

Dear ACA I & II Parents,

During the school year, there may be times when one or both of the schools may be closed. In most cases, school closures are the result of weather related conditions. The staff have developed guidelines pertaining to these closures. Please be assured that the safety of all children is our top priority when making a decision to close or alter the school day. ACA I & II recognize that conditions may vary for individual families; therefore, if school is open and you feel it is unsafe to send your child to school, please contact the school office prior to the beginning of the school day and the student will be given an excused absence.

Parents and students should assume that classes are in session at the normal time unless otherwise notified.

Guidelines for School Closures

Priority on Safety

During periods of inclement weather, public safety power shutoffs, or in emergency situations, our first priority is the safety and welfare of our students and staff. At the same time, the closing of school can be burdensome to families due to child care and work schedules. We consider cancelling school to be an exception, and we place a strong emphasis on keeping our schools open. Some of the primary factors that are considered when making a decision include:

- The safety and well-being of students and staff
- Severity of the weather (air quality, flooding, etc.)
- Timing of the weather events
- The ability of cars to travel safely
- Operable condition of our buildings, including access to drinking water, functioning bathrooms, and functioning fire alarms

Making the Decision

The staff determines when and if conditions at one or both of the schools warrant the cancellation of school.

Notification to Our Parents

In the event of a school closing or other emergency, parents can expect to receive a notification in multiple ways (i.e. email, Remind, Classtag, and/or Gradelink). Please be sure our offices have your most current contact information. School staff will closely monitor the situation and closure decisions will normally be made as soon as possible, before the start of the school day. This allows weather conditions to be monitored overnight to avoid unnecessary closures. Closure decisions will only be made the night before if conditions are known with a high degree of certainty and warrant closure. Parents should establish contingency plans for possible closures throughout the school year regardless of the season.

Family Discretion

Whenever a decision is made to cancel school or alter the school day, it is based on the general safety conditions for all students and staff. ACA recognizes that conditions may vary for each individual student or family. As stated in the introductory paragraph, if school is open and you feel it is unsafe to send your child to school, please contact the school office prior to the beginning of the school day and the student will be given an excused absence.

General Information Regarding School Cancellation

School may be cancelled due to weather or other emergency situations that create unsafe conditions. School may be cancelled for both ACA schools or for only one, as necessary. General guidelines for closing one or both schools include:

- All after-school activities and field trips will be cancelled unless specifically announced by the school staff.
- All student events will be cancelled unless specifically announced by the school staff.

Air Quality Advisory – Two Possible Outcomes

ACAI & II will monitor the air quality index (AQI) using EPA’s AQI monitoring tools at AirNow.gov.

Air Quality Advisory – Schools Will Be Open

When the AQI registers between 0 and 300 schools will be open.

Air Quality Index	Recommended School Activities	School Actions
0-50 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great day to be active outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
51-100 Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good day to be active outside• Students who are unusually sensitive to air pollution may have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor readings, keep staff aware of sensitive students
101-150 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It’s OK to be active outside for short activities (<30 min.) such as recess and PE• For longer activities such as athletic practice, take more breaks and do less intense activities. Consider moving indoors or rescheduling. Watch for symptoms and take action as needed• Students with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform staff that restrictions are in place based on these recommendations• Ensure that staff are following the guidelines

151-200 Unhealthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move outdoor activities indoors or reschedule them • Watch for symptoms and take action as needed. Students with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform staff that restrictions are in place based on these recommendations • Allow students with sensitivities to limit indoor physical activity if needed
201-300 Very Unhealthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move all activities indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform staff that restrictions are in place based on these recommendations • Allow students with sensitivities to limit indoor physical activity if needed

Air Quality Advisory – Schools Will Be Closed

When the AQI registers at 301 or above schools will be closed.

Air Quality Index	Recommended School Activities	School Actions
301-Higher Hazardous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No school activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform staff that restrictions are in place • Cancel classes and institute school closure protocols • Notify all parents of school closure

ACA Action:

- Classes will be cancelled and school closure protocols will be instituted.
- All notification systems will be leveraged to send school cancellation communications to families.
- Activities will be cancelled as noted in the General Information section of this letter.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the weather and other challenges that emerge throughout this school year. Again, we emphasize that student and staff safety is our highest priority, and we will only hold school when the learning environment is safe and productive.