



ABIDING SAVIOR ACADEMY

PRESCHOOL & K-12

2023-2024

Parent/Guardian Handbook

Policy and Procedures



**ABIDING SAVIOR
ACADEMY**

4100 S Bahnson Avenue • Sioux Falls, SD, 57103

AbidingAcademy.org

Info@AbidingAcademy.org • (605) 371-1876

Welcome

We are honored to have the opportunity to embark on the journey of learning, growth, and faith with you.

Children are a precious gift from God, and they are the future. Therefore, our goal is to equip our students with readiness and truth for the world.

Children and adults alike are confronted daily with influences of today's culture that can often hinder progression in a positive direction. We learn by observing individuals and influences around us. Therefore, to inspire and promote a different mindset, we must first model and teach the behaviors which are pleasing to God.

The education provided through Abiding Savior Academy is Christ-centered and Bible-based. This provides our students with the unique opportunity to learn what is good and true in their most formative years.

Get ready to dive in to learning through a Classical Christian education—an education that will not only prepare you for the future by strengthening the mind, but also by strengthening the spirit.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” - 1 Timothy 4:12

Table of Contents

Mission/Vision

Academy Mission/Vision	5
Culture	7
Church’s Mission/Vision	8

General Information

Admissions.....	9
Health/Covid/Safety.....	10
Drop off/Pick up	12
Lunch/Snack.....	13

Academics

Why Latin?	14
Specials	14
Homework	16
Grading	17
Field Trips	17

Expectations

School Rules	18
Student Etiquette	18
Attendance.....	19
Dress Code	20
Disciplinary Action	20

Parent Connection

Involvement	21
-------------------	----

Mission/Vision

The Mission Statement of Abiding Savior Academy

A Classical Christian Culture Growing Mind, Body & Spirit

I. Christ-Centered [Luke 24:27; Ephesians 1:19-23]

We value being Christ-Centered as demonstrated by our belief that through faith in Christ Jesus our sins are forgiven, we are made a new creation, and we have a new relationship with God characterized by peace. Christ is the foundation of our lives and the assurance of our salvation, and as a response to this new identity with Him by grace through faith; we extend grace towards our fellow human beings. Our teachers, staff, and pastors endeavor to model Christ's character as we support parents committed to raising children who know and love Jesus Christ.

We envision graduates who:

- Value and Defend Life [Genesis 1:27]
- Walk in daily forgiveness of sin through Christ [Luke 7:36-50; John 1:29; Ephesians 1:7-8]
- Extend Christ's forgiveness to those around them [Matthew 6:12, 18:21-22]
- Experience the peace and joy of being God's children [Romans 5:1-5]
- Are engaged in a personal relationship and walk with Christ [John 15:1-11; Colossians 1:10]
- Are being fed weekly within the body of Christ [Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25]
- Are active and joyfully exercising their spiritual gifts [1 Peter 4:10]

II. Bible-Based [Psalm 119:105; John 17:17]

We value a Bible-Based worldview as demonstrated by our recognition of the authority of Scripture, specifically as contained in the Old and New Testaments. We submit our lives to the Scriptures as God's Word for us today and we view the world and our lives through the lens of Scripture.

We envision graduates who:

- Have a working knowledge of God's Word, both Old and New Testaments, and who understand the historical storyline that ties them together.
- Submit their lives to the authority of scripture [2 Timothy 3:15-17]
- Engage in life-long discipleship [Jeremiah 15:16; Acts 20:32]
- Become life-long students of God's Word.

III. Classical Approach

We value the Classical Approach as demonstrated by our belief in Classical education, which has been practiced for more than 2,000 years as the most effective means to educate and develop the whole person. We model education in the Classical method as established in the Trivium.

We envision graduates who:

- Understand how God encompasses all knowledge: math, logic, literature, art, music, science, physical education, and history.
- Express knowledge and present reasoned arguments in a way that is both edifying to society and glorifying to God.
- Know our Creator by fully understanding the world around us.
- Express themselves in a cohesive, articulate, and persuasive manner.

IV. Family-Focused [Genesis 2:23-24; Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Ephesians 5:22-6:4]

We value a Family-Focused education as demonstrated by our belief that families are the first, best and most influential institution in the formation of the whole person. We expect that parents be actively engaged in the daily education, training, and discipleship of their child. We seek to foster a culture of family, which welcomes and embraces God-given diversity from within our local community. In addition, we hold the expectation that families be actively engaged in a local congregation – acknowledging God’s plan for nourishing and upholding the family unit.

We envision graduates who:

- Value and honor the God-ordained institution of marriage and family
- Recognize and contribute to the priority of family

V. Servant Leadership [Micah 6:8; Mark 10:43-45; 1 John 2:6; Galatians 5:22-23]

We value the development of Servant Leadership by our living under the Lordship of Christ. We demonstrate servant leadership by loving and serving those in our homes, our churches, our communities, our nation and our world, just as Christ loved and served. We live out our witness of the Christian faith in a fallen world and in every area of life (vocation). We contribute to that which is true, good, and beautiful for the benefit of our culture and our world. We carry out our lives before God and the world with wisdom, integrity, valor and humility.

We envision graduates who:

- Walk humbly before God and their fellow man
- Use their God-given gifts with confidence in service to their neighbors and the world
- Are engaged in a personal relationship with Christ
- Walk in the joyful confidence of the forgiveness of their sins and seek to actively share the hope within them.

Classical Christian Culture

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and anything is worthy of praise, dwell on these things.” – Philippians 4:8

Our teachers, staff, and pastors endeavor to model Christ’s character as we support parents committed to raising children who know and love Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility to train our students in biblical truths that transcend subject matter and inform every facet of life. Not only do we seek to teach our students biblical knowledge, but also, in line with the extensive tradition of Classical Christian education, our students learn how God encompasses all knowledge: math, logic, literature, art, music, science, physical education, and history.

Classical Christian education utilizes the Trivium, which in Latin translates as “three roads.” Ancient Greco-Roman education was structured around the Trivium – the three roads of learning, which, consist of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Grammar refers to the comprehension of facts. Logic refers to the understanding of relationships among these facts. And rhetoric refers to an individual’s eloquent expression of this understanding.

Modern Classical Christian education recognizes that each component of the Trivium corresponds well with a child’s general learning development. In the earliest years, students’ minds are well suited to memorize information. The introduction of phonics, math rules, biblical and other historical timelines, fits naturally in this grammar stage as their minds function well to absorb and retain that which they hear around them. As students become older, they begin to question and ask “why?” In this logic stage of learning, they learn to think conceptually and to see how facts fit with one another. Finally, in the rhetoric stage, students, eager to assert their independence, learn tools to express what they have learned, as well as present reasoned arguments based on what they have learned, in a way that is both edifying to society but also glorifying to God.

The goals of Classical Christian education are to know our Creator by more fully understanding the world around us and to develop within each student an ability to master new subjects and to express what they learn in a cohesive, articulate, and persuasive manner.

Abiding Savior's Mission Statement

Knowing The Savior and Making Him Known

In Association with our Classical Christian approach to learning, we are also affiliated with the Association Free Lutheran values of Abiding Savior as a Church. We strive to embody the church by embracing their Mission of:

I. KNOWING - We desire that all would believe in Him, and come to a personal, saving faith in Jesus Christ.

II. GROWING - We desire to become more like Christ in a progressive process that takes place day by day and is developed in many ways including the study of the Word, prayer, Christian fellowship and accountability.

III. GOING - We desire that as a result of His grace, we proclaim the Gospel to others by word and by deed, bringing others into the Kingdom and training them as disciples.

Values

PREACHING & TEACHING - We value relevant preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word. We believe that the Bible is God's inspired, inerrant, and infallible word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, we will equip disciples through the preaching and teaching of His word.

WORSHIP - We value reverent and meaningful worship. We believe that we are to worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). Therefore, our worship offers a framework for offering our love and devotion to Him and communing with Him.

PRAYER - We value the power of prayer. We believe that God desires us to draw near to Him in prayer. (Philippians 4:6). Therefore, we will encourage and practice personal and corporate prayer in all circumstances.

CARING - We value the importance of caring for others. We believe that we are the lips, hands and feet of Christ. (Galatians 6:2). Therefore, we will show His love to others by attending to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

STEWARDSHIP - We value appropriate stewardship of God's gifts. We believe that whatever has been given to each individual is a gift from God (Romans 12:6-8). Therefore, we will encourage the giving of time, talent and treasures, each according to ability, for the building up of His kingdom.

FAMILY & CHILDREN - We value family as a foundation for growth and service. We believe that all God's children need to continually serve him (Joshua 24:15). Therefore, we will provide opportunities for learning, sharing and serving to all men, women and children.

EVANGELISM - We strive to improve in our outreach through evangelism. We believe God sends us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) and proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Christ alone. Therefore, we aspire to be improved stewards of our opportunity to witness for Him.

OBEDIENCE - We strive to constantly improve in our obedience to our Lord. We believe obedience to our Lord is the greatest expression of love and faith in Him (John 14:15). Therefore, we aspire to grow in our obedience to Him, directing our lives all the more in accordance with His Word and encouraging and exhorting one another in love.

FELLOWSHIP - We strive to improve in our relationship with fellow believers and those who are seeking the Lord. We believe God's love is displayed through the love of others (1 Peter 4:8-10). Therefore, we aspire to welcome all to His house, to speak the truth in love, provide encouragement and support, and build a sense of fellowship with those in our church family and beyond.

General Information

Admissions

Non-Discrimination

Abiding Savior Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, or national/ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, or scholarship and financial aid programs.

Student Age Requirements

Tuesday/Thursday Preschool: Must be three by September 1st of the year attending

Monday/Wednesday/Friday Preschool: Must be four by September 1st of the year attending

Jr. Kindergarten: Must be five by December 1st of the year attending

Kindergarten: Must be five by September 1st of the year attending

Special Needs

While Abiding Savior Academy does not offer special education services as part of the school programming, children with learning challenges may apply for admission to the Academy. Children who struggle in certain academic areas will be required to meet similar academic standards as the other children in their grade level and will be given individual support, instruction, and encouragement. However, as we desire to provide the most appropriate learning environment for each child, a child with a significant learning disability may not be accepted to Abiding Savior Academy due to the lack of appropriate staff, funding, and facilities. Students with special needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Admission Procedure

Upon submission of an application, math and ELA placement tests are scheduled and administered to new students in 1st through 12th grades. Upon completion, a meeting between the family and the appropriate principal will be arranged to review placement testing, the parent handbook, and school procedures. Based on the placement test results, some transfer students may be admitted to a lower grade level than anticipated. Our goal is the long-term success of the student in our academic environment, including mastery of subject material as opposed to automatic promotion based on age.

Parent Requirements

Though not required to be Christians, the parents of students at the Academy should have a clear understanding of the Biblical philosophy and mission/vision of Abiding Savior Academy. This understanding includes a willingness to have their child taught in accordance with Abiding Savior's Mission Statement and Values. The parents must be willing to cooperate with the written policies of Abiding Savior Academy, particularly in the areas of discipline (see Discipline Guidelines and School Rules), schoolwork standards, as well as active communication with the respective teacher(s) and administration.

We believe that the primary educator in a child's life is his or her parent. That said, we are privileged to come alongside and support that endeavor. Parent involvement is integral to a student's greatest success, and we encourage parents to be active in supporting and participating in your child's academic endeavors.

Student Health

In order to cultivate an atmosphere of growth and learning, it is important to ensure the health of body, mind and spirit. We can all play a part in making sure that we, and those around us, maintain a healthy environment throughout the school year.

Illness

If you have a sick child, you must contact the ASA attendance line at (605)371-1876 option 2, by 7:30am. Please leave a message with the pertinent information, including the child's grade level. If a child arrives ill, they will be sent home. The school does not have the facilities or personnel to treat or manage illness. If an illness develops while a child is at school, a parent or guardian will be notified to pick the child up as soon as the symptoms occur.

Please do not send sick children to school.

Students should stay at home if:

- They have a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher
 - Child should not return until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication
- They have a communicable disease or condition (e.g. head lice, ring worm, pink eye, etc.)
- They have a bacterial infection such as strep throat, ear infection, etc.
 - Please wait 24 hours after the first antibiotic administration before returning to class
- They are exhibiting other physical symptoms of illness such as vomiting, diarrhea, etc.

Health Conditions

If a child has a known medical condition such as allergies, asthma, diabetes, seizure disorders, etc. it must be noted during the admissions process. Any additional medical conditions that develop during the school year must be reported to the school office immediately. Specific documentation related to the medical condition may be requested.

Medications

We ask that all prescription medications be administered at home. The school is unable to administer medication of any kind unless the parent or guardian provides specific instructions, in writing, in advance. In these cases, parents are required to submit a medical authorization form releasing school personnel of liability. All medications, once approved, must be given to the school office and only be administered by an authorized staff member. All medications must be in the original container and include doctor authorization and directions.

Student Safety

Abiding Savior Academy strives to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students.

Use of child passenger restraint systems will be utilized depending on the state age and weight requirements for each child in any case where students are being transported in school vehicles. Each vehicle will only carry the number of children allowed by the vehicle passenger capacity determined by the number of safety belts installed in the vehicle.

Staff will make every effort to keep any child from getting into a car with a parent or guardian under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Authorities will be called to give the parent and child a ride home. Staff will, under no circumstances, provide transportation to an individual who appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Children will not be allowed to get into a vehicle with an individual who has not been authorized or that we have previously been notified does not have authorization. In such circumstances, the parent or guardian of the child will be contacted, and proper authorities will be notified as necessary.

Abuse

The Academy staff is required by state law to report any suspected signs of child abuse to the Department of Social Services or law enforcement immediately. This report may be made directly to the DSS without first contacting the parents.

Immediate attention to any claim of staff abuse will be handled through a written warning and a probation process. The staff member will be immediately removed from 1:1 care of any children. Continued involvement in the school will be a shared teaching/leading position with another staff at all times until the claim is resolved.

If the claim is affirmed by the principal and becomes a referral to the State, the individual is placed on immediate leave through the duration of the case research until such a time that a determination is made.

Should the State choose not to open the case, probation remains for 30 days based on performance correction and improvement. Continued employment is based on supervisor's discretion and affirmation with the principal.

Emergencies

In the event of serious injury or illness, the child will be taken to one of the local hospitals by emergency vehicle and parents will be notified as soon as possible.

There are emergency procedures set in place in case of fire, tornado, intruder, and shelter in place. Drills are practiced for these procedures at various times throughout the year.

Visitors

Though inconvenient at times, Abiding Academy will err on the side of caution relating to visitors during the school day. The Abiding Academy is a secured facility during school hours and all visitors, including parents and family members, must sign in and out at the front desk when entering the building. Volunteers and chaperones may need to complete a background check before working with students.

Confidentiality

We are required to keep records on all children enrolled in the school. The health and safety of children in our care requires that information regarding each child be kept and made available on a need-to-know basis. Immediate access to information is key to responding quickly in an emergency.

The principal and staff maintain confidentiality of records and information relating to children in our care as well as their families.

Information regarding admission, academic progress, test scores, health records, attendance, or discharge of a student will be confidential and restricted to staff designated to have appropriate access to the information.

Parents/guardians may have access to their child's permanent record at any time.

Drop Off/Pick Up

Preschool and Jr. Kindergarten: Families must park in the spaces near the southeast entrance of the building. Vehicles may not pull up or park along the curb by these doors as this space is reserved for school transport vehicles. Parents/guardians are required to drop off/pick up their child at the southeast entrance.

Kindergarten through Grade 12: Students must be dropped off at the Academy doors located in the south wing beginning at 7:40am. Cars must enter the parking lot from the 49th street entrance, drive past the main doors, and continue to the Academy doors. No parking is permitted in front of the Academy doors and cars may only pull up to the doors for drop off and pickup. Cars will then circle around the parking lot and exit again at 49th street.

Student parking: Student parking is located in the far southeast corner of the parking lot.

Parent parking: For those that wish to park their vehicles, any available spaces in the parking lot can be utilized with the exception of the parking spaces by the southeast door. Parents who park should exit their vehicle and escort their children to the building. An adult must accompany any children 3rd grade and below any time they are walking through the parking lot.

Lunch/Snack

Hot and Cold Lunches

We strive to provide nutritious food options to our students. We partner with Lifescape to provide a nutritional hot lunch program to all full-time students. These lunches are available at \$4.25 for a regular hot lunch.

A monthly menu will be posted online in the ASA Parent Portal with the lunch choices listed. Parents will be responsible for selecting hot lunch choices for the upcoming month during the designated time frame communicated by the school. Once the ordering window for the next month has closed, no orders will be accepted until the next ordering cycle. Any cancellations of lunch orders must be submitted to the school office one week in advance to ensure communication with the vendor.

Children are always welcome to bring a cold lunch from home.

Peanut/Nut Policy

We try to be mindful of students who have peanut/nut allergies. While we are not a “nut free” school, meaning that we do not specifically keep all nut foods out of our building, we ask that out of honor and respect for others, you work with your children to try different non-nut food options for lunch. Please follow these specific guidelines to make sure all our students are safe during all parts of their day:

- In classrooms that have students with an identified nut allergy, please refrain from bringing lunches or snacks with nuts.
- Students who bring lunches that contain nuts will sit at a designated “Nut Table” to eat their meal in a safe zone away from those with allergies.
- All students will wash their hands thoroughly immediately after eating anything that may contain nuts.

Academics

Why Latin?

In the Classical Christian model, Latin instruction is recommended starting at third grade. This foundation in Latin is intended to:

1. Instruct the student in the fundamental vocabulary and grammar of Latin to better their fundamental understanding of English, the history and writings of Western Civilization, and the understanding of romance languages.
2. Reinforce the students' understanding of the reasons for, and the use of, the parts of speech being taught in our traditional English grammar class work (e.g. plurals, nouns, verbs, prepositions, direct objects, tenses, etc.).
3. Cultivate study and logical thinking skills which are inherent to the study of Latin.

Beginning in 2023-2024, grades three through five will focus on Latin foundations with emphasis on vocabulary building and case endings. Grades six and seven will attend Latin I and II to deepen their understanding of Latin and its relation to the English language, parts of speech, and ancient writings. Transfer students in grades six and seven will begin with Latin I.

Specials Classes

Bible

The Bible is God's special revelation to mankind revealing His glory and saving power culminating in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Academy students will learn the Biblical account from Genesis to Revelation and discover the great God who meets us in our great need. We recognize that now more than ever our students need to be prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have within us (1 Peter 3:15). To that end, in the logic (dialectic) stage of our study of the Biblical events will include Socratic, inductive, and apologetic elements that give our students the tools to critically evaluate and personally establish a thoroughly Biblical worldview.

Bible curriculum includes Veritas Press & Purposeful Design Bible Curriculum through grade nine.

Grade 1:	Genesis - Joshua	Grade 7:	Old Testament Survey
Grade 2:	Joshua - Kings	Grade 8:	New Testament Survey
Grade 3:	Chronicles - Malachi	Grade 9:	Mastering Bible Study Skills
Grades 4&5:	The Gospels	Grade 10:	Church History
Grade 6:	Acts- Revelation	Grade 11:	Christian Doctrine and World Religions

Art

Academy students will learn about classic art by viewing artwork and lives of master artists, diving into art history, and applying a variety of artistic techniques. The goal is for students to appreciate art on an individual and communal level through art criticism and application. Students look at artwork done by masters and then apply it to related projects. This will teach students new art skills and how to use their imaginations in a creative way. Some aspects of art students will learn include:

- The elements of art: Line, Shape, Color, Form, Texture, Value, Space

- The principals of design: Balance, Emphasis, Proportion, Pattern
- The four steps to art criticism: Describe, Analyze, Interpret, Judgment

Students first recognize God as the ultimate divine artist and creator. Second, they build confidence in their identity as a unique artist whom God created for His glory. Third, they use a step-by-step approach to creating art with the elements of art and shape. Fourth, they learn about art history and classical art education and apply the techniques and similar processes of great artistic masters. This fourth goal requires practice. It's important for both students and parents to understand that classical training in art requires time and patience. Like learning a musical instrument, you need to start at step one. Though there are naturally "gifted" artists, anyone can learn to draw when provided with the basic steps upon which to build. Mastery requires confidence to accept mistakes as part of the learning process. The great artistic masters also began with sketches and many hours of practice. Drawing requires a relaxed hand and eye and the ability to use a pencil in new ways different from writing. We will have fun exploring new ways to be creative and advance our skills.

Most importantly, students will gain wisdom of what art really is: God's beautiful creation!

Music

Academy students will learn music through a Classical Christian approach. The first instrument a child learns is his or her God given voice. Each student will learn to read, write, and sing in the language of music. The Kodaly method is used to teach this language; this method uses the Solfege system. The use of the Kodaly method improves sense of rhythm, independent singing, and the ability to sing in tune.

Some aspects students will learn in music/choir are:

- Elements of music: tempo, dynamics, form, rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color.
- Musical genres: Classical, jazz, blues, baroque, spiritual.
- Instrument families: brass, woodwind, percussion, string.
- Composers
- World music
- Solfege
- Sight reading
- And much more

Students will recognize that music is a God given gift that we are to use to glorify Him. They then will see how music can give to others, and even themselves. Students will work toward mastering performance, creativity/ composition, and analysis of musical works.

It is important for students, as well as their parents, to recognize that learning, understanding, and performing music takes practice, patience, and persistence. The skills we will be learning often take longer than one music class to master. Some students may comprehend or achieve some musical concepts or skills sooner than other students. This is perfectly normal, as we know every student learns at their own pace. We will work as a team to create music together, as well as understanding what we can provide on an individual level.

Attendance is required at evening performances as noted in the school calendar.

Ephesians 5:19 - "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."

Physical Education

God created our bodies for movement and the Bible refers to honoring God with our bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought for a price. So glorify God in your body." In Romans 12:1 it says, ***"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."***

Reflecting on these verses, it is our desire that we would physically train our bodies in such a way that honors God. With this in mind, the curriculum has been designed to improve physical strength, endurance, and athletic skills. Students' physical strength and skills will be assessed at appropriate intervals throughout the course. The goal is to see improvement as we progress throughout the year. We will also focus on specific skills at each level as we introduce and practice various sports.

Teamwork and good sportsmanship are also vital aspects of our time in class. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 it says that we are to ***"...encourage one another and build one another up..."*** As we train our bodies and learn new skills, we will be using those skills for game play. It is so important to build camaraderie amongst teammates and to always treat others with dignity and respect.

Homework

Students are expected to take an active role in their education. Assignments are to be completed by the assigned time provided by individual teachers.

While time may be allotted in class or in study halls throughout the week at the Logic/Rhetoric level, this may not always be enough to complete assigned work. Work not completed in the classroom will need to be taken home and completed during out-of-school hours.

Some assignments may require access to a computer or special supplies. If a student does not have access to these things, we ask that you contact the child's teacher to discuss a plan of action to complete the assignment.

While we do not require a minimum daily amount of time to be spent on homework, we do suggest that students and parents anticipate these daily estimates:

- Kindergarten: 10 minutes (infrequent)
- 1st Grade: 20 minutes
- 2nd Grade: 30 minutes
- 3-5th Grade: 45 minutes
- 6-8th Grade: 1 hour
- 9th-12th Grade: 1.5 hours

To assist a student in staying current with their work and completing material relevant to the subject matter being presented, assignments are to be turned in on time. In the Grammar School, if an assignment is not turned in by the deadline stated, it may be marked down by 10% for each day late when repeated offenses occur. In the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric, specific course details and late work policies are listed in the syllabus.

Absences

In the event a child is absent from school on the day an assignment is assigned or due, the teacher may give a reasonable extension for the assignment to be completed. The extension will not exceed the number of school days missed during the absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work was assigned while they were absent.

If a student is absent part of a day due to a planned event (dentist appointment, etc.) all homework is due that day and should be turned in to his or her teacher before departure or upon return to school. Every effort should be made to arrange appointments outside of school hours out of respect for the teacher and to minimize the disruption of other students in the class.

Extended absence

When possible, homework may be available in advance for planned absences. The appropriate principal must be contacted in advance of a planned absence, or during/following an extended illness. The principal will work directly with the family and teachers regarding arrangements for each situation.

Grading Guidelines

LETTER GRADES: All Core classes

A+	97.0 to 100	C+	77.0 to 79.99
A	93.0 to 96.99	C-	70.0 to 72.99
A-	90.0 to 92.99	D+	67.0 to 69.99
B+	87.0 to 89.99	D	63.0 to 66.99
B	83.0 to 86.99	D-	60.0 to 62.99
B-	80.0 to 82.99	F	0.00 to 59.99

NON-LETTER GRADES: Art, PE, Bible, Music (through grade eight)

Excellent:	99 to 100%
Satisfactory +:	90 to 98.99%
Satisfactory:	80 to 89.99%
Needs Improvement:	70 to 79.99%
Unsatisfactory:	69.99 to 0%

Parents have access to student grades through Thinkwave which also provides information regarding missing and upcoming assignments. Parents are encouraged to monitor the progress of their student and partner with them in being responsible for their academic work.

Field Trips

Field trips will be scheduled periodically, and permission is included as part of the registration paperwork to cover any and all field trips throughout the year.

- Notification will be sent out in advance about any upcoming field trips.
- Some of activities may have a fee that will be collected prior to the event.
- Transportation for these activities will be provided using school vans. All vans are equipped with age-appropriate safety seats and safety restraints as needed.
- On field trip days, parents/guardians may be invited to volunteer as chaperones for their child's class. Parents/guardians may be allowed to drive their own children, but not other students without the express authorization of that student's parent or guardian.

Expectations

Basic School Rules

“Do all with honor and respect with integrity.”

1. Students are expected to cooperate with basic Christian standards of behavior and conversation.
2. There should be no talking back or arguing with teachers or staff. Prompt and cheerful obedience is expected.
3. Distracting toys/tools are not allowed on the school grounds or in school vans.
4. Smart phones or smart watches may be used only outside of school hours or school events. Devices must be turned off and turned in to the office by 7:55am and picked up at the end of the school day by 3:30pm. Any cell phones not picked up by 3:30pm will not be accessible until the next day.
If a cell phone is observed by any staff member during school hours, the device will be confiscated by the staff member and may be claimed by the student at the end of the school day or event. A second offense will require the device to be claimed by a parent or guardian. Subsequent offenses may result in further disciplinary action.
5. We believe that teaching students to do their own work and keep their eyes on their own papers should begin in the elementary years. Cheating is unacceptable and can be defined as the following:
 - Plagiarism or copying an answer
 - Any use of generative artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, unless authorized by an instructor
 - Working together on an assignment that was intended to be completed individually
 - Looking on another student’s paper during a test or assignment

Student Etiquette

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are, to God the aroma of Christ; among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death, to the other, the fragrance of life” - 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

Students are expected to reflect Christian values and behavior.

There are numerous ways that students are encouraged and expected to show kindness to one another, and to their teachers, during their hours at Abiding Savior Academy. Periodically, students will receive instruction and reminders about these expectations. Our hope is that these actions will become part of the daily fabric at Abiding Savior Academy.

We want to train our students to show proper respect to their teachers, administrators, and adults.

For example,

- Students should address their teachers by Mr., Miss, or Mrs.
- Students should respond by saying “yes” or “no”, not “yeah”. “Sir” and “Ma’am” are always welcome.
- Students should follow their teacher’s guidance in appropriate greeting and acknowledgment when another teacher or administrator enters the room.

We desire Abiding Savior Academy to be a place where visitors experience an environment reflective of Christian love, honor, and respect.

Attendance

Attendance is a critical component to ensure that a child is successful at school. When students attend school daily, they will experience improved opportunities for academic success as well as increased confidence about their schoolwork.

School Hours

Abiding Savior Academy has a nine-month school year. School hours are as follows:

- Academy Preschool: 9:00 AM-11:30 AM or 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
- Academy Jr. Kindergarten: 8:00 AM-11:30 AM
- Academy K-5th Grade: 8:00 AM-2:45 PM
- Academy 6th-12th Grade: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Tardies

School begins promptly at 8:00 for Jr. Kindergarten to twelfth grade. Students may enter the Academy beginning at 7:40am each. Students may wait in the hallway or in classrooms with permission from teachers. Students in 5th grade or younger may also choose to be in the gym when staff coverage is available. Classroom doors will be open by 7:55am. Students should be in their seats and ready for class at 8:00am or they will be counted tardy. The south entrance doors school entrance will close promptly at 8:00am. Students arriving after 8:00am must enter through the center door and sign in at the front desk before reporting to their classroom immediately. Three unexcused tardies will result in detention.

Excused Absences

A student shall be excused from school when the absence is:

- Due to his or her illness.
- For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments.
- For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family
- For justifiable personal reasons that have been communicated and approved by the principal.

Unexcused Absences

Any absence unapproved or not listed above will be considered unexcused.

Excessive unexcused absences or tardies may result a meeting with the appropriate principal.

School Closings

Abiding Savior Academy follows the cancellations of the Sioux Falls Public Schools with one exception: If the Sioux Falls Public Schools have A TWO-HOUR late start, all JK-12th grade classes will start at 10:00 AM, and morning Preschool classes will be cancelled. In the event of inclement weather, school closings are announced on KELO and KSFY TV stations as well as on Remind text messages, Academy Facebook posts and the ASA Parent Portal. If inclement weather is anticipated, please be aware of broadcasts and check your text messages and the Parent Portal for updates.

Snow days will be made-up on the scheduled days as noted on the school calendar. Any additional make-up days will be determined and communicated at the discretion of the school.

Dress Code

“You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” - 1 Corinthians 6:20

Students are expected to dress in neat, clean, and modest fashion. Attire expectations as to be honoring to God, and fit within these guidelines:

- Jeans may not be frayed or have holes or rips
- “Fingertip rule” for shorts and skirts (i.e. a student’s shorts or skirt should extend beyond where his or her fingertips reach on his or her legs)
- Shoulder straps are 2 fingers wide
- No off the shoulder shirts
- No hoods up on hoodies
- No hats in building
- No inappropriate or vulgar graphics
- Appropriate shoes for scheduled activities
- No crop top shirts

Notice of special dress-up days will be given by individual teachers or the principal and must still be modest, appropriate, and in accordance with dress code guidelines. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, suggestions for special school performance attire include appropriate length skirts or dresses for females, dress pants or nice jeans with collared shirt for males.

If a dress code violation occurs, a grammar student will be provided an alternative set of clothing for the remainder of the day. Parents of Logic/Rhetoric students will be called to bring appropriate clothing for their student and the student will be removed from class until clothing satisfying the dress code is made available. Continued disregard for dress code expectations will result in additional disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action

In the event that disciplinary action must be taken, the teachers and the principal will determine the type and amount of discipline. All discipline will be based on biblical principles (e.g. restitution, apologies (public and private), swift and immediate consequences, reconciliation and restoration of fellowship, etc.) The vast majority of discipline will be handled at the classroom level as students are expected to listen and respect their teachers. Love and forgiveness will be an integral part of the discipline of a student. The following procedure will be followed in these instances:

I. Office Visits

There are five basic behaviors that will automatically necessitate discipline from the principal.

- Disrespect shown to another student or adult, including teachers and staff members
- Dishonesty in any situation, including lying, cheating, stealing, and plagiarism
- Rebellion such as outright disobedience in response to instructions, including handbook violations
- Fighting, such as striking or kicking in anger or with the intention to harm
- Obscene, vulgar, or profane language, as well as taking the name of the Lord in vain

The principal will determine the nature of the discipline. If a student receives an office visit, the following accounting will be observed within the school year:

- The first two times a student has an office visit the student's parents will be contacted afterward and given the details. Their assistance and support in averting further problems will be sought.
- The third office visit will be followed by a meeting with the parents and the principal.
- Should the student require a fourth office visit, the student will receive a one-day suspension.
- If a fifth office visit is required, the student may be expelled from the school.

II. Serious Misconduct

If the principal deems it necessary, the office-visit process may be bypassed and suspension imposed immediately.

- Examples of such misconduct include but are not limited to: acts (both intended or inferred) endangering the lives of others, gross violence, theft, vandalism, violations of civil law, drug abuse, or the possession of any weapon.
- If the principal desires to pursue expulsion the final decision will be determined in cooperation with the church administrator.

Parent Connection

One of the many blessings of a Christian life is the opportunity to live in community with others and to have encouraging fellowship to build one another up. We established the Parent Connection with this in mind. Parent Connection is a parent-led group, created for the purpose of building community and supporting the school. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of every month, immediately following chapel. We meet in Abiding Savior's multi-purpose room, which can be accessed from the Academy's entry way.

We also coordinate and help support various events throughout the year, such as Teacher Appreciation week, The Gathering (school fundraiser), and Field Day.

Involvement is optional. We recognize that not everyone is able to meet during the workday but know that you are welcome anytime!

