

Matthew M. James II Principal P.O. Box 719 42 Keans Neck Road, Lobeco, SC 29931 Telephone (843) 846-4835 x2 Fax (843) 846-6384

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for your recent inquiry concerning Agape Christian Academy. We offer kindergarten through twelfth grade and utilize the academically accelerated Abeka Christian curriculum and, in some subjects, incorporate the Bob Jones Christian curriculum, both of which are ahead of the public school system by approximately one year. We've also recently made arrangements for eligible seniors to take college-level courses at The Technical College of The Lowcountry (TCL) as part of their Dual Enrollment Program. Due to the accelerated curriculum, we require each new applicant in grades Kindergarten through ninth take an entrance test, for which there is no charge. We do this in order to place each student in the appropriate grade level and to help eliminate confusion and discouragement. Kindergarten students must be 4 ½ years old by the beginning of school.

Agape Christian Academy (ACA) currently has a modest enrollment of less than 100 students, with some grade levels combined within a classroom. GPA calculations for 9th-12th Honors courses are based on the South Carolina Department of Education Uniform Grading Policy 5.5 scale. Non-honors courses use the 5.0 CP Scale. All seniors earning the 24 credits required for graduation receive an official diploma accepted by the South Carolina Department of Education, major colleges and universities, and all branches of the military. We administer a state required Achievement Test (we currently use the Stanford 10) each Spring in grades kindergarten through eleventh. We also require our 9th -11th grade high school students to take the PSAT and stress to them the importance of taking the SAT and ACT in preparation for college entrance.

While we require excellence in academics, we are also a ministry in which we reach out to our students in the love and compassion of Jesus. All students are required to attend Bible class, but no biblical views are forced on any student. Instead, we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to each heart individually. We strive to provide a safe and loving environment in which our students can learn and grow. However, at times, we must discipline them, according to biblical principles, and using various methods such as time-outs, demerits, detentions (lunch/recess and after school), and, on rare occasions, corporal correction. Nonetheless, discipline is administered in love.

School hours are from 8:10-2:45 for Kindergarten through 6th grades, and 8:10-3:00 for grades 7th through 12th, Mondays through Thursdays. Dismissal times on Fridays are 12:30 for grades Kindergarten through 6th and 12:45 for grades 7th through 12th. Students may enter the school no earlier than 7:30 and must be picked up by 3:00 for grades Kindergarten through 6th and 3:10 for grades 7th through 12th or late pick-up fees will be charged. Transportation to and from school is provided by the parents/families. There is no after-school care program.

Students are required to wear uniforms, which they purchase from our school. Uniforms consist of royal blue, gray, or white tops with khaki or navy blue bottoms. The tops have our Agape Christian logo either embroidered or screenprinted on them. Students are also allowed to wear sweatshirts and hoodies sold as a fund-raiser by the school, in the same colors mentioned above. We also sell our Agape t-shirts in "fun colors" that students are allowed to wear on Fridays and for field trips.

There is a \$50.00 <u>non-refundable</u> Enrollment Fee per student. Book/Administrative Fees are \$400.00 per student. This fee is also <u>non-refundable</u> and is <u>required</u> of all students to cover not only the cost of workbooks and textbooks required to complete the curriculum for each grade level, but also some resource/reference materials and administrative costs throughout the year. All students will also receive a school yearbook in the spring, and students in grades 3-12 will receive a student planner for recording their assignments. Parents are responsible for any additional supplies deemed necessary by the student's individual teacher(s).

Tuition for the 2024/2025 school year will be \$3,600.00 for one child, which may be paid all at once or on a \$300.00 per month basis (of 12 equal payments). Special consideration is given to households with multiple children enrolled. Tuition shall be \$250.00 per month for the second child and \$225.00 per month for the third and subsequent children. Families who pay the entire Tuition for the year before the start of school will receive one month free.

Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. Payments received after the 5th will be charged a \$25.00 late fee per child. While ACA students attend school on a traditional nine-month schedule, tuition is paid on a year-round basis, with the payment year beginning in June and concluding the following May. Students who enroll after August must pay a \$900.00 non-refundable Registration Fee.

We have at least one mandatory school-wide fundraiser a year that all students are required to participate in, which helps us keep our tuition relatively low compared to other private schools in the area.

We do not have a cafeteria that provides hot lunches, but we have a couple of vending machines in the hall and microwaves in the classrooms so students can purchase and heat food items if needed. However, most students bring sack lunches from home. We also have refrigerators where students can store their lunches.

All new students, along with at least one parent or guardian, will need an interview with the principal to discuss school policies and procedures before being accepted into our academy.

If you are interested in having your child/children attend our school, please call the office to have them placed on our waiting list and/or to set up an appointment for their entrance test and interview (no charge for either). A New Student Application will need to be filled out prior to the test/interview. Positions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the entrance test is administered and a position is offered and accepted, you will need to pay the enrollment fee (and registration fee, if applicable, based on where we are in the calendar year) and fill out Official Registration Papers. Book/Administrative Fees will be due within 30 days of the date of enrollment. All fees paid are non-refundable.

We hope that this brief overview has answered some of your questions concerning our school. However, it is not possible to cover everything about us in this limited space. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you desire to tour our campus, please feel free to call us at any time.

In His Service,

Matthew M. James II Principal

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