

# Welcome Back to School

2024/2025 Academic Year



Developing Christlike Character  
and Academic Excellence

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”  
Isaiah 54:10

## Welcome to the beginning of a new school year.

It is a privilege for the staff of Isaac Newton Christian Academy to support your family and your decision for Christian education. We are committed to providing your child an education that is focused on their spiritual formation, as well as their intellectual development. We hope that your family has been enjoying the summer months away from school. Summer break is quickly coming to an end, and we are looking forward to the first day of school. We are getting everything ready for the new school year. We look forward to a great year—a new opportunity to serve your family and assist students as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. We are excited for what God has in store for each of us.

## Theme Verse

Each school year, Isaac Newton Christian Academy prays over and chooses a theme verse. The verse is recited in morning announcements, memorized by students in Bible class, and posted in our hallways and classrooms. It serves as a constant reminder of God’s love and truth.

The theme verse for this year is Isaiah 54:10:

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

This verse recalls God’s posture toward his people amidst life’s difficult circumstances. One of our focuses for this school year is to remind ourselves of God’s promises for and to us. Just like God promised the Israelites in trying times that his unfailing love, peace, and compassion would remain, we can have confidence that God will act similarly for us. Our hope is that this would be a truthful reminder our students carry with them each day.

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, August 21	Mrs. Curry’s Birthday
Thursday, August 22	Back to School Open House 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Last Day of Summer Break
Friday, August 23	First Day of School - classes begin at 8:15 a.m. This is a full day of school
Wednesday, August 28	Picture Day PreK - 12th grade.

More information to come. Portraits from picture day will be used in yearbook and the class composite regardless of your choice to purchase photos.

**Important information ahead. Keep reading. >>>**

# Preparing for the first day

## BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Back to School Day is Thursday, August 22! All families and students, from Pre-K to 12th grade, should plan to stop by between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to learn about the coming school year, drop off supplies, find classrooms, meet teachers, and make new friends. This is one of the most important school visits you will make this year, and it's a great way to begin the home-school connection! You will receive a checklist of the items that need to be accomplished while you are here visiting. Our teachers and staff are looking forward to sharing information that will help you and your child get the most out of their education at Isaac Newton Christian Academy. If you have any questions, please call the school office at (319) 362-9512.

### First Day Arrival & Dismissal

Friday, August 23, is the first day of school. The day begins at 8:15 a.m. The first day of school is a full day of school. Kindergarten – 5th grades dismiss at 3:00 p.m. and 6th – 12th grades dismiss at 3:15 p.m. Pre-K students dismiss at 11:15 a.m.



**Download DashPass 24 hours before the Back to School Open House to test it out that night!**

Go to “Drop-Off and Pick-Up” on page 3-4 for more information.

### School Hours

Class begins for all grades at 8:15 a.m. Kindergarten through 5th grade students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Students in 6th-12th grades are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Pre-K students attend from 8:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. When school is dismissed early, students in kindergarten through 5th grade will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m. Students in 6th – 12th grades will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m.

#### Before & After School Care

Read the “Before and After School Care Program” section on page 7 for extended drop-off and pick-up information.

### Lunch Information

Hot lunch will first be served on Friday, August 23. The menu for August will be available on the school website before school begins.

#### Ordering Hot Lunch

Students will give their lunch order preference each day in homeroom. If a student does not order hot lunch, he/she is expected to have a lunch provided from home.

#### Hot Lunch Fees

\$4.10 per meal (Pre-K – 5th)

\$4.35 per meal (6th – 12th)

Extra Milk \$0.40 each

A la carte\* \$1.00 per item

Extra slice of Pizza on Mondays \$1.25

\*A la carte includes items such as fresh fruit, chips, granola bars, string cheese, and baked goods.

The price of a meal includes one beverage. The selection for beverages usually includes 1% milk and chocolate milk.

**Lunch account policies on the next page. Keep reading. >>>**

## **Lunch Information continued**

Parents should deposit money in the family's lunch account by adding money through FACTS, or by sending a check or cash to the office. The amount of the items purchased will be subtracted from the account each day. Parents can monitor the family lunch account through FACTS ParentsWeb. You will be notified by email when your account reaches a \$0.00 balance. When you receive these emails, please add more money to the lunch account as soon as possible. If the family account has no money in it, your child(ren) should bring a lunch from home. You may receive a phone call from the staff asking you to bring a lunch for the child.

### Forgetting Lunch:

If a child comes to school without a lunch during this period, a staff member will call the family to see if a lunch can be brought in for the child(ren). If one can not be brought, the Director of Food Services will have items on hand to give to the child(ren) and we will charge them for these items as well.

### Microwaves:

We are still working out the details for microwave use for the upcoming school year. We will make these details known to you before the beginning of the school year.

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

All drivers must exercise extreme caution on the school's parking lot and driveway. The established speed limit is 5 mph. Pedestrians have the right-of-way. Please remember to watch for children when driving on the school property. Please do not park your car along the curb.

### Drop-Off:

Children may be dropped off as early as 7:50 a.m. without being part of our before school care program. Students should proceed directly to their homerooms when arriving. When dropping off your children in the morning, please stay to the right of the yellow line along the sidewalk. The left hand (exit lane) must remain open so traffic can flow freely. Please do not park your car along the curb. Ask your children to exit the car quickly on the right side of the vehicle, along the sidewalk, and to walk to the building. Parents should remain in the vehicle and keep the line moving forward as much as possible. If you need to come into the school, please park in a parking space.

### Pick-Up:

After school, please stay to the right of the yellow line along the sidewalk and allow the left (exit) lane to remain open so traffic can flow freely. Please do not drive into the exit lane to avoid waiting for traffic. This increases the danger to children and other drivers. Please have your children board the vehicle on the right side (sidewalk side). This prevents the students from having to walk between cars and into oncoming exit traffic. Dr. Ridder, or other staff members, will be on the sidewalk supervising dismissal. Thanks to the use of DashPass, once you arrive at the pick-up area, your child(ren) will be waiting for you or on their way out. If you are not able to use DashPass, please give Dr. Ridder, or the designee, your name and he/she will request the release of your students. Please encourage your children to exit the building quickly when their name is called and to board the vehicle as soon as possible. This keeps the line moving. Parents picking up students in grades 6-12 should wait until after 3:15 p.m. to pick up their children, or park in a spot if they arrive early. This prevents the line from being stopped waiting for older students who have not yet been dismissed from school.

### Authorization for Pick-Up:

The school requires that parents provide the names and relationships of persons authorized to pick-up their student(s). If your child will be picked up by another individual, please notify the school of that change.

**Up next: DashPass download  
Staying in the Loop. Staying  
Connected >>>**



# Download DashPass to optimize the student pickup experience.

To ensure safety and efficiency, the school uses DashPass, a secured, automated school dismissal mobile platform. This app optimizes the student pickup experience for parents and school staff. When picking students up, the authorized pick-up person should have the app open on their mobile phone. This triggers a geofence that has been set up around the school. DashPass announces your arrival on campus automatically so your student can be called to your car for dismissal. Only those whom the parents authorize will be able to pick up the student because of the apps features.

**Our QR codes are clickable. If you are unable to scan the code, touch or click them on your phone or computer and they will direct you to the right place.**



**IMPORTANT:** You will need to use the same email that you have provided the school when setting up your DashPass profile. To ensure that DashPass has synced with the school, please install DashPass at least 24 hours prior to its first use.

## Staying In The Loop

We desire to communicate well with our families. In this effort, we have developed a variety of communication rhythms to help you stay in the know. Make sure you stay in the loop by updating our office whenever your email, phone number, or mailing address changes. We do our best to make sure that emails do not get marked as spam. In a joint effort, please make sure that you periodically check your junk or promotions folder. If an email does get marked as spam, make sure to unmark it as spam and add us to your contact list.

### Newton's News

When: Weekly on Fridays when school is in session.

Where: Email  
online: [bit.ly/newtonnews](http://bit.ly/newtonnews)

What: Important information including, but not limited to, school events, lunch menus, monthly prayer guides and announcements. Some content will be informational only, and other content will require action from the student and/or parent.



### Social media

When: Throughout the week at varying times.

Where: Facebook, Instagram

What: We will use social media to communicate fun, in the moment, information as well as a secondary method to communicate school closings, delays, and events.

Follow Us to stay in the loop!



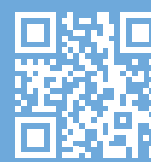
### Website

When: As needed

Where: [www.incaonline.org](http://www.incaonline.org)

What: The school website is a great place to find out more about our school, retrieve lunch and event schedules, and more.

Visit Isaac Newton Online!



## TEXT ALERTS ARE USED Sparingly

We use text alerts for urgent matters such as school delays and cancellations. Information on winter cancellation policies will be provided in the fall.



## Staying Connected

It is our desire that the Isaac Newton Christian Academy Community would be a place where everyone feels welcome and connected. In this effort, members of our community have worked hard to cultivate opportunities for our families to participate in.

### Parent Teacher Fellowship Welcomes You Back to School!

Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) is a vehicle for fostering support for the school and for improving communication among parents, teachers/administrators, and LCEA board members. Your input and participation are so important. The smallest gifts of time can make the most difference. If you are looking to meet more parents, or simply get more involved, please consider joining the PTF. Some of the PTF's endeavors are facilitating refreshments for Grandparents' Day and hosting a carnival where families and members of the community can come enjoy a night of games, food and entertainment and the annual flower sale in the spring. Get involved! Contact Heather Hubbard at [thehubbardfamily6@gmail.com](mailto:thehubbardfamily6@gmail.com) or 406-599-6964. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6.

### Moms In Prayer

What's the best way to ensure a great start to the school year? Prayer and fellowship! Join our Moms in Prayer group each Monday right after drop-off at 8:15 a.m. in the Cafeteria. We would love to get to know you and pray for your family. Questions? Contact Sarah Jackson at [sarahjackson@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjackson@gmail.com) or 319-431-9479.

### Patriot Connections - Building Bonds Beyond The Classroom

The mission of Patriot Connections is to provide opportunities outside of the classroom for families and students to strengthen relationships. This endeavor was launched with a pilot group in the middle of the 2023-2024 academic year, and it is our goal to see it ready to launch at every grade level by the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Patriot Connections is parent led. Each grade will need one Connection Grade Parent and two Parent Volunteers. Connection Grade Parents coordinate with Parent Volunteers to plan activities and invite families and students to attend monthly events. We hope you can find time throughout the year to engage with the Isaac Newton Christian Academy Community in this capacity.

**In order to launch at every grade level, we will need to recruit more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer sign up at [bit.ly/patriotconnections\\_volunteer](https://bit.ly/patriotconnections_volunteer). To learn more or ask questions email [spadgett@incaonline.org](mailto:spadgett@incaonline.org).**



**Download BAND to join the fun!**

Search "Patriot Connections" within the app and select your student's graduating year to join the groups that apply to your student(s).





## **Before and After School Care Program**

Before and After School Care is available for school families with students in Kindergarten through 8th grades and begins on the first day of school. All students who arrive at school before 7:50 a.m. and remain past 3:30 p.m. will be included in the Before and After School Care program.

Supervisors: The supervisors of the Before and After School Care Program are Isaac Newton Christian Academy staff members.

Location: At this time, we are still working out the details on the location. We will make it known to you by the beginning of the school year. (if the weather is nice, they may go to the playground in the afternoons after school)

### Effective Dates:

Before and after school care will be available on days when school is in session, with the following exceptions:

Friday, May 30, 2025

Before school care ONLY

No after school care will be provided on days when school is dismissed early for weather or emergency reasons. On days when the start of school is delayed because of inclement weather, there will be no before school care.

### Hours of Operation:

Before School: 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. (After 7:50 a.m., students are released to their classrooms).

After School: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
12:30 p.m. on half days. A sack lunch is needed.

### Cost:

Before School: \$4.00/child; \$6.00/family

After School: \$6.00/child; \$9.00/family

Half Days: \$14.00/child; \$22.00/family Sack lunch is needed – No Hot Lunch

Families whose children are picked up after 5:30 p.m. will be charged \$1.00 per minute after 5:30 p.m. Families who are consistently late risk losing participation in the program. Fees will be included on your monthly statement from the school office. For the 2024-2025 year, you will only be able to pay the balance due once it has been charged and will not be able to prepay. This is so our staff can charge the correct amount and have the correct payment for tax reporting purposes an email is sent out the end of each month.

### Activities:

Some activities that your child may choose to participate in are free play, active games, homework help, and relaxation.

### Half Days:

On scheduled half days when after school care will be provided, students should bring a lunch from home, as the school hot lunch program is not in operation on half days. After school care is not provided on the following half day: Friday, May 30

## **Pre-K Extended Program**

The Pre-K extended program runs separately from the rest of the school. Please stop in the office for a brochure or see the [school website](#).

**Up next: Policies, Computer needs  
and immunization requirements >>>**

## Immunization and Screenings

### Immunization and Screenings

An immunization record is required for all students entering Kindergarten.

The Iowa Department of Public Health requires tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccines for students enrolling in 7th grade and 12th grade. Students entering 7th grade shall also have one dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine. Students entering 12th grade shall have two doses of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine. Please provide the school office with an updated Iowa Certificate of Immunization reflecting these immunizations. All other students that are new to the school need to submit the most current immunization record.

Dental Screening – Needed for students entering Kindergarten and 9th grade

Vision Screening – Needed for students entering Kindergarten and 3rd grade

## Cell Phone & Electronics Reminder

Please remember that students may bring cell phones to school, but they must be turned off while at school. The school will not be responsible for theft, loss or damage to cell phones. Junior High students must keep the cell phone in their locker during the day. Elementary students (Kdg – 5th) should give their cell phone to their classroom teacher. High school students may carry their cell phone on their person but may not use it without teacher permission. High school students may apply for additional cell phone privileges by contacting the Secondary Principal for an application. Students may only use cell phones in a teacher's presence. If a student does not keep the cell phone in the proper place or uses it without the teacher's permission, he/she may no longer bring the cell phone to school. Students are not to bring other electronic equipment to campus except for class use as authorized by the teacher.

## Computer Connectivity

Some coursework may require the use of a computer and an internet connection at home. Should your family have a connectivity or internet access need, please let Mrs. Richmond know. You can send an email to her at [jrichmond@incaonline.org](mailto:jrichmond@incaonline.org).

## FACTS SIS/ParentsWeb

The school uses a school management software system called FACTS SIS. Each parent has access to their individualized website called Family Portal/ParentsWeb - a private and secure parents' portal that allows parents to see academic information specific to their children, while protecting their children's information from others.

All you need is an Internet-capable computer to view information such as:

Attendance	Transcripts	Missing Assignments	Student Medical Information
Daily Grades	Discipline	School Announcements	School Calendar
Progress Reports	Homework	Staff and School Directory	Family Account Balances
Report Cards			

You can find instructions for logging in to the Family Portal/ParentsWeb by visiting [bit.ly/parentswebhowto](https://bit.ly/parentswebhowto).

## 2024-2025 Student Handbook

The Student Handbook is available online through Family Portal/ParentsWeb > School > Resource Documents. The handbook is a printable PDF. The 2024/2025 handbook is currently being finalized, and will be made available after its completion.