



CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

2024-2025 Family Handbook

Welcome

The policies, procedures, and guidelines found in this handbook have been carefully prepared to assist families and students in knowing what is expected of you as a member of the Akili Christian High School community.

Families who enroll their students at Akili agree to comply with all policies described in this handbook, and Akili Christian High School reserves the right to modify this document at any point in time during the calendar year.

The administration, faculty, and staff of Akili are thrilled to welcome you to our community this year, and we pray that your student will thrive in our positive, spiritual environment during his or her time at our school!

General Building Information

Hours of Operation

School Year:

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Summer:

M – Th 8:30 – 2:30 PM

Fridays 8:30-12:30 PM

Website: www.akilichristianhs.org

Address:

Akili Christian High School

303 S Grant Avenue

Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 745-3732

Fax: (614) 745-3818

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 11th grade. The school will measure academic success through Ohio State Tests with the goal of each student passing the required end of course examinations and graduating in four years.

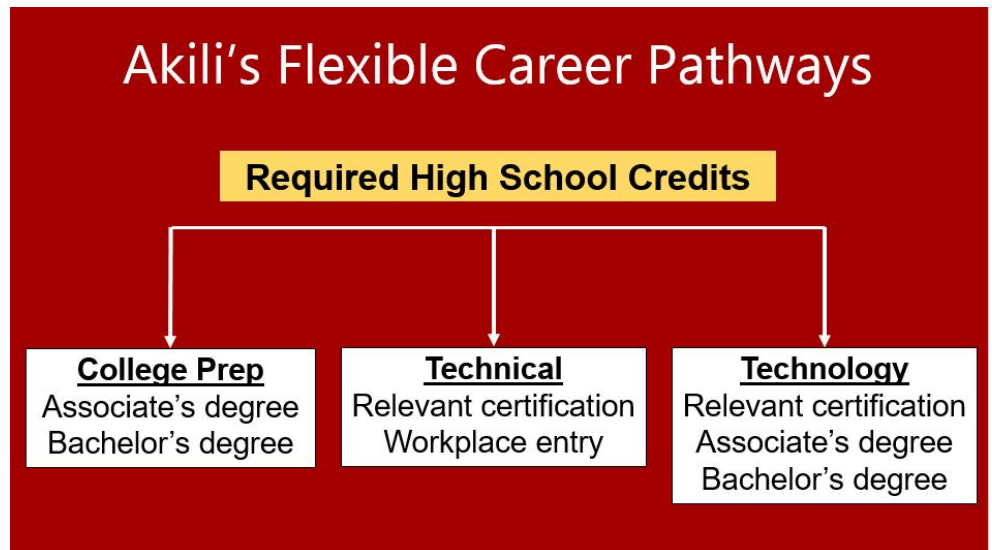
Career Readiness Pathways

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 Equip Skills Center 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 daily Bible classes as well as opportunities to attend Bible studies at Dwell Community Church and to be mentored by 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, and professional 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)

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)

Statements on Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, and Human Dignity

Anti-Discrimination Policy

The governing board of Akili Christian High School at 303 S. Grant Avenue has 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.

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.

Extracurriculars

Akili offers several extracurriculars for students:

Life Coaching

Equip Skills Center Trades Workshop

Student Leadership Team

Clubs (Cooking, Gaming, etc.)

Dances (Fall Formal, Prom)

Boys Basketball Team

To learn more about any of these extracurriculars, please see the descriptions below or reach out to the Assistant Principal, Lorenzo Hoyos, at hoyosl@akilichristianhs.org.

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 Assistant 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 clubs throughout the school year. Students will be responsible for finding their own transportation as needed.

Equip Skills Center Workshop (ninth grade and new students): All ninth-grade students have the opportunity to take part in a trades workshop on Wednesday afternoons each spring. The workshop is located at Equip Skills Center, a trade center located in Clintonville. Equip Skills Center is a non-profit run by Central Ohio Youth for Christ that gives young people an opportunity to learn how to perform basic car maintenance and explore various trades careers 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 staff advisors.

Student leaders will be required to do the following:

- Attend regularly scheduled SLT meetings during the school year
- 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 Assistant Principal, and give a short speech during morning advisory. Two 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.

Dances (all grades): Akili will offer two dances, one in fall and one in spring, for students to attend.

Sports (all grades): Students have the opportunity to participate in sports at Akili such as basketball.

Daily School Schedule & Closings

Daily School Schedule

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

Time	Period
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

Administration	Staff	Email
Principal	Ariana Adkins	adkinsa@akilichristianhs.org
Assistant Principal	Lorenzo Hoyos	hoyosl@akilichristianhs.org
Office & Programs Administrator	Allison Dean	deana@akilichristianhs.org
Front Desk Receptionist	Jane Knapke	knapkej@akilichristianhs.org
School Counselor	Britt Johnston	johnstonb@akilichristianhs.org
Lead Teacher	Jalen Lentz	lentzj@akilichristianhs.org

Teaching	Staff	Email
English Language Arts	Jalen Lentz	lentzj@akilichristianhs.org
Physical Science & Biology	Jessica Lowery	loweryj@akilichristianhs.org
Chemistry & Anatomy and Physiology	Josie Blackwell	blackwellj@akilichristianhs.org
Mathematics, Personal Finance	Lauren Shelton	sheltonl@akilichristianhs.org
History	Spencer Coleman	colemans@akilichristianhs.org
Theology, Health & P.E.	Aidan Eisele	eiselea@akilichristianhs.org
Spanish I & II	James Alexander	alexanderj@akilichristianhs.org
Visual Art I, II, III	Jacquelyn Ricketts	rickettsj@akilichristianhs.org

Graduation Requirements

Ohio graduation requirements are based on three criteria set by the Ohio Department of Education:

- 1) Successful completion of all required class credits with a 60% score or above
- 2) Earn a score of Proficient on the Ohio End of Course Examinations for Algebra I and ELA II
- 3) Earn a minimum of two diploma seals, one locally determined and one Ohio determined

Class Credits

All students at Akili Christian High School must pass the following classes to graduate:

Akili Christian High School Graduation Credits	
ELA	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Bible	2 credits
World Language	2 credits
Health	0.5 credit
Physical Education	0.5 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Personal Finance	0.5 credits
Electives	2 credits

Test-Out Policy

Incoming ninth grade and new students may test out of certain classes such as Spanish I & II, Algebra I, and other pertinent classes at the discretion of the administration with the understanding that the grade on the assessment will be their final grade in the class. Ninth grade students who pass a course examination will be given full credit for the class and will be permitted to proceed to the next class in the sequence. Students in upper grades who have failed a class may also take an examination for class credit at the discretion of the administration. Alternative P.E. credit is available for students

who participate in sports programs at Akili or another school.

Senior Exemption

All seniors are required to take midterm examinations for their scheduled Akili classes, however, seniors who have a cumulative grade of 70% or above in an individual class are exempt from the final examination in that class.

End of Course Examinations

All Ohio students must take the following end of course examinations to graduate:

- Graduation examinations: Algebra I, ELA II
- Diploma seal examinations: American Government, American History, Geometry, Biology

Diploma Seals

Students must earn at least two of the following diploma seals, one local and one Ohio, to graduate:

Ohio Seals	Local Seals
OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal (Ohio)	Community Service Seal (Local)
Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (Ohio)	Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Local)
College-Ready Seal (Ohio)	Student Engagement Seal (Local)
Military Enlistment Seal (Ohio)	
Citizenship Seal (Ohio)	
Science Seal (Ohio)	
Honors Diploma Seal (Ohio)	
Seal of Biliteracy (Ohio)	
Technology Seal (Ohio)	

Local Seals

There are three local seals offered at Akili:

- 1) Community Service: To earn the Community Service seal, students must have completed 15 hours of community service (60 hours total) each school year.
- 2) Fine and Performing Arts: To earn the Fine and Performing Arts seal, students must earn an A in Visual Art I and II at Akili.
- 3) Student Engagement: To earn the Student Engagement seal, students must participate in at least one of the following activities: one year of Student Leadership Team, successful completion of the Equip Skilled Trades Workshop, one year of Life Coaching, or one season of sports.

Academic Honors Recognition

Seniors will earn the following recognition at their graduation ceremony by achieving the grade point averages listed below:

- 3.6 – 3.7: Cum Laude
- 3.7 – 4.1: Magna Cum Laude
- 4.1 or above: Summa Cum Laude

Grading & Assessment

Grading Scale

Assessment provides important feedback to students, teachers and parents about how a student is progressing academically. Each curriculum has frequent assessment built in to ensure that students are learning the objectives, and student grades summarize the body of work that the student has performed and achieved during the academic period. Families may view student grades through FACTS SIS Family Portal at any time during the school year.

Grading Scale				
Letter Grade	Scale Percentage	Unweighted GPA	Weighted GPA	Class Credits Earned
A	93-100	4.0	4.5	1
A-	90-92	3.7	4.2	1
B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	1
B	83-86	3.0	3.5	1
B-	80-82	2.7	3.2	1
C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	1
C	73-76	2.0	2.5	1
C-	70-72	1.7	2.2	1
D+ / D / D-	60-69	1.0-1.6	1.5	0
F	Below 60	0.0	0.0.	0

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.

Incompletes

Students may be given a quarter grade of incomplete due to an extended medical leave of absence or other family emergency as determined by the administration. Teachers must receive administrative approval before granting an incomplete. Completion of missing work must be within two weeks of the end of the quarter.

Late Enrollment

Students who enroll after the first day of school will receive a grade based on their completed work for that quarter. Any student who enrolls after the eighth week of the quarter will receive an incomplete. Midterms and final exams will be modified at the administration's discretion based on the student's starting point in the quarter.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be graded on the following scale:

Underclassmen classes (9 th and 10 th)	10% off final grade each day
Upperclassmen classes (11 th and 12 th)	50% off final grade regardless of day submitted

Any assignment that is not submitted after seven days is automatically given a zero. No late assignments will be accepted for classwork that was assigned when a student was present during that class.

Interims

During the fifth week of each quarter, students will review their grades with their academic advisors and set goals for academic improvement as needed. Interim report cards are also mailed home during this week for families to review.

Report Cards

Report cards will be mailed at the end of each quarter for families and students to review. If a family believes there is an error on the report card, they should contact the school office as soon as possible to request a review.

Midterm & Final Exam Policy

Schedule: Each examination is an early release day (8:30am-12:00pm) and is held at the Columbus Downtown Library. Students are not required to wear uniform on examination days. Busing is available in the afternoons.

Grading: Midterm and final examinations count as 10% of the student's semester grade in the class. Each examination is two hours long, and final examinations are cumulative.

Reading Day: Each exam is preceded by a Reading Day where students attend extended review sessions for their upcoming tests.

Absences: Missing exam days for any reason other than unexpected illness is not acceptable. If a student misses a final, (s)he will need to stay at school the following afternoon to complete the exam. Grades will not be released until a student completes his or her exams, and if a student does not complete his or her makeup assessment by the end of the examination period, (s)he will receive a zero.

Eligibility for Sports & Extracurriculars

Students who are failing a class (grade of 60% or below or a 2.0 GPA) are not permitted to attend sports practices or play in games until their grades improve. Failing students may also not be able to attend other extracurriculars as determined by the Assistant Principal.

Repeated Classes

Students who fail a class (grade of 60% or below) that is required for graduation are permitted to repeat the class during the Summer Credit Recovery program or during the following school year. Once students earn a passing grade in the class, the credit will be awarded and is reflected on his or her transcript. All classes taken at Akili (including those that are repeated) are listed on the student's transcript and accounted for in a student's cumulative GPA.

Summer Credit Recovery

Students who do not pass one or more classes during the course of the academic year are required to attend the Summer Credit Recovery Program (SCRIP), a six week program designed to help students earn credit back to graduate on time.

To successfully earn credit for a failed class, students must:

- Complete the course through Apex with a passing score of 60% or above
- 90% in-person attendance with a maximum unexcused absences of three days

Transcript Revisions

Transcripts are intended to be an accurate reflection of a student's academic performance, and as such, they are not revised for any reason unless a class credit is awarded at the end of a grading

period. All transcripts are audited on a yearly basis by school counselors and administrators to check for accuracy, and transcripts are not accessible to non-administrative staff inside FACTS.

Modifications to transcripts can only be made by Akili administrative staff who believe an error has been made, and any other requests to revise transcripts will not be honored. If a transcript requires modification for any reason, the Principal and Lead Teacher will review the request from a staff member and update the transcript if needed. Revisions to transcripts are noted in FACTS.

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 made significant academic improvement over the course of ten weeks. Students are chosen by teachers and recognized alongside Honor Roll students each quarter.

Fifth Year Seniors

Any senior who does not pass his or her classes or other requirements to graduate in four years will have the option of attending the Summer Credit Recovery Program. If the student completes his or her requirements, (s)he may graduate in August. If the student cannot graduate in August, then (s)he may attend Akili for one final semester to graduate in December. Students who do not graduate by December will be referred to a credit recovery school and will not be permitted to re-enroll at Akili.

Academic Integrity

Integrity is a core value of Akili, including students' academic lives. Students are expected to complete assignments independently unless the assignment is specifically designated to be a group or collaborative assignment. Failure to do so violates the school's academic standards.

Cheating is considered to be any of the following actions:

- Plagiarism
- Using AI to complete a written assignment
- Copying another student's work

First Offense:

- Automatic zero on the test, project, or assignment
- Parent notification by teacher
- Preferred seating for future testing
- Mandatory conference with student, lead teacher, and classroom teacher

Second Offense:

- Failure of the class for the quarter
- Parent notification
- Removal of extracurricular privileges as deemed appropriate

Third Offense: Dismissal or withdrawal from Akili

Access to Student Records & Student Withdrawal

Access to Student Records

Those who are permitted to view an individual student's records are as follows:

- School personnel
- Parent/guardian(s) of the student
- The student who is 18 years of age or older
- Non-custodial parent of an individual minor student unless denied by a court order
- Officials of other schools to which the student applies or transfers

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of an individual minor student or a student 18 years or older may request a copy of any item in the file. Requests should be made in writing via email or letter and may be fulfilled up to three days after the request.

All other requests for access are denied unless the person has a subpoena or the written permission of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student or the student who is 18 years of age or older.

If at any time during the school year, a change occurs in the marital status of the parent, the custodial parent must notify the school and provide a certified copy of the court order stating that (s)he has custody of the student.

Withdrawal Procedure

To withdraw a student from Akili, please contact the school principal and office administrator for the relevant forms.

Once a withdrawal form has been submitted with a parent/guardian signature, the withdrawal process will begin. For students who withdraw prior to the end of an academic year, their grade will be final at the time of the withdrawal and forwarded to the institution of transfer.

All financial obligations must be fulfilled and items returned (including student Chromebooks) before transfer of records will occur.

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. As such, families are requested to minimize absences as much as possible.

Absences

Families must report absences and late arrivals to the office by 9:30am. Phone calls, emails, and voicemails are acceptable means to notify the office of an absence or tardy, but written notification is required for the absence or tardy to be excused. If a parent/guardian is away for an extended period of time, (s)he must notify the school of who the student's legal guardian is during the absence in case of emergency, early dismissals, or absences.

The Assistant Principal will telephone the family of any student who has failed to report a student's absence or late arrival by 9:30am. In the event school authorities are not informed of an absence, the student will be considered truant ("skipping school").

Students who ride the bus will not be considered tardy if they are late to school on account of the bus, although the school is required to document those tardies per Ohio Department of Education law.

Late Arrivals

Students who arrive late to school (any time after 8:30am) are considered unexcused tardy unless the parent contacts the school by phone or in writing with a legitimate excuse. Students that arrive after 10:00am or who leave school before 2:00pm are considered absent for one half day.

Early Dismissals

If a student needs to leave early from school on a regular basis due to sports practice or other commitments, the office must receive written notification from the parent/guardian and issue approval.

A student may not leave campus during the school day without specific permission from an appropriate school administrator and a verified request by a parent and/or guardian. Any student who needs to leave school early must arrange for his or her family to call the office to give permission for the student to leave. The student will then sign out in the office before leaving. Should the student return during the school day, they are to sign back in within the office.

Excused & Unexcused Absences

Reasons for an excused absence or tardy include:

- School bus delays or non-arrival
- Personal illness
- Death of a relative
- Other family emergency
- Doctor's appointments
- School organized shadowing appointments or college visits

An unexcused absence or tardy is due to a reason not acceptable to the school, such as oversleeping or missing the school bus. Any absence without parent notification is considered unexcused.

Doctor's Appointments & Illness

Students must submit written doctor's excuses to the office for his or her absence to be considered excused.

If a student is absent for several days due to medical reasons, a written doctor's excuse is required for absences exceeding three consecutive days, five per quarter, or ten per school year.

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. Students who are ill will be isolated until a family member can pick him/her up from school.

Make Up Work

The following guidelines apply to any absence:

- Students are expected to take the initiative to complete missing work, and students who were absent should contact each of their teachers on the first day (s)he returns to school.
- Students are offered the same number of days as the length of their absence to make up assignments (ex. a student who is absent for three days receives three days to make up the work).
- If a student is absent for a test, the student should take the test the first day (s)he returns unless the absence is extended (three or more days).
- If the student does not submit the assignment within the guidelines listed above, it will be considered late.

Anticipated Absences

Short Term:

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.

Extended:

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.

EdChoice Scholarships & Attendance

EdChoice students that have 20 or more unexcused absences per school year will forfeit their scholarships, according to Ohio law. The State of Ohio requires a written note (by hand or email) for all EdChoice students who are absent.

Attendance Field Trip

Students who have zero unexcused absences at the end of each calendar month of the school year (August – May) will be eligible to participate in a fun field trip at the end of each semester.

Truancy

Akili adheres to the Ohio Revised Code as it relates to 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. Students who are truant may be considered for retention or withdrawal the following school year, including if a student has more than ten unexcused tardies in a school year.

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 Acceptable Use Policy

All Akili students must agree to abide by the terms of this policy before using any school technology.

Devices & Accounts

Chromebooks: Akili has Chromebook computers available for student use. 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.

iPads: Akili has a set of iPads available for student use during school hours only. Teachers must reserve the iPads in advance and return them in a timely manner. iPads may not be checked out overnight or leave school premises at any time, and any student found to be unlawfully in possession of a missing iPad may be asked to leave Akili and if deemed necessary, law enforcement officials will be notified.

Printers: At this time, students do not have direct access to a printer and must send documents to a staff member for printing.

Email Accounts: Akili students are assigned a school email account at the start of each school year for use with Google Apps and colleges. School email accounts are not to be used for any commercial websites such as Facebook, Instagram, Etsy, etc. Email sent through Akili student accounts must be school related and abide by the acceptable use guidelines. School administrators have the right to monitor all emails and messages sent through student accounts, and any suspect email may be reviewed by school administration. Students may not share their password with other students, and as such as responsible for all email and postings sent through their own accounts.

Student Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices: Per Ohio Department of Education policy, students are not permitted to have personal cell phones and headphones at any time during class time. The only permissible time during the school day that a student may use a cell phone is during his or her lunch period. If parents need to contact students during the school day, they should call the Akili office.

If a student needs to use his or her personal cell phone for any reason during class time, (s)he must come to the office with teacher permission. Personal electronic devices will not be permitted to connect to the Akili internet servers.

Any phone that is heard or seen will be immediately collected by the supervising staff member and

will be locked in the office for the duration of the school day until dismissal. Students who refuse to turn in their phone will receive an immediate lunch detention, and lunch detentions may accumulate over the course of the school day. A student who demonstrates continuous misuse of a personal cell phone may be required to have a parent pick up his or her device as needed.

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, theft, or damage of any personal electronic devices.

Students are not permitted to use any type of camera or video recording device in the school building or at school activities without the permission of a faculty member or administrator. Students should remember that at all times they are responsible for the good name of Akili Christian High School, and publication, transmission, or use of images, text, emails, or social networking sites that contradict the mission and philosophy of Akili will result in disciplinary action by the administration.

Acceptable Internet Use

Policy: Akili's computers have security filters and monitoring software installed to protect students from inappropriate content inside and outside the classroom. Students are responsible for appropriate behavior when using the internet just as they are in a classroom or hallway. In general, students should not use the Internet in a way that disrupts its service or operation for others, but students are expected to also abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette:

- Do not view, send, or access abusive, obscene, or harassing materials. Should students encounter such material by accident, they should report it to their teacher immediately.
- Do not give any personal information without appropriate staff approval.
- Do not engage in any commercial, for-profit activities.
- Do not violate copyright laws.
- Do not download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks.

Consequences for inappropriate use: Since Internet access is a privilege at school and not a right, users of the Internet may have their privileges revoked at any time due to misuse or abuse of the Internet.

Consequences may include one or more the following:

- Warning followed by re-clarification of the guidelines
- Loss of use of student Chromebook for a period of time depending on severity of situation
- Notification of parents by phone or personal conference
- Referral to proper authorities for disciplinary and/or legal action

Students who have lost technology privileges may not use personal equipment in lieu of school equipment.

Food Policy

Akili provides breakfast and lunch stipends for students through Kroger. Families will receive their lunch stipend at the beginning of the quarter and will be able to use the funds on the gift card provided to purchase meals for their students. Microwaves will be available for student use during lunch periods.

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

If a student brings in food for his/her birthday, (s)he must wait until a lunch period or the end of the day to distribute it. Food is not permitted to be eaten during class time or in classrooms.

As a reward, students may attend lunch at a restaurant with a teacher periodically throughout the year. Students are permitted to go to McDonalds on Fridays with staff members during their lunch period. Juniors (beginning second quarter) and seniors (yearlong) are also permitted to eat lunch off campus with parent permission.

School Property

Care of Property

The facilities of Akili Christian High School are made possible by the sacrifices of members of our community and generous donors. This fact imposes a serious responsibility and stewardship on Akili students to continue a tradition of respect for the facility and school property.

It is expected, therefore, that students will be good stewards of their environment by keeping classrooms clean and respecting all school materials. Students who are not good stewards may earn consequences such as a lunch detention, restitution, or repayment of school funds as needed.

If any student or group of students should cause damage to the building or materials accidentally, they are obligated to report the accident to the school office.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks and Chromebook chargers are the property of Akili Christian High School. Students are responsible for returning their assigned Chromebook and charger at the end of each school year to the school. Students who do not return their assigned charger and Chromebook will be responsible for purchasing new items at the end of the school year.

Textbooks

All textbooks are on loan to students from Akili Christian High School, and therefore no writing of any kind is permitted in the books. Damage or loss will result in no grade or course credit until reparations are made.

Classroom Materials

Any damage to classroom materials may result in a lunch detention, restitution, or other consequence as deemed appropriate by the school administration.

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 office. All students will have a personal ID badge that they must keep on their person at all times.

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. Visitors must then report to the school office downstairs before heading to their designated area. 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.

Crisis Plans

Akili has an Emergency Operations Plan, including various crisis responses, on file with the Ohio Department of Education. A copy of this plan is on file with Franklin University and the Columbus Police Department and reflects the involvement of the appropriate stakeholders in coordination with local community services such as the police and fire departments. Routine drills (fire, tornado, lockdown) are conducted throughout the school year.

In case of an emergency, Akili has the ability to communicate emergency information to appropriate stakeholders through FACTS SIS.

Phillips Hall and Franklin University has an Emergency Operations Plan approved by the Department of Education and Homeland Security located in the school office.

Weapons, Legal Actions, and Harassment Policy

The safety of our students and faculty is of paramount importance at all times. No student will use, possess, handle, transmit, or conceal any object which is or can be considered a dangerous weapon or instrument of violence on school premises and at school-related functions.

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, or any item that is explosive or incendiary in nature) 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.

Staff Background Checks

All staff members at Akili who have care, custody, and control of students are background checked by the FBI and BCI every five years in compliance with the Ohio Department of Education. These background checks are kept on file and attend an annual training on safety procedures.

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. Akili administration reserves the right to search students' belongings if deemed necessary.

Expectations of Parents

Any parent or guardian of a student who has knowledge of and permits the use or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs will be considered to be seriously violating the principles of Akili. Therefore, the parent or guardian should consider withdrawing the student for whom (s)he is responsible from school since the parent or guardian is acting contrary to the philosophy of the school. Failure to withdraw the student will result in disciplinary action from the Assistant Principal and Principal, which may include expulsion from the school. 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.

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. Any student under suspicion of use, possession, distribution, or attempted distribution is subject to immediate drug screening. The family of the student will be expected to transport the student to an accredited drug testing lab on the day the test is requested by the school administration.

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.

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. 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

Uniform Component	Boys	Girls
Outerwear	Akili sweatshirt OR any solid color sweater, sweatshirt, or zip-up	
Tops	Polo shirts with no logo: red, black, white, yellow Akili t-shirts on Fridays	
Bottoms	Khaki pants or shorts	Khaki pants, shorts, or knee-length skirts
Shoes	Any closed-toe shoe	

General uniform guidelines include the following:

- Students must be in uniform upon entering the building in the morning.
- 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, bandanas, bonnets, or any other head covering. Headbands and cultural/religious head coverings are permitted.
- Large headphones are not permitted to be worn around the neck and should be stored in backpacks or lockers.
- Non-uniform clothing items must be stored in lockers.

Gym Uniform

Students are expected to change into clothing for gym class and will lose class participation points for not bringing proper clothing to class. The gym uniform consists of an Akili t-shirt, athletic bottoms, and tennis shoes. Shorts should be fingertip length, and leggings should not be sheer.

Non-Compliance Policy

Students who do not come to school wearing proper attire will automatically receive a lunch detention. 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.

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. Students whose birthdays are during the school year are not permitted to choose a different day to be out of uniform.
- Uniform pass: Students who buy uniform passes at the All Star store may use them as desired.
- Field trips
- Testing days: State Testing, midterms, finals, PSAT, ACT

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).

If a student does not comply with the non-uniform dress code, (s)he will receive a lunch detention for the first offense. If a student is not able to be in uniform because of unforeseen circumstances, his or her parent or guardian must contact the Assistant Principal with a legitimate reason for the non-uniform day to receive an excuse. If a second offense occurs, the student will not be permitted to participate in non-uniform days for the remainder of the school year, and his/her family will be called.

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.

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 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.

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"> • Repeated classroom disruption • Out of uniform without permission • Inappropriate language • Minor misuse of technology 	Office referral Lunch detention 1 day in-school suspension
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disrespect of school property • Disrespect of staff, including rude arguing • Conflict with classmates • Inappropriate work placement conduct • Profane language or gestures and/or verbal harm 	Office referral Disciplinary hearing Same day dismissal Lunch detention Parent conference 1-3 day out of school suspension Loss of privileges
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession or use of illegal substances, weapons, or materials • Gross disrespect or insubordination toward staff, including mocking, blatant refusal to comply or follow directions, walking away, etc. • Acts of violence, fighting or unwanted physical contact with intent to harm • Sexually inappropriate behavior, including language, gestures, sexting, touching, watching inappropriate material, or the violation of bathroom privacy • Abusive language including making a verbal or physical threat • Cheating, gambling, forgery • Inappropriate internet use • Damaging, destroying or stealing personal or school property • Instigating or encouraging a fight between other students • Lying • Departing from class or school without permission • Any form of bullying or harassment, including cyber-bullying, verbal or physical intimidation, including threats to harm, including sexual content • Inappropriate conduct at work placement • Excessive accumulation of minor infractions 	Office referral Disciplinary hearing Same day dismissal Parent conference Mandatory counseling Behavior contract or probation 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 expelled. 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 concerns in advance and students are expected to report conflicts to teachers before they escalate.

Lunch Detentions

Lunch detentions are the most frequently issued consequence at Akili. Students may earn a lunch detention for the following infractions:

- Out of uniform
- Attendance: late to class without excuse, pass violations
- Class disruptions
- Destruction of school property
- Technology misuse, including student cell phone use without permission
- 3+ office referrals in a day
- Any other inappropriate behavior

Any student who earns five lunch detentions during the duration of a quarter will automatically be given a one day in-school suspension. Lunch detentions are held on Fridays.

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.
- *Same Day Dismissal*: Students may be sent home or isolated for the remainder of the school day if an action is deemed disruptive to the school community or learning environment.
- *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 five 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.

Student Pregnancy

In accordance with Biblical teaching, Akili believes that any act involving procreation is the exclusive right and privilege of those who are married (1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Ephesians 5:22-33). If a student becomes pregnant outside of marriage, the administrators and faculty will have deep concern and compassion for the girl who is pregnant, for the boy who is the father, and for the fetal life the girl carries. At this time in their lives, the students involved in a pregnancy need Christian support and

counsel more than ever, and in light of the biblical instruction they have received, the student body should display compassion toward those involved. For both the students involved in a pregnancy, counseling by those who may be of assistance (school principal, counselors, social workers, etc.) is strongly recommended. Any determination as to health matters concerning the restrictions on, or continuing participation in, curricular or extracurricular activities by a pregnant student shall be made by the student's doctor. Written notice of the doctor's determination shall be provided to the school principal.

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.

School Dance Policy

Guests

Each Akili student is permitted to bring one guest to a dance. Guests must complete a permission slip signed by their school administrator and family that includes contact information for the family of the guest. Guests will be expected to pay for tickets as well.

Guests may not be over the age of 19 or below the age of 14 on the date of the dance. Students are responsible for their guest's behavior and should inform them of the school's policies on appropriate behavior.

Tickets for school dances will not be sold at the door but are available for purchase along with guest forms in the main office a minimum of a month in advance.

Appropriate Dress

The dress code for all school dances is formal attire (suits/ties for male students and dresses for female students). The school administration reserves the right to deny entry to any student who is dressed inappropriately.

Appropriate Behavior

Although dances are important social events for students, the school must maintain a reasonable standard of appropriate behavior and dance movement. All school rules apply to school dances, including the Student Code of Conduct, and a school dance is considered an extension of the school day.

Inappropriate dancing such as grinding, dirty dancing, moshing, or any other movements that threaten student safety are not permitted. There are also no public displays of affection permitted during any dance. Re-entry for students who leave a school dance is not permitted.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, (s)he will be asked to leave immediately and his or her ticket will not be refunded. Akili's Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs policy will go into effect for further disciplinary action as needed.

Chaperones

Volunteer parents and staff chaperones will attend all school dances.

Student Drivers

Any upperclassman student who desires to drive to Akili must submit the following to the Akili office:

- A photocopy of their driver's license, to be kept in the student's file
- License plate numbers for any vehicle they may park at Akili

If a student drives to the school and this information is not on file with the Akili office, the student's vehicle is liable to be towed per Franklin's parking policies for their facilities.

Please note that Akili is not liable for students once they have left school property, including off-campus lunch. Ohio law states that drivers under the age of 18 are only permitted one other passenger until the driver turns 18, and Akili administration highly recommends that families review this law with their students directly if they plan to drive to school.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students

As of January 1974, eighteen year olds gained the age of majority, which made them adults with all of the responsibilities of adulthood. However, the Attorney General of the State of Ohio rendered a decision which in essence stated that as long as an eighteen-year-old is a student of a high school, (s)he must follow the school's regulations just as any other student. Therefore, the policy of Akili is that any eighteen-year-old students enrolled must obey the regulations of the school if they wish to remain students at Akili.

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.

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 \$18,750 for the 2024-25 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. Families who cannot afford the \$1,000 annual facility fee will have their fee covered by the Columbus Opportunity Fund if the appropriate paperwork is submitted by July 1, 2024.

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.