



# ATHENS BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025 - 2026

**Disclaimer**

The administration and board of directors reserves the right to change and/or add policy at any time and in any way to promote the Christ-centered operation of the school.

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# Introduction

## Overview of Athens Bible School

### History

The North Alabama Bible School in Athens, Alabama, was first conceived in the mind of Bennie Lee Fudge. Fudge, who had grown up in Limestone County. Mr. Fudge worked his way through college at David Lipscomb Junior College, where he was named Valedictorian of his class, and Abilene Christian College. In his valedictory address at Lipscomb, he expressed his belief in the need for agricultural Bible schools in every community across the country. He envisioned that students would attend such schools from first grade through high school, would attend chapel each day, and would have a daily Bible class in their curriculum. After his graduation that day in June of 1939, Fudge returned to Athens and set about making his dream a reality.

The groundwork for the school was laid from 1939-42. While attending Lipscomb, Bennie Lee Fudge had become acquainted with Jack Rollings, a fellow student who also called Limestone County home. During this time Fudge also met Irven Lee, a member of the Lipscomb faculty, who also expressed interest in Fudge's ideas. Later, while Fudge was in and out of Abilene Christian College, he kept up a steady stream of correspondence with key people in Limestone County. While at home, Fudge and Rollings were able to arouse interest in such a Bible school by talking with members of their home community. When Lee came to Limestone County to preach, the talk among the three men became more detailed and definite plans for a Bible school were in place by 1942.

Fudge, Rollings and Lee appointed some prominent men who supported their ideas as a board of directors for the Bible school. That board met for the first time on December 27, 1942. The board then officially appointed administrators over the school: Irven Lee as President, Jack Rollings as Vice-President, and Bennie Lee Fudge as Dean.

Among those early board members was founder M.A. Creel, who worked diligently to secure the funding to begin and maintain Athens Bible School. He helped community members to understand that, by investing in ABS, they were investing in young people who would grow up to be godly contributors in society.



North Alabama Bible School opened for classes on September 6, 1943, offering classes for students in grades 7-12. The new school was approved for accreditation in February 1944, and the elementary grades were added gradually in the ensuing years. Lee left Athens in 1947 to go to Florence and begin a similar school at Mars Hill. Since Mars Hill and other schools like it were soon to be started in the North Alabama area, the name of the school was changed from "North Alabama Bible

School" to "Athens Bible School" in November 1947.

In August of 2019 Athens Bible School relocated to the new 42 acre facility on Persell Campus. The new 65,000 sq ft facility which took two and a half years to build, includes a large auditorium capable of seating more than 400 people, air conditioned Jack Cannon Gymnasium, indoor batting cage, fully equipped science labs, playground, and in 2022 a new baseball field.

The principles and goals espoused by the men and women of Athens Bible School are the same today as they were at its inception. We continue to emphasize academic excellence while at the same time working to instill Christian values in the children who are sent to us. We have never accepted donations from churches of any kind, and still operate entirely on tuition, fundraisers, and donations from individuals and corporations. We have a strong Board of Directors who work hard to guide the school's future development efforts while preserving and promoting the values that have made us successful to this point.

From the moment you set foot on our campus, you'll find that the faculty, staff, and alumni of Athens Bible School comprise the same loving, caring family that was found in 1943, though our family has grown over the years. As we continue to grow, we will need the help of interested alumni and friends to help this school, along with its rich tradition and spiritual emphasis, open to those who desire the kind of educational opportunities we offer. Whether you are a past alumni or the parent or patron of potential future students, we invite you to arrange a campus visit and experience for

yourself all that Athens Bible School has to offer.



### **Mission Statement**

It is the aim of Athens Bible School to create an environment and maintain standards of conduct that are consistent with Christian ideals. There are restrictions at ABS which may not be necessary in other places and under different conditions, but which are essential to the maintenance of the ideals of this school. It is understood that every student who enters Athens Bible School thereby pledges to abide by the spirit and letter of all rules and regulations of the school.

Cooperation on the part of parents is essential to the proper management of Athens Bible School. When parents enroll their sons or daughters at Athens Bible School, they agree to accept the regulations of the school and to encourage their children to be subject to these regulations. This express agreement should be clearly understood by students, parents, faculty and administration.

A school cannot make character, but it can give a student the best opportunity to develop character. In this age when popular attitudes and ideas constantly change, Athens Bible School believes that the most worthwhile education is based on the unchanging principles of Christianity.

It is the aim of the administration and faculty to cultivate and develop the spiritual nature of the student and to create and maintain a religious sentiment that is in harmony with the will of God. The Bible is a textbook of every student in Athens Bible School, and it is a constant aim to surround the student with an atmosphere that is based on Biblical teachings.

Athens Bible School is operated by individuals on the Board of Directors and Administration who are faithful members of the church of Christ. It is supported by tuition, fees, fundraising activities, and private donations. Contributions from congregations are neither solicited nor accepted.

### **Core Values**

The vision and purpose of Athens Bible School is to provide each student with a quality education in a Christian atmosphere by working with the home and family to foster the complete and harmonious development of the whole person: spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially.

We believe...

1. Providing a Christ-centered learning environment is the chief priority of Athens Bible School.
2. Bible instruction and moral training are key components of the school's mission.
3. Students' learning needs should be the primary focus of all decisions impacting the work of the school.
4. Students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process by solving problems and producing quality work repeatedly.
5. Each student is a valued individual with unique spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.

6. A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
7. Teachers, administrators, and parents share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
8. The commitment to continuous improvement is imperative if our school is going to enable students to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.

### **Board of Directors**

Athens Bible School is guided by a Board of Directors who make and oversee school policies, oversee financial planning and give an annual evaluation of the school's President and Principal.

The following men comprise the Athens Bible School Board of Directors for the current school year: Daniel Barnes (Chairman), Joel Hamm, Scott Britnell, David Cox, Lynn Persell, Aaron Banta, David Hargrave, Mike Hubbard, and Matt Huggins.

### **Administration**

The daily activities of Athens Bible School are overseen by the administration. The administration is currently composed of a President, Billy Bradford, responsible for business operations, a Principal, Chris Duke, responsible for all aspects of academic affairs, and Jonathan Bragwell, Athletic Director responsible for athletic programs. Chris Duke is assisted by Jonathan Bragwell, in the role of Vice Principal.

### **Accreditation**

Athens Bible School is fully accredited by Cognia (formerly Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-AdvancED).

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

Athens Bible School does not discriminate against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, physical disabilities, or religious affiliation.

## **Campus Safety**

The Board of Directors and the Administration are committed to ensuring a safe environment for both students and staff of Athens Bible School. Policies and procedures have been established to ensure staff and students are protected as well as protect Athens Bible School property from damage and theft. The campus of Athens Bible School is equipped with the latest in security and access controls. Security policies are posted for awareness around campus and strictly enforced.

## **Resource Security Officers**

Dedicated Resource Security Officers are present on campus during school days, including many after-school events. These officers have specialized training in securing the campus and many years combined experience serving in the county Sheriff's Department and City Police Department.



## **Visitor Check In/Check Out Policy**

For the safety and security of our students and employees, all visitors (including parents and/or guardians) who wish to visit on campus must check in through the office and receive a visitor's badge. Visitors to campus may only enter at the main entry facing Highway 31,

where an intercom is located. After identifying themselves by use of the intercom, visitors will be allowed into the lobby. Once in the lobby, they can sign in and receive a visitor badge. Only then will the visitor be provided access into the main building. This policy is in effect anytime students are on our campus during normal school hours. After receiving a visitor badge, all visitors must wear their badge at all times. All visitors must check out through the front office upon leaving campus. (NOTE: This includes situations in which the final school bell sounds while the visitor is on campus.)

Under certain circumstances it may become necessary to prohibit access from visitors on campus in order to protect the health and safety of the students and faculty for a period of time. Restricted access will be limited and determined by the administration.

Faculty, staff, students and visitors are strictly prohibited from allowing other visitors access through any other entry point other than the front entry. All visitors should be directed to the front entrance for visitor registration. Anyone found in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline and/or sanctions.

Exceptions to this policy can be made under the following situation: Visitors attending a school-sponsored, after-hours event. (NOTE: In this situation, campus access is limited exclusively to the location of the event.)

## **Office Hours**

During the school year (excluding days in which school is closed)

Monday - Friday: 7:15am - 3:45pm

During the summer

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00am - 2:00pm



## Admission

### Requirements for Admission

Athens Bible School seeks students of good behavior who desire to become better people and who express a desire to learn both academics and the Bible. Students seeking admission to Athens Bible School will provide a record of good behavior. Although we do not provide a special education program, we do admit children with a wide range of abilities. A history of poor conduct is normally the reason for rejection of an application. A student serving any disciplinary action at another school cannot be admitted to Athens Bible School until that action has been completed. A student may be admitted on probation at the discretion of the Principal. Athens Bible School reserves the right to reject any student applying for admittance or ask any student to leave at any time for any reason when, in the judgment of the administration, that student's attendance would not be in the best interests of the school.

Any lifestyle conduct which is in opposition to the mission of Athens Bible School or which impedes the school's credibility with its constituency or with the general public is unacceptable and will result in denied admission. Such a lifestyle would include homosexuality or transgender lifestyles. Athens Bible School has the right and responsibility to protect our mission and beliefs while ensuring the highest traditions are not harmed, compromised, or hindered by unacceptable lifestyle conduct on the part of its students, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, or staff.

### Admission Procedures

The admissions process at Athens Bible School begins online and includes both digital and

in-person steps designed to help families get acquainted with our school and ensure a smooth application experience.

1. **Start the Application Online**  
Visit our website at [www.athensbible.com](http://www.athensbible.com). From the **Admissions** menu, select **Applying to ABS**. Click the "Applying to ABS" link on that page to begin your application. A non-refundable application fee of **\$22** is required at this time.
2. **Complete the Admissions File**  
Once the online application and all required documentation are submitted, your file will be reviewed by our Admissions team.
3. **Schedule a Campus Visit**  
After your file is complete, our Admissions team will contact you to schedule a meeting with our Principal or Assistant Principal. During this visit, you'll learn more about Athens Bible School and receive a guided tour of the campus.
4. **Final Steps Upon Acceptance**  
If the student is accepted, families will receive additional instructions for enrollment. A non-refundable **registration fee of \$275 per family** is due at this time to secure the student's place.



# Codes of Conduct

## Moral Code

In order to protect our students and provide the best environment possible for learning, spiritual development, and character development, the following regulations for student behavior will apply.

## Manners and Punctuality

Students are expected to be diligent in being on time to classes and other school activities. The break period between classes should be used to get appropriate books and materials, and visit the water fountains and restrooms. Unnecessary loitering in the halls is discouraged. If students need to conduct business with the office, the students may do so before and after school.



## Respect

Students are expected to address faculty and staff members with the appropriate title and proper respect. Students should practice the Golden Rule in their dealings with each other. Wrestling, shoving, hitting, or horseplay is out of place.

## Hands Off Policy

Students are expected to display proper decorum in all social relationships. No kissing, holding hands and any other such displays of affection will be permitted among the students while on campus or at any school-related activity. Such conduct will be grounds for disciplinary action.

## Language

Students are expected to use decent and respectable language at all times on campus and when representing the school off campus. Language which is usually considered vulgar or obscene is prohibited. Biblical words such as “God” and “Jesus” should be used in a way which shows reverence and respect for the Godhead. Likewise, Biblical words such as “damn” and “hell” should be used in a way that acknowledges the seriousness of their religious meaning.

## Care of Athens Bible School Property

It is the responsibility of students, parents and staff to do all that is possible to keep the Athens Bible School facility clean and in good repair. Any item borrowed from school must be adequately cared for and returned promptly, and nothing should leave this campus without express permission of the administration. Library books, textbooks, band instruments, athletic uniforms, electronics, etc., are the property of the school and must be cared for properly and returned. If they are not properly cared for, the parents will purchase a replacement or pay for repairs. The administration will determine whether or not there is a need for the replacement or repairs.

## Food and Drinks

Food and drinks are not allowed outside the dining hall without faculty permission. Drinks

brought in from home should have screw top lids.

### **Medication**

Every student must have a notification card on file in the nurse's office in order to receive Tylenol, Advil, Tums, etc. Any student who needs to take a non-prescription medication can leave it with the school nurse in a resealable bag with name and directions written on the front of the bag. If prescription medication is needed during school hours, a Medication Prescription Authorization must be completed and given to the school nurse. These forms are located in the nurse's office or the main office.

### **First Aid**

All first aid will be handled in the First Aid room, excluding athletic injuries, which will be handled by the Athletic Department, unless the athletic director is not on school premises. All students checking out because of sickness must check out through the First Aid room. The student will be given a First Aid Room Check-out Notice to turn into the main office as they check out.

### **Medical Problems**

Any chronic medical condition must be reported to the administration prior to admission. Serious medical problems that arise must be reported to the administration and the school nurse as soon as the condition is identified.

Any student with a fever of 99.8 or above must be checked out by a parent or approved individual. The student is not to return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.

Any student that has an episode of diarrhea or vomits at school must be checked out by a parent or approved individual and must have not had any episode at home for 24 hours before returning to school.

A physician's diagnosis of bacterial pink eye requires 24 hours of antibiotic eye treatment before returning to school.

In the case of a positive throat culture for strep, a student must meet the following criteria: be on antibiotics for 24 hours, and fever-free without fever-reducing medications or follow pediatrician guidelines.

In the event the school nurse suspects a contagious or infectious illness, the child will be sent home until the condition is improved or the illness has been cleared by a physician.

### **Emergency Drills**

Tornado, fire, earthquake and other safety drills will be conducted regularly to ensure adequate preparation in case of an emergency.

### **Drugs, Narcotics and Medicines**

The possession at any time of any drug, narcotic or medicine other than that prescribed by a physician, or which is necessary for a diagnosed physical condition, is forbidden. Substance abuse may be grounds for dismissal.

### **Tobacco**

The use of tobacco in every form and at any time is discouraged and may be grounds for dismissal. The use of tobacco by students is prohibited on the campus, buses and in all school activities. No tobacco is to be in the possession of students at school or at any school activity.

### **E-Cigarettes/Vaping**

The use of any electronic cigarette in every form (including vaping) and at any time is discouraged and may be grounds for dismissal. The use of electronic cigarettes by students (including vaping) are prohibited on the campus, buses, and in all school activities. No electronic cigarettes or vaping materials are to be in the possession of students at school or at any school activity.

### **Alcohol**

The purchasing, drinking or possession of any alcoholic beverage by a student on campus or off campus is forbidden and may be grounds for dismissal.

### **Sexual Misconduct**

Students of Athens Bible School are expected to uphold the Biblical view of sexual morality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). From the beginning, God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman. The governing body of Athens Bible School does not believe that the human body was made for sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:13) and that any type of sexual relationship outside of the marriage relationship are unacceptable to God (Hebrews 13:4). We want to encourage Athens Bible School students to be pure from immorality in both their minds and their bodies.

Engaging in any form of sexual immorality, on or off campus, is prohibited and will result in immediate suspension from Athens Bible School for the remainder of the school year. Application for continuing with homebound classes for the remainder of the school year will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but students will be prohibited from participating in all extracurricular activities, and, if applicable, will not be allowed to participate in graduation exercises. Students may also be subject to

additional fees that will be assessed to compensate for the additional time and resources that may be needed to provide and monitor meaningful homebound coursework. Students may apply for readmission in subsequent school years, and such applications will be considered by the administration on a case-by-case basis.

Students who disrupt the school environment by promoting or practicing any promiscuous or immoral behavior are subject to disciplinary action up to and including the expulsion of the student.

### **Maternity**

While Athens Bible School values the sanctity of life, the school is not equipped to handle the needs of a student who is pregnant. Therefore, a pregnant student will not be admitted to Athens Bible School or allowed to continue at Athens Bible School if she becomes pregnant during the school year. If a student becomes pregnant during the school year, Athens Bible School encourages the student to contact the school counselor so appropriate measures may be taken to assist the student in making decisions that will be best for her and the child.

### **Electronic Devices**

While we realize that mobile devices are excellent safety devices, they must not be a distraction and only used as approved by a member of the faculty. Inappropriate use of them will result in the loss of the student's privilege to bring a mobile device onto our campus. Please refer to Appendix C for details on acceptable use of mobile devices on campus.

Inappropriate use includes but is not limited to the unauthorized audio and video recording of other students, faculty, or staff. The posting on

social media and other platforms of audio or video of others without their prior permission is strictly prohibited. Additionally, the recording of audio/video in the restrooms and locker rooms is prohibited under any circumstances. Any students posting on social media platforms, group text, or other channels while on campus, on school related trips such as sporting events or other activities, or in association with the school must be consistent with the code of conduct expected of students. Posts including inappropriate language or behavior may result in discipline and the student asked to remove the posts immediately.

The use of Artificial Intelligence, such as Chat GPT, Google Bard or Canva for assignments is at the discretion of the teacher. If no guidance is given, then the use of it may be considered cheating or plagiarism depending on the circumstances.

Any student violating acceptable use of electronic devices may lose the privilege to bring a device on campus temporarily or permanently. Additionally, violating use policies may result in suspension for, at least, one day.

Students may be permitted to bring a laptop or chromebook to school for use. Personal laptops on campus must be enrolled in school management systems for content filtering and monitoring. Students and parents will also be required to sign a Technology Use Policy prior to use.

### **Inappropriate Media**

Students should not bring electronics, magazines, videos, books, or any other type of media containing inappropriate content, whether it be in word (oral or written) or pictures. These items will be confiscated from

the student and further disciplinary action may be taken by the administration.



## **Dress Code**

### **Principles**

At Athens Bible School, our dress code is rooted in three core principles: **modesty reflecting Christian values, distinction and appropriateness, and respect and responsibility.**

- **Modesty reflecting Christian values** means dressing in a way that honors God by demonstrating humility and purity. Our appearance should avoid drawing undue attention to the body or promoting vanity, aligning with Scripture's call to *"dress modestly, with*



*decency and propriety*” (1 Timothy 2:9-10). This principle encourages students to reflect inward spiritual values outwardly through their clothing choices.

- **Distinction and appropriateness** emphasize presenting oneself in a manner clearly characteristic of one’s biological sex, recognizing the biblical affirmation of gender distinctions. Clothing and grooming should also be suitable for the student’s age, the occasion, and the school setting, fostering an environment focused on learning and community rather than distraction or confusion.
- **Respect and responsibility** involve honoring authority and accepting personal accountability for adhering to the dress code. This means students, parents, and staff cooperate in upholding standards that support the school’s mission and values. As Romans 13:1 teaches, *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.”* This principle guides our commitment to fair, consistent enforcement balanced with grace and understanding.

To faithfully uphold these principles in the school environment, we seek to provide specific rules designed to be clear, objective, and enforceable by faculty and administration with fairness and consistency. We recognize that modesty and appropriateness require thoughtful judgment, and no dress code can cover every situation perfectly. Therefore, we ask for a spirit of cooperation, trust, and grace as school faculty apply these guidelines with wisdom and care.

Parents, students and faculty share responsibility in maintaining these standards to support an atmosphere conducive to learning, respect, and spiritual growth.

## **General Dress Code Guidelines**

The following general guidelines apply to **all students in all situations**—during the school day, at extracurricular events, and on field trips or formal occasions. They are designed to uphold our core principles of modesty, distinction, and respect by setting consistent expectations for how students present themselves. Additional sections that follow outline **specific requirements** for particular age groups or activities, all of which are built on the foundation of these general standards.

### ***Modesty and Fit***

- Clothing must be modest in design, loose-fitting, and worn in a way that does not accentuate the male or female form.
- At least one opaque layer of clothing must meet all dress code standards.
- Clothing must not be tight, sheer, see-through, or revealing in any way.
- Midriffs, cleavage, and undergarments must not be visible at any time—whether sitting, standing, bending, or reaching.

### ***Condition and Style***

- Clothing must be in good condition and free from rips, holes, or tears.
- Clothing and accessories must not display inappropriate slogans, messages, or insignias.
- Clothing must not promote organizations, groups, or products contrary to the school’s mission.

### ***Gender Distinction***

- Clothing must be clearly characteristic of the student's biological sex.
- Cross-dressing or wearing clothing typical of the opposite sex is not permitted.

### ***Shoes***

- Students must wear shoes at all times.
- Boys are required to wear closed-toe shoes.
- Girls may wear sandals.

### ***Sleeveless Garments***

- Sleeveless tops (boys and girls) and dresses may be worn only if the shoulder material is at least two inches wide and armholes are not oversized or cut-in (e.g., no halter tops, racerbacks, or tank tops).

### ***Shorts and Skirt Length***

- Shorts, dresses, and skirts must reach at least to the top of the knee when sitting or standing.
- Slits must not extend above the middle of the knee.
- Leggings or tights do not alter or replace skirt/dress length requirements.

### ***Enforcement***

- While it is the job of all employees to be aware of violations of the school code, faculty and administration are specifically tasked with enforcing it, so they will assess dress code compliance throughout the school day.
- Minor infractions will be addressed with a warning and a request not to wear the item again.

- Major infractions will require a change of clothing and may result in an unexcused absence.
- Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action.

## **Guidelines for Specific Situations**

The following guidelines apply in addition to the general dress code rules and clarify age- or event-specific expectations.

### ***School Day***

The following guidelines apply specifically to what students may wear during the **regular school day**. These expectations are built on the general dress code principles and apply Monday through Friday while on campus. While the general guidelines remain in effect, the rules below clarify what is permitted by grade and gender to ensure modesty, age-appropriate dress, and consistency in the classroom environment.

### ***School Day - Boys***

Grades	Permitted	Prohibited
All	Long pants such as dress pants, jeans, athletic pants or joggers.	Pajama pants and athletic shorts
Pre-K through 3rd	Loose-fitting knit pants and sweatpants.  Loose-fitting shorts with pockets of cargo, dress, or golf style that reach to the top of the knee.	
4th through 6th	Loose-fitting shorts with pockets of cargo, dress, or golf style that reach to the top of the knee.	Sweatpants
7th through 12th		Shorts and sweatpants

### ***School Day - Girls***

Grades	Permitted	Prohibited
All	Long pants such as dress pants, jeans, athletic pants or joggers.  Dresses or skirts.	Pajama pants and athletic shorts
Pre-K through 3rd	Loose-fitting knit pants and sweatpants.  Loose-fitting shorts with pockets of cargo, dress, or golf style that reach to the top of the knee.  Shorts must be worn under dresses or skirts.	
4th through 6th	Loose-fitting shorts with pockets of cargo, dress, or golf style that reach to the top of the knee.	Sweatpants
7th through 12th		Shorts and sweatpants

### ***Physical Education***

The guidelines below apply to Physical Education classes, athletic practices, and sports participation. While the general dress code principles of modesty, distinction, and respect still apply, these expectations take into account the physical nature of the activities involved. Clothing must allow for freedom of movement while maintaining the school's standards for modesty and appropriateness. Coaches and gym teachers are responsible for ensuring compliance and may withhold participation if attire does not meet these requirements.

- Shorts or pants must follow the general guidelines and reach the top of the knee when sitting or standing.

- Sleeveless tops must follow general sleeveless standards (2" shoulder, no oversized armholes) and be hemmed by the manufacturer.
- Tank tops, cutout shirts, and see-through materials are not permitted.
- Uniforms must be opaque, loose-fitting, and meet the same modesty and coverage standards.
- Compression shorts must be worn under athletic shorts.
- Athletic team uniforms must be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal.

### ***Formal Occasions***

The following guidelines apply to **formal events** such as the Junior/Senior Banquet and similar school-sponsored occasions. While these events may call for more formal attire, students are still expected to uphold the school's values of modesty, distinction, and respect in how they dress. These standards are intended to help students honor God, themselves, and one another, even in special settings. Because expectations for formal attire can involve more subjective judgment, a review process is in place to ensure consistency and clarity. Students who do not comply with this review process will not be allowed to attend the event.

- Dresses must be modest when standing, sitting, or bending.
- No visible cleavage; necklines must be no more than one hand's width below the collarbone.
- Strapless and off-the-shoulder styles are not permitted.
- Sleeveless dresses must follow general sleeveless standards (2" shoulder; armholes are not oversized or cut-in; no halter tops, racerbacks, or tank tops).
- Hemlines and slits must not rise above the middle of the knee.



- Sheer material must be lined with opaque fabric. Opaque fabric must not give the appearance of skin.
- All dresses and undergarments must be approved in advance by the Banquet Attire Approval Committee appointed by the principal. The Committee will provide the girls with a pictorial set of example current styles that meet the code to help them with their selection.

## Hairstyle

No unusual or radical hairstyles, as judged by the administration, will be permitted on girls or boys. Neither boys nor girls will be allowed to attend Athens Bible School with visible tattoos or body piercings, with the exception of earrings for girls.

Hairstyle for boys will be distinctively masculine, as suitable to the age of the boy. The maximum hair length of boys must be such that the hair is off the eyebrows and collars, and the ears are only slightly covered. Sideburns will be no lower than the bottom of the ear. Boys' faces will be clean-shaven. The only exception will be that boys will be allowed to wear a mustache that is neatly trimmed and grows no longer than to the corner of the mouth.

Hairstyle for girls will be distinctively feminine, as suitable to the age of the girl.



## Searches

Lockers, desks and other school property remain at all times the property of Athens Bible School and are subject to search at the discretion of the administration. Athens Bible School property may not be used for any unlawful purpose. Any unlawful, disruptive, or dangerous material found in or on school premises will be confiscated, and where appropriate, reported to law enforcement authorities.

Administrators may search or authorize a search of the property of any student, including vehicles and electronic and mobile devices, when based upon facts supporting reasonable suspicion that a student is concealing prohibited material. When a specific search is conducted, except pursuant to life, health, and property, the student may be invited to be present during the search. In addition, the

search will be witnessed by at least one other school official.

## **Prohibited Items**

Fireworks, stink/smoke bombs, knives, guns, weapons, explosives, and any other items which present a danger to any person are banned from the Athens Bible School campus. These items, if found, will be confiscated and dealt with as a critical violation.

## **Categories of Code Violations**

Below is an example list of the types of code violations. These listings are not to be considered inclusive. Minor offenses may be deemed by the administration as major offenses if the conditions warrant.

### **Minor Offenses**

- Minor or first violations of the dress code.
- Bringing food or drink into the main school building without permission.
- Loitering, distracting, or disturbing others during school hours.
- Being in unauthorized areas without permission.
- Defacing school property or littering.
- Disrespect to any member of the administration, faculty or staff.
- Inattention or disruptions during the chapel assembly.
- Failure to check-in/check-out properly.
- Improper or illegal parking.

### **Major Offenses**

- Flagrant disrespect to a member of the administration, faculty, or staff.
- Use of or possession of tobacco or electronic cigarettes (e.g. vaping) on campus.

- Use of or possession of alcohol or other non-prescription drugs on or off campus.
- Deliberately defacing school property.
- Leaving campus without proper authorization or under false pretenses.
- Cutting class and/or truancy.
- Testing irregularities, plagiarism, or cheating.
- Behavior which interferes with the orderly conduct of classes and school work or that endangers the physical, emotional, or moral well-being of one's self or another.
- Forging the signature of a parent, teacher, etc.
- Altering grades on reports, tests, or other student progress reports.
- Activating a fire alarm without reasonable cause.
- Behavior involving threats, serious harassment, or fighting.
- Theft of personal property or school property.
- Gross misconduct off campus.
- Any other activities which the administration deems serious.

There are no private domains at Athens Bible School. In order to safeguard the moral and physical welfare of all students, all spaces, which include student lockers, desks, etc. All property, which includes students' purses, book bags, etc., are subject to inspection. Any materials obtained from these inspections may be confiscated for use in disciplinary procedures.

## **Consequences of Code Violations**

Discipline is designed to promote self-discipline and accountability, and it should be appropriate to the misconduct. Discipline will be fair, equally administered, and adequate up to and

including corporal punishment, suspension, or expulsion when deemed necessary.

Punishments as the result of minor offenses will be handled on a case-by-case basis. In many situations, the issue can and will be resolved by simple encouragement and instruction. Repeated violations of minor offenses may be handled as a major offense.

Punishments as the result of major offenses are handed as detailed below:

A **first major offense** will result in a half-day in-school work detail.

- Students will be allowed to make up any work missed.
- Sports and extra-curricular activities will be suspended for five school days.

A **second major offense** will result in a full-day in-school work detail.

- Students will be allowed to make up any work missed.
- All sporting and extra-curricular activities are forfeited for a three-week period. (Three weeks will be taken from the next activity in which the student is involved if the student is not involved in an activity at time of second major offense).
- For Juniors & Seniors, banquet privileges are forfeited.

A **third major offense** will result in a full-day in-school suspension/work detail.

- The student may not be allowed to make up missed work.
- All sporting and extra-curricular activities are forfeited for the remainder of the school year.

A **fourth major offense** will result in discipline as announced by the school administrator.

- The student may be barred from returning to ABS the following year.

## Corporal Discipline

Athens Bible School reserves the right as a private institution to administer corporal punishment. However, we are determined to make every effort to consider the parents' opposition to this method of discipline. If the school feels that a child's behavior warrants corporal punishment and parents do not agree with the administration to administer punishment, the parents must take the student home for the remainder of the day. This will result in an unexcused absence. If corporal punishment is administered, the following will occur:

- Opt-outs will be honored by the administration.
- An attempt to notify the parents will be made as soon as the need for corporal punishment is identified.
- Corporal punishment will only be administered by a member of the administration.
- A witness will be present.
- The event will be documented and entered into the student's record.

## Academic Life

### Library

The Athens Bible School Library is open 8:00am-3:00pm when school is in session.

At any given time, students may check out up to three books.

Fines are assessed at 25 cents per day for overdue circulating books. Lost items should be reported to the librarian immediately. Each student is responsible for every item he or she

has checked out. Any unreturned items will be treated as lost and the student's account will be charged accordingly. The student must pay the current retail price of the item plus a \$5.00 service charge in addition to any fine that may be due. If a lost item is found, the basic charge will be refunded, but not the service charge and fine.

Removing materials from the library without checking them out, even if it occurs inadvertently, deprives other students of the opportunity to use them. Multiple offenses may be interpreted as theft and reported to the administration for appropriate action.

## **Attendance Policies**

### **Chapel Attendance**

Every student is required to attend chapel each school day. Proper reverence should characterize this period. Failure to show proper reverence in the chapel service may be just cause for disciplinary action and/or parental conference.

### **Early Arrival**

All students arriving early must remain in a designated area until 7:45 a.m. When student drivers arrive on campus, they should park in their designated area and immediately enter the building. They are not allowed to sit in their vehicle or enter another vehicle before school starts.

### **Late Arrival**

If a student arrives at school after the first bell rings, the student must report to and sign in with the front office. At this point, the student will then be allowed to proceed to the classroom.

Tardies to non-first period classes are unexcused unless the student received an excused tardy slip from the office or previous teacher.

## **Absences**

Athens Bible School strives to educate students through active involvement with the teacher in a classroom setting. It is, therefore, necessary that students attend classes in order to receive this aspect of their education.

To this end, Athens Bible School sets the following expectations:

- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child(ren) are present for classes.
- Parents are responsible for making sure their child(ren) are prepared for and in class on time.
- Students are responsible for making sure they are in class and prepared by the sounding of the first bell.

Policy:

- Students shall be given eight (8) absences per semester (per class in high school) without penalty. These days are provided for sickness, doctor's appointments, family emergencies, funerals, extra-curricular activities, etc.
- Unused absences will not accrue and may not be applied to future semesters.
- When a student reaches his/her fourth (4th) absence, a notification will be sent to the student's parents/guardians informing them of the number of absences thus far. Note: This is a courtesy of the school; therefore, parents/guardians should keep accurate records in order to know the total

number of absences and not rely solely on school notification.

- If a student reaches his/her eight (8th) absence, he/she will be placed on audit status for the class.
- If additional absences are accrued, the student will not receive credit for the class and will be required to make up the missed credits/class time by retaking the class the next school year or attending summer school. Note: This will also apply to high school Bible classes. Any student missing more than eight (8) Bible classes in a semester will be required to attend a school-provided summer Bible course.
- Elementary
  - Students missing more than eight (8) days will be advised by administration of how missed time will be made up during the summer months.
  - Time missed will accrue and be recorded as hours missed.
- High School
  - Records will be kept on a per-period basis.
  - Missing more than eighteen (18) minutes of a class will be considered as a full absence from the class.

### **Exceptions to the Absences Policy**

While excessive absenteeism can be avoided on most occasions, we realize that there are times when students may accrue more than eight (8) absences. Such times would include prolonged sickness, family tragedy, etc.

If a student and his/her parents so choose, they may approach the Principal(or his designee) for an exception to the above stated policy.

Parents and students should be prepared to provide the Principal (or his designee) with pertinent paperwork that includes a written reason for the absences, doctor's reports, etc.

The verdict of the Principal will be final.

If occasions arise, the school may choose to grant days that will not count against a student's absences.

Such could arise in times of epidemic sickness where siblings are asked to remain home to prevent spread of the sickness.

Such could also arise if the administration chooses to excuse players for state-sponsored ballgames. Ball Games in the regular season of play will count as absences if players leave school early for the game unless authorized by the administration.

If parents desire to take children on an educational trip, the Principal must be approached before the trip if parents desire that these days not be counted against the stated policy.

These types of trips are limited to highly educational outings, not visits to theme parks, beaches, parent's business trips, etc.

During the educational trip the student will keep a daily log. In addition, upon the completion of the educational trip a trip report will be written. Both the daily log and trip report will be submitted to the Principal.

### **Tardy Policy**

- Tardies will count toward absences.
- Time will be rounded to the nearest five minutes, with no tardy equaling less than five minutes.

- Elementary
  - Tardies will accrue and be counted as time missed.
- High School
  - Four tardies to class will count as one (1) absence per period.

### **Check Out Policy**

Once a student arrives on campus, the student may not leave without checking out and obtaining permission from the office. This includes trips to nearby convenience stores before or during school hours. If a student knows it will be necessary to leave the campus during school hours (which must be a matter of absolute necessity), the student must bring a written note from home signed by the parent or guardian and present it in the office. The note must state the specific reason for the student checking out. If possible, parents should try to schedule dental and medical checkups after school. If a student becomes ill, the student should report to the school nurse or main office. If the student must leave, parents will be notified and a checkout notice will be sent to the office with the student to check out.

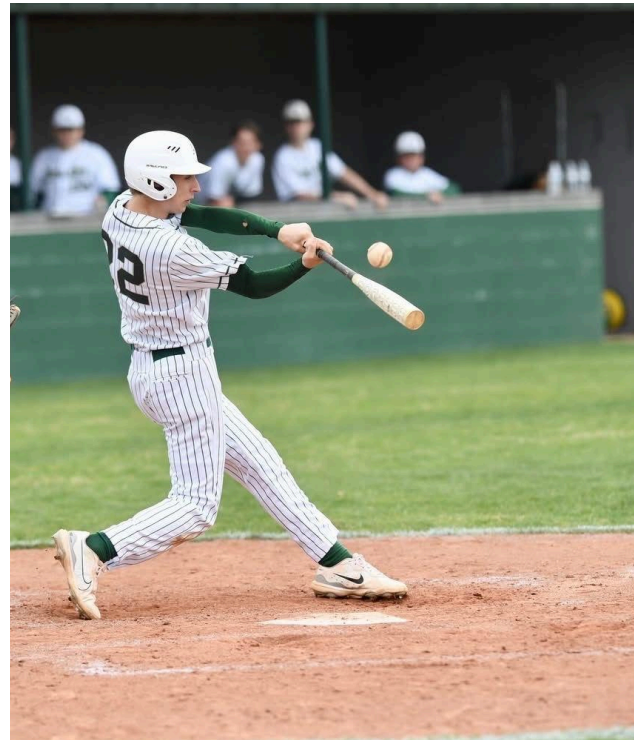
### **Check In Policy**

All students who are returning to campus after having checked out must check in through the Front Office. Once they have formally checked in, then the student will be allowed to proceed to the classroom.

### **Make Up Work**

Any absence from school is a serious handicap to the student as there is no substitute for regular class attendance. If absent, the student should make arrangements with each teacher immediately upon returning to school to make up the missed work. Teachers will be glad to help students with work missed due to absences, but the responsibility for arranging

for make-up assignments rests with the student. Upon returning to class, the student is expected to make up all work including tests within three days for each day the student was absent. Work not made up by this given time may result with a grade of zero if the faculty member so chooses. Extended absences involving more than one week may require extra time at the discretion of the individual faculty member.



### **Dual Enrollment**

The dual enrollment program at Athens Bible School offers our students distinct and extraordinary advantages. Beginning in their sophomore year, our students may begin taking classes that will count toward their high school diploma and their college degree. These classes are conducted by Athens Bible School faculty members qualified to teach college level courses, on our campus and within the unique Athens Bible School environment. Here are

some of the courses that may be available on campus from year to year:

- World History (6 hours)
- American History (6 hours)
- Spanish (13 hours)
- College Algebra (3 hours)
- Pre-Calculus Algebra and Trigonometry (6 hours)
- Calculus I (8 hours)
- English (6 hours)
- Literature (6 hours)
- Biology (8 hours)

NOTE: This list may change slightly year-to-year given different situations and circumstances.

By taking all available classes, the Athens Bible School student may accrue over 50 hours of college credit and enable he or she to enter as collegiate sophomores in their first year after high school graduation.

What are the advantages of this program:

- College courses taught on ABS campus by Christians with a Biblical worldview.
- Financial savings equaling as much as \$20,000.
- Possible completion of Bachelor's degree in less than 3 years of college.
- Enjoy the unique Athens Bible School environment.
- No room and board expenses.
- No extra transportation time and cost.

The Athens Bible School Dual-Enrollment program is arranged through Calhoun Community College, therefore, all courses are easily transferable to all state universities and colleges, as well as to nearly all colleges and universities nationwide.

Additional tuition and fees (which will be paid directly to the colleges) will apply.



## Grades

### Grading Standards

The following interpretations are to be used in reporting and recording grades:

Evaluation of Work	Numerical Score	Letter Grade
Excellent	90-100	A
Good	80-89	B
Fair	70-79	C
Poor	65-69	D
Unsatisfactory	< 65	F

Students in 1st-8th grades must have a 65 average for the year in order to pass. The average for the year is the average of the two semester grades. A semester average is the average of two nine-week grades.

Students in 9th-12th grades must have a 65 average each semester to pass the course. They will be given half a credit for each semester passed. A semester average is the average of two nine-week grades.

The following interpretations are to be used in reporting and recording conduct grades:

Evaluation of Conduct	Letter Grade
Satisfactory	S
Needs Improvement	N
Unsatisfactory	U

### Bible Grades

Students enrolled at Athens Bible School are expected to pass every Bible class they take. However, it is understood that some students, especially new students or new Christians, may have difficulty competing with Bible students who have had many years of Bible training.

Teachers will take this into consideration as well as the general attitude and conscientious effort of the student to learn and apply Bible teaching in daily life when determining the student's Bible grade. An "F" in Bible could indicate serious problems on the part of the student such as deliberate failure to try to learn, disrespect or deliberate misconduct which shows a lack of appreciation for the Bible and Bible classes. If a student has a failing grade in Bible class during any nine-week period a consultation between parent and school administration will be required.

### Report Cards

Academic grades for current students are stored in an online system called RenWeb. This system is used by hundreds of academic institutions nationwide.

Numerical subject grades and letter conduct grades will be given in each subject. Grades in either area must be satisfactory in order to remain enrolled at Athens Bible School. Report cards are sent home with the children every nine weeks. Parents are responsible for seeing the report.

### Progress Reports

At the conclusion of the third week and sixth week of each nine-week period, parents and/or guardians of students are emailed a progress report. This report details every grade that has been collected in each class as well as the current grade average for the class.



## Final Exam Exemptions

High School students may be able to exempt their semester final exams if they meet all qualifications in the following table:

Qualification	May Be Qualified By
<b>Minimum Grade Requirement</b>	Any one of the following: 1) Student has an average grade of 90 on each nine weeks grading period. 2) Student has an average grade for the entire semester of 92. 3) Average semester grade of 88 with no absences or tardies.
<b>Personal Conduct Requirement</b>	No major offenses.
<b>Attendance Requirement</b>	Less than 4 absences.
<b>Tardiness Requirement</b>	Less than 4 tardies.

Note: For the Spring semester, all seniors may exempt their final exam if they have at least an 80 average for each of the two nine-week periods, and if other requirements are met.

## Student Records

Records of current students are maintained within FACTS. Records of our alumni are maintained indefinitely in our Counselor's office.

# Student Life

## Spiritual Enrichment

While Athens Bible School is an academic institution, our goal is to educate students in all areas of life, which includes spiritual enrichment. Daily Bible classes and chapel assemblies are required for all students and tend to be one of the many highlights of the day. Bible class teachers are selected based on their knowledge of God's truth and their love for imparting it to young people; most of our Bible teachers in the upper grades are full time evangelists in area churches of Christ. Elementary chapel focuses on learning Bible truths and helping children develop as worshipers of God; boys are encouraged to participate as leaders in song, prayer, and the reading of Scripture. Speakers in the high school chapel are selected by the head of the Bible department and include male faculty members and specially selected guests, as well as high school students who are faithful members of a local church of Christ and have demonstrated reverence, good Bible knowledge, and spiritual maturity.

## Social Organizations

The Athens Bible School education extends far beyond the daily classroom. Numerous clubs and organizations provide our students with opportunities to explore, experiment and grow in their areas of interest. Some of the clubs and organizations are involved in competitions on the state and national levels, and have won State and National championships. This provides our students with healthy competition to work with diligence and excellence. A brief description is given below of most of our organizations and clubs and some of their most recent successes.

**Junior & Senior Beta Clubs:** Recently the Athens Bible School Beta Club was named a National Beta Club School of Distinction for being committed to academic rigor and dedication to preparing students for college and career readiness. The ABS Beta Club is dedicated to promoting academic achievement, nurturing worthy character, improving student leadership skills and encouraging service to others. Beta not only serves our school, but our community as well. For example, our Junior Beta club volunteers monthly at the local complimentary veterans' breakfast. The students who choose to be a part of this club must work a minimum set of community service hours per year and maintain a 2.5 GPA. The last several years our Junior and Senior Clubs have received many awards for academics and the arts at the state and national level. The majority of our 6th-12th grade student body is involved in the Beta Club.

**History Club:** The Athens Bible School History Club is dedicated to the promotion, learning and preservation of the accurate history of the United States and the state of Alabama. Each year the club takes on a project to challenge the students to both learn and preserve history. Field trips are taken to enhance the mission of the club. Most recently the club has journeyed to Lexington, Savannah, St. Louis, and Pensacola.

**Science Club:** The Athens Bible School Science Club is dedicated to investigating and exploring the world God created to better understand how it works. They engage in everything from after school experiments to special museum tours to overnight field trips.

## Athletic Teams

Athens Bible School has a long-standing athletic tradition, both in the county and in the state. Athens Bible School competes in the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) at the 1A level. Athletic opportunities at Athens Bible School include cross-country, volleyball, basketball, softball, baseball, tennis, soccer and track.

Athens Bible School has a history of being a part of the Alabama All-Sports rankings and the Academic All-State team. In the 2006-2007 season, Athens Bible School ranked second in class 1A in the All-Sports rankings and had 20 Academic All-State honorees. In 2008 both the baseball and softball teams won the state championships, and the volleyball team was 2007 runner-up. In 2024-2025 the ABS Girls Cross Country and Track & Field teams finished as the state runner-up in each sport.

## **Eligibility**

The participation of a student in extracurricular activities is a privilege extended to the student. Inadequate grades or improper attitudes and behavior could jeopardize participation. The following circumstances will result in a three-week suspension from extracurricular activities:

- One “F” in any subject in any nine-week grading period.
- An overall grade below 70 for all grades averages together during a nine-weeks grading period.
- Three “N”s in conduct during a nine-week grading period.
- At least one “U” and one “N” during a nine-week grading period.
- Suspension from school for any reason.
- Additionally, all student athletes must comply with the AHSAA rules and guidelines

If a student is failing after 3 weeks, a notification to the parents will be sent. If the student is still failing after 6 weeks, the student will be ineligible for extracurricular activities for one week. In order for the student to regain his/her eligibility the student must be passing the course (above a 65 average) at that time. If a student fails for the nine-weeks, a three-week period of eligibility will be mandatory. If a 70 average is maintained after that three-week period, the student may be readmitted to the activity at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

There may be additional restrictions and guidelines for specific activities. Please consult the activity’s sponsor/coach for more information.

# Student Services

## Academic Advising

As students advance in their education and near graduation, the counseling office at Athens Bible School will assist all students (and parents) in selecting colleges and/or universities that are appropriate for the goals of the student. The student should feel free to avail themselves of this opportunity at any time.

## Financial Services

### Tuition

Tuition at Athens Bible School is calculated based on the number of children that you have attending the school. Every effort has been made to ensure the highest educational experience at the most affordable price.

See Appendix A for tuition prices for the current academic school year.

### Tuition Assistance

We believe enrollment in our school should not be limited to only those who can pay full tuition. Our financial assistance program enables us to assist many deserving students who could not otherwise afford to attend.

Athens Bible School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, handicap or national origin. All families who need financial aid are encouraged to apply for this aid.

All families who have been enrolled in ABS are eligible to apply for financial aid. There is a limited amount of funds that are distributed to applying and eligible families based upon financial need. At the beginning of each

academic year currently enrolled families may apply for financial aid. The application for financial aid can be found in the enrollment or annual re-enrollment package. The aid process begins with a completed financial aid application.

Students applying for aid should present a strong record of good conduct. All families receiving financial aid are expected to pay part of the cost of tuition, unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

Applications must be resubmitted annually and are evaluated by the Financial Aid Committee prior to the beginning of the academic year.

The committee will ensure confidentiality is maintained. As soon as possible please

- Complete and submit the financial application form. You may be requested to submit a copy of your completed Federal Income Tax return (including all forms and W-2s) for the preceding year. The assets of both parents will be considered before making any awards and the evaluation will not be bound by the assertion that one parent has disclaimed responsibility for educational expenses. If the custodial parent has remarried, we will also consider the assets of the step-parent, bearing in mind the obligation of step-parents to their own natural children.

The Financial Aid Committee will determine awards, and you will be notified of the results by email shortly thereafter.

### Tuition Work Exchange

Families who have been enrolled in ABS are eligible to apply for the work exchange program. This program allows parents to

perform essential work on campus in return for tuition credits. The jobs are limited and specific, and are awarded based upon ability to do the job and financial need. At the beginning of the academic year, currently enrolled families may apply for these jobs. Parents may apply for this program by completing the Financial Aid Application in the enrollment package.

### **Pack/Buchanan Sponsorship**

This scholarship is awarded to one or two students per year who are currently enrolled in 7th-12th grade at ABS. This scholarship is awarded based upon academic effort and character. Currently enrolled ABS students may apply for this scholarship in the spring of each school year.

### **The Lovell Scholarship**

This scholarship was established due to the generosity of the Coffield and Lovell families. The Lovell Scholarship offers assistance paid to the account of any new student and is guaranteed renewable for two consecutive years.

This scholarship will be advertised to all prospective families on the ABS website. Awardees will be selected from those families that complete the Financial Assistance Request Application. Applicants will be renewed by the Financial Affairs Committee and School Administration. The recipients will be selected prior to the start of each semester.

### **Heirloom Scholarship**

The Heirloom Scholarship is funded by the founders of The Heirloom Companies and awards scholarships to recipients based on financial need and their desire to attend Athens Bible School.

### **Trojan Assistance Program**

The Trojan Assistance Program matches financially challenged students/families with donors who are interested in helping them attend Athens Bible School. All funds donated to the program are used to provide tuition assistance for families that would not otherwise be able to afford to attend ABS. The program is unique because it is based upon character and financial need. Students/families that apply are those who typically are dealing with challenging financial situations, have exhausted all other resources to pay for tuition, and have a strong desire to attend Athens Bible School. Awardees will be selected from those families that complete the Financial Assistance Request Application. Applicants will be renewed by the Financial Affairs Committee and School Administration. The recipients will be selected prior to the start of each semester.

### **Delinquent Accounts**

While every effort will be made to insure that accounts never fall delinquent, sometimes that occurs. Consult with the Financial Services Department and the Administration of Athens Bible School to come to an agreement on how to bring the balance to order.

### **Health Services**

Athens Bible School has an onsite nurse which will be available every school day. Prior to admittance, each student will need to provide the Nurse with all information that she needs to ensure that the student is properly cared for. During the year, the Nurse will notify parents and students with any information that is deemed to be important.

## Appendix A: 2025-2026 Tuition and Fees

Tuition at Athens Bible School is calculated based on the number of children that you have attending the school and their prospective grade level. Every effort has been made to ensure the highest educational experience at the most affordable price.

**Tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year is as follows:**

Annual Tuition Rate	
Pre-K part-time (3 days/wk) children	\$3,495.00 ea.
Pre-K full-time (5 days/wk) children	\$4,395.00 ea.
Kindergarten	\$4,695.00 ea.
1st and 2nd Grade	\$5,195.00 ea.
3rd - 12th Grade	\$6,295.00 ea.

If you have **more than three children** in your family attending Athens Bible School, the tuition of the children past the third child is **free**.

### **Fees:**

Each family is responsible for a **\$275.00 Re-enrollment fee** paid by April 1st. Please complete the online re-enrollment and pay the \$275 re-enrollment fee. After April 1st this fee increases to \$325. After May 1st this fee increases to \$425. After June 1st, the fee increases to \$525 per family.

Each school year every family is responsible for a **\$800.00 Administrative Fee**. This fee will be included along with tuition and paid on the same schedule with tuition as selected by each family (annually, semester, or monthly). The Administrative Fee is also waived for Full-time employees who have dependents attending Athens Bible School.

**The Administrative Fee will be credited back if the family refers a student to Athens Bible School and the referred student enrolls for a year.**

Cash, Checks, and major Credit Cards are accepted as a form of payment. All credit card transactions will incur a 3% processing fee.

# Appendix B: Sports Program

Knowing that athletics is an integral part of the total educational program of Athens Bible School; that the coaches of ABS have a tremendous responsibility in molding the ideals of young people; that such responsibility requires the services of men and women of high ideals and moral standards, with vision, education and human understanding; that athletics must maintain its place after academics in our total educational program; that the best interests of the athlete must be safeguarded; and that all members of the “ABS Family” must observe proper standards of conduct in their relationships with each other and other schools, the Athens Bible School Board of Directors has formulated the following sports principles.

At the end of the principles listing is an explanation of how the coaches will implement these principles.

## ABS SPORTS PRINCIPLES

1. Priorities are established in the following order:
  - a. God
  - b. Family
  - c. Academics
  - d. Sports
2. The goals of the athletic program include:
  - a. Teaching the value of teamwork.
  - b. Teaching the value of sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is exhibited by one who is fair, generous, a good loser, and a gracious winner.
  - c. Building self-confidence.
  - d. Teaching the value of persistence and commitment to a goal.
  - e. Developing physical skills and healthy bodies.
  - f. Providing a rewarding and enjoyable experience.
3. The Golden Rule applies to the athletic program also. Coaches, players and fans of ABS should treat officials, opponents, visitors and each other as they would want to be treated. All visiting teams and fans are our guests and should be treated as guests. Our behavior when we are visiting is no less than what we expect from our visitors.
4. Scheduling
  - a. Coaches should jointly work out schedules for practices and games in consideration of other school activities. These schedules are finalized and approved by the Athletic Director. Schedules are based on the priorities listed in Item 1 above. Schedules are published in advance for both events and practices.
  - b. Coaches support and encourage the participants of other sports besides the one they coach, and also encourage the participants in other school activities.
  - c. In order to encourage attendance at worship services, practices and games are not conducted at any time on Sundays or on Wednesdays after school hours. Any exceptions to this principle must be approved by the Principal.

5. Students who desire to participate in more than one sport are allowed to do so. Coaches jointly accommodate these desires in the best interest of the student. It is acknowledged that participation in multiple sports may reduce performance in one or more sports and, therefore, may reduce playing time in one or more sports.
6. Athletes are not to be moved back and forth from Junior Varsity to Senior Varsity on a game-by-game basis. These are recognized as different teams and athletes should not be moved from one team to another.
7. Adopting these principles and fulfilling these goals takes precedence over winning athletic events.

We, as coaches, want to communicate with both parents and athletes. We will write down our specific rules of behavior and requirements and give them to athletes and parents, along with a copy of these sports principles. A pre-season meeting with parents will be conducted and as complete a schedule as possible will be distributed. The coaches would like to be made aware of all potential conflicts in scheduling as soon as possible.

We recognize that coaches are role models, but perhaps parents are the most important role models of all. Parental behavior is important. If parents can handle winning and losing with dignity, and treat each other with respect, their children will do the same.

Parents are encouraged not to place their perceptions of competition on their children. An adult perspective develops after years of participation in athletics, observations of the collegiate and professional picture, and considerable experience in the business community. Remember, children in high school lack this experience. We would hope parents might teach their children to be good listeners while responding to the needs of their friends. One cannot underestimate the value in teaching youngsters how to give compliments, how to listen and show interest in the points of view of others, and how to ask pertinent questions.

Athletic competition can be one of the most positive life experiences any of us can have. Increasing our sensitivity and awareness, sharpening our athletic perspective, and enjoying the rigors of competition are all within the grasp of each of us. Let us all resolve to do our part. OUR CHILDREN DEPEND ON US.

## **SPORTS IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

The ABS Coaching Staff has established the following guidelines to let the parents know how we will implement the sports principles established by the Board of Directors.

In our opinion, every Christian should conduct a life according to these priorities: God first, family second, academics (or job) third, then any other activity (sports or hobby). If we as coaches “let our light shine”, our example will teach the athletes better than any lesson that could be preached on the subject.

We will be conscious of “exam time” and will accommodate test time by our scheduling of games and practices at times to allow for studying and other academic activities.



We will:

- a) encourage the athletes to cooperate with each other and strive as a unit to achieve a definite objective.
- b) be fair and unprejudiced with the athletes and consider their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments, aptitudes and environment.
- c) point out the athletes' weaknesses and find ways to help the athletes improve.
- d) make a concentrated effort to emphasize the athletes' strengths and get them to take full advantage of them. (This increases the self-esteem and confidence of the athletes.)
- e) give careful attention to the physical condition of athletes at all times, particularly at the time of each contest.
- f) follow the rules of the sport ourselves and stress fair play and honesty.
- g) make sportsmanship a part of every practice session and every game.
- h) encourage playing hard but not deliberately breaking the rules to gain an advantage.
- i) encourage players to always show respect for game officials and other game personnel, such as scorekeepers, timers and public address announcers.
- j) discourage name-calling and cutting down of other athletes. (Every competitor, and each of our own teammates, are worthy of our respect and should be treated with courtesy.)
- k) reward our athletes when they show good sportsmanship.
- l) discipline our athletes who disregard good sportsmanship.
- m) commend and applaud good sportsmanship by the visiting team.
- n) treat the visiting coach, team and crowd as if they were visiting in our own home.
- o) keep a well-disciplined and orderly bench throughout the game.
- p) keep our own emotions and actions under control.
- q) teach the athletes to strive to win, but not at all costs.
- r) teach the athletes to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- s) maintain cordial and cooperative relations with the school administration and faculty and accept all decisions graciously.
- t) make sure that all athletes are eligible under state and ABS rules (birth certificate, AHSAA Participation Physical Evaluation, grades).
- u) adhere to published schedules for games and practices. (If unforeseen events occur that require a change, this will be done through the administration and Athletic Director.)

We will stress to our athletes that they follow the Golden Rule. The best way to teach this is to follow it in our dealings with them. ALL of what we are trying to teach is best accomplished by "actions rather than sermons".

Parents are often concerned with conflicts among extracurricular activities. The coaching staff wants to assure that every effort will be made to keep scheduling conflicts from occurring. We have adopted the following guidelines to help keep athletes from feeling stress when faced with conflicts that are unavoidable:

- a. Students who wish to participate in concurrent sports may do so. They will practice both sports as time, the team sport and individual circumstances allow. No practice, meet, or game is to be scheduled to conflict with the state level of the other sport.
- b. Students who wish to participate in overlapping sports will be allowed to do so. The majority of their time is to be spent with the sport that is at the end of its season, (cross-country over basketball and basketball over baseball). If cross-country runners have participated in the summer basketball development program, they will not be required to practice basketball until the cross-country season is completed. If basketball players participated in summer baseball, they will not be required to practice baseball until the basketball season is completed. Both groups will be encouraged to “shoot” or “throw” on their own during the overlapping time frames.
- c. Practices will not be scheduled on Sundays or after school hours on Wednesday unless permission is granted from the Principal. If the Alabama High School Athletic Association schedules a state-level competition on Wednesday after school hours, and our administration is unable to convince them to change the time of day, then the administration will have to decide whether to compete or forfeit. If we are allowed to compete on Wednesday, let us assure you that every reasonable effort will be made to take your child to a recognized congregation for worship services.

We will place the athletes on the level of competition that is appropriate with their ability level. We will not “see-saw” them back and forth between teams, but may move them occasionally in response to sickness, injury, or the athlete’s desire for more playing time at a lower level.

**ALABAMA RULES FOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION.** The Alabama High School Athletic Association requires that every student pass five units, including the “core four” subjects, of work each year with a composite average of at least 70 (in those 10 semesters of work) in order to be eligible for the next year. A state-certified birth certificate (not a copy, but one issued by the state health department) must be presented to the school and a copy made of it before the student can participate in athletics.

# **Appendix C: Mobile Device Policy**

The general guidelines regarding all electronic devices are found on page 13 of the Student Handbook which, in part, states that phones are not to be a distraction or used inappropriately. Due to the increased level in both of these areas, the following implementation of said guidelines will be in place for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This policy applies to all mobile phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices other than laptops and chromebooks approved for student use.

## **General Use**

All mobile devices will be turned off and placed in backpacks (locker if you do not carry a backpack) when the school day begins at 8:00 and remain there until the day ends at 3:10. They are not to be out for any reason during the day unless a member of the faculty gives approval to do so. If a student violates this rule, the device will be confiscated and left in the office to be picked up at the end of the day. After three violations, parents will be notified about possible actions that will be taken by administration.

## **Restrooms and Locker Rooms**

Mobile devices or any other electronic devices that are capable of audio recording, video recording, or taking photographs are strictly prohibited in restrooms and locker rooms during the school day or at any school function. Any student caught with a phone or any other electronic device going into a restroom, in a restroom, or exiting a restroom will be suspended for, at least, one day. There will be no exceptions.

Mobile devices or any other electronic devices that are capable of audio recording, video recording, or taking photographs are strictly prohibited in locker rooms during the school day or at any school function. Any student caught with a phone or any other electronic device going into a locker room, in a locker room, or exiting a locker room will be suspended for, at least, one day. There will be no exceptions. Therefore, phones and other electronic devices will be placed in a designated area before students enter the locker room for P.E.