

The Aaron Academy  
2017-18 Parent Handbook

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## Discover Program

This program is geared for students ages 10-11 with a class size of 12-14 students. Students entering the Discover program should be very familiar with how to write a sentence and capable of writing a paragraph. They are able to follow instructions and work collaboratively in small groups. They are capable of understanding what they are reading and participating in a group discussion or activity about the reading.

**HISTORY:** Students will be studying Medieval to Renaissance History. Class activities will include projects, discussion, learning games, simulations, reading, and writing. Students will be given various assignments to complete at home in preparation for in class activities.

**SCIENCE AND ENRICHMENT CLASSES:** Discover students will attend two 7-8 week units, using Elemental Life Science for the Logic Stage. When science is not in session, students will attend enrichment classes. Enrichment classes may include Music, Art, PE, Drama, Gardening, Creative writing, etc... These classes will be announced as they are secured.

**WRITING:** Students will practice note taking and presentation skills with various types of writing, including essays, stories, and short research papers. Using material from The Institute for Excellence in Writing and other sources, students will further develop their existing writing process skills. In addition, the class will regularly review grammar skills together.

**BOOK CLUBS:** Book club students will read approximately one book per month and participate in a variety of fun and educational activities to enrich the subject matter. The book selections will consist of classics, historical fiction, biographies, and award-winning books.

## Jr. Scholar Program

This program is geared for students ages 12-13 with a class size of 12-14 students. Jr. Scholars are ready to assume more responsibility for their work, but still require some parental help. They are able to write short reports consisting of several paragraphs. They are confident readers and work effectively in small groups. The classes in this program rely more heavily on reading, writing, and discussion than in the Discover program, while still incorporating projects, simulations, and other activities.

**HISTORY:** Medieval history will cover the time period from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 to 1453, when the Ottoman Empire conquered Constantinople. Junior Scholar students will utilize materials from a variety of sources including historical fiction to deepen their appreciation of the time period and culture. Class time will include discussions, projects, and enrichment activities.

**SCIENCE:** Jr. Scholars will be attending two 7-8 week units of study, using Elemental Life Science for the Logic Stage. Class time will be spent performing hands on experiments, group work and other fun activities. At home requirements may include reading and other assignments designed to prepare students for in-class activities.

**ENRICHMENT CLASSES:** Students will attend two 7-8 week units of enrichment classes. These classes may include, but are not limited to, music, art, PE, drama, gardening, creative writing, modern technology, etc... Classes will be announced as they are secured.

**MATH:** Students will have the opportunity to learn and teach math concepts that apply to everyday life and study mathematicians from history. They will work at their own pace and have time to complete their assignments in class with the option to receive tutoring from a highly qualified teacher. Parents/students can choose from the following curricula: Teaching Textbooks, Saxon Math, or Math U See.

**WRITING:** Jr. Scholar Writing will include a day of IEW and a day of Writer's Workshop each week. Using Institute for Excellence in Writing and other source material, students will hone their writing skills in a variety of styles including essays, letters, stories, poems, research papers, and others. Special attention will be placed on creating and supporting a thesis. In-class activities and exercises will reinforce basic writing fundamentals. In using Writer's Workshop, students will have the opportunity to apply some of the skills acquired through IEW toward creative writing. Writer's Workshop creates a supportive and positive environment where students can hone their writing skills and craft, as well as develop fluency, confidence and the desire to see themselves as writers. Students in this class will also be reading and discussing some great literature.

## Scholar Program

This program is geared for students ages 14 - 15, with a class size of 12-14. Students in the Scholar Program are ready for a more rigorous academic program. This program relies more heavily on reading, writing and discussion, while still incorporating projects, simulations, group activities and peer teaching. Students will be graded on homework assignments, preparedness, participation, and periodic tests. Report cards will be handed out at the end of each semester.

**HISTORY:** Medieval history will cover the time period from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 to 1453 when the Ottoman Empire took over of Constantinople. Scholar students will utilize materials from a variety of sources including Book of the Middle Ages by Dorothy Mills and historical fiction to deepen their appreciation of the time period, society, and culture. Class time will include discussions, presentations, humanities, and enrichment activities.

**SCIENCE:** Students will study Biology for the 2017-18 year. Class time will be spent performing labs and simulations, group work and other activities. Reading and other assignments will be completed at home in preparation for class. This class will take occasional field trips to enhance what they are studying.

**ENRICHMENT CLASSES:** Students will attend two 7-8 week units of Enrichment classes. Classes will include Drama and Debate and possibly PE. We are still finalizing these classes.

**MATH TUTORING OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE:** Students at this age have the option to receive individualized math tutoring or take a foreign language class.

**WRITING/LITERATURE:** This class will focus on structure and style of writing, while incorporating a variety of literature. Students will write different types of essays and begin literary analysis, as well as complete an in-depth research paper with MLA standards.

## Report Cards, Grading and Record Keeping

Students will be graded on homework assignments/projects, preparedness, participation, and periodic evaluations. Report cards will be handed out twice during the year.

\*Please understand that we provide classes to support and partner with parents in providing educational opportunities for children. **We do not keep records.** It is the parents' responsibility to keep records, transcripts, or portfolios that show what has been accomplished by each child.

## Program Tuition and Fees/Open Enrollment

**TUITION:** Tuition for Discover and Jr. Scholar students is \$175 per month. Tuition for Scholar students is \$210 per month. Tuition is due on the first school day of every month. Please be prompt with your tuition payments. Late payments may be subject to a \$10 late fee.

**SUPPLY FEE:** There is a yearly \$100 supply fee for each student, due at the time of registration. There is also a mid-year \$50 supply fee, due in February.

**RE-ENROLLMENT/OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Re-enrollment for current students will be offered for two weeks at the end of March/beginning of April, and will guarantee students a space in the selected program. After this timeframe, enrollment will be open to all. We must receive a completed parent/student contract, and the \$100, non-refundable registration fee, to hold each student's space. The \$100 paid at registration will be used for the supply fee.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:** Please make checks payable to **The Aaron Academy**. For current students, you can put a check in the tuition box. Everyone, including new students, can send a check directly to:

The Aaron Academy  
P.O. Box 9702  
Boise, ID 83707

## Attendance

**MORNING DROP OFF:** Please drop your child off in the circle in front of the main entrance no earlier than 9:15 am as there is no supervision provided by The Aaron Academy staff until that time. This will prevent any children from becoming "lost" on the playground or in the parking lot.

**AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP:** Please pick up your children promptly at 2:40 pm. There is no after school supervision provided by The Aaron Academy staff. If your child isn't right there waiting, please keep your vehicle moving. Please do not wait or park along the curb or in the roundabout. Please talk to your children and agree on a place you will meet if they don't see you in the roundabout/curb area.

**EARLY PICK UP:** If you need to pick your child up during school hours for any reason, please let a Board member or whoever is on desk duty know ahead of time.

**TARDINESS:** Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time. Students who are late disrupt the class and miss important instruction.

## Lunch

Students need to bring their own lunches and will eat in the cafeteria. Please have your child bring food that is ready to eat with all of the necessary utensils. They will have free time outside or in the gym and game room if the weather is inclement. There will also be the opportunity to join in on structured sports activities during this time.

## Presentations

During the course of the year, students will have the opportunity to present to their class and their fellow students. Whenever possible, parents will be notified so they can come observe their students.

## Communication

We understand that effective communication is key to the success of the Academy. As a parent it is your responsibility to receive communication. The primary form of communication will occur via the website and email. Please check your email frequently for important information and updates. If you are not receiving our emails, please check your recycle bin/spam filter.

**TEACHER-PARENT COMMUNICATION:** All classes will have a weekly outline posted on the website under the Homework link. Teachers may also communicate with parents via email.

**PARENT-TEACHER:** Parents should communicate with teachers via the website. Teachers will respond within 24 hours of receiving email, unless they are ill or out of town.

**ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS:** [admin@theaaronacademy.com](mailto:admin@theaaronacademy.com)

**PARENT-PARENT:** We will make available a family contact list on the website.

## Website

The website is a valuable communication tool. Please become familiar with it and use it as your first resource to find information. The Aaron Academy families will be provided with a unique login. The login will allow you access to several features such as the weekly class assignments, the parent handbook, the contact list, and the Homework page provides a link where for you to email teachers.

## Homework

One of the goals of The Aaron Academy is to inspire children to a greater level of accountability for their actions. One important way they can demonstrate this personal responsibility is by completing assignments on time. Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn. When one student is not prepared it slows down the entire class. When several students are not prepared, it is impossible for teachers to do all the fun things they would like to do, and the class can come to a screeching halt. Please do your part to help your student be successful by ensuring that you purchase all necessary books and supplies ahead of time.

## Assignments Not Completed

If your student(s) does not turn in a required assignment, you will receive an email notification from the teacher via The Aaron Academy website.

## Dress Code

We want everyone to feel comfortable with learning and have created this dress code with that in mind. Please discuss this dress code with your child(ren). Students who come to school dressed inappropriately will be taken aside by a board member to discuss the appropriate dress code and may be asked to call their parent to have them bring something different to wear.

Attire should be modest and appropriate. Clothing should not be tight. Shirts should not have spaghetti straps or be tank tops (no underclothing should be showing), and should pass the "mirror test" (midriffs & backs are covered even when hands are raised overhead, and when leaning forward, no one can see down your shirt). When arms are straight down the sides, shorts should be at the fingertips or longer. Skirts should be at the knee or longer. Logos on hats must be appropriate. As a show of respect, hats must be removed during opening, which contains the pledge and prayer. Teachers have the discretion to ask that hats be taken off during class. If you are in doubt about the modesty of a particular item of clothing, please do not wear it.

## Discipline

One of the many benefits of project based learning is that discipline concerns are minimized as students are actively involved in learning. If discipline concerns do arise and the student does not respond favorably to verbal prompts, the student will be asked to step out to talk to a Board member, then they will have an opportunity to begin again. If a student has any significant difficulties, or is repeatedly asked to step out of class, the parent will be contacted for a meeting with the Board members to assist with setting goals to help remedy the situation. If a parent needs to be contacted more than three times during the school year, a determination will be made by the Board whether the parent needs to attend class with the child, or if the child may no longer attend the Academy.

## Language

It is expected that all participants will use language reflective of great young minds and educated individuals. Obviously swear words and name calling are not acceptable and use of slang words, and sarcasm will be discouraged. Inappropriate language will be addressed just like any other discipline problem. Please see above.

## Religious Beliefs

The Aaron Academy espouses a Christian worldview. We will freely acknowledge the hand of our Creator in all our classes. We will refer to the Bible periodically. An important part of our mission is helping students find the commonalities in differing belief systems. We will strive to build bridges between differing beliefs whenever possible. Students are welcome to share their personal beliefs and experiences in class. Teachers are free to discuss various religions and belief systems in a general sense. Under no circumstances will anyone, staff or student, attempt to proselytize for a specific denomination. Please help us maintain a faith supporting environment by teaching your children these guidelines.

## Field Trips and Activity Days

There may be an occasional field trip held during regular program hours, but generally we will hold any extra school activities on Friday afternoons. We welcome parent volunteers to help with these events. At the time of enrollment, all parents will be required to sign a permission and waiver form for field trips.

## **Electronics Policy**

Discover students are not allowed to use personal electronic devices during The Aaron Academy hours. Jr. Scholar and Scholar students may use personal electronic devices for The Aaron Academy class purposes, for example an eBook device. All electronics need to be stowed away during breaks and lunch time. If at any time a student causes a distraction, or inappropriately uses an electronic device, it will be taken away for the remainder of the day and they will receive a warning. If they receive three warnings, they will no longer be allowed to use their personal electronic device during The Aaron Academy hours.

## **Parent / Student Contract Description**

At the time of enrollment, all parents and students will be required to sign the parent / student contract.

# Parent / Student Contract

## Parents:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand everything outlined in the parent handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am fully responsible for my child's education and that The Aaron Academy (TAA) will serve as a partner.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that as my child's primary teacher I need to ensure my child completes any assigned work to the best of their ability.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that in addition to tuition fees, I am required to purchase all necessary books for my student before the first day of school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I need to check the homework on the website each Wednesday and Friday.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that it is my responsibility to contact a teacher directly if I have questions or concerns concerning my individual student.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must pick up my child at 2:40 pm every day.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that a parent/student contact list will be posted on the website in order to facilitate carpooling and students being able to call one another. It is visible only to those who are members of TAA and are logged in. If you don't want your information posted, please contact us and we will remove you and your student from this list.

**I certify that I have read and understand that I am committing to support my student by providing consistent transportation, purchasing necessary materials, and assisting with homework assignments to ensure that The Aaron Academy is a positive learning environment for everyone involved.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Students:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will participate appropriately in class.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will respect my instructor and peers in words and action.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will complete my assignments on time and to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I do not respond to verbal direction from my instructor I will be asked to step out of class. If I am repeatedly sent out of class I will need to attend a meeting with my parents and an The Aaron Academy board member.

**I certify that I have read and understand that I am committing to respect myself and my fellow students and to respect and obey my teachers and The Aaron Academy faculty. I will do my best to make The Aaron Academy a positive learning environment for everyone involved.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date