



2026-2027 Handbook

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MISSION

Akoloutheo Academy is a classical Christian academy for homeschool families of 3rd-5th grade students. Our desire is to come alongside families and help them achieve their academic goals by providing a rigorous, systematic, age-appropriate education. Our goal is to supplement, not supplant, the care and instruction provided to students by their parents. We desire to honor and glorify Christ in all that we teach, in how we nurture students, and in how we foster community among the families of our school.

WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET

Akoloutheo Academy meets at *Issaquah Christian Church, 10328 Issaquah-Hobart Rd SE, Issaquah, WA 98027*. Class is held Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9:30-3:15, with class doors opening at 9:15. Our Orientation Day is held the Wednesday after Labor Day, and classes begin the Monday following Labor Day. Akoloutheo observes a Christmas break, a mid-winter break, and a spring break, and the last day of class occurs on the Tuesday preceding Memorial Day. An academic calendar for the upcoming school year will be posted on the website no later than March.

SUBJECTS TAUGHT

Akoloutheo Academy provides classroom instruction for the following subjects, taught by Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Otto. Some subjects are taught to the whole group (approximately 28 students) while others are divided by grade level for more age-specific instruction.

- Bible
- Literature
- Latin
- Science
- History
- Writing
- Grammar
- Fine Arts
- Memory Work

*Completion of a parent-selected Spelling curriculum is expected on home-instruction days. Students are provided incentive for daily practice.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following statements are the basic elements of Christianity which the policies and practices of Akoloutheo shall reflect, at all grade levels.

1. We believe the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and the final authority in faith and life.
2. We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe the God we serve is the creator and sustainer of all things, and the source of all truth. He is holy, righteous, good, loving and full of mercy.
3. We believe that God upholds, disposes, and governs all creatures, actions and things, and that God, in His ordinary providence, makes use of means, yet is free to work without, above, or against them at His pleasure.
4. We believe that all people are, by nature, separated from God and responsible for their own sin, but that salvation, redemption, and forgiveness are freely offered to all by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When a person repents of sin and accepts Jesus Christ as personal savior and Lord, trusting Him to save, that person is immediately born again and sealed by the Holy Spirit. All sins are forgiven, and that person becomes a child of God, and is eternally with the Lord.
5. We believe in the true deity and full humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in His virgin birth, in his sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.
6. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone, and that good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidence of a true and lively faith.
7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling and leading, the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
8. We believe the only true basis of Christian fellowship is Christ's Agape love, which is greater than any differences we possess and without which we have no right to claim ourselves Christians.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Although parents of Akoloutheo Academy students have involved teachers to help meet their goals, they retain the primary responsibility for the education and upbringing of

their children. Experience has shown us that the program provided by Akoloutheo Academy is most beneficial when combined with *active, interested, and enthusiastic participation by the parents*. Akoloutheo Academy **requires** close parental involvement. Each family is expected to participate in the following ways:

- Pray for your child, their teachers, and the direction of their education.
- Oversee your child's classwork, and work with them daily on assigned homework. Excuse assignments sparingly, striving to complete all assigned work.
- Provide diligent instruction on non-academy days, and in the additional subjects (such as math) that comprise the balance of your child's curricula.
- Stay in compliance with all Washington State homeschool laws, including filing 'Intent to Homeschool' with your local school district, and the completion of an annual assessment as required by Washington State.
- Confer with your child's teachers regularly.
- Be aware of, and praise, your child's progress.
- **Serve as Parent Helper on a rotational basis (3-4 times per year.)**
- Serve at and attend our two recitations (one in December, and one at the end of the year.)

Parent Helper

Every new parent that serves as a PARENT HELPER must complete a background check. A link with further instructions about how to complete the background check will be sent via email in July, prior to the start of the school year.

The PARENT HELPER must arrive at the Akoloutheo campus (Issaquah Christian Church) by 11:55 am on his/her scheduled day, unless otherwise notified.

The PARENT HELPER will help with various clerical and cleaning duties. They will also assist the teachers by supervising two recess periods (the first being from 12:00-12:30 pm, and the second being from 2:45-3:10 pm) either outside or inside, depending upon the weather. It will be the PARENT HELPER'S responsibility to keep order and see that the students behave in accordance with school rules during these recess periods.

On Mondays, the PARENT HELPER will have clerical duties after the noon recess, which may include organizing and recording homework assignments, hole-punching papers, filing graded papers, gluing photos to portfolio pages, etc.

On Tuesdays, the PARENT HELPER will be responsible for tearing down of the classroom, vacuuming, sanitizing surfaces, and returning supplies to the storage closet. This could potentially take until 4:00 pm, though Tuesday's PARENT HELPER will usually have a break between the end of lunch recess and the beginning of the 2:45 afternoon recess.

In general, the PARENT HELPER'S responsibility is to facilitate and maximize the teachers' instruction time.

ADMISSIONS

The enrollment process for admission to Akoloutheo Academy will begin in February each year. An application for each new or returning student must be submitted before enrollment will be considered. The application will be posted on the website, shared via email with returning families, and you can email Taren Davis at akoacademydirector@gmail.com with any questions you have prior to, or during the completion of the application. Students that are 8 by the first day of school will be considered for the 3rd grade class, students that are 9 by the first day of school will be considered for the 4th grade class, and students that are 10 by the first day of school will be considered for the 5th grade class.

If your family has never had a student attend Akoloutheo Academy in the past, we ask for a pastoral reference, and a phone interview or classroom visit will be scheduled after your application has been reviewed.

Returning students and families are given priority to commit to the next school year before new applicants are considered. Additionally, openings for incoming 3rd grade students are filled first, followed by any openings for 4th and 5th grade students that are available once returning families have had a chance to confirm their return. Total school size is approximately 28 students.

ATTENDANCE

A student enrolled at Akoloutheo Academy is expected to be present and on time every day classes are in session. That being said, we understand that there are many reasons a student might not be present every day class is in session (illness, planned vacations, birth of a new sibling, etc.) So, we ask parents to prayerfully consider any planned absences, and communicate any absences to the teachers as soon as possible. Parents can share these notifications via Remind, or email.

Short-term Absences

If a student needs to be absent from Akoloutheo for any reason, please contact a teacher using our **Remind messaging service, email, or text** prior to the beginning of the school day, or as soon as possible.

Extended Absences

Akoloutheo will gladly cooperate with families taking their children from Akoloutheo Academy for vacations, mission trips, etc. For administrative purposes, please submit notice of all planned extended absences **in person** or through **Remind messaging service, email, or written note**. Many activities done in the classroom cannot be replicated at home, so please keep this in mind when scheduling vacations during school days. Akoloutheo observes Christmas, midwinter, and spring breaks, and these make great vacation times.

Make-up Work

Whenever possible, the teachers will provide students with copies of missed work to be completed following an absence. However, many classroom activities are difficult to replicate at home and may need to be skipped in the case of an absence. Students work each month to earn a 'homework charm' in recognition of completing all assigned work for the month. In instances of work missed due to illness, the teachers may excuse this missed work, allowing for the receipt of that month's homework charm.

Tardiness

Students are asked to arrive and be ready to begin morning prayer and announcements promptly at 9:30 am. Classroom doors open at 9:15 am to allow students time to arrive and complete any necessary activities (filling up water bottles, using the restroom, hanging coats, etc.) to be ready on time. Issaquah-Hobart Road has notoriously bad

traffic, especially in the hours right before and after school. It's helpful to know this ahead of time to plan accordingly. Traffic apps such as Waze allow you to utilize routes that avoid peak traffic on the way to and from school.

CLASSROOM HOURS

The classroom doors open at 9:15. Students are not allowed **in the building** (this includes the hallway right inside the doors) before that time. Students who arrive on campus before 9:15 must be supervised by a parent or carpool parent. Students who enter the classroom at 9:15 *must stay in the classroom* if their parent or carpool parent has left the school campus. Class begins promptly at 9:30 and ends at 3:15. Students and families are welcome to stay on campus and enjoy fellowship with one another after class ends, but there won't be access to a bathroom once Mrs. Davis leaves and locks up the building for the day, often at 4:00 pm.

DRESS CODE

We believe the Akoloutheo Academy dress code enhances the atmosphere of the classroom and the orderliness of students, while allowing for the active play, games, and activities that occur in an elementary school classroom.

- **Tops:**
 - Akoloutheo logo shirt or sweatshirt (**Logo shirts and sweatshirts will be available to order in September**)
 - Solid-colored polo shirt
- **Bottoms:**
 - Jeans or slacks, in good condition (no rips or tears, please) *Sweat, exercise pants, or leggings worn as pants are not permitted.
 - Girls may wear skirts, but they should fall at or below the knee, and have shorts or leggings worn underneath to allow for active play at recess.
 - Knee-length or longer shorts may be worn during hot weather, in Sept. and May only.
- **Head:**
 - Hair should not cover the eyes in a way that obscures a student's view of their teacher
 - Hats and hoods are only to be worn outdoors, please
- **Shoes:**
 - Students are asked to wear closed-toed shoes, suitable for running (flip-flops and bare feet are not allowed by insurance)
 - Please consider waterproof shoes for rainy months- soggy socks are no fun:)

- **Jackets:**

-Weather-appropriate (often that means waterproof) jackets allow for enjoyable outdoor recess. We have recess outdoors if at all possible, including rainy days.

STUDENT RULES OF CONDUCT

This is the basic code of conduct that Akoloutheo Academy requires all students to obey.

1. Students are expected to observe Christian standards of behavior and conversation. For example, students are to speak honestly, respect their peers, and submit to authority.
2. Prompt and cheerful obedience is expected. Talking back or arguing with teachers or the Parent Helper is not permitted.
3. Students must comply with all aspects of the dress code.
4. To avoid litter and distraction, we ask that chewing gum, electronic musical devices and games, be left at home. Fidgets are permitted within reason, but the teachers reserve the right to remove them from the student's desk, should they become prohibitive to the learning process for the student or for those around them.
5. Students are expected to be aware of and avoid the off-limit areas of the church building (students will be given an orientation on the first day of class to review all off-limit areas.) Students should not play on or around cars in the parking lot during recess, or before or after school. The playground to the rear of the school is only to be played on before or after school by younger siblings, under the supervision of their parents. Akoloutheo students may not play on the structures of this playground.
6. Running is not allowed in the church building.
7. Students are expected to treat all class materials, and our facilities, with respect and care.
8. Students are expected to treat one another with kindness and respect. Teasing, criticizing, name-calling, passing cruel notes, and other forms of verbal or physical abuse are not permitted.
9. Students are expected to treat prayer and class discussion with proper reverence. Jokes, songs, or behavior that trivializes or exhibits disrespect toward God are not permitted.
10. Public displays of affection in the context of boy/girl relationships are not permitted at Akoloutheo Academy. Friendships that form between boys and girls at our school are wonderful, but we don't talk about 'crushes' or try to foster

romantic relationships with classmates. Jokes and teasing on this subject are not permitted.

11. Any missed work due to absences not excused should be completed in a timely manner
12. Students are asked to raise their hand before speaking in class.
13. Silliness for attention, and other forms of disruptive class behavior are prohibited.
14. It is expected that students will work diligently, participate in class discussions, and concentrate on their work while in school.
15. Students accept responsibility to complete all homework assignments in a timely manner.
16. Students are not allowed to use personal cell phones or smart watches with cell phone features on campus *-this includes when playing before or after school*. A student may use a parent helper's cell phone or the teacher's phone for times when they need to contact a parent.
17. Students recognize that they are to be held responsible for their conduct, both in action and attitude, by their parents, teachers, and those in authority at Akoloutheo Academy.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The art of classroom discipline is primarily the responsibility of the teachers at Akoloutheo Academy, and they will handle the bulk of day-to-day behavior skills management. If a student displays consistent problems, or if there is a single incident of a very serious nature, the teacher will confer with the student's parents to develop a specific plan of action.

Disciplinary options for a student may include removing them from class for a set period determined by Akoloutheo Academy teaching staff, or in the event of a serious act of misconduct, it may result in removal from enrollment at Akoloutheo Academy. Removal from enrollment is done entirely at the discretion of the Akoloutheo teaching staff.

The Student Rules of Conduct must be read and reviewed by each child before they agree to them in the application. Parents are expected to communicate in person or by phone with teachers if they have any concerns about behavioral issues in the classroom or on the playground.

Truth and grace are the cornerstones of consistent and loving discipline in our classroom and on our playground. Parents should encourage their children to pray for those with whom they have personality clashes, and they should model grace and kindness as a Godly way of resolving interpersonal conflicts. We love to remind students of James 1:19 which says, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." The beauty of

being in a Christian community is that we get to practice Biblical conflict resolution as we grow in grace.

CLASS MATERIALS

Parents are responsible for purchasing their student(s) items from the supplies and curriculum lists published each year. These lists will be shared with families in June or July. In choosing books and supplies we are careful to find ways to make this as economical as possible. When e-books are available, along with other free online options, we will make parents aware of these options. Siblings can share non-consumable books, such as the novels we use for literature studies. The books/supplies list from the previous year can be shared upon request if a family is trying to approximate cost, or better understand the scope of the list.

HOME ASSIGNMENTS (WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY WORK)

Akoloutheo Academy teachers will give home assignments to their students to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom. These assignments are expected to be completed Wednesday-Friday. The principal reasons for home assignments are as follows:

- A substantial portion of the curriculum work is independent study (reading, copy-work, daily practice of latin vocabulary/chants, etc.) that is best done outside of class.
- Students often need some amount of extra practice in new or specific concepts, skills, or facts. In certain subjects, regular practice at home may be necessary for mastery. Therefore, teachers will assign homework to allow for necessary practice.
- Repeated, short periods of practice or study of new information are often a better way to learn than one long period of study.
- Home assignments enable parents to monitor the current topics of study in class and provide supplemental discussion and instruction.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of snow and inclement weather, Akoloutheo Academy will follow Issaquah School District's decision as to school closures. If the Issaquah School District **delays** classes by an hour due to inclement weather, Akoloutheo Academy will be **open as**

usual with no delay. Students who can travel safely should do so. However, if travel is dangerous, then individual students may choose to remain home.

On days when inclement weather is possible *after the start of class*, parents must be able to check their phones for updates during the school day. If conditions change for the worse, parents will be contacted and asked to pick students up early so they can safely return home.

Akoloutheo Academy utilizes the Remind system for emergency notices and day to day communication. Parents will sign up for Remind and may choose to receive texts or emails from the app. This allows quick and easy communication between teachers and parents.

TEACHER ILLNESS CANCELLATION POLICY

If Mrs. Davis becomes seriously ill *and her substitutes are unavailable*, school will be canceled, and, to the best of the teachers' ability, assignments will be conveyed to families by way of email.

TUITION AND FEES

Materials & Supplies Fee

\$165 per student

Fee must be paid by March 31st (returning families) or within 30 days of notice of acceptance (new families) to ensure your admittance for the following year. This fee *does not* include the books and supplies each student must purchase from the Akoloutheo booklist published in July. This fee is non-refundable.

Note: For families of multiple students, the Materials and Supplies Fee is reduced by \$100 for each additional student (\$230 for a family with 2 students)

Building Fee

\$215 per student

Fee must be paid by **June 2nd, 2026 (day of our portfolio picnic)** and **made payable to Akoloutheo Academy**, though all building fees will be given in full to Issaquah Christian Church to pay for use of their facility. This fee is non-refundable.

Note: For families of multiple students, the Building Fee is reduced by \$50 for each additional student (\$380 for a family with 2 students)

Tuition

\$3,240 per student

- **All** checks are due **no later than the first day of class**, made payable to *Akoloutheo Academy*.
 - **Option 1- monthly (9 checks)**
\$360/month
Dated 9/1/26, 10/1/26, 11/1/26, 12/1/26, 1/1/27, 2/1/27, 3/1/27, 4/1/27 & 5/1/27
 - **Option 2- biannual (2 checks)**
\$1,620 dated 9/1/26
\$1,620 dated 1/1/27
 - **Option 3- whole year (1 check)**
\$3,240 dated 9/1/26