



Parent Handbook

2017-2018

THE ACADEMY FOR

G.O.D.

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Dearest Parents,

Welcome to The Academy for G.O.D.! We are so happy to partner with you in the education of your student(s). Using our innovative educational approaches we hope to enhance both the cognitive and social development of your student. We believe the result will be a well equipped, intellectually capable young person, who possesses the moral stature they were created to embody. The world we live in needs the presence of educated, ethical people who understand the value of compassion and service. We are so glad to partner with you in raising those kinds of world changers!

Fall 2017 commences the 5th official year of the Academy. We are pleased to continue expanding and refining our curriculum, programming, and overall educational schematics. This ensures our diverse body of students have an education that is appropriate, relevant, and guides them towards our school's mission and God's will for their life.

Jesus said, *"In my Father's house are many places. I go to prepare a place for you."* Please know that the Lord has prepared a place for your student here at The Academy. Each child is special in their own way, and it's our job to find that gift in their person and help them develop it. It doesn't happen over night, but over time, and with some faithfulness, we get to witness kids grow up into competent, capable and responsible adults, possessing something tangible, meaningful, and effective to a world in need.

Serving Together,

Gregg Garner

Headmaster/Founder

The Academy for G.O.D.

Gregg.Garner@TheAcademyforGOD.org

2017-2018 School Calendar

August, 2017						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			1	2	3	4 5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 7th-9th – Teacher In-service & Planning (Students do not report)

August 10th-11th – First Days for Students (Half-days)

August 21st – Teacher In-service & Planning (Students do not report)

September 4th - Labor Day Holiday (Students do not report)

September 29th – Half-Day for All Students

October 13th – End of 1st Quarter

October 27th – Half-Day for All Students

November 1st – Parent-Teacher Conferences (Students do not report)

November 20th – 24th – Fall Break

December 15th – End of 2nd Quarter/Last Day of Fall semester/Half-day for Students

December 18th – January 3rd – Winter Break

January 1st-3rd – Teacher In-service & Planning (Students do not report)

January 4th-5th – First Days of Spring Semester for Students (Half-days)

January 15th - MLK Jr. Holiday (Students do not report)

January 26th - Half-Day for All Students

February 23rd – Half-Day for All Students

March 16th – End of 3rd Quarter

March 30th – Good Friday Holiday (Students do not report)

April 2nd-6th – Spring Break

April 9th - Teacher In-service (Students do not report)

April 27th – Half-Day for All Students

May 23rd – End of 4th Quarter/Last day of Spring semester/Half-day for Students

September, 2017						
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October, 2017						
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November, 2017						
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Students in school

Half-Day (8:45am-12:45pm)

Students not in school

Parent-teacher conferences

Teacher In-service/Planning (Students not in school)

End of Quarter

December, 2017						
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31						

January, 2018						
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February, 2018						
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March, 2018						
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April, 2018						
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May, 2018						
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Contact Info and Social Media

School Address:

The Academy for G.O.D.
401 Center St.
Old Hickory, TN 37138

Phone: 615-722-7107

- You may call or text this number. If texting, please give your name within the text message.

Fax: 615-246-2719

Email: info@academyforgod.org

School Website - www.academyforgod.org - The Academy website is the primary portal for written philosophy and information about the school, a valuable resource for both prospective and current families. The school blog contains articles throughout the years that have highlighted the school's distinctiveness and effectiveness for the students. The "current parents" page is a password protected site for families currently enrolled at the Academy and contains a variety of logistical and educational information specific to our students' parents.

- **"Current Parents" Page:** password - *academyparent2017*
 - Includes a *Teacher Directory with email addresses, Parent Handbook, Lunch Menu, School Calendar, and more!*

Each of the Academy's social media venues serve a specific purpose:

Instagram - @academyforgod - The school's Instagram is a *public account* wherein day to day interactions and classroom activities, school events, and other advertisements are made. The Academy for G.O.D. respects each family's privacy and will not post photos of any child whose parents have not given consent.

Twitter - The Academy has a *public Twitter (@AcademyforGOD)* account used for advertising and marketing on a regular basis as well as a *private parent Twitter (@Academy_Parents)* account used for parent communications and announcements. *Parents are responsible to ensure they receive proper notifications as the parent Twitter account is a prioritized form of communication from school administration.*

Facebook - Academy for G.O.D. - The Academy's Facebook page is a *public page* wherein new school blog links are posted as well as photos from major school events. The Academy for G.O.D. respects each family's privacy and will not post photos of any child whose parents have not given consent.

- **The PTO Facebook page** is a *closed Facebook group* for parents who request to join the group and receive notifications about PTO happenings, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events organized by the Academy PTO.

Learning Management System (LMS): Teachers, students and parents can easily view homework assignments, feedback and grades from teachers and participate on a social forum on our school's LMS: Canvas Instructure. The introduction of the program will take place at the Academy's parent welcome orientation.

Class Dojo: The Class Dojo app is used by teachers, parents and students to share messages, updates and photos from class. Teachers are able to provide information to parents regarding their child's academic progress and social behavior while at school. The app also incorporates a point system with incentives developed by each class when student or class goals are met.

School Administration and Faculty

Mr. Gregg Garner - Mr. Garner is the founder and headmaster of the Academy for G.O.D. He oversees the implementation of the K-12 curriculum, teacher development and needs of the student body.

Mrs. Betsy Johnson - Mrs. Johnson is the K-12 Principal at the Academy for G.O.D. She primarily supervises the K-6 program through student interaction, discipline, and staff development with consistent presence at the school. Mrs. Johnson also mobilizes parent involvement.

Mrs. Meg Mathews - Mrs. Mathews is the Vice Principal at the Academy for G.O.D. serving the Jr. High and High School (7-12th grades) students and staff. Mrs. Mathews also coordinates our college preparatory efforts and school athletics program.

Mrs. Alison Sherrod - Mrs. Sherrod is the Lead Administrator at the Academy overseeing the daily operations of the school office. She also facilitates the enrollment and admissions process for prospective families.

Mrs. Alyssa Kurtz - Mrs. Kurtz is the Academy's finance administrator and fulfills all inquiries related to school tuition and fees.

Mrs. Amanda Aaseby, RN - Mrs. Aaseby is the Academy's school nurse. She addresses health related matters with Academy families that may affect their child's learning experience. Mrs. Aaseby is on-site daily to meet any needs where injury, medication or other health needs are present.

Faculty & Staff

Our teachers are our greatest asset at the Academy. Each are qualified to work with children and have expertise within their given subjects. We have lead teachers for every level that specialize on the behavioral, social and spiritual development of our students. Course teachers teach alongside lead teachers, specializing in a certain subject or skill. Together our lead and course teachers provide our students with the support and skills they need to gain competency in a given subject, along with personal maturation.

Ongoing Teacher Development is valued at the Academy. At the start of each semester teachers undergo a series of in-service and training days in preparation for the semester ahead. Additionally, every month we have a designated half-day for students in order for the teachers to have a monthly in-service that afternoon. These times provide our teachers with more information and tools to be excellent teachers.

Philosophy of Education and School Distinctives

Our program efforts are based on an understanding that...

- Students are created in the Image of God
 - Because we believe students are created in the image of God, we aim to offer a **Theological Education** that produces self-awareness, invokes responsibility, defines limits, enhances critical thought processes, and matures perspective. Though people are created in the image of God, they are by no means God, so as finite beings it's important that the student is matured into the image they were created in, as revealed and made visible in the son, Jesus of Nazareth, the image of the invisible God. A beneficial theological education then, not only teaches the student about God, but teaches the student how to image that goodness - to be a good person.
- Students are Moral Beings
 - Because we believe that students are moral beings, we offer an **Ethical Education** focusing on the students' responsibility to do their part in the world in order to make it a healthy environment. An ethical education gives the student an opportunity to critically consider the difference between right and wrong, the resultant consequences of either position, and the power human beings possess to choose—to do good, or to do bad.
- Students are Creative Beings
 - Because we believe that students are creative beings, we emphasize the development of creativity, particularly within the framework of a **Wisdom and Language Education**. Having a Biblical view on creativity, we refuse the position that creativity is simply doing whatever it is that you want to do, in any way that you feel it should be done. Instead, we teach that Biblical creativity culminates in the development of wisdom and the ability to harness the power of language. The Bible teaches that God created the world by his words and that the process of creation revealed the resultant order was a manifestation of God's wisdom. Having been created in the image of God, the human being cannot create something out of nothing, but they have been given the power to name the world around them (Language) and order it (Wisdom) accordingly. A **Linguistic (Language) and Philosophical (Wisdom) education** is necessary for students to develop the ability to rightly order the world around them by a precise articulation of a world they hope to see.

- Students are Social Beings
 - Because we believe that students are social beings, we emphasize **Collaborative Education** as a way within which students can develop the necessary social skills to experience peaceful relationships and harmonious environments. A collaborative education gives students instruction in the development of interpersonal skills for efficient relational exchanges between people and groups. It also offers the opportunity for students to practice the kind of cooperation where strengths and weaknesses are balanced out by the diversity of participants in a unified, collaborative effort to accomplish more than what an individual could do on their own.

- Students are Discursive Beings
 - Because we believe students are discursive beings, we offer an **Education in Communications**; written, spoken, performed or recorded. Students learn there are multiple modes for communication and that each mode has its strengths for particular situations and specific audiences. Students are given many practical opportunities to harness the power to communicate within these many modes, including publications like a yearbook or newsletter; performance opportunities like puppet shows or dramas; presentation opportunities like sharing about their family vacation with a keynote presentation. Finally, students are taught the power of narrative, and how story telling is the most impactful angle to take within any of the above mentioned modes of communication.

- Students are Technological Beings
 - Because we believe that students are technological beings, meaning that they are capable of taking resources in their environment and manipulating them to be used to make life easier, a **Technological Education** ensures that students learn that it's natural to search for ways to manipulate the world around them to benefit others and make life more enjoyable. However, we also recognize that such an effort needs ethical consideration, so a technological education considers not just the math, science or method, but also the social, moral and theological aspects of the effort.

- Students are Individual Personalities
 - Because we believe that students are individuals, we emphasize **Individuated Education** where the particularities of the student, their strengths, talents, curiosities or practices determine how they receive their education. In such an environment, any subject matter could be taught, but the emphasis lies on teaching the student and not just teaching the course material. This necessitates a flexibility within the curriculum and an adjustment of the common concept of the "ideal student," to a more refined understanding of the matured individual. In such a classroom, diversity of thinking is celebrated and sharpened.

Educational Philosophy Cont'd...

We believe students are moral and social beings, and that their educational curriculum must be tailored to acknowledge that reality. Students are not test scores, nor are they statistics to determine market trends. They are not merely future college

students, or workforce potentials. They are primarily sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors. This is why moral and social development in a school curriculum are necessary components for any school who wants to contribute to the raising of children into healthy adults who will have healthy families, and in turn create healthy communities and contribute to a greater sense of peace in the world.

We also believe that children are capable of much more than is often expected of them. The trend has been to have students memorize mass quantities of information, or formulas, to produce answers without any development of critical thinking skills. This, however, fundamentally denies the most powerful gift a child possesses—the power of wonder! A child’s curiosity is the driving force behind their enthusiastic participation in any learning curriculum. It is the fuel behind their questions and when it’s intentionally addressed, it offers a great opportunity to teach critical thinking skills to a young mind. Teaching a child to respond to curiosity with the ability to critically think, opens up immense possibilities in any field, or any discipline, for any future occupation.

By offering a diversity of subject matter, across various disciplines, students have an opportunity to explore the world and themselves. Simultaneously, this yields the opportunity for teachers to assess the individual propensities of the students, their preferences and strengths. Borrowing from the “Multiple Intelligences” approach, teachers evaluate what type of intelligence(s) a student shows proclivity towards. Their educational experience is then catered to develop those capacities. All courses are designed to be flexible enough to give room for the development of intelligences, but focused enough so that everyone in the classroom attains mastery of the information taught per course in the curriculum.

FAQs

What is The Academy's legal status?

The Academy for G.O.D is a Category IV non-public school, registered with the state of Tennessee and in compliance with all associated requirements. We are also members of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). Thus, we adhere to the local laws pertaining to enrollment and attendance, as well as safety requirements such as extensive fire alarm systems and weather-related school closure.

What days and times is school in session each week?

School days are Monday through Friday. Our Kindergarten program session runs from 8:45am - 1:15pm, and the rest of the students' school hours are 8:45am to 3:15pm. We follow a standard school calendar, beginning in August and ending in May each year, and acknowledge seasonal breaks and major holidays.

What types of technology are used in the classroom?

The iPad is our main manipulative, or tool, used for homework assignments, supplemental learning, and student collaboration. In the classroom, teachers utilize

various types of technology for both lessons and to enhance student-teacher interaction. We suggest a minimum of an iPad Mini 2 or Air 1 with 32 gigs with 12 gigs reserved for school use only.

Each classroom is outfitted with a projector, or large screen TV monitor, plus an “Apple TV” and sound system, so that videos, presentations and other visual or audio lesson formats can be utilized in the classroom. There is school wide broad-band internet with protected access for students. While on campus, all students are part of a “closed universe” with no access to web browsers.

How does the school promote its values?

Each week an ethical value is widely promoted to expose students to ways of being that are essential to living lives of integrity. These values are derived from the Bible (i.e. honesty, patience, generosity, kindness) where certain scriptures are memorized to capture the essence of the value. Both the meaning and the practice of the value are reiterated in classes and during our weekly large group experience we call “Chapel.”

How many students are currently enrolled and what is your teacher : student ratio?

We have 200 students enrolled at the Academy. Depending on the level, the teacher-student ratio is 1:14.

Are there school portraits during the year?

The Academy offers professional portraits through Details Nashville once each semester. All students will have a formal headshot in the fall as well as a class and student body portrait. Each spring, all students will have a casual, outdoor portrait in addition to another class and student body portrait. All photos will be made available to parents for purchase, and a picture “make-up day” will be offered as necessary.

What types of school events take place throughout the year?

Each year, the Academy hosts a variety of special events to showcase student work, raise funds for a project, extend hospitality to students’ grandparents or celebrate a great achievement such as the end of the school year. Parents will be informed of these events through a monthly “school events calendar” and even asked to participate in the planning, set up and other arrangements as necessary. Our events are purposeful, planned with care to reflect our school values, and we often find these times to be a great opportunity for family and community engagement.

Is there a school complaints policy?

Complaints or suggestions for the Academy for G.O.D. may be emailed to admin@academyforgod.org, and a response will be given within 48 hours. School administration welcomes and prioritizes meeting requests at any point throughout the school year if a parent has a concern or need arise concerning their child’s involvement at the Academy.

Do you offer an ‘after kinder care’ childcare service for kindergarten students that have older siblings being dismissed at a later time?

Commuting families that have a kindergarten student as well as another student enrolled at the Academy are eligible for our 'after kinder care' program. Each year this program is evaluated based upon the interest of families that fall within this category. If the interest is such that we can provide the service, after kinder care operates at the Academy following kindergarten dismissal from 1:15 until 3:15 when all other students dismiss. This service is made available for a monthly fee that is added directly to your monthly tuition.

What happens when I cannot pick up my child within the dismissal time frame and I know I'm running late?

The Academy recognizes that for commuting families, infrequent late pick ups are inevitable. We ask that when you are running late (beyond the 10 minute grace window for dismissal) you call or text the Academy to inform us of your ETA. At that point, your child will be released to sit and wait for you to pick him/her up in the office. If a family has 3 or more consecutive late pick ups, a \$10 fine will be issued for every subsequent late pick up within a given semester. Should the late pick up be due to traffic or an emergency, a grace form will be available in the office to be submitted and approved by the school administration.

May I tour (or visit) the school?

If you'd like to tour our campus, visit during the lunch hour, or meet with school administration or faculty, school administration must be notified and approve your request 24 hours before your arrival to the Academy campus. All visitors must sign in at the reception office upon arrival.

Parent Involvement

From volunteering in the classroom to helping coordinate a fundraiser or assisting at a school wide event, there are countless ways that parents can give of their time and skills at the Academy! Our educational philosophy includes parent involvement as a requirement and distinctive of our school. Each semester parents are asked to volunteer a certain amount of time, based upon their skills and availability, which is tracked by the PTO coordinators.

We truly have the best parents and their commitment for involvement often exceeds the minimum requirements placed upon them! We recognize that we cannot educate and develop our students to the degree we hope to without the help our their parents. Together, we can provide the type of holistic education we have set out to provide all of our students.

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

The Parent-Teacher Organization at the Academy for G.O.D. is an active committee and an asset to our school. The PTO serves to support the administrative team to make the Academy a place where students learn and mature. The PTO hosts a monthly meeting whereby all parents are invited to attend and give their input and opinions on a variety of topics related to the needs of our students and engagement of our parents. The meeting minutes are then released and posted to the current parents page of our website for all parents to view.

The PTO's primary functions are threefold: 1. Connect parents and staff members in a way that would provide support to all of our students, 2. Mobilize parent involvement, and 3. Coordinate fundraising opportunities for the Academy. By working with school staff, parents receive a better understanding of the way the Academy functions as to better support their child(ren).

The PTO Facebook page and the weekly parent newsletter are the two main mediums for communication from the PTO. For more questions or if you're interested in getting more involved with the PTO this year, please email PTO@academyforgod.org.

Homeschool Tutorial Program

The tutorial program at The Academy for G.O.D. offers home schooled students of Middle Tennessee an opportunity to receive a hands-on classroom experience across a wide variety of subjects. Our classroom standard is a dynamic and inviting atmosphere where students are encouraged to try new things, embrace a challenge, and support one another in the learning process. All courses are taught by specialized teachers in a classroom setting where each student is carefully considered and nurtured.

The Academy for G.O.D. offers tutorial classes that serve to supplement your home school curriculum, as well as to diversify your child's learning environment and experiences. We offer classes for the core subjects of Reading, Writing, and Math, as well as Music, Visual Arts, Building, and Agriculture. Parents receive progress reports listing the benchmarks your child has mastered within our program.

Each student is required to have an iPad as it functions as our main manipulative in the classroom. Depending on the other courses your child is enrolled in, school administration may ask that additional supplies may be obtained.

The tutorial program at The Academy for G.O.D. is offered one or two days per week, based upon age and preference, for the entire school day. Ms. Rebekah Davis is the tutorial program coordinator (rebekah.davis@academyforgod.org).

Chapel and Spiritual Formation

Wednesdays are a special day at the Academy. Situated between two days of academics, Wednesdays are an altogether different schedule, something we refer to as our Spiritual Formation Day. Although all days at the Academy highlight and implement spiritual disciplines, the entire day on Wednesday allows for such to take place. All students have the opportunity to gather with their peers for a time of group worship where they are able to connect with the LORD through song and prayer. This worship time is followed by an exhortation in God's word by one of their teachers.

Wednesday's schedule offers unique once a week classes that highlight spiritual development such as "Heroes of the Faith", "Jesus Movie" or "Songs" class. Wednesdays also include a social development focus as classes are highly collaborative or group oriented such as "Cultural Games", "Exploratory Hour", or "Cultural Arts". Wednesdays become the apex of our week at the Academy as a day that students and teachers alike anticipate.

Student Dress Code

The following categories explain the dress code at The Academy for G.O.D. for the school 2017-2018 school year. Unless informed by faculty or teachers, please send your child wearing the “Standard Attire” each day, except on Wednesdays when students must dress in “Formal Attire.” Failure to abide by the dress code will result in the student receiving a demerit, and the parents will be notified.

Standard Attire

Standard Attire must be worn Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday unless otherwise communicated.

Shirts:

- **Colors:** Solids only
- **Styles:** Collared shirts - polo style, button-up or turtlenecks, short sleeved or long sleeved.
- **Not Permitted:** tank tops/sleeveless, low v-necks or clothing with print
- **Academy t-shirts** are permitted to be worn as “Standard Attire.”

Bottoms:

- **Colors:** Solid shades of black, grey, royal blue, navy, or khaki/brown
- **Styles:** Chino shorts, pants, slacks and skirts (must be fingertip length), or jeggings (only worn under skirts or shorts, and must be a solid color listed above)
- **Not Permitted:** Cargo shorts/pants, short skirts, jeans, sweatpants, clothing with holes, patterned leggings, or leggings without a skirt or shorts to cover

Dresses:

- Girls may wear **solid-colored cotton, polyester or Chino material** dresses.
- Dresses must extend down to the students **fingertips** when arms are held at their side.
- **Shorts or bloomers** must be worn under **ALL** dresses or skirts.
- Must have a collar (or the shirt underneath must have a collar if a ‘jumper-style’ dress).

Shoes, Socks, etc:

- **Colors:** Solids only (socks, leggings, stockings) *Leggings must follow permitted bottom colors
- **Shoes:** Closed-Toe Only (tennis shoes, boots, or casual shoes of any color are all acceptable)
 - **Class Requirements:** 1) Agriculture - rain boots with socks required 2) Coordination and Balance/ Basic Body Mechanics - tennis shoes with socks required
- **Not Permitted:** flip flops, mule style shoes, “Crocs”, or heels greater than 1”

Outerwear:

The only outerwear permissible inside the Academy building is the embroidered cardigan or jacket purchased from our school apparel store.

Formal Attire

Formal Attire must be worn only on Wednesday unless otherwise communicated. All acceptable colors and styles are given in the school uniform store.

Shirts:

- Girls - French Toast Peter Pan Collar Button-Up Shirt (K-Focus Levels) or Oxford Button-Up Shirt (Grades 7-12). All girls will wear the girls' plaid tie. Shirts must be tucked in. Embroidery is optional. Acceptable colors listed on school store.
- Boys - French Toast Oxford Button-Up Shirt with plaid tie (K-Focus Levels) or embroidered, navy tie (Grades 7-12). Shirts must be tucked in. Embroidery is optional. Acceptable colors listed on school store.

Bottoms:

- Girls - French Toast navy plaid formal uniform skirt
 - 7-12th girls are also permitted to wear a khaki or navy skirt in addition to the plaid option.
- Boys - French Toast formal uniform pants with a solid black, navy or brown color belt. Acceptable pant colors listed on school store.

Dresses: Girls may choose to wear the French Toast plaid jumper as opposed to the plaid skirt. The button-up shirt and plaid tie must be worn underneath the plaid jumper.

Outerwear: Girls and boys are permitted to wear a French Toast embroidered cardigan or blazer as outerwear with their formal uniform. This is the only type of outerwear permissible inside the school building. Embroidery is required.

Shoes, Socks, etc:

- Boys and girls must wear brown or black polishable dress shoes or dress boots. (For example: Girls may wear a 'Mary Jane' style, and boys will wear a standard formal, dress shoe or dress boot). Heels may be no greater than 1" in height.
- Girls should wear solid white, black, brown or navy, knee-high socks/stockings or tights with their skirt or jumper.

Garden Attire

- **Pull-on rain boots** to keep at the school.
- **"Cover-up"** (overalls, coveralls, etc) to put on for work in the garden. This can be kept in their locker or cubby at school, and be taken home on the weekends to wash.

Free Dress & Field Trip Attire

- "Free Dress": students may wear what they wish to school.
 - **Not permitted:** pajamas, costumes, sleeveless shirts, or opened-toe shoes
- Students should wear their Academy for G.O.D. t-shirt for any off-campus events or trips. Jeans and shorts may also be worn on field trip days.

Attendance Policy

I. Compulsory Attendance

A. Statutory regulations require student attendance at recognized educational institutions such as The Academy for G.O.D. Students cannot exceed 5 unexcused absences per semester. **Four tardies is the equivalent of one absence.**

II. **Drop-off Procedure:** The school building will open each morning at 8:20am for breakfast. Students should be dropped off between 8:20-8:40am in order to eat breakfast (if desired), situate their supplies, change clothing, if necessary, and be ready to start class promptly at 8:45am.

A. Breakfast is served from 8:20-8:35am each morning.

B. Students who arrive *after* 8:45am must report directly to the main office. A staff member will record the exact time of the student's arrival and the student will receive a tardy for the day.

C. If a student arrives after 9:00am, a parent/guardian must accompany the student inside the building to sign them in for the day.

D. All tardies are unexcused without a note or phone call from a medical professional explaining the reason for the tardy. An exemption form is available in the office to be completed within 24 hours and approved by school administration for a tardy to be considered excused.

E. Traffic is not a sufficient excuse for a tardy.

III. **Excused Absences:** Absences are excused for illness and medical emergencies (with a note from a medical professional or school nurse), recovery from an injury, required court attendance, birth or death in the immediate family, observation of a bona fide religious holiday, and such other good cause as may be acceptable to the headmaster.

A. Doctor and/or dentist appointments are excused with a written and signed doctor's note.

1. If the school nurse dismisses a student based upon a fever or noticeable illness, the student's absence(s) is excused for up to 24 hours. After 24 hours from being dismissed by the school nurse, the student must submit a note from a medical professional to be excused for further absences. (See School Sickness Protocol for more details.)

2. Vacations and non-school related activities are not excused absences.

IV. Procedure for Excused Absence:

A. If a student is going to be absent, it is required that a courtesy call (or text) be made to the school office (615-722-7107) that morning by 9:15am, to notify the school administration of the student's absence.

B. If a phone call from a parent is not received by 9:15am, a staff member will contact the student's parent.

C. *Upon the student's return to school*, a written note from the parent or a medical professional must be submitted to the school office. If the school

- office does not receive a note, the student will receive an unexcused absence for the day(s) he/she was absent.
- D. Permission to arrive late or to leave school during the day for a doctor or dentist appointment will be approved by the parent entering the building to sign out the student. If the student returns to school the same day, they must enter the building accompanied by a parent/guardian, sign in, and submit a doctor's note.
- V. **Excessive Absences:** (Statements below are within the context of the semester)
- A. Excessive absence from school is defined as more than 5 unexcused days per semester.
 - B. At 5 unexcused absences, parents will receive communication from the administration indicating the total days absent and the total number of tardies recorded. The Principal will then confer with the parents to determine the circumstances surrounding the unexcused absences and/or tardies to determine if further action is necessary.
 - a) Students who have 5 or more unexcused absences may lose certain 'in school' privileges such as school assemblies or field trips at the discretion of the administration.
 - C. At 10 unexcused absences, parents will receive a second communication indicating the total days absent and the total number of tardies recorded. The parent and/or guardian must submit a written statement explaining the reason for the absences and/or tardies AND have a meeting with the Principal & Headmaster.
 - a) Students who have 10 or more unexcused absences (or 20 unexcused tardies) will be required to perform an hour of community service for each additional day missed in the local community.
 - b) Students who fall in this category may also be subject to retention in their level and/or required to attend summer school.
 - D. At 15 unexcused absences, the Principal will determine to either submit a petition to the court for resolution or seek an alternate remedy based upon the circumstances.

Last Amended - July 2017

Drop-off and Dismissal Procedure

Drop-off Procedure: The school building will be open each morning by 8:20am. Students should be dropped off within a sufficient time frame to have their supplies situated and ready to start class promptly at 8:45 am. **Arriving anytime after 8:45am will result in a tardy.**

- A. Parents must drop-off students in the designated drop-off area. Parents should not accompany their children into the school building unless the parent has contacted the administration and has received permission to do so.

- B. Students are permitted to ride their bike, scooter, or walk to school from home at the parents' discretion. However, the parents must provide written consent to the school administration of this procedure for their child(ren) each semester.

*Please see *Attendance Policy* concerning tardies and absences.

Dismissal Procedure: School will end each day at 3:15pm. All students, unless approved of by the school administration, must leave the building by 3:25pm or a parent will be notified.

- A. A faculty member will be present to supervise students outside the school building during pick-up times (1:15-1:25pm for Kindergarten and 3:15-3:25pm for all other students). If/when a parent arrives after the 10 minute grace window (after 1:25 or 3:25pm), they will be contacted by a school administrator for an update on the parent's whereabouts. Should this happen 3 or more times within a semester, a \$10 fine will be issued for each subsequent late pick up during that semester. Additional fees are subject to incur due to repeated offense of this procedure.
- B. Parents should remain outside of the school building, at the designated waiting area, as students are dismissed at the end of the day. Should a parent need to enter the building at dismissal, parents are asked to contact the administration by 1:00pm for approval.
- C. If a student needs early dismissal (for an appointment, family emergency, etc.), the parent or guardian must come inside the office to sign out and pick up the child.
- D. Each student must provide, to the administration, a **PRIMARY** form of transportation to and from school at the beginning of each school year. If a parent needs to indefinitely adjust this procedure, school administration must be notified by a written note.
- At the start of each semester, parents will fill out their child's primary transportation form. Students are permitted to walk home from school at the parents' discretion. Non-walkers can have up to 3 designated adults they are permitted to ride home with on a regular basis.
 - If walking, a crossing guard will escort walking students across Center St. at the start and end of each day. However, The Academy is not liable for students once across Center St. or leave school campus.
 - In the case of an emergency, a text or phone call to the school line or a written note **by 12:00pm the day of** will be accepted.

Parking

Parking is available in the lower gravel lot near the drop-off area. Parents are asked to hang their Academy car tags in their rear view mirrors when parking at the

Academy. At the start of each year, student drivers will be assigned a parking space to utilize during school hours. Students also need to utilize their car tags when parking at the Academy.

School Nutrition and Meal Program

The Academy's school nutrition program ensures our students are served a well-balanced diet while at school. We believe healthy children grow into healthy adults. By evaluating the current health epidemics and crises of our country/state we take a preventative approach to Children's Nutrition. Teaching students at a young age to eat vegetables, fruits and minimally processed foods, trains their palate to enjoy healthy eating and minimize food-related health issues in the future.

Obesity among children has more than tripled since the 1970s - 1 in 5 school age children are now obese. Studies also show "In the long term, childhood obesity also is associated with having obesity as an adult." Diseases associated with obesity include heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer as well as increased risk for asthma, sleep apnea, and bone/joint problems. These statistics inform our school nutrition program by creating a menu that will help students practice healthy eating habits.

Breakfast and lunch at the Academy become teaching opportunities to empower students to eat healthy. Our menu reflects this nutritional education as it incorporates raw and cooked veggies, fresh fruit (not packaged or with added sugar), whole grains, organic meats (when available) and fresh organic produce from our school garden. Our menu consists of 'made from scratch' foods, rarely from a can or pre-cooked and frozen, and each meal is designed for the specific caloric and sodium intake needed for students according to age. As a preventative measure to the epidemic of heart disease we also track sugar and salt intake within the menu, and even have one-day a week with a 'meatless menu' to promote the use of alternative plant-based proteins for energy.

Daily Menu:

Our menu is based on a basic meal pattern requirements as set by the USDA's Children's Nutrition Standards:

Breakfast				
Meal Pattern	Fresh Fruit	Grain	Protein	Option of Milk
Sample Daily Menu*	Banana	Whole Grain Tortilla	Scrambled Eggs and Sausage (Breakfast Burrito)	Milk

*Because of limited time for breakfast service we do not encourage seconds, though if a student would like an additional helping of food, it is free of charge.

Lunch					
Meal Pattern**	Fresh Fruit	Vegetables (cooked or raw)	Grain (rice, chips, bread)	Meat (or meat alternative such as beans)	Option of Milk
Sample Daily Menu***	Strawberries	Carrots	Brown Rice	Sweet 'n Sour Chicken	Milk

**Portion sizes are administered according to age. When students arrive for breakfast or lunch, they have the ability to choose which items they would like on their plate. We do not force students to pick any certain items, but highly recommend they try the fruit and vegetable selection for the day.

***During lunch, students have the option for seconds free of charge, as long as they eat the entirety of their first portions and it included fruits/veggies. We do this to ensure students understand the importance of a well-balanced meal, rather than solely carbs and meat.

Peanut-Free Facility

For the safety of particular students within our program, our school nutrition program is **completely peanut-free** recognizing the life threatening issues related to students with peanut allergies. If you have additional questions about allergies or cross contamination, please inform our school administration.

Farm to School Program

The Academy operates a 'farm to school' program with fresh, organic, seasonal vegetables and fruits. Students have the opportunity to plant, prune, and harvest the same foods they soon see on their plates. Students are connected to how the food is produced, and they take pride in eating the items they helped grow! The students are excited to eat garden food, and even find themselves compelled to not waste a food when they know how much hard work was exerted to produce the food.

Finally, our school nutrition program offers breakfast and lunch each school day at **no cost**. We are part of a special provision (Community Eligibility Provision) within the government allowing all students to eat for free, with no application or documentation needed other than registration to our school.

If you have any questions or concerns about our program, feel free to contact Breann Chigumira, our school nutritionist, at Breann.Chigumira@academyforgod.org.

Phones and Other Communication for students)

Cell Phones

Cell Phones are not permitted on Academy Campus. Special requests via a permission form can be made by a parent to the school administration for exception to this rule. This permission form will be sent to you at the beginning of the school year and will need to be signed by the first week of school.

If request is granted by the administration then a student will be permitted to bring their cell phone adhering to the following guidelines:

- Cell phones will be turned off and submitted to the student's teacher at the beginning of the first period, "Beginnings." The lead teacher will be responsible to collect them and place them in the administration office to be held until 3:15pm.
- If any parent desires to contact their child for any reason during the day, they must contact the school office (615-722-7107), not their child directly.
- If parents want to allow their student to bring their cell phone, then they must fill out a Parent Consent for Cell Phones on Campus. These forms are available for pick up in the administration office.

Messenger Apps

Students are not allowed to use iMessage at school under any circumstances. The only messaging application students are allowed to utilize on school property is Google Hangouts. This application can only be used during transitions in between classes or after school. It is not to be used in class.

Sickness Policy

Sometimes making the decision to keep your child out of school can be difficult. However, sending a child to school when they are fighting a sickness can actually result in longer sickness and more missed school days. In an effort to preserve school attendance for all of our students, we have provided the checklist below to empower parents to make an informed decision.

You should keep your child home for any of the following:

- Your child had a fever of 100.5 F or higher in the last 24 hours.
- Your child had diarrhea in the past 24 hours. (3+ watery bowel movements in one day qualifies as diarrhea)
- Your child experienced vomiting of any kind in the past 24 hours.
- Your child presented with pink eye symptoms in the past 24 hours. (Persistent mucous discharge and/or noticeable “red-eye” irritation)
- Your child presently has any live louse or viable nits (¼ inch from the head).

***If your child had any of the above illnesses or lice they must have a note of clearance from their doctor or the school nurse before returning to school.*

Medication Administration:

The school nurse is the only faculty member permitted to distribute over the counter medication to any student. This may *only* happen under the written consent and instruction of the parent/guardian. No medication or instruction for administration will be accepted from a student without the proper paperwork from the Academy completed by the child’s parent or guardian.

Questions regarding the health of your child while at school may be addressed to health@academyforgod.org.

Vaccination Records

The Academy for G.O.D. abides by the **Tennessee State Requirements** for vaccinations. *Medical and religious exemptions are permitted with proper paperwork.*

Children enrolling in school require:

- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTaP, or DT if appropriate)
 - Final dose on or after the 4th birthday now required
- Hepatitis B (HBV)
 - Full, 3-dose series
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2 doses of each, usually given together as MMR)
- Poliomyelitis (IPV or OPV)
 - Final dose on or after the 4th birthday now required
- Varicella (2 doses or history of disease)
 - Previously only one dose was required (as of July 1, 2010)
- Hepatitis A
 - Total of 2 doses, spaced at least 6 months apart (new as of July 1, 2011)

Vaccination records are required as part of the application and enrollment process.

Questions regarding our school's vaccination policy may be addressed to health@academyforgod.org.

Finance Policy

Overview

At the Academy we strive to make tuition affordable for the varying demographics we seek to serve. We do our best to keep tuition low, while still delivering high-quality education. We are able to do this through the generous volunteerism of parents, grandparents and teachers.

Tuition payments can be paid once annually, by semester - in 2 installments, or monthly - in 10 installments. Families choose the payment plan that best suits their family's needs. Payments are accepted in the form of cash, check, or e-payment. Credit card payments can be made by request only.

Tuition Payment Options:

1. **Pay In Full**
 1. Pay all preliminary fees and full tuition by August 1st.
 2. Families not paid in full by August 1st, will automatically be put on a 10 month payment plan and will be invoiced accordingly.
2. **Semester Payment Plan**
 1. Pay all preliminary fees and Fall semester tuition by August 1st (for August-Dec.)
 2. Pay Spring semester fees in full by January 5th (for January-May).
 3. Families who do not make their Fall payment by August 1st, will automatically be put on a 10-month payment plan and will be invoiced accordingly.
3. **10-Month Payment Plan**
 1. Pay all preliminary fees and first tuition payment by August 1st.
 2. Each following payment is due on the 1st of the month through May 1st of 2018.
 3. Families will have until the 10th of the month to submit their payment, without receiving a \$25 late fee.
 4. Includes an additional \$10 monthly processing fee.

*Families will be billed according to their selected payment plan. Payments can be submitted by check, cash, e-check, or paid electronically via invoice. Credit card payment is available per request only. Payments processed via credit card will assess a convenience fee of 3.5% of the payment amount in order to cover processing fees.

Additional Fees:

1. **Application/Re-Enrollment Fee:** For new students, an application fee of \$65 is due upon submission of an application. Each spring, families desiring to continue their children's education with The Academy for G.O.D. will be required to submit a re-enrollment fee of \$25 per child for the coming year.
2. **Assessment test fee:** \$25 per student (new students only)

3. **Confirmation deposit:** For new students, a \$100 enrollment confirmation deposit is due upon acceptance to secure a spot at the Academy.
4. **Resource Fee:** Each student is required to pay a Resource Fee of \$250 each year.
5. **Textbook Fee:** A \$200 text-book fee is required for Jr. High and High school students only.

Resource Fee

The mandatory resource fee includes field trips, technology infrastructure costs, student apps and software, classroom resources, startup supplies, student awards/incentives, a school t-shirt, and a yearbook. The resource fee does not include uniforms, or textbooks. These must be purchased separately.

Delinquent Payments & Extensions:

- Payments not received by their projected due date will incur a \$25 late fee.
- A family with a delinquent account from a previous semester will not be permitted to enroll in the next academic semester. Families who are not paid in full at the close of a school year will not be allowed to re-enroll students for the following Fall semester.
- A family is permitted a one time payment extension request (per year) to push back the submission of a tuition payment (due to unexpected financial hardships). A "Payment Extension Form" must be submitted to the Financial Administrator, for the evaluation of the request. Delayed payments will naturally be added on to the end of the school year, and be due in full by June 1st.

Refunds & credits:

Should a student be withdrawn from The Academy for G.O.D. before the completion of the school year, refunds will be prorated for any prepayments received for the academic year. At the end of each school year, credits on student accounts will automatically be applied to future tuition/fees, unless a refund request is made to the administration.

All tuition and fees must be paid in full to re-enroll students for the following school year.

**For questions or to obtain financial records, please email
finances@academyforgod.org.**

Nashville Private School Tuition Comparison

At the Academy we strive to make tuition affordable for the varying demographics we seek to serve. We do our best to keep tuition low, while maintaining high-quality education. We are able to do this through the generous volunteerism of parents, and the many volunteer hours given by our professional teachers. We are proud to be able to offer our families competitive tuition rates, due to the generosity of our parents and teachers. Below is a tuition comparison of private school pricing in the surrounding Nashville area. We hope to continue to be able to be demographically inclusive, and offer greater educational opportunities to students of all socioeconomic status'.

Nashville Private School Annual Tuition Comparison (2017-2018)				
School Name	Kindergarten	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High School
<i>Academy for GOD</i>	<i>\$2,975.00</i>	<i>\$2,975.00</i>	<i>\$3,200.00</i>	<i>\$3,650.00</i>
<i>Mount Juliet Christian Academy</i>	\$7,230.00	\$7,230.00	\$7,670.00	\$7,670.00
<i>Brentwood Christian Academy</i>	\$7,745.00	\$7,745.00	\$8,120.00	\$8,465.00
<i>Sumner Academy - Gallatin</i>	\$8,890.00	\$8,890.00	\$10,970.00	N/A
<i>Donelson Christian Academy</i>	\$8,235.00	\$9,995.00	\$11,100.00	\$11,695.00
<i>Nashville Christian School</i>	\$8,650.00	\$9,840.00	\$10,350.00	\$10,690.00
<i>Franklin Christian Academy</i>	N/A	\$10,025.00	\$11,225.00	\$11,225.00
<i>Heritage Christian School</i>	\$9,171.00	\$9,504.00	\$10,251.00	\$10,341.00
<i>Davidson Academy</i>	\$10,975.00	\$12,195.00	\$13,325.00	\$13,325.00
<i>Franklin Road Academy</i>	\$17,930.00	\$17,930.00	\$20,921.00	\$22,086.00

Academic Probation and Retention Plan

Junior High and Senior High Students Only

I. Academic Probation

- A. The Headmaster, Principal and Vice Principal will identify students with below a 75% in multiple classes. Once identified, the student will meet with the Vice Principal to discuss the following:
 - 1. Current status and means by which to improve their grades
 - 2. Be made aware of the following steps in the retention plan if they do not improve their grades.
 - 3. They will be reevaluated over the next 9 weeks.
- B. Students whose grades are 70 and below after the second quarter within the semester, will be placed on Academic Probation and must join their parents in a meeting with the Principal.
 - 1. The student at this point will be required to receive tutoring twice a week.
- C. If the student receives a report card with a 2.0 or lower GPA at the end of the semester, then the student must join their parents in a meeting with the Headmaster to discuss the student's academic performance.
 - 1. If the student does not show any signs of improvement after his academic probation the next semester they are subject to denial of grade promotion.

II. Grade and Deficiency Reports

- A. Communication regarding grades will be sent home at the end of each 9 week grading period. Deficiency reports for grades of 70 and below will be emailed to the parents at the end of each quarter.

III. Retention Plan

- A. Students who fail two core classes out of our academic courses (STEM, Language Arts and Creative Arts) will be given the option of:
 - 1. Attending Summer School
 - 2. Be Retained
- B. If students choose to attend Summer School, the family will be responsible for course payment, ensuring the student's attendance and prioritizing the extracurricular course.
 - 1. Summer School Fees: \$175 per Session
 - 2. School Length: 4-6 Weeks (depending upon the Educator's availability)
- C. The student must pass the summer school course with an average of C or higher to be able to be promoted to the next grade.

Grading Scale

Junior High and Senior High Students Only

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
>70	F

Student Test Prep

Jr High and High School Students Only

Students entering into High School will be prepared to take the PSAT, SAT and ACT.

This is not done through an after school program like other schools offer, but through a course that will take place daily during their weekly school schedule. This course will emphasize reading, writing, math, and test taking strategies. Our goal is for high school students to graduate with a minimum SAT score of 1400 and a minimum ACT score of 24.

School Disciplinary Procedure

by Mr. Gregg Garner

Our discipline procedure reflects our high behavioral expectations for all students based on the principles related to our values of loving God and loving others. Upholding these standards leads to having a safe environment characterized by integrity, respect, and care.

Obedience is part of the lesson all people need to learn whether they are a kid at school or an adult being a child of God. Obedience structured in any curriculum needs to give students the opportunity to mature in this way. At the Academy, our School Discipline Procedure stems from this overarching objective.

The following describes our process of discipline designed to tutor students in a series of practical expectations and even consequences for behavior that does not reflect the values of our school.

Stage 1 - Redirecting and Reinforcing Proper Behavior

When a student's behavior moves into the margin between acceptable and unacceptable, without breaching the threshold of unacceptable, a teacher will issue a warning in the form of redirecting their effort, and reinforcing acceptable options for behavior.

Example:

Rule: Students cannot knowingly, verbally insult another student, or adult.

Scenario: Student A doesn't like the fidgety behavior of Student B, so Student A loudly exclaims, "You're driving me crazy with your fidgeting!"

At this point, Student A has not violated the rule, since they have not insulted the other student. However, they have entered into the margin between what's acceptable and what is not, because likely this behavior will escalate into a violation of the rule. It's at this point that the teacher will enact Step 1.

Teacher says, "Student A, let's first make Student B aware that they're fidgeting and then kindly make them aware that it's distracting you from learning. Student B, please stop fidgeting as it's becoming distracting to Student A."

If Student A or B move into a violation of the rule by speaking an insult, this example moves into Step 2, as noted below.

Stage 2 - Personal Conversation & Correction

If a student violates a rule, the teacher will ask the student to step into the hallway, of which the student will have a one-on-one conversation with the teacher to discuss where they erred. Correction will come in the form of helping the student to understand how they could've made a better choice, and encouraging them to make right whatever wrong transpired.

Continuing the previous example, if Student A ended up insulting Student B after a conversation in the hall with the Teacher, Student A would have to apologize to Student B at the end of class.

Teachers reserve the right to determine when they would enact step 2; immediately upon the violation of the rule, or after class. If after class, the conversation and correction can take place in the classroom, as to avoid the public viewing of the situation in the hall.

Stage 3 - Parent Cooperation and Reinforcement

After a student has had a conversation and corrective time with a teacher about a specific matter, the student's parent(s) will be contacted and requested to cooperate with the school in reinforcing the expected behavior for the classroom. Parents will send a signed note stating they had a time of reinforcement with their student.

Continuing the example above, Student A returns to class and starts off by telling Student B, "Go sit over there so I don't have to listen to you acting like a total retard."

This would be the same issue, and in that case it would trigger Step 3. Had student A done something else, unrelated to insulting another student, it would be met with Step 2. Steps only accumulate for related issues.

Stage 4 - Removed from Class, Conversation & Correction from Administration

If the Student continues in violation of an expected rule after Step 3, the student will be removed from class and sent to the administration for the duration of the class. They will have to sit with administration for all recess and lunch breaks. In addition, a phone call will be made to the student's parents and a parent conference will be arranged to address the violation of the behavior.

Step 4 can also be triggered by behavior that, at the discretion of the teacher, warrants a Parent Conference. This would include, but is not limited to, any violence committed against another, any possession of an illegal substance, any illicit use of words or images that promote unhealthy sexuality (with a particular sensitivity to girls), and any kind of threats that would typically be considered "bullying."

A parent must meet with the teacher for a Stage 4 offense within 48 hours of contact.

Stage 5 - Superseding Circumstance/ Unforeseeable Issue/ Severe Issue

Immediate turnover to administration for disciplinary consequence.

Field Trips

All students, K-12, will have two field trips per semester organized by school administration and lead teachers. Field trips are purposeful in the type of activity and service opportunities for our students. Each trip aims to reinforce a value or lesson the students have learned in their semester courses.

- We value giving our students the opportunity to be active participants within the local community and developing hearts for service. McKendree Village is a continuing care retirement community located just 4 miles from the Academy. Each semester, all students have the opportunity to take at least one trip to McKendree Village to serve the residents there. Whether it be a performance, a craft, or visiting residents in their rooms, students learn to show care and concern for the elderly population in our area. Students and residents both benefit from these interactions and look forward to these trips.

Student Recess and Play

Our philosophy for recess and playground activities at the Academy is to help reinforce the fundamentals of staying safe, teamwork, unity, inclusion and having fun! We don't merely want to play sports or games in a way that always favors the stronger athlete. Instead, we want all students to feel a sense of security in themselves to participate in all activities, despite how new the activity may be for them.

We accomplish this by creating games and activities throughout the campus for students to develop their social, emotional, and physical skills. During every recess and free-time opportunity the students will experience an environment where they can be themselves and enjoy the opportunity to be creative while working with other students.

K-6 students receive 3 recesses a day in their schedule. We believe that students need brain breaks throughout the day so that they can be at their optimal performance level when in class. Jr High and High School students receive 2 recesses a day in their schedule along with a lunch break.

School Sports Programs

K-4th Sports

The Academy for G.O.D partners with Mid State Youth Sports (MSYS) and offers team sports including soccer and volleyball to our Elementary and Jr. High students on our school campus. Mid State Youth Sports provides quality sports leagues and tournaments for youth ages 3-17 in the greater Nashville area. MSYS is committed to facilitating cost efficient leagues in an organized manner and consistently displays integrity while emphasizing the importance of excellent sports officials. Learn more at <https://midstateyouthsports.com>.

5th-12th Sports Program

The Academy for G.O.D. is a member of the Middle Tennessee Athletic Conference (MTAC). The Middle Tennessee Athletic Conference is an association of small schools existing to assist member schools by providing leadership and coordination for the administration of interscholastic athletics, which will enhance the educational experiences of student athletes. The Middle Tennessee Athletic Conference will promote participation and sportsmanship in developing good citizens through interscholastic athletics, which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to student athletes while achieving their educational goals. Through our membership with MTAC, we offer sports opportunities for our 5th-12th grade students. For the 2017-2018 school year we are offering girls volleyball and coed soccer.

Guidance Counseling Services

Jr High and High School Students Only

Jr High and High School is a sensitive time in the development of a young person. It is a time where they are forming their own thoughts and opinions about the world around them. The Academy for G.O.D. aims to protect the innocence our Jr High and High students. In response to this, we have formalized a program for our 7th-12th grade students who are in need of a certain social development to help them learn how to navigate the world around them.

The Academy for G.O.D has two counselors available for both genders. There is always one on site school counselor at all times in case of an emergency for situations that occur. Our counselors are educated in God's Word and have the experience to help our students learn how to develop skills and aptitudes which may contribute to full potential. Our hope is that students will have an outlet that will help them to understand their emotions and express them in a way that is healthy for their current moment.

Our guidance counseling program is offered to all of our 7th-12th grade students. Parents will receive a Counseling Consent form at the start of each school year to sign in order for their child to participate.

Student Retreats

Jr High and High School Students Only

Jr. High and High School students will have the opportunity to participate in Bible retreats throughout the year. Retreats give students a more intensive manner of Bible study during a weekend and supplement their biblical education. Retreats offer an opportunity to learn amongst students from other churches who are also seeking the Lord and learn how to practically apply the lessons they have learned in the Word of God. By studying it intensively over the course of a weekend, in addition to the weekly Bible courses, teaches the students that it is imperative to learn the word of God in all of avenues, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Student Mission Trips

Jr High and High School Students Only

Students Living A Mission (SLAM) mobilizes students ages 12-18 to live a mission in imitation of Jesus Christ by serving the poor and underprivileged through community service. Through SLAM, Jr. High and High School students at the Academy for G.O.D have the opportunity to attend multiple mission trips throughout the year. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a national trip each year and an international trip every two years depending upon the need of the students. During national trips, they will have the opportunity to serve immigrant and refugee children, underprivileged communities and the elderly by visiting them in their homes. During international trips, students will be able to serve underprivileged communities, widows and at risk youth. Trip participation is structured into the school curriculum enabling academics and ministry to coincide, maturing a global consciousness into our our Jr. High and High school students.

Support Your School!



Show Your Spirit!

Visit our School Store to purchase your Academy school apparel, Decalogue prints and other paraphernalia!

<http://www.godinternational.org/academy-store>



Do you shop Amazon?

Start your shopping by using smile.amazon.com and choose Global Outreach Developments Int'l as your charity in order for .05% of your purchase to go towards G.O.D. Int'l and the Academy!



Visit www.oliverslabels.com/theacademyforgod to purchase labels with your child's (or family's!) name. These labels are great for school supplies, water bottles and even clothing!

20% of your purchase will go to The Academy for G.O.D. if you purchase using the link above. Also, after your purchase you will receive 10% off your next order!



Simply cut and collect Box Tops, Labels for Education, and Kellogg's Family Rewards from grocery and household items. The clippings may be sent to school with your child to turn into their homeroom teacher at any time throughout the school year! Our students also have a competition at school for who can bring in the most clippings per semester.

This is a great fundraiser to get grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members collecting towards! For a full list of participating products, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>.

Support Your School! (Cont'd)



How to REGISTER:

**Have your Kroger Plus Card handy...you will be prompted to enter the card number during registration.*

Visit <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>

- 1 Click on Sign In/Register. If you are a new online account member, click SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer' box.
- 2 Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your zip code, clicking on your Kroger favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password.
- 3 You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- 4 Click on MY ACCOUNT and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- 5 Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number. Update or confirm your information.
- 6 **Enter NPO number (63806), select G.O.D. Elementary** from the organization list and click on it to confirm. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.

Please NOTE:

- Purchases WILL NOT count for our group until after our member(s) register their card(s).
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

How to RE-ENROLL:

Rewards members must re-enroll EVERY YEAR in order to continue supporting our school. Please follow the same link given above, and choose "re-enroll". You'll be prompted through a few simple steps, again choosing G.O.D. Elementary as your school. *This will take less than 2 minutes!*