



Strickland Christian School

P.O. Box 150413 Austin, TX 78715-0413
Office: (512) 447-1447 Fax: (512) 447-6225

www.stricklandschool.com
info@stricklandschool.com

July 20, 2023

Dear Parents,

Deuteronomy is the book of the Bible in which God delivers the law to Israel a second time. He clearly details what He truly desires of people; it is beyond simply keeping rules. "Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever." He is clearly looking for hearts to love Him and promises a blessing to our families if we do. In Deut. 6:9 He tells His people to write His words on their gates (minds) and doorposts (hearts). In chapter ten He says to fear Him, serve and cling to Him, and to circumcise our hearts. In 30:6 He promised to circumcise our hearts to love Him. Clearly, the Lord wants an internal change in His people that will produce a love relationship for our benefit. May we continually seek to love Him with all our "heart, soul, mind, and strength!"

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. Be certain that you also read about the catered, online lunch program and that you enroll in a timely manner. May this school year be filled with His wonders for you and your children!

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

Saturday, August 5, 8 AM to Noon- Parent Volunteer Workday

Saturday, August 5, 9 AM to 11 AM- Pre-owned Uniform Sale

Saturday, August 5, 11 to Noon – Ice Cream Social, Sponsored by the PTF

Saturday, August 6, 2-4 PM - Antimicrobial Treatment of Classrooms (This kills germs, viruses, bacteria, flu viruses, and a host of other unwelcome visitors!)

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

Wednesday, August 9- Teachers return for training.

Monday, August 14 - 10 AM- Open House for grades K4 through 2nd

Monday, August 14, 7 PM- Open House for grades 3rd through 8th

Wednesday, August 16- First Day of School

Monday, September 4- Labor Day School Holiday

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION – Monday, August 7, 7 PM

This meeting is mandatory for all parents new to Strickland School this year unless they attended the May 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 the school cafeteria and last about an hour and a half.

OPEN HOUSE - Monday, August 15

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.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Saturday, August 5, 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, wheelbarrows, and tools if you have them. We may be doing yard work, moving gravel, and trimming bushes and trees, among other things.

PREOWNED UNIFORM SALE

You may bring your unneeded uniforms to sell to other parents also on August 5. 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 7/8th grade teacher with experience in teaching science. Candidates must be born again Christians of high moral character and must love children. If you know a qualified person, have him send a resume with references to the director at 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 2023-2024

We are happy to welcome back so many excellent teachers and some great new ones this year. Please pray for all our teachers as they prepare to minister to your little ones. We are sorry to report that Mrs. Means has decided to retire from teaching after many years here as third and second grade teacher and a total of more than thirty years teaching in Christian schools. We will certainly miss her. We really think that God has miraculously supplied a wonderful group of teachers and staff for the coming year! Here is the current list of employees.

Heather Durant	K4 Teacher and Extended Care Director
Shelly Aleman	K5
Jessica Montelongo	K5
Jenny Jackson	1 st Grade
Samantha Al Salim	2 nd Grade
Ana Trejo	3 rd Grade

Alexa Franks	4 th Grade
Megan Coates	5 th Grade
Rebecca Windsor	6 th Grade (6-8 th English, Composition, Grammar, Spelling)
	7 th /8 th Grade (7 th /8 th Bible, Hist., 6-8 th Science/Tech., 6 th History)
Fabiola Vergara	1 st -8 th Grade Spanish
Rebecca Ramirez	K4-8 th Grade Music
Michael Winfrey	P.E.
Marla VanWyk	3 rd -5 th Grade Technology/Computer Teacher
Diane Rigdon	6 th -8 th Math
Natasha Doherty	1 st /2 nd Grade Assistant/Extended Care Teacher
Tobi Hall	Extended Care On-site Director
Marisa Doherty	Extended Care Teacher
Kimberly Arnold	Admissions Director/Office Manager
Katherine Swenson	Accounts Manager
Pam Stout	K4-2 nd Grade Tutor
Doug Rigdon	Principal, 6 th Grade Bible

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 the 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 the open house so teachers have time to prepare for the first day of class.

1 st through 5 th Grades	Wide Ruled	1,200 sheets
6 th through 8 th Grades	College Ruled	1,000 sheets

STRICKLAND'S PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Parents are planning to host Fall Fest this year on Saturday, October 14, 2023. 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 and in emails from the PTF.

CAMPUS UPDATES

We are replacing the roof on the second-grade building and repairing and making upgrades to the music room. We hope to also replace some flooring and carpeting in the main building.

PSIA

The Private School Interscholastic Association is revving up for a new year of academic competitions. These events are for students in first through eighth grade. Categories include math, spelling, ready writing, poetry or prose interpretation, spelling, and others. The competition 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. Last year, twenty of our students competed in the district meet, and seven of them qualified for the state competition in May. This was an amazing accomplishment! We know that many students will qualify for state if they begin in October.

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. Some third graders may be considered for football. Please complete the attached registration form for Strickland sports and return to your child's teacher with the registration fee if you are interested. **Please bring your form by the first day of school as games start early, and rosters must be turned in the week of August 14.** Also, if we know the participants early, coaches will be able to have more practices to be prepared. Parent volunteers will be needed to make the league a success. Other sports will be offered later in the school year.

DISEASE PREVENTION

Teachers and staff take disease prevention seriously by promoting the following:

- Frequent handwashing by students and staff.
- Continued use of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.
- Antimicrobial treatment approximately every three months.
- Informing parents if there is a serious illness like COVID or the flu reported in a classroom.
- Ultraviolet lights to kill airborne germs in HVAC units.
- Students who have parental permission may wear masks inside only and only if, in the opinion of Strickland staff members, doing so is not a distraction or a health or learning issue.

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. The school office phone is 512 447-1447; the office email address is info@stricklandschool.com.

LUNCHES

Lunches this year will again be provided by Crave-It, a catering company for schools. Each parent will need to open his own account online with Crave-It and order lunches for his child *by Friday of the previous week*. Teachers will not be taking lunch counts, and the school will not be ordering for students. Catered lunches will be offered *every school day, five days a week!* There will be several choices for your child each day so that you will probably be able to find something he likes every day. Please see the attached lunch information form Crave-It to answer all your questions and to open your online account.

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 social media sites like Rumble, Yelp, or Greatschools.com will have his name entered into the drawing. A parent may post to all three and have three 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.

CHILDREN, CELL PHONES, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Like the television in the 1950's, cell phones and social media may be used for great good or cause great harm. When I was growing up, I would often be glued to the tube until my parents demanded I turn it off. I did not have the maturity or character to handle the screen. Most children in elementary school do not have the maturity to handle phones responsibly without locks and restrictions put in place by parents who should have real-time access to the child's screen. Children are still learning how to navigate interpersonal relationships so social media accounts can be fraught with pitfalls for friendships. Seemingly innocent children have been known to post unkind, cruel, or vile content about their fellow students on social media and in game chats or group chats. These are things they would never say to another person in public. If children think that only other children are seeing what they post, they are tempted to say things they would not want their parents to see. Some unsuspecting children have fallen victim to the posts of others but keep it a secret from their parents for various reasons – therefore suffering abuse in silence. These are some of the reasons that Strickland students are not allowed to have cell phones at our school. I heartily encourage parents to take control of your child's cell phone and social media and use every tool at your disposal to monitor all your children are posting and every phone call and text message or eliminate their use of these tools altogether.

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. *Gray T-shirts without the Strickland logo are not allowed*. 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 team 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.

In His service,
Doug Rigdon, School Director