

2023-2024 SPIRITUAL RETREAT INFORMATION



Hello everyone, my name is Billy Meeks, and I will be serving as the Spiritual Life Director at Athens Christian School. After teaching math and Bible at ACS for the last six years, I look forward to the opportunity of investing more deeply into the spiritual lives of our students in this capacity. I am grateful for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that is clearly at work on our campus; unless He builds the house, our efforts are futile. I am also thankful for the foundation laid by my predecessor, Mr. Aaron Gibbs, and all that you yourselves have done to continue to draw our focus to the glory of Christ.

We live in a time of a growing aversion to all things Christian, the heart of which is an aversion to Christ Himself. However, it is also a time of great opportunity. Light shines brightest in the deepest darkness. The administration, faculty, and staff at ACS dedicate themselves to lift up the Light of the world, and I believe that there is a growing consensus of young people that are disillusioned with the emptiness the darkness offers, that are longing for truth and substance. I want to partner with you to guide them to the One who has an infinite weight of glory, who is the very embodiment of truth.

One of the instrumental ways we will do that is through our chapel services. Those who know me know that I am Word driven, that it is my goal to expose what God has spoken in the sacred text, knowing that He will accomplish all that He intends to accomplish. His Word will accomplish His will.

Along with our regular chapels, we will have other opportunities to worship the Lord through learning and service. We are planning Back-to-School retreats for middle and high school. The middle school retreat will be to Camp Westminster, the place we went to last year. The dates are Wednesday–Thursday (August 16–17). Since it is an overnight retreat, an approximate cost of \$100 per student covers the cost of meals and lodging.

The high school will be going to The Wilds this year, November 7-10 (Tuesday–Friday). The cost for that trip is approximately \$200 per student. That cost includes meals, lodging, and charter bus fee. Because the high school will be doing that extensive trip, we will do only a day trip (also to Camp Westminster) to begin the year, which will be on Monday, August 14. The cost for that trip will be approximately \$50 per student.

I wanted to go ahead and send you this information so you can know a bit about me, but also to inform you of the cost of these retreats. I know that these days can be financially difficult. The camps are doing what they can to be cost efficient, and we as a school have seen the many positives that these retreats can have—socially, emotionally, and most importantly, spiritually. It gives us the opportunity to bond as a school community and set our spiritual compass toward Christ. I look forward to serving with you. Let us be in prayer for our upcoming school year.

With Gratitude,
Billy Meeks