



July 20, 2020

Dear K-12 Eagle Families,

First and foremost, on behalf of the AACCS community, welcome to our nest new Eagle families! We are honored that you chose to invest in an AACCS education for your child(ren), and I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you this coming year. That said, I am keenly aware of the "need to know" that we are all feeling about exactly how school--in every sense of the word--is going to work going forward. We have a plan to safely reopen in-person that is contingent on ordinances that are in place on August 26 to preserve public health in our county and state. Thanks to the hard work of our Reopening Task Force and leadership team, contingencies include virtual, hybrid, and temporary remote instruction and learning that, if needed, will deliver the outstanding, distinctly Christian education for which we are known. More details on all of this will be shared in our August 4 Reopening & Cultural Humility webinar for the AACCS K-12 community. Please register via Zoom using the navy blue button below. To ensure we have adequate staffing in the Kerr Center and the appropriate subscription level to accommodate all online attendees, indicate in your Zoom registration if you plan to join us in-person or online.

August 4 Reopening & Cultural Humility Registration

Cultural Humility

Along with all of the uncertainty associated with COVID-19, we also find ourselves in a time of social unrest. We must stand together in steadfast opposition to all forms of racism through Christlike actions and responses. This school year, we will rally around LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, the K-12 theme that emerged as a result of sifting through several ideas and suggestions, many of which were inspired by following verses from Matthew.

Matthew 22:37-40

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Love God, Love Others

Love God, Love Others reflects our desire to be Christlike and Christ-honoring in all that we say and do. Our focus on these four verses in Matthew will help us embrace the theme in ways that support the all-school buy-in while allowing for campus-specific expression.

In August, I will introduce our new director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This person will lead the K-12 plan to address racism on all levels and support the areas where we are making progress. The video below features Dr. Vernard Gant. Vernard is a very close friend of mine who has led the diversity efforts with ACSI for more than 20 years. **I invite you to watch his 30-minute devotional now or at 6:00 p.m. on August 4 prior to the start of the Reopening & Cultural Humility meeting.**



ACSI's A.C.E. Student Success Center, under the direction of Dr. Vernard Gant, exists to strengthen Christian educators as they endeavor to address the educational plight of children who are academically disenfranchised, culturally diverse, and/or economically disadvantaged. The center assists Christian educators in developing useful educational competencies in which A.C.E.-students flourish alongside their peers in a Christ-honoring educational experience.

The global pandemic has permeated every part of our lives in ways unimaginable a few months ago. In light of this formidable challenge, I am comforted by the power of prayer and petition, which is immeasurable and beyond our understanding. To that end, let us submit our requests to the Lord: for the people and programs that are the heart and soul of AACCS and its mission to advance the Kingdom no matter the earthly and spiritual challenges.

In His Service and Yours,



Rick Kempton
AACS Superintendent/Head of School

AACS Association Meeting

The AACS Association meeting, open to all K-12 faculty, staff, and families enrolled during the 2019-2020 school year, was held on June 30. A total of 114 community members joined us virtually and 31 gathered in person at the Kerr Center. For those of you not able to join us, here are the highlights:

- The school's 2020-2021 budget was approved, with an appropriately conservative enrollment projection of 780 students. We concluded this year with 913 students, and our current enrollment for 2020-2021 is just over 800 students.
- Jina Simmons was elected to the AACS Board. She and her husband have two daughters who attend our Severn Lower School. Read more about Jina and the other board members using the blue button below.
- Steven Boggs, Kristin DeMarco, and Mark Solsman were re-elected to the AACS Board.
- We thanked Dan Smith and Jim Mackrell, whose terms on the AACS Board finished on June 30, for their years of faithful leadership and service to AACS.

[AACS Board Member Bios](#)

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