

# Academy for Character Education



**The door to building strong character  
in your children's lives**

## **Student & Family Handbook**

**2023-2024 School Year**

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[www.AceClassicalEd.org](http://www.AceClassicalEd.org)

Revised & Updated 8/31/2023

# Academy for Character *Education*

## OFFICE HOURS

September through June: Tuesday- Thursday of each month + 4<sup>th</sup> Week  
Tuesday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July & August: Tuesdays - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Other times only by appointment with Administration)

## CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESSES

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## POLICY DISCLAIMER

Please note: Any policy in this handbook is subject to change. Updated handbook policies are available in the online version of the handbook ([www.AceClassicalEd.org](http://www.AceClassicalEd.org)).

## ACADEMIC DISCLAIMER

ACE Charter School offers an academically challenging, college preparatory curriculum. The school staff works together with families and students, to create an educationally stimulating environment - one that is scholastically rigorous, comprehensive, and intensive. As such, ACE Charter School will not effectively meet the needs of all families.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to do their best at all times. ACE is not a school of entitlement but a school of choice with minimum participation standards. Students who repeatedly fail to show progress, turn in assignments, or maintain attendance may be asked to return to their district of residence.

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## 100 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### 101 Mission

The mission of ACE is to develop and enhance *strong character* by working collaboratively with families, utilizing an integrated classical curriculum, and personalizing education to challenge students academically.

### 102 Philosophy

ACE believes students are best prepared as moral, productive, contributing members of our world when trained cooperatively by family and school in an atmosphere expectant of constant ethical behavior and scholarly efforts.

#### 102.1 Four Pillars

The pillars of ACE’s comprehensive college preparatory educational program are:

- integrating character year-round into school, home, and life;
- working collaboratively with families as partners;
- utilizing an integrated classical curriculum; and
- personalizing education to challenge each student.

### 103 Program Goals

Graduating students with strong moral character, minds expanded through extensive reading from historically and culturally rich literature, possessing solid skills in writing, speaking, and mathematics, with knowledge of the various scientific disciplines, and having developed personal interests is the school’s objective.

#### 103.1 Character

The purpose of an ACE education is to instruct the student’s character to be responsible for their own actions. The academics provide the tool for training students to be punctual, attentive, obedient, diligent, etc. throughout their future lives.

##### 103.1.1 Four Year Character Trait Rotation

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Compassion	Virtue	Truthfulness	Wisdom
Punctuality	Punctuality	Punctuality	Punctuality
Attentiveness	Attentiveness	Attentiveness	Attentiveness
Obedience	Obedience	Obedience	Obedience
Dependability	Responsibility	Self-Control	Determination
Hospitality	Gratefulness	Generosity	Tolerance
Orderliness	Resourcefulness	Discernment	Loyalty
Availability	Enthusiasm	Flexibility	Thoroughness

Creativity	Initiative	Cautiousness	Discretion
Sensitivity	Diligence	Boldness	Patience

103.2 Academics

ACE utilizes books on classical education such as *The Well-Trained Mind*, *The Well-Educated Mind*, and *The Core* as guides for a sequential, interdisciplinary, structured curriculum designed to give all K-12 students the advantage of a solid foundation in a liberal arts, college-preparatory education. The demanding, classically-thorough curriculum includes core academics and is shaped by these priorities:

- Clear expression in writing and speaking
- Extensive vocabulary provided through Latin and foreign language studies
- Broad historical and cultural perspective
- Strong foundation of mathematics and science

ACE curriculum is a language arts and humanities intensive program structured on a four-year rotational schedule. All curriculum, as coordinated with the students’ Academic Dean, must be completed to ensure a comprehensive education is provided.

103.2.1 Classical Education

Classical education’s Trivium consists of Grammar, Dialectic, and Rhetoric stages in student academic development.

Logic and rhetoric are often taught in part by the Socratic method in which the teacher raises questions and the class discusses them. By controlling the pace, the teacher can keep the class very lively, yet disciplined.

**Grammar**

The Grammar Stage focuses on language skills -- primarily reading and the mechanics of writing. An important goal of Grammar is to acquire as much vocabulary as possible across the curriculum. Very young students learn this vocabulary by rote, especially through the use of chant and song. Their minds are often referred to as "sponges" that easily absorb a myriad of facts. Classical education traditionally includes the study of Latin and Greek; at ACE, all students, grades one through high school, study Latin. Latin studies reinforce understanding the grammar of languages and permit students to reach the goal of reading Western Civilization’s classics in the words of the authors. The Grammar stage refers generally to the elementary school years.

**Dialectic**

Dialectic (or logic) is discussion and reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation. In the modern renaissance of classical education, this dialectic stage refers to the middle school or junior high school student, who developmentally is beginning to question ideas and authority, and truly enjoys a debate or an argument. Training in logic, both formal and informal, enables students to critically examine arguments and to analyze their own. The goal is to find out why something is true, or why something else is false, in short, reasons for a fact.

**Rhetoric**

Rhetoric debate and composition (which is the written form of rhetoric) are taught to somewhat older (often high school aged) students, who by this point in their education have the concepts and logic to criticize their own work and persuade others. Rhetoric is concerned with finding "all the available means of persuasion." The students learn to persuade others with facts, and succeed in the persuasion. Students learn to reason correctly in the Dialectic stage so they can then apply those skills to Rhetoric. Students read original source documents and learn to present their arguments well.

103.2.2 Portrait of an ACE Graduate

**OVERALL:**

- 1) Employs the lifelong disciplines of self-learning & critical thinking.
- 2) Obtains the tools for learning: memorization, penmanship, phonetic, decoding, reading, comprehension, computation, critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, research, synthesis, effective writing, public speaking, & sound moral judgment.
- 3) Builds a sound personal worldview based on truth.
- 4) Consistently displays a love for what is true, good, & beautiful.

**CHARACTER:**

- 1) Intentionally develops & practices traits of grace, respect, humility, integrity, & courage in all relationships, seeking to encourage others & promote peace
- 2) Whatever is undertaken throughout life is completed with excellence
- 3) Approaches difficult tasks with diligence, persistence, & joy
- 4) Demonstrates wisdom in every life situation
- 5) Actively pursues a life-style of service to others

**LOGIC, MATH, & SCIENCE:**

- 1) Acquires an organized mind resulting in an orderly life style
- 2) Employs logical reasoning to analyze information, identify fallacies, & form, & defend valid conclusions
- 3) From first-hand observation and careful reading, matures to a state of scientific literacy with the ability to make informed judgments about scientific matters

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE:**

- 1) Demonstrates familiarity with and ability to discourse on the great books of Western Civilization.
- 2) Speaks & writes graciously, persuasively, courageously, creatively, and eloquently with purpose.

**LATIN:**

- 1) Possesses ability to read Latin classics in their original language.
- 2) Obtains skills to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary

**CLASSICAL STUDIES:**

Understands & communicates effectively an informed appreciation of Western Civilization's great ideas & rich heritage.

### 103.4 Extra-Curricular Activities

Students are encouraged to develop individual interests. To this end, Supplemental Instructional Funds (SIF) provide full-time students with monies for instruction and supplies related to these interests. Such elective activities are not considered part of the general curriculum (See 600).

## 104 Annual Schedule

The school year begins July 1 and ends June 30. No services or funds may be rolled over from the previous school year into the new school year. The required days of attendance are listed below.

- Parent & Student Orientation
- Weeks 1-29 School Days held on Tuesdays - Thursdays (each three-week cycle is typically followed by one week off with the exception of two weeks for Spring Break and Christmas Break).
- Week 30 is finals and dress rehearsal for the Year-End Program.
  - The Year-End Program is also held on Week 30 (Friday);
- Week 31 for AIMS as scheduled by student's Academic Dean;
- 1-2 math sessions in July and 1-2 math sessions in August.
- For grades 3 & up, state assessments (see ACE calendar for grade levels and dates required testing is scheduled in April & May)
- PSAT exams for students 8-11 grade.
- AP<sup>®</sup> retreat (required for students taking ACE provided exams) & exams for students enrolled in AP<sup>®</sup> courses (see ACE calendar for scheduled dates)

### 104.1 Quarterly Hour Limits

The Oregon School Year is divided into four quarters:

- First Quarter: July 1 to September 30
- Second Quarter: October 1 to December 31
- Third Quarter: January 1 to March 31
- Fourth Quarter: April 1 to June 30

For full-time students in Grades 1-12, the total allowable school year hours are 1050. During each quarter, these students may record up to 262 hours of instructional services, supporting activities, and completed assignment hours. Half day kindergartners and part-time students may only record half this number of hours. Unused hours from any quarter may not be accumulated for use in later quarters.

## 105 Equal Access

### 105.1 Equal Opportunity

ACE Charter School admits students of any race, color, sex, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, national and ethnic origin, age or disability to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin, age or disability in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and programs or hiring practices.



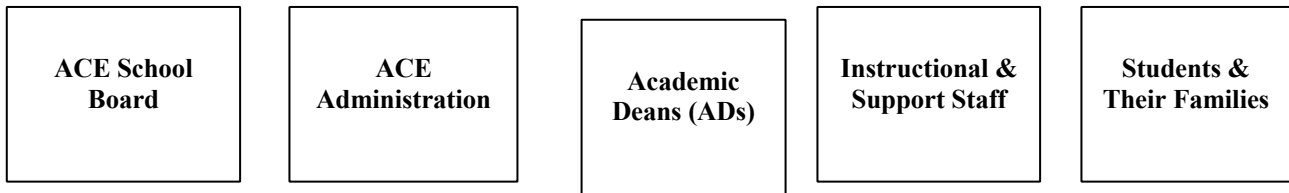
**105.2 Religion**

ACE is state-funded, and as such cannot offer religious: 1) sponsorship, 2) financial support, 3) active participation, 4) materials, or 5) instruction. ACE recognizes the right of every student to freely express their religious beliefs as guaranteed by the Constitution’s First Amendment.

**200 ORGANIZATION**

ACE Charter School is a DBA of Home Scholars’ Academy of Oakridge & Westfir, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Charter schools are innovative public schools providing choices for families.

**Organizational Chart**



**200.1 Donations**

As a 501(C) 3 entity, the Academy for Character Education accepts donations. Receipts are provided for tax purposes. Donations should be submitted to the Business Manager.

**201 Families**

The school is organized to meet the needs of the families whose children attend. Families are encouraged to bring to the administration’s attention any reasonable concerns they have; this may be done by contacting the Administrative staff and by completing appropriate forms and following the procedures in place (see 804 & 805).

**201.1 Volunteers**

To provide the students with as many scholastic programs as possible, the school’s resources are channeled toward instruction, instructional supplies, and student services. To facilitate this necessitates the labor of many people. Each family is requested to volunteer for one job each year. A list of volunteer jobs will be available at the beginning of the school year and volunteers will be requested for various events during the school year.

**202 Board of Directors**

An elected board oversees the school and is comprised of five to seven people: president, vice president/ treasurer, secretary, and from one to three members-at-large. The board is governed by the bylaws of the parent organization, Home Scholars’ Academy of Oakridge & Westfir, and the Oregon Public Meetings & Public Records statutes. Board members are encouraged to participate in training that improves their understanding of the school and board procedures.

**202.1 Elections**

A nominating committee of member families, staff, and current or former board members nominate individuals to serve on the board. These nominations are approved by the sitting Board of Directors. Terms of office are two years with no limit to the number of terms a board member may serve. Board vacancies caused by resignation are filled as soon as possible during a board meeting by a simple majority vote of the sitting board. Employees may not serve as voting members of the board, but only in advisory capacities, while husbands and wives serving on the board share one position and one vote.

**202.2 Meetings**

Monthly board meetings are held in accordance with the laws governing public meetings. The tentative meeting dates for the entire year are listed on the school calendar. Agendas are posted on the ACE website at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting. At least one week prior to a board meeting, individuals wanting to address the board must submit in writing to the board chairman the individual's name, phone number, & a summary of their topic. The board chairman will contact the administration to discuss the topic in an effort to discern whether the item is one appropriate for board attention or better handled by another avenue. Public comments are welcomed during the designated time in each meeting.

**202.3 Duties**

The board's primary duties include hiring and evaluating the administrative staff, approving the budget and school calendar, and updating policies and procedures.

**203 Administrative Staff**

Day-to-day school operations are facilitated by ACE Charter School's administrative staff. The Finance Director and Business Manager handles financial matters. Screening of prospective employed staff, formulation of annual budget and calendar, and oversight of instructional and support staff are the main jobs of the administrative staff.

**204 Instructional & Support Staff**

Members of the instructional staff teach classes, and/or provide tutoring and elective instruction. The support staff oversees the library, office, the ACE website, etc.

**300 STUDENTS**

Students between the ages of 5 (by September 1) and 21 (who have not yet earned a diploma) may attend ACE even if the school is not in their resident district. Providing there is space available in the student's grade and/or Trivium Level, the school is open to any student who applies and completes all admission documents and registration requirements. Students are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis determined by ACE's receipt of completed admission documents and space available.

When space is unavailable, families desiring their student be enrolled must complete the waitlist on the school's website; this notifies ACE of their intention to take the next available slot.

## 301 Full-Time Students

Full-Time enrolled students are defined as students who receive ACE's comprehensive education. No full-time ACE student is considered, by the Oregon Department of Education, to be homeschooled.

### 301.1 Full-Time Student Enrollment Procedure

Confirmed enrollment for full-time students occurs when a family completes the following procedure:

1. **Registration:** The registration form is available online. It must be completed with all required information and submitted electronically.
  - a. **Returning Students:** Each school year between February and March, returning student's families must update their registration form. Failure to submit the completed forms may result in returning students forfeiting their enrollment slot.
  - b. **New students:** Students wishing to attend ACE for the first time must complete the registration form and provide any requested documentation (birth certificate, immunization).
2. **Space Available:** To maximize student success, ACE has a limit on the number of students for each class. Space will be allotted based on the following criteria.
  - a. **Returning Students:** Space will be allocated for returning students based on their promotion to the next grade and applicable level. Slots will not be held in two levels.
  - b. **Siblings:** If space in a class remains after currently enrolled students' slots are determined, siblings of those students receive remaining classroom space. Should a sibling enroll, withdraw, and then later wish to re-enroll, they will be added to the wait list if no space is currently available.
  - c. **Lottery:** If there are spaces available for all those students whose registration form was received on time, they all will move to complete admission status. If more students for whom registration forms have been submitted than classroom space is available, the ACE administration will conduct a lottery. Students' names will be placed in a hat, and the administrative staff will fill remaining spaces with the first student's name pulled from the hat, and so on. When a student name is selected, the family is called, and given 24 hours to accept the opening. If they decline or fail to respond, ACE moves to the next name on the list.
  - d. **Waiting List:** Remaining names from the Lottery will be maintained on a waiting list should space become available. Additional registration forms are accepted throughout the year and names added to the waiting list. Should space become available in a particular classroom, the waiting list will be consulted.

### 301.2 Finalizing Admission

Admission is finalized when:

- Student's parent attends the ACE Parent Orientation, and student attends ACE Student Orientation;

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- Student's parent submits the completed ACE registration forms (link provided on or before the ACE Parent Orientation);
- Required Summer HLAs are submitted.

### 301.2.1 Summer Instruction

For students who enroll during the summer (July & August), tutoring or math classes occurring in those months or until Placement Testing occurs will be waived. Summer HLAs may be waived or modified by the student's AD.

### 301.3 Placement Tests

Initial assessments using ACE curriculum-specific placement exams ensure students are working at the correct level. Both new and returning students are required to take placement and progress tests. Returning students are tested on Weeks 27-29. New students are tested on Week 31.

#### 301.3.1 Newly Enrolled Students

Pre-Requisite Reading Ability According to Level:

Trivium Level	General Grade Level	Reading Level	Lexile Level
Pre-Reader	Kindergarten	Non-readers	N/A
Grammar A	1/2	Early Reader/Bob Books Set 1	100-299
Grammar B	2/3	Intermediate Beg./Bob Books Set 3	300-499
Grammar C	3/4	2.9	500-599
Grammar D	4/5	3.9	600-699
Dialectic 1	5/6	4.9	700-849
Dialectic 2	6/7	5.9	800-899
Dialectic 3	7/8	6.9	850-999
Dialectic 4	7/8	7.9	850-999
Rhetoric	9-12	8.9	1000-1300

In addition, no students will be considered for the Pre-Reader class unless able to completely toilet independently. Teachers or other parents are not allowed to perform this task for a student unless the student is on an IEP (Individual Education Plan).

Families may request alternative placement to accommodate a student's needs. ACE reserves the right to discuss placement choices or make a placement change with parental/guardian input depending on student's ability to complete assignments, state assessment scores, reading comprehension test results, student's

demonstrated maturity level, and current instructor/administration input.

### **301.4 Meetings/Conferences**

During enrollment, a student's family collaborates with the student's assigned Academic Dean (AD) to set the student's Academic Instructional Marks (AIM).

During AIMs meetings, the student's AD reviews placement and progress assessments and determines, for each academic subject, the appropriate level. Classes and elective opportunities are addressed. All students in grades kindergarten through twelve and their families are encouraged to discuss the student's interests, talents, and goals. Subsequently, staff may present specific suggestions to the student and their family about possible enrichment opportunities to develop these areas. To complete student's AIM goals, ACE provides weekly classes, Homework Club, and some electives.

#### **301.4.1 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

- Pre-Reader 2-3 AIM meetings per year
- Grammar & Dialectic 2-3 AIM meetings per year
- Rhetoric 3-4 AIM meetings per year

#### **301.4.2 Additional Meetings with Academic Deans**

ADs are available for additional conferences with families. It is recommended families schedule appointments to ensure their student's AD is not previously booked. Suspension, excessive absences or tardies, or the need for additional academic assistance will result in further conferences being scheduled at the AD's request.

### **301.5 End of Year Grade Promotion**

Previously enrolled ACE students must meet the following criteria for grade-level promotions:

- Demonstrated good character by faithful completion of assigned Character Chore and/or Character Project;
- Complete and submit all assigned Home-Linked Assignments (HLAs);
- Have a final grade of "C" (70%) or better in all subjects; if student's final grades are failing, make up work can be assigned to bring the grades up;
- By announced date, complete & submit Health & PE Standards.

#### **301.5.1 Additional Trivium Level Promotion Criteria**

In addition to 301.5, returning students must demonstrate their ability to succeed at a level through the skills listed below. Skills are discussed with Academic Deans and special needs are accommodated.

- Pre-Readers moving to Grammar A Level must:
  - 1) Read beginning level book (such as Bob Books Level 1);
  - 2) Write spelled-out word (can recognize and write letters that are spoken);
  - 3) Have memorized all Pre-Reader Recitations;
  - 4) Recited 0 X 0 through 0 X 12 times table.
  - 5) Completed Character Fair project

- Grammar A student moving to Grammar B must:
  - 1) Read intermediate-beginner book (such as Bob Books Level 3);
  - 2) Test at grade 1.5+ in ACE Spelling Program;
  - 3) Use correct pencil grip;
  - 4) Write in cursive;
  - 5) Have memorized all Grammar A Level Recitations;
  - 6) Recited assigned times tables (0's, 1's, 2's, 5's & 10's).
  - 7) Completed Character Fair project
- Grammar B student moving to Grammar C must:
  - 1) Read at 2.9 + grade level;
  - 2) Use correct pencil grip;
  - 3) Write in cursive;
  - 4) Have memorized Grammar B Level Recitations;
  - 5) Correctly write sentences;
  - 6) Test at grade 2.5+ in ACE Spelling Program;
  - 7) Recited assigned times tables (0's, 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's, 7's, & 10's).
  - 8) Completed Character Fair project
- Grammar C student moving to Dialectic 1 must:
  - 1) Read at 4.9+ grade level;
  - 2) Write in cursive;
  - 3) Have memorized Grammar D Level Recitations;
  - 4) Correctly write paragraphs;
  - 5) Test at grade 4.5+ in ACE Spelling Program.
  - 6) Passed 5 minute 100 multiplication facts test (0 X 0 through 12 X 12).
  - 7) Completed Character Fair project
- Dialectic 1 student moving to Dialectic 2 must:
  - 1) Read at 5.9+ grade level;
  - 2) Write in cursive;
  - 3) Have memorized Dialectic 1 Level Recitations;
  - 4) Correctly write multi-paragraph one page composition;
  - 5) Test at grade 5.5+ in ACE Spelling Program;
  - 6) Passed 5 minute 100 multiplication facts test (0 X 0 through 12 X 12).
  - 7) Completed Character Fair project
- Dialectic 2 student moving to Dialectic 3 must:
  - 1) Read at 6.9+ grade level;
  - 2) Write in cursive;
  - 3) Have memorized Dialectic 2 Level Recitations;
  - 4) Correctly write multi-paragraph two page composition;
  - 5) Test at grade 6.5+ in ACE Spelling Program;
  - 6) Passed 5 minute 100 multiplication facts test (0 X 0 through 12 X 12).
  - 7) Completed Character Fair project

- Dialectic 3 student moving to Rhetoric Level must:
  - 1) Read at 8.9+ grade level;
  - 2) Write clearly in cursive;
  - 3) Have memorized all Dialectic 3 Level Recitations;
  - 4) Write 5 paragraph essay;
  - 5) Test at grade 8.5+ in ACE Spelling Program;
  - 6) Passed 5 minute 100 multiplication facts test (0 X 0 through 12 X 12);
  - 7) Completed Character Fair project
  - 8) Completed *Saxon Algebra ½*.

### 301.5.2 Talented & Gifted

Students who exceed on the state assessments in a particular subject area will be considered for advancement beyond their age-appropriate grade level in that subject area. Additional considerations are consistent, timely, and accurate completion of HLAs, and current instructor/administration input. Maturity of student will also be considered; class materials were designed for the maturity level of the appropriately-aged students and may be compromised by admission of an underage student. For most advanced students, advancement in one or two classes is preferable to placement across the board in a higher level. TAG is an individualized program based on the needs of the student.

### 301.5.3 Mid-Year Level Promotion for Enrolled Students

To advance to the next Trivium level for one or all classes (providing space is available), a student must meet all the above criteria, and, in addition, for one complete term or more, meet the demands of their current level by:

- Satisfactorily completing **all** HLAs for **all** subjects;
- Maintaining a “B” or better grade point in every subject.

Families desiring mid-year level promotions must submit their request in writing (by email or hand-delivered to ACE office) to the ACE administration. In conference with the affected ADs, the necessary data will then be collected and assessed. Within two weeks, the family will be apprised of the school’s decision. Typically, mid-year promotions will only occur during winter or spring break.

As per Oregon statute 581-022-1130(2)(d) students younger than ninth grade may earn high school credit by successfully completing the full course of study for any Rhetoric level course. Refer to Section 301.5.2 for alternative options for TAG students when high school classes are not an appropriate placement.

### 301.5.4 Initial Grade Level Placement

Unless placement testing indicates a student is behind one or more grade levels in math or reading, students enrolling in ACE will initially be ODE registered at the grade level indicated by their previous state or benchmark assessment record (i.e., if a student took, in the previous school year, the seventh grade state assessments, student will be registered as an eighth grader) and the results of their placement tests. Grade level questions should be brought to the attention of the Principal.

## 301.6 Rhetoric Students and Graduation

Rhetoric students are required to follow the credit schedule as stated below, earning credit by attending all classes or equivalent classes unless a waiver has been obtained from the ACE Board.

- For class advancement, Rhetoric students must accumulate the following credit totals as recorded on their ACE Diploma Worksheet:
  - 6+ = Sophomore
  - 12+ = Junior
  - 18+ = Senior
  - 24 specified credits, passed all required Oregon state assessments = College Preparatory Diploma
  - 28.5 specified credits, passed all required Oregon state assessments = Honors Diploma

### **301.7 Graduation**

ACE conducts a graduation ceremony for all qualifying students. Valedictorian will be selected based on highest, weighted GPA of completed high school graduation requirements and college course work. Salutatorian will be chosen based on second highest, weighted GPA of completed high school graduation requirements and college course work.

## **302 Distance Learning For Full-Time Students**

Due to enrollment and/or staffing restrictions ACE is sometimes unable to serve all the students desiring enrollment. As a result, these students may choose to enroll in while awaiting an opening on campus. As it would be difficult for a student to step into a full-time classroom slot unless completing the regular required work, these students will participate in the following aspects of the school program:

- AD oversight
- JupiterEd accounts
- Complete curriculum
- Monthly reward to qualified students
- Field trips, events
- Oregon State Assessments

## **303 Program Offerings**

ACE offers the following educational choices:

ACE Preparatory School, an on-site K-12 school.

ACE Honors, an on-site 9-12 college and scholarship focused school.

ACE Foundations, an off-site K-12 school.

## **304 Resident District**

Regardless of where a student lives, ACE students are members of the student body of the South Lane School District. For extra-curricular activities, all students remain part of the student body of the districts in



which they reside (see 308). ACE is an approved OSAA school.

## **305 Assessments**

### **305.1 Smarter Balanced/OSAS**

Oregon Statewide Assessments are required in grades 3 through 8 and 11 and for any student grade 12 who has not met for each eleventh grade assessment (math, reading, writing, and science). Generally, testing is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> Week; however, in the event a student is not able to take tests during scheduled testing, ACE staff provides special testing accommodations on school days.

Before testing, students will be evaluated to determine if student may qualify for testing accommodations. If determined that other accommodations will prove beneficial to the student, the ACE Assessment Coordinator will schedule a one-on-one session with the student or provide other approved and necessary accommodations.

### **305.2 Advanced Placement® Courses and Tests**

ACE offers Advanced Placement® and other options for Rhetoric students to gain college credits prior to graduating from ACE. Some classes may have pre-requisites and course entry should be discussed with the Rhetoric Director to ensure maturity and appropriate knowledge base is in place. ACE pays for students to participate in the AP exams offered each year. Students that drop an AP test after it has been ordered (typically in November) will have the cancellation fees deducted from their SIF account. In addition, with prior approval from the Rhetoric Director, students may take AP exams for which they have prepared for during the year via independent study or tutoring.

#### **305.2.1 AP Retreat**

Students taking an AP exam paid for by ACE must attend the AP retreat.

#### **305.2.2 College Class Scholarship Fund**

ACE has established funds to support full-time junior and senior Rhetoric students who have completed all or the better part of their ACE diploma requirements, are working toward earning college credits, who are passing all classes, and/or who have specialized interests in classes which ACE does not offer. Juniors qualify for one college class a year (up to \$900) and seniors qualify for one college class a term (up to \$900/term). Books and materials may be paid for via SIF reimbursement.

## **306 Grades**

JupiterEd, an on-line grading system, is available for families to track the status of their student's assignments and grades. Students must complete all work assigned and are graded using the following percentage scale:

- 90% - 100% A

- 80% - 89% B
- 70% - 79% C
- 0% - 69% F

**306.1 Academic Expectation:**

Frequently, the problem of low grades is also related to poor work habits. If a student has enrolled in classes but does not participate by submitting assignments on time and completed to the best of their ability, the student may be recommended for non-continuation and referred to their district of residence. Students are notified and have one full semester to show improvement. In addition, if students have a missing work report of 20+ assignments, the students' Academic Dean will schedule a meeting with the parent, student, and administration to discuss a plan for improvement and/or other academic options.

The administration may make an exception to the above rule for students with identified learning disabilities or for students who demonstrate a high level of motivation and have strong parent involvement. Parents may apply to the school for a waiver of this requirement but the key consideration will be the demonstrated effort of the student. Administrators will take into consideration the student's grade performance, potential for future improvement, ability to fit in with the school's curricular path, and input from the teachers, parents, and student.

Students scoring below 70% are not prepared for new concepts or lessons. In these cases, the teacher has the discretion as to how learning recovery is to be brought about. The instructor may require the student to make lesson corrections, take additional oral assessments, re-take tests to improve scores, produce extra credit work, attend Homework Club, or redo the entire course.

Work submitted late will result in a 10% grade reduction for each week late. This is also applicable for carelessly completed work needing to be redone.

**306.2 Student Responsibilities:**

- Accept responsibilities regarding behavior and academic participation.
- Complete all assigned work.
- Turn in all work in a timely manner.
- Take good care of all school property including classrooms, textbooks, library books, furniture and computers.
- Be on time to class or appointments.
- Ask the teacher for help whenever an assignment is not understood.
- Follow all handbook guidelines for dress, technology and behavior when on campus.

**306.3 Grades:**

Teachers use the following grading standards for overall course grades:

- 70% HLAs

- 30% quiz and test grades.

### 306.3.1 General Assignments Grading Criteria

#### Written HLAs

- 20% Basics
  - 5% - Correct labeling: complete student name, Week assignment is due, & subject (Science, Language Arts, Humanities, or Latin)
  - 10% - Neatness: completed in legible cursive
  - 5% - Format: margins on both sides of the paper & written on every other line
- 20% Conventions
  - Spelling
  - Punctuation
  - Capitalization
  - Correct word usage (i.e., subject-verb agreement, pronoun case)
- 60% Content
  - Vocabulary
  - Sentence structure
  - Thoughts expressed

#### Cornell note-taking, maps, & drawings

- 10% Basics
  - Correct labeling: complete student name, Week assignment is due, & subject (Science, Language Arts, Humanities, or Latin)
  - Neatness: completed in legible cursive or manuscript for maps, graphs, or charts
  - Correct media (i.e., colored pencils when required)
- 90% Accuracy of information

#### Recitations

- Number of poetry lines multiplied by 3 & number of prose lines multiplied by 6 = points representing 100%
  - 100% if presentation is perfect & no helps were required
- 10% presentation (posture – standing tall with hands clasped behind back, good enunciation, & eye contact)

### 306.3.2 Pre-Reader Grading Policy

ACE does not give “A”, “B”, “C”, and “F” to Pre-Readers. Rather, these students receive “P” for “Passing” or “T” for “Try again”.

#### GRADE DEFINITIONS

90+ = Excellent & on time

80% = Adequate

70% = Minimal

\*\*Teacher-specific definitions of the above requirements will be discussed in class.

## TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS

### 1) Straight percentage

Some assignments have a set of answers given, and those are most often graded by a straight percentage (for example, 74/80).

### 2) Written/typed assignments

60% Content

20% Growth/Maturity

20% Loveliness

### 3) Oral work

15% Pronunciation, Posture, Expression

15% Level of Memorization

70% Accurate Content

### 4) Participation

Teachers often award points for participation in a variety of ways.

## Recitations

Poetry: 100% of grade = Number of lines memorized x 3

Prose: 100% of grade = Number of prose lines x 6

Then, if necessary, up to 10% off for presentation (posture, voice, etc.)

Then, if necessary, 5% off for every help

Then, if necessary, 2.5% off for every pause

## WRITTEN FEEDBACK

Assignments also receive written feedback on them from instructors, which are very valuable to students who would like to know how to improve.

## COMMUNICATION

Instructors expect students and families to communicate with them about grades, assignments, feedback, and/or to solve challenges that come up. These communications do not affect a student's grade.

### 306.4 Math Teachers

Math teachers determine students' grades using the following standard:

#### **HLAs (35% of student's total math grade):**

o Students will receive full points on their week's lessons when they come to math class with all of their assigned lessons completed, clearly graded by an adult at home according to the ACE correction policy with proper notations at the top of the page, and all corrections made for incorrect problems at the end of the original work;

o If students submit work that is either incomplete or complete but not graded, teachers will grade the assignments and the student will be given the raw score earned. This work will be returned for corrections and the grade will be modified once the student has submitted the revised assignment to reflect the corrections up to 100%.

**Exit Tickets (15% of student's total math grade):**

o As teachers introduce new concepts in class, students will be provided with a “Exit Ticket” to make sure they are understanding the material and to assist them with completing at-home assignments. These checks may consist of the Lesson Practice portion of the lesson or a supplemental worksheet which will be scored by the teacher during class. These raw scores will be entered into Jupiter Ed, but students can correct any errors and submit to improve their score up to 100%.

**Test and Quiz Components: (50% of overall grade)**

**Weekly Concept Checks (10% of student's total math grade):**

Once a week, students will receive short quizzes on the previous week’s concepts to check for conceptual understanding and provide quick intervention should misconceptions or process errors arise before these become a habit and challenging to unlearn. These quizzes will be scored, raw scores entered in Jupiter Ed, and students have the ability to correct answers and resubmit to raise the score up to 100%.

**Monthly Teacher-Proctored Math Tests (40% of student's total math grade):**

- o Only correct answers are given points. Multiple-point questions will be worth the number of tasks within the problem (ie, questions with a) and b) components will be worth two points);
- o Students receive a straight percentage grade --  $\frac{\# \text{correct}}{\text{Total } \# \text{ problems}} = \% \text{ Correct}$ ; answers must include correct labels (e.g., km, miles, sq. ft), decimals correctly placed, proper format, etc. Students do not make corrections on monthly summative assessments and retakes are not provided.
- o If a student needs consistent help with concepts, refer the student to the ACE office to obtain the appropriate Saxon Math teaching DVDs.
- o Families may purchase an account through Nicole the Math Lady (<https://nicolethemathlady.com>), and ACE will reimburse the expense out of general funds. This fee does not come from SIF.

Math Gradebook Overview:

HLAs = 35%

Exit Ticket = 15%

Concept Checks (Quiz) = 10%

Monthly Test (Test) = 40%

Until students are in Algebra 2, they are not to use calculators at home or in school to complete work unless specifically assigned by the textbook in a few rare cases.

**306.5 Term Report Cards**

Term report cards are provided by the student’s AD either at a scheduled AIM meeting, by mail, or hand-delivered to the parent.

## **307 Transportation**

Transportation to and from ACE Charter School, elective activities, or instructional events is solely the families' responsibility.

## **308 Extra-Curricular Activities Eligibility**

For students who are residents of the South Lane School District, participation in extra-curricular activities such as athletics is open by following District policy as applicable for any other District student. Out-of-district students must contact the school district in which they reside to obtain information about extra-curricular eligibility.

## **309 Student Body Cards**

At the beginning of the school year, depending on availability, students may receive an ACE Student Body Card. Replacement cards are typically not available. These cards may be used for a discount at various locations, interscholastic sports, etc.

## **310 Student Records**

Oregon schools maintain two types of student records: academic records and confidential records. The ACE administrative personnel maintain charge of these.

### **310.1 Student Work Samples**

Monthly and/or quarterly student work samples are kept in individual student files. These samples are compiled by the ADs and/or instructors.

#### **310.1.1 Copies of Work Samples**

Families should make any desired copies of work prior to submission by the student. Once work samples are filed with ACE, copies of these samples are available to parent at the prepaid cost of twenty-five cents per page and the hourly rate paid to the staff person making the duplicates.

### **310.2 Parent Notification Regarding Student Records**

Upon ACE receiving notification of student enrollment in a different institution and a written request sent directly from the institution, an official transcript or copy of the permanent record is sent to that school. Phone requests from the institution or parental requests will not be honored. Once the official request is received, Oregon state law allows 10 business days before student records must be sent.

Parents may request copies of student records for a prepaid fee of twenty-five cents per page and the hourly rate paid to the staff person making the duplicates. ACE will provide copies within 45 days of receiving a parent's written request for records. Any behavioral tests in a student's file may only be viewed in the presence of a school psychologist. Families may file a complaint with the Office of the Secretary of Education if they believe ACE Charter School has failed to comply with the requirements of Public School Law 93.380.

Parents may request an appointment with the principal to examine their child's records, and, additionally, have the right to a hearing with ACE staff, should they wish to challenge the content of those records.

**310.3 Records Withheld**

Nonpayment of school fines or fees, or failure to return all ACE materials, may result in the withholding of student records and grade reports; however, ACE will work with the family and student's new school to supply requested records as soon as possible directly to the school.

**311 Withdrawal**

Students are officially withdrawn from ACE under the following conditions.

**311.1 Parent Initiated**

Parent must submit a completed *Withdrawal Form* when removing their student from ACE. Until such time as this form is submitted to the ACE office, the student is considered a member of ACE student body, and all applicable rules apply. After receiving the *Withdrawal Form*, if necessary, the appropriate school district is notified that the student has been withdrawn from ACE.

**311.2 ACE Initiated**

Withdrawal also occurs when a full-time student is absent two consecutive weeks and does not submit any of their HLA assignments. This is exempted when

- A note is submitted by a health practitioner or other advisor verifying illness;  
or
- In the case of a verifiable serious family emergency.

If other extenuating circumstances persist, families must contact the administration.

Currently enrolled, but not pre-registered, students are officially withdrawn as of June 30<sup>th</sup> each school year.

**311.2.1 Truancy**

Students who do not attend or submit required assignments for two weeks will be considered "truant" and appropriate legal measures will be taken with their ESD.

**311.3 Email Accounts Closed**

Within a few weeks of withdrawing from ACE, family and Dialectic 3 and Rhetoric student G Suite for Education accounts (Gmail, Classroom, Google Drive, etc.) will be closed. Please ensure you have transferred your files immediately, so as not to lose any important records.

**311.4 Rhetoric Student Withdrawn**

Rhetoric/high school students withdrawn before successfully completing a term will receive an "Incomplete" on their transcripts for that term's classes; no credit will be awarded for any class not successfully completed.

## **400 SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

Resident school district, parent, and staff following South Lane School District procedures perform “Child Find” (identifying students with possible special needs).

When a student qualifies for special education (SPED), ACE follows South Lane School District policy regarding the student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) Placement. IEP goals are discussed during AIM meetings at the onset of the enrollment process. Due to the unique structure of ACE (school days on campus and at home), not all students will be successful and have their specific special needs addressed.

Components of the Special Education program at ACE include:

1. In order to receive the full academic curriculum, students must have home support.
2. Students must pass classes with a C (ACE does not give Ds). See grading policy 306.
3. Speech and Occupational Therapy services are provided via an online platform and not in person.
4. Limited behavioral supports are available.
5. Reading and math supports are available on site and not provided in the home.

Other schools in the district that offer more in-person time may prove to be a better option for students not able to complete work at home.

Parents wanting to initiate any services for their student must contact Mrs. Sahnou, ACE Special Education Coordinator.

## **401 Child Find Process**

If a student is believed to have a disability, the following measures are taken:

- ACE is notified and, from parent, written consent obtained to evaluate student;
- IEP Team meets to determine student’s eligibility, develop IEP, and determine appropriate placement;
- ACE must get written parental consent for IEP & initial placement in special education. Parental refusal may result in ACE resolution attempts but may not include ACE request for due process hearing.
- Until students are identified as special education or 504 (Americans with Disabilities Section 504), they are required to complete all work as assigned by their instructor unless otherwise approved by their AD.

## **402 Previously Identified Students**

For previously identified students new to ACE, ACE takes the following measures:

- Requests student’s regular and special education records and follows ACE’s procedures to attend an IEP meeting conducted using conference calls, video conferencing, or face-to-face conferences;



- Unless excused, IEP meetings must include the following IEP/Placement Team participants: ACE representative, parent/family member(s), student’s special education teacher or provider, and instructional evaluation interpreter;
- If recommended, parents/family, other individuals possessing expertise or knowledge may also attend IEP meetings;
- IEP/Placement Team participants review, revise, and document (using ODE approved form) student’s current IEP to address student’s special education & service needs including adapted instruction, supplementary aids and services, modifications, and accommodations to allow student to benefit from the ACE curriculum;
- IEP meeting culminates with the team determining appropriate student placement.

Parents may choose to opt out of services by signing special education refusal forms.

### **403 School District Provides Services**

Using its own employees, qualified independent contractors, qualified charter school staff, or a combination of these, ACE arranges special education services as outlined in student’s IEP, and, along with the Academy for Character Education, maintains applicable student records.

### **404 Special Education and 504 Students’ Work**

As determined by the student’s IEP or 504 team and ACE staff, special needs student’s work is adjusted as necessary.

### **405 Special Education Student Behavior**

Unless otherwise specifically exempted by their written IEP, SPED students must behave according to the ACE expected code of conduct as chronicled in the character traits.

## **500 SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE**

Classes are held on Tuesdays - Thursdays for three consecutive weeks followed by one week off (December’s Christmas break & March’s spring break is two weeks) from September through June.

### **501 Dress Code**

Uniforms have been adopted by ACE to encourage a tasteful and modest learning environment. On Tuesday -Thursday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, students on campus must be in uniform; waivers will only be granted by administration if extenuating circumstance(s) necessitate any clothing change. On Tuesdays, students wear the ACE-provided professional uniform (grey polo, white oxford, sweater or blazer). On Wednesdays, students wear ACE-provided t-shirts or sweatshirts. On Thursdays, students wear ACE-

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provided polos to coordinate with their team colors. On all days, students are to wear nice black dress bottoms that match the ACE-provided bottoms (non-ripped pants or skirt; no shorts or leggings/skinny pants; no jean material). Any belt, hosiery or shoe color/style is acceptable. Students may not wear outerwear during classes (no sweatshirts or jackets other than ACE-provided). Students may wear outerwear outside during breaks. All outerwear should be free from slogans, images/graphics, or phrases. Merchandise logos are acceptable (name of company producing item).

Seniors have the option of wearing business attire instead of the regular uniform. Business attire consists of the following:

Button-up shirts  
Khakis or dress pants  
Polos  
Sweaters  
(Men) Tucked in shirt with belt  
(Women) Skirts/dresses knee length or below (no slits past 1 hand above the knee)  
Well-kept shoes

Not Business attire:

Shorts/capris  
Jeans  
T-Shirts  
Hoodies  
Leggings/yoga pants

Pre-Reader & Grammar students will wear grey polo (Tuesdays) or colored House polo (Thursdays); black pleated skirt/jumper or pants; red sweater  
Dialectic – Rhetoric will wear white oxford shirt & tie (Tuesdays) or colored House polo (Thursdays); black skirt or pants  
Dialectic 1 & 2 will wear red sweaters (only required during Character Assembly on Tuesdays).  
Dialectic 3 and Rhetoric will wear red blazers (only required during Character Assembly on Tuesdays).

ACE provides, at no cost to the family, two complete school uniforms each year. All uniform pieces remain the property of ACE & must be returned by June 30 of each school year (unless student will be wearing the uniform in the following school year). A student not completing the entire school year must return their complete uniform in reusable condition.

If replacement pieces are needed during the school year, and ACE has stock on hand, families may trade for new uniform pieces directly from the school. If ACE does not have the needed items, families may order directly from the uniform companies or wait for ACE to order needed items.

Other Dress Code information to note on uniform days:

- Leggings may be worn under skirts (leggings may not be worn alone as “pants”).
- No hats/head coverings unless worn for religious or medical reasons.
- Should a student arrive minus uniform, staff will provide uniform pieces for students to dress themselves in.
- Unless otherwise notified, all extra events/days are “No Uniform Required” days, except for the Year-End program & 4<sup>th</sup> Week Homework Club. Modest casual attire is permitted at these events.

## **502 School Supplies**

To most effectively and efficiently school at home, before the start of school ACE will send a recommended supply list to families to aid students in completing their weekly Home-Linked Assignments.

ACE supplies all books and HLA folders. Families should provide these additional school supplies before Week 1 for their students to successfully complete their assignments.

## **503 Emergency Closures & Drills**

In the event of possible school closure, please check the ACE website or call the school office to determine school closure. ACE does not follow the South Lane School District closure policy, due to our later start time. We typically do not cancel school, but ask families to only commute to the building if it is safe for them. We do not give students tardies or unexcused absences on days when travel is difficult due to the weather.

Emergency evacuation plans are posted in each classroom. As required by the Oregon Department of Education, fire and earthquake drills are periodically performed throughout the school year.

### **503.1 Fire Drill Procedure**

- When the fire alarm sounds, students quickly form a line and leave the facility by the nearest exit.
- ADs walk with the class; classroom aides check bathrooms and other rooms for occupancy.
- Students must assemble in the field or parking lot as directed. They should be grouped with their classmates to facilitate roll by their AD.
- When released, students are to return to the building in an orderly fashion.

## **504 Attendance**

ACE operates thirty-two weeks (Tuesdays-Thursdays) per year: Orientation, classes, placement testing & AIMS meetings. School attendance is mandatory (see allowed exceptions listed in the handbook). Field

trips are special privileges and optional.

### **504.1 Excused Student Absence Procedure**

Unless approved or on a modified schedule, students must attend classes. Lack of participation due to absence will be reflected in grades. In the event of illness or emergency resulting in non-attendance, the parent must notify the school office by noon; a message recorded on the answer machine is considered notification. When this notification occurs, the absence will be excused.

When an absence of two weeks occurs due to serious illness, a doctor or advisor's note is required. HLAs for those weeks are due within 10 days of the student's return to school.

#### **504.1.1 Students Not To Attend School**

A student should not come to school if student has any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Fever over 99.9F
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool in one day, with or without fever)
- Severe or sustained cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Skin lesions, eye lesions, or rashes that are “weepy” (fluid or pus filled)
- Colored drainage from eyes or ears
- Jaundice (yellow color of skin or eyes)
- Complaint of stiff neck or headache with any of the above symptoms
- Head lice

#### **504.1.1.1 Covid-19:**

See ACE Communicable Disease Plan for more information. Each school day students and staff will be asked to self-screen at home answering the following questions:

The screening questions are as follows:

1. In the past 14 days have you or anyone in your household had either of these symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
2. In the past 14 days have you or anyone in your household had at least 2 of these symptoms: Fever, chills, shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell?
3. Have you had any known close contact (less than 6 ft of distance) with someone who has tested positive for COVID in the last 14 days?
4. Have you tested positive for COVID in the last 14 days?

If any of the above questions are positive, you will be asked to stay home and follow current Covid policies until free from illness.

ACE will be following the guidelines for staff and students put into place by the Oregon Department of Education.

**504.1.1.1 Head Lice:**

School Procedure for Pediculosis (Head Lice):

1. A student found to have live lice or untreated nits will be sent home immediately. Treatment information, school requirements and readmittance provisions will be provided to the parent. Parents will be advised to:
  1. Use a lice-killing agent on all family members who have symptoms of infestation.
  2. Follow the personal and household cleaning instruction provided by the health-care provider, school nurse, or local health authority.
  3. Remove all nits after treatment.
2. Following treatment, the student may be readmitted to school;
3. Parents must either accompany their student to school for readmittance or provide a signed statement that treatment has been completed;
4. The student will be subject to screening by the school administrator or designated personnel to determine the treatment's effectiveness. The student will be readmitted to school or denied admittance, as appropriate. The absence of nits is required for readmittance. In the event the student is not readmitted the parent will be notified;
5. Students readmitted will be subject to follow-up screening by the administrator or designated personnel;
6. Parents who identify head lice on their student at home are to complete treatment prior to the readmission of their student, as required above. Parents are also encouraged to notify the school of their student's condition so that appropriate preventative measure may be implemented at school. Names will be held in confidence;

**504.1.2 Medications/First Aid**

Families should administer any medications; however, if the parent is not available, the office staff, with written and signed instructions from the parent, may administer a medication. Prescription medicine must be sent in the original bottle, with the label prepared by the pharmacist and must include the following information: name of student, name of medication, dosage, route, frequency of administration, and any other special instructions. The Office Manager will complete the medicine log and maintain student confidentiality in regard to medicines; medications are placed in a locked cabinet. ACE personnel provide first aid in the absence or inability of parents.

**504.1.3 Student Medication Administration:**

- The school does not supply any drugs including aspirin or Tylenol.

- Soap, water, band-aids and ice are available for injuries.
- Over-the-counter drugs or prescription drugs for students must be stored in the office and dispensed by the Office Manager. A medication form must be completed and signed by the parent prior to any medications being dispensed.

#### **504.2 Sick at School**

If a student becomes ill at school, and no parent is present, the ACE staff will phone those numbers recorded on the student's Emergency Form. The student will be removed from contact with other children until family arrives.

#### **504.3 Non-Excused Student Absence**

All absences are unexcused except for documented illness or serious family emergency. Family trips are unexcused unless a completed *Prearranged Absence Form* is submitted to the AD. On this form, ADs will require students to obtain signatures from their classroom teachers stating required submission date for HLAs and any additional work to be completed in lieu of classroom participation.

#### **504.4 Absentee Assignments**

Students returning to school after an absence are responsible to submit all HLAs for the week(s) of their absence and those HLAs currently due. Weekly HLA assignments are available on the ACE website.

### **505 Tardiness**

Tuesdays-Thursdays: Students may arrive between 8:20-8:40 a.m. in order to submit their HLAs and be prepared to begin class at 8:45 a.m.

Those arriving on time will receive the appropriate character grade points. Students are considered tardy if they have not checked in with their AD by 8:45 AM.

#### **505.1 Excused Tardy**

Tardies are only excused for emergencies. A tardy student must be accompanied by his parent to the school office. A tardy is excused if caused by extenuating circumstances out of one's control (e.g., flat tire, car not starting).

#### **505.2 Tardy Procedures:**

1. Student's AD is notified and office attendance chart records tardy.
2. Tardy is noted in student's attendance record on JupiterEd.

### **506 Locked/Closed Campus**

ACE operates a locked and closed campus. Until classes are over, students are not permitted to leave the premises unless picked up by parent/guardian. Electronic codes/cards are provided to families to enter the premises; codes/cards should not be given out.

## 507 Visitors

Guests are welcome to attend classes under the following guidelines:

### 507.1 Parents

Parents are welcome to attend all classes; it has been documented that family involvement is directly linked to student academic success. To avoid interference with instruction, while class is in session, parents are asked not to interact with their children without the explicit permission of the instructors. Teachers and administration will communicate with parents if there are issues regarding this policy.

### 507.2 Unregistered Siblings

Whenever parents attend classes with registered children's siblings, those siblings must not be allowed to hinder the academic atmosphere of the classes. Siblings must be under the direct supervision of an adult. Parents will receive notice if their child is distracting and noisy. Parents may be asked to take the child out of class if distractions persist.

During classes, the family lounge is the area designated to take young children and infants. At all times, parents must remain with any child of theirs not attending classes; children are never to be left alone in any part of the facility.

### 507.3 Non-ACE Visitors

After making pre-arrangements with the administration, guests are welcome to visit the school. Visitors must sign in and out of the "Visitors' Log" and wear a "Visitor" name tag which is provided by the Office Manager. To protect our educational environment, restrictions to classroom access may be applied.

## 508 Electronic Devices & Phone Use

Non ACE-issued electronic devices, including cell phones, are not permitted to be used by students on the school premises without Academic Dean approval. If students have cell phones with them, these are to be checked in upon arrival to the office (PR-D3) or to the Rhetoric Director (Rh students). Cell phones may be checked out at the end of the school day. Students should not have cell phones out at any time during the school day. Students may have laptops and Chromebooks for school use only. No social media, chatting, gaming, or other non-related school usage should occur during the school day. In the event of an emergency, phone the school office to have a message conveyed to a student. Students will ONLY be allowed to use the school phone for emergencies. Parents are requested to turn phones to vibrate and only take calls outside of classrooms so as not to disturb instruction.

## 509 Schedule

Tuesdays - Thursdays schedule will be based on specific trivium levels.

### 509.1 Lunch, Snacks, and Birthday Parties

Students bring their own snacks and cold lunches to classes (microwaving is not convenient due to the short

lunch break). Students are to bring a non-messy mid-morning snack. A student forgetting their lunch or snack may have one provided, if available.

**509.1.1 Birthday Parties**

Should a parent desire to give a small party to their child, parent should contact the child's AD to make the arrangements. Generally, this event will be held in the student's classroom during the morning or lunch break and will consist of small treats or cupcakes along with any simple decorations the family wishes to provide for the teacher to set up. Due to some students' allergies, it is imperative that, in advance, the menu be made known to the AD.

**509.2 Homework Club**

In an effort to assist all students in succeeding academically, ACE provides Homework Club to specific levels (check with Academic Dean) on Thursdays from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m., (Rhetoric has Homework Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays), as well as 4<sup>th</sup> Week Homework Club. Students may attend voluntarily to receive assistance or be assigned to Homework Club by their AD or math teacher. Occasionally, as needed, extra Homework Clubs will be provided and students with missing work will be invited to attend those clubs.

Any student with failing grades from the previous term will automatically be assigned Homework Club attendance for the next term until student is excused by their AD. Students assigned to Homework Club must remain for the entire time unless excused by the student's AD. Even if it only takes a few minutes for the student to complete any missing work or re-take a test, a student is remanded to Homework Club for the entire hour, unless released by the student's AD. Remaining in Homework Club to begin newly assigned work provides an incentive for students to use their checklists to carefully review their work for completeness. Students who are assigned to retake quizzes or tests will be encouraged to spend more time studying.

In addition, students that need more time to complete assignments or need reading or math tutoring will be given teacher supported assistance during the regular school day.

4th Tuesday Homework Club is required for any student with missing HLAs at the end of a three-week cycle unless excused by the students' AD. See ACE calendar for dates and times of Homework Club. Students attending Homework Club must wear their uniform.

**509.3 Extra-Curricular Electives**

Students are encouraged to utilize SIF monies for individual electives if academic assistance is not needed.

**510 Character Chore Assignment**

Students are assigned duties to be performed each Tuesday and Thursday by their Academic Dean. Each student will receive a job description including time to be performed (before, during, or after school), and any necessary supplies and where those are located. The Academic Dean will confirm jobs have been completed. Failure to complete character chores may result in a lowered Character class grade.



## 511 Code of Conduct

ACE maintains a strict code of conduct for all members of its learning community. Punctuality, attentiveness, obedience, respect, and self-discipline must be exhibited. Stealing, lying, cheating, and profanity are unacceptable at ACE. Romantic relationships and public displays of affection are not allowed. The school is a place of high integrity and in keeping with the philosophy of the school, any breach of this Honor Code may result in serious consequences.

- Stealing involves taking something that belongs to another without his knowledge and prior explicit permission.
- Lying is the intentional misrepresentation of facts for personal gain, or in order to protect the interests of others.
- Cheating is any form of academic dishonesty. It occurs when one uses and takes credit for the work of another person, whether the material be directly copied or superficially disguised (plagiarism). Cheating also includes the divulgence of the contents of a graded evaluation.
- Profanity/swearing/cursing/cussing is socially offensive language, which may also be called bad language, strong language, offensive language, crude language, coarse language, foul language, bad words, blasphemous language, vulgar language, lewd language, choice words or expletives.
- Destruction of property refers to destroying, painting, tearing apart, ruining or otherwise making school property unusable.

It is ACE's intent that this Honor Code makes each student responsible for his or her own actions, constantly reminding us of the value of good judgment and of the importance of absolute integrity in all areas of life.

Students must complete their assigned work as part of the Code of Conduct. Consistently missing or incomplete work will result in special attention and supports.

For all situations not specifically addressed herein, ACE follows the South Lane School District's code of conduct.

Should a breach of the Honor Code occur, the administration in conjunction with the instructor and/or Academic Dean will determine the appropriate course of action. Each breach is documented and the record retained in the student's file.

### 511.1 Discipline Steps (determined by the severity of the situation)

1. **Reminder:** The student will be reminded if student is off-task and/or breaking a classroom rule. The specific character trait involved will generally be referenced. Staff will refer to Classroom Behavior Interventions for assistance and focus on positive behaviors and rewards.
2. **Warning:** If the negative behavior continues, the teacher will determine an appropriate consequence. Staff will refer to Classroom Behavior Interventions for assistance.
3. **Processing:** If the behavior remains unacceptable, the teacher will discuss the issue with administration and, if needed, the student will be removed from class and accompanied to the office where an *Incident Report* may be completed by the office staff. An administrator, along with the

student's AD, will determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

4. **Probation:** Also, at this time, the student may be placed on probation if the Principal and classroom teacher determine the infraction merits such action. Probation will result in the separation of the student from the classroom to work individually on assigned work. The parent will be notified of the student's probation.
5. **Suspension:** Two or more incident reports filed within one term or willful disobedience are grounds for suspension. Students may be suspended for up to ten days. The ACE Charter School staff will decide on an appropriate length of suspension.
6. **Expulsion:** Open defiance of a teacher's authority, willful disobedience, leaving the school grounds without permission, violent behavior compromising the safety of students or staff, possession or use of dangerous weapons including guns and knives, use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, or vandalism and theft are grounds for immediate suspension and subsequent expulsion from ACE. The civil authorities will be immediately contacted in the event of an attack on another person, the use or possession of illegal substances, possession or use of a dangerous weapon, and vandalism or theft.

Disciplinary actions for all infractions may include in-school or out-of-school suspensions, cancellation of electives, restriction from attendance at instructional events or field trips, assigning additional character assignments, expulsion, etc.

### 511.2 Suspension and Expulsion

Discipline involving suspension and expulsion shall be administered according to Oregon law. ACE will follow the guidelines of expulsion as defined by District policy.

Based on ORS 339.250, the administration has complete authority to issue a suspension. In the event of a suspension, the administration shall notify the parents by letter within three days regarding the cause for suspension. A meeting with the parents, student, administration, and a board member shall be scheduled within three days of the suspension. The suspension shall not exceed ten days as allowed by Oregon law. The time limitations in this section are based on school days. When a suspension is exercised, the administration will immediately notify the Charter School Board and the South Lane School District.

Suspended students may not be on ACE grounds.

### 511.3 Cheating

Cheating is considered a very serious offense. ACE considers it both stealing (taking answers that belong to someone else) and lying (presenting those stolen answers as if they were the student's own). The process for dealing with cheating is as follows:

- First offense: Family decides how to handle the cheating.
- Second offense: In a face-to-face encounter, the offending student must admit to the teacher and/or Academic Dean that student stole and lied, apologize for doing so, and verbally commit not to repeat

the offenses.

- Subsequent offenses: the offending student must admit to student’s teacher and/or Academic Dean that student stole and lied, apologize for doing so, and verbally commit not to repeat the offenses; in addition
  - In a face-to-face encounter,
    - Pre-Reader through Grammar: the student, before 1) principal (third offense) & 2) students’ classmates (fourth offense), must admit that student stole and lied, apologize for doing so, and verbally commit not to repeat the offenses.
    - Dialectic 1 through Rhetoric: the student, before 1) principal (third offense), 2) students’ classmates (fourth offense); 3) in Character Assembly before the entire student body (fifth offense), must admit that student stole and lied, apologize for doing so, and verbally commit not to repeat the offenses.

In all cases of cheating/plagiarism, all stolen work must be completely redone.

#### **511.4 Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation**

ACE recognizes the harmful effects of bullying (intentional, repeated, aggressive behavior) on student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical and emotional harm. Every student is entitled to a safe school environment free from bullying, including, but not limited to, discrimination, harassment and intimidation based on actual or perceived characteristics. ACE staff shall establish student safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any student. No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel. These acts should be brought to the attention of the Academic Dean and/or other appropriate school personnel. All complaints will be considered confidential. However, it may be necessary to disclose certain information in order to effectively investigate. Students who violate the policies on discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying may be subject to discipline, including suspension and expulsion.

If deemed appropriate when a conflict occurs between students, the following guidelines will be followed to resolve this conflict:

1. Schedule a meeting with the teacher and students.
2. All students involved in the conflict will meet with the teacher and/or administrator.
3. Students will follow the advice of the teacher to resolve the conflict.
4. Students will make an agreement with the teacher on behavior.
5. The teacher will contact the parents.
6. If needed, students will be sent to the office.

##### **511.4.1 Oregon Law**

Under Oregon law, “harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any act that:  
(a) Substantially interferes with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities

or performance;

(b) Takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation or at any official school bus stop;

(c) Has the effect of:

(A) Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;

(B) Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property; or

(C) Creating a hostile educational environment, including interfering with the psychological well-being of a student; and

(d) May be based on, but not be limited to, the protected class status of a person. Oregon law goes on to define "protected class" as a group of persons distinguished, or perceived to be distinguished, by race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, familial status, source of income or disability.

#### **511.4.2 Title IX Coordinator**

The Title IX Coordinator, Mrs. Sahnou, should be notified when a grievance has occurred in discrimination (see section 105), policy dissemination, and other procedures relating to the Code of Conduct.

#### **511.5 Mandatory Reporting of Physical Abuse**

As required by law, any student observed physically "abusing" (tripping, hitting, harming, or otherwise physically mistreating) any other person, even a sibling, while on ACE premises, will be reported for abuse to the Cottage Grove Police Department and/or Department of Human Services.

### **512 After-School Student Supervision**

No student or student's sibling may remain in the ACE facility or be present on the school grounds after school unless he/she is attending an after-school elective or is under the **direct supervision** of students' parent or other approved adult.

Unsupervised students will be escorted to their classroom until their specified parent/guardian picks them up.

### **513 Home-Linked Assignments**

Pre-Reader students receive weekly HLAs consisting of: Character, Science, Math, and Language Arts. Grammar – Rhetoric students receive weekly HLAs consisting of: Character, Science, Math, Language Arts, Humanities, and Latin. Students may collect a hard copy of the HLAs; the on-line version is available via the ACE website. These assignment listings include the week due.

On Tuesday and Thursday by 8:45 AM, students must submit all HLA assignments; these should be enclosed in the correct color-coded folder and placed in the appropriate HLA box located in each classroom.

All submitted work must be neat, correctly labeled, and, unless otherwise pre-arranged with the AD, in the

student's own handwriting. Scratched-out answers and misspelled words are unacceptable. If a family does not own a dictionary, ACE will supply one. When misspellings are prevalent throughout an assignment, the student may be asked to redo it. Work not completed as assigned will be considered missing.

Work submitted late will result in a 10% grade reduction for each week late. This is also applicable for carelessly completed work needing to be redone. See 307 for additional information on grading.

At the beginning of every school year, HLAs are reduced for all students to allow them to adjust to ACE's rigorous curriculum. Students enrolling in ACE after September will have their HLA workload adjusted to allow them to ease into ACE's academically challenging program. Each individual assignment will be reduced.

- First 3-week cycle                      50%
- Second 3-week cycle                  75%, unless student demonstrates ability to complete 100%

Parents seeking adjustments to their student's curriculum or workload must complete any required ACE documents and have alterations approved by the student's AD and ACE administration.

Special Education and 504 student's work will be adjusted by the members of their respective teams and ACE staff (see 404).

**513.1              HLA Assistance**

Each week, ACE administration will contact students by phone or email to verify student understands weekly HLAs. Students are required to let school staff know what specific assistance they require.

A student needing additional assistance in math or Latin will receive an online subscription (Classical Academic Press or Nicole the Math Lady), or DVD of the program to assist student with comprehension.

In order to provide additional support to students, parents will be required to attend tutoring or class instruction to learn how to best monitor and supervise HLA completion at home.

**513.2              Incomplete HLA Assignments**

Assignments are due on the week listed on the HLA sheet. Missing assignments are recorded as such in ACE's on-line grading system. Failure to submit any assignments for a given week results in student being assigned to Homework Club; only a student's AD may release them from Homework Club.

In addition, any student chronically missing assignments will be required to utilize student's SIF monies exclusively for additional academic assistance. Academic Deans and the administration may also assign character projects, require parental signature on HLA forms to verify parent is aware of missing or incomplete assignments, assign in-school suspension, and/or take whatever other additional measures they deem necessary to motivate the student to seriously apply to their education.

## 600 Rewards & Recognition

### 601 Supplemental Instructional Funds

We desire that all ACE students be characterized by excellence. Thus, students earn funds during September through May (9 months/year) and are able to access these funds from October through June. Students receive monthly Supplemental Instructional Funds if at the end of each three-week cycle, their previous cycle's work was completed. This work requirement includes the following:

- All assigned HLAs are current as of 4th Tuesday submissions;
- As of the Sunday following 4th Tuesday, all math lessons assigned by math teacher are current verifying student is on schedule;
- As of the Sunday following 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, all subject grades are 70% or higher.

Funds not earned in a month are forfeited unless ACE arranges to pay for additional instruction from qualified certified teacher or qualified registered charter school teacher for the purpose of getting the student caught up or to bring grades up to passing.

Funds may be used by families in the following 3 ways:

- 1) For extra-curricular instruction:
  - o For successfully completed high school credit class (official transcript must be submitted), to register & pay test fees (fees vary) for a qualified person to become a teacher to provide instruction in an NCES coded subject;
  - o to reimburse a family for a qualified person to give ACE student **instruction** (supplies are not reimbursable) in NCES coded subject;
    - Family must submit hard copy receipts with required information- ACE receipt & receipt from instructor (ACE receipt & instructor receipt must match).
- 2) Supplemental academic materials associated with ACE curriculum, recommended by AD (for example: Latin streaming subscription, Saxon math video subscription, or manipulatives).
- 3) Supplemental school materials can be purchased (online book subscriptions, library card, 1 musical instrument/year; dance/sports equipment (not clothing); arts & craft supplies, technology devices used for school assignments). Clarifying approved reimbursements before purchasing items is recommended.
- 4) For fees related to single/one-time entry (ACE students and parent admission only) into educational event or facility tied directly to instruction student is receiving from qualified certified teacher or qualified registered charter school teacher:
  - o Art museum, concert, ballet, OMSI, Oregon Coast Aquarium, etc.
  - o Receipt from location required & ACE receipt.

## 2023-2024 ACE Handbook

During the year a student's SIF account may be used to pay for ACE-sponsored field trips (i.e., family entrance fees), replacement uniform pieces, library fees, teacher pay and materials for individualized classes arranged by ACE to be held for a student(s), etc.

If a student or parent has field trip fees paid for by ACE & then the student or parent fails to attend the event, the student's SIF account will be charged the amount of the fees paid by ACE. Additionally, this applies to non-ACE siblings and guest fees paid from ACE.

Families may verify monthly amounts (including carryover) by reviewing SIF documents online. By the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month following qualification, funds will be distributed incrementally from October through June. Receipts for both May and June may be submitted by the June deadline.

SIF accumulates each month and can be used throughout the year until the student withdraws. Families of withdrawn students have 30 days following withdrawal to submit all paperwork necessary to receive reimbursement from student's SIF account; no funds will be distributed after that date. Reimbursements will not be paid until all books, materials, and uniforms are returned for students withdrawing mid-year.

### AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Kindergarten: A= \$40.00/month

Grades 1-8: A= \$55.00/month

Grades 9-12: \$75.00/month

\*To use funds, submit the following by the date listed on the calendar:

1. Official ACE Receipt (Form 23)
2. Dated receipt from instructor, event, or facility, showing payment information
3. SIF waiver (per activity)
4. Direct Deposit form (all reimbursements are through Direct Deposit. Need only be submitted once.)

\*Hard copies of receipts and forms must be submitted to the ACE office. Electronic copies are not accepted.

## 602 Barnes & Noble Cards

Incentive awards serve two purposes: 1) to reward students for past good character and work successfully completed and 2) to encourage students to continue to exhibit good character and successfully complete future academic work. Incentive awards are presented on Week 1 of the following three-week cycle. Students not enrolled when the incentive awards are presented do not qualify to receive these.

- Was in attendance for classes;
- Was punctual for classes;

- Met dress code requirements;
- Submitted HLAs on time;
- Was current on math assignments in book assigned by ACE;
- Had grades of 70% or higher in every subject;
- Grammar C & up, passed monthly memory work & tests;
- Had no disciplinary incidents (including any form of plagiarism);
- Satisfactorily completed character chore every week;
- Attended scheduled state assessments

### **603 Rewards & Recognition: Honor Roll**

For Dialectic – Rhetoric students carrying a full academic load, the school will recognize academic excellence in those who have earned a 3.5 or higher GPA in a given term.

### **604 Rewards & Recognition: Presidential Award**

For Pre-Reader – Rhetoric students carrying a full academic load, the school will recognize academic excellence in those who have earned all A’s for the entire school year (A’s in each subject, each term).

## **700 INSTRUCTIONAL EVENTS**

Each school year, the ACE administration and parent volunteers organize a variety of instructional events. These include field trips, parties, and student get-togethers. All eligible students are encouraged to attend, but attendance is not required unless event is held during regular school hours, with the exception of Student Orientation, Year-End party, & the Year-End Program.

### **701 Eligibility to Attend Field-Trips & Special Events**

To qualify to attend instructional events, students must have all HLA assignments current and have no more than one unexcused tardy, unexcused absence, or incident report for the previous 6 weeks.

### **702 Instructional Event Costs**

Most costs of instructional events are covered for students. If there are any required fees for an instructional event, they must be paid at the time the student or family member signs up for the event; any such fees are non-refundable. Distance learning students may attend field trips if desired. School parties and student get-togethers are provided to all students at no cost; however, families may be requested to provide refreshments or assistance.

#### **702.1 Field Trip Absences**



If a student or parent has field trip fees paid for by ACE & then the student or parent fails to attend the event, the field trip fee will be deducted from the student's SIF account. Additionally, this applies to non-ACE siblings and guest fees paid from ACE.

### **703 Behavior**

All students must demonstrate good character during instructional events, including arriving in a timely manner and acting respectfully. Students are required to remain under the direct supervision of their parents or an ACE designated staff member. Future attendance at instructional events is dependent upon these stipulations.

## **800 MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

### **801 Valuables and Lost and Found**

Articles of significant value are prohibited at ACE, and, as such, the school assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or broken items. ACE Charter School will not investigate the theft of these items for students who violate this policy by bringing such items to school.

To avoid permanent loss of personal pieces, please mark lunch boxes, binders, and all articles of outerwear. Lost and found articles are stored for a period of one month; unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

### **802 Harassment**

The school environment is to be free of harassment. Harassment includes intentionally annoying another -- verbally, in writing (on paper or electronically), or by physical contact.

It is the South Lane School District's and ACE's policy that students and adults exist together in an environment free of sexual harassment from fellow students and adults. Sexual advances (made with the stated or implied threat that if the advances are resisted or rejected, there will be work or school related reprisals) are considered sexual harassment. The creation of a hostile or uncomfortable environment due to uninvited, un-welcomed, personally offensive sexual attention is also considered sexual harassment. (Refer to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.)

### **803 Public Records Request**

Public records include existing, non-confidential documents. Public records related to ACE may be requested by completing and submitting to the Office Manager the *Request for Copies of Public Records* form. No other submissions are recognized or accepted. A charge of \$.25 per copy and \$15.00 per hour for administration to compile the requested documents is charged. At the time the documents are provided, the fee must be remitted.

### **804 Conflict Resolution**

ACE desires to see all conflicts resolved in an ethical manner. It is important to the welfare of the school

that disagreements not be allowed to affect the working relationship between families and staff. If a situation develops causing tension, families must follow the Chain of Command (see 905).

If a problem arises in a classroom, a parent may be asked to remain in the classroom for a minimum of two weeks to observe the situation. At that point, the parent may communicate to the instructor concerns. If the issue is not resolved, the parent may then follow the Chain of Command Appeal process (see 905).

## **805 Chain of Command Appeals**

ACE policies may be appealed by following the ACE chain of command. Issues must first be addressed with instructors, then ADs, and then school administration. The administration will investigate any complaints and, during executive session, report their findings to the board.

If an issue remains unresolved following an administrative review, an ACE policy may be appealed by submitting a written appeal to the ACE Charter School Board. In the case of an appeal, the Board Chair must be notified two weeks in advance of the regular board meeting so the appeal may be presented during Executive Session.

All appeals must be made in advance, not after the fact. In addition, only one exception appeal may be made per school year.

### **805.1 South Lane School District Appeals**

**After** following the ACE chain of command in an attempt to rectify an issue, families may file an official complaint with the South Lane School District. All ACE Charter School policy is subject to South Lane School District policy.