

# **Operations & Policy Manual**

**Aletheia Academy**

**2022/2023**

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## SECTION ONE - FOUNDATIONS

### **Mission**

- Working together as parents to disciple students in a robust Christian worldview for God's glory.

### **Vision**

This is accomplished through:

- Parents teaching together under the headship of Gospel Church.
- The application of the authoritative and inerrant word of God to all of life.
- The development of Christian culture in Gospel Church that shapes the broader community of Durango and beyond.
- Equipping and supporting parents in the calling God has given them to educate and disciple students.
- The development of Godly virtue and rightly ordered affections for truth, goodness, and beauty.

### **Doctrinal Statement**

#### The Tri-une God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who know, love, and glorify one another. This one true and living God is infinitely perfect both in his love and in his holiness. He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and is therefore worthy to receive all glory and adoration. Immortal and eternal, he perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning, sustains and sovereignly rules over all things, and providentially brings about his eternal good purposes to redeem a people for himself and restore his fallen creation, to the praise of his glorious grace.

#### Revelation

God has graciously disclosed his existence and power in the created order, and has supremely revealed himself to fallen human beings in the person of his Son, the incarnate Word. Moreover, this God is a speaking God who by his Spirit has graciously disclosed himself in human words: we believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both record and means of his saving work in the world. These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative and without error in the original writings, complete in its revelation of his will for salvation, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. We confess that both our finitude and our sinfulness preclude the possibility of knowing God's truth exhaustively, but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we can know God's revealed truth truly. The Bible is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all that it promises. As God's people hear, believe, and do the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel.

#### Creation of Humanity

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in his own image. Adam and Eve belonged to the created order that God himself declared to be very good, serving as God's agents to care for, manage, and govern creation, living in holy and devoted fellowship with their Maker. Men and women, equally made in the image of God, enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus and are both called to move beyond passive self-indulgence to significant private and public engagement in family, church, and civic life. Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union that establishes the only normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women, such that marriage ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and his church. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the

people of God. The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption and must not be sidelined by appeals to cultural developments.

#### The Fall

We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, distorted that image and forfeited his original blessedness—for himself and all his progeny—by falling into sin through Satan’s temptation. As a result, all human beings are alienated from God, corrupted in every aspect of their being (e.g., physically, mentally, volitionally, emotionally, spiritually) and condemned finally and irrevocably to death—apart from God’s own gracious intervention. The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand; the only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to himself.

#### The Plan of God

We believe that from all eternity God determined in grace to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation, and to this end foreknew them and chose them. We believe that God justifies and sanctifies those who by grace have faith in Jesus, and that he will one day glorify them—all to the praise of his glorious grace. In love God commands and implores all people to repent and believe, having set his saving love on those he has chosen and having ordained Christ to be their Redeemer.

#### The Gospel

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—God’s very wisdom. Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, this good news is christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is “Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised”). This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures), theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God), historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others), apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events), and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved).

#### The Redemption of Christ

We believe that, moved by love and in obedience to his Father, the eternal Son became human: the Word became flesh, fully God and fully human being, one Person in two natures. The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, was conceived through the miraculous agency of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father, lived a sinless life, performed miraculous signs, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. As the mediatorial King, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father, exercising in heaven and on earth all of God’s sovereignty, and is our High Priest and righteous Advocate. We believe that by his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute. He did this so that in him we might become the righteousness of God: on the cross he canceled sin, propitiated God, and, by bearing the full penalty of our sins, reconciled to God all those who believe. By his resurrection Christ Jesus was vindicated by his Father, broke the power of death and defeated Satan who once had power over it, and brought everlasting life to all his people; by his ascension he has been forever exalted as Lord and has prepared a place for us to be with him. We believe that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. Because God chose the lowly things of this world, the despised things, the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, no human being can ever boast before him—Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

#### The Justification of Sinners

We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified. By his sacrifice, he bore in our stead the punishment due us for our sins, making a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God’s justice on our behalf. By his perfect obedience he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf, since by faith alone that perfect obedience is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God. Inasmuch as Christ was given by the Father for us, and his obedience and punishment were accepted in place of our own, freely and not for anything in us, this justification is solely of free grace, in order that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners. We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience flows from this free justification.

## The Power of the Holy Spirit

We believe that this salvation, attested in all Scripture and secured by Jesus Christ, is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit. Sent by the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, and, as the other Paraclete, is present with and in believers. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and by his powerful and mysterious work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, awakening them to repentance and faith, and in him they are baptized into union with the Lord Jesus, such that they are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By the Spirit's agency, believers are renewed, sanctified, and adopted into God's family; they participate in the divine nature and receive his sovereignly distributed gifts. The Holy Spirit is himself the down payment of the promised inheritance, and in this age indwells, guides, instructs, equips, revives, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

## The Kingdom of God

We believe that those who have been saved by the grace of God through union with Christ by faith and through regeneration by the Holy Spirit enter the kingdom of God and delight in the blessings of the new covenant: the forgiveness of sins, the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God, and the prospect of the glory yet to be revealed. Good works constitute indispensable evidence of saving grace. Living as salt in a world that is decaying and light in a world that is dark, believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, nor become indistinguishable from it: rather, we are to do good to the city, for all the glory and honor of the nations is to be offered up to the living God. Recognizing whose created order this is, and because we are citizens of God's kingdom, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God. The kingdom of God, already present but not fully realized, is the exercise of God's sovereignty in the world toward the eventual redemption of all creation. The kingdom of God is an invasive power that plunders Satan's dark kingdom and regenerates and renovates through repentance and faith the lives of individuals rescued from that kingdom. It therefore inevitably establishes a new community of human life together under God.

## God's New People

We believe that God's new covenant people have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem; they are already seated with Christ in the heavenlies. This universal church is manifest in local churches of which Christ is the only Head; thus each local church is, in fact, the church, the household of God, the assembly of the living God, and the pillar and foundation of the truth. The church is the body of Christ, the apple of his eye, graven on his hands, and he has pledged himself to her forever. The church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline, her great mission, and, above all, by her love for God, and by her members' love for one another and for the world. Crucially, this gospel we cherish has both personal and corporate dimensions, neither of which may properly be overlooked. Christ Jesus is our peace: he has not only brought about peace with God, but also peace between alienated peoples. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both Jew and Gentile to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. The church serves as a sign of God's future new world when its members live for the service of one another and their neighbors, rather than for self-focus. The church is the corporate dwelling place of God's Spirit, and the continuing witness to God in the world.

## Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordained by the Lord Jesus himself. The former is connected with entrance into the new covenant community, the latter with ongoing covenant life. Together they are simultaneously signs of God's promises to us, divinely ordained means of grace, our public vows of submission to the once crucified and now resurrected Christ, and anticipations of his return and of the consummation of all things. We believe baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be administered only to those who have given sufficient evidence of faith in Christ and repentance from sin.

## The Restoration of All Things

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy angels, when he will exercise his role as final Judge, and his kingdom will be consummated. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord himself taught, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. On that day the church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ, all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished. God will be all in all and his people will be enthralled by the immediacy of his ineffable holiness, and everything will be to the praise of his glorious grace.

## **Philosophy of Education**

At Aletheia Academy we believe that education is nothing less than training the next generation in the application of the whole counsel of God to all of life. It involves intellectual teaching, moral training, and culture shaping. God gives the responsibility of education directly to fathers who, along with their wives, train their sons and daughters to think God's thoughts after him by the careful study of general and special revelation. Proper education is Christian education, thoroughly rooted in the Christian worldview contained in the Bible, seeing all areas of truth as united in God himself. As we seek to cooperate together to educate our children, we delight to do so under the direction of the elders of the local church who have been entrusted by God with the oversight of the souls of us and our children.

Good education is not novel or revolutionary, but rooted in the best of the wisdom and tradition of our fathers and mothers. We believe the classical approach to learning is time tested and exemplifies wisdom from God's general revelation, shaped by Christian influence over the millennia. Thus we follow the classical approach in shaping our education according to the natural development of the mind of the child described in the trivium: building from knowledge to understanding, and culminating in wisdom. We believe direct engagement with the great minds of history is better than engaging with lesser minds mediating the big ideas to us, and we seek to participate substantively in the great conversation that has been going on among our ancestors for thousands of years.

Children are not blank slates, nor are they innocent or religiously neutral people. They are created in God's image with a foundational understanding of the truth of the Triune God, yet fallen in Adam and their own sin, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. A foundational part of the goal of education is to present the truth of the gospel, which alone can redeem them from sin, and restore them in their original calling to image God as good rulers of the earth, able to understand all things rightly. We see education as crucial to the great tasks God has given to mankind in creation and redemption. Education is central to the Great Commission as we teach our children the gospel of God, lead them to know God personally through regeneration by faith in Christ, and teach them to observe everything Jesus commanded, preparing them to do the same for the nations. Education is also central to the original Dominion Mandate as we search out greater understanding of our world in order to fill, shape, and rule it to God's glory. Further, we see education as crucial to the greatest commandment, as we learn to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Thus we work hard with self discipline, driven by our love for God with joy in our hearts and laughter in our mouths as we seek his glory in all the earth.



## SECTION TWO - OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

### Aletheia Overview

Aletheia Academy is a cooperative partnership of like-minded parents joining together to provide excellent Christian education for their children under the headship of Gospel Church Durango. The academy will meet on Mondays starting at 8:30 am and conclude at 3pm. There will be courses offered in the grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric learning levels with childcare provided for siblings during the morning portion of the day. Courses are designed and led by knowledgeable and mature Christian adults who have expertise instructing their subject matter and who can help model teaching and help equip parents as the teachers of their children. Aletheia will meet at Gospel Church Durango's facility. Each learning day begins with chapel for all students and parents. Families will then be dismissed to their various courses. Courses will last 50 minutes followed by a short 10 minute break and transition time to the next course. Lunch will be from 12-1. The day will conclude at 3pm. Because this is a cooperative of homeschooling families, one parent for each family is expected to be onsite at Aletheia all day participating in the teaching and learning, and being equipped in their role of instructing their children.

### Leadership Board

Elder Overseer - Tom Thiessen

Overseer of Aletheia tutors and academic content under the Aletheia umbrella.  
Representative to and for Gospel Church Elders.

Deaconal Minister - Tim Miller

Overseer of participation, counseling, and discipline. Parent point of contact.

Academic Advisor Primary & Grammar Stage - Marci Miller

Provides guidance, structure, and support for tutors and parents of primary and grammar stage of learning.

Academic Advisor Dialectic Stage & Rhetoric Stage - Nikki Thiessen

Provides guidance, structure, and support for tutors and parents of dialectic and rhetoric stage of learning.

Administration - Tim Miller

Overseer of Aletheia finances, operations, enrollment, and schedule.

### Finances

<b>2022/2023 Academic Year Budget</b>	
Income	
GCD Support	\$2,000.00
Fundraising/donations	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$3,000.00

Expenses	
Curriculum/Supplies	\$1,500.00
Administrative	\$1,000.00
Misc.	\$500.00
Total Expenses	\$3,000.00

### **Family Fees**

Each family will pay a \$25 administration fee per semester regardless of how many children they bring.

Families are responsible for the purchase of their own books, course materials, and other items needed for all courses they choose to enroll in. Details on these costs are available in the various course syllabi.

Loaner books and course materials may be available. Requests should be made to the Deaconal Minister.

There is not a per class or an a la carte cost to attend Aletheia. The administration fee entitles families to access any Aletheia offerings they are interested in. Students may register for a single class or attend a full schedule of courses at this cost.

Fees are non refundable once a family is enrolled for a term.

### **Insurance**

Aletheia Academy as a ministry of Gospel Church Durango is insured under the policy of Gospel Church Durango.

Families enrolled at Aletheia have general liability protection under Gospel Church Durango's general liability policy.

### **Leadership and Tutor Requirements**

All leaders and tutors of Aletheia Academy are members of Gospel Church Durango or an affiliate Church member in good standing. All tutors will demonstrate a mature Christian life and affirm the Aletheia doctrinal statement. Additionally, all tutors will be evaluated by the board of Aletheia Academy and affirmed unanimously by the elders of Gospel Church Durango.

### **Enrollment Requirements**

Aletheia Academy recognizes and affirms the headship of Gospel Church Durango and is a ministry originated, overseen, tethered, and in submission to Gospel Church Durango. As such, the preferred participation at Aletheia is the members and students of Gospel Church Durango.

In order to participate in Aletheia Academy, a parent of the participating family must be a good standing member of Gospel Church Durango, or an affiliate Church of Gospel Church Durango (see “Affiliate Church” as defined below).

Enrollment will be prioritized according to phases:

Phase One - Aletheia Academy leadership and tutors’ children.

Phase Two - Gospel Church Durango members

Phase Three - Non-members of Gospel Church and members in good standing of affiliate churches

Enrollment applications for the academic year will begin May 1st for the next academic year. New families will need to complete an enrollment application and submit it to Aletheia Administration for review. Enrollment decisions will be made by June 1st.

Returning families should submit their letter of intent to return for the next calendar year by May 1st.

All enrollment decisions will be made collectively by the Aletheia board based on space availability, enrollment phases, and discretion of the leaders.

### **Affiliate Church**

Aletheia Academy affirms the importance of our union with the universal church. As such, with certain parameters, Aletheia Academy will consider the enrollment of families from approved affiliate churches. The requirements for an affiliate church are as follows:

- The affiliate church is elder led.
- The doctrinal statement of Aletheia Academy is affirmed by all affiliate church elders.
- Elders of affiliate churches have read this policy manual, affirmed its entire contents, and agree to support Gospel Church Durango in upholding the integrity of Aletheia Academy.
- Elders of affiliate churches agree to oversee any necessary discipline of their members in regards to Aletheia Academy breach of policy.
- Elders of Gospel Church Durango unanimously affirm affiliate churches’ involvement with Aletheia.

### **Building Usage**

Aletheia’s usage of Gospel Church Durango’s facility is at the sole discretion of Gospel Church leadership. Aletheia Academy assumes no control or freedom of usage outside of the designated and approved usage as set prior to each academic year.

Following all usage, Aletheia Academy will return the building in good condition, clean and free from damage. Any maintenance or damage should be reported to a Gospel Church Deacon immediately.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In the spirit of living as Coloradoans in Colorado, we will strive to gather in all but the most grave of conditions.

Aletheia will notify families via email and text by 7:30 am on the meeting day in the event of inclement weather cancellation. Aletheia will not follow 9R, Bayfield, or Ignacio cancellation policies. This means that Aletheia will not necessarily cancel class when other districts do. If you have not been notified of a cancellation 1 hour before class, we will be meeting.

### **All Rights Reserved in Religious Liberty**

The following statements apply to Gospel Church, Aletheia Academy, its agents, volunteers, families, and all participants in the ministries of Gospel Church Durango.

The building of Gospel Church will be available for use by members of the church for purposes that further the mission of Gospel Church Durango as specified in the Doctrinal Statement and the by-laws.

Gospel Church will counsel her members and those the elders see fit to provide biblical counsel, in accordance with the teaching of scripture as summarized in our Doctrinal Statement.

Gospel Church will only employ members of the church, for purposes that further the mission of Gospel Church Durango, in accordance with the Doctrinal Statement.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. (1st Amendment of the US Constitution)

### **Risk Reduction**

The following policies will be adhered to by all leaders, tutors, and parent volunteers. Additionally, students will be advised and asked to uphold these guidelines. A “private” setting referred to below is defined as an environment behind closed doors that is not observable and interruptible by the general public. Examples of this include an office, bathroom, storage closet, or classroom with doors.

- No adult should be alone in a private setting with a student outside of their immediate family.
- No students should be alone with another student in a private setting.
- No adult (other than a student's parent) should physically discipline a student.
- Adults will refrain from hugging students of the opposite gender.
- Student meetings with tutors will be conducted with either 2 or more adults in a private environment, or one-on-one in a public space

## SECTION THREE - PARENT GUIDELINES

### **Philosophy**

Aletheia Academy is a cooperative learning community of parents teaching their students together under the headship of the Church. Aletheia is not a school, charter program, supplemental educational offering, or student care center. Aletheia is a place to equip and support parents in the calling God has given them to educate and disciple their children. It is, as our mission states, the church body working alongside parents to disciple students in a robust Christian worldview for God's glory.

### **Requirements**

- Fathers will read or listen to the following book before the orientation - Classical Education & The Homeschool by Wesley Callihan, Douglas Jones, Douglas Wilson
- Both parents will agree to read the entire policy manual
- Attend an orientation at the start of the year
- Attend the annual Christian Education Symposium

### **Involvement**

In light of these things, it is understood that ALL parents are involved in Aletheia. At a minimum, one parent should be on site at all times while Aletheia is in session. As our children's teachers, parents will be actively involved in the instruction of our children, and in being further equipped to disciple our children throughout the week. In addition to this, parents will also assist in the normal operations of Aletheia, serving each other in needs that arise in educating together.

### **Father's Role**

Scriptures like Ephesians 5 and 6 teach us that fathers have a biblical calling as the head of their home and as such, should have a specific knowledge and leadership of the education of their student. Fathers **MUST** be involved at Aletheia. While this may not be daily involvement in the program at Aletheia, it is expected that fathers attend parent meetings, make a time investment in the program as they are able, attend special programs, and be informed about Aletheia Academy's expectations and policies. Additionally, they are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling God has placed before them and actively lead their family in Spirit and truth, giving direction and vision, and praying over them regularly.

Unresolved conflicts or other significant issues that arise in schooling together will be addressed primarily with fathers, who will be expected to lead their family in addressing and resolving issues in a Christian manner following the pattern of Matthew 18 and other scriptural principles.

### **Discipline**

Responsibility for the discipline and instruction of a student belongs to the parents. Aletheia Academy leadership and tutors will not replace the authority of the parent in the raising of their student, but will provide expectations and parameters to maintain the highest integrity for the learning environment. Parents are expected to affirm, support, and uphold these policies enthusiastically.

**Child Care**

A childcare option is available for all tutors for free, and for participants at a daily use fee of \$10 a day for the first child and \$5 per child after the first. It will be for ages 1 to 5 and take place from after chapel time until lunch time (approximately 9 am to noon). After lunch, parents will need to care and supervise the children who participate in this program, keeping them from disrupting others who are still learning.

During the morning they will have a learning program that consists of age-appropriate lessons in: basic skills, literature, recitation, communication skills, crafts, music, motion, and snacks.

## SECTION FOUR - STUDENT GUIDELINES

### **Behavior Policy**

All Aletheia participants are expected to behave in a kind and respectful manner at all times. We believe high behavioral expectations are as important as academic excellence. Development of personal governance is just as important as other learning. C.S. Lewis says that a proper education transforms a student from “an unregenerate little bundle of appetites” into “the good man and the good citizen.”

Physically or verbally violent or disrespectful behavior toward adults or other students will not be tolerated. Behavior issues will be handled as follows:

If an incident of disruptive behavior or direct disrespect occurs during class, the faculty will inform the parent onsite of the behavior and solicit possible solutions.

Should the behavior re-appear shortly, or a habitual pattern be displayed in the weeks that follow, the Deaconal Minister should be informed and a parent will be notified to remove the student from the group to discipline the student directly. The student will be asked to not return to class that day.

The Deaconal Minister will schedule a meeting with the parents to discuss the student's behavior and to evaluate the student's involvement at Aletheia from that point forward. A probationary plan will be developed with the parents and presented to the student as a condition of their continued enrollment at Aletheia.

If the terms of this agreement are not met, the student will be expelled from Aletheia and will not be welcome to return for the remainder of that academic year. There will be no refund for academic fees.

### **Attendance**

Families are expected to arrive on time. Habitual tardiness causes disruption to the harmony of the learning environment and may result in the family not being allowed to attend Aletheia. If there are more than 3 consecutive late arrivals or 4 late arrivals per term, the Deaconal Minister will schedule a meeting to discuss a solution to the problem.

Students at Aletheia are allowed 3 absences per term. Upon the 4th absence, students will receive a failing grade for the term.

Unless starting later in the day, all families will attend chapel.

### **Dress Code**

All participants are expected to dress appropriately for the learning environment. Clothing that is immodest, offensive, or interferes with people's ability to learn will be asked to immediately address the situation and not return until the situation has been remedied.

Low cut tops, torn jeans (exposed skin), clothing that does not fit properly, exposed undergarments, and hats are prohibited.

Casual business attire is recommended that students might consider the value of the work they are doing.

### **Health**

People that are sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness should not attend Aletheia. If someone is visibly and significantly unwell while attending Aletheia, they may be asked to leave to respect others.

A person running a fever should not attend, and if they have thrown up in the last 24 hours, the student and their family may not attend.

Ultimately, we ask that families do their very best to not spread germs or other sickness across the community.

### **Lunch**

People should bring their own lunch. Limited kitchen facilities will be available to parents only (no students) to heat or store food for students. Parents are responsible for cleaning up their children's food and mess.

### **Technology**

Community days are unplugged for all students. Devices should be stored and not used without first consulting a tutor.

### **Food & Snack Policy**

Students are welcome to have snacks during class per parent and tutor approval so long as it does not become a distraction to themselves or their peers or hinder the learning environment. No gum or colored drinks.

### **Dispute Resolution For Parents**

Conflicts that cannot be overlooked should be addressed according to the principles of Matthew 18 and Romans 14:19.



## SECTION FIVE - ACADEMIC GUIDELINES

### Course Offering/Curriculum

Aletheia will focus its course offerings in the following subjects:

- Science
- Fine Arts
- Writing/Grammar
- Theology/Logic
  - Worldview
  - Logic
  - Apologetics
  - Philosophy
- Language
- Humanities - Literature and History

In addition, there may be several elective offerings including music, athletics, and the arts.

### Learning Levels

Learning levels consist of 4 levels:

Primary or Primer - 1-5 years of age

Grammar - age 6-10 or grades 1-4

Dialectic - ages 11-13 or grades 5-8

Rhetoric - ages 14 + or grades 9-12

We understand that God has created each child differently and these above ages/stages are a guideline for parents as they choose the classes that will be the best fit for their child. Parents are responsible for communicating with tutors to determine age-appropriateness of offered classes. Older students may find a grammar level course best suited for their needs as well as a younger student needing the challenge of an upper level course. The decision will ultimately be left to the parents' discretion.

Aletheia will use these levels as descriptors for students' academic position rather than terminology such as elementary, middle, or high school.

### Calendar/Schedule

Each Aletheia term will last 12 weeks and will meet on Mondays. The fall term will start the second Monday in September. The spring term will start the third Monday after the new year.

Aletheia will not meet the week of Thanksgiving, and the second full week in March. We will also not meet the week of Easter if it falls within the term.

### Sample Schedule

8:30 am	Chapel
9am	Class Period One
10am	Class Period Two
11am	Class Period Three
12pm	Lunch
1pm	Class Period Four
2pm	Class Period Five

**Grading and Evaluation**

From a historical point of view, the concept of letter grades does not originate from within the tradition of classical education. The conventional grading system is a modern practice over which we give pause. At Aletheia, we are committed to a more holistic and narrative feedback of student progress. We are committed to evaluating students as apprentices of craft rather than products of a factory. We want to form hearts who delight in virtue, Christian faithfulness, and love of learning. Any tests or evaluations given by tutors will serve to provide parents and their children with this type of feedback.

Narrative evaluations have several benefits over the conventional letter grading system:

- It treats the child like a human being, not a product being manufactured.
- It is not reductive, it looks at the whole story of the child's progress and achievements.
- It promotes an intrinsic love of learning and emphasizes personal ownership and mastery of skills over external and instant gratification of getting a "good letter grade".
- It can be more subjective than objective. A teacher will not give feedback solely based upon a score, but upon the child's personal capacity and how they employed their God-given abilities and with what virtues or vices. This promotes excellence and growth in the child and helps the parent guide and train them better.

The challenge to narrative evaluations is that they are more time consuming, requiring thoughtfulness and intentionality on the part of the one giving the feedback.

In the grammar and dialectic levels a narrative evaluation will be provided at the end of each term. In the rhetoric level, tutors will be providing a letter grade alongside the narrative description of the child's progress in the standard grading system and percentages found in conventional systems. We provide this for the purpose of applying a grade to a transcript needed for graduation, but the narrative evaluation will hold more value for all.

At Aletheia we place an emphasis on oral reporting of knowledge through dialogue or presenting before others. We will work on helping students feel comfortable doing this in age-appropriate expectations and settings. We will also develop students into supportive participants who desire to help each other grow in this capacity.

Testing and evaluation are given based upon the preference of the tutor and the requirements of the given course and subject matter.