


# *Homeschool Umbrella*
# Handbook

## 1.0 General Information

The Paideia Academy Homeschool Umbrella Program was created to assist like-minded families in their efforts to home-educate their children.

## 1.1 Mission and Vision Statement

Paideia Academy exists to assist Christian parents in the Knoxville area in their duty to covenantally train their children. Because we believe that the education of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents, it is our desire to provide an umbrella service to those families seeking to fulfill that responsibility through their choice to home-educate their children.

We desire to see God use Paideia Academy as an instrument to assist parents in carrying out the biblical mandate to bring up their children in the training (*paideia)* and admonition of the Lord. Since we subscribe to a biblical Christian worldview and educate our on-campus students from this perspective, we ask that families enrolled in our umbrella program be like-minded and in agreement with the Paideia Academy Foundational Beliefs as noted in Appendix A.

We envision a future in which each generation of Christians is more prepared than the previous to defend and advance the historic Christian faith taught in the Scriptures. We see a time when intentionally Christian education is the norm for all of God's people and when the world need only look to the church to see clearly a culture of life. We hope and pray for a school that can be instrumental in developing generations of godly leaders for our homes, our communities, and our world in need of Christ.

## 1.2 Eligibility Requirements

- At least one parent must be a Christian and an active member of a Bible-believing local church.
- Agreement with Paideia Academy's Foundational Beliefs (See Appendix A)
- Student must be in good standing with previous school. Paideia Academy will not enroll students with expulsions, suspensions, or disciplinary records.
- It is expected that the student's parents will provide majority of home instruction. It is not permissible for both parents to have an outside job that would leave the student to be instructed by a third party or unsupervised during the school day. It is permissible for students to be enrolled in cooperative programs.

## 1.3 Contact Information

Contact Person: Mrs. Morgan Burchette
Mailing Address: 10825 Yarnell Road Knoxville, TN 37932
Umbrella Coordinator: Morgan Burchette mburchette@paideiaknoxville.org
Head of School: Doug Carr dcarr@paideiaknoxville.org Phone: 865-670-0440

### 1.4 Legal

(Tennessee Code Annotated §48-50-801)
Paideia Academy Homeschool Umbrella is a Category IV Church-Related School registered with the State of Tennessee and a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS). Paideia Academy operates under the Tennessee Legal Homeschooling Option No. 3. Under this option your home is considered a satellite campus of our church-related school (Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-50-801).

### 1.5 Services Offered

- Maintenance of all academic records
- Administration of Standardized Tests (additional fees, see section 2.3)
- Athletics Programs for grades K-8
- Club Activities
- Paideia family events

#### 1.5.1 Testing Requirements

Standardized testing is required. Testing is offered annually for grades 2-8 at Paideia Academy. Dates for testing will be announced in the fall of each year. Testing may also be completed online or at a different location by a certified tester. If testing is done elsewhere, test scores must be forwarded to the office for placement in the student's cumulative file.

#### 1.5.2 Athletics

Paideia Academy offers several sports-related opportunities that are available to students enrolled in the Umbrella program. Please note that athletics programs do require a fee, which varies by sport. See Paideia's website for sports offerings and registration: Athletics - Paideia Academy (paideiaknoxville.org)

#### 1.5.3 Clubs

Club opportunities are open to Umbrella program students. Please note that there may be an additional fee for participation in clubs.

#### 1.5.4 Student Photos

Paideia Academy offers parents the opportunity to have student photos taken in the fall. Dates will be announced when that information becomes available.

## 2.0 Fees and Refunds

Enrollment fees shall be paid in full at the time of application. Students are not fully enrolled until checks have been processed.

## 2.1 Enrollment Fees

Application fee (first year only): $30.00 per family

Early Registration (prior to May 15th)
$60.00 first student, $45 second student, $40 for each additional student

Standard Registration (May 16th-June 30th)
$70.00 first student, $50 second student, $45 for each additional student

Late Registration (July 1st – November 30th)
$80.00 first student, $55 second student, $50 for each additional student

## 2.2 Testing Fees

Testing fees for each student will be $60.00. Students who choose to test with another provider rather than through Paideia will not be charged. Results should still be submitted to Paideia for record-keeping purposes.

## 2.3 Refunds/Other Fees

- No refunds will be made on application or registration fees
- Service fee on all returned checks: $25.00

## 3.0 Policies and Procedures

Paideia Academy's Umbrella Program is for home-educated students pursuing an academic course of instruction. The policies and procedures established by the Board apply to all families whose children are enrolled in our program. By signing the enrollment form, parents acknowledge their responsibility to Paideia Academy and obligate themselves to adhere to its policies.

## 3.1 Enrollment Requirements

- Submit a completed enrollment application, proposed curriculum form, and appropriate fees. Paideia Academy will not accept a returning application for enrollment until a student's previous year file is complete. For those families choosing the early enrollment option, student files need only be up-to-date, with the requirement of completing the file by June 30.
- Submit **original**, official white Tennessee Child Health Record form. All immunizations must be documented and up to date per current state of Tennessee vaccination requirements. This form may be obtained from your doctor or County Health Department. A written notarized statement explaining reasons for religious exemption from this requirement is permitted.
- Submit a **copy** of your child's birth certificate.

- If you are the Legal Guardian for your student, please submit proof of Legal Guardianship.
- False information given in the enrollment form or any other report required by Paideia Academy will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
- A parent or legal guardian must sign the agreement pertaining to Paideia Academy's Policy and Procedures at the bottom of the application page.
- Satisfactory interview with Paideia Academy Head of School and/or Umbrella Coordinator.

### 3.2 Recordkeeping

A student's cumulative file is a permanent school record. Once information is submitted to Paideia Academy, it becomes a part of the permanent file and cannot be changed.

### 3.3 Grade Submission

Parents must submit a completed Grade Report on or before June 30 for each student.

### 3.4 Attendance

Students are required to fulfill the following attendance standards:

- 180 days of school with a minimum of 4 hours per day.
- Parents must keep attendance records.
- Attendance is submitted on the Attendance Form to the school office on or before June 30 once the school year is complete.

### 3.4.1 Truancy

Any student who has been withdrawn from or has not attended school for more than five (5) consecutive school days before making application to the Paideia Academy Umbrella Program will not be accepted.

### 3.5 Student Records

Any student applying for enrollment into the Paideia Academy Umbrella program, who has previously attended another academic institution, must submit previous school records. A transcript request can be obtained from the school office, if necessary.

## 4.0 Resources

### 4.1.1 Association of Classical & Christian Schools (ACCS)

Paideia Academy is a member school of ACCS and highly recommends the resources and articles contained on their website at www.classicalchristian.org. Homeschool umbrella parents are encouraged to attend the annual ACCS summer conference for assistance in many aspects of classical, Christian home-educating.

### 4.1.2 Smoky Mountain Home Educators Association (SMHEA)

SMHEA is a Christian-led, non-profit service organization that seeks to promote home education by providing information and vital resources to all area homeschoolers. Peruse the many available resources by visiting www.smhea.org .

### 4.1.3 Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

Although it is your right to home educate your children, legal services could at some time become necessary. For an annual fee, you can have access to the legal services of a group of Christian constitutional lawyers should you find it necessary. Contact HSLDA at:
**HSLDA, P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134**
**Phone: 540-338-5600 Web: www.hslda.org**

## 4.2 Curriculum Resources

See Paideia's website for curriculum guides by grade:

https://paideiaknoxville.org/curriculum-overview/

### 4.2.1 Knoxville Area Sources for Curriculum

**Cedar Springs Christian Store** 540 N. Peters Road Knoxville (865) 690-5253
**Classical Conversations** www.classicalconversations.com Farragut Community Contact: Saralyn McDonnell (Contact via Classical Conversations website)

### 4.2.2 Curriculum and Other Resources

Veritas Press 1-800-922-5082 www.veritaspress.com
Milestone Books 1-800-761-0234 www.milestonebooks.com
Summit Ministries 866-786-6483 www.summit.org
Apologia 888-524-4724 www.Apologia.com
Well Trained Mind Press 877-3223445 www.welltrainedmind.com
Saxon Publishers 1-800-289-4490 www.SaxonPublishers.com
Notgrass Company 1-800-289-4490 www.notgrass.com
Shurley English 1-800-566-2966 www.shurley.com
Classical Academic Press 866-730-0711 www.classicalacademicpress.com
Memoria Press 502-966-9115 www.memoriapress.com

### 4.2.3 Recommended Resource Books

*The Case for Classical Christian Education*, by Douglas Wilson
*Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, by Douglas Wilson

*The Well-Trained Mind*, Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer

Wisdom and Eloquence, Robert Littlejohn & Charles T. Evans

The Seven Laws of Teaching, John Gregory

The Abolition of Man, C. S. Lewis

Ideas Have Consequences, Richard Weaver

Amusing Ourselves to Death, Neil Postman

Forging the American Mind: A Year-by-Year Guide for Classical Christian Education, David Goodwin

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: Paideia Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, financial assistance and loan programs, athletic programs, and other school administered programs and activities. Paideia Academy does not discriminate in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, age or sex.

## Appendix A
## Foundational Beliefs

Paideia Academy, its staff, and its Board members embrace the historic tenets of Christianity as presented in these Foundational Beliefs. We believe that the creeds of the early church and the major confessions of the Protestant Reformation are credible summations of biblical orthodoxy. We are in essential agreement with these creeds and confessions when they speak to the doctrinal issues addressed in these Foundational Beliefs. Beyond the primary doctrines articulated below, we respect and acknowledge the primacy of the family and local churches and refer secondary doctrinal questions to parents and local churches for clarification.

1. We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are alone the perfect, inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, and as such, rightly interpreted, they are the final authority in faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth; He alone is sovereign over all things, ordaining whatsoever comes to pass.
3. We believe that God created all things out of nothing, in six (6) days, approximately six to ten thousand years ago.
    a. He did this for His own glory and good pleasure, and for the display of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness; having created all things, God created man in His image, male and female, perfect, sinless, and immortal, and He charged mankind with the governance of the created world, to cultivate it for His glory.
    b. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps. 139.)
4. We believe in the historicity of Adam and Eve, our first parents; we believe that though they were created sinless, they did not remain in that perfect state, but willfully and consciously disobeyed their Creator's command. Consequently, the guilt of Adam's sin and his fallen nature are covenantally transferred to all mankind.
5. We believe that God created and gifted men and women differently for different roles, and that such differences should not be minimized, but recognized, encouraged, and enjoyed.
    a. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
    b. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that

God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

c. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

d. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Paideia Academy and to provide a biblical role model to the student body and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Paideia Academy in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

e. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

f. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Paideia Academy.

6. We believe in the deity and humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth during the reign of Caesar Augustus, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and sin-atoning death on a cross by the shedding of His blood, in His bodily resurrection from the dead, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
7. We believe that, for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary; salvation is a gift of God, received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone.
8. We believe that faith without works is dead.
9. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling Christians are enabled to live godly lives.
10. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost – the saved to the resurrection of life, and the lost to the resurrection of damnation.
11. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
12. We believe that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
13. We believe that parents are responsible for educating their children and for bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

These foundational statements do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Paideia Academy's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Directors is Paideia Academy's final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.

## Appendix B
## Philosophy of Education

The focal point of all that is, has been, and ever will be is the person of Jesus Christ. We believe that the education of our children begins with this reality. We desire our children to self-consciously live and move and have their being in Christ, as the Scriptures teach.

We believe God reveals Himself not only specially in His Word, but generally in every facet of His creation. All knowledge is therefore interrelated and teaches us about God's character, wisdom, and power. Ultimate reality exists only in Him, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and therefore truth can be understood ultimately only as it relates to Him as the Sovereign Lord over all. The Scriptures teach that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. We believe therefore that every aspect of our children's education needs to be intentionally grounded in this, our historic Christian faith.

We believe God has given parents, not the Church or the State, the responsibility of educating their children and teaching them to faithfully love and serve Him. We believe our role as educators is to be *in loco parentis*, "in the place of the parent." Our Board and staff view themselves as servants of parents who assist them in their covenantal obligation to educate their children in the Lord. Our school administration, academic instruction and discipline aim to be consistent with and supportive of biblical teaching concerning the family and the authority of parents. We believe that fathers are the God-ordained heads of their households. Whenever possible, we desire that each father assume leadership in the education of his children. Our instructional format shall endeavor to maximize parental participation in the child's academic training.

We believe that biblical discipline, the encouragement of an obedient child and the correction of a disobedient child, is a critical and necessary part of education. Under no circumstances will the misbehavior of one child be permitted continually to hinder the education of other children.

God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We therefore believe that all instruction must encourage students to love God through their academic endeavors. Students must be challenged at all levels to do quality academic work because God is worthy of their best. Students must be taught to behave in a godly manner because God is holy and therefore commands that his children be holy. Parents and teachers should teach the children to do all they do "heartily, as unto the Lord" with the purpose of glorifying Him.

We believe students should be provided an historically substantive and rigorous liberal arts education that draws deeply from the history and culture of Western Civilization. We employ proven classical methods and curriculum that are modeled on the medieval Trivium. The Trivium is understood as an approach to instruction in which the tools of learning are imparted to students in stages that correspond with their natural pattern of cognitive development (grammar –the tool of knowledge, logic –the tool of reasoning, and rhetoric –the tool of communication). The goal of the Trivium is to educate students not in what to think primarily, but in how to think thoroughly, maturely and biblically. After we have recovered the "lost tools of learning" received in a classical education, students will be well equipped to live to the glory of God with hearts and minds which

know and love that which is good, true, and beautiful. The tools of learning in combination with an active and biblically guided exploration of the events, ideas, and people of the past will equip students to think clearly, reason persuasively, and speak precisely, to evaluate all human knowledge and experience in the light of Truth, and to do so with grace, humility, and wisdom.

We believe that a child's education should affirm and nurture the God-created differences between men and women and the respective God-ordained roles of men and women. Biblical masculinity should be cultivated in the lives of male students and biblical femininity should be cultivated in the lives of female students. Behavioral expectations, classroom instruction, role-modeling, and school culture should encourage growth of the students into biblical manhood and biblical womanhood.

*Updated: November 16, 2026*