



ACCESS NEWS

Access Charter School

6000 East Colonial Drive, Orlando Florida | 321-319-0640

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A Few Words from Watkins...

Dear Parents/Families,

The school year is moving full speed ahead! We are already entering our sixth week of school and students are making great adjustments with new teachers, peers, and schedules. The start of the year has brought many turns as we continue to work together to ensure the safety of our students and staff during the COVID pandemic. All students, staff and school visitors are required to wear a mask at school while in doors and in groups. Students with medically approved conditions have the option to opt out with a doctor's note. To further ensure everyone's safety please keep your student home if they are experiencing symptoms that last over 24 hours without medications. Students who are showing signs of symptoms while at school will be sent home until symptoms subside or a negative test result is provided.

I want to thank everyone for your patience as we establish Parent Square. This program will be up and running for all families soon. Once completed you will receive an invitation, please make sure to sign up and take part in the ACS parent square community! Also, take advantage of Teacher and Therapist emails. The more we share and communicate the better we can be!

All the best, Mr. Watkins

Car Line Procedures

Thank you, parents/families, for following all car line protocols. Remember when entering the car line do not use any cell phones or mobile devices – **hands free zone** only. We will be changing our dismissal process using a new automated system. Parents will receive updated car tags this week along with further direction.

Special Olympics

Flyers for this year Special Olympic activities have been sent home. Please complete and return as soon as possible to be included in this year's activities. **Students of all abilities are encouraged to participate.** Make sure to turn in your forms as practices will begin October for Basketball.

School Pictures

Picture day is on Wednesday September 22nd. Students are not required to wear uniforms. Dress your best! Pictures will begin after arrivals. A make-up day scheduled for those who do not attend. **Do not wear green on picture day, it will conflict with the background images.**

Remember to collect box tops for education using the downloadable app. Donations go to Access Charter School!

Important Dates

September 15
Hispanic Heritage Month Begins – through Oct. 15

September 17
SAC Planning Committee Mtg.
8:30 am

September 20-24
Spirit Week

September 20
Volunteer Opportunities Begin

September 22
Picture Day

September 24
PAC Room Parent Mtg.
8:30 am

Reminder: During bad weather days with high volumes of lightning ACS will follow a modified 30/30 policy. Dismissals will not occur if there is lightning in the immediate area within a 10-minute period. Thank you for your patience.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The school SAC planning committee will meet on Friday **September 17th at 8:30 am**. The planning committee is made up of four elected parents and two school staff members. This team will begin planning events for the 2021-2022 school year. School wide SAC meetings are held during the school to disseminate information and begin planning for special events. All parents are invited to attend these meetings. A date for the school-wide meeting will be announced soon.

School Spirit Week 9/20 – 9/24

ACS will hold our first school spirit week of the year at the end of this month! Students provided ideas this year for the week!

Monday – Silly Sock Day

Tuesday – Twins Day (pair with classmates/teachers and dress as “twins” – school uniform does not count)

Wednesday – No uniform day! Dress up! Students may wear choice of clothes – remember this is picture day!

Thursday – Tie Dye Day – wear your favorite tie-dye

Friday – Entertainer Day – wear shirts/jeans with favorite bands, concerts, T.V., movie, and theme park characters

This will be a lot of fun and we look forward to seeing everyone participate!

ACS Uniform Exchange

Is your student still in need of uniforms for this school year? If so, please contact the school office to schedule an opportunity to come participate in the uniform exchange. There are currently a variety of sizes and colors of the school uniforms available.

Classroom Observation/Volunteers

Opportunities to volunteer and/or observe the classroom will begin on **Monday September 20th**. Those interested in volunteering must have completed a volunteer application and have been screened. Parents/families may request to volunteer by contacting the school office. Volunteers are not directly placed in the classroom of their student. Parents may also request specific classroom observations at this time.

Parent Activities Committee (PAC)

PAC held the first planning meeting of the year on Friday September 3rd. There was an excellent turn out of parents and family members excited to volunteer. The group discussed and brainstormed a variety of items to enhance the program at Access Charter. Groups broke out in planning committees to brainstorm ideas for school events, fundraising, staff appreciation and parent communication. Teams have submitted notes from these sessions. A follow up meeting is scheduled for **Friday September 24 at 8:30 am** for those parents who have signed up to be room parents for the year. Only designated room parents are requested to attend. The team will be reviewing ideas received and begin scheduling events. Additionally, a **PAC activities fee** for all families has been reinstated. This fee is \$20.00 for the school year and may be turned into the school office now to support the purchase of supplies for future activities. There were a lot of new and creative ideas shared and we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.