

## 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

## The University-Model® Approach

This **five-day academic program** blends classroom instruction with home-based learning. Students spend:

- **2–3 days** in the classroom (**Central Days**)
- **2–3 days** at home under parental supervision (**Satellite Days**)

A professional educator oversees both learning environments, with the supervising parent acting as a teacher's aide during Satellite Days.

- **Central Days:** Teachers provide direct instruction in small classes for personalized learning.
- **Satellite Days:** Students complete assignments at home referencing Schoology, an easy-to-access online platform teachers utilize to communicate assignments and grades.

As students develop academic independence, self-motivation, and organizational skills, parental involvement gradually shifts from **active guidance in middle school** to a **supportive, oversight role in high school**, fostering independent learning and work habits. To understand the philosophy of the University-Model, **parents must read *Character Driven College Preparation*** by John W. Turner, Jr. (2017 edition) before the school year begins.

## Academic Calendar

Anchor Christian Academy follows a university-style calendar, with classes beginning in late August and concluding in early May. Breaks include:

- **Thanksgiving Break:** One week
- **Christmas Break:** Four weeks (includes a two-week "Winter Term" project)
- **Spring Break:** One week. If Easter does not fall during Spring Break, Good Friday will be off.

The school year ends with **grade-level overnight experiential learning trips** in May.

## Central Day Class Schedules

- **Middle School (7th–8th grade): Tuesdays & Thursdays**, with an optional Monday for electives and/or tutored work periods.
- **High School (9th–12th grade):**
  - **Math, Science, & Foreign Language – 3 days per week** (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)
  - **Biblical Studies, English, & Social Studies – 2 days per week** (Tuesday, Thursday)

## Community

**Active parental involvement** is essential to our educational model. Parents are required to:

- Attend **meetings and training sessions**
- Complete **volunteer clearance paperwork**
- **Commit to volunteering** to support the school community

This collaboration between **parents, teachers, staff, and students** is the foundation of a thriving learning environment.

## Faculty

The faculty at Anchor Christian Academy are carefully selected, dedicated, and born-again Christians from evangelical backgrounds. Every teacher wholeheartedly endorses the academy's **Statement of Faith** and embraces the **teacher-mentor role**. All faculty members hold at least a **bachelor's degree and/or state teaching certification** in their respective

subjects and grade levels. The academy prioritizes **ongoing training and professional development**, recognizing that teachers play a vital role in student success and character development.

### **Course Selection & College Credits**

Students follow a typical course progression as illustrated on the Class Schedule Chart. Transfer students often have an alternative schedule if they have not taken required courses such as Biology and Chemistry.

Several 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.

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. Anchor's junior/senior level **biblical studies and English courses have the option of earning college credits** including up to 12 English credits, 3 Philosophy credits, and 3 Cultures credits – all from accredited universities. Additional fees apply.

College bound juniors and seniors are encouraged to take Jumpstart courses through Lancaster Bible College's dual enrollment program. Some college courses can substitute for ACA's courses, however, Anchor seniors must take ACA's English, Cultural Engagement, Financial Stewardship, Life & Calling, and Health courses. Collecting more than 21-24 college credits in high school is not recommended for several reasons.

### **Beyond the Classroom**

Students at Anchor Christian Academy have numerous opportunities for **spiritual growth, leadership development, and enrichment**. Monthly **field trips** align with classroom instruction to maximize educational and character-building experiences. Additionally, overnight **May trips** provide extended educational and community-building opportunities.

Our Innovative Learning Program allows high school students to earn academic credit beyond the classroom through **internships, private lessons, athletic clubs**, and more. Students submit a **proposal, log their hours, and check in with a supervising teacher** to earn high school credit.

### **Co-Curriculars**

ACA is a **PIAA school** offering **cross-country and middle school soccer and basketball**. Additionally, the academy partners with Lancaster County Christian School (LCCS) and Lancaster Mennonite High School (LHS) to **provide a variety of high school sports**. Families coordinate transportation for student-athletes participating in LCCS or LHS sports programs. As ACA grows, additional HS sports will be added. ACA students are not eligible to participate in their districts' extra-curricular programs.

ACA also partners with the **Lancaster Academy of the Performing Arts (LAPA)** for **orchestra, choir, art/drawing, and musicals**. Classes and practices typically meet on Thursday afternoons and evenings.

### **Student Conduct**

The **Code of Conduct** at Anchor Christian Academy fosters a Christ-like learning environment and promotes positive Christian relationships among students. Core Christian virtues such as **respect, love, obedience, and service** are encouraged and expected. **Discipline concerns are brought to the parents' attention promptly** and principles of Christian communication and confidentiality are maintained in all circumstances.

Tablets, cell phones, and smartwatches that receive messages or notifications are not permitted during school hours. Parents are required to **actively monitor and establish clear boundaries for student internet usage**. By adhering to ACA's Tech-Wise Expectations, families contribute to a unified community with consistent technology standards, helping to reduce peer pressure related to owning and misusing personal devices.

### **Organizational Structure**

Anchor Christian Academy is a **member school** of University-Model Schools International (UMSI) and a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). **Dual accreditation through UMSI and Cognia is in process**, with our accreditation visit scheduled for April 2025.

Registered as a private religious school in Pennsylvania, ACA issues **state-recognized diplomas** and most students qualify for **public school district bus transportation**. The academy is governed by an **engaged school board** which values **long-term sustainability and a culture of constant improvement**.