

SURPRISE, AZ 85387

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# PARENT STUDENT

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## HANDBOOK



# Our History

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In 2023 Logan & Brooke added four chickens to their suburban home. A week later they created a garden from recycled materials. A few months later they began to renovate their two homes, sold their homes, and purchased their current home. They were blessed to find their home with acreage. They immediately knew they wanted to share the farm life experience with other families. Brooke spontaneously decided to begin an in-home childcare in April of 2024. She had taken a break from nursing during the move. After a lot of prayer she felt God calling her to a new mission in education. After seeing a need for alternative education Logan curiously expressed the idea of opening a microschool. At the time he worked as a commercial construction superintendent. He had no intention of being involved in the childcare or microschool. Brooke continuously prayed that God would provide a way for her and Logan to use the farm as a business to allow for more togetherness and time at home. Logan returned home from work one day to say he'd put in a two month notice and was committing to the farm school. And by the grace of God here we are today.

# Our Mission

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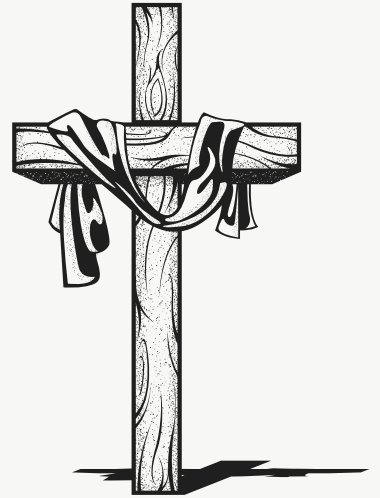
First and foremost our greatest mission is to fulfill God's will, not our own. This is for his glory. Allegiance Acres is a community of families, children, and educators that share a passion for child-led learning, Christ, and nature. Through a compassionate and holistic approach we provide children and families with the opportunity to develop the whole-self as we believe children are so much more than a just a student. We are all students of life here.

# The Goals

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To lead by example. To share what we've learned from the place of a student, not as an expert. To let God lead us in serving each child in a holistic and personalized manner from a place of compassion and grace while supporting the child as a whole being, not just a student. We encourage children to exercise their ability to freely choose to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, to develop and use critical thinking skills, and to create lifelong learners with a curiosity and excitement for life. To provide endless opportunities for learning through exploration, curiosity, trial and error, and hands on learning. To develop and nurture a community of likeminded families striving to raise bold, kind, polite, curious, Christ-loving humans, because it really does take a village. We will spend many hours in our community so that students may observe, learn, and practice being strong citizens willing to serve and volunteer in their community. To develop an understanding of self, emotions, emotion regulation, coping mechanisms, and supporting one another. We will lead by example while teaching children life skills that will benefit them inside and outside of the classroom. Children will choose what they learn, how they learn. and when they learn. We as educators will be responsible for creatively applying core subject learning opportunities to each child's unique interests.

# Statement of Faith



- We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33):
- His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35)
- His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26)
- His miracles (John 2:11)
- His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9)
- His resurrection (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:4)
- His ascension to the right hand of the father (Mark 16:19), and His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelations 19:11)
- We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1 Matthew 28:19, John 10:30)
- We believe that it is the goal of every Christian to grow in spiritual maturity through obedience to the word of God and the dwelling Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 12)
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- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct complementary genders together, reflect the image and nature of God Genesis 1:26-27. rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man one woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated and scripture. Genesis two 18-25. We believe that God in 10 sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged outside of a marriage between a man and woman.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
- We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Allegiance Acres MicroSchool and to provide a biblical role model to the allegiance acres community. It is imperative that all persons employed by allegiance acres micro school in any capacity, or serve volunteers, agree to abide by the statement of marriage, gender and sexuality. (Matthew 5:16, Thessalonians 5:22)
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts three:19-21, Romans 10:9-10, one Corinthians 6:9-11).
- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:18-31, Luke: 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward an individual are to be hated and are not in a cord with scripture or the doctrines of allegiance acres micro school.
- We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in his image. Human life is of an estimable worth in all its dimensions, including unborn babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life. (Psalm 139)

To accomplish our vision and mission statements, the discipline system at Allegiance Acres is designed to reflect Christian values while creating a safe environment for our community that nurtures the overall wellness of each student spiritually, academically, physically, and socially.

We seek to establish a clear standard of behavior based upon Biblical truth and will often reference the Bible for clarification of God's expectation for our actions and decisions.

The Allegiance Acres community believes a safe and nurturing environment is best achieved within an atmosphere of clear consequences for unacceptable behavior tempered with grace and mercy. We will all make mistakes. There is no such thing as failure if we choose to learn from our mistakes to make better decisions in the future.

Students are encouraged to understand that their choices produce consequences, these being positive consequences for honorable behavior and negative consequences for dishonorable behavior. The instrument adopted by Allegiance Acres to implement this philosophy of discipline is the Allegiance Acres Honor Code.

#### **HONOR CODE**

*I understand and respect that Allegiance Acres MicroSchool is a distinctly Christian school. I pledge to follow the guidelines and rules set forth by Allegiance Acres which are based on Christian principles and values while keeping my overall well-being in mind. As a student representing Allegiance Acres, I understand that my conduct reflects the school both on and off campus. As a student I will conduct myself in an honorable manner which reflects respectable Christian behavior in every area of my life as I know I may be the only example of Christ that some ever experience. I will conduct myself in a manner that reflects my respect for others, for Christ, nature, every living being, and for our country. I will lead by example while keeping in mind that I serve as a role model to my peers. I aim to prioritize my integrity. I will seek support from my mentors within the Allegiance Acres community when in need of support to uphold this honor code.*

The Honor Code is intended to work for the students, not against them. It is structured to encourage them to live with integrity. The effectiveness of the Honor Code is directly proportional to the level of student ownership. The strength of the Honor Code rests with the commitment to follow it and to hold each other accountable.

# What To Expect

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"The unexpected is usually what brings the unbelievable" -Mary Kellog Rye

As a student you should expect to be encouraged to step outside of your comfort zone with the support of our community. You should expect that we will encourage you to question everything as a way to develop your critical thinking skills and confidence in your knowledge. You will be encouraged to speak up, and when you do, you will be heard. We will expect you to challenge us as educators, and to determine what that means as well. Expect to show up on your good days and your hard days and be welcomed with compassion and unconditional support. You belong here and we will demonstrate this by our actions as we expect you to demonstrate your intentions with your actions, not just your words. Expect joy, expect your creativity to overflow, your curiosity to become limitless, and the word impossible to become your motivation. Expect that your decisions will have consequences, you are responsible and in control of your success. We will support you in the decision making process.

As a parent you can expect a private Christian School curriculum in a small classroom setting with a maximum ratio of 10 students to 1 teacher and a strong emphasis on outdoor learning, play, and nature. We have a business plan that reflects hopeful growth, future assistant teachers, & additional indoor learning spaces to guarantee small classroom settings. We set high expectations for your child (and you as a parent) while providing limitless resources and support to assist them in achieving their personal, educational, and long-term goals.

An emphasis on career exploration to equip your child with an understanding of themselves as a whole: their passions, strengths, areas for improvement, learning style, and future goals. By the time they graduate high school they will have had as many opportunities as they choose to take advantage of to try new things, explore different careers, meet with professionals, earn letters of recommendation, and much more. Your child will gain an understanding of the different options for continued education after their high school curriculum is completed. This ensures that they are encouraged to choose a career they are passionate about and one that will fulfill their financial goals, time management goals, future family goals, and more. A four year college degree is not the only option. Rather than force the college agenda we will ensure your child understands the different options for continued education pertaining to their field of interest whether it's a trade school, certification/s, field experience, etc. Children will have a continuous opportunity starting from preschool to experience different career options from shadowing professionals, guest speakers, and field trips. We have the resources available if your child wishes to attend free, accredited, online college courses for college credits when they are ready. They can utilize these courses during high school years. These different universities offer college credits and a transcript. Depending on your child's developmental and educational level we may use some of these college courses alongside our curriculum. (Example: Hillsdale College offers various classes such as: The Great American Story, etc).

We will focus on a Biblical mindset and standards, not the often-popular worldly views. We will seek truth in the Bible, support one another through prayer and Bible study, and strengthen our faith as a community.

# Health & Safety

The health, safety, and overall wellness of each student is our first priority.

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We have implemented and will uphold the following policies to ensure safety, comfort, and overall wellness for each person at Allegiance Acres

## Be Prepared

Follow the dress code, dress according to the weather, speak up when you need a break, show up willing to participate.

## Zero Tolerance for Cell Phones

Students will not be permitted to use their personal cell phones at any time during attendance at Allegiance Acres. A telephone will be provided for student's to use anytime they need. We suggest student's leave their cell phones at home but understand if they need to bring them with them due to transportation or other reasons. We require these students to place their cell-phones in the phone basket upon arrival. It will be returned to them at the end of the day. Cell phones are not permitted during driving time to and from outings. Parents are more than welcome to call or text Logan or Brooke if needed during school hours. Parents can also utilize the ProCare app for communication.

## Alcohol, Nicotine, & Drug Free Policy

All students, staff, and volunteers are expected to follow and uphold our zero tolerance policy for alcohol, nicotine, vaping, and drugs while on the property and during outings with Allegiance Acres. An exception for celebrations and monthly meetups, this applies to school hours only for adults. If at any time students are suspected of any of the items mentioned above they are at risk for termination of enrollment, this applies to staff, parents and volunteers as well. As mandated reporters we are required by the state of Arizona to report any suspected drug, alcohol, or nicotine use of children under the legal age limit. We will always utilize a method of open communication with parents and guardians to ensure we can best support each child in the best way possible.



# Dress Code

We support and encourage each child and staff member to dress modestly, comfortably, and taking into consideration the weather.

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## Shoes

All students must keep a pair of muck boots, rain boots, or work boots at the farm. This is to ensure students are always prepared to be outdoors in safe footwear. For hiking students may wear any close-toed shoes they wish.

## Clothing:

Due to the active nature of our curriculum we encourage children to wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the current weather conditions. Shirts must have sleeves and shorts must be modest and have a minimum length of mid-thigh. No skirts or dresses will be permitted. All shirts must appropriately cover the student. Clothing exceptions will be made for children with sensory issues or disabilities but it must meet the standards of modesty.

## Zero Tolerance Makeup Policy

Students will not be permitted to wear makeup of any kind while in attendance at Allegiance Acres during school hours. This also applies to fake nails.

## Piercings & Hair

Females are permitted to wear one stud earring in each ear limited to the lower ear lobe. Males are not permitted to wear any jewelry or piercings. Students are to have a natural hair color.

## Profanity & Propaganda

At no time will any items of clothing or accessories that display profanity, nudity, sexuality, or any words or images of perverse nature be allowed. We uphold a zero tolerance policy for any display of propaganda or material that is offensive to America or Christ.

## Hygiene Expectations

Children should maintain a healthy standard of hygiene while practicing daily grooming habits. If at any time children are in need of hygiene products we are more than happy to assist.

## **Withdrawal**

Any parent who wishes to withdraw their student must complete a "Student Withdrawal" form and submit it to the Admissions Director. Since tuition is calculated based on the entire year, reductions will not be made for family vacations or other events. Tuition is required for the entire year, regardless of the date withdrawn. Records will be processed once all financial obligations are satisfied.

## **Immediate Expulsion**

Allegiance Acres has a zero tolerance for bullying or harassment of any kind. Students that participate in bullying of anyone: student, staff, volunteer, animal, etcetera will be immediately expelled and unwelcome to return to Allegiance Acres. This will be handled on a case by case basis. If at any time anyone has concerns about anything we ask that you urgently direct these concerns to either Brooke or Logan. We will respect the confidentiality of all parties.

Upon expulsion families are still required to fulfill their financial responsibilities for the remainder of the school year, no exceptions will be made.

Intentional damage or disrespect to any of the supplies, tools, property, or vehicles of Allegiance Acres will be a requirement of the students and parents to repair or replace.

## **Field-Trips**

By enrolling your student you agree to allow them to travel for outings & field trips. Please understand these are not always planned in advance and sometimes may be a spur of the moment trip to a local park, library, etcetera. We will be and hearing to the traditional "school bus" policy for seating arrangements. This means 3-4 per row and may not require a seatbelt for every student. If students do not remain in their seats, or follow vehicle rules they may be excluded from trips.



## **Snacks & Lunch**

All students are required to bring snacks and a packed lunch each day. We also require students to bring a water bottle which they can refill here at school.

## **Farm Chores**

Students will be assigned daily farm chores to complete as a group. An unwillingness to participate or lack of effort will not be tolerated. Students are required to wear a high visibility vest and muck boots during these chores. Students are responsible for keeping track of these items. During farm chores each student is required to carry a walkie-talkie, at the end of each day they are responsible for ensuring this is placed on the charger to prepare for the next day. Loss of a walkie-talkie will result in a \$40 replacement fee.

## **Parent Responsibility**

As a parent it is your responsibility to effectively communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. This includes bringing any concerns or questions to their attention in a timely manner. If for any reason you feel that we are not meeting your expectations please let us know and we will schedule a time to meet.

## **Unwillingness to Participate**

As a parent I understand that Allegiance Acres Farm School is a student-led and participation based school. This means that if a student continuously displays an unwillingness to participate in experiences whether it be group projects, one-on-one instructional time, farm chores, individual projects, etcetera, your child's teacher will request a conference to create a plan for moving forward.

If a student continues to display an unwillingness to participate they will be at risk of termination of enrollment.

# Carpool

Hours of carpool:

Pickup: 8:10 – 8:20 AM

Drop off: 2:10 – 2:20 PM

If you are unable to meet for the drop off you will be required to pickup at the school, we return sometimes as late as 3:30 PM. Location to be disclosed prior to the start of the school year. Students utilizing this will be required to adhere to certain vehicle/safety rules. If a student(s) misuse the vehicle they may be required to clean or resolve any issue they have caused. Any damage done to the vehicle the student(s) and their families will be financially responsible for.

**There will not be carpool during the first and last week of school.**

# Sick-Day / School Closure

We will notify families by 8 AM or earlier the morning of for school cancellation. We will reserve no more than 5 days for emergency cancellations. If for any reason we exceed these 5 cancellation days we will provide optional make-up days extended at the end of the school year. We reserve the right to remain open if one teacher is available.

# Daily Schedule

9 AM – 2 PM    Monday–Thursday

Extended hours for before and after care are available.

Gate hours: 8:50–9:10 AM – 1:45 – 2:00 PM    Monday–Friday

# Tools & Materials

Students will be taught tool safety and the appropriate way to use different tools and materials such as: paint, stains, any & all power tools, hand tools, garden tools, ladders, etcetera. **If at any time your student refuses to follow safety procedures and expectations they will not participate in these exercises and may lead to expulsion.**