



## The School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville

419 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28803

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[www.ashevillecityschools.net](http://www.ashevillecityschools.net)

Welcome SILSA Scholars and Families,

We are looking forward to working with you as a member of the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA) Family for the 2022-23 school year. Class schedules should be posted in PowerSchool by the week of August 22nd. We are committed to being as paper free as possible so most school communication will happen through PowerSchool (grades), email, telephone calls and most school events will be posted on Facebook (events and updates) and the SILSA Website. If you have questions regarding your schedule, please email Brandon Smith, SILSA School Counselor at [brandon.smith@acsgmail.net](mailto:brandon.smith@acsgmail.net). For swift schedule access by August 22nd, each parent/guardian must complete the “Annual Update” through the Parent Portal of PowerSchool. **Please do the following:**

- See the attached letter with instructions each letter contains an *individualized code (distinct to each student)*
- Complete the “**Annual Update**” this is critically important for us to be able to have the most accurate information so that we may contact you in the case of an emergency
- Know that it also contains the FERPA opt-out clause, you will have to answer a question that asks: “Do you grant permission to allow directory information to be shared for non commercial purposes?” about releasing your student’s directory information. If you say “no” to this it will mean that we will not be able to put your child in the yearbook, the graduation program, or any other publication that is for public consumption.

Our website will contain critical information, especially the **Student Handbook** and expectations and important contact information, under the Student tab of our website. It will be covered extensively during the first week of school, and all students are responsible for the information contained within it.

**All new** SILSA and AHS scholars and families should plan to join us on Tuesday, **August 23, from 5:30-7** for new student orientation. You can meet administration, faculty, catch a tour, learn about extracurriculars, ask questions, pay fees, complete forms for lunch and simply connect with the Cougar Family.

As a part of the SILSA experience, first year students are required to take the one-credit Pathfinder course, an elective course that will teach academic success skills for high school and college including effective and appropriate use of technology. 10th, 11th and 12th grade scholars will be encouraged to consider the challenges of AP and AB Tech classes. For assistance with attendance contact [silsaattendance@acsgmail.net](mailto:silsaattendance@acsgmail.net) or to contact me, please contact SILSA Administrative Assistant Ms. Washington [pamela.washington@acsgmail.net](mailto:pamela.washington@acsgmail.net). Please join me in welcoming our new Assistant Principal, Ms. Stephanie Day, [stephanie.day@acsgmail.net](mailto:stephanie.day@acsgmail.net),

We are so happy to have you as part of our family and we look forward to exploring with you!

Nicole Cush, Principal [nicole.cush@acsgmail.net](mailto:nicole.cush@acsgmail.net)

The SILSA Family

Stephanie Day, Assistant Principal  
Pamela Washington, Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Smith, Counselor  
Chris Gordon, Exceptional Children  
Chad Anderson, 9th Grade Social Studies  
Dan Coleman, 9th Grade Math  
Tucker Waldron, 9th Grade Science  
Megan Turkel, 9th Grade English

Gabriel Al-Shaer, 10th Grade Social Studies/AVID 9  
Scott Johnston, 10th Grade Math  
Cindy Byron, 10th Grade Science  
Ariel Robinson, 10th/12th Grade English  
Stephanie Reagan, 11th-12th Grade Social Studies  
Mason Marshall, 11th-12th Grade Math  
Fritz Robinett, 11th-12th Grade Science  
Katelyn Lowdermilk, 11th Grade English/Pathfinder  
Kevin Norris, 12th Grade English