

WELCOME - مرحبا

EXCITING START TO THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

💬 Message - From Dr. Zak Palsha, Superintendent

Dear ACST Families,

Welcome to the American Cooperative School of Tunis!

We're delighted to welcome new families to the ACST community—and to welcome back our returning families! As we prepare for the start of the school year, we look forward to a meaningful and positive experience for your child and your whole family.

With the school year just around the corner, we'd like to share a few logistical reminders and highlight some key dates to help you plan.

You can find the 2025–2026 School Calendar here, and it's always available on our school website for your convenience.

Message - From
Dr. Zak Palsha

AUGUST 11, 2025

Communication:

At ACST, we deeply value the partnership between home and school. One of our ongoing goals is to strengthen **two-way communication** with families so that you always feel informed, connected, and engaged. To help you stay in the loop, we use **four primary communication channels**. Below is an overview of each, including what kind of information you can expect and how often it's shared:

📬 SCHOOL LEVEL NEWSLETTERS:

Sent **weekly** by the Principals, these newsletters include **school-specific updates** and important announcements.

If any information changes after a newsletter has been sent, you'll receive a follow-up email directly from the relevant school office.





📲 WHATSAPP CHANNEL

ARE YOU IN OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL YET?

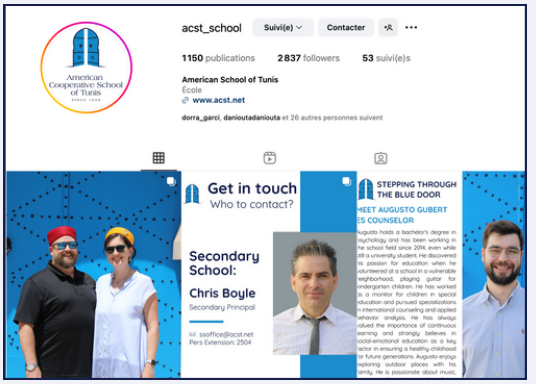
Used primarily for **reminders and upcoming events**, such as the weekly "What's Happening Next Week" message, which goes out on **Fridays** to help you plan the week ahead.

This message also includes the **lunch menu**.

📸 SOCIAL MEDIA - INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK

We love sharing highlights and photos from school life on our social media platforms.
Follow us to stay connected:

- Instagram: @acst_school
- Facebook: American Cooperative School of Tunis

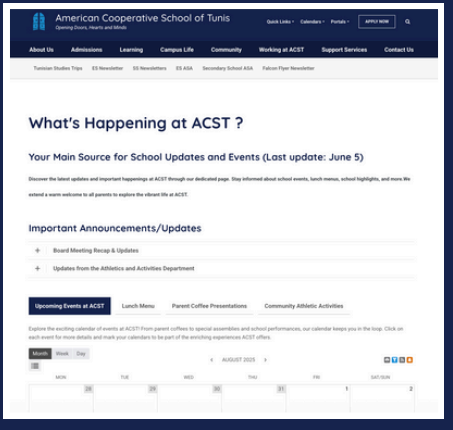


🌐 CHECK THE ACST PARENT PORTAL

Your go-to source for **consolidated, up-to-date information**—especially helpful for those who aren't active on social media.

The portal is **updated weekly** and includes content from newsletters, WhatsApp updates, and social media posts.

Explore Now



Message - From
Dr. Zak Palsha

AUGUST 11, 2025

PTO

At ACST, all parents and teachers are automatically members of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). As a PTO member, you're invited to attend meetings and play an active role in shaping our school community.

If you'd like to get involved, please join the PTO WhatsApp group.

Have questions or ideas? Feel free to contact us at pto@acst.net.



SCHOOL HOURS & BELL SCHEDULES:

Pre-School	8:00 - 3:00 pm (full day) 8:00 - 12:00 pm (half-day)
Elementary & Secondary School	8:00 am - 3:00 pm
After-School Activities	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Secondary Athletics	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

You will be receiving more specific schedules from other members of the school personnel. Elementary teachers will share homeroom schedules and secondary school students will view their class schedule via PowerSchool (returning students) or through a school email (for new students and grade 6 students).

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

School fees can be paid online or with the cashier. If you have any questions, please contact Mohamed Ismael.



mismael@acst.net
Pers Extension: 2403

SUPPLY LISTS:

For Elementary School students, we provide all supplies; students only need a backpack, a water bottle and a healthy snack for each day. For Secondary School students, please click here to view the supply list in order to be ready for the first day of school.



Message - From
Dr. Zak Palsha

AUGUST 11, 2025

SCHOOL LUNCH:

ACST outsources the school lunch/canteen services - for questions about signing up and costs, please contact Feriel Helal.



fhelal@acst.net
Pers Extension: 1129

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE:

Just a reminder that the last day to sign up for transportation services at ACST is Friday, August 15.
Our Logistics Manager, Ms. Feriel Helal, sent you an email on August 1 to verify your address and contact information. If you did not receive this email, please contact the Transportation Office.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP ZONES FOR STUDENTS

Students may be dropped off at the main gate; the main gate is used for a quick drop-off to keep the flow of traffic moving. If you want to walk in with your child(ren), you may use the parent parking lot to park your car and then access the campus.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Middle and High School fall athletics will begin on Monday, August 25th, followed by after-school activities for all students starting September 1st. All sign-ups for athletics and after-school activities will take place within PowerSchool. Directions for accessing PowerSchool and signing up will be shared by the tech department soon. Questions about athletics of after-school activities should be directed to Becky Riddle.



rriddle@acst.net
Pers Extension: 2303

MEDICAL FORM REMINDER – GRADES 3, 6 & 9

A friendly reminder to all parents of returning students in Grades 3, 6, and 9: Please submit your child's updated medical form to the ACST Health Center before the start of school. This form was emailed last spring, and having current health information helps us provide the best care for your child during the school day.

Important: Students in Grades 6 and 9 will not be permitted to participate in after-school sports until their medical form is up to date.

If you have any questions, please contact the Medical Office.

CHILD PROTECTION

At ACST, we are committed to safeguarding all children by ensuring they are protected from harm, abuse, and neglect. We believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we are dedicated to building a safe, inclusive, and respectful community where every child is valued and supported.

For more information about our child protection commitment and practices, visit this page and you may reach out to Zeina Abourouse, Educational Psychologist.



zabourousse@acst.net
Pers Extension: 2415

ACST FAMILY MEET & GREET:

We're excited to welcome back our returning families and to greet approximately 85 new students joining the ACST community this year! Enrollment continues to progress steadily, and we're receiving new inquiries every day. We anticipate starting the school year with around 400 students. Our annual ACST Family Meet & Greet will take place on Monday, August 18, 2025, with specific timings listed below. As we get closer to the event and the start of school, Principals will share school-specific details to help you prepare and make the most of the day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

Morning Schedule – New Families Only

🕒 9:00–10:30 a.m. Start in THEATER
- New Elementary Parents & Students
- New Secondary Parents

🕒 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- New Secondary Students (extended orientation)

Lunch – New Families Only

🕒12:00–1:15 p.m. CAFETERIA
- Lunch provided for all new families (students and parents)

Afternoon Schedule - Returning Families

🕒 12:45-1:45 THEATER
- Elementary Returning Families
- Secondary Returning Families

🕒 1:15 - 1:45 pm SECONDARY OFFICE
- Advisory Meet and Greet: New and Returning Secondary Parents and Students

DATES TO REMEMBER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025	First day of School
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025	First day of Fall Athletics (Secondary School)
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025	First day of Session One After-School Activities (Elementary and Secondary Schools)

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Admissions: admissions@acst.net
Main Reception: receptionist@acst.net
Marketing & Communication: nboumiza@acst.net
School Clinic: nurse@acst.net
Elementary Office: esoffice@acst.net
Secondary Office: esoffice@acst.net
Tech Office: it@acst.net

SCHOOL LEVEL ADMINISTRATION

Elementary Principal: Dr. Lauren Dillard
Secondary Principal: Mr. Chris Boyle
Elementary Assistant Principal: Ms. Kate Wood
Secondary Assistant Principal: Mr. Ryan Jefferson

DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

Director of Finance & Administration: Ms. Hend Boughedir
HR Manager: Ms. Marwa Dassouli
Technology Manager: Mr. Sameh Romdhani
Facilities Manager: Mr. Mohamed Wasfi Limem
Safety and Security Manager: Mr. Mourad Ben Amor
Logistics Manager (Transportation & Canteen): Ms. Feriel Helal
Athletics and Activities Director: Ms. Becky Riddle

As we get closer to the start of the year, the school principals will be sharing more information and answering any questions you may have.

Finally, I want to warmly welcome each of you—whether you're new to ACST or returning—to the start of another exciting school year. I truly look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new families as we open our doors once again.

As I wrapped up my second year this past spring, I couldn't be prouder of the collective work of our Board, faculty, staff, students, and the wider community. Together, we've made meaningful progress toward the goals outlined in our strategic plan, and I'm energized by what lies ahead.

On behalf of the entire ACST team, we are genuinely excited to welcome all of our scholars back to campus for the beginning of the new academic year!

In Partnership,
Dr. Zak Palsha
Superintendent



Opening Doors, Hearts and minds