a local Christian church that is in keeping with ACA's Statement of Faith.
- Parents must abide by ACA's rules and regulations, along with all Pennsylvania religious school regulations.
- Parents must be committed to the parental responsibility for providing a quality, Christian education for their children in accordance with existing law and standards set by ACA.
- Parents must actively participate in their child's education. Specifically, parents should:
 - Ensure that one parent is present and available at least 3-4 hours during most satellite days. Even academically advanced students benefit from increased interaction with parents because parents are also influencing spiritual, emotional, and social development. The supervising parent may not be working full-time.
 - Regularly monitor child's academic progress, including timely submission and completion of all assignments.
 - Discuss with their child matters of belief, morality, and values in relation to the content of the courses.
 - Monitor their child's completion of all extended assignments to ensure that such assignments are paced appropriately and completed on schedule.
 - Be thoroughly familiar with syllabi and/or assignment sheets for all courses.
 - Provide access to a computer with reliable internet access in order to check satellite day assignments, and a printer for typed papers.
 - Read *Character Driven College Preparation* by John W. Turner, Jr. (2017 edition) before the start of school.
- Parents must actively participate in the school community. Specifically, parents should:
 - Check email on a daily basis.
 - Attend necessary meetings and trainings, including but not limited to the back-to-school day in August and the annual parent gathering in January or February.
 - Commit to 24 total volunteer hours per family per year including, but not limited to:
 - A minimum of 10 monitoring shifts throughout the school year (these may include afternoon pick-up, gym time, lunch period, field trips, etc.). If both parents work on school days, an alternative can be arranged.
 - Serving on a volunteer team (this could include teaching an elective course for 7 weeks, assisting as a teacher's aide, organizing special events, fundraising, preparing a meal for meetings, etc.).
 - Obtain and submit to ACA all necessary clearance and volunteer paperwork.
- Students must agree to:
 - Abide by the Student Code of Conduct, Dress Code, Tech-Wise Expectations and all other ACA rules and regulations.
 - Show respect to adults. A title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Coach) should be used when addressing an adult.
 - Treat each other with respect, kindness, and compassion.
 - Regularly check online communication from teachers regarding their assignments and communicate with their parents regarding ACA-related items.
 - Come to class on time and prepared (with homework completed and with necessary materials).

Non-Discriminatory Policy

Anchor Christian Academy admits students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic or any other school-administered programs.

Declined Admission

ACA processes all applications according to an admission policy, which exists, not to be exclusive, but to be inclusive of families who share the academy's vision, priorities, and educational philosophy. Anchor Christian Academy believes that as a developing UM academy, both a unified vision and a constructive, Christ-centered relationship of mutual trust and commitment between the academy and an applicant's parents are essential to the accomplishment of the academy's mission. Each application is prayerfully and thoroughly considered with the best interest of applicants and current students in mind. Accordingly, ACA reserves the right to decline admission at any point in the application process if the Admission Team believes that the previously stated conditions are not met. Regardless of how families might react to a decision of admission, ACA is committed to giving prospective families the gift of honesty regarding our perception of compatibility.

New Families . . .

1. Attend a campus tour

Parents are required to attend a scheduled campus tour to learn about the school and fully understand the expectations of their involvement in the education of their child at ACA. Parents will receive their admissions packet of materials at this meeting.

2. Complete an online application form

If, after reviewing the school material and praying about this important decision, parents are still interested in the school, they complete the application online providing all academic records and other information as specified in the application. There is a non-refundable per student application processing fee required upon submission of the application. Applications are entered into a pool of applicants to be considered. Those applications submitted by February 15 receive first consideration.

3. School admissions family interview

Each family applying for admission will have a one-time interview by Admission Committee members if a satisfactory application is received. This will allow the opportunity to answer any questions about ACA and ensure it is the best fit for the family. An interview will be scheduled once a satisfactory application has been processed. Incomplete or unsatisfactory applications will not result in an interview. Families will receive a response in seven to ten business days following the interview.

4. Entrance testing and evaluation

Entrance testing is required for all new students prior to acceptance. Testing will determine placement in the appropriate courses according to math and language arts skills specific to our curriculum. Testing also enables our teachers to quickly understand strengths and weaknesses of each student. Testing fee of \$85 is due at the time of testing payable to Anchor Christian Academy.

5. Acceptance & Enrollment

Receive acceptance email with enrollment instructions within seven to ten days of completing entrance testing. Submit online enrollment with enrollment fee to hold student's place.

6. Prepare for the Year

Prepare for the year by reading *Character Driven College Preparation: The Mission and Method of the University-Model® School* by Dr. John W. Turner, Jr. (2017 edition). There is no need to purchase this book. The admissions team will loan a copy to each family.

Mission

Collaborate with parents to educate and biblically anchor students.

Vision

Servant leaders who love God, His Word, and lifelong learning.

Core Values

- **God's Absolute Truth:** the foundation of all learning and discernment
- **Love for God:** a personal, true relationship with Jesus Christ
- **Collaboration with Parents:** the primary influencers of a student's spiritual, academic, emotional, and social development
- **Gift of Time:** balanced instructional schedule
- **College Preparatory Academics:** professional instructors and intentional curriculum
- **Joy of Learning:** education should not be rigid or dull, but full of life
- **Created with Purpose:** foster teachers' and students' unique gifts, talents and ideas
- **Christ-Honoring Community:** cultivate character, servant leadership, and compassion

University-Model® Schedule

Anchor Christian Academy follows an annual calendar similar to a university calendar. Classes start late in August and conclude in early May. Thanksgiving and spring breaks are each one week in length with an additional Easter break. There is a four week Christmas break from central classroom days. However, students devote two of those weeks to an extensive "Winter Term" project, crafted around a hands-on project of their choice and a research paper. The year culminates with overnight grade-level experiential learning trips in May.

The University-Model is a five-day academic program with students spending 2-3 "central days" in the school classroom and 2-3 "satellite days" in their home classroom. Both classrooms are under the supervision of a professional educator. Because one goal is to prepare students to become spiritually and academically independent, the University-Model provides the opportunity for a gradual transition from active parental involvement in the learning process to the independent learning skills necessary to succeed in a college environment.

During central classroom days, teachers provide direct instruction. Class sizes are small to foster individualized attention and to enhance learning opportunities. Teachers provide detailed instructions and guidelines for satellite days at home through Schoology, an online platform that is easily accessed through a computer or mobile device. Satellite days are further enhanced through the use of carefully selected curriculum that is proven to work well with the University-Model program. Parents are also provided answer keys and teacher guides as needed. A parent or responsible adult is required to aide with instruction and monitor student progress on satellite days, but teaching experience is not necessary. As the level of parental involvement progresses from a guide (middle school) to course monitor (high school), parents are expected to continue exercising responsibility for their children through graduation. Consistent feedback is provided by teachers to students and parents regarding students' progress in each class.

In middle school, central day classes meet two days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays). In addition, middle school students have the option of attending a third central day (Monday) for tutored work periods and electives. At the high school level, math, science, and foreign language classes meet three days per week at school (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays), while Bible, English, and social studies classes meet two days per week (Tuesday and Thursdays). Students in 12th grade are encouraged to take at least one college course through Lancaster Bible College's Jumpstart program or Liberty University's online dual enrollment program. Note that dual enrollment students must have prior approval from school administration and minimum scores from the PSAT, SAT, ACT, or CLT.

To fully understand the philosophy and ambition of the University-Model program, the supervising adult or parent is required to read *Character Driven College Preparation* by John W. Turner, Jr. (2017 edition) before the start of school.

Community

Both parental involvement and student cooperation are essential if the academy is to successfully collaborate with parents to educate and biblically anchor students. Therefore, parents are required to actively participate in the school community by attending necessary meetings and training, committing to actively volunteer, and obtaining and submitting all necessary volunteer clearance paperwork to ACA. We believe this parent, teacher, staff, and student connection to be an essential part of building a thriving school community.

Faculty

The faculty of Anchor Christian Academy are carefully selected, dedicated, born-again Christians from evangelical Christian backgrounds. All teachers whole-heartedly endorse the academy's Statement of Faith and the academy's focus on the teacher-mentor role. All faculty members hold at least bachelor's degrees and/or state teaching certification in the subject areas and grade levels they are teaching. Anchor Christian Academy prioritizes training and professional development of our teachers recognizing that they are vital to each student's success.

Typical Course Progression

- 7th Grade: Old Testament, English 7, Ancient History, General Science, Informal Logic, Study Skills
- 8th Grade: New Testament, English 8, American History 1, Physical Science, Formal Logic, Health
- 9th Grade: Biblical Foundations, Foundations of Lit & Comp, World Cultures & Geography, Biology, Spanish 1
- 10th Grade: Church History, American Lit, American History 2, Spanish 2
- 11th Grade: Comparative Worldviews, British Lit, World History II, Marine Biology or Physics or Psychology, Financial Stewardship, Public Speaking
- 12th Grade: Cultural Engagement, World Lit, Gov't & Economics, Human Anatomy or Forensic Science or Psychology, Senior Symposium, Health

Students are placed in math courses that match their developmental skills and take into consideration their previous math instruction. Math courses include General Math 7, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1A, Algebra 1B, Geometry, Algebra 2, Precalculus, Calculus, and Consumer Math.

Honors level courses are available for most high school courses. Most junior/senior level courses are not offered every year. For instance, American Literature is rotated with British Literature. World History II is rotated with Government and Economics. This provides more flexibility in course options and scheduling and enables our juniors and seniors to enjoy experiential learning trips together.

Dual Enrolled Students

High School seniors may take any junior or senior level course as a dual enrolled student. *Students will be accepted into a class only if the class has not already reached the student class limit of full-time students.* At minimum, dual enrolled students must take ACA's English, Bible, Senior Symposium, and Health courses resulting in 3 HS credits. Any student wishing to take more than four classes must enroll as a full-time student.

Beyond the Classroom

Numerous opportunities for spiritual growth, student leadership development, and enrichment opportunities are also available. To foster joy in learning, required monthly field trips are coordinated with the teachers to maximize the educational and/or character development benefit of each trip. Overnight trips are scheduled in May with further educational and community-building opportunities.

Our innovative learning program provides opportunities for high school students to earn high school credit beyond the classroom through internships, private lessons, athletic clubs, and beyond. Students submit a proposal, log their hours, and check in with a supervisory teacher to earn high school credits.

Student Conduct

The purpose of Anchor Christian Academy's Code of Conduct is to promote a Christ-like attitude in its learning environment and to encourage the development of positive Christian relationships among its students. Virtues of Christian character such as respect for others and for God, love, obedience, and service are strongly encouraged and expected. Discipline concerns are brought to the parents' attention promptly and principles of Christian communication and confidentiality are maintained in all circumstances.

Organizational Structure

Anchor Christian Academy is a developing member school with University-Model Schools International (UMSI) and a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Registered as a private school with the state of Pennsylvania, the Academy issues state-recognized diplomas. Students from public school districts within 10 miles (measured by the nearest public road) can utilize bus transportation privileges from their home district. An engaged school board and culture of transparency are organizational priorities.

Partnerships

Anchor Christian Academy is a PIAA school with an excellent cross country and middle school basketball program, and currently partners with Lancaster County Christian School (LCCS) to provide a variety of other high school team sports for our students. Families with athletes participating in an LCCS sport will work together to provide transportation from school to practice during each season.