

Notes from the Principal

Achievement Academy

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Welcome back,
Achievement Academy
families!

We are overjoyed to see so many familiar faces, and equally as excited to welcome our many new scholars to AACS. Thank you for your continued support with completing student files.

Order forms are now available for uniform polos and fleece. Please return the order form to the Main Office. Remember, your order may take up to two weeks to fill if we don't have your selection in stock. We appreciate your patience.

Great news! The Shakespeare Club has formed and is now active. Please see Ms. Lamson if you would like more information about this unique opportunity. We have also provided a link to details about the club in the Newsletter section of our website.

The DREAM program has also begun. This program is exclusively for Seventh and Eighth graders, and runs from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. This mentoring and tutoring program is run by SUNY Albany students. We urge you to take advantage of this terrific program!

We have scheduled a Parent Connection Meeting for Oct. 4 at 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. This meeting is open to everyone. We will be discussing the subjects of weekly assessments, weekly progress reports and the state assessment schedules. In addition, we will discuss upcoming activities in the school, as well as the AIS program.

We encourage students to participate and be healthy—that's why we at Achievement Academy incorporate physical education into our daily schedule. Please note that scholars may bring in a gym uniform; which consists of black knee length shorts

and solid gray T-shirts. You may purchase uniforms for gym at any department store. Target and Wal-Mart offer black basketball shorts and solid gray T-shirts for under \$10 each.



Scholars will have time to change during their gym period. Please instruct your scholar to bring their gym uniforms on days they are scheduled for gym. If your scholar forgets, they will have to participate using their regular school uniform; they will not be permitted to call home for their gym uniforms.

Open house has been scheduled for Friday, Oct. 14. There will be two sessions, with the first at 2

p.m. to 4 p.m. and the second from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. During the evening, parents will be able to review the scholars' daily schedule, as well as information as how to check their grades online. Refreshments will be served.

ABC Program candidates will be taking a field trip to Emma Willard School for Girls on Tuesday, Oct. 4. This will give them an opportunity to experience a private school environment. We wish our ABC program candidates good luck!

As you may be aware, it is flu and cold season. We urge you to read the attached article, which contains information that will help keep your child and your entire family healthy this season.

Achievement Academy is currently in discussions to schedule a Family Picture

Night. However, a minimum of 25 families must commit to participating in order for Lifetouch to send us a photographer. If you are interested, please fill out the attached form. We will send out a flyer with more information as soon as we know if there's enough interest. These packages will be done before the holidays in December.

In closing, the entire staff of Achievement Academy would like to express how grateful we are to our exceptional group of parents. We look forward to an exciting year ahead with our scholars, filled with adventures in success.



Family Picture Night

Scholar's Name _____

Advisory _____

Are you interested? Yes No

Parent Signature _____



The Flu:

A Guide For Parents

FLU INFORMATION

What is the flu?

Influenza (the flu) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by influenza viruses. There are many different influenza viruses that are constantly changing. They cause illness, hospital stays and deaths in the United States each year.

The flu can be very dangerous for children. Each year about 20,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized from flu complications, like pneumonia.

How serious is the flu?

Flu illness can vary from mild to severe. While the flu can be serious even in people who are otherwise healthy, it can be especially dangerous for young children and children of any age who have certain long term health conditions, including asthma (even mild or controlled), neurological and neurodevelopmental

conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders (such as diabetes), kidney, liver, and metabolic disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medication. Children with these conditions and children who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy can have more severe illness from the flu.

How does the flu spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

What are the symptoms of the flu?

Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?

People with the flu may be able to infect others by shedding virus from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can shed virus for longer, and might be still contagious past 5 to 7 days of being sick, especially if they still have symptoms.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD

How can I protect my child against the flu?

To protect against the flu, the first and most important thing you can do is to get a flu vaccine for yourself and your child.

- ▶ Vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- ▶ It's especially important that young children and children with long term health conditions get vaccinated. (See list of conditions under "How Serious is the Flu?")
- ▶ Caregivers of children with health conditions or of children younger than 6 months old should get vaccinated. (Babies younger than 6 months are too young to be vaccinated themselves.)
- ▶ Another way to protect babies is to vaccinate pregnant women because research shows that this gives some protection to the baby both while the woman is pregnant and for a few months after the baby is born.

A new flu vaccine is made each year to protect against the three flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the next flu season. Flu vaccines are made using strict safety and production measures. Over the years, millions of flu vaccines have been given in the United States with a very good safety record.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Is there a medicine to treat the flu?

Antiviral drugs can treat flu illness. They can make people feel better and get better sooner and may prevent serious flu complications, like pneumonia, for example, that can lead to hospitalization and even death. These drugs are different from antibiotics, but they also need to be prescribed by a doctor. They work best when started during the first 2 days of illness. It's very important that antiviral drugs be used early to treat the flu in people who are very sick (for example people who are in the hospital) or people who are at greater risk of having serious flu complications. Other people with flu illness may also benefit from taking antiviral drugs. These drugs can be given to children and pregnant women.

What are some of the other ways I can protect my child against the flu?

In addition to getting vaccinated, take – and encourage your child to take – everyday steps that can help prevent the spread of germs.

This includes:

- ▶ Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- ▶ Stay away from people who are sick.
- ▶ Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ▶ If someone in the household is sick, try to keep the sick person in a separate room from others in the household, if possible.
- ▶ Keep surfaces like bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, kitchen counters and toys for children clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label.
- ▶ Throw tissues and other disposable items used by sick persons in your household in the trash.

These everyday steps are a good way to reduce your chances of getting all sorts of illnesses, but a yearly flu vaccine is always the best way to specifically prevent the flu.



What should I use for hand washing?

Washing hands with soap and water (for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice) will help protect against many germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

What can I do if my child gets sick?

Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.

If your child is 5 years and older and does not have other health problems and gets flu-like symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed and make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids.

If your child is younger than 5 years (and especially younger than 2 years) or of any age with a long term health condition (like asthma, a neurological condition, or diabetes, for example) and develops flu-like symptoms, they are at risk for serious complications from the flu. Ask a doctor if your child should be examined.

What if my child seems very sick?

Even children who have always been healthy before or had the flu before can get very sick from the flu.

Call for emergency care or take your child to a doctor right away if your child of any age has any of the warning or emergency signs below:

- ▶ Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- ▶ Bluish or gray skin color
- ▶ Not drinking enough fluids (not going to the bathroom or making as much urine as they normally do)
- ▶ Severe or persistent vomiting
- ▶ Not waking up or not interacting
- ▶ Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- ▶ Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- ▶ Has other conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes, or asthma) and develops flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough.

Can my child go to school, day care or camp if he or she is sick?

No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid giving the flu to other children or caregivers.

When can my child go back to school after having the flu?

Keep your child home from school, day care or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C) or higher.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu or www.flu.gov or call 800-CDC-INFO