

WELCOME BACK

EXCITING START TO THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Message - From Dr. Zak Palsha, Superintendent

Dear ACST Faculty & Staff,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Instructional Leadership Team, Support Team Leaders and Managers, I would like to welcome you back to the school year 24-25. We sincerely hope that all had a great summer full of rest, relaxation, and excitement. We look forward to the start of the year and are eager to work alongside you - our team of highly experienced educators - to continue to work towards our vision:

The American Cooperative School of Tunis will inspire a passion for learning while endowing students with the expertise and confidence necessary to pursue dreams in and for a global society.

We believe that it is important to recognize and reflect on the many accomplishments that we had last year, which serve as a building block for the future. Our work and progress towards our strategic plan that was shared with the Board in May 2024 is linked and is an all encompassing viewpoint of that. If you would like the condensed version to review that we shared with our community in June, please click here.

Message - From
Dr. Zak Palsha

AUGUST 07, 2024

This summer we have also had a lot of work take place and I would like to highlight the Finance and Administration Department and the Facilities Department for all of their efforts as many of them went without much of a summer vacation to ensure that we prepared to start the school year with some of our key initiatives that we started last year and our summer capital projects.





One of my main goals last year was to have more coherent policies, handbooks and standard operating procedures for all employees to allow for a more vibrant, clear and healthy workplace. I am excited about the work ahead and really looking forward to sharing with you some of the work that was done these past few months to have clear, coherent policies, handbooks and standard operating procedures so everyone is clear about expectations and their reciprocal accountability, as I try to model with my direct reports and also with the Board of Governors.

This started with the work of the Board as they worked toward the Board Policies which were approved last spring and from there that gave us a chance to align our procedures and handbooks. I want to take a moment to introduce everyone to a more streamlined approach of where you can find school-related policies, handbooks and standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the Shared Drive, along with clear cover pages that show which version, when it was last updated and if it is an approved version or not. We will spend more time talking about this when we are all together but this should serve as a pillar on how we commence the 2024-2025 academic year during our time together at pre-service. Please note that several departments are still putting their final touches on their individual handbooks and SOPs, this will be a topic of discussion at our pre-service time together.

Speaking of pre-service, please find the link for our schedule of pre-services days, which is a good draft but there may be some edits before everyone joins. Please arrive each day promptly, work hours are written on the sheet for clarity - we look forward to our upcoming few days.

I am excited about working towards a definition of High Quality Teaching and Learning this August and having the year to hone that definition PK-12 as part of our push towards coherent instruction as aligned with some of the other work that we are doing towards our strategic plan. This year, we also have some additional professional development offerings in August from Joy Marchese from Positive Discipline, expect to hear more details from your school level leaders. You can view the SY 24-25 calendar here for your reference as well.



Additionally, below I have included a few upcoming important dates for your convenience.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Additionally, below I have included a few upcoming important dates for your convenience.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15	ACST Staff Social, click here for details
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20	ACST Family Meet & Greet, details will be shared by your school administration
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21	First Day of School

For those of you who are eager to get into the building before pre-service days, the building will be open for all beginning on Monday, 12 August at 10:00 am. Please keep in mind that we are still putting some finishing touches on all the spaces that have been created, repurposed, or moved, so your particular area may not be done yet. I encourage you to reach out to your school-level Administrative Assistant before you come in. One of our summer projects involved adding some shading to the parent parking lot entrance.
We are still completing that project so please look for an email from Alex Wood early next week about how to access campus using that gate.



Finally, I truly look forward to welcoming everyone as we open our doors for the new school year. Please join me in welcoming our newcomers to our wonderful staff, please click here to review their bios.

In addition to the list above, we would like to welcome all returning staff and acknowledge the entire team for ensuring that we continue to provide a quality education for our scholars.

Again, we hope you all had a chance to recharge this summer and look forward to our work next week. Your collective, unparalleled efforts are needed so that all students can learn in environments where relationships are valued, and your teaching practices are continually honed. Thank you for your willingness to continue to grow and be the very best for our students at ACST.

In Service,
Dr. Zak Palsha
Superintendent