

Dear Excelsior Applicant,

We are so glad that you are interested in becoming part of Excelsior.

We would like for one or both parents to read two books and an essay. The books are Doug Wilson's *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, and Paul Washer's *The Gospel's Power and Message*. The essay is Dorothy Sayer's *The Lost Tools of Learning*, which may be easily located online. (Please note that since writing the recommended book, Doug Wilson has shifted his theological stance away from the biblical view of justification by faith alone. The board regards his views on this issue as dangerous and does not recommend him as a safe guide. We do feel, however, that the book we are asking you to read is a helpful overview of Classical education.)

Our purpose for these requirements is twofold. First, we want you to understand the foundations of Excelsior. Excelsior is distinctly Christian and Classical in its approach. Second, we hope that you will benefit from these books by learning concepts that will aid your soul and your mind. Reading these books should enhance your ability to teach, benefiting both your children and the children you may teach at Excelsior. Please complete the required reading prior to your interview and feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thanks again for your interest in Excelsior. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

The Excelsior Board

EXCELSIOR CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

New Family-Student Application

Date of Application _____

Child's Name _____ Grade Entering _____ Date of Birth _____

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Child's Name _____ Grade Entering _____ Date of Birth _____

Child's Name _____ Grade Entering _____ Date of Birth _____

Child's Name _____ Grade Entering _____ Date of Birth _____

Father's Name _____	Email _____
Employer _____	Position _____
Business Phone _____	Mobile/Cell Phone _____
Mother's Name _____	Email _____
Employer _____	Position _____
Business Phone _____	Mobile/Cell Phone _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Names and ages of preschool siblings _____

Parents:

1. Can you give testimony of your conversion to Christ? (use additional pages if needed)

Father

Mother

2. How did you hear about Excelsior? _____

3. Why do you want your child(ren) to receive a Christian education? _____

4. What aspects of your home school reflect and implement a Classical Christian education?

5. Why do you want your family to be a part of Excelsior Classical Covenantal Community?

6. What is the role of parents in the education of their children? _____

7. What do you see as your family's role in building and sustaining Excelsior? _____

8. Family's church home _____

9. Name of Pastor _____

10. How are you involved in the ministries of your church? _____

11. Has your child ever been referred for testing or placed in a special program? Yes___ No ___
If yes, please explain: _____

12. Has your child received any special help or tutoring in an academic area? Yes___ No ___
If yes, please explain: _____

13. Has your child ever repeated a grade for any reason? Yes_____ No_____

14. Has your child ever been suspended or expelled from a school? Yes_____ No_____

15. Has your child ever seen a counselor/doctor/psychiatrist for any time of social, behavioral, or
mental problem? Yes_____ No_____

If so, describe the nature of the problem: _____

16. Has your child ever been diagnosed by a counselor/psychiatrist as having hyperactivity of
attention deficit disorder? Yes_____ No_____

17. Do you suspect or have you been told that your child might have dyslexia? Yes___ No ___
If yes, please explain: _____

18. What expectations do you have of the members and classes of Excelsior Classical
Covenantal Community? _____

19. What gifts, talents, and experiences do you have that you are willing to share with the
members and classes of Excelsior in the coming year? Which subjects do you feel best equipped
to teach?

Please return application to: Summer Hamblin, 145 Northfield Dr., Saltillo, MS 38866

Phone: (662) 295-1380

Email: jskjlhamblin@gmail.com

EXCELSIOR CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith adopted by Excelsior Classical Covenantal Community is deliberately limited to the broad arena of Biblical Christian doctrine, which is considered to be central to all orthodox Christian churches, and which sets Christianity apart from all other faiths. Therefore, we subscribe to the great historic creeds and confessions—including the Nicene, the Apostles, and the Athanasian – as they have been elaborated through the ages by the called synods of the church from the Ecumenical Councils to the Westminster Assembly. To carefully establish the parameters of doctrinal teaching in Excelsior classes and to maintain our nondenominational status, we will adhere to the standards of historic orthodoxy in all essentials but to Biblical diversity in all peripherals.

GUIDELINES AGREEMENT

All students and parents are expected to sign this statement of guidelines. For younger children, parents are expected to discuss the guidelines with them.

CONDUCT

A. Students are expected to:

1. Maintain a courteous, grateful, respectful, and cooperative attitude; to exercise restraint, and to freely forgive.

A. No electronic devices of any kind allowed. Cell phones brought to school must be left in backpacks. Violators should be sent to the headmaster.

B. No disrupting the class. Violators should be sent to the headmaster.

2. Work responsibly and independently in the classroom without unnecessarily distracting others, and walk quietly in the building.

A. Honesty in all dealings is expected. Cheating in any form will result in a - 0- from the teacher. Violators should also be sent to the headmaster.

B. Students must remain in the building between classes and in the fellowship hall during lunch. The kitchen area is off limits to students. Violators should be sent to the headmaster.

3. Share, take turns, love and serve one another; refrain from teasing, name calling, bad language, pushing, pulling, and fighting while at work or play.

4. Be punctual and regular in attendance, and in all assigned work. Illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, family trips, may be acceptable reasons for absence.

A. Willful tardiness should result in being sent to the headmaster.

5. Remain at home if ill until temperature has returned to normal for a period of 36 hours and/or signs of contagion are gone.

6. Dress neatly and modestly; and keep body clean, and well-groomed.

After three (3) trips to the headmaster in a semester in a class, the board and the teacher will meet to discuss whether the student should be removed from the class for the semester. The board reserves the right to immediately suspend or expel any student for serious infractions.

B. Parents are asked to:

1. Foster a courteous, grateful, respectful, cooperative and forgiving attitude along with proper restraint (self-control) in thoughts, words, actions, and attitudes.

A. In all things, let love be your guide. Be merciful to others.

B. Support the teacher in student/teacher conflicts. Teachers should not be discussed with or in front of students.

2. Nurture habits of punctuality, thoroughness, neatness, honesty, resourcefulness, independent reading and study.

A. Follow the syllabus unless you deem it beneficial for your student or family not to do so.

B. Check behind your student to ensure work is being done.

3. Encourage participation in projects, programs, parties, and activities to develop skills and friendships.

4. Support teachers, programs and activities with prayer and communications; and serve as a volunteer in various capacities.

A. Communicate with the teacher if you plan to deviate from the syllabus in a major way, or excuse your child from specific assignments.

If problems arise, please 1) PRAY. Ask yourself honestly if you or your child are guilty of the thing you are complaining about. Deal with this first. 2) Talk to your spouse or other trustworthy impartial counsel (not another Excelsior Mom), 3) Talk with a Christlike attitude to the person. If it is not important enough to do this, it is not important. 4) The LAST resort, bring your concern to the board.

C. Teachers are expected to:

1. Clarify to all students our expectations, and to lovingly commend, counsel or correct as occasion demands.

A. Keep order in your classroom by lovingly disciplining the students.

B. Be well prepared.

C. Make every effort to be present for your class each week, and if you simply cannot attend, arrange for a substitute who will teach your prepared lesson.

D. Post your assignments on the Excelsior website by Saturday night, or provide a detailed syllabus.

2. Cooperate with parents in every way possible to encourage the children in the development of the above attitudes, habits and skills.

3. Communicate with parents regularly concerning the growth, needs, and accomplishments of the children.

A. Grade and return papers in a timely manner.

B. As a courtesy, let parents know if work is not being turned in or if a test has not been returned.

Be merciful to parents who may disagree with you on the importance of an assignment, fail to communicate, or are just overwhelmed, and to students who are sinners and need Christ.

D. You may expect the Board to:

1. Maintain the vision of providing a challenging, Classical Christian curriculum and courses for the member families.

2. Administer all aspects of organizing the co-op, including finalizing the schedule and classes.

2. Take into consideration talents, abilities, and desires when placing teachers.

3. Mediate any conflicts that arise from our Covenantal Community in light of Matthew 18 and other biblical guidelines.

ACADEMICS

Excelsior is a group of like-minded families educating their children in the classical, Christian tradition of our forebears. As such, rigorous classes in Latin, Logic, Rhetoric, and other subjects based on the medieval trivium are offered. Teachers are selected for their expertise in the area which they teach, and classroom demands and standards are often quite high.

As a group of homeschooling families, we recognize that parents are the primary teachers and ultimate authority for their children. Because we have chosen to partner together in this covenantal community by delegating some planning and instruction to other parents in our group, the teacher's syllabus should be considered the default plan for each class. Parents are free to diverge from that plan and to customize their children's education as they think best. If you choose not to have your child complete certain assignments or to diverge extensively from that plan, it would be courteous to communicate that to the teacher. Communication will benefit teachers, parents, and students alike. Based on feedback, teachers may realize a need to modify their plans for future classes.

I have read the above Statement of Faith and Guidelines and agree to abide by them as a student or support them as a parent during my child's participation in the classes of Excelsior Classical Christian Community.

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Mother's Signature

Date

Father's Signature

Date