

The Paideia School
of Tampa Bay

www.thepaideiaschool.org

Supplemental Admissions Questionnaire (To be completed by both parents. This is an open book questionnaire. You will find *our* answers on pages three and four.)

Name of Parent (s): _____ Date: _____

1. Do you fully support the following aspects of the school curriculum, policies and program?

Please circle your response:

Y= Yes

N=No

Q= Qualified answer

Classical subjects (Latin, Logic, Rhetoric) Y N Q

Discipline Policy Y N Q

Homework Y N Q

Uniform & Dress Code Y N Q

Parent Involvement Y N Q

Please explain any "No" or "Qualified" answers. _____

2. Why do you want your child(ren) to attend The Paideia School of Tampa Bay? _____

3. What are your expectations for the way in which Biblical values are manifested at school? _____

4. If a conflict arises between you (or your child) and the classroom teacher, another student, an administrator, or board member would you contact other parents? _____

5. Which virtues would you most like your child to exhibit? _____

6. What do you (as a parent) believe is a more important priority for your child: high achievement(e.g. honor roll, getting lead roles in school plays, leading the team in scoring) or doing one's best? _____

7. If you found that your child was struggling academically, how would you respond? _____

8. What is the purpose of homework and your family's expectation concerning work outside of the classroom? _____

9. Should a grade of "C" be a cause for praise if a student is working to the best of his potential? _____

10. Would you expect a teacher in a class of 20 students to spend 25% of his effort on one child with academic, emotional or behavioral problems? _____

Father's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mother's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Answer Key to Supplemental Admissions Questionnaire

Why are we giving you an open-book test? It's similar to a driver's license examination. You get the questions and answers ahead of time because the goal is not to flunk applicants, but rather to make sure they read and understand the lesson. Every one of these questions deals with real issues and concerns we have at Paideia School. When you read these answers which reflect the school's philosophy, you may wholeheartedly agree, you may wholeheartedly disagree, or find yourself somewhere in the middle. The Lord God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4) requires parents to be active leaders in the education of their children, so it is vital that you choose wisely and well. We are eager to answer any questions you may have which will help you make a good decision.

1. You would be surprised how often a parent will object to just one facet of the curriculum. They may love the reading program, but don't see why their child has to memorize, or take Latin, or wear a school-approved uniform. We have prayerfully made many choices concerning our curriculum and program, and we believe we have made sound decisions. We are constantly seeking to upgrade the curriculum and make positive changes to our program. We need parents and students to support them willingly and cheerfully in order to create a positive, harmonious campus culture.

2. & 3. There is no right answer here, of course. We simply want to know what is important to your family.

4. Conflicts should be resolved by keeping the circle of those involved as small as possible for as long as possible, in accordance with the principles of Matthew 5, Matthew 18, and Galatians 6. If you wish to express a concern to a teacher, the principal, a board member, or other parents, you must first meet with the person involved, and if an agreement cannot be reached, both parties should then approach the next level of authority. This is not easy, but it is Biblical, and it is the best path to healthy relationships. Please do not fear confrontation: our teachers are mature professionals, and they can accept constructive criticism in the same manner in which it is offered. Please do not fear retaliation: our teachers love children, and they would never take out their frustrations on their students. Gossip, backbiting, and stirring up dissension among brothers just have no place in a Christian school.

5. Answers to this question will vary from family to family and child to child. We simply wish to get an idea of what values are important to your family.

6. Wise parents will not contribute to modern society's worship of success by paying too much attention to the outward marks of achievement. Our goal is for every student to do his best, to work up to his potential in every area. Not every student can slam-dunk a basketball, and not every student can get “straight A’s” at Paideia School. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. Our teachers will celebrate their students’ strengths even as they train them in their weaknesses – all for the glory of God and the good of the children.

7. One of Paideia School's greatest strengths is academic excellence. Our curriculum goals are relatively rigorous and demand much effort from every student. We have “set the bar high” in our academic standards. We do not intend to be “Smart-Kid Academy,” but the “average” student will have to work hard to get satisfactory grades at Paideia. We define an average grade as a “C.” Parents of students who must work harder to keep up with the academic demands may well need to limit extracurricular activities, spend extra time helping with homework each night, or even secure an outside tutor to assist the student.

8. We highly value family time and will do all we can to respect it. A balanced student has time for academic excellence, family, church and other outside activities. If your student uses the time given in class to work, normally he should not have an excessive amount of homework.

9. American education is far too fixated on grades and test scores. We don’t have grade inflation at Paideia. A grade of “C” may represent average achievement but also excellent effort by a given student. That student who is working at maximum capacity should not be made to feel inferior by the culture’s unrealistic expectations for higher marks. Students transferring to Paideia School will often find that while their GPA may go slightly down, their actual learning curve will go way up.

10. Good teachers always give individual attention to students to help maximize their potential. This applies to students with less severe learning disabilities as well. Such students are welcome at Paideia, provided they can function in a traditional classroom setting and fulfill the academic and behavioral expectations with reasonable individual attention.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The Paideia School of Tampa Bay is a Classical Christian school. This Classical Christian model equips the student to live purposefully in the service of God and man. Education is the cultivation of wisdom and virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty so that the student may glorify God and enjoy him forever.

The School is distinctly Classical. As such, we employ the time-proven method of the Trivium in education, the essence of which is the Language Arts. The goal of this Trivium-based pedagogical program is to educate students not primarily in *what* to think, but in *how* to think: thoroughly, maturely and Biblically - in other words, to equip them with the tools of learning. The framework of this educational program encompasses three distinct and progressive stages of childhood development, each named for one of the disciplines of the Trivium and each emphasizing a primary mode of teaching and certain helpful teaching methods.

- 1) The *Grammar* stage studies the facts and rules of various subjects and disciplines in order to build a foundation of knowledge. Questions of who, what, where, and when are the focus.
- 2) The *Dialectic* stage brings factual data into ordered relationships, both within and across subjects and disciplines. The goal is to equip students with the thinking skills necessary to recognize sound arguments and ideas, and to detect and correct fallacious ones. This stage addresses the questions of how and why, and includes study in formal logic and the intensive study of classical languages.
- 3) The *Rhetoric* stage seeks to produce students who can use language and marshal arguments, both written and spoken, to express their thoughts precisely, eloquently, and persuasively. It includes the study of formal rhetoric as well as Biblical doctrine and apologetics.

The School is distinctly Christian. As such, we believe:

- 1) That parents are responsible to educate their children in the Lord;
- 2) That fathers are the God-ordained heads of their households, and that whenever possible, each father should assume leadership in the education of his children;
- 3) That Biblical discipline, the encouragement of an obedient child and the correction of a disobedient child, is a critical and necessary part of education;
- 4) That the role of formal educators is to be *in loco parentis*, "in the place of the parent," in other words, that such educators are the delegates of the parents, assisting them in the education of their children, but never usurping their God-given parental prerogative and responsibility;
- 5) That every subject must fully integrate the Word of God and teach that all knowledge and life extend from the triune Creator God who is Lord and sovereign ruler over all the affairs of mankind; and
- 6) That God's Word is the standard in the reading, understanding and enjoyment of the world's great ideas in the arts and sciences.

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Statement of Faith

Each member of the Board, faculty and staff, and every family, shall assent to the articles of faith found in the Apostles' Creed¹ and Nicene Creed. In addition, each member of the Board, faculty and staff, and every family, shall subscribe in writing to the following Statement of Faith:

The Bible

We believe that God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, inspired the 66 books of the Bible to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.

We believe the Scriptures, written by men prepared and superintended by God's Spirit, are the infallible and only inerrant Word of God and therefore the supreme and final authority for faith and life.

God

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is infinite in being, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

We believe that God is the maker of heaven and earth.

Jesus

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. He took upon Himself human nature, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, perfectly fulfilled the law, performed miracles in support of His mission, and was the Christ of Old Testament prophecy.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners, and that his vicarious substitutionary death made atonement for the sin of the world and is efficient for all who repent and believe.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His imminent and visible return to this earth to judge the world in righteousness.

¹ Orthodox, evangelical churches and Christians disagree as to the interpretation of the clause in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus Christ "descended into hell." Some churches even omit it from their recitation of the creed. Consequently, no assent to that clause is required for board membership, faculty or staff employment, or student enrollment.

Salvation

We believe that God originally created man in His own image and free from sin, to reflect holiness by obedience to His commandments. The first man transgressed the command of God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness, whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, estranged from their Creator, and eternally lost.

We believe that salvation from eternal punishment and restoration of fellowship with God is secured only by His grace through faith in Christ, who bore the sins of His people in His own body on the cross.

We believe that justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all who receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and that the Holy Spirit is responsible for the regeneration of believers and for the continuing work of sanctification.

The Church

We believe that the head of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ and that the church is the body of Christ. Christians who are called to be identified with Christ in baptism, to remember His death in the Lord's Supper, and to preach the gospel to all nations.

We believe that the school is the handmaiden of the church, whose mission is to minister to and support the church.

The Christian Life

We believe that those who are regenerated are also sanctified by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands.

We believe that the faith of believers should be visible in concrete forms – a model of personal and social behavior.

We believe that as Christians we seek to be faithful disciples of Christ, enduring in love, obedience and unity until He comes again.

The Judgment

We believe that God has appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Bible-based: Habits of the Heart

The temptation of even Christian schools is to create elaborate systems of rules and consequences. This makes students happy because they know precisely how to win praise and to avoid punishment. This makes teachers happy because it is relatively simple to administer. This makes parents happy because it apparently provides a safe, secure school environment for their children. The Paideia School will resist this temptation in our disciplinary program as described in this handbook and as implemented on our campus.

The problem with school discipline systems that merely focus on rules and consequences is that they deal only with actions and never get to their underlying attitudes. This is the Biblical equivalent of living under Law instead of Grace. This may bring about shallow, short-term changes in behavior, but it will not bring about the deep, long-term changes in character we desire. We cannot ask of the Law what only Grace can do: “For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering” (Romans 8:3).

In student discipline, the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart. “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23). Teachers, parents, and students must all come to recognize that the world’s biggest battle is fought on the world’s smallest battlefield: a child’s heart. There are many spiritual and psychological realities that factor into a child’s decisions, character, and destiny. These include the image of God in his soul, his fallen human nature, the deceitfulness of sin, the frustration of mere law-keeping, the saving power of the Gospel of Christ, his upbringing at home, his previous experiences in school with friends and teachers, his natural tastes and talents, and his developmental maturity. We must account for all of these realities in a Bible-based, Trivium-friendly discipline program that guides behavior and shapes character.

While an effective discipline program is necessarily institutional, even more is it intensely individual; while it necessarily makes rules, even more does it make relationships; while it necessarily speaks of obedience as a duty, even more does it speak of obedience as a delight.

Rules and consequences there must be, of course. The Lord Jesus came to fulfill the Law, not to destroy it (Matthew 5:17). However, all of our disciplinary actions are means to another end. They should never be merely punitive, but clearly redemptive in nature, just as the Law was our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). To paraphrase one teaching of Jesus, the discipline program is made for the sake of students, and not students for the sake of the discipline program. Our ultimate goal is to bring every young person into proper relationship with his Creator and Redeemer, so that he may glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The family unit is of first importance to The Paideia School, since the family is the most important human institution ordained by God. No other institution is given the high calling of bringing forth and raising up children. Therefore, The Paideia School strives to support the family and respect parental authority and responsibility in all that we do. We believe in the concept of “in loco parentis” – in the place of the parent. At the core of our philosophy of education is the conviction that parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children. Our authority and our task are delegated to us from the parents. Therefore, we strongly encourage parents, grandparents, and siblings of our students to become involved in the life of the school - and particularly in the classroom. We are continually seeking ways to actively involve families. The following are just a few of the more common ways you may become involved:

- 1) Visit the school and your child’s class at any time.
- 2) Assist in the classroom.
- 3) Monitor your child’s progress by reading all teacher notes and papers sent home.
- 4) Attend formal conferences with the teacher. Informal conferences may also be held at any time at the parent’s request.
- 5) Participate with the School in areas of discipline. It may be that your child is in need of discipline and correction in a given situation. The School expects and requires parental cooperation and support in dealing with discipline situations, just as we at the School will support the parents in training up the children in the way they should go.
- 6) Communicate your ideas for school improvement to the administration. We want to hear from you.
- 7) You may also be involved in the school as:
 - a) Homeroom parents
 - b) Cafeteria monitors
 - c) Guest speakers
 - d) Field trip hosts or chaperones
 - e) Teacher aides
 - f) Library aides
 - g) Helpers with all-school fundraisers
 - h) Campus tour guides

Please call your child’s teacher or the School Office for further information.