



# Parent Handbook

## 2020-2021

### **Goal of this Handbook**

To equip parents with the “how to” of daily operations at Arts Thereafter: An Acton Academy so they may support their children’s Hero’s Journeys.

### **Philosophy of our Operations**

There are three underlying values that drive every policy and system created for our community to function and achieve our mission:

- 1) Freedom for families. We believe parents, not schools, are in charge of their families and trust you to make your own choices for your families.
- 2) Sanctity of studios as learning spaces for Lions only. This includes basic safety as well as protection against interruptions, distractions and the threat of lowering standards of excellence.
- 3) Sanctity of parent/child relationships: We will not come between you and your child.

# Contents of Handbook

- Fast Facts
- Our Purpose
- Mission Statement
- Our beliefs
- Our promises
- Accountability: Contracts and Covenants
- Daily Life: Hours, Arrival/Dismissal, Lunch, After-school program, Chromebooks and supplies
- Health Policies, Absenteeism, Internet Safety and Social Media
- Staying Informed on my child's learning: Points Tracker, Blogs, Surveys, Feedback/Assessing Learning: Points, 360 Reviews, Exhibitions, Standardized tests, Pathbrite Portfolios, Portfolio Reviews
- Badges versus Report Cards
- Observation in the Studios
- Tuition
- Google Calendar
- Parent meetings
- Growth Mindset article - attachment
- Parent reading list - attachment
- Student breaks/calendar - attachment

## **Fast Facts**

Mascot:	Lion
Address:	2745 Canoe Creek Road, Saint Cloud, FL 34772
Office Hours	8:00am - 4:00pm
Phone number	407-593-6608
Website address:	<a href="http://www.artsthereafter.org">www.artsthereafter.org</a>
Studio Nicknames:	Spark Studio: Kindergarten / 1st and 2nd Elementary school studio: ES Middle school studio: MS High School Studio: Journeyman
Contact info:	Spark Studio: <a href="mailto:ssguides@artsthereafter.com">ssguides@artsthereafter.com</a> Elementary Studio: <a href="mailto:esguides@artsthereafter.com">esguides@artsthereafter.com</a> Middle School Studio: <a href="mailto:msjmguides@artsthereafter.com">msjmguides@artsthereafter.com</a> Office: <a href="mailto:office@artsthereafter.com">office@artsthereafter.com</a>

## **Staff**

Phillip Henderson - Director/ Head of School  
Jennifer Henderson - Director and MS Lead Guide  
Cassy Dickerson - ES Lead Guide  
Sarah Verlinde - ES Associate Guide  
Mike Dickerson - Journeyman Lead Guide  
Bailey Reich - Spark Studio Lead Guide  
Denise Vega - Spark Studio Associate Guide  
Diane Barnes - Office Manager

# **The Purpose of Arts Thereafter: An Acton Academy**

## **Mission Statement**

Arts Thereafter's mission is to inspire each person who enters our doors to find a calling and change the world for Christ.

## **Our Beliefs**

- We believe each child has a gift that can change the world in a profound way.
- We believe in learning to learn, learning to do and learning to be.
- We believe in a closely connected community of lifelong learners.
- We believe that the American Experiment, with all its faults, is the best hope on earth for protecting human liberty.
- We believe in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and that the Bible is the inerrant word of God.

## **Our Promises**

We promise through Socratic guiding and experiential learning to encourage each member of our community to

- Begin a Hero's Journey;
- Learn to learn, learn to do and learn to be;
- Discover precious gifts, and a commitment to mastery;
- Embrace the forging of a strong character;
- Cherish the arts, the wonders of the physical world and the mystery of life; and,
- Treasure economic, political and religious freedom.
- Rest in the work that Christ did on the Cross and continually guide their hearts to Jesus.

## **Accountability: Covenants/Contracts**

Creating clear, consistent expectations for Arts Thereafter families is an important part of our school. As such, the parents, students and staff will reaffirm this commitment by signing a covenant each year that describes the roles and responsibilities to which we are agreeing.

The purpose of this living document is not to promote rule-following or bureaucracy but rather the opposite: to draw clear boundaries to encourage innovation between children, parents and guides who through commitment and action show support for the creation of a world-class school.

## **Daily Life: Schedules, Lunch and After-School Programs**

### **School Hours**

Arts Thereafter Academy's school hours are 8:30am until 3:30pm.

### **Aftercare/Before Care Hours**

Arts Thereafter hosts Aftercare each school day from 3:30pm- 6:00pm.

On Wednesday the times are from 2:30pm- 6:00pm.

Before Care is from 8:00am-8:30am everyday. (No fee)

## **Fee Schedule for 2020-2021**

Limited Space Available

February 6th

-In House Registration Begins-Ends February 27th

(Must have been enrolled for over 2 months to be eligible for in house registration)

March 1st Open Registration to the general public begins

## Elementary School K-5th Financial Responsibilities

\$6000 per year for first child and \$5500 for additional children in the same immediate family. \$500 needed at time of registration to hold families' spot. Check or cash ONLY. Credited to the first child's financial responsibility \$100 Supply Fee per child due by June 31st. No shopping for any required supplies for families except for any projects that may be required during the course of the year

\$100.00 Curriculum Fee/per child (Due by June 31st)

Breakdown for First Child \$6000 a year

-\$500 for family registration fee

\$5500

     ÷ 12 months

\$458 a month (Due on the 1st of the month, except August. August is due during Orientation.

Breakdown for additional children each \$5500

     ÷ 12 months

\$458 a month

(Due on the 1st of the month, except August. August is due during Orientation.

\*Don't need any other registration fee. But must have the \$100.00 Supply Fee in summer and the \$100.00 Curriculum Fee in summer as well). The enrollment fee reserves a student's spot/families' spot at ATA and enables the school to make financial commitments for the up-coming school year.

Enrollment fees are non-refundable. This fee is due at the time of registration for each family attending to hold the spot. Annual tuition is for the instruction of your child. You may pay in one lump sum but we will not be having a discount this year for doing so. The first payment is due at orientation. Remaining payments are due the 1st day of each month every month thereafter. The last payment of the year will be due July 1st. Attendance at this school is considered a contract. If you leave early, you are under contract and must pay the whole amount of tuition before withdrawing your student. If an excusal of the complete amount of tuition is offered, it must be approved by the board. Step-Up: \$500 enrollment fee is required to hold the student/family spot. This will be returned upon ATA's receipt of the first Step-Up check in September

\*\*In house hardship scholarships are available upon request.

Late Fee/ Additional Costs

Tuition is due on the 1st day of each month (other than in August). There will be a \$25 late fee for payments received after the 3rd day of every month. Additional expenses may be incurred for field trips, musical instruments, labs, optional SAT testing, activities, etc.

## **Middle School/High School (6th-10th Grade) Financial Responsibilities**

\$6000 a year/for first child and \$5500 additional children in same immediate family \*\$500 needed at time of registration to hold families' spot. Check or Cash Only. Credited to the first child's financial responsibility. \$300.00 Technology Fee (Due by June 31st)

\$100.00 Curriculum Fee/per child (Due by June 31st)

\$100.00 Supply Fee/per child. (Due by June 31st)

(That means NO shopping for any required supplies for families, minus projects that may be required during the year. We, the guides, will be able to get the supplies we need, with no hassle for you!)

Breakdown for First Child

\$6000 a year

-\$500 for family registration fee

\$5500

÷12 months

\$458 a month (Due on the 1st of the month, except August. August is due during Orientation)

Breakdown for additional children each

\$5500

÷12 months

\$458 a month (Due on the 1st of the month, except August. August is due during Orientation)

\*You don't need any other registration fee. But must have the \$100.00 Supply Fee, \$100.00 Curriculum Fee, and \$300.00 Technology Fee by June 31st. The enrollment fee reserves a student's spot/families' spot at ATA and enables the school to make financial commitments for the up-coming school year. Enrollment fees are non-refundable. This fee is due at the time of registration for each family attending to hold the spot. Annual tuition is for the instruction of your child. You may pay in one lump sum but we will not be having a discount this year for doing so. The first payment is due at orientation. Remaining payments are due the 1st day of each month every month thereafter. The last payment of the year will be due July 1st. Attendance at this school is considered a contract. If you leave early, you are under contract and must pay the whole amount of tuition before withdrawing your student. If an excusal of the complete amount of tuition is offered, it must be approved by the board. Step-Up: \$500 enrollment fee is required to hold the student/family spot. This will be returned upon ATA's receipt of the first Step-Up check in September

\*\*In house hardship scholarships are available upon request.

### **Late Fee/ Additional Costs**

Tuition is due on the 1st day of each month (other than in August). There will be a \$25 late fee for payments received after the 3rd day of every month. Additional expenses may be incurred for field trips, musical instruments, labs, optional SAT testing, activities, etc

## **Junior/Senior Year (11th and 12th Grade) Financial Responsibilities**

\$6000 a year/for first child \$5500 additional children in same immediate family  
\*\$500 needed at the time of registration to hold families' spot. Check or Cash Only. Credited to the first child's financial responsibility. \$300.00 Technology Fee  
\$100.00 Curriculum Fee/per child (Due by June 31st)  
\$200.00 SENIOR ONLY RESPONSIBILITIES (Due by June 31st)  
\$100.00 Supply Fee/per child. (Due by June 31st)

(That means NO shopping for any required supplies for families, minus projects that may be required during the year. We, the guides, will be able to get the supplies we need, with no hassle for you!)

### **Breakdown for First Child**

\$6000 a year

-\$500

\$5500 for family registration fee

÷12 months

\$458 a month

(Due on the 1st of the month, except August. August is due during Orientation)

### **Breakdown for additional children each**

\$5500

÷12 months

\$458 a month (Due on the 1st of the month, except August. August is due during Orientation)

\*You don't need any other registration fee. But must have the \$100.00 Supply Fee, \$100.00 Curriculum Fee, and ONE TIME 7th GRADE \$300.00 Technology Fee in summer.

IF YOU ARE ON THE VALENCIA TRACK. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COLLEGE BOOKS AND FEES NEEDED FOR COLLEGE COURSES! The school is responsible for tuition only.

Step-Up: \$500 enrollment fee is required to hold the student/family spot. This will be returned upon ATA's receipt of the first Step-Up check in September.

The enrollment fee reserves a student's spot/families' spot at ATA and enables the school to make financial commitments for the up-coming school year.

Enrollment fees are non-refundable.

This fee is due at the time of registration for each family attending to hold the spot. Annual tuition is for the instruction of your child. You may pay in one lump sum but we will not be having a discount this year for doing so. The first payment is due at orientation. Remaining payments are due the 1st day of each month

every month thereafter. The last payment of the year will be due July 1st. Attendance at this school is considered a contract. If you leave early, you are under contract and must pay the whole amount of tuition before withdrawing your student. If an excusal of the complete amount of tuition is offered, it must be approved by the board. \*\*In house hardship scholarships are available upon request.

### **Late Fee/ Additional Costs**

Tuition is due on the 1st day of each month (other than in August). There will be a \$25 late fee for payments received after the 3rd day of every month. Additional expenses may be incurred for field trips, musical instruments, labs, optional SAT testing, activities, etc.

## **Homeschool (K-10th) Financial Responsibilities**

\$1000 a year per child for tuition

\$1000\12 months=\$84 a month \$100 registration fee to hold spot (Due at enrollment) NON-REFUNDABLE \$25 supply fee per child (Due May 31st)  
(That means NO shopping for any required supplies for families. We, the teachers, will be able to get the supplies we need, with no hassle for you!)

The enrollment fee reserves a student's spot or families' spot at ATA and enables the school to make financial commitments for the up-coming school year.

Enrollment fees are non-refundable.

This fee is due at the time of registration for each family attending to hold the spot. Annual tuition is for the instruction of your child. You may pay in one lump sum but we will not be having a discount this year for doing so. The first payment is due by the first day of school. Remaining payments are due the 1st day of each month every month thereafter. The last payment will be due July 1st.

The enrollment fee reserves a student's spot/families' spot at ATA and enables the school to make financial commitments for the up-coming school year.

Enrollment fees are non-refundable.

Attendance at this school is considered a contract. If you withdraw early, you are under contract and must pay the whole amount of tuition before withdrawing your student. If an excusal of the complete amount of tuition is offered, it must be approved by the board.

### **Late Fee/ Additional Costs**

Tuition is due on the 1st day of each month (other than in August). There will be a \$25 late fee for payments received after the 3rd day of every month. Additional expenses may be incurred for field trips, musical instruments, labs, optional SAT testing, activities, etc

## **After Care Pricing**

After Care: (includes supervision and activities)

Lasts from 3:30-6:00pm

\$10 a day or \$120 a month for 1st child

\$150 a month for a family rate for more than one child in household

If you are paying by the day, that is due the day that your child is staying. If you are paying for the week, that is due the Monday of the week your child is attending. If you are paying for the month, it is due the 1st of the month. Parents arriving after 6:00pm will be assessed a \$1.00 per minute late fee which is due and payable upon arrival in cash.

## **Arrival/Dismissal Procedure**

Drop off begins at 8:00am. School starts at 8:30am sharp. From 8:00 to 8:25am, students engage in free time, reading, socializing and getting organized for the day. When you arrive at school, a Greeter will be in the main drive to greet each student with a handshake, greeting and eye contact, the customary start to our day together.

If your child arrives after 8:30am due to an unexpected emergency and in order not to interrupt the others who will be focusing on the morning launch discussion, a latecomer is required to wait outside the studio or at his or her desk until the discussion concludes at 8:45am. In addition to learning the life skill of showing up on time every time, these discussions are critical parts of the daily learning at Arts Thereafter.

For this reason, being on time is part of our contract to each other.

If a Lion is chronically late, it will impact the quality of his or her learning journey at Arts Thereafter as well as the culture of the studio community. In the rare case this occurs, we will contact you to discuss a plan to support your family being fully onboard with this commitment.

Dismissal is at 3:30pm sharp. For your convenience, we move the barricading cones at 3:15pm so you can pull up and wait for your children. Please wait in your car and follow the line for efficiency and safety. You are in charge of being clear with your child about who is driving him or her home if it is someone other than yourself. Your child should be confident and knowledgeable about the people who are allowed by you to drive him or her home. This is not a guide's nor Arts Thereafter's responsibility. It is a family responsibility. If your child is ever confused by who is there to drive home, he or she should go immediately to the guide to request help. (In the Spark studio, you may contact the school phone to let us know who will be picking up your child.)

If you are picking up your child at any time other than dismissal, please park and walk to the studio to get your child. Please do not ask a guide to watch for you and send your child out. This is up to you and you are free to come into the studio at any time to pick up your child. Kindly, sign them out at the door of their specific studio. It is most helpful if you inform your child so he or she can be mentally prepared to stop working and leave the group without hesitation.

## **Weekly Schedule**

In general, the schedule consistently includes the following activities:

- Socratic discussions
- Individual work time – Math, reading, writing, foreign language
- Collaborative work time in Projects/Quests and Civilization (our term for History because it includes studying economics, politics, art, geography and philosophy)
- Lunch and free times
- Art, Music and Drama
- PE for all studios
- Town meetings and running partner/squad meetings

## **Lunch and Snacks**

In order to keep our tuition costs low and support each family's healthy food choices, Arts Thereafter does not provide standardized lunches. Each child brings his or her own lunch. We believe healthy eating is important and the type of food consumed has a direct effect on productivity while at school. Please keep this in mind as you prepare breakfast and lunch each day. Also, Lions should not be sharing food with other Lions during the day due to food allergies.

We do not have a refrigerator to use for students so it is recommended for parents to equip them with cold packs that can be used to cool their lunches.

Students choose to eat at their desks, outdoor community tables, or picnic-style on blankets inside or outside. Cleaning up after themselves is an important part of our community culture. Snacks and water are also important for healthy refueling. Please pack healthy snacks and a water bottle each day for your child.

## **Arts Thereafter's Property, Laptops and School Supplies**

An integral part of our learning program is using technology for students to learn math, reading and writing skills at their own pace. We provide one laptop for middle school and journeyman students as needed to use during the day on campus. **They are school property. If one is damaged or lost by a student, the family is responsible for reimbursing the school in the amount of \$200 that will be added to your tuition bill.**

In addition, if any part of the school campus is intentionally damaged by a student, he or she will assist in the repair.

Not included in your tuition are also the basic necessary school supplies such as pens, paper, pencils and project supplies, so we require a supply fee from each family for each child.

Your child is welcome to bring his or her own books to read as well as writing supplies. He or she is responsible for the care of any personal items brought to school.

***Please note: The wifi at our school has a built in safesearch. All devices that are connected to our wifi have SafeSearch enabled. If a student has received permission for a laptop to be taken home, it is up to parents to verify that students are only accessing content that is appropriate while at home. If there is any evidence that a student has harmed a computer intentionally or unintentionally by accessing or downloading harmful content, he or she will lose internet privileges as well as incur repair costs.***

# Health Policies/Absenteeism/Internet Safety and Social Media

## Health Forms

Before the first day of school, it is necessary to have a copy of your child's health and immunization records from your pediatrician's office. You may email, mail or hand deliver this information.

## Medication

Students may not carry medicine into the school. Parents must give the medicine and written instructions to a guide. For prescription medicine, please send the medicine in the original container from the pharmacy with the child's name on it and a dated note listing the times and amounts to be given that day. Include whether or not refrigeration is required.

## Illness Policy

Following the state law for illness policy, a student with any of the following symptoms must be isolated and the parents notified and asked to remove the student from school as soon as possible:

- Fever of 100.5 F.
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Severe cough
- Unusual yellow color to skin or eyes
- Stiff neck or headache with one or more of the symptoms listed above
- Difficulty breathing or wheezing
- Complaints of severe pain.

If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please observe them carefully before sending them to school and risking the health of others.

### **Children must be free of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school.**

If your child develops any of these symptoms while at school, we will call you immediately to come pick up your child.

## **Head Lice**

A student may return to Arts Thereafter after a thorough treatment and is nit free. This child must be checked by a member of staff before they are to be dropped off. Students must have additional treatment 7-10 days from the first treatment to kill any newly hatched eggs.

## **Emergencies**

The staff will make every effort to ensure the safety of your child while in our care. Unfortunately, accidents may occur. We will notify you immediately in the event of illness or accident. In case of a serious accident or injury, we will make every effort to contact you immediately. If we cannot reach you, we will call the person you have indicated on the enrollment forms to make medical decisions for your child. Otherwise, we will take your child to the nearest hospital. A signed permission area on the enrollment form is required at admission on all children. By signing this form, you release all staff and the program itself from all liability.

## **Substance Misuse and Abuse**

Arts Thereafter has a zero tolerance for chemical and substance misuse and abuse. Disregarding this policy may result in immediate dismissal.

## **Internet Safety and Social Media**

Internet Safety: Please read the last paragraph under Arts Thereafter's Property (above.)

At Arts Thereafter, we have found excessive gaming, video watching and social media can have a negative impact on work habits and respect for others in general and in the studio in particular. As such, an immediate honor code violation (MS/LP) or strike (ES) will likely result for:

- a) Any non-work use of the Internet or texts during the school hours, except at free time. (Parents are often the cause of such violations when they expect their children to answer emails and texts during the school day.)
- b) Searching for or displaying any inappropriate material.
- c) Rude, unkind, belittling or inappropriate remarks sent through social media or by email or text **at any time**.

## **Attendance/Absenteeism**

While it is the school's philosophy that traveling with family and engaging in experiences with family is fruitful and educational, The State of Florida requires that all students attend school 170 days per school year.

Consistent attendance will help your child be fully engaged with the community and with the project/quest learning. In fact, most projects depend on the participation of all team members. If you know in advance that you will be taking your child out of school, it is helpful for the other Lions in the studio to be informed so they can make alternative work plans. Lions must attend exhibitions so that they may display their knowledge and mastery. The exhibition is to a Lion what a State final exam is to a traditional student. We also request that any appointments or family trips to please take place on the days during scheduled breaks. Please view the school calendar on our website to familiarize yourself with dates of our scheduled breaks.

While away from school, your Lion will be able to access his or her online programs and the Points Tracker for studio assignments.

## **Staying Informed: How do I know what is going on and talk with my children about their learning?**

### **SMART Goals and Journey Tracker**

We trust parents to take the initiative to understand and support their child's weekly goals and badge plans. This is a large part of your journey as an Arts Thereafter parent and takes an intentional effort. Your Lion will be able to share login and password information with you so you have access to the online programs as well as the Arts Thereafter "Journey Tracker." Ask your child to give you a tour of their work and explain the Tracker to you. Talking through the programs with your child (with you as "student" and your child as "teacher") is the most effective way for you to feel equipped. Most importantly, we encourage you to talk with your child about SMART goals. Asking questions about where they are feeling challenged, frustrated and excited can help you encourage them with growth mindset praise and celebrate achievements with them. Remembering that learning is hard and struggling is part of the journey will help you stress less and share patience with your child.

Note: Please read this [page on Growth Mindset praise](#) to be equipped with the language that can best motivate your child toward progress in learning.

## **Parent Blog**

Please note: Arts Thereafter does not give parenting advice and we do not get in between you and your child. We trust your personal choices regarding discipline or parental authority and have absolutely zero input on your personal family life. Each family is unique and we trust you to make your own best choices.

We do, however, offer you tools to help you incorporate the Acton method of asking questions and offering choices with consequences if you wish to use these at home.

Being an Arts Thereafter/Acton Academy parent is a unique calling. Your child will bring home new skills and ideas gained from learning in a Socratic way. They will be more independent in their learning and more able to share their ideas and make personal decisions. It is a challenge to be on the other end of this transformation as a parent. The blog written by Laura Sandefer is geared to help parents understand what happens in the studios in order to incorporate the method at home in ways that support the family's mission.

Laura comes to the blog as a parent with challenges and struggles and not an expert giving advice. You may click on the "subscribe" button on the blog if you wish to receive email notifications of new posts. The address is:

[www.actonacademyparents.com](http://www.actonacademyparents.com).

## **Student Blogs/Website**

There is no better way to stay informed on the details of the classroom than to read the weekly student website report from the Spark, elementary school and Middle school/Journeyman blogs. <http://www.artsthereafter.org/studio-blogs.html>

## **Weekly Surveys**

As part of our commitment to families, each family will receive a survey via Google Forms email each week. We ask that you guide your child to provide helpful input rather than anything personal about another student. The summary of these surveys will be shared with Acton families and guides each week all around the network. By sharing the results, we uphold our shared value of transparency and accountability to you. The survey is a place for constructive input.

## Contacting Guides

Our general philosophy is that guides must not come between a parent and child. You are the main authority and shepherd of your child's education and spiritual life and we are here to support you but with limitations. Because guides move between studios and have contact with all Lions, communication with parents is through a common email noted below. If you wish to direct your email to a particular guide, simply address your note to him or her but use the common email address. The information on the emails is kept strictly confidential between the guides. Be prepared: guides are Socratic and rather than answering questions may ask you questions and refer you to resources to help you. Please refer to the communication paper.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XGyg9AHJDYRzFZRNhM1K479II0hByGE1h5OZE4j2MA/edit>

Please understand that we will not be available to talk with you during the morning drop off, during school or afternoon pick up times; and will respond to messages between 3:30pm and 4:45pm.

Email is the most effective communication. Guides have phones only for emergencies and are not able to take calls or texts during the day. Please call the office line at anytime to get ahold of someone at school. 407-593-6608

Spark Studio guides may be reached at [ssguides@artsthereafter.com](mailto:ssguides@artsthereafter.com)

ES guides may be reached at: [esguides@artsthereafter.com](mailto:esguides@artsthereafter.com)

MS/JM Guides may be reached at: [msjmguides@artsthereafter.com](mailto:msjmguides@artsthereafter.com)

Office may be reached at: [office@artsthereafter.com](mailto:office@artsthereafter.com)

For any emergencies, you may text the school phone at 407-593-6608.

In case of an emergency at school, you will receive a group text as well as a group email with instructions.

# Feedback/Assessing Learning

## Parent Involvement in Tracking Learning

We encourage parents to find a healthy involvement in their child's learning that works for their family.

You have many tools available. (See below.) Documentation weekly goal achievement is available for children to share with their parents at any time. Your child can show you how to log into the Tracker to see the work accomplished and in progress. In addition, you are encouraged to become familiar with your child's online learning sites. Simply ask your child to teach you how to log in and to give you a "tour."

As a minimum, we encourage parents to ask their children about their goal setting at the beginning of the week; and follow up at the end of the week. It is helpful to ask: What would you do differently? Do you feel that your work this week was the best you can do? Where are you feeling most challenged? What was your greatest achievement this week? What was your greatest failure? When did you have the most energy today? When did you serve as a guide to someone? Who guided you? Everyone has an off-week now and then. Is there something you need a break from to get back to a strong start for next week? How is your badge compiling going? Do you save time to compile badges? Where do you feel behind? Is there a way I can support you?

## Tools to measure learning:

- **Points:** Weekly points measure time/effort on task.
- **Badges:** Badges represent several weeks of work compiled and reviewed. They are similar to "courses" completed in a traditional school. Badges are significant milestones of learning and represent excellence and progress in learning.
- **360 Reviews/Full Circle Feedback:** Given each session, these surveys measure growth in a Lion's leadership and citizenship in the studio. Warm and cool feedback, also called "warm-hearted" and "tough-minded" feedback helps Lions grow in their character and relationships with others. Lions "own" their scores and we encourage them to share with their parents.

- **Exhibitions of Learning:** Each session concludes with a public exhibition for parents on a particular area of learning. Lions demonstrate their learning through debates, speeches, presentations and demonstrations. They discuss their lessons learned and show their portfolios of work. Your guides will advise you of each session’s exhibition date and time at the beginning of the session.
- **Standardized Tests:** Given once a year, these tests measure where Lions are in comparison to national norms. You will be notified in advance of testing dates.
- **Portfolios/Learning Plans:** These portfolios contain learning goals, achievements, reflections and experiences over a period of years. Lions will share these with parents twice per year.
- **Journey Meetings:** Twice per year parents of Lions in all studios will be offered optional journey meetings with guides and the head of school. You will be given a survey/questionnaire to complete as your “ticket” to secure a review. The purpose of this survey is to document your questions and concerns in advance of the meeting in order to ensure the short time with your guide is spent well and serves you where you most need support.

## **Badges versus Grades**

Each Lion has a badge plan for the year. At the beginning of the year, you will receive this as well as details about the Freedom Levels in each studio. Freedom is earned by work produced and citizenship in the studio. Your guides will give you a detailed plan so you can see what is required to progress through the studios and to earn more freedom. At Arts Thereafter, we do not use letter grades nor do we give written reports from a guide. Lions will receive feedback on the work they produce from their peers, guides and from other sources as appropriate. Their progress will be documented through their achievement and mastery of badges in the Core Skills of writing, language arts, Civilization, math, reading and Socratic discussions. The software programs in language and math track the progress of learning and can be accessed by parents at any time. Simply ask your child to walk you through their programs and to share their passwords with you.

Large milestones of achievement at Arts Thereafter are the Servant Leader Badges which prove success in completing a long-term series of leadership challenges. These Badges will document the entire Arts Thereafter learning journey.

Journeyman and Middle School Studio Badges can be translated into traditional transcript requirements for college applications, Curriculum Vitae, and to celebrate authentic accomplishments of each Arts Thereafter graduate. (Completion of a badge equals mastery of a subject area and translates into a traditional A+.)

## **Studio Observation**

We welcome parents to visit and observe the studio experience to gain further understanding of the learning journey. The studio, however, is a very special environment for the Lions and we want to protect their personal space and privacy. The following guidelines will help ensure that the studio experience does not become diluted by interruptions.

Please inform a guide 24 hours before you plan to observe. Include the time of your arrival and your expected length of stay. Please inform your child that you will be visiting to observe and that you will just be watching the group at work.

During your observation time, you may quietly greet your child, and then find a comfortable place to sit. Enjoy taking it all in and then depart quietly.

## **Withdrawal From Arts Thereafter**

We understand that scenarios can change midyear and do our best to accommodate as needed. Students who are withdrawing from Arts Thereafter prior to the end of the school year will not be able to re register at any future date at this school. If a parent does withdraw their student before the end of the school year, we will be happy to supply the parent or transferring school with the documentation they are requesting within 14 days of the request. (Withdrawal paperwork for Spark/Elementary students, Transcripts for Middle and High)

## **Excusal From Arts Thereafter**

We reserve the right to excuse your child from Arts Thereafter and all future programs with or without notice. All tuition and registration fees paid to this point will be nonrefundable. If the Program Director feels Arts Thereafter cannot accommodate the needs of the child, or if the objectives established for the child are not met, Arts Thereafter reserves the right to terminate the child's participation in the school. Any child who does not accept the physical boundaries of the school, or exhibits behavior that is not in harmony with the school mission is subject to dismissal without notice. Any inappropriate behavior by a parent, including verbal abuse of a child or staff member, or confrontations with staff members is grounds for termination of the family's participation.

## **Important Note**

It is important to note that though we welcome ALL students and families, the owners and guides IN this program are Christians and thus look at the world and art from a Christian perspective. We will not be proselytizing or trying to convert your student by any means, but we reserve the right to point out the beauty of creation made by the Creator, personal testimony of Jesus' work in our lives and will be guiding them through a Biblical Worldview.

## **Special Events – Mark your Calendars**

### **Arts Thereafter Google Calendar for events each month**

You will be sent a link to the Arts Thereafter Acton Google calendar later this summer. This calendar will help you manage field trips, Parent Meetings, parent coffees at campus, end of the year celebrations, PE days, Open Houses and other Arts Thereafter events.

### **Parent Meetings**

Each year we host three parent meetings. Part of the Parent Contract includes the commitment for one parent from each family to attend at least two of these meetings each year. Meetings are posted on the calendar on our webpage.

The purpose of these meetings is a far cry from a typical “P.T.A.” meeting. Rather, they are created to inspire you to find your own calling and to be better equipped to help your child maneuver the landscape of his or her own, unique journey. The meetings are held at Parrish Hall and will include refreshments. Each meeting starts at 1:45 and concludes at 3:00pm. The dates are:

- Friday, September 18
- Friday, February 12
- Friday, May 21

## Other Details for your enjoyment

- You will have a copy of the school roster shared with you as a Google document.
- Please plan to attend our Welcome Back Ceremony on Thursday, August 20th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. This kicks off the school year before the first day of school on August 24th.
- Parent Coffees happen the last Friday of each month unless the last Friday coincides with a session break. These are casual gatherings on campus during morning arrival for you to get to know other parents and learn more about the Arts Thereafter learning experience. We encourage you to arrive at 8:00am, drop off your Lion and stay for an easy cup of coffee and to observe a morning launch in the studio of your choice.
- Middle school and Journeyman Lions have monthly social gatherings off campus.  
\*Fees may apply
  - Friday, August 28th Starbucks Coffee 6-8pm
  - Friday, September 18th Lion Night 3:30-10pm
  - Friday, October 23rd Spooky Movie Night and Games 6-10pm
  - Friday, November 20th Lion Night 3:30-10pm
  - Friday, December 11th Semi-Formal Christmas Party 6-10pm
  - Friday, January 29th Ice Factory 6-10pm
  - Friday, February 12th Valentine's Day Dance and Party 6-10pm
  - Friday, March 26th Progressive Dinner 6-10pm
  - Friday, April 16th Lion Night 3:30-10pm
  - Friday, May 14th Beach Day (During school)
  - Friday, July 23rd Lion Night 3:30-10pm
- Keep reading the suggested books. The more you learn about why we created Arts Thereafter Acton Academy and why our systems work, the more enjoyable this journey will be for you. Feel free to refer back to the registration on our website for the reading list.
- Tuition is due on the first of each month. Tuition questions need to be referred to Diane Barnes. She can be reached with invoice questions at:  
office@artsthereafter.com

Receipt of and agreement of Parent Handbook:

Parents,

Please sign and return this page with all completed forms by email or in person on the day of Open House, August 20th. You may keep the rest of the Handbook and school calendar for your reference at home. We recommend to keep this handbook available as a resource in case there are any questions.

Phillip Henderson  
Head of School  
Arts Thereafter: An Acton Academy

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Child's Name

I have read and understand the policies and procedures of the Arts Thereafter's School Program.

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Father/Guardian Signature Date

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Mother/Guardian Signature Date