



Strickland Christian School

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July 16, 2025

Dear Parents,

In the Book of Exodus, Moses lamented that no one listened to him, neither Pharaoh nor the Israelites. However, God promised that He would multiply His signs and wonders in Egypt so that the Egyptian people would know that He was the Lord of all. (Ex. 7:3-5) God was not only concerned for His people, but for the people of the world who did not know Him. What signs and wonders will God do for us so that the people of the world will believe? One is found in Isaiah 8:18 where the prophet states, “Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts...” It is not primarily mighty deeds or miracles that God wants, but mighty people, both children and adults who express His love and character to a needy world. Let that be our hope, prayer, and goal for every family as we embark on a new school year.

We at Strickland hope you have had a restful and joyful summer. 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 providential care for you and your children!

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

Saturday, August 9, 8 AM to Noon - Parent Volunteer Workday

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

Saturday, August 9, 11 to Noon – Ice Cream Social, Sponsored by the PTF

Monday, August 11, 7:00 PM - New Parent Orientation in the school cafeteria (for parents of newly enrolled students only, no children please)

Tuesday, August 12 - 4 PM - Antimicrobial Treatment of Classrooms (This kills germs, viruses, bacteria, flu viruses, and a host of other unwelcome visitors!)

Wednesday, August 13- Teachers return for training.

Monday, August 18, 10 AM- Open House for grades K4 through 2nd

Monday, August 18, 7 PM- Open House for grades 3rd through 8th

Wednesday, August 20 - First Day of School

Thursday, August 28 – 6 PM PTF Meeting

Monday, September 1 - Labor Day School Holiday

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION – Monday, August 11, 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 18

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 sanctuary. 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 9, from 8 to noon, is our annual summer spruce up the school workday. Parents will receive credit toward their volunteer hours by working this day. Please bring work gloves, yard equipment, and tools if you have them. We may be cleaning, doing yard work, moving gravel, trimming bushes and trees, and painting, among other things.

PRE-OWNED UNIFORM SALE

You may bring your unneeded uniforms to sell to other parents also on August 9. The cafeteria will be open 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. Strickland PTF will also be selling pre-owned uniforms.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Strickland School is seeking a full-time 5th grade teacher, a full-time 4th grade teacher, and a full-time 3rd grade teacher. Candidates must be born again Christians of high moral character and must love children. They must also be college graduates. 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. While we actively recruit and interview candidates, please pray with us that the Lord will send the right teachers for these positions.

TEACHERS AND STAFF FOR 2025-2026

We are so sorry that Katherine Cepeda, Liz McCabe and Alexa Franks will not be returning for the coming year. We are thankful for their loving care for our students and parents and will miss them. We pray the Lord to be with them and prosper them in their next assignment from Him. 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 think that God has graciously supplied a wonderful group of teachers and staff for the coming year! Here is the current list of employees.

Heather Durant
Jessica Montelongo
Shelly Aleman
Alese Foulds
Rebecca Windsor
Morgan Fox
Fabiola Vergara
Rebecca Ramirez
Michael Winfrey

K4 Teacher and Extended Care Director
K5
1st Grade
2nd Grade
6th Grade (6-8th English, Composition, Grammar, Spelling)
7th/8th Grade (7th/8th Bible, Hist., 6-8th Science/Tech., History)
1st-8th Grade Spanish
Music, K4-8th
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
Keri Steen	Admissions Director/Office and Accounts Manager
Pam Stout	K4-2 nd Grade Teacher Mentor/Tutor
Doug Rigdon	Principal, 6 th Grade Bible

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	1,000 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 18. This is a fun event for the families of Strickland. Volunteers will be needed to assist in making this a successful event. *Please see the PTF letter explaining more parent plans, activities, and meetings at the end of this letter.*

CAMPUS UPDATES

Thanks to a gracious donor, we are replacing the small swing set on the playground. We have replaced the third grade building's metal roof and are doing some playground repairs and restriping.

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 PSIA enrollment form on the home page of our website for you to complete if your child is interested. This should be returned to the child's teacher with the registration fee. Last year, about twenty of our students competed in the district meet, and seven or eight of them qualified for the state competition in May. Some won first or second place in their state competition category! These were amazing accomplishments! 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 teams if there is a need. Please complete the registration form for Strickland sports that is on the home page of our website and return it to your child's teacher with the registration fee if you are interested. **If your child is interested in girls' volleyball or flag football, please email coach Winfrey at michaelwinfrey@hotmail.com and bring your form by the first day of school as games start early, and rosters must be turned in about the time school begins.** Also, if we know the participants early, coaches will be able to have more practices to prepare. Parent volunteers will be needed to make the league a success. Other sports will be offered later in the school year. Last year, our Strickland teams earned several first and second place trophies!

DISEASE PREVENTION

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

Frequent handwashing by students and staff.

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.

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 do not take lunch counts, and the school does not 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 the office 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 did not have the maturity or character to handle the TV 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 communicate 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 their 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.

Artificial Intelligence

Students are not permitted to use AI to do their research or to write sentences, paragraphs, essays, or papers. Therefore, teachers will be using more time in class for writing and will be scrutinizing written assignments for plagiarism and work that is not created by the student. We ask you as parents of older children to be involved with their children's work so that you may help monitor their internet research.

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 school tour 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 before beginning of school. This is especially important for parents of first graders since this is the first year they will wear P.E. uniforms. 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 Fridays. Students on sports teams may also wear the blue Strickland team jersey on T-shirt Fridays. Class T-shirts will be printed for each class sometime in October and will be worn on class T-shirt days and field trips.

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

Dear Strickland Parents,

It's time to head back to school soon! We're so excited to see all your faces again, and we're eager to meet all the new families who will be joining us this year!

We'll be having our annual Uniform Sale and Ice Cream Social on August 9. We'll start selling uniforms at 9am and hang out until 11am when we'll dig into some ice cream.

If you have any uniforms to donate, please send us an email so we can coordinate drop off. You may reach us at ptfstrickland@gmail.com.

Please remember to sign up for the PTF website. Each classroom will have the ability to manage volunteer signups, share class photos, and send out classroom announcements.

You'll be able to keep up with events, meetings, teacher birthdays, and more on the calendar, access the bylaws and past meeting minutes in the documents section, and sign up for your membership or buy Fall Fest tickets and more.

If you already signed up for the website last year, you'll be able to log back in again this year with no additional setup.

New members can submit their contact information here and we'll send you an invitation email. You can also go directly to the website at <https://stricklandptf.ptboard.com>. Once we verify your student with the school roster, we will get your account confirmed and you'll be on your way.

We encourage membership. The money raised helps to fund the PTF in several ways, including helping to cover events, teacher appreciation, supplies for day-to-day operations, etc. We're hoping to add a few exciting new events this year, so please go sign up and become a member.

Each family only needs one membership at \$15 that covers the parents and all kids.

Additional membership benefits include access to the student directory, committee membership, potential voting opportunities, etc.

God bless, and we can't wait to see you all!

PTF Strickland Board of Directors

Tiffany Anderson
President

Jill Chen
Secretary

Daniel Crouch
Treasurer