

Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite Private School  
Virtual Parent/Student Handbook and Contract  
2021-2022

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level for 21-22: \_\_\_\_\_

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 and/or dance 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.

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-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 2021-2022 academic and PTP 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**

#### **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.

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K – 12 Enrollment and Payment Options: (Please indicate your selected options.)

<p><b>Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite Virtual Classroom Registration, Tuition, and Fees</b>  <b>Research-Based, Engaging, High-Quality</b>  <b>Online Synchronous and Self-Paced Teaching and Learning = Effective Blended Learning</b>                  *\$thousands less than most private online curriculum programs</p>	
<b>Annually</b>	\$6,900 *\$200 discount if paid in full prior to May 31st
*Due 05/31/21 (or at the time of registration) *Families with documented approval for the <u>NC Opportunity Scholarship</u> or <u>Education Savings Account</u> <b>completing all paperwork prior to April 15th, 2021</b> should contact the administrator for details regarding tuition	
<b>Semester</b>	\$3,475
*Due 05/31/21 and 11/01/21	
<b>Monthly</b>	\$700
*Due 05/31/21, 07/01/21, 08/01/21, 09/01/21, 10/01/21, 11/01/21, 12/01/21, 01/01/22, 02/01/22, and 03/01/22	
*Important Notice for Students Previously Enrolled in Dr. Lowder’s Academic Program: As a previous student with Dr. Lowder, the <b>regular</b> 20-21 tuition fees have been grandfathered for your 21-22 enrollment, <u>with registration contract &amp; returning student registration fee submitted by April 15th, 2021 &amp; with full year (or first semester) tuition payment by check received by 05/31/21.</u> (\$5,000 annually or \$2,525 per semester for K-6th graders; \$5,500 annually or \$2,775 per semester for 7th-12th graders)	

Additional Fees:

- \$300 non-refundable registration fee due at registration to hold each scholar’s spot in the program as well to support registration, application review, enrollment processing, course selection, consultation, etc. (\$225/each for siblings) (\$200 for returning students if submitted by April 15th, 2021; \$150/each for siblings)
- \$300 first semester supply fee to go towards materials and supplies such as book club texts, textbooks and materials, science lab kits, etc. (due by July 1st, 2021)
- \$300 second semester supply fee (due by November 1st, 2021)
- \$200 yearly nationally-normed testing and administration fee (due by Feb. 1st, 2022)
- (optional) Honor Society Dues (pending invitation)
- Field Trip Fees (TBD)
- TBD Administration of Additional Assessments (not required)
- Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite “swag” purchases
- 1:1 and/or small group tutoring/mentorship (see 1:1 tutoring/mentorship meeting rates)

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Method of Payment:

Payment is to be made directly to “Dr. Laura Lowder” and is accepted via Venmo “Laura-Lowder-2”, cash, check, debit or credit card through Apple Square with recurring automatic payments available for your convenience (w/ 3.5% processing fee), & electronic bank debit through Quickbooks.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scholars Academy Director Signature                      Printed Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scholars Academy Student Signature                      Printed Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scholars Academy Parent Signature(s)                      Printed Name(s)                      Date

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

notebooks/binder of your choice for your selected online courses

One one-inch, three-ring binder (for your academic portfolio)-WILL BE PROVIDED BY SCHOLARS ACADEMY

One pack of at least 40 clear sheet protectors (with three-ring holes) \*avoid frosted texture

Pencils (any kind)

Pens \*Fun colors highly encouraged (Papermate Flair are a favorite of our students!)

One roll of Scotch tape

One tiny stapler

One multipack of sticky notes (standard size) \*Fun colors highly encouraged

Supply pouch or zip bag to hold your sticky notes, pens, pencils, stapler, and tape (have fun with this)

A dedicated area for your virtual school area (can be a desk, a spot at a table, a special chair, etc.)

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 or tablet with Google Classroom & Zoom capability and charger required daily

**TO BRING ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**

Writer's Notebook:

-pictures of yourself

-a composition notebook (without spiral edge is best)-decorate your notebook with your pictures!

-a narrative essay to introduce yourself and your goals for this year handwritten

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Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite  
Curriculum Information  
2021-2022

**Dr. Lowder and/or Scholars Academy administration will be in touch with scholars (via parents) to set the course of study for this 2021-2022 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.

**The combination of virtual teaching and learning, blended teaching and learning, and face-to-face teaching and learning; 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.**

\*Contact Dr. Lowder, [innovativepedagogyengages@gmail.com](mailto:innovativepedagogyengages@gmail.com) for the list of available courses for your student based on grade, academic background, goals, attitudinal dispositions, and maturity level.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.**

### **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

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

\* \_\_\_\_\_\$3475.00(USD) Semester and TBD field trip fees as listed in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite 2021-2022 handbook (November 1st, 2021).

\* or \* \_\_\_\_\_\$700.00 (USD) MonthlyFees and TBD field trip fees as listed in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite 2021-2022 handbook. (May 31st, July 1, Aug. 1, Sept. 1, Oct. 1, Nov. 1, Dec. 1, Jan. 1, Feb. 1, & March 1, 2022)

And

\* \$300 second semester supply fee (November 1st, 2021)

\* \$200 testing fee (February 1st, 2022)

I authorize Dr. Laura Lowder, as a representative of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite, 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 2021-2022 Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite 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 and Artistically Elite and/or PTP program(s). 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: \_\_\_\_\_