



Oakdale Academy

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023–2024

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WELCOME

Dear Oakdale Academy Students,

Welcome to Oakdale Academy. Whether this is your first year or your thirteenth, it is a joy for each of us to serve you and your families daily.

Each day we truly invest in fulfilling our mission in your lives as we seek to transform our world and impact it for Jesus Christ.

As you look through this handbook, realize these items form the framework of the work we do and our expectations of our students.

I hope you take a measure of satisfaction in taking this journey through a classical Christian education at Oakdale Academy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stanton
Headmaster



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Oakdale Academy is to instill Character, Truth, and Wisdom in our students in order to prepare them for a life of service to God, family, community, and country through classical Christian education.

STUDENT HONOR CODE

Out of the desire to honor God, my family, my teachers, and Oakdale Academy, I endeavor to be honorable in character, honest in word and deed, and respectful to others. In humility and with integrity, I resolve to pursue a life of service to God, family, community, and country.

I commit to diligent study, patient reflection, and respect to all placed in authority over me. Together with fellow students, I am a steward of Oakdale Academy and commit myself to the pursuit of Truth, the love of the Good, and the cultivation of Beauty as I embrace the high calling of a liberal arts education.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Oakdale Academy is a part of the classical Christian tradition. As a Christian school, we believe that all of creation is called to work in the calling given them by God. As a classical school, we believe that the calling of all men—but particularly those in the vocation of students—is to seek truth so as to live a fully human life.

Our hope and expectation of all Oakdale Academy students is to work diligently in that search for truth, whether it be in mathematics, geography, Latin, or art. All subjects chosen for Oakdale students teach us about God, the world He has created, and the humans made in His image that fill it. Dedicated study of these things prepares all students to live a good, free, and godly life.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

It is essential that Oakdale students recognize that academic honesty—submitting work that includes only their own intellectual work and properly crediting any others whose work was taken from—is a very serious thing. Any willful misrepresentation of another's work or ideas as one's own—cheating or plagiarizing—will be treated with utmost gravity. Teachers in the Grammar School understand that students need coaching and careful guidance in such matters.

Logic and Rhetoric School students will receive a “0” grade on a plagiarized assignment, along with possible suspension and further discipline for repeated offenses.

Students must complete their work on their own and may not rely on technological plagiarism aids (e.g. AI, ChatGPT, etc.).

CO-CURRICULARS

Alongside core curriculum classes, Oakdale Academy students will be instructed in co-curricular classes throughout the week.

GRAMMAR & LOGIC SCHOOLS

In the Grammar and Logic Schools, students will visit the following co-curricular classes 1-3 times per week:

- Art
- Latin
- Library (GS only)
- Music
- Physical Education

RHETORIC SCHOOL

In the Rhetoric School, students will submit their top choices amongst the following co-curriculars. Students should keep cocurricular graduation requirements in mind when submitting their choices. Full time students will be enrolled in two classes per year:

- Art
- Choir
- Physical Education
- Symphony Band
- Teacher Assistant
- Yearbook



EXTRA HELP

While the work of becoming educated is always a challenging one, it is never desired that students struggle mightily or unnecessarily. When school work becomes unduly difficult, students are encouraged to speak directly to their teachers and ask for help. Teachers have a wealth of knowledge and resources that can help students through many struggles and may be able to recommend outside resources or tutoring that may be fruitful. Students should never be afraid to voice their struggles and seek help, as all here at Oakdale wish to help and support them.

GRADES

While the ultimate evidence of successful work in classical education is that students choose to live a virtuous life, a necessary but secondary measurement is academic grades. Teachers engage in ongoing evaluation of students' skills and progress and provide feedback through grades in various ways depending on the students' age. In general, students should expect to receive grades several times a month, using the grading scales below.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL	
O	Outstanding
S+	
S	Satisfactory
S-	
N	Needs Work

LOGIC & RHETORIC SCHOOLS			
A	93-100	4.0	Excellent
A-	90-92	3.7	
B+	87-89	3.3	
B	83-86	3.0	Above Average
B-	80-82	2.7	
C+	77-79	2.3	
C	73-76	2.0	Average
C-	70-72	1.7	
D+	67-69	1.3	
D	63-66	1.0	Below Average <i>(Not considered passing)</i>
D-	60-62	0.7	
F	0-59	0	
			Poor <i>(Not considered passing)</i>

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Rhetoric School students should ensure they are meeting our graduation requirements, which can be found [at this link](#).

STUDY HALLS & HOMEROOM

Logic and Rhetoric School students will have dedicated time throughout the week when they are not engaged in active learning, Logic School students in their daily homeroom time and Rhetoric School students in their study halls. Students are given this time to complete homework or assigned reading. When students choose not to do school work at this time, they are choosing to work more in the evenings and weekends.

Logic School students will receive specific guidance and oversight of their use of homeroom time, with encouragement and reminder to use the time wisely. Rhetoric Schools students will be allowed more freedom to choose how they fill their time, in the hopes that they will build good habits with silent work time. If students find their out of school time unduly filled with homework, the first area parents and teachers should help them examine is their use of the study hall time given each week.

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

At Oakdale Academy, the teacher is the living curriculum. Regular school attendance is important to a student's academic success and promotes good work habits and self-discipline. Textbooks, literature selections, workbooks, and worksheets are used to support teacher-directed instruction but in no way reflect the whole of the lesson. To that end, attendance is essential and missed instruction can never be made up.

Oakdale Academy recognizes the authority of parents over their children and understands that parents may decide it is in the best interest of their child not to attend school on a particular day. Parents should recognize that when a pattern or excess of absence occurs, the school is placed in a position to decide whether a requisite amount of education has taken place and reserves the authority of determining passing to the next grade or retaining a student in a current grade.

While illness and family emergencies cannot be avoided, it is strongly recommended that family vacations be scheduled to avoid missing school. In light of this, if a family chooses to have their child miss school for a vacation, etc., it is their right, but it must be understood that the instruction will also be missed and the absence considered unexcused.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Student absences should not be more than 10 per semester. Apart from extreme circumstances, 11 or more total absences in each semester may result in failure of that term. Repeated absences and tardies may result in detention and/or suspension. Details of the attendance policy can be found in the Oakdale Academy Parent Handbook.



TARDIES



Students are to arrive promptly in time for Opening Ceremony, which begins daily at 8:00 a.m. Students not in place for Opening Ceremony when it begins are considered tardy for the beginning of the day.

Students in Logic and Rhetoric Schools are considered tardy if they are not in their classroom at the start of each class period.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

The Oakdale Academy building opens daily at 7:30 a.m.. Students who arrive between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. may visit their lockers and should then proceed to the gymnasium until the start of Opening Ceremony.

The school day begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. with Opening Ceremony or Chapel (Wednesdays only). When a student arrives late for Opening, they are to remain in their cars (for outside Opening) or in the front entryway (inside Opening) until students are dismissed to their classrooms.

The school day closes at 3:15 p.m.. Grammar School students will be dismissed individually by their teachers as their parents arrive. Logic and Rhetoric School students will be dismissed to their lockers at 3:15 p.m. and may gather their belongings and await their parents outside.

Students of all ages who have not been picked up by their parents and who are not able to drive themselves home will go to After Care at 3:30 p.m. where they will remain until signed out by a parent.

DAILY SCHEDULES

Grammar School

Jr. Kindergarten
— Grade 4

Grammar School students will follow a daily schedule specialized to their class and grade level. They will spend the majority of their day in the homeroom class, aside from lunch, recess, and co-curricular classes. Grammar School students will have two recesses per day, one mid-morning and one after lunch.

Logic School

Grades 5 — 8

Logic School students will start each day in their homeroom class, beginning their day with mathematics and classroom activities with their homeroom teacher. They will visit two co-curricular classes each morning and will then rotate between English, Science, and History with a specialized teacher for each discipline for the rest of the day. Logic School students will have two recesses per day, one in the early-mid morning and one directly before lunch.

Rhetoric School

Grades 9 — 12

Rhetoric School students will follow a hybrid class schedule, with six 40-minute academic periods on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and three 85-minute academic periods on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition to these academic periods, two 50-minute cocurricular periods are scheduled each day. Students who are not scheduled for a co-curricular class in any such period will be assigned to a teacher-monitored study hall.

SEMESTERS

Oakdale Academy follows a semester schedule, with the first semester beginning in late August and 2nd semester beginning in early January. Midterm exams (Rhetoric School upperclassmen only) and progress reports are scheduled in mid-October and early March. Final exams (Rhetoric School only) are held in the last week of each semester. 12th grade students take spring semester exams one week early, usually in mid-May.

ATHLETICS

Athletics requires discipline of the body and strength of character, both of which support the work of classical education. As such, Oakdale students are encouraged to participate in school athletics. Our sports teams include:

- Baseball (boys)
- Basketball (boys and girls)
- Golf (boys and girls)
- Soccer (boys and girls)
- Volleyball (girls)
- Wrestling (boys)

Students who participate in athletics must maintain good academic standing to be eligible. Eligibility status will be reported weekly. If a student is currently receiving one “F” or two grades of “D+” or below at the time of determination, the student will not be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports for that week. A mid-week change in grade does not change eligibility and athletes will need to wait for eligibility determination the following week.

Students must also be present for at least half of the school day to participate in contests that day.



BEHAVIOR

The role of discipline at Oakdale Academy is to create and maintain an environment conducive to learning. It is to provide an atmosphere of civility in which due respect will be given to teachers and to individual students, as well as to all institutional and private property, so that all members of the community will be allowed to pursue learning without distraction. In addition, discipline at Oakdale Academy ought always to uphold the essential virtues established in the school's Mission Statement and professed in its Statement of Faith.

Oakdale Academy recognizes that the good conduct of students in the school promotes their education on campus. This requirement will also promote good behavior off campus and prepare students for good citizenship in adulthood. Accordingly, students will be expected to adhere to the general rules of the school as well as those rules established by each teacher within their classroom.

Because appropriate response to authority is biblically mandated and critical to the shaping of a child's life, students must obey instructions from Oakdale Academy staff and its supporting adults promptly, willingly, completely, and cheerfully. Talking back, arguing, and undue familiarity with Oakdale Academy staff will not be tolerated. Students are to maintain eye contact and respond appropriately when spoken to by an adult. An atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy will be maintained between students and staff.

Students are to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with biblical principles of purity and holiness; as such, public display of affection (e.g. holding hands, kissing, hugging, etc.) is not permitted on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activities. In general, there should be no behavior toward one boy or girl that is exclusive or would not be appropriate toward all boys or girls in the student's class.

Adherence to the above outlined student conduct is critical to Oakdale Academy's priority to maintain a positive and healthy student/school culture. If in the judgment of the Headmaster, a student's continued enrollment is a significant negative influence on other students, he has the authority to expel the student.

DISCIPLINE

Oakdale Academy's goal is to work closely with the parents to uphold standards of courtesy, respect, and proper behavior. With that in mind, an exhaustive list of offenses cannot possibly be given; ultimately, any actions or behaviors that would conflict with Oakdale Academy, our Mission, the Honor Code, or our general culture are subject to discipline, including actions taken off campus, at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee.

Demerits are accumulated over the course of each grading period and reset at the start of the following grading period. Accumulated demerits will result in the following consequences, at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee.

Demerits are a communication with a family that a violation has occurred. The demerit is the school's request for parental assistance in reinforcing correct behavior. Consequences for continual misbehavior are, by nature, to be inconvenient, as the actions of the student have caused either inconvenience or chaos in the school.

Specific disciplinary actions include:

- 3 demerits result in an after-school detention at the convenience of the Department Head
 - This may interfere with after school activities
- 4 demerits during a grading period will serve an additional detention and a parent meeting with the Department Head and/or other administrators.
- 5 or more demerits result in additional potential consequences that may include, but are not limited to:
 - Additional detentions or school service projects
 - Rhetoric School students suspended from House
 - Suspension
 - Expulsion

Students suspended out of school shall be given the opportunity to make up their work for a reduction in credit up to, but not to exceed, 50%. Students shall be given opportunity and time to make up work due to their suspension not to exceed the amount of days suspended.

Any student who demonstrates a general unwillingness or inability to abide by classroom or Oakdale Academy rules is subject to expulsion. After meeting with parents, the student, and involved faculty, the Headmaster will decide if expulsion is warranted. All disciplinary actions are conducted at the discretion of the Headmaster.

DRESS CODE

As a school that works to create order over chaos and to remove many of the distractions that prevent focus on the good, true, and beautiful, uniforms are an important part of our school culture. Students are to take care of their appearance and dress each day in a manner that upholds the dress code and honors their dignity as creations made in the image and likeness of God.

Details of the dress code can be found in the [Oakdale Academy Uniform Guide](#).

EVENTS

Oakdale Academy holds special events throughout the school year:

- House Kickoff & Back to School Night — Monday before school
- Walk-a-Thon — late October
- Parent Teacher Conferences — early November
- Christmas Concert — early December
- J-Term (Rhetoric School only)— first week back after Christmas break
- Spirit Week — second week back after Christmas break
- Homecoming Games (all-school) and dance (Rhetoric School only) — mid-January
- Spring Social (Rhetoric School only) — mid-April
- Spring Concert — early May
- Convivium — mid-May
- Awards Ceremony & Commencement — mid-May
- Field Day — last week of May

FIELD TRIPS

Oakdale Academy believes that off-campus education is an important aspect in the overall development of each student. Off-campus educational and cultural programs provide students with an opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills. There may be additional fees for students to participate in the off-campus trips. Oakdale Academy faculty, staff, and/or administration are always included as chaperones on these trips.

Whenever students are off campus on a school-sponsored trip, they are subject to Oakdale Academy's rules—including the school's cell phone policy—and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that honors God and Oakdale Academy.

HOUSE

The House System at Oakdale Academy works to foster leadership, virtue, and friendship amongst Rhetoric School students and the Oakdale community at large. In future years, students will be sorted into a House mid-way through their 8th grade year and will join the Rhetoric School students and all staff members who are divided amongst the four Houses. Each House takes its name and character from an exemplar:

- Arc—The Warrior
- Augustine—The Theologian
- Churchill—The Statesman
- Da Vinci—The Inventor

Details about the House System can be found in the Oakdale Academy House Handbook.

LUNCH

Lunch provides a special opportunity each day when the Oakdale community gathers together for prayer, food, and conversation. An important element of our school culture is that students of all ages sit together at mixed lunch tables, each led and monitored by a staff member and student House Officer. Students are assigned to a different lunch table with different table-mates each month. Students will sit at their assigned tables Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, while they will have free seating choice on Fridays. Rhetoric School students are dismissed from their lunch tables on Thursdays for House Lunch.

RECITATIONS

A particular focus of classical education is the memorization of beautiful things that benefit the mind and soul. Students should turn their attention first to memorizing the Oakdale Academy Prayer and Lunch Prayer (found below) and Student Honor Code (found above). Each student will also memorize and recite a passage of writing before the school at Opening Ceremony two times per year.

LUNCH PRAYER

Father God, bless this food to our bodies and us to Your service. May we be ever mindful of the wants and needs of others. Amen.

OAKDALE ACADEMY PRAYER

Almighty God, we beseech You with Your gracious favor, to behold Oakdale Academy, our faculty, staff, parents and students, that knowledge may be increased among us, and all good learning flourish and abound. May we be a beacon of Your light in our homes and communities. Bless all those who teach and all those who learn, and grant that in humility of heart we may ever look upon You, Who are the fountain of all wisdom, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING RECITATIONS

All Oakdale Academy students recite a selection from memory twice a year during Opening Ceremony. Junior Kindergarten students do their recitations as a class to acclimate them to this morning tradition. Students in grades K through 12 perform recitations on an individual basis.

The recitation schedule for the year is distributed in the fall, and therefore no recitations may be rescheduled except in the cases of illness or a parent's work travel schedule. Logic & Rhetoric School students receive a grade for their recitation. A teacher will have a copy of the selection on the given morning, and as such, the parent is asked not to give cues or hints.

Students and families should use the following guidelines when selecting students' two recitations for the year.

- Recitation memorization is solely the responsibility of the student and parent to be done at home throughout the year and is not the responsibility of the classroom teacher.

- All recitations must align with the Mission of Oakdale Academy and the Honor Code.
- One recitation must be a passage of Scripture and the other must be a selection of poetry or prose (non-Scripture), ideally from classic children's literature, the Great Books, or the great Rhetorical Tradition.
- All selections must be approved for length and content, and approval is up to the discretion of the homeroom (Grammar & Logic School) or literature (Rhetoric School) teacher. Students must provide the teacher with a copy of the selection at the beginning of the school year.
- Assessment is based on accuracy of memorization, clarity of diction, and appropriate pace and volume.
- Students who request rescheduling due to lack of preparation will be docked a letter grade.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GRADE	SCRIPTURE	LITERATURE
Kindergarten	2-4 verses	4-8 lines
1st	4-6 verses	8-10 lines
2nd	6-8 verses	12-14 lines
3rd	8-10 verses	16-18 lines
4th	10-12 verses	20-22 lines

LOGIC SCHOOL

GRADE	SCRIPTURE	LITERATURE
5th	12-14 verses minimum	22-24 lines minimum
6th	14-16 verses minimum	24-26 lines minimum
7th	2-4 minutes	2-4 minutes from A.D. 1600-1800
8th	2-4 minutes	2-4 minutes from A.D. 1850-Present

RHETORIC SCHOOL

GRADE	SCRIPTURE	LITERATURE
9th	3-5 minutes	3-5 minutes from ancient works—A.D. 500
10th	3-5 minutes	3-5 minutes from A.D. 500-1600
11th	4-6 minutes	4-6 minutes from A.D. 1600-1800
12th	4-6 minutes	4-6 minutes from A.D. 1850-Present

TECHNOLOGY & DEVICES

Oakdale Academy works to create an environment that is set apart from many of the distractions and temptations of life to allow for focus and dedication to growth in wisdom, virtue, and godliness. As such, devices that introduce those distractions and temptations have no place at Oakdale.

The primary distraction that undermines the virtue and focus of students—and thus which parents and school leadership should put most time into guarding carefully—is student cell phones. Students may not use cell phones until after 3:15 p.m. when the school day has closed. In a similar vein, students are not permitted to wear smartwatches or other smart devices. A smart watch/device is one that is connected to the internet and/or can receive social media alerts, emails, texts, etc. Student cell phones and smart watches/devices must remain powered off from the time of their arrival at school until after school is dismissed. Student cell phones must be stowed in their locker and remain powered off from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Oakdale Academy cell phone guidelines apply on all field trips and off-campus activities during normal school hours. Students found not complying with these guidelines will have their cell phones confiscated and turned into the office. Repeated offenses may result in additional consequences at the discretion of the administration. Confiscated cell phones will not be returned to the student; they must be picked up from the office by a parent during office hours.

At Oakdale Academy, computers may only be used for researching and typing teacher-assigned projects. Students are not permitted to use the computers for computer games, social media, personal communications, personal email, etc. Teachers will provide students with an internet pass, as needed. Students may work on typed assignments during study halls with the permission of the assigning teacher and study hall teacher.

Any student using a computer for anything other than assigned projects, under the direct supervision of a teacher, will receive detention or further consequences at the discretion of the Headmaster.

Students may obtain permission at the front office for using the school's phone. Outgoing calls should only be made for urgent matters and phone conversations should be brief.



CARS & PARKING

Students old enough to drive are invited to drive to school and park their cars in the school parking lot during the day.

Student vehicles that will remain on school grounds during the day must be registered with the front office. Students will need to provide a copy of their driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance for any vehicle they may drive to school.

A student parking pass will be given to place on their mirror to indicate they have registered with the office. Students are not permitted to return to their cars during the day.

DELIVERIES & FOOD

Students are not permitted to disrupt the school day by having items (food, flowers, etc.) delivered via services to Oakdale Academy. Any items delivered for a student will be kept in the front office until the end of the school day. Any items brought to school by parents during the school day must be delivered to the office. The office will notify students for pick up. Parents may not go to classrooms or lockers for delivery. Lunch will be picked up by the student at lunch time and will not be refrigerated.

Every student is expected to bring lunch from home as there is not a daily hot lunch program at Oakdale. Special lunches will have informational sheets sent home prior to the day with explanation for participation.

Please note that no food will be permitted in the gymnasium before school. Food or drink is also not permitted on the playground. Grammar School students will have a snack time each day. Information regarding the expectations regarding snack time will be sent home by classroom teachers.

Being mindful of student allergies and general safety, students are not permitted to share food. We also encourage students to refrain from bringing food containing nuts and nut products to school.

LOCKERS

Students in grades 3-12 are assigned a locker where they may keep their backpacks and other personal belongings. Students are welcome to decorate the inside of their lockers with non-permanent materials and should use tape or poster putty to avoid damage to the lockers.

Lockers are property of Oakdale Academy and any materials kept within are subject to search by school leadership at any time. Lockers and the privacy they offer are a privilege entrusted to students to use wisely and with virtue. Should students show an inability to maintain their locker with order, their privilege of a locker may be suspended or revoked.

LOST & FOUND

Lost items are to be taken to the designated lost and found area, located in the bench near the front entrance to the gymnasium. Purses and wallets will be examined for ID to contact the owner then kept in the office. Perishable items may be discarded upon staff discretion. Items are subject to donation at the end of each term.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Any possession of and/or introduction of a weapon, an illegal/illicit drug, tobacco, vaping products, alcohol, or sexually explicit material will be treated with extreme seriousness.

Discipline in these matters may range from parental contact through suspension and may serve as grounds for immediate expulsion. Any use of the same either at school or outside of school will similarly be treated with the utmost gravity and may be grounds for immediate expulsion.

With a mind to safety for students, staff, and the school, the possession and/or introduction of any dangerous items including, but not limited to, weapons, morally corrupt material, or any other items that are incompatible with the Mission of Oakdale Academy, is strictly prohibited. As such, at the discretion of the Headmaster, lockers and all contents as well as personal property (to include cars) are subject to search at any time.

TRANSCRIPTS

Rhetoric School students who require a transcript should submit a request via the “Transcript Request Form” link on the Oakdale Academy website, found in the “Current Families” section.

Unofficial transcripts can be released directly to students and their families. Official transcripts may only be sent directly from Oakdale Academy to another academic institution, so students should submit college/school contact information to ensure proper delivery of official transcripts.