ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY

LOWER SCHOOL
Family Guide

2026-2027

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Calendars

Academic and events calendars for the 2026-2027 school year are subject to change due to construction timelines. Please check the school website regularly for the most current information.

Academic, Testing, and Events Calendars

Athletics Calendar





Mission

The mission of Atlanta Classical Academy is to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.

Vision

The vision of Atlanta Classical Academy is to be a nationally regarded K-12 classical school and serve as a local and national incubator for the growth and promotion of classical education.

Virtues

Courage, Courtesy, Honesty, Humility, Perseverance, Self-Government, Service

Pledge

“I will learn the true. I will do the good. I will love the beautiful.”

Scan here to view the ACA Family Handbook.

LOWER SCHOOL
Leadership



Mr. Josh Andrew
HEAD OF SCHOOL
jandrew@atlantaclassical.org



Dr. David Han
LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
dhan@atlantaclassical.org



Mr. Ian Nugent
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
inugent@atlantaclassical.org

Need help?

Name	Position	Email
Mrs. Tarra Thompson	**Receptionist**	tthompson@atlantaclassical.org
Mrs. LaNeish Holland	**Nurse**	lholland@atlantaclassical.org
Dr. Carolyn Jerdan	**Counselor**	cjerdan@atlantaclassical.org
Mrs. Cassidy Brown	**Enrollment/Registration Coordinator**	cbrown@atlantaclassical.org



Main School Line:
404-369-3500

All ACA staff can be reached through the main school line but pre-arranged phone calls are preferable in non-emergency situations.

Cavalier Health

Health History

For everyone's health and safety, it is very important for our school nurses to be aware of each student's health history. Parents should thoroughly review and complete the Health History form on ParentSquare at the beginning of the year.

When To Stay Home From School

A child kept home or sent home with a fever may not return to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications (such as Tylenol or Motrin). Children with vomiting or diarrhea should stay home for 24 hours after symptoms stop.

Health and safety are essential to student success. Please report all illnesses to the nurse's office—including head lice, molluscum, and bacterial or viral infections—so we can keep everyone safe and healthy.

Medication

Students cannot receive medication (Prescription or OTC) until parents fill out the Administration of Medication/Medical Procedure (form 7) located on the school website.

All medications must be provided to the nurse in the original prescription bottle for prescribed medications and in new unopened boxes for all over the counter medications.

Students cannot carry medication (Prescription or OTC), and it must be kept in the school clinic. There is an exception for lifesaving, emergency medications like EpiPens or rescue inhalers. The school does not provide medication, including Tylenol and Benadryl.



Mrs. LaNeish Holland

SCHOOL NURSE

lholland@atlantaclassical.org
health@atlantaclassical.org

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's health, please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse by phone or email.
404-369-3500 ext. 4

Cavalier Health

Counseling

The Counseling Department is dedicated to serving the individual needs of each student.

Our school counselor is available for one-on-one or small group meetings to address specific school based needs. Topics addressed include effective communication skills, decision-making, self-control, conflict resolution, empathy, executive functioning and goal setting.

There are weekly lunch groups to foster all above attributes and personal growth.



Dr. Carolyn Jerdan

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

cjerdan@atlantaclassical.org

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's health, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jerdan or Mrs. Boyd by phone or email. To meet with one or both in person, please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

404-369-3500 ext. 4

School Lunch





Ordering Lunch

Atlanta Classical Academy provides school lunches through Chef Advantage. Please note that orders must be placed by 9:00 a.m. the business day before lunch service in order to ensure your child receives their lunch. Note: Friday is always pizza day!

Visit chefadvantage.boonli.com/login to order.
School ordering code: ACALunch9

NEW PARENTS:

1. Visit chefadvantage.boonli.com/login
2. Click on "Register"
3. School Password is: acalunch9

Note: Many new families forget to order lunch for the new month. Please order each month.

Students are not required to order lunch through the school and are welcome to bring their own lunches from home each day.

Please note that students are not permitted to order food through meal delivery services such as UberEats or DoorDash.

For more information about school lunches or to place lunch orders, **scan the QR code.**

Carpool

DROPOFF

Morning drop-off begins at **7:30 a.m**. Please do not drop off your child before this time.

K-2nd: Report to gym
3-6th: Report to cafeteria



PICKUP

Lower School Pickup (grades K-6): **2:45 p.m.**

6th grade carpool will be at **3:23 p.m. on Fridays**

Students with an Upper School sibling may remain in class until 3:25 at the U.S. pickup time



EARLY CHECK-OUT NOTE

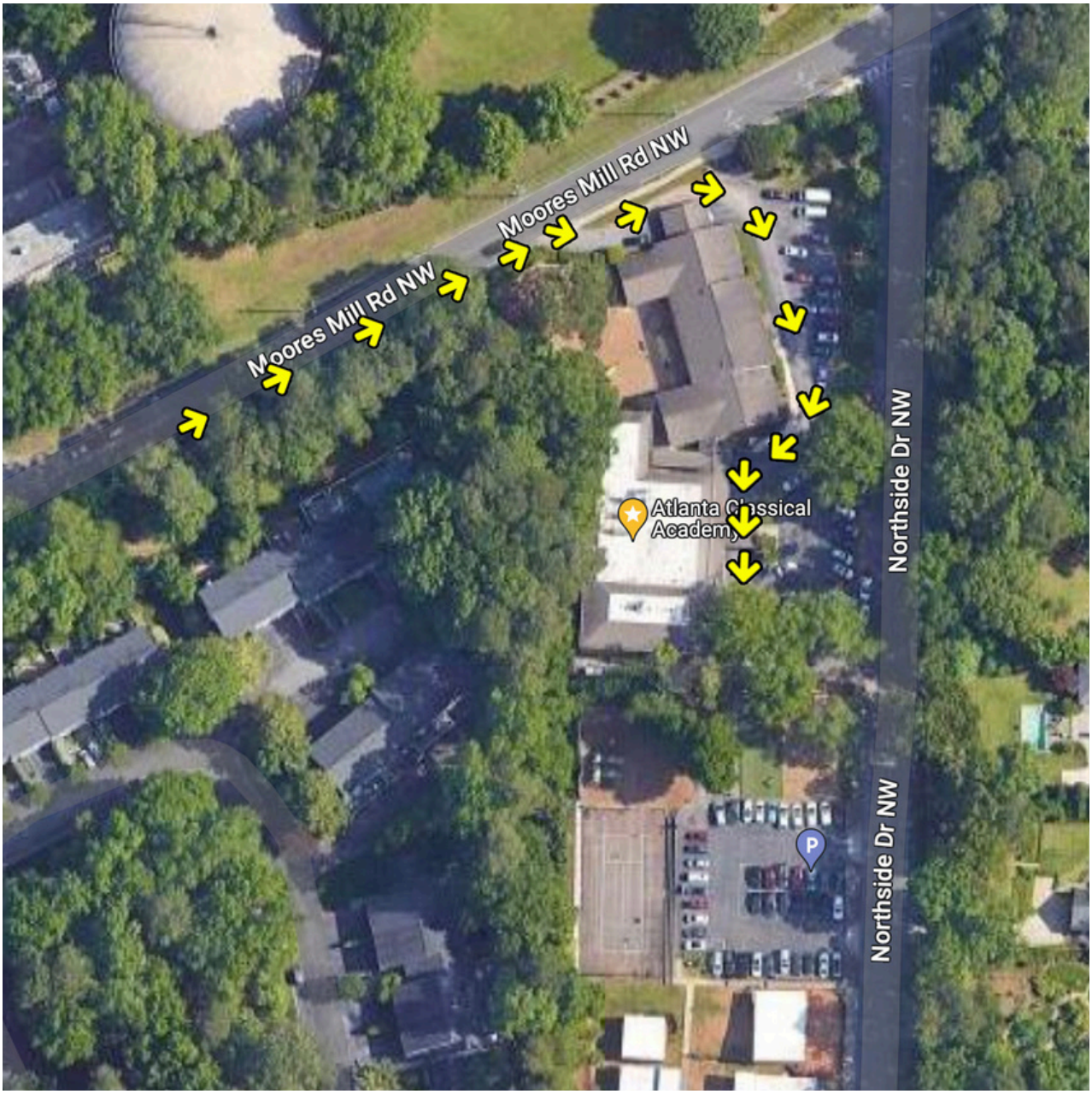
Transportation changes should be sent to transportation@atlantaclassical.org before **1 p.m**. on the day of the occurrence.

Students may not be checked out after **2:15 p.m.**

All Lower School students not staying for extracurriculars or siblings should be picked up by **3:10 p.m.**

CARPOOL CONTACTS

Carpool Hangtag	**transportation@atlantaclassical.org**
Carpool Changes	**transportation@atlantaclassical.org**
Student Early Dismissal	**attendance@atlantaclassical.org**



Enter the car line by heading eastbound on Moores Mill Road and making a right turn into campus. Join the carpool line by pulling as far to the right as possible and turning on your hazard lights.

RULES

1. Do not drop off students in any teacher parking lots.
2. Do not drop off or pick up students on any side streets.
3. Do not block drives of neighborhoods while waiting in line.
4. Do not block the sidewalk as you turn into our property.

All cars in the afternoon carpool line must have an Atlanta Classical Academy carpool hangtag visible on the rearview mirror. Please contact **transportation@atlantaclassical.org** if you did not receive a hangtag.

**Carpool instructions are subject to change due to construction.*

Aftercare



ACA partners with Kiddos to provide on-campus aftercare through 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Parents should contact Kiddos directly regarding aftercare services.

For more information about KIddos, **scan the QR code.**

Uniforms

K-4th Grade Boys & Girls



5th-6th Grade Boys & Girls



Educational Outfitters
Purchase uniform and Spirit Wear items through our uniform supplier, Educational Outfitters. Items may be purchased online or in-store. We encourage families to try on uniform items in-store before purchasing.

Used Uniform Sale
The used uniform store will be open periodically throughout the year. During these sales, families can purchase used uniform items at a discount. Donations for the store are accepted at the front office, through donation drives, and during the sales. Donors can choose a voucher to use in the used uniform store or a donation receipt.

Physical Education
P.E. uniforms are required beginning in sixth grade.

For specific uniform requirements and optional uniform pieces, **scan the QR code.**

Student Culture

Lower school students are presented with many exciting opportunities to become involved and to explore their passions. Various club offerings become available to different grade points throughout the year.

Example of club opportunities

STEM Velocity
Chess Club
Garden Club
Girls on the Run
Pickleball Club
Airplane & Rocketry Club
Literary Magazine
Fantasy Football Club
Girl Talk







Fine Arts

Atlanta Classical's Fine Arts department is committed to ensuring that every ACA student has the opportunity to appreciate, perform, and create music and art. As part of our Lower School curriculum, ACA students take art or music classes 2-3 times weekly, including choir practice beginning in fifth grade.

In addition to our robust Fine Arts curriculum, ACA strives to provide enrichment opportunities for students after school, including the following:

- **Creative Cavaliers** (3rd-5th Grade)
- 3rd Grade **Strings**
- 5th-6th Grade **Play**
- 6th-8th Grade **Musical**
- 4th-6th Grade **Strings**
- 1st-6th Grade **Piano**









Athletics

Athletics at Atlanta Classical begin in 6th grade. Availability is sport-dependent. Sports offered at ACA include:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading
- Baseball
- Cross Country
- Track
- Golf



For more information about athletics offerings, **scan the QR code.**

For questions, contact Athletic Director Mr. Latham at rlatham@atlantaclassical.org.

Celebrations

Parents are invited to organize and assist with class parties and other activities throughout the year at the request of their teacher or room parent.

Parents are encouraged to eat lunch with their child on their birthday. We ask that parents do not bring treats or lunch for a group of students or for the class. Please contact your teacher for your child's lunch period and next steps.









Traditions

Favorite Lower School Traditions:

- Curriculum Day
- Grandparents Day
- Father Daughter Dance
- Field Day
- 6th Grade Leadership Retreat
- Geography Bee (5th-6th Grade)
- Living Library
- Screen on the Green
- Kindergarten/6th Grade Buddies

Favorite School-Wide Traditions:

- Spirit Week
- Veterans Day Commemoration
- Cav Coffee House (Student Artist Showcase)
- Multicultural Festival
- Cav Kickoff (Pep Rally)
- Carpool Caroling with Strings Ensemble









6th Grade

Leaders of the Lower School

6th Grade is a transition year at ACA whereby the class size expands and the class now becomes the leaders of the lower school. The school day model varies slightly and the opportunities for 6th grade grow.





Academic Updates

- Students transition from one or two teachers for all subjects to three teachers.
- Students receive a locker for storage and are welcome to decorate the inside.
- Teachers work on executive functioning and organization to help shepherd students through these changes.
- Students attend two specials classes per day (Music, Art, PE)
- Students remain with the same group throughout the day but socialize with the remainder of the grade during PE, recess, and lunch.

Students will be placed in one of three homerooms:

Composition/Literature
History/Latin
Math/Science

New Opportunities Include:

- House System
- Lockers
- Rotating Classes
- Athletics
- Middle School Dances
- Middle School Musical
- Kindergarten Buddy Program
- Growth in Class Size
- Introduction of Latin
- 6th Grade Leadership Retreat

House System







The House System at ACA is for students in grades 6-8. Upon entering 6th grade, each student is sorted into one of four houses: Alexandria, Carthage, Constantinople, or Damascus. The House System is designed to create a sense of community, foster camaraderie, and provide opportunities for leadership and growth.

Each house seeks to win the house cup at the end of the year by accumulating the most house points. House points are awarded for acts of virtue to individual students and to houses for winning weekly competitions. Not only does the winning house receive a prize for being victorious, but the student with the most individual points at the end of the year also receives a prize.

Get Involved





Parent Teacher Community Association

The Parent Teacher Community Association (PTCA) exists to support school leadership in carrying out the mission of our school. It is an integral part of the life of the school.

The PTCA is involved in many aspects of our school, from classroom-level support to school-wide events. It is led by two co-presidents who support each volunteer team and facilitate communications between volunteer teams and school administration.

Through the PTCA, committed parents and community members help our school flourish!

If you would like to serve on a PTCA team, please email ptca@atlantaclassical.org

Volunteer Clearance

Whether you volunteer as a mystery reader, a field trip chaperone, or anything in between, all volunteers must clear Level 2 training in order to engage with volunteering at Atlanta Classical. To gain clearance, volunteers must watch two training videos and complete a Google form about what you learned. The process should take 15 minutes or less to complete.

Once you have watched both videos and completed the form, you will be cleared to perform supervised volunteering on and off campus.

To access the training package, **scan the QR code.**

NOTE: If you sign up for unsupervised volunteer opportunities, you must complete additional steps.

Communications Channels

Channel	Description
Infinite Campus	Parents can access their student's class schedules, attendance records and grades; and update their contact information through Infinite Campus, Atlanta Public School's (APS) student information and communication system.
ParentSquare	A communications app where teachers communicate with their class and parents. The school will send reminders and communicate grade-specific information.
MyPaymentsPlus	Payment system for fees and activities.
PRIVIT	Prior to athletic tryouts, parents must complete all forms and waivers, and have an updated physical on file through PRIVIT. No hard copies will be accepted.
Mr. Andrew's Weekly Zoom Call	Head of School, Mr. Andrew, hosts a weekly Zoom call relaying important updates in the life of the school.
Direct Email	Direct school correspondence in the form of email from school personnel to parents.
Legenda and Chronicle	The Legenda is a weekly, forward-looking email highlighting all-school news and upcoming events. The Chronicle is an email that reflects on significant events and stories from our school community.
TeamSnap	Once a student-athlete joins an ACA team, parents will be added to TeamSnap for communication regarding practices, schedules, and more.
Social Media	Find ACA on Facebook and Instagram @atlantaclassicalacademy for a look inside a day of an ACA student.

Useful Links

Team Opportunities	General Description
Faculty and Staff Directory	atlantaclassical.org/about/faculty-staff
Nurse and Counselor Forms	atlantaclassical.org/parent-resources/school-nurse
Academic, Athletic and School Calendars	atlantaclassical.org/calendar/school-calendar
Arrival, Dismissal and Carpool	atlantaclassical.org/parent-resources/transportation
School Forms	atlantaclassical.org/parent-resources/school-forms
Uniforms	atlantaclassical.org/parent-resources/uniforms
School Lunch	atlantaclassical.org/parent-resources/lunch
Infinite Campus Information	atlantaclassical.org/parent-resources/infinite-campus
MyPaymentsPlus	mypaymentsplus.com/welcome
PTCA	atlantaclassical.org/community/ptca
ACA Website	atlantaclassical.org/
Kiddos	atlantaclassical.org/community/kiddos



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