

**The Grace Place
Homeschool
Academy**

**Parent/Student
Handbook**

Welcome to The Grace Place Homeschool Academy:

As the Pastor of The Grace Place, Salem Baptist Church, I pray our church can assist you in providing the kind of academic and Christian education you desire to offer your children in your home.

I know The Grace Place Homeschool Academy (GPHA) may not be right for all families. Our church approach is to simply be the official church support (covering) the state of Alabama requires and offer you guidance in the proper way to keep records. Our School Administrator will be available to answer your questions regarding curriculum, and as the group grows, organize some activities in which all of the children in The Grace Place Homeschool Academy may participate. Our church believes that since you are choosing to take your children from the public/private schools to homeschool, you are doing so to provide them with a more "hands-on" approach and that you, as their parents, should be in charge of deciding the type of education they receive.

Again, I'm glad we can be of assistance to you and I pray that your experience in this endeavor will be spiritually and academically fulfilling, rewarding and even fun for you and the precious children God has entrusted into your care.

Sincerely,

Pastor Donny Thrasher

About Us

Mission Statement

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy is a ministry of Salem Baptist Church. It was formed to enable parents to nurture their children's educational and spiritual foundation in a home environment. We consider our role as support group to be just as important as that of cover school. We firmly believe all parents and students can benefit from being part of a community of homeschoolers. At The Grace Place Homeschool Academy, our intention is not only to meet Alabama's laws that govern education, but also to support the home educated family.

Contact Information

Address:

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy
C/o Teresa Young
163 County Road 558
Enterprise, AL 36330

Telephone:

(334) 328-1102

Email: teresay@classicallyminded.com or gphymns@graceplacechurch.net

Organizational Structure

Salem Baptist Church

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy is a ministry of Salem Baptist Church and as such is accountable to the spiritual leadership of our Pastor, Donny Thrasher.

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy

Administrator(s) – presides over meetings, acts as pastoral liaison, represents academy interests, and other associated duties

Other volunteer positions –

The Grace Place Academy consists of home schooling parents who graciously volunteer their time. To be considerate, please leave messages during school hours or communicate through email. If a face to face meeting is necessary, please do so by appointments only.

What We Offer

Support, guidance, and encouragement

Accountability

Cumulative records

Letter of admission to the superintendent of schools in your school district

Standardized testing information

Graduation diplomas

School portraits

Church facilities for activities and events

Our Policies

Member requirements –

Child(ren) should have left previous school in good standing

Application process –

Print out the enrollment packet and the handbook. Fill out one enrollment packet for each student. Return the forms to the church by mail packet to:

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy
C/o Teresa Young
163 County Road 558
Enterprise, AL 36330

All registration forms must be received by August 10th for beginning of the year enrollment.

Interview with GPHA administration –

The interview process is a time for us to get to know you and your family. If possible, try to have everyone present. We want to ensure you are prepared for the home school year and see where we can lend support.

Notice of acceptance/refusal –

Applicants will be notified of their status by letter. Notification letters will be mailed within 7-10 business days after their interview.

Attendance and grades –

Members must report three times throughout the school year (1: kick-off, 2: 1st semester grades, 3: end-of-year. (Dates TBA) The Grace Place Homeschool Academy requires 180 days of attendance and grade reports for each student. Forms will be supplied by the academy if needed. Attendance records and grades must be turned in twice a year, in January and May. Requests for extension must be submitted in writing. Failure to comply is grounds for dismissal.

Parent and student responsibilities –

Students must be under adult supervision during school hours.

They should be in good standing with previous school (if applicable).

If a student plans to withdraw from an area school during the academic year, they must stay enrolled until a letter of acceptance into The Grace Place Homeschool Academy has been received.

Parents must inform the GPHA of their intent to withdraw from GPHA in writing. GPHA will then inform their superintendent of schools.

Conduct and appearance –

As a Christian school, behavior, speech, and dress of members should reflect Godly values. Although we believe parents are well-qualified to set these standards for their children, we reserve the right to take appropriate action if student’s behavior or appearance falls short of these standards.

No weapons (to include pocket knives) or profanity are allowed on church grounds or any school sponsored activity. Students are expected to respect church property.

Curriculum –

We believe parents know their children's learning style best and are therefore most qualified to choose their own curriculum. We will be using offering assistance to those who request it on keeping an accurate transcript for you child(ren).

Age-appropriate core subjects must be taught for elementary aged children (see pg 11 – Section 16-35-5) and graduation requirements for high school students must be met. A copy of High School graduation requirements follows:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	Alabama High School Diploma Credits	Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement Credits	Alternate Adult High School Diploma Credits
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4	4	4
Four credits to include the equivalent of: English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
MATHEMATICS	4	4	4
Four credits to include the equivalent of: Algebra I Geometry Algebra II with Trigonometry Mathematics Elective(s)	1 1 2 2	1 1 1 1	1 1 2 2
SCIENCE	4	4	4
Four credits to include the equivalent of: Biology A physical science Science Electives	1 1 2	1 1 2	1 1 2
SOCIAL STUDIES*	4	4	4
Four credits to include the equivalent of: Grade 9 Social Studies Grade 10 Social Studies Grade 11 Social Studies Grade 12 Social Studies	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	1	1
HEALTH EDUCATION	0.5	0.5	0.5
ARTS EDUCATION	0.5	0.5	0.5
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**	0.5	0.5	0.5
FOREIGN LANGUAGE***		2	
ELECTIVES	5.5	3.5	5.5
Local boards shall offer foreign languages, fine arts, physical education, wellness education, career/technical education, and driver education as electives.			
TOTAL CREDITS	24	24	24

Disciplinary Actions

Attendance and Grades

These records must be turned in January and May. Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing before the required date. If a parent does not adhere to this policy, the following steps will be taken:

1. A letter will be sent requesting the information be given to GPHA within seven days.
2. If there is no response within the allotted time, the student(s) will be dismissed from The Grace Place Homeschool Academy and the superintendent will be notified.

Conduct and Appearance

All members of GPHA are expected, in appearance and conduct, to exemplify God-like behavior on all Grace Place Homeschool Academy activities and functions. If a student's conduct or appearance does not reflect these qualities, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

1. Verbal correction
2. Student will be asked to leave immediately and a letter issued to parent describing the problem
3. A conference with parents
4. Dismissal from The Grace Place Homeschool Academy without a letter of good standing.

GPHA legal statements -

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy is a non-profit organization.

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy does not discriminate against race, color, or national origin.

The Grace Place Homeschool Academy is designed for accountability and support. We are not responsible for the education of your children.

Alabama legal information (excerpts from the Code of Alabama)

This is not intended to be legal advice and is distributed for information purposes only.

Section 16-28-1

Definitions.

For purposes of this article, the following words, terms and phrases shall have the following respective meanings, unless clearly indicated otherwise:

(1) PRIVATE SCHOOL. Includes only such schools as hold a certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Education, showing that such school conforms to the following requirements:

- a. The instruction in such schools shall be by persons holding certificates issued by the State Superintendent of Education;
- b. Instruction shall be offered in the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools of this state;
- c. The English language shall be used in giving instruction;
- d. A register of attendance shall be kept which clearly indicates every absence of each child from such school for a half day or more during each school day of the school year.

(2) CHURCH SCHOOL. Includes only such schools as offer instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof including the kindergarten, elementary, or secondary level and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches on a nonprofit basis which do not receive any state or federal funding.

(School Code 1927, §302; Code 1940, T. 52, §299; Acts 1982, No. 82-218, p. 260, §1.)

Section 16-28-2.1

Adoption of standards for mandatory attendance policy; parents held accountable; enforcement.

The Legislature finds that mandatory attendance policies for schools differ from school system to school system throughout the State of Alabama. The State Board of Education shall adopt standards for a mandatory and enforceable attendance policy for all students in public schools in the State of Alabama. Parents shall be held accountable in accordance with Sections 16-28-12 and 16-28-7, for the failure of the child who is of compulsory attendance age to attend either public, private or church-school. Enforcement of this section shall lie with the local board of education and the juvenile court system.

(Acts 1991, No. 91-323, p. 602, §15.)

Section 16-28-3

Ages of children required to attend school; church school students exempt from operation of this section.

Every child between the ages of seven and 16 years shall be required to attend a public school, private school, church school, or be instructed by a competent private tutor for the entire length of the school term in every scholastic year except that every child attending a church school as defined in Section 16-28-1 is exempt from the requirements of this section, provided such child complies with enrollment and reporting procedure specified in Section 16-28-7. Admission to public school shall be on an individual basis on the application of the parents, legal custodian or guardian of the child to the local board of education at the beginning of each school year, under such rules and regulations as the board may prescribe.

(School Code 1927, §301; Code 1940, T. 52, §297; Acts 1956, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 117, p. 446, §3; Acts 1982, No. 82-218, p. 260, §4.)

Section 16-28-7

Report of enrollment.

At the end of the fifth day from the opening of the public school, the principal teacher of each public school, private school, and each private tutor, but not church school, shall report on forms prescribed by the State Superintendent of Education to the county superintendent of education, in the event the school is operated in territory under the control and supervision of the county board of education, or to the city superintendent of schools, in the event the school is operated in territory under the control and supervision of a city board of education, the names and addresses of all children between the ages of seven and 16 years who have enrolled in such schools; and thereafter, throughout the compulsory attendance period, the principal teacher of each school and private tutor shall report at least weekly the names and addresses of all children between the ages of seven and 16 years who enroll in said school or who, having enrolled, were absent without being excused, or whose absence was not satisfactorily explained by the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child. The enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school shall be filed with the local public school superintendent by the parent, guardian or other person in charge or control of the child on a form provided by the superintendent or his agent which shall be countersigned by the administrator of the church school and returned to the public school superintendent by the parent. Should said child cease attendance at a church school, the parent, guardian, or other person in charge or control of the child shall by prior consent at the time of enrollment direct the church school to notify the local public school superintendent or his agent that said child no longer is in attendance at a church school.

(School Code 1927, §309; Code 1940, T. 52, §306; Acts 1982, No. 82-218, p. 260, §5.)

Section 16-28-8

Reports required must be furnished.

All school officers, including those in private schools, or private tutors, but not those in church schools, in this state offering instruction to pupils within the compulsory attendance ages, shall make and furnish all reports that may be required by the State Superintendent of Education and by the county superintendent of education or by the board of education of any city with reference to the workings of this article. The principal teacher of each public school, private school, church school and each private tutor shall keep an attendance register showing the enrollment of the school and every absence of each enrolled child from school for a half day or more during each school day of the year.

(School Code 1927, §310; Code 1940, T. 52, §307; Acts 1982, No. 82-218, p. 260, §6.)

Section 16-28-12

Person in loco parentis responsible for child's school attendance and behavior; noncompliance; local boards to promulgate written behavior policy, contents, annual distribution, receipt to be documented; school officials required to report noncompliance; failure to report suspected violation; district attorneys vigorously to enforce provisions.

(a) Each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive regular instruction by a private tutor who fails to have the child enrolled in school or who fails to send the child to school, or have him or her instructed by a private tutor during the time the child is required to attend a public school, private school, church school, denominational school, or parochial school, or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in any public school in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this section and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the principal teacher of the public school he or she attends or should attend, or of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section.

(b) Each local public board of education shall adopt a written policy for its standards on school behavior. Each local public school superintendent shall provide at the commencement of each academic year a copy of the written policy on school behavior to each parent, guardian, or other person having care or control of a child who is enrolled. Included in the written policy shall be a copy of this section. The signature of the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child shall document receipt of the policy.

(c) Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child enrolled in public school who fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be reported by the principal to the superintendent of education of the school system in which the suspected violation occurred. The superintendent of education or his or her designee shall report suspected violations to the district attorney within 10 days. Any principal or superintendent of education or his or her designee intentionally failing to report a suspected violation shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. The district attorney shall vigorously enforce this section to ensure proper conduct and required attendance by any child enrolled in public school.

(School Code 1927, §305; Code 1940, T. 52, §302; Acts 1993, 1 p. 1213, §1; Acts 1994, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 94-782, p. 70, §1.)

