

Anvil City Science Academy Application Packet Contents

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Complete the application packet and submit it to ACSA using one of the following procedures.

- a) You may submit it in person at the school. The principal / teacher or their designee will provide you with a receipt after the complete application has been received.
- b) You may also mail the application to ACSA, PO Box 131 Nome, AK 99762. If you mail the application, it is your responsibility to confirm that the application was received by the principal / teacher or their designee, prior to the lottery drawing.

If mailed, it must be postmarked by the third Friday in April to be included in the April lottery drawing. After the third Friday in April, applications will be processed for any special lotteries that may need to be held.

Anvil City Science Academy Curriculum Description

Science

A.C.S.A. uses hands-on experimentation to help students develop problem-solving skills. Through the steps of the Scientific Method, students will increase their critical thinking skills and become better problem solvers in everyday life. Students will conduct scientific research inside the classroom as well as in an outdoor setting throughout the school year. They will also be sharing their data with scientists and other students from around the world.

Math

ACSA uses the McGraw Hill Glencoe Math series and the supplementary online ALEKS program. When possible, math concepts are also integrated into science and projects for core subjects. The students will complete math journals to explain the process and logic of solving word problems. Fifth through eighth grade students have a wide range of abilities, so students are placed in many different levels of math.

Social Studies

Much of the curriculum for the year will be designed around a theme. As such, the projects and assignments for Social Studies vary depending on the unit of study. Research skills and study techniques are developed through various types of projects, assignments, and tests. As often as possible, a student is given a choice of topics and methods for demonstrating proficiency. Students will research daily geography or current event warm ups to continually increase their awareness of the world.

Language Arts

Language Arts class is designed to provide a writing experience every day. It involves journaling, exercises in mechanics and usage, and assignments which use the writing process for both creative and non-fiction purposes. The curriculum provides many public speaking opportunities.

Reading

The reading program is literature based. Students have continual choice in reading for fiction and non-fiction literature. Students are directed to select materials that focus on the themes that are being studied school-wide.

The Accelerated Reader computer program addresses the diverse reading abilities of ACSA students. Along with thirty minutes of sustained silent reading each day, we ask parents to monitor additional reading at home.

Students will also learn to answer interpretive questions, analyze text and look for meaning in word choice. All of these skills are reinforced during literature discussions. Skills in reading and writing are essential for students to excel in math, science, and social studies.

Art & Electives

Art class will be driven by the thematic approach to learning. Students are given the opportunity to express themselves in several different ways, depending on the medium being used or studied. Concepts such as balance and texture and as well as technique are taught repeatedly throughout the year on all projects. Students are expected to give their best effort to learn these things and work towards achieving true "mastery" of the selected medium.

A student takes an elective class each quarter. Electives that are typically offered include Technology (content based on ISTE standards), Physical Education (may include swimming and outdoor education), and Life Skills (may include health education and home economics).

Project-Based / Hands-On Learning

Project-Based / Hands-on learning is integral to ACSA's thematic approach to curriculum. Although some content and skills are taught separately, for the most part, students acquire knowledge and skills through learning that makes connections among varying disciplines. All project-based studies culminate with exhibitions or final products that must meet high standards. These products are the vehicles for students to synthesize what they have learned and to demonstrate how they can use it.

Technology

Technology is used throughout the A.C.S.A. program and is the primary means of communicating with parents and students. Those families with e-mail will get daily updates on homework, class work, and special information. The teachers also use a web-based grading program so that students and their parents can be regularly updated on academic progress.

Students will have the opportunity to use computers in a wide variety of ways across the curriculum. Word processing, keyboarding, podcasts, spreadsheets, Power Point presentations, scanning, video editing, and Internet resources will all be used over the course of the school year. We continually seek apps and programs that students will find useful in developing their skills in math, social studies, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

Anvil City Science Academy Basic Information

Athletics and Cheerleading

Students are allowed to participate in elementary and junior high athletics and cheerleading.

Band

Students are allowed to participate in elementary and junior high band.

Breakfast & Lunch

Currently, all students have the opportunity to have a free breakfast and hot lunch.

Progress Reports

The staff will use e-mail to communicate with parents regarding student progress. The staff will also keep students and parents informed of a student's progress by utilizing the Power School web site, which posts student grades on-line, with password protection.

School Hours / Bus Schedule

9:00 A.M. – 4:05 P.M. (Current schedule, subject to change)

Students ride the junior high bus. No one is to ride the high school bus. If a parent wishes to drive his or her child to school, the student is not to arrive any earlier than 8:45 A.M. at the Nome-Beltz entrance for the opportunity to have a free breakfast in the cafeteria.

Our students follow the Nome Public Schools approved school calendar including no school days and minimum days.

Staff Expectations

The teaching staff has high expectations of each and every student, both academically and socially. With these high expectations, students will be given numerous opportunities to succeed in the schoolwork and social development. We want each student to strive to do his or her very best in every endeavor. Students will be required to redo assignments that are messy, illegible, contain significant errors and / or not done according to directions.

Tutoring

After school tutoring is available on a pre-arranged basis.

Anvil City Science Academy Student Code of Conduct

We feel that every student should have or should develop the self-discipline that is necessary for self-rule. The student should be able to behave within the realm of common sense, courtesy, and intelligence. To be inundated with rules, most of which were developed out of extreme abuse of a normal simple act, does not promote an atmosphere of learning and discovery. However, situations arise and in today's legal world the rules must be spelled out. Within these rules we are recognizing Nome's uniqueness and will enforce them accordingly.

Offenses requiring reprimand or detention.

Cheating on tests.

Arguing.

Dishonesty.

Misconduct committed outside of school hours on/off school premises.

Not following class rules.

Personal displays of affection.

Classroom dress and behavior.

Students shall wear clean tidy clothes free of tears.

Clothing shall not have alcohol / cigarette commercials or offensive language on them.

No hats or gum chewing. (We may have a "hat" or "gum" day during a "Spirit Week.")

Students must show respect towards other students, the teachers and for volunteer parents at all times.

Students are expected to participate in classroom learning and in all activities.

Serious offense requiring suspension and/or criminal charges.

Demoralizing or demeaning of fellow students.

Possession of weapons. This includes but is not limited to handguns, rifles, explosives, fireworks, and large knives. Knives and sharp tools, when required for class work, will be used responsibly & be supplied by the school.

Abuse of school property or fellow student's property.

Fighting or aggression toward students, parents, or the teacher.

Liquors, narcotics or tobacco use.

Theft.

Sexual harassment, including but not limited to verbal harassment, touching private areas, and unwanted advancements.

Leaving campus without permission.

Use of foul or obscene language.

I have read the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the outlined rules.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

I understand and support the consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Anvil City Science Academy Lottery Procedures – Open Enrollment

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for all students who request participation in Anvil City Science Academy and to provide grade level balance. ACSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement.

Responsibilities

Administrator(s) of the Anvil City Science Academy will inform the parents and students of openings as they occur and will provide an information session. All parents and students are required to attend an information session prior to enrollment. These sessions will be designated to familiarize the parents and students with the new school and to identify the student's needs. Approval or denial shall be based on the school's total space availability-and the grade level of the applicant (to ensure grade level balance.)

How to Apply

- A. Parents of children requesting entrance into the Anvil City Science Academy must complete and return an application on the approved application form to the administrator(s) in charge of the Anvil City Science Academy.
- B. The administrator(s) will keep a copy of the applications on file in the school office. The application must include the standard application form and student generated writing sample. At the time of the application, parents are given a copy of the Open Enrollment Lottery Procedures. In addition, at the time of application, parents will be given written information regarding program philosophy, program goals, and parental and student commitments that are a part of the Anvil City Science Academy guidelines. Any required orientations, information sessions, or visits will be explained to the parents at the time applications are submitted.

Enrollment Priorities

- A. Existing students who have filed their letter of intent to re-enroll by the third Friday in April for the following school year. These students are not required to submit an application nor go through the lottery process.
- B. Children of certified staff employed by ACSA for the year to which the lottery applies.
- C. Siblings of students enrolled at ACSA for the year to which the lottery applies.
- D. Founding Family children.
- E. New students district-wide.

Schedule of Lotteries

- A. Completed applications received or postmarked by the 3rd Friday in April will be entered in the April lottery. The lottery will be conducted within a maximum of ten (10) school days after the 3rd Friday in April.
- B. Additional lotteries may be held if needed.

The Lottery Process

- A. All new applications will be held without numbers between April lotteries.
- B. Lotteries will proceed as follows:

Applications are sorted first by grade level, and then by the following enrollment priority categories within grade level: 1.) Children of ACSA certified staff, 2.) Siblings of enrolled ACSA students, 3.) Founding Family children, and 4.) District-wide applications. Openings are filled first from these priority categories in the order given. When applications exceed the remaining openings, the openings are filled by random lottery, where each applicant has an equal chance of being drawn.

After all openings are filled, applications not chosen remain in separate waiting pools determined by the grade level and the lottery date.

- C. After each lottery, families will be notified of their status and advised that they must notify the school if they wish to remain in the waiting pool. At that time they should provide updated information (address, telephone number, etc.) if necessary.

Enrollment from Waiting Pools

- A. Names will be entered into the appropriate waiting pool in April for grades 5-8 after the scheduled lottery is held.
- B. When a vacancy occurs during the school year, that vacancy may or may not be filled at the school's discretion. If ACSA chooses to fill the vacancy, a lottery drawing will be held from the applicable grade level waiting pool with the earliest lottery date, subject to the enrollment priorities noted above. As a student is drawn from the pool, the parents will be notified of the opening and the requirement of registering in the school within two (2) school days.

Registration of Chosen Student

Students who have been chosen to attend ACSA must register within five (5) school days after notification for the April lottery; and must register within two (2) days after notification for lotteries held during the school year. Notification shall be by certified, return-receipt mail. Those students who do not enroll within the designated period will be withdrawn from the waiting list / pool and they must reapply if they wish to attend. If students are already in the program and are withdrawn for any reason, they must follow the lottery procedures to reenroll if there is a waiting list / pool. Positions may not be reserved because of a student's temporary withdrawal from the program.

Continued Participation

Students' parents must annually acknowledge their interest in remaining in the charter school's waiting pool by completing the waiting pool intent form. Forms will be mailed the week after Spring Break and completed forms must be received or postmarked by the 3rd Friday in April.