



**“A CLASSICAL & CHRIST-CENTERED SCHOOL”**

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## ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

Morning Star Academy uses an admissions procedure that resembles the application process used in many other private schools and colleges. Previously, Morning Star Academy accepted new students on solely a "first-come, first-serve" basis after they had submitted the necessary documentation and passed an initial interview. The current procedure allows the school to more accurately identify and admit students from families who have clearly expressed convictions that are similar to the school's regarding the education of children.

The selection and make-up of the school's student body is second only to staff selection in the impact it has upon the school's mission. The family-like atmosphere Morning Star Academy seeks to foster and currently enjoys is due in great measure to the similarity of biblical convictions and principles taught and lived out in many of the homes of our students. As the Lord blesses us with growth and change, we want to do all we can to maintain and build up that atmosphere.

The basic process for new applicants is as follows:

1. *January 1 through March 31 of each year:* New applications and school handbooks will be dispersed, and completed applications will be collected. Date of application will be recorded, but will not be the sole consideration in acceptance.
2. *April 1 -April 30:* Interviews, school visits, and requisite documentation related to each new student will be evaluated. (After April 1, applications will still be accepted and reviewed according to the same selection standards, but only after the initial pool of applications has been considered.)
3. *May 1 - 10:* Notification of acceptance or denial will be mailed to each applicant. Accepted applicants will receive all appropriate information for preparing for school.
4. *After May 10 (or after all notifications have been mailed):* Applications will be considered as they are received and as space permits.

A student's academic achievements will be considered in the application process, but only for grade placement, not as the primary determinant for acceptance. Again, we are seeking to enroll those students who, because of their own families' priorities, will most benefit from what Morning Star Academy can offer to them.

TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION COMPLETE, PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **The signed Statement of Faith**
- **The completed Pastor Reference form**
- **A copy of the most recent achievement test scores, if available**
- **Report cards from the most recent quarter and the previous year**
- **The registration fee for each student. Please check tuition schedule for current amount. (This fee is refundable only if the student is denied admission or moves from the community.)**

After the school receives the completed application and other required materials, we will contact you to arrange an interview and possibly a visit to the school, if in session. If it is determined that an entrance exam may be helpful, the school will arrange that with you as well.

I certify that this application is correct. I understand my financial commitment and the dates payments are due, and I agree to faithfully meet my obligations to the school. I have read, understand, and agree with the school's guidelines and policies in the handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# MORNING STAR ACADEMY

## Supplemental Admissions Questionnaire

(An "open book" questionnaire; our answers are in the back.)

Names of Applicants

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1. Would you be willing to volunteer in any of the following areas?
- fine arts    fundraising    secretarial    sports    classroom aide  
 building maintenance    substituting    other

How?

2. Do you support the following aspects of the curriculum and school policies?

Circle Y=Yes N=No Q=Qualified Answer

Discipline Policy Y-N-Q

Scripture Memorization Y-N-Q

Homework Requirements Y-N-Q

Frequent Memorization Y-N-Q

Latin Y-N-Q

Learning Disability Policy Y-N-Q

Dress Code Y-N-Q

Classical Philosophy Y-N-Q

Qualifications:

3. If a conflict arises between you (or your child) and the classroom teacher, an administrator, or the school board, how would you attempt to resolve it? At what point would you talk with other parents?
4. Which virtues would you most like your child to exhibit?
5. With regard to your child's personal priorities, which is more important: high achievement (grades, leading roles, rebounds) or doing one's best? Why or why not?
6. If you find that your child is sinking academically, how would you respond?

7. How much time for homework is tolerable in your family?
8. Should a grade of "C" be a cause for pride and praise if a student is working to the best his or her potential? Why or why not?
9. Would you expect a teacher in a class of 20 students to spend 25% of his or her effort on one child with academic, behavioral, or emotional problems if that child were yours? If it were not yours?
10. How do you promote spiritual values in your home?

Signatures of adults bearing responsibility for these applicants:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ANSWER KEY

### to Supplemental Admissions Questionnaire

Why are we giving you an open-book test? It's similar to a driver's license examination.

You get the questions and answers ahead of time because the goal is not to flunk applicants, but rather to make sure they read and understand the lesson. Every one of those questions deals with real-life questions and concerns we have had with parents at Morning Star

Academy. When you read these answers that reflect the school's philosophy, you may wholeheartedly agree, or you may not agree at all. If you don't agree, then you have three choices of action. First, you can decide not to enroll your child and choose another school more in keeping with your philosophy. Second, you can be honest about your disagreement, but plan to go along with our philosophy of education. Third, you can agree and figure you can always object later.

If this isn't a school you can appreciate unreservedly (or at least tolerably) and support without major changes, the best course would be to back out gracefully now. The Lord God (Deut. 6:4-9, Eph. 6:4) requires parents to be active leaders in the education of their children, but that responsibility does not include trying to reshape an entire class or institution to fit your individual preferences. Positive criticism and ideas are always welcome, especially when they are in line with our adopted philosophy. We are eager to answer any questions you may have which will help you make a good decision.

1. A great school needs the active participation of parents. Everyone has skills or knowledge that contribute to advancing our educational mission.
2. You would be surprised how often a parent will object to one facet of the curriculum. They may love the reading program, but don't see why their child has to memorize, or take Latin, or follow the dress code. We've had to make choices over the years concerning our curriculum, and we think they have been good ones. We expect parents to support them. We are constantly seeking to upgrade the curriculum. However, no aspect of the curriculum is optional, and school policies should be willingly obeyed. If your attitude is not supportive, your child will pick it up, and this will be reflected in his work and attitude at school.
3. Conflicts should be resolved at the lowest level possible, in accordance with Matthew 18. If you have a problem with a teacher, the principal, a board member, or other parents, you must first meet with the person involved, and if an agreement cannot be reached, both parties should then approach the next level of authority. You should not gossip with other parents about a problem.
4. Answers to this question will vary from family to family and child to child. But we would like to get an idea of what values are important to your family.
5. Wise parents will not contribute to modern society's worship of success by paying too much attention to the outward marks of achievement. Our goal is for every student to do his best, to work up to his potential in every area. Not every student can high jump seven feet, and not every student can make the honor roll at Morning Star. All students have their strengths and their weaknesses.
6. One of Morning Star Academy's greatest strengths is academic excellence. Our
7. curriculum goals demand much effort from every student. Parents of students who must work harder to keep up with the academic demands may well need to limit extracurricular activities and insist on completion of homework on some nights. We don't work academics around our extracurricular activities; studies come first.

7. We have set certain guidelines for homework within the education program. We base these guidelines on what we have come to believe are reasonable, necessary amounts for most students. We also highly value family time and will do all we can to respect it. If your student uses the time given in class to work, normally he should not have an excessive amount of homework.
8. Students transferring in and out of Morning Star often find that good grades are harder to come by at this school. A grade of "C" may represent average achievement at Morning Star, but may also represent excellent effort by a given student. That student should not be made to feel inferior by a parent's expectation for higher marks. If your emphasis is on uniformly high grades, this may not be the school for you. Our emphasis is on helping your child achieve his God-given potential.
9. A teacher's attention is never going to be evenly divided among students; nor is a parent's among his own children. But there is a point beyond which we are being unfair to the compliant majority. This is a small school with a conservative budget and limited resources, and we simply cannot be all things to all people.
10. There is no right answer here, of course. We want to know what is important to your family.