



# Strickland Christian School

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July 16, 2021

Dear Parents,

Zechariah was old! So was Elizabeth. So old were they that no hope of having children remained. When the angel appeared to him, he was shocked, doubly shocked when he heard the angel say, "Fear not...for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth shall bear a son." (Luke 1:13) Perhaps he had forgotten the prayers he had offered for a child when he was younger. Perhaps he was shocked and angry because God was reopening old wounds he had because of unanswered prayer. It was good that the angel would not let him speak until the baby came because he may have spread his doubt to others. We all know that the story ends well for Zech and Liz; they do have a baby, name him John, and he becomes the forerunner for Jesus, the Savior! We see that God cares about families and is intimately involved with our children. He is also the God of hopeless situations. Perhaps, like Zechariah, we have given up asking because of hurt or disappointment, but our loving Father is not deterred or discouraged! He will surely act wonderfully on behalf of his people, even if it means sending an angel to help us!

We at Strickland hope your summer has been happy and healthy so far. Please read the enclosed information carefully as it will answer many of your questions. May this school year be filled with His best for you and your children!

## COVID-19 AND DISEASE PREVENTION

We have been blessed that, as a school community, we have had a low number of COVID-19 infections. We must thank God for His abundant protection. We took some precautions that were recommended from March 2020, through May 2021. This new year we intend to take the following actions:

- Frequent hand washing by students and staff.
- Continued use of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.
- Antimicrobial treatment approximately every month.
- Informing parents if there is a serious illness like COVID or the flue reported in a classroom.
- Ultraviolet lights to kill airborne germs in all HVAC units.
- Students will not be allowed to wear masks at school.
- Closing the school for a time if there is a major infection such that a large portion of the student body is absent on the same day.

CALENDAR - A complete calendar is updated regularly on our website.

**Saturday, August 7, 8 AM-Noon** Parent Volunteer Workday

**Saturday, August 7, 10 AM- Noon** Preowned Uniform Sale

**Saturday, August 7, 2-4 PM** Antimicrobial Treatment of Classrooms (This is done monthly to kill germs, viruses, bacteria, flu viruses, and a host of other unwelcome visitors!)

**Monday, August 9, 7:00 PM** - New Parent Orientation in the school cafeteria.

**Wednesday, August 11,** Teachers return for training.

**Monday, August 16, 10 AM** Open House for grades K4 through 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Monday, August 16, 7 PM** Open House for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday, August 18** First Day of School

**Monday, September 6** Labor Day School Holiday

**NEW PARENT ORIENTATION** – Monday, August 9, 7 PM

This meeting is mandatory for all parents new to Strickland School this year, unless they attended the May Zoom meeting. We will discuss important school policies and procedures, uniforms, tips for parents, and there will be a question-and-answer session. The meeting will take place in person in the school cafeteria and last about an hour and a half.

**IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE** - Monday, August 16

This is an important event for you and your child to meet the teacher and visit the classroom. See the times for your child above. Teachers will have some pertinent information for you at this time. It will begin with a short meeting in the cafeteria. First through eighth grade students please bring the notebook paper assigned below with you to help teachers prepare before the first day. K4 and K5 students who stay until 3 PM should bring their mats for nap time. Parents may open a catered lunch account for their children at open house.

**VOLUNTEER WORKDAY**

Saturday, August 7, from 8 to noon, is our annual summer spruce up the school workday. Parents will receive credit toward their volunteer hours by volunteering this day. Please bring work gloves, yard equipment, and tools if you have them. We may be doing yard work and trimming of bushes and trees, among other things.

**PREOWNED UNIFORM SALE**

You may bring your unneeded uniforms to sell to other parents also on August 7. The cafeteria will be opened for you to set up and sell your own uniforms and buy from other parents. Please bring cash as some parents may not want to accept checks. No credit cards will be accepted. Be sure that the uniforms you offer for sale are on the approved uniform list since this is only for clothing that may be worn at school.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Strickland School is seeking a full time fourth grade teacher and a 3 to 6 PM after school teacher. Candidates must be born again Christians of high moral character and must love children. There are other qualifications depending on the position. If you know a qualified person, have him send a resume with references to the director at [doug.rigdon@stricklandschool.com](mailto:doug.rigdon@stricklandschool.com); one may also call the office (512) 447-1447 for more information. Strickland is also in need of substitute teachers. Please pray with us that the Lord will send the right teachers for these positions.

## TEACHERS AND STAFF FOR 2021-2022

We are happy to welcome back so many excellent teachers and a few new ones this year. Please pray for all our teachers as they prepare to minister to your little ones. Below is the current list of employees.

Heather Durant	K4
Ruby O'Neal	K5
Shelley Aleman	K5
Kaitlin Schonert	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Jenny Jackson	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Belinda Means	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Canita Prough	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Rebecca Windsor	5/6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (5-8 <sup>th</sup> English, Composition, Grammar, Spelling)
Jacob Hampton	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Bible, Hist., 5-8 <sup>th</sup> Science/Tech., 5/6 <sup>th</sup> History)
Fabiola Vergara	1 <sup>st</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish
Rebecca Ramirez	K4-6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music
Michael Winfrey	P.E.
Marla VanWyk	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Technology/computer Teacher
Diane Rigdon	Extended Care Administrator/5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Math
Rosie Casey	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Assistant
Sue Permancier	Extended Care Director
	Extended Care
Kimberly Arnold	Admissions Director/Office Manager
Katherine Swenson	Accounts Manager
Pam Stout	K4-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Principal
Doug Rigdon	Upper Grades Principal, 5/6 <sup>th</sup> Bible

You are probably wondering who Kaitlin Schonert is. She is the former Miss Hairston who changed her name because God blessed her with a husband this summer. We are so happy for her! We are blessed that Kimberly Arnold is our new accounts manager/office manager. You will speak to her often when you call or visit the office. Katherine Swenson has moved to the accounts' manager position. She will answer all your questions about tuition. Shelley Aleman will be leading a group of astute kindergartners, and Rebecca Windsor is returning to the 5/6<sup>th</sup> and English position after a one-year hiatus. Mrs. Ard, Mrs. Petty, Mrs. Snook and Miss Gonzalez will be pursuing other ministry opportunities. We will miss them! We are so thankful for their wonderful ministry and dedication to the children and parents of Strickland for these many years!

## CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Classroom teachers will send a welcome letter to their students before classes begin. This will constitute the notice of your child's class assignment. Administrators at Strickland have attempted to honor teacher requests made by parents while registering, but such requests are not guaranteed as there are many factors used in determining classroom assignments. Please do not call the school to learn your child's class assignment unless your child does not receive the letter by August 11.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Except as noted below, students will receive the supplies that they need to get started in school. The teachers will distribute these supplies as needed for their classrooms.

*Full day (until 3 PM) K4 and K5 students must supply their own foldable mats for naptime this year. These may be brought to open house or on the first day of school. Please mark each mat with the child's name and grade.*

*Students in first through eighth grade may bring their own personal size hand sanitizer (in a non-spray bottle) to keep in their desks.*

*Students in first through eighth grades must bring the following types and amounts of loose-leaf notebook paper. Please bring the notebook paper to open house so teachers have time to prepare for the first day of class.*

1 <sup>st</sup> through 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Wide Ruled	1,000 sheets
5 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	College Ruled	1,000 sheets

## AUSTIN PARENT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP (APTF)

The APTF is the nonprofit service arm for the parents and teachers at Strickland. We are very thankful for the volunteer service of Angela Calvillo who has run the APTF almost single-handedly the past few years! She is requesting some volunteer help. If you would like to hold an office or help run an event, we welcome your contribution! Please contact Angela at [strickland.aptf@yahoo.com](mailto:strickland.aptf@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer. The APTF will have its first meeting of the year during September for making plans for the entire year. Parents will have the opportunity to join the organization at that time and to vote on plans and expenditures.

APTF is planning to host Fall Fest this year on Saturday, October 16, 2021. This is a fun event for families of Strickland. Volunteers will be needed to assist in making this a successful event. Please keep a look out for volunteer opportunities in your child's school announcements that he brings home from school.

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Our APTF will once again collect box tops from students as a fundraiser. Classrooms with the highest totals will receive a special reward. We will have more details about this in September.

## CAMPUS UPDATES

Many thanks to Ignacio Vega, a Strickland parent and our school plumber, for installing new toilets in almost every bathroom in our school at his own expense! This will save our school a great deal of water over the years.

## PSIA

The Private School Interscholastic League is revving up for a new year of academic meets. These events are for students in first through eighth grade. Categories include math, spelling, ready writing, poetry or prose interpretation, spelling, and others. The meet will be in February or March. The plan is for our students who enter to meet each Wednesday beginning in October after school for practice. These

practices will be taught by parents who volunteer. Please see the attached PSIA enrollment form for you to complete if your child is interested. This should be returned to the child's teacher with the registration fee.

### APSA SPORTS LEAGUE

The Austin Private School Association is planning our sports league starting in September for girls' volleyball and coed flag football. These are open to fourth grade and older students. Please complete the attached registration form for Strickland sports and return to your child's teacher with the registration fee if you are interested. Parent volunteers will be needed to make the league a success. Other sports will be offered later in the school year.

### OFFICE HOURS

While someone is usually at the school this summer, please check the office answering machine for office hours or call for an appointment. Our staff members are on vacation this summer so please do not call them at home; direct all your inquiries to the school office at (512) 447-1447, or to our office email account, [info@stricklandschool.com](mailto:info@stricklandschool.com).

### LUNCHESES

The catered lunch schedule for this year will be:

- Mondays – Golden Chick
- Wednesdays – Jason's Deli
- Fridays – Ci Ci's Pizza

Parents may open a lunch account for their children at open house. More information about lunches will be available at that time.

### SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEWS

A great way for parents to help the school is to post a review on social media. To encourage you to do so, Strickland is initiating a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Any parent who verifies to the school that he has posted a review on Google, Yelp, Facebook, or Greatschools.com will have his name entered into the drawing. A parent may post to all four and have four chances to win! If you have previously posted, you may post a new review now and have your name entered again! Reviews must be posted between now and November 30 and reported to the school by December 1. Please email Kim Arnold at the official school email address: [info@stricklandschool.com](mailto:info@stricklandschool.com).

### TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Strickland still has openings in some of our classrooms. The best way to let people know about our school is by word of mouth. If you like what your child is learning, tell all your friends! If someone comes to a tour of the school and mentions your name, you will receive a \$25 gift card. If that person subsequently enrolls, you will receive another \$50 gift card.

### DRESS CODE

It is important that you buy uniforms for your child now if you have not done so, **as all students must be in uniform starting on the first day of school**. Be sure to buy a Lands' End cardigan sweater also since some classrooms are cold even in hot weather. P.E. uniforms must also be purchased by the beginning of school. First through eighth graders will wear their PE uniforms to school on PE days. This worked well last year so we are continuing it. Expect your child to have P.E. twice a week. You will learn the P.E. schedule during Open House. **Spirit T-shirts** should also be purchased if you want them. They are available from Lands' End only. These may be worn on T-shirt Fridays. Students on sports teams may

also wear the blue Strickland practice jersey on T-shirt Fridays since it is almost identical to the spirit shirt.

All uniforms must be modest, clean and in good repair. Shorts and skirts must be no more than two inches above the top of the knee. Please review the policy for haircuts also before school starts so your child will have a proper hairstyle or haircut. For further dress code or uniform details, see pages 19-23 of the handbook.

We pray you and your children will have a blessed summer and return refreshed for a new school term.

In His service,

Doug Rigdon, School Director