

Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite Private School  
Virtual Parent/Student Handbook and Contract  
2022-2023

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level for 22-23: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Academy Teachers will:

- Oversee academic progress of students and maintain two-way communication with parents.
- Provide an initial consultation to families to aid and support them in selecting among the offered courses and to welcome them into our Scholars Academy family. This may be in the form of 1:1 virtual meeting, phone call, and/or email conversation.
- Provide and/or coordinate yearly testing administrative services of a nationally-normed exam.
- Maintain attendance records and academic transcripts for active students. Transcripts will show a combination of Academy grades as well as third-party courses and grades such as dual enrollment grades from enrolled community college programs. The director does not have control over the assignment of third-party grades but will support academic students in working towards achieving high grades in these courses. Transcripts are provided to parents and scholars at the conclusion of the academic year. A request for transcript prior to the conclusion of the academic year may be submitted with an additional fee. Exception: 12th graders applying for college programs will be provided an "in-progress" transcript during the fall semester, at the time of application submission.  
Please note: the transcript will not be released if the account is delinquent.
- Oversee the weekly academy schedule of virtual classes and staffing to coordinate a full blended learning, private school schedule. This includes contracting with subject-matter and/or pedagogical experts to provide instruction in various areas of our academic program curriculum.
- Design, select, and plan for implementation of regularly scheduled face-to-face, and at times, recorded lessons to be held/taught in our dedicated virtual classroom.
- Respond to and address the needs of students and families promptly and tolerate no negative gossip about students, teachers, the director, and/or any aspect of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite programming.
- Schedule and provide consultation, strategizing for support, clarification, etc. beyond the initial consultation, with faculty and/or myself, at the request of families, as needed (additional fee). It is the goal of the director to schedule such meetings within one week of the request being submitted by parents.
- Engage as a member of a team who will rally around the student throughout the year to support him/her towards success. This team includes the parent(s), student, Scholars Academy faculty, administration, & staff. The Scholars Academy prides ourselves on providing a fully supportive and integrated program with caring adults who support our students in all aspects of their lives. It is critical that the student and parent(s) engage as an active part of this team.  
**Empowering one another in our various roles will support a productive, positive, successful experience in dance, self-concept, academics, and life.**
- Support students and families in reaching their academic goals while simultaneously remaining socially distanced via our virtual classroom setting.

The Academy Student will:

- Maintain regular attendance at all scheduled virtual academy sessions.
- Notify the academy instructor or director by text message before any tardies or absences indicating the reason for the missed academic time (planned or last-minute). Follow up with the director to confirm a make-up session with a member of the Scholars Academy staff to be billed at tutoring rates.
- Maintain a positive academic attitude and display respect at all times towards the school, programming, instructors, peers, and self.

NO EXCEPTIONS

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

- Take responsibility for academic goals and work diligently towards them.
- Be responsive to the academy instructors with prompt two-way communication.
- Accept constructive criticism aimed at helping the student to grow academically or otherwise.
- Engage in and give 100% focused effort towards all course assignments (online and face-to-face/synchronous/virtual classroom); recognizing that course assignments are designed and scheduled by educators and are based on research and best practices for teaching and learning and are non-negotiable.
- Contact the Scholars Academy Director via email or text message with questions or concerns at any time and tolerate no negative gossip.
- Behave in a manner that supports a studious virtual classroom environment and take care so as not to disrupt the work of others.
- Join each virtual classroom, meeting, special event on time, with camera ON for the entire session. Showing your full face in the camera view. Scholars should be seated in the work area, with the camera focused and still so as to avoid distractions from frequent movement, etc.
- Arrive daily prepared with laptop/tablet, charger, and other necessary academic supplies so as to engage fully in our daily, synchronous virtual classroom lessons.
- Schedule and attend private or small group tutoring sessions to make-up for any absence(s) and/or for additional tutorial support for any course average that remains under 80% for more than one week of duration.
- \*Additional fees applied @ discounted rates of \$50/30 minutes for individual tutoring; \$100/one-hour for individual tutoring; \$55/one-hour for small group tutoring.
- Engage as a member of a team who will rally around the student throughout the year to support him/her towards success. This team includes the parent(s), student, and the Scholars Academy staff. The Scholars Academy prides itself on providing a fully supportive and integrated program with caring adults who support our students in all aspects of their lives. It is critical that the student and parent(s) engage as an active part of this team. **Empowering one another in our various roles will support a productive, positive, successful experience in self-concept, academics, and life.**
- Engage in self-paced schoolwork independently so as to achieve adequate daily progress

The Academy Parents will:

- Maintain regular two-way communication with the academy instructors and director.
- Maintain a positive attitude and display respect at all times towards instructors, your student, other students, and the academy instructional staff. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- Support and expect the student's engagement with 100% focused effort towards all course assignments (online/synchronous/virtual classroom); recognizing that course assignments are designed and scheduled by the educators and are based on research and best practices for teaching and learning and are non-negotiable.
- Schedule and attend private or small group tutoring sessions to make-up for any absence(s) and/or for additional tutorial support for any course average that remains under 80% for more than one week of duration.
- \*Additional fees applied @ discounted rates of \$50/30 minutes for individual tutoring; \$100/one-hour for individual tutoring; \$55/one-hour for small group tutoring
- Contact the instructional staff with questions or concerns at any time and tolerate no negative gossip. Expect a response in a timely manner; faculty and administration strive to respond to communications from students and parents within 24-48 hours, 72 hours over a weekend. Communication will be responded to within, at the most, one week.
- Learn about and understand the research basis for the academy curriculum.
- Understand that, like in traditional public schools, private schools, and under Homeschool Law, the student and parent(s) have the ultimate responsibility for successful academic progress.
- Support the student's participation in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite group administration of the yearly nationally normed assessment in the spring (required by all students) and throughout the year, if scheduled by the director.
- Understand that scheduling of outside testing such as the ACT, SAT, PSAT, AP, and other such examinations is the responsibility of the parent and is not to interfere with scheduled Scholars Academy attendance without notifying the director prior to scheduling.

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

-Engage as a member of a team who will rally around the student throughout the year to support him/her towards success. This team includes the parent(s), student, and the Scholars Academy staff. The Scholars Academy prides itself on providing a fully supportive and integrated program with caring adults who support our students in all aspects of their lives. It is critical that the student and parent(s) engage as an active part of this team. **Empowering one another in our various roles will support a productive, positive, successful experience in self-concept, academics, and life.**

-Submit payments in agreement with the payment terms as selected at the time of registration and accept that a \$20 late fee will be applied to payments submitted more than five calendar days after the due date. On the fifth calendar day following the payment due date, the payment due, with the additional \$20 late fee added to the payment, will be charged to the credit card on file (3.5% processing fee additional). A credit card with contracted payment agreement is required to remain active and on file for all scholars unless full tuition and fees are paid up front.

**Agree that registration for the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite is a full academic-year commitment that continues through the last day of Scholars Academy classes for the 2022-2023 academic year.**

Under all circumstances, full tuition is due immediately upon withdrawal from the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite. Non-payment of contracted obligations is unfair and detrimental to these programs and our students as a whole.

-Agree that there will be no refunds or proration of fees due to absences, illness, injury, early completion of online coursework, early withdraw from the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite, or any other reason. **All yearly academic fees will be due regardless as our yearly staffing and budget will not change**

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

# Faculty-Scholar-Family Travel Experiences/Intensives

**Intensive experiences provide intentional groundwork and growth for our faculty-scholar-peer relationships that pour into our classes** as scholars build onto these foundational experiences in and out of the classroom, for the duration of the academic year as well as their journeys through to graduation. The **2022 Fall Orientation Retreat** will take place September 2nd-5th, 2022, at Juneberry Ridge in Norwood, NC. Scholars new and returning, alike, will engage in the full orientation programming. In the fall, October 19th-22nd, 2022, our scholars will attend our **Fall Intensive Experience** in the **NC Mountains**. February 12th-15th, 2023 will be our **Winter Intensive in California**. This spring March 5th-8th, 2023, we will hold our **Spring Intensive Experience** in **Washington, D.C.** Then, June 7th-11th, 2023 will be our **Summer Intensive Experience** at the **NC Outer Banks & Shackleford Banks** where we will search for the wild Banker horses. Finally, in **June 2023**, our scholars will attend a specially designed academic summer experience, **Summer Scholars, in conjunction with our Falcon STEM Camps, for two weeks, on the beautiful campus of Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, NC** where they will learn in the classrooms and/or science labs with expert Pfeiffer University faculty and teacher candidates. Our *2022-2023 Retreat and Intensives* are part of our regular 2022-2023 academic programming and classes and are required for all scholars. Lodging (when necessary), most meals, and planned activities are provided at no additional cost to scholars. Transportation to and from intensives is the responsibility of each family. Collaboration and coordination among families is encouraged.

The **combination of in-person, onsite, and virtual teaching and learning are what makes up our blended teaching and learning balanced program; along with our three pillars of enrichment including social-emotional teaching, 21st Century Skill development, and advanced science lab skills, is what makes our Scholars Academy so unique, innovative, and successful for our scholars.** Missing out on any component(s) of this program is not recommended and **will not equate to the same level of educational rigor, quality, or ultimate learning experience.**

\*Please consider this non-traditional approach to educating the whole child and share one or two of the potential benefits that you hope your own family/child may realize. Jot down these hopes in the space below.

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options to Support All Families

Payment plans have been developed to enable families to choose the option that best supports each financial situation. Travel, while exciting and integral to our 22-23 academic year program, does come at some cost. As such, we have included both trimester and monthly payment plans that have combined the overall costs of attending the academy. Total costs include tuition, materials and supplies, testing fees, registration and enrollment, orientation, travel intensives, and Summer STEM camp, as well as special Scholars Academy swag items to be worn during our travels to represent our school when out in the world.

Please consider the options below and circle your preferred plan for payment below for submission required tuition, enrollment, and activity fees.

### **Total Cost of Attendance for New Scholars:**

Annual Payment: \$11,800 (apply a \$200 discount for payment by April 1st)

Trimester Payment Plan: \$3,951 x 3

Monthly Payment Plan: \$991 x 12

### **Total Cost of Attendance for Returning Scholars:**

Annual Payment: \$11,600 (apply a \$200 discount for enrollment by March 1st and payment by April 1st)

Trimester Payment Plan: \$3,885 x 3

Monthly Payment Plan: \$975 x 12

### **Total Cost of Attendance for NC Opportunity Scholarship Recipients:**

NC Opportunity Scholarship (applied towards tuition)

Annual Payment Plan: \$5,700, balance after scholarship (apply a \$200 discount for payment by April 1st)

Trimester Payment Plan: \$1,900 x 3, balance after scholarship

Monthly Payment Plan: \$475 x 12, balance after scholarship

### Payment Schedules:

Annual Payment-\*due at the time of registration

Trimester Payments-\*Due 04/01/22, 08/01/22, and 12/01/22

Monthly Payments-\*Due 04/01/22, 05/01/22, 06/01/22, 07/01/22, 08/01/22, 09/01/22, 10/01/22, 11/01/22, 12/01/22, 01/01/23, 02/01/23, 03/01/23

### The non-refundable tuition, enrollment, and activity fees are inclusive of the following:

\*Registration fee to hold each scholar's spot in the program as well to support registration, application review, enrollment processing, course selection, consultation, etc.

\*Supply Fees to go towards materials and supplies such as book club texts, textbooks and materials, curricular subscriptions, science lab kits, intensive materials and supplies, etc.

\*Nationally-normed testing and administration fees

\*Fall Orientation Intensive (Juneberry Ridge, Norwood, NC)

\*Faculty Visiting Scholars Nov./Dec.

\*Intensives-

\*Fall (NC Mountains)

\*Winter (CA)

\*Spring (Washington, D.C.)

\*Summer (Outer Banks, NC)

\*Summer Scholars Summer Camps (Pfeiffer University campus)

\*Scholars Academy SWAG BAG

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

\*Very few, limited scholarships are available to reduce the overall cost of attendance. Please inquire with the director if interested in being considered.

Additional Fees:

Application Fee: \$75 (for new scholars, only)

Method of Payment:

Payment is to be made directly to “Scholars Academy” and is accepted via cash, check, debit or credit card through Apple Square or Quickbooks with required recurring automatic payments available for your convenience (w/ 3.5% processing fee), & electronic bank debit through Quickbooks (w/ 1.5% processing fee).

\*Credit Card Authorization Form Required for Trimester and Monthly Payment Options as well as for any remaining balance after NC Opportunity Scholarship award.

**Authorization for Credit Card Use**

PRINT AND COMPLETE THIS AUTHORIZATION AND RETURN.  
All information will remain confidential

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type:    \_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_ Mastercard    \_\_\_ Discover    \_\_\_ AmEx    CC #

Amount Authorizing to Charge (indicated total + an additional 3.5% credit card service fee): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Trimester automatic draft \_\_\_\_\_ (USD) tuition and fees as listed in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted 2022-2023 handbook.    CVC Code

\* OR

\* Monthly automatic draft \_\_\_\_\_ (USD) tuition and fees as automatic drafts as listed in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted 2022-2023 handbook.

I authorize Dr. Laura Lowder, as a representative of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted, to charge the amounts listed above to the credit card provided herein. I agree to pay for this service in accordance with the issuing bank cardholder agreement and, ultimately, according to the terms listed in the 2022-2023 Scholars Academy for the Gifted Handbook. I agree to and approve my payment of these charges, even in the event of an early withdrawal from the Scholars Academy for the Gifted. I will not object to honoring charges or deny payment of contracted fees and I understand that the programmatic budget is set at the start of each academic year and as such, abandoned fees may negatively impact the students and the program.

Cardholder – Please Sign and Date    ⊕

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Curriculum Information  
2022-2023

**Dr. Lowder and/or Scholars Academy administration will be in touch with scholars (via parents) to set the course of study for this 2022-2023 academic year. Keep an eye out for an email to initiate this process.**

Some of our courses utilize online curricula; our approach to the use of this online curricula is like the way in which schools use textbooks; they are a resource that provides sequential access to course content with a competency-based approach to teaching and learning. These course resources combine with the teacher-based support at Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite to build the course credits. Dr. Laura Lowder Educational Consultant and Scholars Academy director assigns final course grades listed on the report cards and transcript. Our curricula providers are not the school of record for our students and do not assign our students' final grades. The Academy reserves the right to contract with a different online curriculum provider at any point during the academic year or summer.

In addition to the individualized curricula set in consultation with Dr. Lowder, students will engage in goal setting, growth mindset/attitudinal activities, book clubs, writing, language usage and mechanics, science labs, and other face-to-face lessons &/or virtual lessons as a part of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite curriculum leading to an Academy report card and transcript. Report cards are provided 2x each academic year (end of January and end of the school year) as well as progress reports a few times each academic year.

**Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite and Early Graduation Opportunities:**

\*An important note about the Scholars Academy early graduation policy: Scholars continuously enrolled in Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite are often offered, by Dr. Lowder, a course of study including dual enrollment courses with our partner institutions of higher education. Such scholars are often offered, by Dr. Lowder, an outline inclusive of multiple years of study leading to an opportunity for early graduation. This enables our top scholars the opportunity to graduate from Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite a semester or full academic year, early. It is the policy of the Academy for our scholars to be continuously enrolled, through the month of graduation, including the final semester(s) of study when coursework may be largely (or even fully) comprised of dual enrollment coursework. This continuous enrollment will include student' engagement in social & emotional classes, classes/meetings with Dr. Lowder, as well as English & literature with Academy faculty and opportunities to build 21st Century Skills, at a minimum. As with traditional high schools offering dual enrollment credits, Scholars Academy will include these credits towards the Scholars Academy accredited high school diploma, so long as continuous enrollment has taken place, with tuition & fees paid up to the date of graduation. Shortly following the point of graduation, the completed Scholars Academy transcript, marked "high school diploma earned", will be provided. At this point in time, graduation requirements for Scholars Academy will have been met and the scholar will officially graduate from our accredited private school. No additional tuition will be due following the presentation of the completed high school transcript.

\*Contact Dr. Lowder, [innovativepedagogyengages@gmail.com](mailto:innovativepedagogyengages@gmail.com) with specific course requests or inquiries for your student based on grade, academic background, goals, attitudinal dispositions, and maturity level.

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

# Scholars Academy

For The Gifted And Artistically Elite

## Scholar's Contract

2022-2023

As a scholar of Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite, I promise to...

- ...join my classes with a positive attitude and ready to learn.
- ...stay engaged in my classes until my teachers dismiss me.
- ...keep my camera ON at all times.
- ...Ping my teacher if I am sick or will be late to a class.
- ...be respectful towards every human at all times.
- ...be responsible for my academic goals.
- ...take advantage of the many opportunities for learning at my school.
- ...understand that it is **TOTALLY NORMAL** to make mistakes as we learn and grow. I promise to give myself, my peers, and my teachers patience and grace, understanding that it is **OKAY** not to be perfect.
- ...understand and accept constructive criticism from my teachers and other scholars and use their advice to make my work even better. There are **ALWAYS** ways to improve our work.
- ...remember that learning is the **PROCESS** of **ENGAGING** in your school days, your classes, and in your assignments. It is not **JUST** turning in your work. Scholars have fun engaging in all parts of school.
- ...actually, **REALLY LISTEN** to hear what my teachers and peers have to say and consider where they are coming from, even if I do not agree with what they are saying. Respectful listening is an important part of effective communication.
- ...Ping my teacher if I have a worry, question, or concern.
- ...remember that my teachers love me and are here to help me to learn.

**We are SCHOLARS and we are PROUD to learn at Scholars Academy!**

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

© 2022 Dr. Laura Lowder Educational Consulting; Innovative Pedagogy, LLC



## Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite Virtual Classroom Supply List

- A space to hang anchor charts on the wall with clear view from the scholar's work area/desk
- A dedicated shelf or dish tub space to keep your school supplies and materials
- Multi-function calculator (graphing calculator if enrolled in Algebra or above)
- A printer with double-sided and color capability w/ (very important) inexpensive ink replacement options.
- Printer paper
- \*Laptop (preferred) or tablet with Google Classroom & Zoom capability and charger required daily

Note: Scholars Academy will supply most other school supplies and materials.

### **Contract Commitments & Signatures:**

_____ Scholars Academy Director Signature	_____ Printed Name	_____ Date
_____ Scholars Academy Student Signature	_____ Printed Name	_____ Date
_____ Scholars Academy Parent Signature(s)	_____ Printed Name(s)	_____ Date
_____ Scholars Academy Parent Signature(s)	_____ Printed Name(s)	_____ Date

Additional Notes for the Director:

**PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED AND SIGNED FORM TO InnovativePedagogyEngages@Gmail.com, ALONG WITH THE COMPLETED ACADEMY HANDBOOK. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT IN HARD COPY FORM. A DIGITAL COPY IS PREFERRED.**

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement \_\_\_\_\_