



Elementary Parent Handbook

Welcome

Welcome to Anacortes Christian School (ACS)! We are thrilled you are considering ACS for your student and we are excited to show you all that our wonderful school has to offer! ACS will offer Preschool through 5th grade this year with plans to expand the school at least one grade per year, every year.

We believe that ACS fills a void that has long existed in Anacortes and that the children of Anacortes deserve a Christian education where Truth and Life are infused into all aspects of their learning. We understand that your children you put in our care are the most important beings in your life and we take seriously treating them as such. Our teachers, staff, and volunteers are all committed to providing each and every student with a high-quality learning environment rich in love, support and purpose. Throughout this handbook we will go into depth on all the ins and outs of what we are all about.

General Info

- For the '25-'26 academic year, there will be three classrooms:
 - o Preschool (3s and 4s)
 - o Combined K-2nd classroom
 - o Combined 3rd-5th classroom.
- For the elementary grades, there will be a head teacher in each classroom with one teacher's assistant shared between the two classrooms as well intermittent volunteers.
- For the preschool, there will be a head teacher with a dedicated full-time teacher assistant.
- We will cap the classrooms at 15 full-time equivalent students.

Mission and Vision

Anacortes Christian School offers a Christian education deeply rooted in the Word of God. Here's what were all about:

Mission: To provide an excellent, holistic education, rooted in the infallible word of God, that will equip students to be a Light in the world.

Vision: To raise up a new generation of strong Christians who will lead revival in our community, state, nation, and world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Core Values:

1. **Excellence** - We are committed to delivering exceptional quality in both our physical learning spaces and the education itself.
2. **Truth** - We hold the belief that the Word represents ultimate truth, and we use it as a guiding force to make all our decisions.
3. **Purpose** - We believe that God has a meaningful purpose for each individual, and our aim is to help our staff and students identify their unique gifts and use them to honor God.

Academics

We will offer preschool through 5th grade for the '25-'26 school year with plans to continue expanding at least one grade per year to keep up with the oldest class. Our classes will be capped at 15 students this year.

Core Topics and Curriculum

Math – enVision

Writing – Handwriting Without Tears

ELA – My Father's World, Letters and Numbers for Me, Slingerland

Bible – My Father's World

Science – God's Design

Social Studies – TCI

Electives

One thing that sets ACS apart is our engaging, hands-on special electives. There are weekly "electives" like art, social studies, science and of course the Friday Forest Adventure, but we also shuffle through "special" elective blocks throughout the school year. In the '24-'25 year, we did electronics, dance & movement and home-ec.

Philosophy of Education

We believe that God created this world and all that is in it: mathematics, language, reading, writing, science, social studies, play, recess, and so much more; it all only exists because of a loving Creator. So, to learn about the creation but omit the Creator is to miss the most important part of learning. So, at ACS, not only will students receive the highest quality of education, but they will also learn about the God who created them, the love He has for them, and the purpose that He has for their lives. A big part of achieving this is through real-life experiences! Learning about who God is and about His creation through books, worksheets, and projects has great value, but we also know that children especially learn through hands-on experience. Whether it is fun cut-out art projects, adventuring in the Anacortes forest lands, or making cookies during home-ec elective, students are always encouraged to learn through their curiosity. We find that a healthy balance of classwork and hands-on cultivates the best education environment and so that is what we strive for.

Structure

ACS follows a traditional school approach where students progress through grades. However, we often combine two or three consecutive grades into one classroom. Our experience with multi-grade classrooms has been outstanding, with younger students looking up to and learning

from older students while the older students get opportunities to lead, mentor, and teach, solidifying past curricula in their minds.

Although students progress through grades, because of small class sizes, we can afford a more tailored education. If a student is excelling in one topic but not another, we can pace them faster in the topic they are strong in instead of holding them back to the lowest common denominator.

[Bible](#)

Our dedicated bible time each day is wonderful for our students, but we believe that students learn best from experience and good modeling. This is why our teachers infuse prayer, Jesus' love, and biblical principles throughout all topics. Our heart is to be a resource to all people in our community that are seeking a high-quality Christian education which is why we remain non-denominational with our bible lessons. For questions that can be debated between denominations, we refer students to their pastors and parents. See our Statement of Faith below.

[Core Topics](#)

ACS Elementary focuses primarily on teaching students to excel in the "Three R's": writing, reading, and arithmetic. Additionally, as part of delivering a holistic education, we supplement with science, art, PE, performing arts, Socratic discussion, and of course play! Apart from traditional worksheets and projects, our teachers will often walk students through experiential learning activities where they engage in hands-on activities to make the learning experience more visceral and to root the teaching deep in their minds.

[Parent Involvement](#)

[Parent-Teacher Communication](#)

ACS prides itself in maintaining consistent and clear communication with our parents. We will keep you informed on important dates, upcoming field trips, etc. through email (don't worry, we won't spam you!). Additionally, we will hold brief parent-teacher conferences every other month to keep parents up-to-date on student progress. We believe that parents are an essential part of a student's education, so it is important to keep them involved.

[Classroom Volunteer](#)

If parents are interested, they can volunteer by helping out in the classroom and/or at recess. This is not required.

Faculty



Marika Bierma – Elementary Teacher

Marika grew up in a small town in Oregon on a farm and lived there most of her childhood. She has been pursuing medicine, but after an impactful experience as a TA during a gap year, she realized her passion for teaching. Her bright spirit and creativity paired with her education make her a wonderful addition to the ACS team!



Sarah McKee – Elementary Teacher

Sarah was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Inspired by her time teaching in her church's children ministry, she studied elementary education in college. Her and her husband, who serves in the military, are stationed in WA now after spending the last two years in VA. She is excited to be part of the ACS family and cannot wait to help each student grow into the calling God has placed over their lives.



David Rodriguez – School Founder

David was raised in Anacortes, WA. After high school, he went on to graduate from Washington State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After working for a year as an engineer, he realized his heart was to serve his community. David is kind, hardworking, and enjoys laughing with the students at recess.



Tim and Melissa Nigro – Chaplains

Tim and Melissa were raised in Beaverton, OR and are now pastors at the Living Rock Foursquare Church in Anacortes, WA, where the school is located. In their spare time, Tim and Melissa enjoy taking runs in the forest, spending time with their five children, and playing music. Tim serves on the ACS School Board and also teaches Bible Time once a week for ACS.

Facilities

Classrooms are located in the Living Rock Foursquare Church. The head pastor of that church, Timothy Nigro, has been gracious to allow us to use the space pro bono. Although the school takes place in a Foursquare church, the curriculum is still non-denominational. Our hope is that the school is a resource to the entirety of Anacortes.

Tuition and Financial Aid

'25-'26 Annual Tuition and Fees

| | Elementary (K-5) Annual Tuition | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|
| | Full-time | 4-Day | 3-Day | 2-Day |
| 1 st Child | \$7,500 | \$6,600 | \$5,175 | \$3,750 |
| 2 nd Child (5% disc.) | \$7,125 | \$6,270 | \$4,916 | \$3,563 |

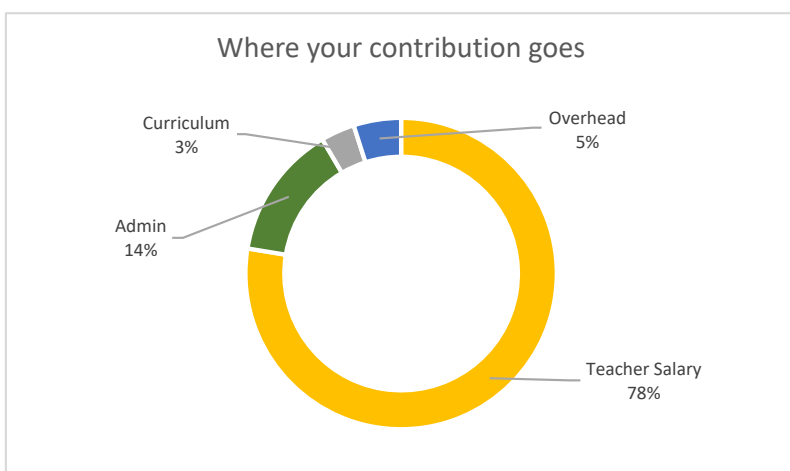
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| 3 rd Child (10% disc.) | \$6,750 | \$5,940 | \$4,658 | \$3,375 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

There is no application fee this year. Upon acceptance to ACS, the first month's tuition will be paid as a non-refundable down payment.

Financial Aid

Our goal is to make a Christian education available and affordable to any family that seeks it. That being said, we must also prioritize financial stability of the school. Financial aid will be offered on the basis of need as well as merit. If you feel like the cost is an issue, please email admissions@anacorteschristianschool.org. We want to work with you to make this possible.

Spending Breakdown



Teacher Salary:

Compensation for all teachers at ACS.

Admin: Compensation for HR, Bookkeeper, and Superintendent

Curriculum: Books, worksheets, pens, paper, etc.

Overhead: Taxes, utilities, insurance, etc.

Admissions Process

1. Schedule a visit: come meet our founder and teachers, ask any questions you may have, and tour the building.
2. Student shadow (optional): if there is space in our schedule, have your student "shadow" a morning at ACS!
3. Fill out the admissions application: navigate to our school website at anacorteschristianschool.org. Find the "Admissions" tab, scroll down to the "Apply Now" section, and click the "Apply" button. Fill out the PDF, scan it, and email it to admissions@anacorteschristianschool.org.

Policies

Discipline

Anacortes Christian School follows the Bible's guidance for student discipline, in particular these key verses:

- Ephesians 6:1-4 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- Proverbs 22:6 - Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.
- Matthew 18:15-17 - If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- Matthew 18:21-22 - Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

We will work with both the parents, teacher, and students to resolve issues in a manner that glorifies God.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe in the Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and in His death, resurrection and ascension.
4. We believe that man, by voluntary transgression, fell and thereby incurred physical death and separation from God.
5. We believe in salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ as man's only hope of redemption.
6. We believe in water baptism through immersion and the partaking of Holy Communion as a memorial of His suffering and death.
7. We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to bestow spiritual gifts for use in life and service.
8. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as seen in the book of Acts.
9. We believe in divine healing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
10. We believe there will be a final judgment, when those not found written in the Book of Life will be consigned to everlasting punishment with the devil and his angels, the beast, and the false prophet.

Letter from the Founder: Future Vision for ACS

Thank you so much for considering Anacortes Christian School for your child. It has been such an amazing journey getting this school to the point that it is today. Although it took many long days of planning, researching, and praying, it is all worth it to hear the students play, learn, and openly pray and sing praise to God. Early in our first year, on a crisp, fall Friday afternoon, the students were on their weekly Outdoor Adventure where they take a trip into the forest and learn about God's creation. While running through the trails (the students are not fond of walking), one of our 1st Grade students, Ella, tripped and skinned her knee. When we got back to the building, we got a little band-aid on her and all was well. Then it occurred to me: This is a Christian school, we can pray for healing openly here! When I suggested it to the other students, they were thrilled. And as I saw the kids praying for Ella's "boo-boo" to heal quickly, I just sat back and thought, "*This* is what it is all about."

We are so looking forward to this year, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Rodriguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Rodriguez".

David Rodriguez

Founder

Anacortes Christian School

Contact Us

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