

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Matthew 28:20

Welcome to Strickland Christian School.

In 1961, Corine Strickland began teaching first grade in Texas with her own phonics and memory program. Since that time, Strickland Christian School has been dedicated to training children in godly character while providing them with the academic skills necessary to make them successful students and leaders in their communities (Proverbs 22:6, 29 and Proverbs 24:3-5).

All education involves religious training, thus it is essential to teach children the necessary subjects and skills from a Christian perspective so that children may become all that Christ has intended (Col. 2:3, 1 Cor. 8:1b, Eph. 3:19). We are thankful that you as parents are committed to providing your child a quality Christian education and are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to transform your child’s mind and heart (Rev. 3:20). We at Strickland Christian School promise to partner with you to give your child an affordable private education that emphasizes Bible knowledge, advanced phonics, writing, and mathematics and includes other important academic disciplines. With these ends in view, we earnestly request your prayers that we might accomplish all we can for Christ’s glory.

Our mission is to equip students to be lovers of Jesus and His Word, to emulate Christ’s character, purpose and ministry so that they may truly be His instruments to experience His kingdom coming to the earth. (Matt. 6:10)

The purpose of this handbook is to give you an overview of our policies, procedures and curriculum. We hope it will answer your questions and give you a clear picture of what to expect as your child begins a new school year.

Statement of Faith

- 1.** We believe in one eternal, omniscient and omnipresent God who reveals Himself personally as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is a God of love and truth who has created the universe and given man dominion over the whole earth.
- 2.** Man has fallen from fellowship and communion with God due to sin and rebellion and is incapable of restoring that fellowship through his own works.
- 3.** Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, and was sent by God to destroy the works of the devil and redeem mankind from sin and its effects. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified, died, and was buried. He rose from the dead bodily and ascended into heaven. His death was the substitutionary punishment for man's sin, and His blood is the only means of purification from sin. As both God and man He is the only mediator between God and men and the only Savior of the world; He will return to earth to judge all men.
- 4.** God commands all men everywhere to repent, believe in the Lord Jesus, and be baptized for the remission of their sins.
- 5.** Man is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and in His gospel only. All men will be resurrected to judgment by God. Those who are proven lost by their evil deeds will pay the penalty of eternal damnation, and those who are proven saved by their good deeds will be rewarded with eternal life and joy in God's presence.
- 6.** God has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in men, to renew and regenerate men, and to guide them into all the truth.
- 7.** The Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God and is therefore our authority for faith and action. Studying and meditating on the Scriptures is valuable for learning the truth, correcting wrong thinking and actions and training in godliness and righteous living.
- 8.** Jesus Christ is the Lord and only sovereign of our lives, so we must honor, worship and obey Him and do all that He has commanded to accomplish His purposes and establish His kingdom on the earth.
- 9.** Children are a heritage and gift from the Lord to their parents. Parents, and most especially the father, therefore, are the authority and responsible parties in the training, discipline, admonition and care of their children. We believe the school is called by God to assist the parents and minister to the children so that the young may take their place in the family, church, and society as God has intended.

Curriculum Overview

Bible

Strickland Christian School offers Bible study appropriate for each grade level beginning with four year olds. Our goal is to produce children who love and obey God and His Word. There is a concentration on scripture memorization and understanding basic Bible truths. Third and fourth graders are taught Bible utilizing the principle approach to education. Fifth through eighth graders use the Studying God's Word series from Christian Liberty Press and other supplementary materials.

Kindergarten (4-5 year olds)

Our 4-year-old kindergarten (K-4) program focuses mainly on phonics for reading. Therefore, these students learn to read by the end of the school year! Number recognition through 20 and counting to 100 by ones and tens are also taught. Color pages and worksheets emphasize the alphabet, shapes, colors, days of the week and months of the year. Students attend music class twice a week.

Kindergarten (5-6 year olds)

Our 5-year-old kindergarten (K-5) curriculum includes advanced phonics, cursive penmanship, capitalization, punctuation, and early spelling rules. The children are writing sentences from dictation and reading simple words and sentences by the end of the school year. They study the 100 addition facts and are given self-paced math sheets daily. Students will master the writing and recognition of all the numbers to 100. Students will have coloring pages and a few craft projects and will attend music class twice a week.

First Grade

In first grade the children continue with phonics and are able to read from the King James Bible by the end of the year. The King James Bible has long been the standard of excellence for the English language. Training in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling rules are continued along with the study of sentence diagramming, parts of speech, and vocabulary. They have spelling words, write sentences by dictation, and write themes daily. Students are able to master two-digit addition and subtraction with borrowing and carrying. They begin learning their multiplication facts and are able to engage in mental math computations in addition and subtraction by the end of the year. They have special classes weekly for Spanish, music, and physical education. They also have an exposure to America's heritage, heroes, geography, and nature studies.

Second Grade

Phonics, reading comprehension, vocabulary, punctuation, and capitalization and spelling rules are continued as well as parts of speech and sentence diagramming. They write themes daily from a Bible story and continue to write sentences from dictation. The third grade Saxon math book is used as they continue with two and three digit carrying and borrowing in addition and subtraction. Two and three digit multiplication is usually mastered, and division facts and long division are introduced. They are able to engage in mental math computation in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division by the end of the year. They have separate classes weekly for Spanish, music, and physical education. They also have more exposure to America's heritage, heroes, geography, and nature studies.

Third through Eighth Grade

Math – We use the Saxon math series and are 1 or 2 grade levels advanced (third grade doing fourth or fifth grade studies, etc.) We allow for individual advancement when appropriate and approved by the teacher. Most seventh graders complete high school Algebra I, and many eighth graders complete high school geometry.

English Grammar – We use the A Beka language series and are one grade level advanced. There is a concentration on parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, diagramming and sentence structure.

Literature and Composition – We use the A Beka literature series and various other great works of literature appropriate for children. Composition concentrates on paragraph skills, letter writing, book reports, poetry, vocabulary, spelling, outlining, and note-taking, culminating in an in-depth research paper in the seventh and eighth grades.

History – A Beka history includes U. S. History and Old and New World History. Texas History is also offered.

Science – A Beka science curriculum includes the scientific method, creationism vs. evolution, hands on experiments, and field trips.

Computer – Students study the history of computers, parts of a computer, typing skills, word processing, desktop publishing, creating a database, creating spreadsheets, and computer graphics. Sixth through eighth graders use programming skills to build and program their own robots.

Spanish – Third grade studies emphasize vocabulary and conversation. Fourth through eighth grade continue with vocabulary, conversation and grammar as they study the Viva El Espanol! curriculum. Some graduating students are able to test out of ninth grade high school Spanish.

Music – Classes are held twice a week for third through fifth grade. Music classes concentrate on choral singing with worship songs, hymns, patriotic songs, folk songs, the rudiments of rhythm, sound, tempo, listening skills, and rhythm instruments. Students prepare for a performance in the spring. Special Choir is offered to 3rd – 8th graders as an extracurricular activity for an additional cost.

P. E. – Classes emphasize sports and games appropriate for each age level. Children play kickball, volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball, and flag football. Physical conditioning exercises are utilized daily.

Chapel Program- About once a month, 1st - 8th grade students will attend a chapel service composed of the students from one or more grades. The purpose will be to sing and worship in a larger group and hear an inspirational message from a teacher, principal, or approved speaker. Scheduled chapel programs will be put on the monthly calendar, and parents are cordially invited to attend.

Registration

All students presently registered at Strickland Christian School who plan to return next year must re-register by March 7, 2009 for the 2009/10 school year or lose the registration fee discount and preferred status to new enrollees. The contract and all forms needed for enrollment are available to download from the school's website. You may re-register your child by signing a new contract, completing the registration forms, and paying the registration fee. All signed contracts, registrations forms, and checks must be given to your child's teacher or to the school office by March 7, 2009. All contracts and chosen tuition payments are subject to approval by the office. Returning students who register after the March 7 deadline must pay the full **\$350.00** registration fee. Students may not register unless any balance owed to the school, including tuition, late fees, Extended Care tuition and lunch fees is paid. Siblings of returning students will be honored with a preferred status over new students if they register by March 7. The registration fee for siblings who have never attended is **\$350.00** since they are new students. A one-time facilities fee of **\$225.00** must also be paid for each new student at the time of registration or added to the monthly tuition payments.

All new students may secure tentative enrollment by signing a contract, completing the enrollment application, and attaching a check in the amount of **\$350.00**. If space is not available on or after March 7, then the **\$350.00** becomes refundable. If you then wish to remain on a waiting list for the first available space, you may leave the **\$350.00** on deposit and retain a preferred status. If space for your child is available, the check becomes non-refundable upon notification by the school office. A one-time facilities fee of **\$225.00** must also be paid for each new student at the time of registration or added to the monthly tuition payments.

Upon notification that your contract has been approved, the registration fee and the facilities fee become non-refundable, and payment of the full year's tuition becomes due on September 7, unless the director agrees to an alternative payment schedule or you have to move. If you move a distance of at least thirty miles from the school for employment purposes and furnish a letter from your employer, the outstanding tuition balance will be forgiven.

To reserve a place on the waiting list prior to open enrollment, a prospective new student must submit an enrollment application and a non-refundable application fee of **\$100**. The application fee is credited to the student's account upon registration. See the enrollment application on our website for all the details.

Contract

Approval of each student's contract is not automatic but is based upon space availability, the student's past behavior, academic achievement, attendance, and parental support, including completion of volunteer and training sessions. Parents agree to abide by the provisions of the contract. Contracts will not be accepted unless required paperwork is complete and unless all tuition payments and fees owed to the school have been satisfied.

Assignment to classes will be determined by the staff. The principals reserve the right to reassign students if necessary. Assignment by the principals is final. Teacher requests submitted in writing by parents by July 15 will be considered but are not binding on the school administrators, teachers or staff. Before open house, students in grades with multiple classes will receive a letter from the teacher to whom they have been assigned. Strickland Christian School

hires teachers who are godly and qualified so that, regardless of your child's classroom assignment, he will have a quality educational experience.

Kindergarten students are assigned to classes by age. Those in the 4-year-old kindergarten (K-4) must turn 4 by September 30, 2009. All students must complete the 5-year-old kindergarten (K-5) program in order to be considered for first grade. Those in the K-5 program must turn 5 by September 30, 2009. This deadline is one month later than the public schools allow. Both K-4 and K-5 are designed so that the necessary phonics, writing and math are taught in the mornings. Our full-day kindergarten is designed for those students who are unable to be with their families in the afternoons. The afternoon students do not earn an advantage in basic skills over their morning peers and may have a different teacher and classroom in the afternoon. Please see the sample kindergarten schedule available from the office for further information.

Tuition

The full year's tuition must be paid by September 7 unless an alternate payment schedule is agreed to by the director. You may choose from the following available options; however, timely payments must be made.

PAYMENT OPTIONS*

Grade Level	Due Sept. 7th	Due Monthly June 7 – May 7	Due Monthly June 7 – Feb. 7
K-4, K-5 Half Day	1 Payment of \$2818	12 Payments of \$253 for a total of \$3036	9 Payments of \$326 for a total of \$2934
K-4, K-5 Full Day	1 Payment of \$4140	12 Payments of \$372 for a total of \$4464	9 Payments of \$479 for a total of \$4311
1st - 3rd Grade	1 Payment of \$3232	12 Payments of \$290 for a total of \$3480	9 Payments of \$374 for a total of \$3366
4th - 8th Grade	1 Payment of \$3444	12 Payments of \$310 for a total of \$3720	9 Payments of \$398 for a total of \$3582
Extended Care	1 Payment of \$1640	12 Payments of \$149 for a total of \$1788	9 Payments of \$190 for a total of \$1710

- * Tuition payment schedules are subject to the following provisions and requirements:
- The contract is an agreement to pay the full year's tuition. Only under circumstances mentioned in the handbook will tuition payments be forgiven.
 - When a monthly payment schedule is approved, timely payments are due on the 7th of the months indicated.
 - A late enrollment plan is available for students who register after August 15. Please contact the director of admissions for details.

- After September 1, a **\$25.00** change fee will be charged for each change in a child's enrollment or extended care status or payment schedule. Please see the discount section of the handbook below for possible reductions in registration or tuition amounts.
- Your acceptance letter will inform you of your family's total payment due.

Discounts

1. Families with more than one child enrolling receive a \$50 discount for each registration fee paid.
2. Returning students receive a \$50 registration discount if they register by March 7, 2009.
3. Those who pay the full year's tuition by May 7, 2009, receive an additional 2% tuition discount after all other tuition discounts have been applied.
4. Families with more than one child attending receive the following tuition discounts:

Second child – **\$250.00** annually.

Third child – **\$500.00** annually

Fourth child – **\$1000.00** annually

Policies and Procedures

The information provided in this handbook is designed to help insure smooth operation of all school affairs and activities and to foster peace and harmony in parent, teacher, and student relationships. Please read and commit yourself and your child to adhere to the guidelines communicated herein. If the need arises, Strickland Christian School reserves the right to change any policy or procedure at any time at its sole discretion.

Tuition Payments

Payments may be given to a teacher, placed in the school's mailbox, or mailed to the school's post office box. Most major credit cards and debit cards may also be used for tuition payments. Tuition payments are due by the 7th of each month and are overdue after the 12th. You may set up and automatic draft by submitting a Credit Card Authorization Form. A **\$20.00** late fee must accompany overdue and partial payments. If the scheduled payment is not made by the 12th of the month, the student may not return to class until full payment, including late fee, is received, unless an arrangement has been made with the director and approved in writing. If any payment is 30 days late, the outstanding tuition for the entire year becomes due. When tuition or fees are not current, student records will be withheld. After September 1st, a **\$25.00** change fee will be charged for any changes in a child's enrollment time or payment schedule. At the discretion of the director, accounts 30 days or more past due may also be referred to a collection agency.

Returned Checks

A check returned by the bank must be redeemed in cash, cashier's check, or money order and must include a **\$20.00** returned check fee. After a second returned check, tuition may only be paid in cash, cashier's check, or money order until further notice. If payment is stopped, the outstanding tuition for the year becomes due.

Scholarships

Strickland Christian School does not provide scholarships or financial assistance for students. However, assistance for emergencies may sometimes be obtained from the Austin Parent Teacher Fellowship by contacting the APTF Benevolence Committee. To be eligible for benevolence, a student must be in good standing for at least one semester. The Austin Children's Equal Opportunity Foundation also offers scholarships for students attending Christian schools. This fine organization may be found on the internet at www.ceoaustin.org. The school does not accept payments that involve government funding or government reporting requirements.

School Supplies

Your tuition and registration provides for most school supplies. Your child needs to bring only notebook paper to begin school. This should be brought to the open house. The grade, type, and amount of paper you must purchase are listed below.

Grade	Type	Amount
1st through 5th	Wide Ruled	2,000 sheets
6 th through 8th	College Ruled	1,000 sheets

Extended Care

Strickland Christian School provides extended day care from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. for those students who must be left after school. The Extended Care is licensed by the Texas Department of Human Services and is operated by qualified, caring teachers.

A non-refundable **\$30.00** registration fee is due upon registration. A student is not registered until all immunization records and all required forms have been completed and filed with the school. Until such time, the student left in Extended Care must pay the drop-in rate. If you do not register for Extended Care at the time of enrollment in school, we cannot guarantee a space for your child.

From 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. tuition is **\$205** per school month or **\$1,640.00** for the entire school year if paid in full by September 7th. All Extended Care tuition is added to school tuition for the monthly payment total. Thus the Extended Care payment is subject to the same due dates, late fees, and other provisions as school tuition payments. (See the tuition section of the handbook.) Other limited or part-time schedules must be approved by the Extended Care director and once approved may not be modified as to times and days without good reason and without permission from the Extended Care director.

Extended Care is closed on all school holidays. On days that school dismisses at noon, Extended Care will remain open until 6:00 p.m. only for those registered in Extended Care.

Extended Care students are expected to conform to the policies, procedures, and rules of Strickland Christian School. Students who have behavior problems of a serious nature, students who persist in their misbehavior or students with uncooperative parents may be dropped from Extended Care.

Drop-in Rates

Students who are not registered and students who stay later than their scheduled time must pay **\$5.00** per thirty-minute period or any part thereof with a **\$20.00** maximum per day per child. This is due when the student is picked up. Extended Care closes promptly at 6:00 p.m., and teachers are not paid to stay late. Therefore, any student who is picked-up after 6:00 p.m. must pay the teachers **\$1.00 per minute** with a **\$5.00** minimum. This is due on the date of the occurrence.

Lunch Program

The lunch program is catered by a quality, certified caterer. Students may bring their lunches or take advantage of the catered lunch for \$3.50 per day. Every full-day student who will use a catered lunch is required to open a 20-meal account for **\$70.00**. Only when the child orders a lunch will the account be debited. When the account is almost empty, a note will be sent home requesting additional funds. Students with zero in their lunch accounts or who do not order a lunch in the morning will not be served a catered lunch but will be referred to their classroom teachers who will make provisions for them. **Students who order a lunch must pay for the lunch. A student who for any reason does not order a lunch in the morning before the lunch orders are picked up by the office will not be served a lunch.** The school will not accept cash or checks for a daily lunch but only for an account. Payments may be made at any time after open house. Checks must be written for the exact amount as no change will be returned; checks must be written for at least \$35.00 or they will be returned. Lunch accounts that have a remaining balance at the end of the year may be carried over to the next year or redeemed if requested by the last day of school. Lunch prices are subject to change if costs rise. The lunch menu may be found on the school's website.

Parent Orientation

A mandatory parent orientation for all families new to Strickland Christian School will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2009, and Tuesday, August 18, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the school. One parent or guardian from each family registered is required to attend on one of these dates to obtain pertinent information about Strickland Christian School's policies and procedures including student and parent requirements, discipline and uniforms. These orientations are for adults only. The earlier date is recommended, as it will give ample time for parents to prepare for the new year.

Open House

There will be an Open House on Monday, August 24, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the classrooms for Kindergarten through 2nd grade parents. This will give the students and parents a chance to visit the classroom, meet the new teacher and possibly form carpools. The upper school open house for 3rd – 8th grade parents and students will be in the evening on the same day at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Parent Teacher Fellowship

The Austin Parent Teacher Fellowship has been associated with Strickland Christian School for many years. The APTF is a non-profit service organization assisting parents, teachers, and students. Your participation is encouraged in this excellent organization. For more information

visit them at stricklandschool-aptf.org.

Parent Requirements

Each custodial parent or legal guardian is required to assist the parents and teachers of the school by volunteering for a minimum of 4 hours during the school year. Volunteerism fosters good Christian fellowship and caring relationships and helps to keep the cost of education under control. Volunteer hours may include work done directly for the school, students, teachers or the APTF. All volunteers serve at the pleasure and under the direction of the school employees or the APTF officers. Volunteers must submit all required paperwork in a timely manner. A complete list of volunteer activities from which to choose will be published early in the fall semester. All volunteers must check in with the school office upon entering the campus during school hours. All volunteers must coordinate their activities with the classroom teachers and/or principals.

Three hours of parenting training is also required each year during the school year for each custodial parent or guardian. Such training will be offered by the school and may include Bible studies, parent/teacher workshops or other interactive sessions and seminars interspersed through the school year. Once a parent has accumulated at least 9 training hours, he is no longer required to take training classes but is encouraged to do so. A list of training sessions and their times will be published early in the school year and as they are planned and implemented.

Homework

Homework is considered a very important part of the Strickland Christian School program and is necessary in order for the student to achieve critical skills. Every attempt is made to give students a lighter homework load on Wednesdays in the upper grades. Assignments one day late will be penalized at the teacher's discretion including recording a zero; assignments two days late will receive a zero. Students who continue with delinquent assignments will receive other disciplinary action.

* Average homework assignments:

K4 - 30 minutes of review	2 nd grade - 45 min. to one hr.
K5 - 30 minutes	3 rd grade - 1 hr.
1 st grade - 30 - 45 min.	4 th through 8 th grades – 1½ to 2 hrs.

*These times are estimates and will vary from night to night, with the ability and diligence of the child and with the degree of parental oversight.

Grading System

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	68-69
A	94-96	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	66-67
A-	90-93	B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	65
						F	64 and below

Reporting to Parents

Third through eighth graders will receive a progress report at the end of the first four weeks. At the end of each nine-week reporting period, children in first through eighth grades will be given a report card. The parents or teacher may request a conference at any given time. Please keep

in close communication with your teachers. Scheduled conferences begin the first week of October. Parents of sixth through eighth graders may receive their child's final report card via mail about one week after the last day of school. K-5 students will receive a progress report every nine weeks, and a final report card at the end of the year. No report cards are given to K-4 students. Report cards and all other student records will be withheld if tuition or other charges and fees are not current.

Promotion Policy

A student must meet or exceed the following standards for promotion to the next grade:

1. A year-end cumulative average of C- or above.
2. No more than two final D averages and no final F averages in core subjects (Bible, math, reading, literature, grammar and science).
3. No more than one F average in any non-core subject.
4. No more than two D's and no F's in any core subjects on the final nine weeks report.
5. Homeroom teacher's recommendation based on conduct and probability of success if promoted.

Summer School

This five week course will be available for students entering first through fourth grade. This will be held at the school for five weeks, for two to three hours a day. For more information, please contact the office.

Health Records

Please send a copy of your child's current immunization record to the office at the time of enrollment to be kept on file. All immunization records must be kept current. Please do not leave originals with the school but send only copies. Students in K-4, K-5, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades will receive a vision and hearing screening administered by a qualified health care professional. Fifth and eighth grade students will also receive a spinal screening on the same day. These screenings are mandated by the State of Texas and will occur early in the school year. A student who is new to Strickland School may need screenings regardless of his grade. The state may change its requirements from time to time; if this occurs, the school will adjust its screening policies to comply.

Restriction of Activities

If there are any medical conditions which restrict a student's activity in P.E. classes or sports in general, instructions in writing signed by the parent must be furnished to the teacher or the office at the beginning of the school year or as soon as medical condition is diagnosed.

Leaving Campus during School Hours

Students are not to leave campus during school hours unless checked out by a parent. In order to check out your child, please go the school office and sign him out. You will then get a pass that allows you to go to the classroom and pick up your child.

Walking Home from School

Any student who walks or bikes home from school must have signed permission from a parent or guardian.

Staying after School

From time to time, students may need to stay after school with a teacher as discipline or for tutorials. When this occurs, parents will be expected to come to the room at the time designated by the teacher. Students who are not picked up at the proper time will be taken to Extended Care and parents will be expected to pay the appropriate fee. Students are not permitted to return to the classroom after dismissal time without teacher permission. Parents are discouraged from bringing their children back later to pick up homework, books, or assignments. However, if it is necessary, parents must accompany their children to the classroom. Please encourage your child to be prepared at dismissal time with everything he needs to complete his homework assignments.

Medications and Emergency Treatment

Please complete and return the **Medication Permission Slip/ Consent for Emergency Treatment** form to let us know what you would allow school staff members to administer to your child. Students are not allowed to carry medications, so parents must give prescription items or over the counter drugs directly to a teacher.

All medications brought by parents for their children must:

1. Be in the original container.
2. Be labeled with the child's name.
3. Include directions to administer the medication.
4. Not be expired.

Written parental permission is required to administer any medication to your child. We cannot be responsible for medications that your child takes without the knowledge of the teacher.

Illness

A child must **not** be brought to school if one of the following exists:

1. The child has a fever or has had a fever in the past 24 hours.
2. The child has symptoms and signs of possible severe illness [such as lethargy, uncontrolled breathing, diarrhea, vomiting (two or more episodes in 24 hours), rash with fever, wheezing or untreated persistent cough].
3. The child has lice or nits whether active or not.
4. The child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease; a medical evaluation must then determine that the child is no longer contagious and is able to participate in the school's activities.

Please advise the school if your child has a serious infectious disease or lice or nits (cases for which the other parents need to be informed). Otherwise, it is not necessary to call the school about your child's illness unless you need your child's assignments.

Arrival and Drop-off

School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Half-day kindergarten is dismissed at noon. It is helpful for students to arrive at school by 7:45 a.m. You may drop your child off as early as 7:00 a.m. Teachers will be on duty at that time. Students arriving between 7:00 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. are to sit in the fellowship hall or designated classrooms and study, read, or talk quietly. By 7:45 a.m. the homeroom teachers pick-up their children and escort them to their respective classrooms. See the "Procedure for Drop-Off and Pick-Up" campus map found in this handbook for more details.

Attendance

A student is tardy if not seated and ready to learn by 8:00 a.m. Excessive tardiness causes undue hardship on everyone involved. The student will receive a warning slip for every six times tardiness occurs. Repeated tardiness may also result in other disciplinary action. Teachers and administrators will redirect parents and students who continue to have tardiness and attendance issues. Students should arrive by 7:45 a.m. to have time to prepare for class. An incident of tardiness is excused only if the student was late due to a doctor or dentist appointment and the student provides the teacher a note from the doctor upon returning to school. An excused tardiness is recorded for the permanent record but does not count toward the total for warning slips.

After an absence 3rd through 8th grade students are responsible for checking with their teachers for any make up work. These students have as many days to make up work as the number of days they were absent (i.e. if a child is sick for two days, he has two days to make up his work). A student should not be absent unless he is sick or there is an emergency. A student with repeated absences without good cause will be subject to disciplinary action. Perfect attendance awards are given at the end of the year. Any absence, including tardiness, leaving school early for doctor appointments or any other reason, disqualifies a student for a perfect attendance award. This is true whether such absence is approved, excused, or not.

Calendar

Each month during the school year a calendar of events will be sent home with your child for your information. The monthly calendar may also be found on the school's website at www.stricklandschool.com. Be advised that the published school calendar may be subject to minor changes due to school closures for weather or other problems. Such "snow days" may be added to the end of the school year or taken during scheduled holidays. A listing of holidays may be found on the back cover of this handbook. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 26, 2009. See the website or back cover of the handbook for other important dates.

Messages

If you need to leave a message or speak with your child's teacher about a non-emergency, please call by 10:30 a.m. The answering system is checked frequently so please don't hesitate to leave a detailed message. Messages received after 10:30 a.m. may not necessarily be delivered in time, especially messages for teachers who leave at noon. Carpool changes should be handled by sending a signed note to your child's teacher.

Contacting Other Parents

Parents are not permitted to hand out flyers or send messages through the school for personal or business reasons. Student addresses and phone numbers are confidential and will not be given to other students or parents by teachers or staff. You may choose to list your contact information in the APTF directory at the time of enrollment. Please use the APTF directory for information to contact other families.

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade Snack Time

Please send a nutritious snack for your child everyday. Children will be encouraged to eat their snacks, not lunch food, at this time. Due to time limitations, only one item should be sent for snack. Please help by letting your child know what is for snack and what is for lunch. The only drink allowed at snack time is water.

Birthdays

Your child's birthday is a very important event; however, birthday parties during school hours are not permitted. If your child chooses to pass out birthday invitations at school, then there must be an invitation for every member of the class or all the boys or all the girls. Children get their feelings hurt if they are left out. If you wish to send a treat like cookies or cupcakes, they will be passed out during lunch or snack time.

Holiday Celebrations

Our desire is to glorify Christ during the Christian holiday seasons. We will therefore emphasize the true meaning of Christmas and Easter. We do not permit the celebration of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny or Earth Day at school. Because Halloween originated as a pagan holiday and is now celebrated by the occult, we do not allow our students to participate in Halloween activities while at school. Therefore, please do not bring or send your child with any Halloween party favors, toys, candies, cakes or other related symbols or items. A short Valentine's Day party will be held, and students should only bring Valentine greetings that are appropriate and do not encourage romantic relationships.

Visitors to Campus

Parents are welcome to visit the campus for good reasons, including eating lunch with their children. Under certain circumstances, grandparents may also visit. Please check in with the office to receive your pass or badge. Parents must make appointments with teachers in advance as unexpected conferences or visits may be a disruption of the classroom activities. Except the relatives listed above, no other friend, pastors, or relatives are permitted to have lunch with students. Other visitors, including alumni, must call prior to the visit and receive the permission of the principal for a specific date and time. Any visitor whose presence, in the judgment of the teachers, staff or administrators, is a distraction or a disruption to any student or employee of Strickland Christian School will be asked to leave the campus immediately and may be barred from the campus permanently.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Strickland Christian School is a drug free zone; therefore, drugs, alcohol and tobacco are not permitted in the buildings or on the grounds at any time.

Dismissal and Pick-up

At 12:00 noon half-day kindergarten students will be taken out to the east porch and will be escorted to the car by a teacher. If you would like to come in to pick up your child, please park in the front and wait in the hallway by the drinking fountain until the children are brought out. Any students not picked up by 12:15 p.m. will be taken immediately to an afternoon kindergarten class. Please be on time. Parents who are late must pay an additional tuition fee of **\$5.00** per 30-minute period or any part thereof.

At 3:00 p.m. students will go to their designated car pool area. Kindergarten through fourth graders will be kept at the curb on the east end of the school until parents drive up. A teacher will escort them to the car. Fifth through eighth graders will wait at the picnic tables at the south end of the building. Younger students may also wait at the picnic tables with their older siblings. Please be on time. Any student not picked up by 3:15 p.m. will be taken directly to Extended

Care. **Parents will then be required to pay a drop-in day care fee and will need to come into the cafeteria to sign the student out.**

If you wish to park in the front parking lot facing Manchaca, you must still pick-up your child at the designated pick-up areas. Children are not permitted to leave those areas to meet you at your car.

Carpools

The students will be released only to a parent unless the teacher has received a written notice to the contrary. Carpools are required to register for prior approval before release may be given. A definitive list of people authorized to pick up a child is imperative. All arrangements for going home with other children must be made before school, and the child's teacher must be notified in writing prior to any change in the usual arrangements. Changes to carpool must be made in advance of the school day, and notification to the school by phone is not acceptable except in an emergency.

Parking

Parking spaces are limited, so for traffic flow and safety we ask that parents adhere to the following procedures: The one way lanes are for pickup only and only for those drivers who will not be leaving their vehicles. Drivers must never leave their vehicles in the drive or in front of the doors unattended. The rear parking lot is reserved for teachers and staff only. The front parking lot is for parents and carpool drivers who need to leave their vehicles for any reason. Do not park in any handicapped spaces - it is against the law, the church has asked us not to do so, and the police have been known to write tickets on this property. (See map in the back of the handbook.) All drivers are encouraged to be courteous and patient. Carpool time may be hectic and trying, but we owe it to our children to display Christian character as representatives of Christ.

Weather Problems/School Cancellation

For any class interruptions or delays due to weather, parents must check the school's answering machine (447-1447) or the website (www.stricklandschool.com). No television stations will be contacted. Teachers will report to school thirty minutes before school is to begin on days when school begins late.

Programs

Programs and extra-curricular activities are school functions so students must dress and behave as instructed by the teachers. Arrangements must be made with the principal for taking pictures or recording special events. Please be courteous to others in attendance with all video and photographic equipment. Also, crying babies who tend to interfere with the sound effects should be taken to the rear of the auditorium.

General School Rules

Reasonable rules have been established for safety and proper character development of all Strickland students. The teachers in each classroom review classroom rules as well as general school rules to insure proper understanding. Parents should review the rules with their children. A list of specific rules may be obtained from your teacher.

Prohibited Items

The following items are not permitted at school:

- Baseball caps or any head covering
- Playing cards and trading cards
- Knives or any other weapons
- Sunglasses (except to be worn outside)
- Toys
- Calculators (except for Algebra I or higher students)
- Electronic equipment of any kind (i.e. flashlights, radios, MP3 players or cell phones.)
- Wristwatches with alarms
- Any items deemed by teachers to be a distraction in the classroom
- Magazines
- Suitcases and Briefcases
- Anything with inappropriate slogans or pictures
- Pullover jackets, non-uniform sweatshirts or non-uniform sweaters

Off Limits to Students

The following areas are off limits to students unless they have a teacher's permission:

- Computer room
- Offices
- Kitchen
- The second floor of the education building before 7:45 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m.
- Teachers' desk areas or files
- All storage buildings, rooms, and cabinets
- The church sanctuary beyond the glass doors at the bottom of the stairs
- Copy room
- 1st/2nd grade bathrooms off limits to 3rd – 8th graders
- Science closet
- Storage or janitor's closets

Discipline

General Policies

Students are expected to conform to each teacher's classroom customs and regulations as well as the school rules and procedures. Misconduct of minor significance will be handled by individual teachers; however, conduct of major significance that calls for corporal punishment at the discretion of the homeroom teacher, though handled by the teacher, will be administered with the assistance of another teacher or the principal. The parent will be notified immediately thereafter. Principals reserve the right to personally handle the discipline of any child at any time they deem appropriate. In the event that a problem persists without parental cooperation or is considered to be a negative influence upon the other students or upon the school, the school reserves the right to temporarily suspend or to permanently expel the offending student.

Misconduct of a Serious Nature

Certain serious infractions may also call for warning slips or pink slips which remain a part of the student's permanent record. Thus at the discretion of the authority in charge, either a warning or a pink slip may be given at any time, even for similar infractions. These may be administered by the homeroom teacher or by the principal. The parent's cooperation is deemed imperative and absolutely necessary. Only six warning slips are allowed in a student's permanent record.

Pink slips become mandatory thereafter. Upon receiving the third pink slip, a student is automatically expelled from school.

Warning or pink slips may be issued for the following reasons in any grade:

1. Foul language or foul gestures
2. Bragging about participation in sin
3. Rudeness
4. Stealing
5. Fighting or purposely provoking others to the point of anger
6. Having tobacco, liquor or drugs on campus
7. Ridiculing
8. Slandering
9. Gossiping
10. Lying
11. Cheating
12. Threatening
13. Spitting
14. Tripping
15. Disrespect
16. Repeatedly breaking the rules
17. Vandalism
18. Lewdness or pornography

Kindergarten Method of Discipline

In addition to the above mentioned discipline policies, the following also apply to K-4 and K-5 students. The child comes to school with a "clean slate" each morning and is constantly rewarded for good behavior. However, when necessary a check mark is placed on the board next to the child's name as a warning. If misbehavior continues, a series of marks will be added. Two marks result in silent snack; three marks result in loss of recess time; four marks result in a paddling. Parental cooperation and support of school discipline is essential. Students start the afternoon with a "clean slate" again and are given time outs for their first three infractions and a paddling for their fourth infraction. These methods do not preclude the teachers from spanking for an offense if it is of a serious nature.

Dress Code

The dress code policy is written to encourage modesty, school spirit, and dedication to academics. Parents must help their children to dress responsibly. **All students must wear uniforms.** All clothing must be modest, clean, well-fitting—neither too baggy nor too tight—and in good repair. Oversized or undersized clothing is not permitted. Students are not permitted to wear clothes with autographs or other writing on them. Tattoos and body piercings are not permitted. Students must comply with the dress code at all school functions. Students should have their names on the inside of all uniform wear to prevent loss.

Uniforms

Uniforms are required for all students beginning on the first day of school. Uniforms must be ordered directly from Lands' End, our only uniform supplier. All new uniforms must be bought from the current Lands' End School Uniform Catalog unless otherwise noted. Lands' End for School may be contacted through the link on the school website, at 1-800-469-2222 or at www.landsend/school.com. Official uniform lists follow. Uniform catalogs are available at the

time of enrollment. Only those items on the list will be acceptable uniform items and must only be the correct **styles** and **colors** specified. Please note that there are two uniform lists—one for kindergartners and one for the other grades. *Please refer to the uniform lists in this handbook (p.21, 22) when ordering. Some styles and colors will be eliminated in two years. It is recommended that you only buy the items in **bold print** that will be retained.* When you order uniforms from Lands' End and use the preferred school number, **9000-5205-1**, 3% of your purchase will be donated by Lands' End to the Austin Parent-Teacher Fellowship.

Monograms/Logos

Monograms are encouraged but optional. Below is a complete list of monogram options:

1. Sweaters and vests may be monogrammed with either three initials or the child's first or last name and only in style 6 script in the color desert khaki. Sweaters may not have logos.
2. Polo shirts may be monogrammed with the Strickland School logo in gold for dark-colored shirts and blue for light-colored shirts. Shirts may not have names or initials.
3. Monograms and logos must be from Lands' End only.

Dresses

The uniform jumpers, skirts and skorts are strongly recommended for girls. Students must wear leather shoes with these items. Girls must wear bike shorts underneath jumpers and skirts unless they are wearing tights.

Shirts

Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Only solid white undershirts may be worn and no part of the undershirt may show beyond the sleeve. A uniform shirt must be worn under sweaters and vests. Turtlenecks and mock turtlenecks may not be worn as undershirts.

Belts

Belts must be worn with pants designed for belts. Lands' End uniform belts from the official list are acceptable or students may wear a braided belt in black or brown, which looks like the one from Lands' End.

Outerwear

Only official uniform sweaters may be worn as outerwear in the buildings. Students may wear heavier jackets or coats outside. However, no sweatshirts (except for 1st and 2nd graders on P.E. days), no pullover jackets, and no non-uniform sweaters may be worn. Students must be prepared with uniform sweaters the first day of school as some classrooms are cool even in the summer.

Shoes

Students may wear athletic shoes with normal soles (no platform soles allowed), and approved leather shoes. **Athletic shoes may be worn with shorts or pants only and must be worn for P.E.** All athletic shoes worn at school must be well fitting and not subject to coming loose when students are running, walking, or playing. Approved leather shoes may be worn with any uniform (except P.E.). Female students **must** wear leather shoes with skirts, jumpers or skorts. Leather shoes include those on the Approved Uniform List from Lands' End, or traditional penny loafers without tassels in black or dark mahogany (penny loafers are no longer available from

Lands' End.) Female students may also wear the Mary Jane style shoes in black or dark navy from any company.

Socks

Students must wear solid white, crew length socks with their athletic shoes. When leather shoes are worn, students must wear solid navy or tan crew length socks to match their pants or shorts. When girls wear skirts, skorts, or jumpers, they must wear solid white or navy tights or socks which must be crew length or longer. Girls may choose to wear solid khaki socks with khaki skorts or skirts. No socks shorter than crew length are allowed, and socks must be solid-colored without logos.

T-Shirt Day

Students may wear the approved Strickland School t-shirt on each T-shirt Day designated on the school calendar. The T-shirt will be worn as a uniform shirt on those days. When needed, students must wear white undershirts to insure modesty. Girls may not wear jumpers with the T-shirt. Note: the school T-shirt is different than the school PE shirt.

Approved t-shirts for T-shirt Day,

- 1) The APTF child drawn T-shirt from '08-'09 or '09-'10.
- 2) The blue APTF T-shirt with the gold Strickland logo.

Hair

Male students must wear haircuts that are reasonable and conservative, and older boys must be clean-shaven at all times. Hair must be kept in an orderly manner above the shirt collar and no longer than the top of the eyebrows; tops of ears must be highly visible. Female students may wear their hair in any reasonable style as long as it is cut back or pinned no longer than the top of the eyebrows. No bleached or dyed hair is allowed.

Head Covering

No head covering may be worn at school except that girls may wear headbands, barrettes, pins or bows which are simple, not gaudy, and do not clash with the uniform in color.

Jewelry and Make-up

Students may wear simple wristwatches without alarms. Only one simple ring on each hand may be worn. Male students are not allowed to wear necklaces, earrings, chains, or bracelets. Female students may wear jewelry that is tasteful and simple; they may have pierced earlobes only and may wear only one earring in each earlobe. No jewelry may be attached to clothing. For safety purposes, students may not wear jewelry, including watches, to P. E. class. Older girls may wear make-up that is simple and tasteful. Make-up may be applied only at home.

Backpacks

Backpacks with or without wheels are acceptable, but no suitcases are allowed.

Dress Code Infractions

When a student is not in compliance with the dress code, he will be required to comply immediately. If this is not possible, a note will be sent home explaining the infraction. Subsequent violations will result in a call to the parent who will have to bring proper clothing to

the school immediately. Where the first infraction is a flagrant violation in the teacher's view, parents will be called that day to bring the proper clothing immediately. Parental support and cooperation is necessary for dress code conformity. Students in violation of dress code may be sequestered if proper clothing is not brought immediately. Students who continue to violate the dress code may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Used Uniforms

From time to time the Austin Parent Teacher Fellowship may sell used Lands' End Uniforms as a service to parents. Those sales will be announced at a later date. Parents must be certain that used uniforms meet dress code standards.

P. E. Uniforms

P. E. uniforms are required for first through eighth graders. First and second graders only must wear their P. E. uniforms to school on days they have P. E. The warm weather uniform is available from Lands' End. (See the official list). During cool weather students must wear any brand of solid navy or solid gray sweatshirts and sweatpants in any combination (navy top with navy bottom, gray top with navy bottom, and so on.) Sweats may not have logos, zippers, buttons, collars, or hoods. These sweats are available at most department stores. Students may not wear coats or jackets in P. E. class without the P. E. teacher's permission. Students must wear their P. E. uniform shirts underneath their sweatshirts in case they become warm. No jewelry (including watches) may be worn to P.E. classes. Students must wear athletic shoes with normal soles and solid white crew length socks to P. E. class. No platform or extra-wide soles are permitted due to safety considerations. Students who do not comply with the P.E. uniform policy will lose points from their daily P.E. grade and may, at the teacher's discretion, be excluded from participation in the day's P.E. activities. Students who persist in being out of uniform for P E. class may be subject to other disciplinary action.

1st - 8th GRADE

***Approved Uniform Items**

Lands' End Preferred Number: 9000-5205-1

BOYS AND GIRLS

Mesh or Interlock Polo Shirt

(short or long sleeved)

Turtleneck Shirt

Mock Turtleneck Shirt

'08-'09 or '09-'10 Strickland T-Shirt

Drifter Cardigan Sweater (Button or Zipper) Red, **Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy**

Long-Sleeve V-Neck Sweater

Drifter Vest

Monograms (for sweaters only)

Logos

Hand-braided Belt

Penny Loafers

P. E. UNIFORMS

Twill Sport Shorts

Sweat Shirt and Sweat Pants

'08-'09 or '09-'10 Strickland T-Shirt

Strickland School P.E. Shirt

BOYS ONLY

Solid Oxford Shirt (short or long sleeved)

Pleated Chino Pants (any fabric)

Reinforced Knee Pleated Chino Pants

Pleated Chino Shorts

Boys' Oxford Shoes

GIRLS ONLY

Fine Gauge Cardigan Sweater

Box-Pleated Jumper

Pleated Skirt

A-line Skirt At-the-Knee

Chino Skort Knee Length

Pleated Chino Pants (any fabric)

Reinforced Knee Pleated Chino Pants

Pleated Chino Shorts

Peter Pan Shirt (short or long sleeved) **White, Blue**

Feminine Fit Polo (Short or long sleeved) **Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Chambray Blue**

Oxford Shirt (short or long sleeved)

Bike Shorts (with skirts & dresses)

Mary Jane Shoes

COLORS

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy,

Evergreen, Chambray Blue

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy,

Evergreen

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy,

Evergreen

Sold by APTF, for T-shirt day

Red, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy

Red, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy

Red, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy

Desert Khaki (Style 6)

Black, Dark Tan (purchased at any store)

Black, Dark Mahogany (purchased at any store)

Navy

Navy, Heather Gray (purchased at any store)

Sold by APTF while supplies last

Sold by APTF

White, Blue

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Black, Mahogany, Dark Tan

Classic Navy, Evergreen, Red

Classic Navy, Hunter Classic Navy Plaid

Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy, Hunter Classic Navy Plaid

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

White, Blue

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Chambray Blue

White, Blue

Classic Navy, Black (purchased at any store)

Black, Classic Navy (purchased at any store)

*Items in **bold** print will be retained after 2 years; all others will be eliminated.

K-4 AND K-5

***Approved Uniform Items**

Lands' End Preferred Number: 9000-5205-1

BOYS AND GIRLS

Mesh or Interlock Polo Shirt (short or long sleeved)

Turtleneck Shirt

Mock Turtleneck Shirt

'08-'09 or '09-'10 Strickland T-Shirt

Drifter Cardigan Sweater (Button or Zipper)

Long-Sleeve V-Neck Sweater

Drifter Vest

Monograms (for sweaters only)

Logos

Twill Sport Shorts

Penny Loafers

BOYS ONLY

Solid Oxford Shirt (short or long sleeved)

Elastic-waist Pants

Pleated Chino Pants (any fabric)

Reinforced Knee Pleated Chino Pants

Boys' Oxford Shoes

GIRLS ONLY

Fine Gauge Cardigan Sweater

Box-Pleated Jumper

Pleated Skirt

A-line Skirt At-the-Knee

Chino Skort Knee Length

Elastic-waist Pants

Pleated Chino Pants (any fabric)

Reinforced Knee Pleated Chino Pants

Peter Pan Shirt (short or long sleeved)

Feminine Fit Polo (Short or long sleeved)

Oxford Shirt (short or long sleeved)

Bike Shorts (with skirts & dresses)

Mary Jane Shoes

COLORS

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Chambray Blue

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy, Evergreen

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy, Evergreen

Sold by APTF, for T-shirt day

Red, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy

Red, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy

Red, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Burgundy

Desert Khaki (Style 6)

Classic Navy, Khaki

Black, Dark Mahogany (purchased at any store)

White, Blue

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Black, Mahogany, Dark Tan

Classic Navy, Evergreen, Red

Classic Navy, Hunter Classic Navy Plaid

Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy, Hunter Classic Navy Plaid

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

Khaki, Classic Navy

White, Blue

Red, White, Burgundy, Maize, Classic Navy, Evergreen, Chambray Blue

White, Blue

Classic Navy, Black (purchased at any store)

Black, Classic Navy (purchased at any store)

*Items in **bold** print will be retained after 2 years; all others will be eliminated.