



CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

**2022-2023 Parent Handbook**

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# Akili Christian High School Mission Statement

It is Akili Christian High School's purpose to educate, train, and develop low-income students into leaders who will give back to their community in meaningful ways. "Akili" is a Swahili word meaning "wisdom, common sense, the mind," and we envision that our graduates will learn the principles of wisdom through their experiences at Akili. We aim to accomplish this mission through the following means:

## Academic Achievement

Each student will have the opportunity to complete their required graduation credits while participating in a flexible career pathway beginning in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The school will measure academic success through NWEA MAP assessments with the goal of each student demonstrating at least one year of growth and through passing end of course examinations.

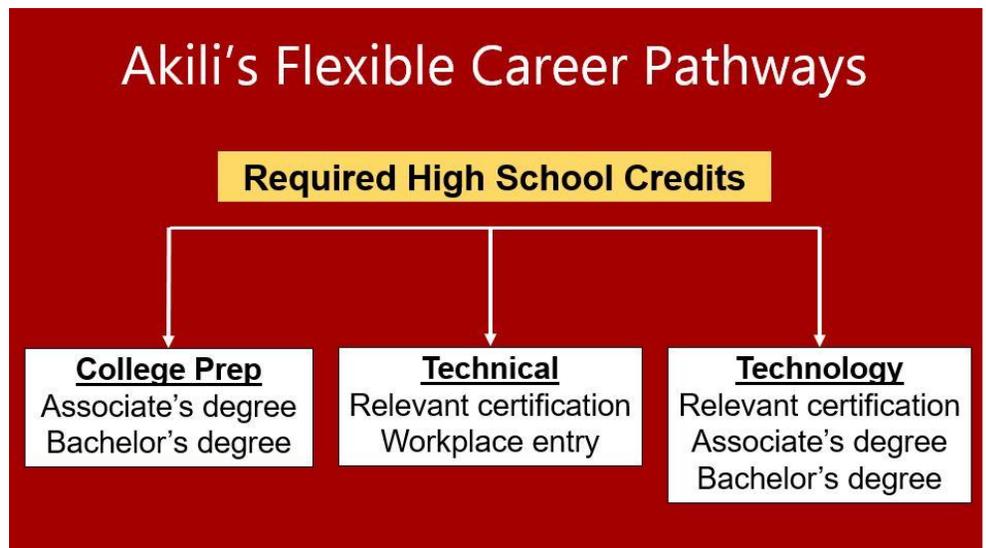
## Career Readiness Pathways

The school will offer three flexible career pathways for its students: college-preparatory, technical (vocational), and information technology/medical science. For each pathway, the school will partner with businesses such as Columbus State Community College and Luke's Auto to offer internships, apprenticeships, and certifications. Akili students will explore careers beginning

freshman year with the Career Workshop class and continuing each year. It is the mission and vision of the school to teach students valuable leadership skills through their chosen career pathway.

## Involvement in Christian Community

The school will have a unique focus on a Christian worldview with an emphasis on the importance of character. It will offer Bible classes as well as opportunities to attend Bible studies at Dwell Community Church and to be mentored by older, mature adults. Dwell Community Church will also provide a Life Coach for each student to teach him or her the skills necessary to succeed in the real world, such as personal finance, obtaining a driver's permit, job acquisition, and skill-building. It is the vision of the school that each student will return to serve and mentor others in the same ministries that they have benefited from personally.



# Akili Christian High School Core Values

The Akili core values are best known by the phrase “AKILI Persists”:

## Accountability

*“We are each other’s harvest, we are each other’s business, we are each other’s magnitude and bond.” – Gwendolyn Brooks*

Akili students are accountable to God, their communities, and themselves. They are accountable first to God, who provides them with the greatest sacrifice and illustration of love in Christ, offering a new identity and opportunities (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). They are accountable to their communities, including their families, local churches, classmates, and teachers as we are “members of one another” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Akili students are also accountable to themselves, taking ownership of their own choices (Romans 14:12).

## Knowledge

*“Truth is powerful and it prevails.” – Sojourner Truth*

Akili students learn to reason and to apply their thinking to worthy subjects and goals. Through developing life-long critical thinking habits, students analyze and understand their world and the thoughts of others, discern misinformation and faulty reasoning, and resist mental carelessness (Romans 12:2). Students apply this thinking to a broad knowledge of God through the study of his Word (1 Peter 2:2), the study of his creation through the Sciences and Mathematics (Psalm 19), and the study of his people through Language Arts, the Social Sciences, and World Languages (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Akili students do not live in an ivory tower, but will apply this knowledge to benefit their community, combining street-smarts and book-smarts (Proverbs 2:9-11).

## Integrity

*“The time is always right to do what is right.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Akili students demonstrate consistent commitment to the values of God, namely truth and love (Matthew 22:36-40). Akili students express integrity through honesty and transparency while not compromising godly values in difficult situations (Colossians 3:9-10). Students maintain these values as a sense of personal conviction, understanding the most important quality in a leader is his or her character and therefore refusing to live a life of hypocrisy (1 Timothy 3:8-9).

## Love

*“While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God’s creation.” – Maya Angelou*

Akili students are devoted to sacrificial and active others-centered love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13). They are motivated by the love that God has shown them personally, and since God’s love is not limited to specific people, Akili students strive to show love to all (John 3:16-17). They forgive those who hurt

them and resolve conflict in a godly manner (Ephesians 4:25-27). They encourage their peers towards God by speaking the truth in love, and they rely on the love that God provides as they move positively towards others.

### **Influence**

*"Godly leadership is not about attaining recognition or glory; it's all about serving others." – John M. Perkins*

Akili students are called by God to be influencers for good in the lives of others, actively following Jesus as the ultimate model of servant leadership (Mark 10:42-45). Rather than conforming to cultural values and societal pressure, they open themselves to the Holy Spirit's influence by practicing the means by which God has given Christians to grow: praying, studying the Bible, actively participating in Christian community, serving others, and being an example while suffering (Romans 12:1-2). Akili students recognize that all great influencers lead by example while being under authority, whether God's or human, and as such Akili students respect and recognize the leadership God has placed in their lives (Hebrews 13:7; 17).

### **Persists**

*"If there is no struggle, there is no progress." – Frederick Douglass*

Akili students never quit. They work hard, aware they are stewards of the special gifts that God has given them (1 Corinthians 4:2,7). Students understand that developing character requires perseverance, endurance, and patience through difficulties, striving toward contentment (Romans 5:3-4). Akili students maintain focus on their goals and discipline themselves to reach those goals (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Finally, students see their sufferings as an opportunity to come alongside one another to achieve more than they could alone (Romans 12:15).

## Statement of Faith

While Akili enrolls students from families who may not have belief in the Christian faith, the school does explicitly teach biblical truth through its Bible classes. We consider a number of biblical doctrines to be central to our faith and vital to the integrity of all aspects of the school. We affirm significant historic creeds of the church, such as the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed.

### The Bible

The Bible is the inspired word of God. The 66 books which constitute the Bible are entirely reliable and truthful, and the Bible stands as the central authority over our lives, our faith and the direction of our church. We are committed to standard formulations of biblical inspiration such as the "[Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, and Hermeneutics](#)." (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 5:18)

### The Trinity

Three persons eternally share the Divine Nature. The Bible refers to these persons as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is both self-existent and personal. (John 14:10, 26; 15:26)

### Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the Son, is fully God and fully human. He lived a sinless life, died for the sins of humankind, was resurrected bodily on the third day, ascended into heaven and is coming again as King and Judge. Jesus Christ is the only provision that God has given for people to be reconciled to Him. Jesus' life on earth also serves as the model for the Christian life. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

### Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God. He indwells us at the moment we place our faith in Christ. He empowers us to live an effective Christian life by affirming our salvation, encouraging us and giving us the strength to live a life that is pleasing to God and personally fulfilling. The Holy Spirit also endows each believer with a unique spiritual ability to serve the church and the world. (John 14:16; Ephesians 1:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12)

### Salvation

Salvation is reconciliation with God through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. God offers us salvation by His grace alone and we receive it as a gift through personal faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. This right standing before God must be received and cannot be earned. God freely offers salvation to all people, and our salvation is secure. (Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 8:38,39; Ephesians 1:13; 2:4)

## Humanity

Human beings are created in the image of God. As such, we are unique among all of God's creation. Through the abuse of our God-given free will, we have turned against God and this has resulted in spiritual death for all humankind. Humanity lives in a state of alienation and profound need which can only be satisfied by reconciliation with God through Christ. Without this reconciliation, all people stand under God's righteous judgment. Humanity, although fallen, maintains the image of God and is, therefore, still dignified and unique. God continues to love and pursue us, even though we are hostile to Him. Believers in Jesus Christ receive a new nature that becomes the foundation for a process of transformation. (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

## The Church

The church is composed of all those throughout history who place saving faith in Jesus Christ. The church is not an institution, but a people. God wants all Christians to live out their spiritual lives in a corporate context. This context of Christian love relationships is a crucial feature of our witness for Christ as it reflects God's character to the world. The church is God's chosen instrument through which the message of salvation is spread to all people. This mission is the central purpose for the church. We are to carry the good news locally and worldwide and demonstrate the gospel by relevant social action. (John 13:34, 35; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Matthew 28:19)

## Satan

Satan is the personal, spiritual adversary of God and God's followers. Satan actively opposes the work of the church and the spiritual vitality of Christians by distracting them from God's mission through the world system. We therefore take seriously, but in a balanced way, the reality of personal, spiritual opposition. Satan is doomed to final defeat and judgment when Christ returns. (Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 20)

## Second Coming

This age will conclude with the personal, bodily return of Christ. At that time, He will complete God's plan to reestablish His just and righteous rule over all humanity. (Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 20)

## The Afterlife

At the final judgment, God will assign all people their eternal destinies—either life or judgment. Those who have responded to Jesus Christ with saving faith will receive the eternal life they have already been promised (John 5:24), while others will live under eternal judgment. Therefore, because eternal issues are at stake, there is an urgency to communicate the gospel. (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10)

# Programs

Akili offers several unique programs and events for students:

*Life Coaching (all grades):* Akili Christian High School partners with Dwell Community Church to offer Life Coaching for its students.

Life coaches provide practical guidance that is crucial to helping students take steps toward becoming independent, self-sufficient adults. Life coaches meet with students weekly to help them develop skills such as:

- Study skills
- Completing high school successfully and pursuing further education or career
- Career search and exploration
- Creating a resume, completing job applications, and developing interview skills
- Assistance in obtaining driver's permit and license
- Working hard and being a valuable employee
- Accessing good health care
- Applying for financial aid, such as FAFSA, scholarships, or stipends from the Life Coaching program
- Creating and following a budget
- Developing healthy habits: eating well, exercising, planning, establishing routines

All life coaches are thoroughly screened, including an application process, federal background check, and a recommendation from a respected church leader. Once chosen, they must participate in a mandatory safety training and demonstrate passion and skill at helping students succeed in their long-term goals.

Life coaches will work with the student's academic advisor and family to work on areas that need attention. They will share goals, progress, areas of concern, and resources as necessary. Life coaches will also receive support, including training, from the Life Coach Program Overseer and Akili Principal.

Life coaches meet one-on-one with students of the same sex at a public location. Meetings will be for approximately one hour after school during the week. Students will receive transportation home after their meeting with their life coaches.

To participate in the Life Coaching program, families should complete the Life Coaching waiver and return it to the Akili office before the start of the school year.

*Clubs (all grades):* Akili students can choose to participate in various after school clubs throughout the school year. Students will be responsible for finding their own transportation home.

*Trades Workshop (ninth grade):* All ninth-grade students have the opportunity to take part in a trades workshop on Wednesday afternoons each spring. The workshop is sponsored by Luke's Auto, and it is located at Hirelevel Auto, a trade center located in Clintonville next to Dwell Community Church's Warehouse building (the same location students attend Bible studies at on Tuesday nights). Hirelevel Auto is a non-profit run by Central Ohio Youth for Christ that gives young people an opportunity to learn how to work on cars by offering several free classes each year.

At the workshop, students will participate in brief classroom instruction and then will do hands-on work with trained mechanics to learn some of the basics of car repair. Students will also hear guest presentations from other professionals in the trades (electricians, construction, etc.). To learn more about Luke's Auto, visit their website. A video of The Trade Center's student classes is also available on their Facebook page (@theautomotivetradecenter).

*Student Leadership Team (all grades):* Each year, Akili students will have the opportunity to run for the Akili Student Leadership Team. The purpose of the Student Leadership Team (SLT) is to serve as an advocate for Akili students to the staff and to learn lifelong leadership skills while still in high school. The Student Leadership Team is overseen by the Akili Principal and the Student Leadership Team Advisor, Jess Lowery.

Student leaders will be required to do the following:

- Attend regularly scheduled SLT meetings during the school day
- Plan, organize, and help lead certain schoolwide events, such as dances, community service projects, celebrations, etc.
- Generate creative ideas for the school community based on student input and prayer
- Participate in leadership development activities, including an annual one-day leadership retreat (date/location TBD each year)

Students will be eligible to participate in the SLT if they consistently demonstrate the Akili values as well as academic effort and integrity. Student leaders may be removed from the team for disciplinary or academic reasons (failing classes, repeated behavior concerns, etc.) at any time throughout the year.

To join the Student Leadership Team, students must submit an application, participate in a brief interview with the Akili Principal, and give a short speech during morning advisory. Three students from each grade will then be chosen by a vote from their peers and the staff. Student votes will be weighted at 1/3 and staff votes will be weighted at 2/3.

*Talent Show (all grades):* Each fall, Akili will have its annual talent show. Students and staff are invited to perform different talents, and dinner will be provided for all in attendance.

*Holiday Celebrations (all grades):* Akili celebrates all major U.S. holidays, including Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and others. Each holiday celebration at Akili includes a community service component with the aim of teaching students the joy of serving others.

*Dances (all grades):* Akili will offer various dances for students such as prom.

*Field Trips (all grades):* Field trips will be offered at least once a semester for students in all grades. These field trips are planned by teachers and will serve as incentives to do well during assessments and/or opportunities to develop career readiness.

*Sports (all grades):* Students have the opportunity to participate in sports at Akili such as basketball. For more information about sports, please contact the Sports Programs Coordinator, Grant Akers (akersg@akilichristianhs.org).

# School Calendar

<b>JULY</b>	SUMMER BREAK 2022					<b>Q1</b>	<b>JANUARY</b>	9	10	11	12	13	<b>Q3</b>
	STAFF ORIENTATION							MLK	17	18	19	20	
			27	28	29			23	24	25	26	27	
<b>AUGUST</b>	1	2	3	4	5		<b>FEBRUARY</b>	30	31	1	2	3	
	8	9	10	11	12			6	7	8	9	10	
	15	16	17	18	19			13	14	15	16	PTC	
	22	23	24	25	26			PR	21	22	23	24	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	29	30	31	1	PD		<b>MARCH</b>	27	28	1	2	3	
	LD	6	7	8	9			6	7	8	9	10	
	12	13	14	15	16		SPRING BREAK (3/13-3/21)						
	19	20	21	22	23				22	23	24		
<b>OCTOBER</b>	26	27	28				27	28	29	30	31		
	FALL BREAK (9/29-10/7)					<b>APRIL</b>	3	4	5	6	7		
	10	11	12	13	14		10	ST	ST	12	13		
	17	18	19	20	PTC		17	18	19	20	21		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	24	25	26	27	28	<b>Q2</b>		24	25	26	27	PD	
	31	1	2	3	4		<b>MAY</b>	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	
	7	8	PD	10	11			8	9	10	11	12	
	14	15	16	17	18			15	16	17	18	19	
THANKSGIVING (11/21-25)							RD	F	F	25			
<b>DECEMBER</b>	28	29	30	1	2		<b>JUNE</b>	SUMMER BREAK 2023					
	5	6	7	8	9								
	RD	M	M	M	M								
	WINTER BREAK (12/19-1/2)												
<b>JANUARY</b>		3	4	5	6		<b>Q3</b>						

Shaded Days - No School for Students	
Orientation: Staff Orientation	
PD: Professional Development	
PTC: Parent/Teacher Conference	
PR: Presidents' Day	RD: Reading Day
ST: State Testing	M: Midterms
LD: Labor Day	F: Finals
MLK: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	

Student Days	Qtr 1	44
	Qtr 2	43
	Qtr 3	46
	Qtr 4	46
		<b>179</b>

# Daily School Schedule & Closings

## Daily School Schedule

The Akili school day is from 8:30am-3:30pm. Below is the bell schedule:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Period</b>
8:30 - 9:10	1
9:12 - 9:52	2
9:54 - 10:34	3
10:36 - 11:16	4
11:18 - 11:58	5
12:00 - 12:40	6
12:42 - 1:22	7
1:24 - 2:04	8
2:06 - 2:46	9
2:48 - 3:30	10

## School Closings

If Columbus City Schools close because of inclement weather, Akili will close as well. Watch local news and the Akili website for announcements related to school closings. In the event that weather conditions make travel to school unsafe, but Columbus City Schools do not close, it is recommended that families exercise caution when bringing their students to school. Please note that there may be times when Columbus City Schools may be in session but Akili is closed due to weather.

## Staff Roster

<b>Role / Subject Matter</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Email</b>
Principal	Ariana Adkins	adkinsa@akilichristianhs.org
Administrative Assistant	Allison Dean	deana@akilichristianhs.org
School Counselor	Halley Clarke	clarkeh@akilichristianhs.org
English Language Arts	Jalen Lentz	lentzj@akilichristianhs.org
Science (Physical Science / Biology)	Jessica Lowery	loweryj@akilichristianhs.org
Science (Environmental)	Sarah Branaghan	branaghans@akilichristianhs.org
Math	Lauren Shelton	sheltonl@akilichristianhs.org
History & Bible X	Amanda Meeker	meekera@akilichristianhs.org
Bible XI	Doug O'Malley	omalleyd@akilichristianhs.org
Health, P.E., and Life Skills	Grant Akers	akersg@akilichristianhs.org
Spanish	James Alexander	alexanderj@akilichristianhs.org
Art	Jacquelyn Ricketts	rickettsj@akilichristianhs.org

# Academic Assessment

## Academic Honesty

Akili values academic honesty and expects its students to abide by that value. Akili students are expected to complete their own work to the best of their ability. Teachers report all suspected cases of cheating, plagiarism, or dishonesty to the school principal. Students should expect to redo the work and receive a lower grade or a zero.

## Graduation Requirements

Ohio Graduation requirements are based on three criteria:

1) Completion of the following credits:

<b>Akili Christian High School Graduation Credits</b>	
ELA	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Spanish	2 credits
Health	½ credit
Physical Education	½ credit
Fine Art	1 credit
Electives (Bible and Life Skills)	6 credits

2) Earn a score of “Proficient” on the end of course examinations: ELA II, Algebra I, Geometry, American Government, American History, and Biology.

3) Earn two of the following diploma seals:

- OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal (Ohio)
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (Ohio)
- College-Ready Seal (Ohio)

- Military Enlistment Seal (Ohio)
- Citizenship Seal (Ohio)
- Science Seal (Ohio)
- Honors Diploma Seal (Ohio)
- Seal of Biliteracy (Ohio)
- Technology Seal (Ohio)
- Community Service Seal (Local)
- Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Local)
- Student Engagement Seal (Local)

## Grading

Assessment provides important feedback to students, teachers and parents about whether and how a student is progressing academically. Each curriculum has frequent assessment built in to ensure that students are learning the objectives in the curriculum. Students receive academic and conduct grades each quarter. Student grades summarize the body of work that the student has performed and achieved during the academic period.

Akili's grading scale is below:

Grade	Scale Percentage	Unweighted GPA
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+ / D / D-	60-69	1.0-1.6
F	Below 60	0.0

## Honor Roll & Principal's List

*Honor Roll:* Students will be eligible for honor roll if they earn a 3.5 grade point average for the quarter. Honor roll students will be recognized at the end of the quarter with a special lunch and a no uniform day.

*Principal's List:* The Principal's List recognizes a student each quarter who demonstrated the Akili values in their pursuit of academic excellence. Although the student may not have earned grades high enough to be recognized on the Honor Roll, the student worked his or her hardest to make significant academic improvement over the course of ten weeks. Students are chosen by Akili teachers and recognized alongside Honor Roll students each quarter.

## NWEA MAP Assessment

All new students and incoming freshmen at Akili take the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment twice each school year (August and May). The MAP Assessment measures student performance and growth in reading, language, math, and science. The test results show how well students are performing compared to other students their age around the United States, and Akili uses these results as a metric to evaluate teachers' efficacy and to set learning goals for individual students.

## Tutoring

Free tutoring is offered by Dwell Community Church volunteers each Tuesday night at 5:30pm before high school Bible study, and Life Coaches also offer tutoring for students. For more information, please contact the Akili office.

## High School Credits

To earn credit for a class at Akili, the student must earn an average of 60% or higher for 4 quarters in a yearlong class or both quarters in the case of a semester class. If a student does not earn this grade, he or she may repeat the class over the summer and/or during the following school year. School administrators will contact families in May about their students' grades.

The school administration reserves the right to award credits on a case-by-case basis for individual students with extenuating circumstances due to the COVID -19 pandemic.

## **Special Needs Policy**

As a private school with limited resources, Akili is unable to provide a special education program at this time. Therefore, in the case of students who struggle significantly due to a learning disability or behavioral/emotional issues, the school may request or require a parent to seek evaluation through the Special Education Department at Columbus City Schools.

If an enrolled student is diagnosed by a guidance professional as having a specific learning disability or emotional/behavioral difficulties that the school is not equipped to address, the student may no longer meet the admission requirements, and the principal may require parents to withdraw the student.

If an enrolled student is diagnosed by a health professional as having severe physical needs that the school is not equipped to address, the student may no longer meet admission requirements, and the principal may require parents to withdraw the student.

Any student demonstrating significant weakness in a core subject the year after repeating a class will be assumed to have academic needs requiring more assistance than can be offered at Akili. The principal may require the parents to withdraw the student.

# Attendance Policy

There is a direct correlation between school attendance and academic success. Parents are requested to minimize absences and tardiness for reasons other than illness.

Please keep the following in mind:

- An excused absence or tardy is due to personal illness, death of a relative, or family emergency.
- An unexcused absence or tardy is due to a reason not acceptable to the school, such as oversleeping.
- EdChoice students that have 20 or more unexcused absences per school year will forfeit their scholarships, according to Ohio law.
- A student absent more than 20 days of school (excused or unexcused) per school year will be a candidate for retention and/or withdrawal.
  - Phone calls, emails, and voicemails are acceptable means to notify the office of an absence or tardy. However, the State of Ohio requires a written note (by hand or email) for all EdChoice students who are absent.
- Students who ride the bus will not be considered tardy if they are late to school on account of the bus.
- A written doctor's excuse is required for absences exceeding three consecutive days, five per quarter or ten per school year.
- The school office needs an excuse for every day a child is absent.
- Students who arrive late to school are considered unexcused tardy unless the parent contacts the school by phone or in writing with a legitimate excuse.
- Students may not receive credit for work missed during an unexcused absence.
- Students that arrive between 8:30 – 9:00 AM are considered tardy.
- Students that arrive after 10:00 AM or who leave school before 2:30 PM are considered absent for one half day.
- Students who have more than six unexcused absences in a school year are considered excessively truant.
- Students who have more than ten unexcused tardies in a school year are considered excessively tardy.
- The school administration may contact Franklin County authorities to report parents whose children are excessively absent or tardy.

To submit written excuses, please contact the office directly.

## Make Up Work

It is the student's responsibility to make up missed homework and class work after an excused absence. Students are expected to take the initiative to seek out each teacher to determine missed assignments and due dates. If an absence is unexcused, the student may not receive academic credit for work missed.

## Anticipated Short-Term Absences

If a student will miss a class because of a shadowing opportunity or appointment, he or she must pick up an Absence Sheet from the office and complete it. Students must turn in their completed forms to the office the day before their absence.

## Anticipated Extended Absences

Parents must notify the school principal prior to taking a child out of school for a family vacation or other planned absence. A ten (10) day notification is desired in order that parents, teachers, and student can plan together to ensure the student will not fall behind in his work. Although teachers will assist the student who misses school because of a planned absence, it remains the student's responsibility to obtain assignments and class notes, complete homework, and make up any tests or quizzes. A vacation during school may have an adverse impact on a student's academic achievement. We strongly recommend family vacations be taken during regular school breaks. We encourage parents to arrange planned absences only when alternative options are unavailable. For the purpose of the EdChoice scholarship, the Ohio Department of Education does not consider vacation an excused absence.

## Student Illness

A student will not be admitted to school unless his/her body temperature is below 100 degrees, without medication, for twenty four hours. Students with communicable diseases will be allowed to return to school only after complying with regulations issued by the State Department of Health.

## Shadowing Absences

During tenth grade, students will shadow various professions in the community. These absences are counted as excused and will be marked as such in attendance records.

## Truancy

Akili Christian adheres to the Ohio Revised Code as it relates to code recognizing chronically absent students. Truant students are described as any child who is absent without legitimate excuse for absence from school for:

- 30 consecutive hours (~4 days), or;
- 42 hours within a month (~6 days), or;
- 72 or more hours in a school year (~10 days).

Once a student reaches this threshold of absences, Akili will make three good faith attempts to contact the family to implement an attendance plan. Once the attendance plan has been implemented and the parents have been notified, the student has 60 calendar days to participate and make satisfactory progress on the plan. If the student does not participate and/or does not make progress, Akili staff is required by law to report students to appropriate local agencies including but not limited to Juvenile Probate Court and Franklin County Children's Services.

# Transportation & Busing

According to Ohio Law, students that live more than two miles from Akili Christian High School and within the Columbus City school district qualify for either bus transportation OR financial reimbursement. Students must live more than two miles from Phillips Hall (303 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH, 43215) to be eligible for busing this upcoming school year.

Parents may apply for transportation to and from school through Columbus City Schools during the application window in the spring prior to the start of the following school year. Please carefully review the forms from Columbus City Schools for important deadlines. Failure to submit forms on time could result in forfeiting bus transportation or reimbursement.

## Bus Rules

Students are expected to follow the safety guidelines on all buses (see “Riding the School Bus Safely”). The bus is considered an extension of Akili Christian High School, and as such students are expected to represent Akili on the bus. The bus is also a privilege and will be taken away from students who do not match Akili’s expectations.

Bus drivers are authorized by Columbus City Schools to submit formal bus safety reports.

Consequences for inappropriate bus behavior are as follows:

- First report: Warning and call home
- Second report: 2 day bus suspension
- Third report: 5 day bus suspension
- Fourth report: Revoked bus privileges

Ultimately, Akili administration has the authority to revoke bus privileges immediately if the behavior is deemed excessively inappropriate (fighting, vandalism, etc.).

## Bus Procedures

If your student rides the bus and you do not want him or her to take the bus on a given day, please contact the school by phone. The school office must be notified by a parent and not the student.

The driver will not pick up or deliver students to a place other than the regular bus stop at their home or school. If other pick up or delivery locations are needed, please fill out the Special Transportation Request form, which must be approved by the Transportation Directory at Columbus City Schools.

Columbus Schools will eliminate the bus stop for any student that neglects to ride the bus for 10 consecutive school days.

If your child does not arrive at his or her bus stop, immediately contact the school and Columbus Schools Transportation Services at (614) 365-5074.

# Technology Policy

## Chromebooks

Akili has Chromebook computers available for students to use. Akili's computers have security filters and monitoring software installed to protect students from inappropriate content inside and outside the classroom. All students must agree to abide by the Acceptable Technology Use Policy before using any school technology. Any student who chooses to misuse a computer and/or violate the terms of the Acceptable Use agreement is in jeopardy of losing his or her right to use Akili technology resources and may incur a monetary charge as well.

## Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices

Ninth and tenth grade students will turn in their phones at the beginning of the school day to the office and will receive them back as they exit the building at the end of the day. Phones will be kept in the Akili office and will be supervised at all times to prevent theft or loss. Upperclassmen may be subject to different rules as they are responsible for coordinating with their internships and apprenticeships.

Electronic devices may not be used to access inappropriate content on school grounds, including after school hours or on buses. The school is not responsible for the loss of any electronic devices.

Akili's reasoning is as follows:

1) Studies have shown that mental health for teenagers is directly correlated to cell phone and social media usage. Below is a small sample of research about the effect of social media and smartphones on teenagers:

- A 2018 American Psychological Association study of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders found that adolescents who spent more time on electronic communication and screens (social media, texting, gaming) and less time on non-screen activities (including sports, homework, spending time with friends, and/or attending religious services) had *lower psychological well-being*. The researchers wrote, "All screen activities are linked to less happiness, and all non-screen activities are linked to more happiness."

- Teenagers who spend more than three hours a day on electronic devices are *35% more likely to have at least one suicide risk factor*. On average, U.S. teenagers use seven hours of media per day for entertainment purposes.

- A whopping 15% of American teenagers have been electronically bullied through text, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook *while at school*. These numbers are higher for teenage girls than boys, as girls have reported three times as much harassment online as boys.

- In a 2018 article by the Journal of American Pediatrics, a survey of 39 studies revealed that *15% of teenagers (1 in 7) sent and 28% (1 in 4) received sexually explicit content through text messages*. Although most schools (like Akili) limit what students can search for and view on school devices such as Chromebooks, teenagers often access inappropriate content through smartphones and can share it with their peers in the blink of an eye.

Jean Twenge, the author of the book [\*iGen\*](#), states, "The more time teens spend looking at screens, the more likely they are to report symptoms of depression. [...] It's not an exaggeration to describe iGens being on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in decades. Much of this deterioration can be traced to their phones."

Interestingly enough, Twenge's research showed that *teenagers who spend an above-average amount of time with friends in person are 20% less likely to say they're unhappy* than those who spend a below-average amount. This logic was the same reasoning Akili used for hosting in-person classes instead of remote learning for the duration of last school year.

2) Anecdotally, our teachers have found that the presence of cell phones in the classroom, even when used for academic purposes, is distracting. Even the best students simply cannot resist the temptation to check social media or text when looking at their phone! Instead of giving students repeated consequences for doing so in class, we would like to remove the temptation altogether.

A 2017 study confirms these observations. Participants who left their cell phone (turned off) in the same room while performing memory tasks did significantly worse than those who put their cell phone in a different location, indicating that the mere presence of smartphones reduces available cognitive capacity - in other words, a "brain drain." A 2015 study of schools that changed their policies to prohibit cell phones in the school building saw student test scores improve by an amazing 6.41%.

3) Lastly, our staff believes implementing a policy like this one is in line with Akili's mission: to educate, develop, and train students into community leaders. Having phones readily available to students can inhibit learning valuable relational skills such as conflict resolution, processing negative emotions, conversational skills, and higher level critical thinking. Although owning or using a phone doesn't mean that students can't do these tasks, our staff feels strongly that our school will be most successful in achieving its mission if smartphones are not available for student use during the school day.

## FAQs:

*Q: Can my student keep his or her phone in a locker or backpack instead of the office?*

A: Last year, Akili's cell phone policy was that students should turn off their phones at the start of the school day and keep them in their backpacks. However, we found that many students were dishonest about putting their phones away and would use them throughout the day (usually during class or in the bathroom!), leading to conflict between students who had followed the rule and those who did not. The backpack policy also led to unnecessary power struggles between students and teachers at times as teachers tried to enforce the policy. This year, we'd like to set a clear expectation at the start so there's no confusion, and we would like for this policy to be "no exceptions" to avoid conflict among students as to why specific students aren't required to follow the rule. We believe keeping phones in the office is a good deterrent for theft or for devices being lost, especially now that Akili is in a larger building.

*Q: Why can't my student use his or her phone during free time, like lunch or morning break?*

A: Our staff has found that access to phones during lunch and breaks tends to considerably limit social interaction among students. When students are only permitted to use their phone for 10-15 minutes, most feel the need to get "caught up" on texts or social media, which leads to students sitting in silence together for the duration of their rest time. Our hope is that this policy will encourage our students to talk and laugh with one another, play basketball or do other physical activities, and get help with assignments during these times, all of which will be available to them during morning break and lunchtime. We are also asking teachers to put their phones away as well so that they can model the importance of time together and can serve as positive examples to students. Our staff plans to provide enjoyable options for students to do during these times so that they are not bored and resent being away from their devices!

*Q: Is Akili against technology?*

A: Of course not! Our staff understands that cell phones are a vital part of our society and our students' lives. In fact, a few of the studies cited above revealed that the happiest teenagers were *not* those who never used a cell phone, but rather those who moderated their usage of their devices to 1-2 hours a day. There is a time and place for using phones responsibly, and the research shows that academic time is not the best time for that usage. The goal of this policy is to teach students how to interact with technology responsibly while preserving the important skills that come from being fully engaged in school. We also plan to offer positive incentives for students who follow these guidelines consistently.

*Q: What if my student forgets to turn their phone in when they arrive at school?*

A: We know mistakes happen - we will give students the benefit of the doubt at the beginning of the year until the routine is established!

*Q: What will happen if my student is found using a cell phone during the day?*

A: See below for the discipline policy -

First time: A staff member will immediately bring the phone to the office, and the parent will be notified.

Second time: A parent will need to pick up the phone directly from the Akili office.

Third time: We will issue a more significant consequence such as an after-school detention or the further loss of privileges at school.

*Q: What if I need to reach my student during the day?*

A: If you need to reach your student during the school day, you will be able to do so by calling the front desk at (614) 745-3732.

## **Food Policy**

Akili provides breakfast and lunch for students each day through a lunch caterer. Students are also welcome to pack their own lunches. Red and blue dyed drinks are not permitted in the lunch room, since they stain the tables and floors.

Students are not permitted to share food with one another. The only food provided by Akili is breakfast bars which may be given to students who forgot their lunch.

As a reward, students may attend lunch at a restaurant with a teacher periodically throughout the year. Students who purchase McDonalds gift cards at the All Star store are permitted to go to McDonalds on Fridays with staff members during their lunch period. Seniors are also permitted to eat lunch off campus.

# Health and Safety

## Medication

Any medication, food supplement, or modified diet that is to be administered at the school must have written instructions of a licensed physician for each medication, food supplement, or modified diet. Forms for authorization and instructions are available in the school office. All medication, food supplements, and modified diet is to be kept in a secure place and administered by the office staff or school nurse only. Akili students are not permitted to administer their own medication. Each time the medication, food supplement, or modified diet is administered, a written record or log is made and kept for one year.

School administration may deem that a student diagnosed with ADHD or other conditions that affect the child's ability to learn to be required to take prescribed medication prior to coming to school. In such cases, the school will notify the parent that the child is not permitted to come to school without taking his or her medication in advance. Repeated failure to administer the medication and sending the child to school could result in the child's removal from Akili, especially when the student is unable to learn and/or creates problems for other students without his or her medication (see the Special Needs Policy).

## School Security

The main entrance of Phillips Hall is locked and kept under surveillance. Visitors will only be admitted to the lower level if approval is given to the security guard by the Akili administrative assistant. All students will have a personal ID badge that they must keep on their person at all times.

Phillips Hall and Franklin University has an Emergency Operations Plan approved by the Department of Education and Homeland Security located in the school office with specific instructions on responding to various emergency situations.

Students and parents are required to follow the procedure of signing in or out during school hours. If a student arrives after the start of the school day or leaves before the school day ends, he or she must be signed in or out in the office by a parent or guardian. If a student will be leaving a class during the school day for an appointment, he or she should provide the office with a note from a parent at the beginning of class. The teacher will dismiss the student at the designated time to meet the parent in the school office.

For the purpose of security, all visitors to Akili must first report to the security guard, sign in, and receive an identification badge. Parents who wish to observe a class must schedule with the teacher and/or principal beforehand. Student visitors (including friends of current students) must have permission from the administration to visit during school hours.

### Weapons, Legal Actions, and Harassment Policy

The safety of our students and faculty is of paramount importance at all times. The student who chooses to violate any of these restrictions is putting our community in danger and will be subject to the consequences outlined.

A. Possession of firearms and/or any other weapons or items that would be a threat or a perceived threat (e.g. an item that resembles a weapon and is purported to be a weapon, whether operational or not) will result in one of the following consequences: in-school or out-of-school suspension, loss of privileges, counseling, or expulsion, depending upon the danger posed by the item in question.

B. Any student who is arrested or who is under investigation for criminal involvement may be issued a leave of absence pending resolution or adjudication of her case. Further, any student convicted of a felony in a county, state, or federal court will be permanently removed from the school. Failure to notify the appropriate authorities at the school of such situations will be viewed as deception, and will result in immediate disciplinary actions, up to and including expulsion with no option of re-admission.

C. Any threats of physical violence or harm, verbal or written, including electronic media (e.g., instant messaging, blogs, email, etc.) of which authorship can be established, against students, faculty, staff, parents, Akili, or someone in the community, will result in disciplinary action and immediate notification of legal authorities, when that is indicated. Such disciplinary action can include suspension or expulsion, or other consequences as determined by the principal including, but not limited to, counseling, loss of privileges, apologies, and probation. If a student persists in harassing or threatening another student, faculty member, or family, that student will be expelled.

### Abuse

All school personnel are mandated reporters of suspected abuse and/or neglect. Mandated reporters are required by law to report suspected child maltreatment immediately when they have “reasonable cause to believe that a child who is 17 years of age or younger and known to them in a professional or official capacity has been harmed or is in danger of being harmed — physically, sexually, or through

neglect—and that a caregiver either committed the harm or should have taken steps to prevent the child from harm.”

No one in the workplace, even a supervisor, is permitted to suppress, change, or edit a report of abuse. A mandated reporter who willfully fails to report suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect is subject to license suspension or revocation, and commits a misdemeanor. Falsely reporting information to the hotline is also a misdemeanor.

# Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

In partnership with our families, Akili Christian High School is committed to promoting an alcohol free, drug-free, tobacco-free, and nicotine-free environment for our students. This commitment is also informed by the Bible's stance on alcohol and drug use (Ephesians 5:18-20, 1 Peter 5:8).

Akili students are expected to obey all city, state, federal and school laws, including those that forbid the use of both legal substances for persons under a specific age, and illegal substances by any person. Akili is a drug-free community and expects every student to respect and obey the school rules concerning these substances without exception.

## Expectations of Students:

On Akili campus, at school-related events, or on any other school's campus, the following are prohibited:

- A. Use of tobacco, CBD, and nicotine products, including any product or personal device that is smoked, vaped, chewed, or ingested in any form.
- B. Possession, use, distribution, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
- C. Possession, use, distribution, or sale of any controlled substance, including marijuana, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, or any other illegal substances.
- D. Sharing or misuse of personal prescription medications for any reason with another student is dangerous and strictly prohibited.

If a student smells strongly of marijuana or cigarette smoke, (s)he will be sent home to change clothes.

## School Responses:

- A. Depending on the circumstances, the principal will determine treatment, educational plans, and consequences ranging from the contacting of parents, assessment for chemical dependency, and/or loss of privileges, to suspension or expulsion.
- B. The Principal, in cooperation with the Akili Christian High School Board, retains the right and responsibility to make all disciplinary decisions based on circumstances and the student.

Supervision of students during non-school events, and at times when the student is not in the care of the school, is a parental responsibility.

We encourage students to seek help for themselves or others by contacting a staff member with whom they feel comfortable should they be dealing with any of these issues themselves, or know of others who are. It is our intention to abide by all state and local laws, while supporting our students in developing healthy and safe lifestyles.

# Uniform Policy

## Rationale

Students are required to comply with the Akili uniform dress code. Akili is committed to preparing students for their future careers and learning to present oneself properly and professionally is essential to future workplace success. Besides learning the skill of preparedness and professionalism, there are several other reasons for adopting a uniform:

- Uniforms are often less expensive for families than street clothes.
- Uniforms promote a sense of solidarity and belonging as opposed to competitiveness and comparison.
- Uniforms can help to set a tone for learning and working hard.

## Uniform Dress Code

General uniform guidelines include the following:

- Khaki shorts and skirts must be fingertip length.
- Uniform pants cannot be cargo pants/shorts, feature designer details, or have scrunch bottoms or waistband.
- Students are permitted to wear winter boots during inclement weather.
- No logos are permitted on clothing.
- Students may not wear hats or bandanas. Headbands and cultural/religious head coverings are permitted.
- Non-uniform clothing items must be stored in lockers.

## Gym Uniform

Male and female students are required to wear Akili t-shirts, shorts or athletic leggings, and tennis shoes for gym class. Shorts should be fingertip length, and leggings should not be sheer.

<b>Boys</b>	
<b>Outerwear</b>	Akili Sweatshirts  Sweaters/Fleece: buttoned, zipped, pullover solid colors only - red, black
<b>Tops</b>	Akili T-Shirts (Fridays only)  Polos: long or short sleeve solid colors only - red, yellow, white, black
<b>Bottoms</b>	Khaki pants or shorts
<b>Shoes</b>	No open-toe shoes

<b>Girls</b>	
<b>Outerwear</b>	Akili Sweatshirts  Sweaters/Fleece: buttoned, zipped, pullover solid colors only - red, black
<b>Tops</b>	Akili T-Shirts (Fridays only)  Polos: long or short sleeve solid colors only - red, yellow, white, black
<b>Bottoms</b>	Khaki pants, knee length shorts, or knee length skirts
<b>Shoes</b>	No open-toe shoes

### Financial Assistance

If a family is having difficulty affording a uniform for their student, parents should contact the Akili office. Akili has several partnerships with local consignment shops and organizations, and school administrators are happy to provide families with assistance as needed.

## Non-Uniform Days

Students may choose to not wear a uniform on the following occasions:

- Birthdays: If a student's birthday falls on a school day, he or she may choose to not wear their uniform. If a student's birthday falls on a weekend or in the summer, he or she may coordinate with his or her advisor to determine a day to celebrate.
- Uniform pass: The administration will let students know in advance that it is a "free clothes" day.
- Other designated days to be determined by staff such as field trips, etc.

Non-uniform clothing should meet the following guidelines:

- Bare midriffs, spaghetti tops, low-cut shirts, and informal dress (such as sleepwear) are not acceptable.
- Inappropriate depiction (writing or images) are not permitted on clothing.
- Jeans must not be ripped.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- Shorts and skirts must be fingertip length.
- Hats, hoods (or other head coverings), and sunglasses are not to be worn inside the school building.
- Appropriate shoes or sandals must be worn at all times (no flip-flops or slippers).

## Non-Compliance Policy

Students who do not come to school wearing proper attire will be asked to call their parent to bring the clothes they need to be in uniform. Students will not be permitted to return to class until they are in uniform and are responsible for making up their work on their own time.

If a student is out of uniform three times in a quarter, he or she will serve an in-school suspension for one day to communicate the importance of preparedness and professionalism.

## Financial Aid

Each year, Akili will host a uniform swap day where students and families will be permitted to turn in their old uniform and earn financial credit towards their next purchase. Future generations of Akili students will be able to purchase these used uniforms at a discounted cost.

# Student Code of Conduct & Discipline

The mission of Akili Christian High School is to educate, develop, and train future leaders. The most important quality of a leader is his or her character, and as such, Akili staff hold their students to high standards of behavior. Akili strives to build a school culture where all students can reach their potential through learning. Akili's core values are Accountability, Knowledge, Integrity, Love, Influence, and Persistence, and we aim to instill these values in our students through effective and loving discipline.

Parents who enroll their students at Akili accept the school's code of conduct, and parents who choose not to cooperate with the school's code of conduct and its policies jeopardize their student's enrollment at Akili.

## The Goal of Discipline

As a Christian school, Akili subscribes to the Bible's position on discipline. The Bible emphasizes that parents and other authorities have a unique responsibility to invest positively into children, as well as to teach and correct children in a loving manner (Proverbs 22:6). The Bible also clearly teaches that it is possible to abuse one's authority or to be ineffective in training a student due to excessive rules and consequences that disrupt the relationship between child and adult and that do more harm than good to the child (Ephesians 6:4).

The goal of discipline at Akili is twofold: the character development of the student so that he or she is prepared for leadership and life, and the physical and emotional safety of the school, so that classrooms are conducive to teaching and learning.

The student code of conduct may apply to any inappropriate actions that damages the quality of the educational environment, whether on campus or off campus.

## Discipline Strategies

The staff at Akili employs the following strategies in discipline matters:

### 1) Build trusting relationships with students.

Trusting relationships are the basis for the character growth and development that takes place in the lives of Akili students. In order to go beyond compliance to an internalized value system, students must grow to trust the authority figures in their lives. The Akili staff is committed to doing their part to establish strong bonds of trust with students through interacting in positive ways. When a student needs correction, Akili staff and administration seeks to administer consequences with empathy, rather than with anger, disgust, or lecturing.

### 2) Empower students to solve their own problems.

In addition to building trusting relationships with students, another way to ensure that students internalize character values that come through corrective discipline is to make sure that they own and solve their own problems. This skill is especially crucial for high school students, as they will soon be in the real world and will need to understand how to make decisions for themselves.

With this principle in mind, the role of the adult in administering discipline is to come alongside the student to help him or her resolve the issue at hand. Asking questions is a key component of training students to take ownership of their problems and brainstorm wise solutions, especially in the midst of conflict resolution (Matthew 7).

### 3) Involve parents through communication and cooperation.

The Akili staff recognizes that God has ordained the parent's voice to be the most significant in the life of a child, and therefore Akili's goal is to partner with the parents for the good of the student. Therefore, staff seeks to communicate with families and establish a working, trusting relationship. Teachers and administrators seek to contact parents both to report positive choices the student makes, as well as to seek assistance when the student isn't responding to disciplinary action at the school. Since Akili students are rapidly approaching adulthood, Akili staff will decrease communication with the parents as the student grows to give students an opportunity to respond without parental supervision. However, parents have the freedom to contact Akili administration if there are questions about a disciplinary measure taken with their student, and it is important that parents are responsive to communication from the school.

4) Celebrate and reward positive choices.

Akili believes that high school students can rise to a new level of maturity, and as such, Akili students are held to a high standard as future leaders. Akili's core values of Accountability, Knowledge, Integrity, Love, Influence, and Persistence are taught in the classroom as well as through real world experiences, and it is Akili's hope that students will embody these values personally and as a community.

Each classroom teacher has his or her own strategies for acknowledging and rewarding positive behaviors, but the primary schoolwide strategy is the Akili All Stars Program -

*Akili All Stars:* Akili teachers seek to recognize Akili students who actively demonstrate one of the core Akili values both inside and outside the classroom.

If an Akili teacher or Harambee staff member sees a student demonstrating an Akili core value, they will complete an Akili All Star sheet and hand it to the student who will then be able to redeem it at the All Star Store.

Every two weeks, the Akili All Star store will be open for students to purchase various items using their All Stars.

At the end of the year, the three students from each grade who received the most All Stars will receive a gift basket and public acknowledgment/encouragement for their role at the school.

The dates for the 2022-2023 All Star Store are as follows:

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Friday, August 5	Thursday, October 20	Friday, January 13	Friday, March 31
Friday, August 19	Friday, November 4	Friday, January 27	Friday, April 13
Thursday, September 1	Friday, November 18	Friday, February 10	Thursday, April 27
Friday, September 16	Friday, December 9	Friday, February 24	Friday, May 12
Wednesday, September 28	Friday, December 16	Friday, March 10	<b>Thursday, May 25</b>

5) Enforce negative consequences for poor choices.

Consequences are intended to be corrective and should correspond to the nature of the infraction. It is impossible to outline every behavior and consequence, and in most cases, minor behaviors are addressed on a case-by-case basis by classroom teachers.

For more serious infractions, Akili follows a tiered discipline system:

Level	Student Action	Potential Consequences
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeated classroom disruption</li> <li>• Repeated unpreparedness for class, including uniform</li> <li>• Inappropriate language</li> </ul>	Office referral Detention 1 day in-school suspension
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disrespect of school property</li> <li>• Disrespect of staff, including rude arguing</li> <li>• Conflict with classmates</li> <li>• Inappropriate work placement conduct</li> <li>• Profane language or gestures and/or verbal harm</li> </ul>	Office referral Disciplinary hearing Parent conference 1-3 day out of school suspension Loss of privileges
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession or use of illegal substances, weapons, or materials</li> <li>• Gross disrespect or insubordination toward staff, including mocking, blatant refusal to comply or follow directions, walking away, etc.</li> <li>• Acts of violence, fighting or unwanted physical contact with intent to harm</li> <li>• Sexually inappropriate behavior, including language, gestures, sexting, touching, watching inappropriate material, or the violation of bathroom privacy</li> <li>• Abusive language including making a verbal or physical threat</li> <li>• Cheating, gambling, forgery</li> <li>• Inappropriate internet use</li> <li>• Damaging, destroying or stealing personal or school property</li> <li>• Instigating or encouraging a fight between other students</li> <li>• Lying</li> <li>• Departing from class or school without permission</li> <li>• Any form of bullying or harassment, including cyber-bullying, verbal or physical intimidation, including threats to harm, including sexual content</li> <li>• Inappropriate conduct at work placement</li> <li>• Excessive accumulation of minor infractions</li> </ul>	Office referral Disciplinary hearing Parent conference Mandatory counseling Work placement removal Loss of privileges 3-5 day out of school suspension Permanent dismissal

NOTE: The student code of conduct may apply to any act that damages the quality of the educational environment, whether the act takes place on campus or off campus, such as bullying, harassment, drug use, and sexting.

## Zero Tolerance for Fighting

There is zero tolerance for fighting. In almost every case, all involved students will be suspended. Parents will be required to come to school and to pick up the students involved in the fight on the day of the incident. Students are expected to learn and use the techniques taught at school for peaceful conflict resolution. Staff will work to spot problems in advance and students are expected to report conflicts to teachers before they escalate.

## Consequence Descriptions

- *Office Referral*: A student may be referred to the office.
- *Loss of Privileges*: A student may lose various privileges as a result of his or her actions. These privileges could be minor to more serious.
- *Lunch Detention*: A student may be assigned a lunch detention for minor infractions.
- *In School Suspension*: A student may earn an in-school suspension by receiving multiple office referrals in the same day or earning 5 lunch detentions. The suspension will take place immediately. Students must complete their assignments in isolation and does not participate in lunch with peers or other activities.
- *Out of School Suspension*: A student may earn an out of school suspension by either committing a level 2 or 3 offense or having three office referrals in one week. The student is not permitted to attend school for one or more days. Student does not receive credit for work missed during an out of school suspension.
- *Work Placement Removal*: If a student acts inappropriately at his or her work placement, Akili reserves the right to remove the student from their work placement assignment, as career experience is a privilege and not a right.
- *Parent Conference*: A parent conference may be called to discuss a student's behavior at any time, especially if there have been excessive office referrals in a quarter.
- *Mandatory Counseling or Evaluation*: Akili might require a student to be assessed by a behavioral health professional based on their behavior and actions and attend counseling. In that case, parent is required to arrange for the student to be evaluated or to receive counseling services that address his or her behavioral needs within a specified period of time.
- *Disciplinary Hearing*: An Akili student may be required to meet with members of the Akili school board, teachers of his or her choice, and the principal to discuss behavioral concerns. These meetings aim to hear all sides of the issue as well as decide on an appropriate consequence for the student's behavior, such as a behavior contract, suspension, or permanent dismissal.
- *Behavior Contract and Probation*: The Akili administration may place a student on behavioral probation depending on his or her behavior. The Akili administration will call a conference with the student and explain the pattern of his behavior in hopes that the student will be able to change their

actions and attitude. A redemptive contract will be written specifying specific action steps the student can take in the following weeks. If the student breaks the terms of the probation, then he or she will be dismissed from Akili.

- *Emergency Removal*: If a student's presence in school poses a danger to persons or property, or an ongoing disruption of the academic process, then the principal may determine to have the student removed from the classroom and school premises. Parents or guardians will be notified, and the principal will assign a period of suspension or may recommend dismissal.

- *Permanent Dismissal*: In certain instances, due to the serious nature of a student's conduct and in order to maintain a safe and quality learning environment, the principal may recommend a student to the school board for dismissal from Akili. The decision to permanently dismiss a student belongs to the school board.

While the above is an attempt to delineate the disciplinary process, the administration reserves the right to exercise discretion in its application. Circumstances, the best interest of a student, and the wellbeing of the entire student body must be weighed when considering disciplinary action. Effective disciplinary interventions require that the school possess a measure of flexibility in potential responses to student behavior.

### The Right of Appeal of Student Dismissal

The parent or guardian may appeal the school board's decision to dismiss his or her student from Akili by submitting in writing a notice of appeal to the school board (or its designee) within 10 days of the school's formal written notice of dismissal to the parent or guardian. The written notice of appeal should include a request to meet with the board as well as the parent's case for why the dismissal should be overturned. Failure to submit an appeal in the manner described above waives any right to appeal the dismissal. Only the student's parent or guardian is permitted to attend the appeal meeting. The school board's decision after the appeal hearing is final.

# Statements on Human Dignity & Anti-Bullying

## Statement on Human Dignity and Identity

Akili Christian High School places a high value on the dignity of all human beings because God does. We agree with the teaching of the Bible in Genesis 1:27 (and reinforced by Jesus in Matthew 19:4-5), "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." With this in mind, we expect all students and staff to respect the dignity of others and refrain from acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. We expect students and staff to recognize and honor the distinctive value, ethnicity, and biological sex God has created in each person from birth.

## Anti-Bullying Statement

Akili Christian High School recognizes that all students have the right to a safe, secure academic environment. Everyone in the school community has the right to be free from the threat of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. This includes verbal, written, and cyber harassment, or threats to cause harm to another. Students should also feel safe reporting incidents of bullying to staff members without fear of retaliation. In order to maintain a safe, secure learning and work environment it is essential that members of the Akili community adhere to the anti-harassment, anti-intimidation, or anti-bullying policy, both in and out of school.

## **Parent Commitment**

Akili values the input and support of parents, and without family support, Akili would not be successful in training students into leadership. Akili hopes that its families will maintain the same standard of conduct as its students, and Akili seeks to cooperate with its families in training their students to be leaders.

### Fall Open House

All Akili parents are asked to attend a fall orientation where Akili staff will present on the flexible career pathways and career opportunities available for their students. It is vital for families to attend so that they can assist their student in making wise decisions in the area of career as well as to understand all available options.

### Work Placement

Akili is committed to providing its students with opportunities to explore various careers. As such, students will begin to participate in career pathway opportunities beginning junior year, and Akili accepts full responsibility for coordinating these opportunities with the support of parents as necessary. If a parent has questions about a situation occurring at a work placement with his or her student, the parent is strongly encouraged to contact Akili staff directly instead of the business or organization. Akili staff will then work to resolve the situation in a timely manner.

### Conflict Resolution

Akili seeks to communicate openly and honestly with the families of students, and it is the goal of the Akili administration to resolve conflict as much as possible.

If a parent has a complaint or concern, he or she is welcome to schedule a meeting with the principal to discuss in person. It is Akili's expectation that these conversations will be civil as well as productive as both sides seek to understand the other's perspective.

## **Akili Christian High School Non-Discriminatory Policy**

The governing board of Akili Christian High School at 303 S. Grant Avenue have adopted the following racial nondiscriminatory policy:

Akili Christian High School recruits and admits students of any race, color, gender or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, gender or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs and athletics/extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation. Akili Christian High School will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, gender, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.

## Tuition and Financial Aid

Akili Christian High School is a private nonpublic school chartered by the State of Ohio. Most private schools are funded primarily through tuition payments collected from parents of the students. The majority of Akili students live in low-income communities where educational opportunities and financial resources are limited. Our goal is that financial resources will not be a barrier for any family desiring a high-quality, private education for their child. Akili tuition is \$12,765 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Families who wish to send their student to Akili may participate in the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program. This program provides a limited number of scholarships to students who attend persistently underperforming public schools and/or who qualify as low-income. The scholarship (also known as a voucher), provides state funding to attend a participating private school.

The following types of students are eligible to apply for the scholarship:

- Students currently attending an EdChoice designated public school (a list of EdChoice designated public schools is available on the EdChoice website)
- Students attending a school in their resident district that will be assigned to an EdChoice designated public school in the upcoming school year
- Students currently attending a charter or community school whose home school is an EdChoice designated school

You will not be able to renew your student's EdChoice scholarship in the following circumstances:

- Your family has moved to another city school district and your new neighborhood public school is not a designated EdChoice school.
- Your child fails to take each state achievement test required for his/her grade level.
- Your child has more than twenty unexcused absences during the school year, or
- You fail to complete the renewal process.

If your child has received an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship, you must maintain Ohio residency and verify your income annually.

*EdChoice Check Endorsement Policy:* From the first announcement of receiving EdChoice checks, parents have two weeks to endorse the check. Failure to endorse within two weeks will result in the student not being permitted to return to school.

## Akili Scholarship Fund

Akili is committed to awarding scholarships generously so that all interested students will have the opportunity to attend the school. If a scholarship is awarded, the recipient's family will be required to fulfill a volunteer commitment to be negotiated with the school. The volunteer commitment will consider the family's work schedule, obligations, etc. and will not be overly taxing. The Ohio Revised Code states that families will lose their scholarship eligibility if they do not perform the volunteer commitment.

## Monthly Tuition Policy

Tuition payments are due on the first day of the month. The school assesses a \$20 late fee if an account has unpaid tuition on the fifth of the month and a \$25 fee if a payment is returned for non-sufficient funds.

If a family has two outstanding tuition payments on the first day of any given month, Akili can remove the student from the classroom and withhold student assessments until the tuition has been paid in full.

For example, if a family does not pay tuition by September 5 and incurs a late fee, and Akili does not receive their September tuition payment, late fee, and October tuition payment by October 5, Akili may remove the student.