



Parent & Student Handbook 2020-2021

Description

A Parish School - Atonement Academy is the parish school and a ministry of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Atonement, a member parish of the Anglican Church in North America and the Reformed Episcopal Church.

A Hybrid School - In its current form, Atonement Academy is a hybrid, or part-time, high school and ministry to families of high school students who are registered as home education students. In other words, Atonement Academy is organized as a “homeschool co-op” rather than a “registered, non-public school.” Atonement Academy does not meet the requirements of a registered school. All students served by Atonement Academy must be registered as home education students and the appropriate affidavit submitted to their public school district. Each student’s parents bear the responsibility of ensuring that all requirements of home education are met, though Atonement Academy will provide documentation for parents to use for meeting those requirements.

A Christian School - As a parish school, Atonement Academy is education in, of, for, and by the Church. Its general purpose is to teach high school students to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves. Within this general purpose, Atonement Academy’s specific mission is to train and deploy loyal servants of Jesus, equipped to lead cultural change at all levels of society. In pursuing this mission, we seek to implement the values of joy, excellence, simplicity, and community. We also seek to provide young adults in high school with opportunities to take responsibility, to mature, and to develop life skills and positive habits, known as the virtues.

Our Statement of Faith

Atonement Academy is a ministry of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Atonement, which is a parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC). As such, Atonement Academy accepts and will be bound by all doctrinal standards of the Reformed Episcopal Church--a thoroughly biblical and gospel-centered Anglican jurisdiction and member of the Anglican Church in North America.

Our primary purpose is to teach baptized, believing high school students how to live out their Christian faith. We may also admit students who are not baptized or do not believe the Christian faith as long as

they are willing to learn about the Christian faith and willing to follow and be governed by all behavior expectations of the school and code of conduct.

With regard to certain topics in regard to which society at large has diverged from the teachings of Christ and His Church as these teachings have been recorded in Holy Scripture, Atonement Academy and the REC hold to the historical and biblical moral teachings of the Church.

Specifically, Atonement Academy affirms the historical and biblical teachings of the Church (historically found in most non-Christian religious and moral beliefs and practices also) that:

1. Biological sex is a fixed category as taught in Genesis 1:27 (“male and female He created them”). A male person has an X and Y chromosome. A female person has two X chromosomes. The terms “gender” and “biological sex” are therefore synonymous from a biblical perspective (which we would hold is also a scientific and historically normative perspective). Therefore, students and staff are not allowed to transition or represent themselves as the opposite gender or biological sex, because that would constitute a denial of who God has created them to be.
2. Marriage is an exclusive and life-long union between one man and one woman and the only proper context in which to express human sexuality and romantic physical intimacy. We therefore teach and require chastity until and faithfulness in marriage, so defined, for our students, their families, and our staff. Accordingly, we prohibit sexual immorality of all kinds by our students and staff, including but not limited to premarital sex or premarital sexual intimacy of any kind, inappropriate sexual or pornographic communication of any kind, homosexuality, the use of pornography, and adultery.

Academic Program

Atonement Academy offers the innovative Wayside Curriculum in a college-style/hybrid format, designed for the needs of today’s families, whether homeschooling or traditional schooling. Designed originally for Atonement Academy by our Principal Teacher, the Reverend Andrew Brummett, the Wayside School will eventually offer this curriculum through the internet to additional students. Rigorous yet restful, the Wayside Curriculum prepares high school students for college, career, or military service. Each year, students will be required to complete seven course credits and will be able to complete an additional course for honors credit. Additional courses and learning opportunities may be offered in the future. The Wayside Curriculum will be implemented at Atonement Academy in an explicitly Christian format.

All of our non-math courses are appropriate for any high school student at reading level or above and do not have any prerequisites. Our math courses use the popular Math-U-See curriculum, completely managed by us so homeschooling parents can release this responsibility as mathematics reaches higher skill levels.

Curriculum Summary

Atonement Academy operates on a three-year cycle of courses, so that students will receive a total of 21 credits, including all credits needed for their high school diploma. Where feasible, we offer some courses in one semester that would normally be offered in two high school semesters, so students can hone in on a smaller amount of courses per semester, more like college than high school. High school math courses are offered simultaneously by ability groups using the excellent Math-U-See curriculum.

Amount of Credit	Type of Credit	Course Title
Summary of Year A (7 credits)		
1	English	Survey of Ancient & Medieval Literature
1	Social Studies (History)	Foundations of the U.S. Founding
0.5	Social Studies	Microeconomics
1	Other	Logic
0.5	Math	Personal Finance
1	Science	Physics
1	Math	Algebra I or II, Geometry, or Pre-Calculus
1	Other	Christian Catechesis & Apologetics I
Summary of Year B (7 credits)		
1	English	Essays Before & After the U.S. Constitution
1	English	Writing Workshop & Research Project
1	Social Studies (History)	U.S. Founding in Global Context, 1750-1890
0.5	Social Studies	Macroeconomics
0.5	Social Studies	International Relations
1	Science	Chemistry
1	Math	Algebra I or II, Geometry, or Pre-Calculus
1	Other	Christian Catechesis & Bible
Summary of Year C (7 credits)		
1	English	Modern Fiction & Poetry
1	Social Studies (History)	Modern Political History
1	Social Studies	Leadership Studies & Strategic Thought
0.5	Social Studies	U.S. Government
0.5	Social Studies	Introduction to Legal Studies
1	Science	Biology
1	Math	Algebra I or II, Geometry, or Pre-Calculus
1	Other	Christian Catechesis & Vocational Discernment

Admission Requirements

Please Note: Some waivers may be granted for exceptional students and circumstances.

1. Must be at least 13 to enter but not older than 15. Students normally enter in the fall semester, but may sometimes enter in the spring semester.
2. Must have passed Pre-Algebra (usually with a strong A or B grade if taking it in the 7th grade).
3. Must be able to read at approximately a 9th grade level or higher.
4. Must have the self-control necessary to work independently and promote a peaceful, productive learning environment at all times.
5. Must demonstrate sufficient academic habits for expected success at Atonement Academy.
6. Must be willing to meet all behavioral expectations.

Dismissal

If any student fails to demonstrate sufficient academic effort, receives failing grades consistently, or fails to meet behavioral expectations, the student may be dismissed and forfeit his or her seat at the school. Normally, the student will be allowed to complete the academic year unless his or her behavior substantially detracts from other students' ability to learn. A student will also be dismissed during the year if tuition is unpaid.

2020-2021 Calendar

The Academic Year consists of two semesters. The fall semester begins on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and ends on Thursday, January 14, 2021. The spring semester begins on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and ends on Thursday, May 27, 2021. The following days are holidays: November 23-27(Thanksgiving Break); December 21 - January 1 (Christmas Break); April 1-11 (Easter Break). The following holidays will be observed by students and staff: Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veteran's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents' Day; and Memorial Day.

Grades

At Atonement Academy, an A means a student has demonstrated mastery of a subject, a B means a student has demonstrated proficiency in a subject, and a C means that a student has demonstrated a sufficient understanding of the subject to progress. A plus (+) indicates maximally demonstrating the various levels of accomplishment, while a minus (-) indicates minimally demonstrating them. An F indicates that a student has failed to achieve a minimum level of accomplishment in a subject to achieve course credit for that course. Each course will have a different formula for determining the overall course grade. Course information and assignments will be provided to students on the first day of class.

2020-2021 Course Schedule (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Fall Semester 2020</u>	<u>Spring Semester 2021</u>
9-9:15	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
9:15-10	Math (Algebra I or Geometry) (0.5 credits)	Math (Algebra I or Geometry) (0.5 credits)
10-10:45	Logic (1 credit)	General Physics (Novare) (1 credit)
10:45-11:30	Logic (1 credit)	Christian Catechesis & Apologetics II (0.5 credits)
11:30-12:30	Lunch with Christian Catechesis & Apologetics I (0.5 credits)	Lunch with General Physics (Novare) (1 credit)
12:30-1:15	Survey of Ancient Literature (0.5 credits)	Survey of Medieval Literature (0.5 credits)
1:15-2:00	Foundations of the U.S. Founding (0.5 credits)	Foundations of the U.S. Founding (0.5 credits)
2:00-2:45	Personal Finance (0.5 credits)	Microeconomics (0.5 credits)
2:45-3	Evening Prayer & Dismissal	Evening Prayer & Dismissal

Tuition

Tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year is \$4,200 per student. (\$4,800 for the two-day program, with a “coronavirus scholarship” of \$600 to ease the burden on the family budget this year). Certain other scholarships may be available, such as the multi-child scholarship, but at this time we cannot offer need-based scholarships. We hope to offer these in the future. We recommend that families consider setting up a tax-privileged 529 Plan to use for K-12 tuition and for college in the future. We also suggest that families help their high school students find part-time jobs that allow them to pay for or contribute to their own tuition. At only \$350 per month, our tuition is low enough that a young adult could mow lawns or babysit and earn enough to afford the tuition at Atonement Academy. If you or anyone you know has questions about tuition or affording an Atonement Academy education, please contact a staff member.

Monthly tuition payments are due on the first (1st) of each month and late after the fifteenth (15th) of each month. Late payments will be subject to a \$50 late fee. If tuition remains fully or partially unpaid at the end of the month, including any applicable late fees, then the student will be dismissed from the school, lose their seat, potentially have to enter a waiting list, and have to reapply at a future time if they wish to return. Parents will be notified when we have set up an automatic payment process, to make the process easier.

Conflict Resolution at Atonement Academy

Every school will experience some conflict among and between staff, students, parents, and other stakeholders. This is a normal part of life on this side of glorification, which can often arise simply from misunderstandings, miscommunication, or differing and equally valid perspectives. At Atonement Academy, we will strive to implement the way Jesus taught us to handle conflict, misunderstanding, and sin. In Matthew 18:15-17, he addresses a process for reconciliation when “a brother sins against you.” It begins with going directly to the person who we believe sinned against us, then bringing along another Christian if that does not work, then taking it “to the church” if further steps are needed. At Atonement Academy, we will strive to first address something to the relevant person to try to come to an agreement. If that does not work, it is appropriate to take it to the next higher level of authority. In the case of the students, that would mean trying to work something out with the other student first, and if that does not work taking it to the teacher. Some exceptions to this apply, where it is appropriate and good to take something directly to the teacher, such as when a student says or does something about which the teacher needs to know, such as verbal or physical bullying or fighting or other very inappropriate behaviors. With regard to parents, we ask that you encourage your child to learn and practice adult behavior and take their questions or concerns directly to the teacher rather than the parent stepping in everytime something arises. If that does not resolve the issue, then it would be appropriate for the parent to communicate with the teacher. If that also does not resolve the issue, then it would be appropriate to communicate with the next higher level of authority.

Staff of Atonement Academy (in order of authority)

As a mission parish of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic (REC), the Rector of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Atonement is our Bishop Ordinary, the **Right Reverend Charles (“Chuck”) Gillin** (cgillin@repcoinc.com).

The Vicar of the parish is the **Reverend Jason Holloway** (revholloway@atonementacademy.org). As the one appointed by the bishop for the normal pastoral ministry of the parish, he is the de facto “Head of School” for the parish school.

The Director of Educational Ministries of the parish is **Miss Alena Beeman** (abeeman@recaatonement.org). She leads the aftercare program and oversees the school on behalf of the vicar.

The **Reverend Andrew Brummett** (abrummett@atonementacademy.org) serves as the Principal Teacher of the school and is the person in charge of the educational program and administration of the school.

Mrs. Jamie Riley (info@atonementacademy.org) serves as the Director of Recruitment for the school and is the person to whom prospective students and families should be referred. As a parent of two students, she will also help organize the parents and help in other ways around the school. Questions regarding tuition may be addressed to her.

Mr. Millage Holloway (mholloway@atonementacademy.org) serves as Treasurer of the parish and school and also the designer and manager of the school’s website. He is the person with whom parents should interact in order to set up a payment process.

Dress Code

As part of our plan to emphasize life skills and adult habits during the early adulthood years in order to promote future success and confidence, we require that students dress professionally for their classes. The following four different types of dress are appropriate at various times at Atonement Academy.

Professional Attire - On Tuesdays, students will wear professional attire. For young men, this means wool slacks (charcoal grey, black, or similar colors), dress shoes, a belt that matches the shoes, appropriate socks, a white or light blue button-up shirt with a collar, and an appropriate tie. For young women, this means a comparable standard that is modest (high neck line, skirt no shorter than the knee) and professional looking. Wool sweaters and appropriate professional sport coats, blazers, or suit jackets are also allowed.

Business Casual - On Thursdays, students will wear either **business casual** or **dress denim**, as instructed. Business casual includes cotton pants (i.e. Docker-style or khaki-style pants) and a collared shirt, for both young men and young women, though women may also wear an appropriate skirt no shorter than the knees.

Dress Denim - As an alternative to business casual for Thursdays, students may wear “dress denim.” This style can also be worn when it is snowing or raining on Tuesdays. Dress denim denotes the wear of a nice-looking pair of long, blue, denim jeans with no holes, no words, no glitter, nor any other decorations. The jeans may be various shades or styles of blue denim. A white collared shirt should be worn with the jeans or similar nice-looking collared shirt, but no tie is required. A jacket, sport coat, or wool sweater may be worn.

Gym Clothes - During the 2020-2021 school year, due to the circumstances of the pandemic, we will not have any days for gym clothes. For future reference, when the school incorporates physical fitness into a study day or a student is taking private lessons on a particular study day, the student can wear appropriate gym attire. This includes basketball length shorts (basically extending past the tips of the fingers when arms extended downward), a cotton short-sleeve shirt (no tanks), socks, and athletic shoes. Sweatpants or sweatshirts may be worn over these other items. Spandex is not an option.

Logos and Advertisements on Clothes - The only logos that may appear on any of the clothes worn for school are the small logos such as the Polo guy or the crocodile. No words should appear on any clothes worn for school at any time, including gym clothes. This standard ensures that students learn to dress professionally and differentiate themselves by their talents, gifts, and abilities rather than the message displayed on their clothing.

General Appearance - At Atonement Academy, we teach holistic Christian modesty--that in all that we do we seek not to draw attention to ourselves through surface-level appearance or attributes, but rather through our actions, appearance, and speech draw attention to Our Lord and the godly character He is forming in us from the inside out. What this looks like in practice is usually a well-groomed, clean

appearance free of distracting elements designed to make a statement and get looks. This would exclude tattoos and body piercings other than a pair of earrings for young women. It includes covering up the body in ways that are appropriate for unmarried people in a co-educational setting. Both men and women should wear undershirts under their shirt or blouse. Both men and women should wear undergarments that should not be visible and the lines of which should not be noticeable. This means wearing pants that are not too tight and thick enough so that they hide any inappropriate lines.

The rule of thumb in our dress and appearance standards is to make people feel comfortable and able easily to focus on the important work of learning in which the students are engaged, in short to fulfill Christ's commandments to "love one another" and "love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength."

Student Code of Conduct

Students of Atonement Academy are expected to:

1. Follow the Dress Code (see pages 7 and 8);
2. Prioritize learning and promote peace (inclusive of various behaviors, such as arriving on time, being prepared for class, attending properly to the lesson during class, and not saying or doing anything unkind to one's fellow students);
3. Pursue chastity in singleness (including abstention from the behaviors listed on page 2);
4. Agree to be governed by the statement of faith (see pages 1 and 2) and to voluntarily notify the staff of the school if this willingness changes;
5. Pursue the cardinal virtues of prudence, temperance, fortitude, and justice (for all students) and the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love (for Christian students).

This code of conduct is designed to not be a long list of specific behaviors because we want students to become mature and virtuous young adults, who are capable of making wise moral decisions and following general moral principles that sometimes vary according to the context.

Mobile phones may be brought to school, but must be powered off during school hours and kept inside a backpack or other suitable storage place. Parents will be given the mobile phone numbers of key staff in case they need to reach their child during school hours.

Signatures of Acknowledgement

By signing this page, I acknowledge that I have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by both the Parent & Student Handbook and the Health, Safety, and Emergency Plan.

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____