



WA

WISDOM ACADEMY

Family Orientation



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Handbook 2025-2026



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DEAR FAMILIES,



Welcome to a new year at Wisdom Academy! We are so thankful to partner with your family in this journey of joyful, life-giving education. Whether you're returning or just beginning with us, know that you are a treasured part of our learning community.

At Wisdom Academy, we are guided by the truth that every child is created in the image of God, designed to wonder, think deeply, and grow in character. Our goal is not just academic achievement, but the shaping of whole persons—heart, mind, and soul.

This year, we invite you to lean into the rhythm of slow, rich learning—reading living books, developing strong habits, and building meaningful relationships rooted in love and respect.

We look forward to seeing the wonder that will unfold in your children this year.

With joy,




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MICAH 6:8



HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?"


This verse guides everything we do, from how we learn, to how we speak to one another to how we live in community. It reminds us that education is not just about knowledge, but about forming character.

Our overarching school verse is James 3:17:

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

What Does "Wisdom" Mean at Wisdom Academy?

At Wisdom Academy, wisdom is not simply intelligence or knowledge. It is the right application of truth in love. Wisdom is:

- Rooted in God's Word
 - Expressed through humble hearts
 - Formed by thoughtful living and intentional habits
 - Shaped in community
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To be wise is to know what is right, and to do it with grace.



EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Wonder and Worth:

Every child is made in God's image, deserving dignity, respect, and joyful learning.

Intentional Pursuit:

We pursue wisdom through God's Word, deep thinking, and meaningful discussion.

Steadfast Habits:

We build habits of attention, perseverance, and Christlike character.

Delight in Living Ideas:

Learning is fueled by living books, stories, nature, and hands-on projects.

Observation and Curiosity:

We embrace unhurried learning that encourages discovery and reflection.

Meaningful Relationships:

Education is built on connections between learners, teachers, parents, and God.



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Director/Tutor: The tutor facilitates and teaches weekly classes, supports families, and provides feedback through conversation, assessments, and student portfolios.

Student: The student is a willing participant who takes ownership of their learning. They come prepared and ready to engage in class.

- Arrive on time
- Come to class prepared
- Participate actively
- Help with set-up and clean-up
- Lend a hand to your tutor and classmates
- Honor God in speech and action
- Respect church property
- Reserve cell phone use for emergencies only

Parent: The parent is the primary teacher. You oversee your child's learning, tailor lessons, issue grades, and support them at home.

- Use the guide/planner and sign it weekly
- Send in assignments via the student folder
- Check for returned items from tutors
- Use the Band App for school communication





EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

Technology Policy

Wisdom Academy is a technology-free zone during class time to allow full focus and meaningful engagement. Devices are not to be used unless required for a specific project.

- Students may bring a phone for emergencies only
- Phones must remain put away during class
- Tutors may set class-specific technology boundaries
- Parents may contact students through the tutor or director

Steadfast Habits in Practice

We believe that small daily actions build lifelong habits. Students are encouraged to take initiative and responsibility throughout the day. This may look like:

- Assisting with set-up at the start of the day
- Tidying and organizing classroom materials
- Caring for shared spaces and belongings

These simple acts help cultivate perseverance, attention to detail, and a heart of service.

Lunch and Snacks

- Students must pack a lunch that does not require microwave or refrigerator use
- No use of the church kitchen
- Clean up lunch areas completely
- Snacks and drinks should only be consumed in the gym or outside
- Only water should be brought to class
- Gum is not allowed in class

EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

continued

Dress Code

All students are required to wear a Pearls of Wisdom Academy or Wisdom Academy t-shirt as part of their daily attire. Students may wear any bottoms they like, skirts, jeans, or shorts are all welcome

- Neat, clean, and appropriate for the day
- Closed-toed shoes recommended

Discipline

Tutors will:

- Set expectations and create a positive classroom environment
- Address minor issues in class
- Contact parents if support is needed

If a student continues to struggle:

- A parent may be asked to attend class
- A meeting may be held to determine next steps
- In rare cases, continued enrollment may be reconsidered

Hands to Ourselves and No "Love Talk"

- Students must keep hands to themselves
- No playing with hair, tickling, or roughhousing
- No boyfriend/girlfriend talk or romantic behavior

Illness Policy

- If anyone in your household may be contagious, please stay home
- If a student becomes ill at school, parents will be contacted for pick-up
- When in doubt, consult the tutor or director before attending



ATTENDANCE & COMMUNICATION

Arrival and Dismissal:

Students should arrive and be picked up on time. Notify the tutor or director of absences or late arrivals.

Absences:



- Inform the tutor as early as possible
- Use Band App to stay updated

Communication:

The Band App is our main form of communication. It is used for:

- Weekly updates
- Homework reminders
- Announcements and events

Check student folders & Band for weekly for assignments and notes.



SAFETY & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergencies: Tutors will care for students until parents arrive. Updates will be shared through Band App or direct contact.

Medication: Tutors may not administer medication. Coordinate with the director for any needs.


Building Security

- All exterior doors remain locked during the school day.
- A staff member will greet and open the door at arrival and dismissal times.
- Visitors must be approved and checked in by the director.

Emergency Drills

- Fire and lockdown drills may be conducted during the year to help students feel prepared without fear.
- Tutors will walk students through procedures calmly and clearly in advance.

Student Check-In/Check-Out

- If a student needs to leave early, parents must notify the director or tutor in advance.
 - Students must be signed out by a parent or authorized adult.
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Weather-Related Closures

- In the case of inclement weather, updates will be posted via the Band App by 7:00 a.m.
- If conditions worsen during the day, we will notify families immediately.

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

K-2

What to Do

- Read aloud a short story or nature poem slowly and expressively.
- After reading, ask children simple narration questions:
 - “Can you tell me what happened in the story?”
 - “Who was your favorite character?”
 - “What did you see in the picture?”
- Help students gather their nature journals and spend 10–15 minutes quietly observing and drawing outside or by a window.
- Encourage gentle sharing of their observations with the group.
- Guide children in a simple, calm craft related to the story (e.g., drawing their favorite animal or leaf).
- Keep transitions smooth and calm, minimizing interruptions or loud distractions.
- Maintain a calm, orderly environment with minimal interruptions.
- Use hands-on activities connected directly to the lesson, not busy work.

What Not to Do

- Do not ask children to memorize facts or complete worksheets unrelated to the story.
- Avoid interrupting narration with too many questions or corrections.
- Do not rush reading or activities; allow the child to absorb and respond naturally.
- Avoid busy work or excessive crafts disconnected from the curriculum.
- Do not allow loud or chaotic behavior that disrupts the peaceful learning atmosphere.

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

k-2 Continued

How to Model Charlotte Mason Principles

- Speak clearly and slowly when reading aloud, demonstrating care for the story and the children's experience.
- Show genuine curiosity and wonder about the natural world and stories.
- Respect each child's pace and response during narration, allowing them to express ideas in their own words.
- Create an inviting, distraction-free learning space that encourages focused attention.
- Model calm, patient behavior to foster a nurturing and respectful classroom atmosphere.

What to Do (Expanded)

- **Morning Routine:** Greet students warmly, use a simple poem, hymn, or song to begin the day with reverence and joy.
- **Read-Aloud Time:** Choose a short living book or nature story. Read slowly and expressively. Pause occasionally to let ideas settle.
- **Narration:** After reading, ask, "Can you tell me what happened?" or "What do you remember?" Accept all reasonable responses without correcting.
- **Nature Study:** Take children outside or to a window. Ask them to notice one thing in nature and draw it in their journals. Model curiosity: "Look at how the leaf edges are shaped!"
- **Handwork or Art:** Guide a simple activity like sewing a button, folding a paper animal, or making a nature collage. These build habits of attention and care.
- **Free Play:** Allow time for quiet imaginative play with simple materials. Watch for signs of fatigue or sensory overload.
- **Poetry or Music:** Read or sing a short seasonal poem or folk song. Ask what pictures they see in their mind.
- **Gentle Transitions:** Move between lessons calmly. Use quiet voice prompts like "Let's prepare our space for drawing now."

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

3 - 5th Grade

What to Do

- Read a chapter from a living book aloud or have students read short passages independently or in pairs.
- Ask students to narrate orally or in writing:
 - “Summarize what we read.”
 - “What did you find interesting or surprising?”
 - “Why do you think this character made that choice?”
- Lead a short nature study, encouraging students to write or draw detailed observations in their journals.
- Assist students with copywork or dictation exercises connected to the reading.
- Manage respectful classroom discussions, inviting multiple voices to share.
- Keep the environment focused and gently redirect distractions.

What Not to Do

- Avoid drilling facts or testing with multiple-choice quizzes.
- Don't correct every minor mistake immediately; focus on ideas and understanding first.
- Don't overload with busy worksheets or activities unrelated to content.
- Avoid controlling every student response; allow freedom within structure.
- Do not tolerate disruptive behavior or excessive talking during quiet work.

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

3 - 5th Grade Continued

How to Model Charlotte Mason Principles

- Model attentive listening and thoughtful responses during narration.
- Show enthusiasm for literature and nature studies.
- Keep lessons short, focused, and lively to hold student attention.
- Maintain a respectful, patient demeanor toward all students.
- Encourage curiosity and independent thinking within clear boundaries.

What to Do (Expanded)

- **Lesson Rhythm:** Keep each subject to 15–20 minutes. Include brief oral review at the beginning of a lesson to activate memory.
- **Living Book Reading:** Assign a chapter from a rich, narrative-driven book. Read aloud or have students read silently, then invite them to narrate.
- **Narration Practice:** Let each student share one key idea. For written narration, prompt: "Write what you remember, like telling it to a friend."
- **Copywork:** Choose a beautiful sentence from today's reading. Write it on the board. Encourage careful, neat handwriting.
- **Nature Journaling:** Go outside or use classroom objects (a rock, feather, pinecone). Sketch with colored pencils and label with descriptive words.
- **Picture Study:** Show a famous artwork. Ask: "What do you notice?" Cover the picture and ask students to describe what they saw.
- **Composer Study:** Play a short piece of classical music. Ask: "How did it make you feel? What instruments did you hear?"
- **Recitation:** Have students practice reciting a short poem or Scripture passage with clarity and confidence.

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

6 - 8th Grade

What to Do

- Facilitate independent or paired reading from assigned living books.
- Ask students for written or oral narration that explores themes, motives, and character insights.
- Oversee nature journaling with more detailed scientific or artistic observations.
- Support students in preparing short essays or presentations based on their readings.
- Encourage respectful discussion, helping students listen and respond thoughtfully to peers.
- Maintain a calm, orderly classroom atmosphere conducive to deeper thinking.

What Not to Do

- Avoid overemphasis on standardized testing or rote memorization.
- Don't allow distractions; maintain an atmosphere of respect and focus.
- Avoid excessive teacher talk; allow student discussion and reflection.
- Do not assign busy work that doesn't engage the mind.
- Do not tolerate disrespect or off-task behavior.

How to Model Charlotte Mason Principles

- Demonstrate critical thinking and personal engagement with ideas.
- Show respect for student opinions while gently guiding toward truth.
- Encourage independent thought balanced with communal learning.
- Create a nurturing environment that challenges and supports intellectual growth.
- Model respectful dialogue and patient listening.

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

9-12th Grade

What to Do

- Guide students through reading and analysis of classic literature or primary source documents.
- Facilitate Socratic-style discussions or debates on themes, morals, or historical context.
- Assign reflective essays or detailed narratives that connect the reading to larger philosophical or ethical ideas.
- Oversee advanced nature study projects or scientific journaling.
- Encourage independent research and note-taking following Charlotte Mason principles.
- Model intellectual curiosity and respectful dialogue; gently correct off-topic or disrespectful behavior.

What Not to Do

- Avoid purely fact-driven instruction without context or thought.
- Do not micromanage student responses; respect their developing voice.
- Avoid overloading students with busywork or irrelevant tasks.
- Do not tolerate disrespect or lack of attention.
- Avoid an authoritarian or lecture-only teaching style.

How to Model Charlotte Mason Principles

- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity and humility in discussing ideas.
- Engage students in meaningful dialogue rather than lecture.
- Foster independence and responsibility in learning.
- Maintain a respectful, scholarly atmosphere.
- Encourage reflection on moral and philosophical lessons within the curriculum.

CHARLOTTE MASON GUIDE

9 - 12th Grade Continued

What to Do (Expanded)

- **Morning Reflection:** Start with a poem, Scripture, or short reading from a thinker like Lewis, Chesterton, or Bonhoeffer.
- **Socratic Discussion:** Pose a big question from literature or philosophy and guide students in respectful, thoughtful conversation.
- **Narration and Writing:** After reading, assign one of the following: oral narration, written summary, personal essay, or creative interpretation.
- **Analytical Essays:** Provide time and quiet for drafting. Allow peer sharing if appropriate. Ask: "How does this idea connect to your life?"
- **Science Investigation:** Assign a journal reflection after a nature walk or experiment. Read a biography of a scientist and discuss values they embodied.
- **Art Critique:** Present a piece by an artist like Rembrandt, Millet, or Cassatt. Ask: "What is the artist trying to say?"
- **Music Interpretation:** Play a full-length symphony movement. Invite journaling or group discussion on themes and emotional tones.
- **Independent Research:** Allow time for students to investigate a topic tied to current readings or their interests. Ask them to narrate findings to the class.



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