



# Parent Handbook

*Our goal:*

**BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE!**

*"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone."*

*Ephesians 2:20*

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## FOREWORD:

Valley Bible Academy welcomes you! We encourage you to review this handbook as you consider a Christian education for your child. The handbook presents the objectives and goals of our school, its teachers and staff. It also defines the school's general philosophy of education, which focuses on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For us, education takes its direction from the Holy Scriptures, which reveal God's eternal presence in all creation, man's sinful nature and need for redemption from sin, the grace God has shown to us in our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit's work of renewing and creating in each believer a new person in God's image.

The school stresses academics, good discipline, and character development, all within the framework of this philosophy. We endeavor to give your child a well-rounded education to prepare him or her for this life and eternity. We hope you share these goals with us and will consider our school to help you provide for your child's education and the "one thing needful..." salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-The School Committee  
Valley Bible Academy

## OUR MISSION:

The mission of Valley Bible Academy is to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior, equip ambassadors for His Service, and uphold high academic standards.

## OBJECTIVES:

### 1. Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior:

***For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16***

Valley Bible Academy seeks to glorify God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We teach the Bible as the very Word of God. We teach the gospel of Jesus Christ as the power of God for salvation from sin and the only way to eternal life. All students are taught the Bible as the history of God's work of redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ. Our curriculum includes biblical doctrine in order that students might be firmly established in the truth. We rely on the Holy Spirit to create faith in the Savior, and to enable students to put this faith into practice.

### 2. Equipping ambassadors for His service:

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:17, 20***

Valley Bible Academy is committed to building Christian character and to fostering service, evangelism, and

discipleship skills. Our aim is to identify and develop God-given talents, gifts, and abilities. Our curriculum and daily school life are structured to provide a nurturing environment for personal Christian growth.

### **3. Upholding high academic standards:**

***And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17***

Valley Bible Academy maintains high scholastic standards in all subjects offered. Our curriculum review process ensures that we meet or exceed the academic requirements for general education set down by the States of Washington and Idaho. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive education, with a continuing commitment to academic excellence and careful regard for the individual's learning potential. We are pleased to offer flexibility to individual students based not only on grade level, but also on capability.

## **CURRICULUM:**

The curriculum used at Valley Bible Academy covers all of the subjects traditionally taught in school. The main difference is that all subjects taught are presented from a Christ-centered point of view. This curriculum prepares students very well for the continuing education at Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI as well as at area schools.

Homework is assigned at the teacher's discretion. The entire curriculum serves to glorify Jesus as Lord and Savior. The class day is warmed by the constant love of God in Christ. We seek to educate not only mind and body, but also heart and soul. Our program instills the unchanging truths of God's Word with Bible study, Catechism doctrine, prayer, hymns, and Bible verses.

**Religion**

- Bible history
- Bible doctrine
- Biblical study/interpretation
- Bible memorization
- Hymnology
- Choral music
- Community service
- Congregational service
- Encouraging personal study and devotions
- Reformation history

**English**

- Grammar
- Composition
- Phonics
- Spelling
- Reading
- Literature units
- Penmanship
- World literature

**Science**

- Earth science
- Life science
- Physical science
- Science laboratory

**Mathematics**

- Elementary mathematics
- Pre-algebra
- Geometry
- Problem solving

**Social Studies**

- US history
- World history
- Geography
- Civics
- Nation study
- Home Economic

**Computer**

- Keyboarding and Word processing
- Internet research skills

**Fine Arts**

- Drama
- Music appreciation
- Music theory
- Art and art appreciation
- Public speaking

## HOME AND SCHOOL:

Valley Bible Academy is a school that considers Christian education to be the most complete and valuable education available, since it deals with all aspects of a child's development: soul, mind, and body. The school, however, cannot take the place of the home. It can only aid parents in their God' given duty of "training" their child "in the way he should go" *Proverbs 22:6*.

In our view, the Academy provides professional training in spiritual and secular subjects while the home upholds and reinforces the work of the Academy. The primary responsibility for the child's education remains with the parents. Parents will take an active part in the education of their children.

***And these words which I command you today will be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Deuteronomy 6:5-7***

## ENROLLMENT:

1. Submit application (available from school or website)
2. Meet with the teacher, principal and pastor
3. School Committee review and decision
4. Complete registration packet and return

Our school hopes to foster a kind of faith life which goes beyond what can be accomplished in the classroom. We therefore cordially invite parents and their children to come to the worship services, Sunday school, Bible classes, and other activities of the school's sponsor, St. John's Lutheran Church.

We feel that it is very important that parents know and understand what is being taught to their children in our school; therefore, we also recommend that parents of new enrollees attend a short introduction to conservative Lutheran teachings class with the pastor. Attendance at this meeting by **both** parents is strongly encouraged. We have found that the study provides information parents both need and want.

The School Committee reserves the right to deny continued enrollment to any student if there is a conflict with the stated principles and rules of the school. It also reserves the right to deny enrollment to any student whose needs cannot be met by the available staff (this would include students with behavior problems and/or other special needs).

### PARENT–TEACHER CONNECTION:

Parent-teacher connection meetings are typically held at the beginning of each semester and as the need arises. These are required informational meetings for planning and volunteering for many of the Academy’s activities throughout the course of the year. The first meeting determines when the dates will be set. Each family should be represented by at least one parent as these meetings benefit your children.

### GRADE PLACEMENT:

4K students must be 4 years old, kindergarten students must be 5 years old, and first grade students must be 6 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> before they can be admitted. Other grade placements are determined on the basis of achievement tests, past records of performance, and other indicators of ability, aptitude and maturity. The staff will determine exceptions on a case to case basis.

## FIELD TRIPS:

Valley Bible Academy will provide enhancements to the curriculum in the form of field trips to area cultural events, museums, businesses, and other learning opportunities. Parental permission is required before students can participate in field trips. Parents may be asked to help with student transportation. Drivers transporting children to and from school activities must have background checks, be insured and have a valid driver's license. Seat belts and car seats as required by law are required for each child transported in private vehicles.

## IMMUNIZATIONS & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

We require that all students entering school have had a complete physical examination and must submit a report of health examination properly filled out and signed by a physician. Another physical examination is suggested prior to entrance into seventh grade. Forms for the doctor's report to the school can be obtained from your doctor's office or through the school. All health records are maintained in the school. The Immunization Checkpoint Law in Washington requires minimum immunization for the first time admission in any elementary school. A child can not be admitted into our school if he/she does not meet the minimum immunization requirements. All medications must be left with the child's teacher. No medication (including pain relievers) may be dispensed without written parental permission.

Children who are ill must be kept home for the welfare both of the child and of others. Arrangements must be made for students who become ill during school hours. Parents must

designate someone who is available to pick the child up within one-half hour of being notified of an illness or injury.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is essential for a child's development and continued enrollment in the school. All children are expected to attend school whenever it is in session, including field trips. Our day begins with the Pledge of Allegiance, and most importantly, the morning devotion based on God's Word at 8:30am. If a student is unable to be in school on a given day or will be tardy, a telephone call or note should be received by the school on the morning of the tardy or absence. Situations where the parent does not contact the school will be treated as unexcused. An absence or a tardy will be excused only for the following reasons:

1. Student illness or illness of a family member
2. Funerals
3. Emergencies which prevent attendance
4. Delays caused by weather or vehicle failure

**Appointments-** Unless a medical or dental appointment is an emergency, it should be scheduled at a time when school is not in session. However, we understand that some appointment scheduling problems do happen. Parents need to inform teachers, in advance, when appointments will conflict with the school day. Children are not permitted to leave the school premises during the school hours without permission from a parent.

**Tardiness-** Punctuality is expected. Students are expected to be seated in the church for opening devotion by 8:30am. Students who come into the room after the 8:30am bell will be recorded tardy. If a student is tardy 5 times in a grading

period (each quarter), a parent-teacher meeting will be required to resolve the issue.

**Unexcused absences-** Parents who have a child with 3 unexcused absences in a grading period will have a meeting with the teacher, principal, and pastor to resolve the issue. Should the problem persist, we will be required to follow Washington state law on absenteeism and truancy.

## SCHOOL HOURS:

Interior school doors are open from: 8:15am – 3:15pm. Students are to remain in their own classrooms if they arrive early.

**4K - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Full Day):** 8:30am – 3:00pm (Mon – Fri)

**4K - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Half Day):** 8:30am – 11:30am (Mon – Fri)

Prompt pickup is very critical. Teachers are not responsible for students after school hours. Therefore, students are not permitted to stay in school following 3:15pm unless accompanied by their parents or other arrangements have been approved by the principal.

## DISCIPLINE:

We pray that Valley Bible Academy is a place where Christ is honored and where our good behavior flows naturally from His love to us. We teach children to be ambassadors for Christ in all aspects of their daily life. To this end, teachers and volunteers are trained to maintain Christian discipline at all times. They strive to discipline all children fairly according to Scriptural principles and with unconditional Christian love. They are guided by our written discipline policy. Specific rules of conduct for our school, as well as discipline procedures, will be given to students and parents during the

first week of classes. At VBA children are taught three basic rules. All school routines flow from God's Word:

**BE KIND:**

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

**BE SAFE:**

*But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:40*

*Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:20*

**BE RESPECTFUL:**

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17*

*Therefore encourage one another and guide each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

VBA expects that parents and students alike will recognize that students owe a willing obedience to their teachers, showing them respect as God's representatives.

**DRESS CODE:**

Valley Bible Academy has a school dress code policy. Neatness and Christian modesty should be shown regarding the clothes children wear to school. Hats are not permitted to be worn inside the building. We expect parents and students

to use good taste and judgment in the matter of school attire. The faculty and School Board reserve the right to counsel any student and his/her parents regarding what they feel is inappropriate student dress.

Children who have articles of clothing that do not reflect Christian conduct will receive a note to be sent home to the parents asking that the child would refrain from coming to school with that piece of clothing. In all we say and do, we want to glorify Christ.

## **BETWEEN PARENTS & TEACHERS:**

### ***Report Cards***

Report cards are sent home quarterly. If a child is working below his or her abilities, a phone call or a written email or notice will be sent home prior to the report card date.

### ***Conferences***

Conferences are mandatory and are held each semester in an ongoing effort to bring school and home together in the child's education.

### ***Visits***

Parents will naturally wish to inquire into their child's education. Please make arrangements to visit the classroom or meet with the staff as desired.

### ***Support***

Parents are expected to support the instructors in all academic and disciplinary matters. If problems arise, parents are asked to address the teacher involved. Subsequently, if necessary, they may confer with the Principal and the School Board Chairman.

## BOOKS AND SUPPLIES:

Textbooks purchased by the school are used for several years. Book fees cover the cost of workbooks and approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  the cost of the textbooks used by each student. The book fund enables the school to have textbooks that are current, and it is expected that these books be maintained in good order. Replacement fees are assessed on lost or damaged books. The book fee does not include the cost of Bibles and Catechisms. These will be purchased individually by the parents and are available through the school. Each child is expected to bring his or her personal school supplies on the first day of school. The school furnishes a list of required supplies. Please replenish supplies as needed throughout the year.

## MEALS

The students are required to bring their own lunch every day. A hot lunch may be offered (for a small fee) weekly from October through April. The supervision of this program and the kitchen work depends upon volunteer help. Monetary donations for hot lunches are also an option (pizza, chicken, etc.). Parents, grandparents, and others are welcome to help and participate. Parents are encouraged to provide healthy lunches and snacks to give their children the best possible energy for their education.

## REGISTRATION & FEES:

Registration Fee - \$50 per K4 student, \$100 per student K-8  
*(not to exceed \$200 per family)*

All accounts must be kept current in order for the student to remain enrolled in the school. Book fees are to be paid at registration. Fall registration is to be paid before the opening

day of school. If payment is not received by the opening day of school, the child will not be able to attend school until their account is made current.

### TUITION INFORMATION:

4 year old Kindergarten - \$300 per month for nine months.

Kindergarten – 8th - \$400 per month for nine months.

Tuition may be paid in full at the beginning of school, or divided into 9 monthly payments due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month starting on the first day of school.

If a student is dismissed or withdrawn for any reason throughout the school year, the tuition is charged for the entire month, even if the student is in attendance only a portion of that month. Written and dated notification of withdrawal must be submitted. School report cards are not released until all accounts are made current.

### OTHER PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Our parents bring many gifts to Valley Bible Academy. We appreciate their participation, which enhances our school immeasurably. Background checks will be provided by the school. Volunteer opportunities may be discussed with the principal or volunteer coordinator. Required annual parent involvement includes the Parent-Teacher Connection meetings where further involvement, help, and volunteering will be discussed.

