

## 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

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Old Testament, English 7, Ancient History, General Science, Informal Logic, Study Skills
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: New Testament, English 8, American History 1, Physical Science, Formal Logic, Health
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Biblical Foundations, Foundations of Lit & Comp, World Cultures & Geography, Biology, Spanish 1
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Church History, American Lit, American History 2, Spanish 2
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Comparative Worldviews, British Lit, World History II, Marine Biology or Physics or Psychology, Financial Stewardship, Public Speaking
- 12<sup>th</sup> 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.