



All Saints Lutheran School

Family Handbook

2022-2023 Academic Year

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Mission

It is the mission of All Saints Lutheran School to prepare children for heavenly and earthly citizenship by means of classical Lutheran education.

Philosophy and Purpose

All Saints Lutheran School (ASLS) is a classical Lutheran parochial school located in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and is a part of the congregation of All Saints Lutheran Church. ASLS prepares children for heavenly and earthly citizenship by means of a classical Lutheran education so that they might be grounded firmly in the truth of God's Word, abound in knowledge and virtue, and share God's grace in all of their various vocations, present and future.

Classical

All Saints is a classical school. This means that our curriculum is significantly different from what you will find at a public school, and even from what you will find at many private schools, whether Christian or not. We teach Latin—not as a frill or an add-on, but as a core subject—with formal daily instruction. Our history and literature curricula emphasize and hold up the Greek, Roman, and European roots of Western Civilization and American culture. Our students learn grammar (knowledge, memorization), logic (understanding, questioning), and rhetoric (application, creativity), and are taught to employ their knowledge of these subjects to gain mastery in all others.

Lutheran

The sixteenth-century Lutheran reformers were ardent patrons of classical education in the lands where the Reformation took root. Martin Luther himself had much to say on the subject (cf. “A Sermon on Keeping Children in School”; “To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany: That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools”; “Luther on Education,” by Rev. John E. Hill). As a Lutheran school we are proud to claim classical education as our heritage. When we say that we are Lutheran, however, this is more than a mere historical marker: it is equally true to say that All Saints is a “classical and Lutheran school” and a “classical Lutheran” school. Our students are taught theology from Martin Luther's Small Catechism, which is a summary and exposition of the chief articles of Christian doctrine—not in place of the Bible, but rather as a means of going deeper into it and perceiving the saving person and work of Jesus Christ as central throughout all of it. Chapel services are liturgical in character, following the orders of Matins and Evening Prayer out of the Lutheran Service Book. Students learn the psalter, Biblical canticles, and the great hymns of the Church. They memorize Scripture. They learn about and participate in the historic Church Year—its feasts, festivals, commemorations, and seasons.

Enrollment at ASLS is by no means limited to Lutheran students; however, we do want to ensure that the Lutheran identity of our school is known, understood, and supported by all families who wish to enroll so that the school and the home are not at cross-purposes.

Parochial

All Saints Lutheran School is a vital part of the mission of All Saints Lutheran Church. This means that the work of the school depends on the generous support of the church congregation. The good people of All Saints Lutheran Church maintain the building, volunteer their time in countless and invaluable ways, and give generously in order to keep the cost of education affordable for all school families. It is difficult to overstate the importance of the congregation's support for ASLS. In view of this, our students show their gratitude to the congregation in various ways throughout the school year.

Summary

We believe that we offer the best education available in northeast Arkansas. Just what makes it the best, though? Yes, we have a rigorous grammar and composition curriculum. Yes, we teach children how to think well and critically. Yes, we teach Latin, logic, math, history, and the great works of Western literature. **Most importantly, however, we equip children to stand against the darkness of this present age.**

The world is becoming a more treacherous place to live every day. "The world is worse than it has ever been," Martin Luther wrote in his Large Catechism, "and there is no government, no obedience, no loyalty, no faith, but only daring, unbridled people. No teaching or reproof helps them." If this was true in Martin Luther's day, it is even truer in ours. In the current cultural moment, our children are exposed to temptations which previous generations never could have imagined. Fewer and fewer Christian children are still Christian by the time they reach adulthood. This grim state of affairs leads many to wonder, "Is there a way for me to protect my children and help them to stand with Jesus on the Last Day? Is there an alternative to the culture which beckons young people away from the faith?"

Yes. By God's grace, there is. Here at All Saints Lutheran School, we aim to make this way known.

At ASLS we teach children what it means to be baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. We teach them the Scriptures, the written accounts of God in Christ saving our lost and fallen race. At chapel our students hear the preaching of Christ crucified so that they all would know that this God is not merely good and powerful, but that all of the good He does, He does for us. We teach students Luther's Small Catechism, a summary of the Christian faith. We teach them the great hymns of the Church to give them joy, comfort, and courage throughout the changing scenes of this life. In short, we give them Christ, in the hope that they would believe in Him and have everlasting life.

In and through all of this, we also teach children how to serve God and neighbor, to lead good, useful, and productive lives. Such usefulness and earthly success are not the goal itself, however; rather, they are the results of aiming at a higher goal: knowing God and His works, which are the good, the true, and the beautiful.

General Information

Benefits of a Multi-Level Classroom

While most people today have grown accustomed to single-grade classrooms, All Saints utilizes multi-level classrooms, each with a single teacher, that can then utilize teachers' aids as the need arises. There are many advantages to a multi-level classroom — spiritually, academically and socially:

- Children are able to review what they have previously learned and/or work ahead when they are able.
- Because children are not expected to all be at the same level, it is conducive to more personalized instruction.
- Children are able to find mentors and friends of other ages.
- Older students learn patience and helping skills.
- It better reflects the style of learning in the world, where it is very rare to be in an environment where all of the people are of the same age and educational background.
- According to research, “Students show increased self-esteem, more cooperative behavior, better attitudes toward school in general, increased pro-social (caring, tolerant, patient, supportive) behavior, enriched personal relationships, increased personal responsibility, and a decline in discipline problems.”

Assessment

Because All Saints desires proficiency from our students rather than only basic comprehension, assessment is based on academic mastery rather than on a student's ability to attain a certain grade. With this in mind, students do not receive specific letter grades (*e.g.*, A, B, C, D, F) on their academic work at All Saints. Instead, once they have mastered a particular level in an area of study, their proficiency will be noted, and they will then move on to the next level. Again, the nature of the multi-level classroom lends itself to this greater personalization.

Academic Screening

Students are required to be able to read in order to be admitted to All Saints Lutheran School. A short, basic assessment will be conducted by the Headmaster upon application for admission.

For resources in helping your child learn to read, please contact the Headmaster.

Admissions

Enrollment at ASLS is in no way limited to Lutherans, but the tenets of Lutheran faith, doctrine, and life will be taught in accordance with the Scriptures and the Book of Concord. Due to limited class size, students who are members of All Saints Lutheran Church or a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will receive priority enrollment, followed by non-Lutheran students.

Each household is required to fill out the application found on the website (allsaintsjonesboro.org/school). Upon acceptance, they must pay the enrollment fee of \$250 per household and file the signed ASLS Parent Agreement (see page 11) with the office. The enrollment fee will be applied to the first installment of tuition. Enrollment will be capped at 20 students per classroom. The Headmaster, in consultation with the Board of Deacons, has the final decision on admission into ASLS. If, for some reason, a student is denied admission, the registration fee will be refunded.

Tuition Policy

Fiscal responsibility is required of the parents. Tuition must be paid in a timely manner. Financial assistance may be available upon request. Tuition rates and any applicable discounts will be set by the All Saints Board of Deacons, in consultation with the Headmaster.

The enrollment fee and tuition may be paid through the website by clicking on the “Tuition Payment” link. (This service is securely provided through Vanco Business Solutions.) Payments also may be made via check. Tuition may be paid in full, or in ten monthly installments (August through May).

Tuition payments are due on the twentieth of each month, beginning in August.

All financial obligations must be met before any student academic records will be released to the parents or a new school. If, at the end of the school year, all tuition has not been paid in full, student records will not be released to any other school until full payment is made.

Members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations are eligible to receive a tuition discount. In order to receive the discount, a signed letter from the pastor of the congregation must be submitted to the Headmaster before the first tuition installment is due.

If you are not Lutheran and would like to learn more about becoming a member of All Saints Lutheran Church, please speak with either the Headmaster or Pastor.

Student Information

Attendance

School attendance should have a higher priority than other outside activities. It is vital that each child be in the classroom for instruction. Classroom instruction, class work, and homework cannot always easily be provided in the case of absences.

If a child is going to be absent, parents are to phone the office or contact the teacher before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. If the student is absent, he/she must submit a written excuse by the parents upon return to school. Written excuses for absences must be submitted within three days of the student returning to school. The note should include: 1) Dates of the absence, 2) Reason for absence, and 3) Signature of parent. For an excused absence, make-up work will be provided and shall be turned back in to the teacher within three days.

Students with a doctor's appointment at any time during school hours must provide a doctor's note in order for the appointment to not be counted against his/her attendance record. Please inform the student's teacher of the appointment in writing the day before the appointment. If a doctor's note is presented and the student has been present during the school day prior to or upon returning from the doctor's appointment, the student will be counted as present all day.

In the event that a student must be absent from school for several days, the parent needs to inform the teacher in advance in writing. If the absence is an excused absence, effort will be made to provide make-up work in advance.

Illness

If your child is ill and will not attend school, please call the office or notify the teacher by 9:00 a.m. A written excuse must accompany your child when returning to school. Any student with a fever or vomiting must be kept home. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication before returning to school.

If a student becomes ill during school, he or she should notify the teacher, who will help make appropriate arrangements for the student's care and/or parent pick-up.

Code of Conduct

All students are expected to obey the following expectations:

- Honor pastors, faculty, staff, and parents with respect.
- Follow the written rules and expectations as distributed and explained by the teachers.
- Treat school, church staff members, and ASLS aides with courtesy and respect.
- Treat school property and the property of others with respect.
- Complete their own work and be truthful in all situations.
- Refrain from disrupting learning.

- Be respectful and gracious to other students.
- Obey instructions, even if no one is looking.
- Follow the school uniform policy.

Included in the responsibility to bring children up in the training and instruction of the Lord is the teaching and maintaining of a standard of behavior consistent with Biblical training and instruction. All students of All Saints Lutheran School are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a God-pleasing manner at all times.

Student Discipline

The goal of all classroom discipline is to come alongside parents to discipline their children in the training and admonition of the Lord. Toward that end, All Saints will strive to train students to develop habits that promote learning and order in the classroom, as well as a Christ-like character in the student. The majority of discipline problems are handled at the classroom level with an immediate verbal admonition towards the rules and expectations of the classroom. The student will be reminded of the rules and encouraged to follow them.

If behavioral issues persist and other discipline is needed (such as denial of privileges), the teacher will inform the parents of any discipline that has been required and discuss with them any further action which may be necessary.

Expulsion from school can happen if the child cannot or will not abide by the above Code of Conduct and the parents do not honor their commitment to the school. A child may be expelled for major offenses and/or for behavioral or academic situations where it has been determined that all other corrective avenues have been exhausted. The Board of Deacons will decide on any matters of expulsion.

Uniform Policy

All Saints Lutheran School adheres to a school uniform policy for all students enrolled in the school. Children are to wear the official uniform each day of the week unless informed otherwise by the Headmaster.

Lands' End is our uniform supplier. Our Preferred School Number is **900196106**. Any item in the shop follows the uniform policy. Not all items are required (see below).

Boys' Uniform Policy

- Daily uniform is a polo or dress shirt with pants or shorts.
- Polo or dress shirts are required to have the school logo.
- Shirts must be tucked-in.
- A belt is required. The belt should be black.
- Socks should be black dress socks.

- Shoes are to be black Oxford or loafer styles. If they are close to these styles but not labeled as such, speak with the Headmaster.
- Sweaters with the school logo are available. Ties are optional for dress shirts.

Girls' Uniform Policy

- Daily uniform is a polo shirt with a skirt or jumper.
- All shirts and jumpers are required to have the school logo.
- Any socks, knee-highs, or leggings are allowed. They can be white, navy, or black. (You do not need to purchase the ones from Lands' End, but they are an option.)
- Shoes are to be black Mary Janes or ballet flats. If they are close to these styles but not labeled as such, speak with the Headmaster.
- Sweaters with the school logo are available.

Electronics Policy

Students may not have personal electronic devices such as tablets or cell phones in their possession during the school day or during any school-sponsored event. If a student brings an electronic device to school, the student must give it to the teacher upon entering the building. He or she will receive it back at the end of the day. The school faculty, staff, and the Board of Deacons of All Saints will assume no responsibility for the loss, destruction, damage, or theft of any such device.

Parent Information

Commitment of Parents

All Saints Lutheran School exists for the purpose of assisting and supporting Christian parents in their God-given vocation of raising and rearing their children. Schools act *in loco parentis*. Part of the vocation of parent is the teaching of children for faith and life. Parents do not abdicate this vocational responsibility when they enroll their children in a school. Parents and teachers work together to see the children brought up in the way they should go.

Communication between Parents and School

The teacher will communicate with parents through email, phone calls, or personal contact. Parents may contact the teacher by email, phone call, or appointments.

Classroom Interruptions

We will strive to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. In the case of any forgotten item(s) such as lunches, books, or clothing, etc., please communicate with the teacher when the item will be brought to the classroom. When the item(s) arrives, let the pastor or teacher know to allow entry into the school.

Closed Campus Policy

All Saints Lutheran School is a closed campus. No student is permitted to leave the school grounds once he or she arrives, unless accompanied by a parent/guardian. During the school day, parents are to sign students in and out of school.

Immunizations

According to Arkansas state law, all students who attend ASLS must provide a current immunization record or a copy of the exemption letter acquired from the Arkansas Department of Health.

Medications

As a general rule, medications are not given at school. Acutely ill students are to remain at home. When special conditions requiring long-term medications exist, refer to the following policy:

Prescription Medication

- A written order from a physician (detailing the name of the drug, dosage and time interval medication is to be taken) is required. Also required is a school form providing written request and permission from a parent/guardian for the school to comply with the physician's orders. These forms must be completed each school year.
- Medication must be brought to the school in a container labeled by a physician or pharmacy and locked in the school office. The only exceptions are for inhalers for asthma medication and epinephrine auto-injectors.
- Only the headmaster is allowed to dispense the medication pursuant to the physician's orders. Every medication given must be recorded on a medication log kept in the school office.

Non-prescription Medication

- The school will not dispense non-prescription medication, such as aspirin, antacids, antihistamines or other over-the-counter drugs. If a student needs non-prescription medication, a parent or person designated by the parent must come to school to administer the medicine.

Fire Drills

ASLS will perform monthly fire drills in accordance with Arkansas State Law.

All Saints Lutheran Church

All Saints Lutheran Church offers public Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays and Sunday School and Bible Class from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. A service is also offered Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. from August-June, with an adult Bible Study following the service.

For more information, please call the church office (870-935-2001), or visit the parish's website (allsaintsjonesboro.org).

ASLS Parent Agreement

I acknowledge that I have received the All Saints Lutheran School Family Handbook 2022-2023. I pledge to support all policies and procedures of All Saints Lutheran School for the welfare of the entire school community. I understand that any gross misconduct on the part of a parent or student may jeopardize school enrollment.

This page must be signed and returned to the school office:

Student Name(s) (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date