

# VALLEYDALE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2408 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35244  
(205)987-6286      www.valleydale.net      [valleydaleacademy@yahoo.com](mailto:valleydaleacademy@yahoo.com)

## **VCA Information Packet** *A Safe Place for Education*

Valleydale Christian Church and Academy was founded in 1998. Our first student and graduate was our youngest son who was a senior in a public school when we decided we were wasting our time and energy in an unfriendly and dangerous environment, devoid of learning. We couldn't, at that time, find a cover school that appealed to us that would take seniors, so we spent quite a bit of time tying legal loose ends to carefully open a private church school acceptable for home education that would meet the requirements of the law. Thus, Valleydale was born. When our son graduated, he asked that we continue the school, and we're very glad that we did.

### **WHAT HAPPENS FIRST?**

If possible, please come to our no-obligation **Newcomers Informational Meeting** for prospective/new families but you are welcome to attend one soon after enrolling. (Please no children at the meeting due to limited space and only parents, legal guardians or tutors need to attend.) You may just need some answers, or you may choose to enroll at the meeting but, for now, we can touch on the highlights. Your NEXT step is call us (205)987-6286 or email us [valleydaleacademy@yahoo.com](mailto:valleydaleacademy@yahoo.com), and confirm that you will be attending the meeting. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30a.m.-1:00p.m. except holidays.

If you enroll with us, you will need to **FIRST** go to the current school, **withdraw** your child, get an **unofficial** transcript or grades-to-date, and any disciplinary report plus return any books and pay any fees due so there are no delays in enrolling, purchasing your curriculum, and getting started. If this step is not completed, the school will not release the records to us. We will fax a request for the official records to their current school after your application is accepted. After you turn in the application, pay enrollment and first month's tuition, your child is enrolled and not required to go back to the former school.

**If you are divorced or separated from your student's birth parent,** we **MUST** have a copy of the pages in the final legal papers awarding you, as the parent enrolling the student, power over educational decisions **PLUS** a letter, note, or email from the non-custodial parent saying that they do not object to you homeschooling your child **BEFORE** enrollment can be completed. **If you are in the early process of a divorce without a finalized divorce agreement,** our school board will only approve applications on a case by case basis.

**REQUIRED FOR ALL FAMILIES:** You **MUST** have an email account and access to a **computer/laptop** to read emails at least 1-2 times per week plus be able to research and homeschool correctly. Email is our primary form of communication. You simply cannot read all the emails completely on a cell phone and, in fact, some cell phones will cut off most of the emails after a few lines. **Also, you MUST have a basic printer.** Local libraries usually have computers you can access with a library card at no cost.

**OUR ACCREDITATION:** We went to great effort, time, and expense to qualify for church school accreditation with the American Association of Independent Private Schools. We use nationally accredited materials as curriculum and we follow the State of Alabama Graduation Requirements so our graduates are attending colleges across the nation. We do not have public school (SACS) accreditation, nor do we desire this, so if your student returns to a public high school, he/she may be given placement tests. ALL colleges will expect you to meet their GPA and ACT requirements, as they do with all students.

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**WHAT DO YOU CHARGE?** Please refer to *Financial Policies* in the VCA Application packet.

**DO YOU NEED A DEGREE?** No, but you do need a high school diploma or equivalency. If you feel that you cannot teach high school-level courses, we do offer On-Campus (on-site) full credit courses for an additional fee, but the classes are small and fill up quickly. You also need to be able to organize, plan, and be responsible for your child's education, even if that requires joining classes or hiring a tutor. We also **REQUIRE** that you use nationally accredited curriculum for your studies, and that both student and parents/tutor be **fluent** in the English language. The parents/tutor must be able to read and interpret the material in order to teach and manage the courses which are all in English, and, for the most part, written with a basis of Christianity within their framework. Most homeschool curricula do not teach Common Core.

**REQUIRED: PC/LAPTOP & BASIC PRINTER AT HOME OR EASY ACCESS TO THEM SUCH AS A LOCAL LIBRARY.**

**IF WE DO NEED CLASSES, WHAT IF YOURS ARE FULL?** We will make arrangements for you to order curriculum that you will work on at home and will schedule a time for you to come in and bring the completed curriculum for a workcheck. We will also put you on a waiting list.

**WHAT CURRICULUM DO YOU SUGGEST?** We highly recommend starting with Alpha Omega ([www.aophomeschooling.com](http://www.aophomeschooling.com)), but you are free to choose a recognized homeschool curriculum. I will go over this carefully at the Newcomers Meeting or through email.

***IMPORTANT Note: Please consider carefully. Home Education is the ultimate private school, and is often just what a family needs, but it takes cooperation from all family members to educate your child correctly.***

Thank you! I look forward to meeting you.      *Susan Hubbard*, Director

Member:      Alabama Christian Education Association \* Association of Christian Schools International  
                  Christian Home Education Fellowship \* Directors of Alabama Schools for Homeschools

**Directions:** You cannot see our building from Valleydale Road because we sit behind trees on a hill. We have sign on the side of Valleydale Road that is white with black writing saying "VCA 2408". We are directly behind the rock front building with VIPER sign (2406 Valleydale Road) and share their driveway. **Please park close to the front of our building (2408) within** our painted parking spaces. If you have a larger vehicle like a truck or SUV, please park within the painted lines on the sides of the parking area if possible. The parking spaces with orange paint are for teachers only.

**From I-65:** Take the Valleydale Road exit (one exit south of 459). Ramping off you will be facing Valleydale Road. Turn LEFT (north). Go 2 miles to a left turn lane in front of the rock front building at 2406 Valleydale Road. PLEASE **DO NOT** MAKE AN EARLY TURN INTO THE LARGE VALLEYDALE CHURCH ON THE HILL. Turn left onto the driveway of the rock front building with VIPER sign and drive up a small hill. We are across the parking lot on the left in the building behind the trees and the number on our building is – 2408. **PLEASE DO NOT TURN INTO THE VALDAWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD.**

**From 280:** Turn south onto Valleydale Road. Go about 5 ¼ miles. Turn right just past the VALDAWOOD subdivision. We share the driveway of the rock front building at 2406 Valleydale Road with VIPER on the sign. **PLEASE DO NOT TURN INTO THE VALDAWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD.** At the top of the small hill, you will see a building ahead of you that is 2410 but we are across the parking lot on the left and our building is 2408.

**If you choose to GPS our location,** you will use the address of the rock front building with VIPER sign which is **2406** Valleydale Road. The GPS will not bring you to our building if you use 2408 as we are behind this building on the hill behind some trees. You can also "Google" our address which seems to help some parents find us.

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## **A NOTE ABOUT VALLEYDALE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ON-CAMPUS CLASSES**

Valleydale Christian Academy, where our On-Campus classes are concerned, is a college-prep group. We hope that ALL of our homeschoolers, at home or On-Campus, are of the same mindset. Most of our graduates have gone on to a 4-year college, a community or technical college, to start businesses, or elected to join the military. Therefore, we require all of our On-Campus students take and pass the ACT in order to graduate and strongly recommend for all.

We also **require** you use nationally accredited curriculum for your studies, and that both student and parents/tutor be **fluent** in the English language. The parents/tutor must be able to read and interpret the material in order to teach and manage the courses which are all in English, and, for the most part, written with a basis of Christianity within their framework. Most homeschool curricula do not teach Common Core.

**Required: PC or Laptop & printer or easy access to them such as a local library.**

Our On-Campus classes are small and move at a quick pace. We do not slow down to teach children who have learning disabilities, or who just do not want to do the required assignments, and want to complain during class, plus we send IEPs home to the parents to use at home. While schooling at home, these students can work at their own pace which often requires one-on-one teaching by the parents and/or a tutor. **We do not allow bad, disruptive, disrespectful, dangerous, or immoral behavior in our classrooms or anywhere on the school property.** We do not consider our classes a place to house students who have been in trouble or expelled from their former schools, have been in trouble with drugs, alcohol, fighting, threatening, carrying out violence, or who have been in juvenile detention, or jail, etc. so we may choose to decline enrollment or deny an application at our board's discretion. There are some mitigating circumstances, of course, but they will be decided upon on a case by case basis.


*\*Please take care when choosing a cover school with regards to monthly payments. Some schools will ask for a small upfront fee, but they do not extend certain services, or they leave you on your own to handle transcripts, diplomas, graduation, help with curriculum, they ask for many different fees for these services after you join. At VCA, we are a "family" and always here to help and guide you.*

**IMPORTANT:** All payments due to Valleydale, its teachers, or the curriculum necessary to teach, are **due in full** at the time of acceptance, and **each month**, thereafter, promptly on **the first of the month**. All required curriculum must be purchased **in full within one week** of enrollment. Please note there are additional fees and costs if enrolling in On-Campus classes. We do not accept partial payments. **ALL costs are FULLY explained at the time you enroll so you can plan ahead into your monthly budget.**

**LATE FEES:** **ALL** tuition and Teacher Fees are due on the **first of each month** and late after the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**IMPORTANT:** If your child attends On-Campus classes, it is extremely important to pay tuition/fees on time because the tuition, teacher fees and late fees begin growing exponentially and it is very difficult to "catch up". We will be forced to suspend your student from attending class(es) if any tuition or fees are overdue by 45 days. Our teachers are working hard to support their families and VCA has expenses to run the school so prompt payment is required. If there are special circumstances, please contact Ms. Susan for possible special consideration.

***REMEMBER – YOU ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD'S HOME EDUCATION FOR THEIR FUTURE.***

**We are also on Facebook:** Valleydale Christian Academy  **Website:** [www.valleydale.net](http://www.valleydale.net)  
**and Instagram!**