**Montgomery Academy**

Clarksville, TN



**Parent Handbook 2022**

# Mission, Vision, Faith, and Distinctives

**General**

**Mission**

To provide spiritual and academic nourishment to students and their families through excellent instruction, high-quality resources, and prayerful relationships.

**Vision**

A community of healthy families delighting in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.

**Distinctives:**

-We will be marked by excellence in academics and an atmosphere of schole, or restful, joyful learning. Cultivating wisdom and virtue, nourishing the soul on a curriculum that emphasizes truth, goodness, and beauty.

-We will provide an affordable, collaborative blend of classroom and at-home instruction.

-We will offer both integrated and extra-curricular programs that allow students to take age-appropriate risks and learn skills outside their chosen field of study. Examples include gardens and outdoors programs, technology labs, access to art, music, and building materials, or community internships.

-We will incorporate vocational and skills testing by the end of a student’s 10th grade year and work to further students’ potential through internships and related job experience or college courses where appropriate.

-We will incorporate time-tested methods of the Classical model and Charlotte Mason philosophy rather than progressive standards-driven instruction and curriculum.

**Community:**

-We will offer a minimum of 2 high-quality professional development activities for our teachers each year, which will also be open to families.

-With the goal of fostering Christian and academic community, we plan to incorporate recreational and service-oriented activities on a bi-monthly basis. We plan to host community forums and workshops to share ideas and train community members in new skills.

-We plan to provide a minimum of 15% reduced tuition by year 5.

-We will implement a network of resources including books, educational materials, and extracurricular opportunities.

-Revenue will be generated by student tuition and fees, approved fundraising activities, and donor contributions.

**Affiliation:**

Montgomery Academy maintains a historically Christian worldview but is not affiliated with any church or denomination.

**Doctrinal Statement:**

The board and Montgomery Academy employees will at all times subscribe to the tenants outlined in the Nicene and/or Apostles’ Creed.

**Statement of Faith:**

Montgomery Academy Board Members lead the school from a sense of wonder. We are amazed by God's saving kindness to us, and by his glory that we see in all of life. All Staff and Board Members are required to affirm this view of life that is:

1. Awe Inspired: We are amazed at God's glory and goodness.

-We believe that God is sovereign over all of life and his glory is clearly seen in all subjects of study.

-We believe that God is gracious to us. By faith, we trust that he delights in us as his adopted children through the substitutionary work of Christ on the cross.

-We believe that God enables us to share this wonder with all the nations in words and deeds. His gracious providence propels us to offer our lives for others.

1. Orthodox Christian:

-We honor the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds as originally given to the church.

**Secondary Doctrine and Beliefs:**

For the purposes of this manual , examples of “secondary doctrine” include Calvinism vs. Arminian, soteriology, and eschatology (end-times), etc. While not religious doctrine, political beliefs are also included here. Such examples of “secondary doctrine” are outside of the Montgomery Academy Statement of Faith.

1. Classroom discussion of secondary doctrine/beliefs should be on an informative, non-partisan level. Teachers must honor and defer to parents if these topics arise.
2. Presentation of all sides of an issue is encouraged.
3. The teacher should encourage the students to follow up any questions they have with their parents and pastor.

**Collaborative Model:**

Our students are prepared for the rigors of adult life with our alternative schedule: half homeschool, half traditional school. The collaborative model is known by several names, including university-style and the hybrid model. The collaborative model means that the student's instructional time is divided between classroom and home. In the collaborative model, classroom instruction occurs 2 or 3 days per week and is led by a professional educator. On non-class days the student remains at home to complete his or her [lesson plans](http://www.provprep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=157#) under the guidance and instruction of his or her parent. A course syllabus or outline is developed by the classroom instructor and made available to the parent at the start of the semester, so that the parent and classroom instructor work in tandem to complete the requisite lessons. Students in Grammar 1 will receive minimal homework, conveyed by email. Students in Grammar 2 and above will be expected to write assignments on their homework sheet (provided) at the end of each class. All students in Grammar 3 and above will have a school Google account for tracking assignments through Google Classroom.

The collaborative model is consistent with the biblical mandate for parents to retain the primary responsibility for the [education and training](http://www.provprep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=157#) of their children. We believe that the parent-child bond is critical in the healthy development of the child, and this model emphasizes such bonds. Closely related to the parent-child bond, the collaborative model also allows for vertical relationships among siblings to be maintained. Full-time school can lead to a situation where each child in the family develops friends exclusively within his or her own grade, resulting in a breakdown of natural friendships among siblings. The collaborative model provides families with consistent access to educators with both disciplinary and classical credentials. With collaborative education, parents also remain the primary role-models for the child, and maintain primary responsibility for discipleship and character development.

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**Parental Partnership:**

From a Christian viewpoint, parents are primarily responsible for the education and discipleship of their children. We believe that education takes place not just in school but throughout the student’s everyday life as experiences are seen as educational opportunities. The parental support required by Montgomery Academy will be high. Parents must be willing to commit time and effort to instruct, reinforce, supervise, and encourage their student’s learning, as well as maintain a home environment conducive to learning. Parents are seen as co-teachers in the educational experience and should expect to contribute to Montgomery Academy in accordance with the requirements of each class.

Teachers and co-teachers must maintain clear and accurate communication pertaining to student progress. We desire that parents would keep the staff in full knowledge of any issues or concerns about our program. In our strongly Christian but diverse school, differences will exist, but it is our belief that we can be a community where grace allows for unity. With that mindset we expect that parents actively foster respect for fellow students and their families, as well as teachers and staff.

All tuition and fees are based on an estimated cost of providing the educational services of the school to all enrolled students. By signing and returning an enrollment contract, we reserve a place for students (as space is available) and parents pledge to pay the associated costs so that we can meet the budget. We employ faculty and administrative staff in accordance with the number of students enrolled and must honor those salary commitments whether or not a student withdraws from the school. Refunds are not available.

**Legal Status:**

Montgomery Academy is not classified or registered as a school. We are a nonprofit educational organization. You are still legally classified as a homeschooling family. It is your responsibility to register as an independent homeschooler with your local school district or to use an umbrella school to keep your records and report to the state on your behalf. We have many families who report independently and many who use Aaron Academy or HomeLife Academy.

**Admissions:**

Montgomery Academy and its staff reserves the sole and final decision in offering admission. Preference is given to siblings of current students, full-time students, and staff children.

**Late Work Policy:**

In classes where number grades are given, teachers MAY choose to accept late work for up to two weeks after it is due. (Please consult the course syllabus for specific policies) No work turned in after two weeks past the due date will be assessed and a zero grade will be entered.

**Dress Code**

Students may wear a white, light blue, or hunter green collared shirt or a school t-shirt on class days. Shorts and skirts must not be above fingertip length. If hoodies or jackets are worn, they must be unzipped during class time so that school shirts are visible.

**Sick Policy:**

Students who have a fever above 99.0 should be kept home. Students who are sniffling or sneezing (such as seasonal allergies) with no other symptoms should wear a mask when in contact with other students. During COVID spikes, please monitor your children for symptoms beyond the typical seasonal cold/flu and keep them home if there is any sign of illness or if they have had contact with a COVID patient. Please keep your children home for at least 7 days after a member of your family has had COVID. Parents will be notified immediately if there is close-contact in class with anyone who tests positive for COVID. Names of COVID positive individuals will not be released.

We do not administer regular medication. If there is an emergency exception, please note it on the medical release form.

**Lunch:**

Lunches should be brought from home ready to eat. Microwaves and refrigerators will not be available to students. **MONTGOMERY ACADEMY IS A PEANUT AND TREE NUT FREE CAMPUS.** We have students with severe allergies and cannot put them at risk. Snacks (also nut free) and water bottles may be kept in class for break times.

**Pick Up/Drop Off:**

Student drop off is from 8:00-8:15AM for morning classes and from 9:15-9:30AM for core classes. Pick up is from 2:30-2:45PM. Parents are expected to arrive promptly. Students who are consistently late for morning arrival may be dismissed after 3 warnings. Parents who arrive after 2:45 for pickup will be billed $1/minute and students may be dismissed after 3 warnings.

Car will be used for pickup to help keep traffic flowing. Please hang your car tag from the rear view mirror of your vehicle. If someone other than the regular parent is picking up, please call or text (931)278-9089 and give the name of the person picking up. They will need to show I.D. until we become familiar with them. Lost car tags will need to be replaced at $5/tag.

**Late Arrival/Early Pickup**

If students are running late, they must be dropped off at the door to the education center.

If students are going to be picked up early, parents must text or email the office.

Parents **must** email [office@maclarksville.org](mailto:office@maclarksville.org) or text the office at (931) 278-9089 if they are planning to have another adult pick up their student.

**Campus Visitors**

If parents or other family members are coming to visit campus, they must come to the office and sign in and out on the visitor form.

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