

VALLEYDALE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1572 Montgomery Highway, Suite 100, Hoover, Alabama 35216
(205)987-6286 www.valleydale.net valleydaleacademy@yahoo.com

VCA Information Packet

A Safe Place for Education

Valleydale Christian Church and Academy was founded in 1998 by Susan Hubbard. The first student and graduate was her youngest son who was a senior in a public school when she decided they were wasting their time and energy in an unfriendly and dangerous environment, devoid of learning. She couldn't, at that time, find a cover school that appealed to her that would take seniors, so she 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 her son graduated, he asked that she continue the school, and she did. On June 1, 2024, Mrs. Vicki Boyce became the new Director of VCA and plans to continue Ms. Susan's work of helping students who want to learn in a different way or who might otherwise not complete school for various reasons.

WHAT HAPPENS FIRST?

Your NEXT step is call us (205)987-6286 or email us valleydale2024academy@yahoo.com, to request an application packet to fill out. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30a.m.-1:00p.m. except holidays.

If you wish to enroll with us, you will need to 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 send 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. **New Registration Fee is \$125** and \$50 for a sibling.

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 curricula 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.

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

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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), 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. *Vicki Boyce*, 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 Hwy 31/Montgomery Highway because the building sits on a lower level. We have been told by some parents that the address listed above sometimes shows Vestavia Hills instead of Hoover. Also, the address sometimes shows us located near Wald Park which is incorrect. We are actually located behind Krystal's in Hoover. I will give you directions to the school from the red light on Hwy 31 with the BLUE SIGN on it saying "BRADDOCK DRIVE". If you are going north on Hwy 31, you will turn left at this red light. If you are going south on Hwy 31, you will turn right. You will see the PUBLIX store on your right but you will go straight until you reach a STOP Sign. You are entering a neighborhood so drive slowly. Turn RIGHT at this STOP Sign then go straight. You will see another STOP Sign where you will stop then proceed straight. You will then come to another STOP Sign where there is a Street Sign which says "Spruce Drive". Turn RIGHT at this STOP Sign and the road will be very curvy so drive slowly. You will come to another STOP Sign with a fire hydrant on your right and buildings in front of you. Turn RIGHT and you will see the GREEN ROOF of our building on your left. There are two entrances to the parking lot and our offices are on the bottom floor. There is a door with Suite 100 on it near a stairway but you will actually enter thru a door with Suite 102 on it which is to the right around the corner. We hope to have some type of sign near the entrance to make it easy to find.

From I-65: (to be added soon)

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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 5th.

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. Vicki 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
and Instagram!



Website: www.valleydale.net