

# PINNACLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



2019-2020  
FAMILY HANDBOOK

# Purpose

Thank you for your interest in Pinnacle Christian School. Our purpose is to provide a non-profit, college-preparatory partnership school that is committed to developing confident student leaders of character that are equipped and prepared to make a difference for Christ.

After teaching together for two years, Shelly Morgan and Elizabeth Hall developed a common vision to establish a local not-for-profit parent-partnership school. With years of experience teaching in a variety of schools including public, private and home school organizations, they recognized a unique educational need that was unmet in the Parker County area. Each year they found more families that were dissatisfied with their current school (public or private), but did not feel equipped to homeschool. Pinnacle Christian School was established to meet the educational needs of these families by providing complete, college preparatory academic instruction two days weekly working in partnership with committed parents throughout the week.

*Our purpose is to provide a non-profit, college-preparatory partnership school that is committed to developing confident student leaders of character that are equipped and prepared to make a difference for Christ.*

## **By enrolling your child in Pinnacle Christian School, your family will:**

- Benefit from the accelerated academic classes twice weekly taught by highly qualified teachers using rigorous college-preparatory Bible-based curriculum.
- Connect with a fellowship of Christian families who routinely support and encourage each other in their educational journeys.
- Receive support from classroom teachers and directors including weekly assignment checklists, consistent communication, academic guidance and formal report cards.
- Engage in variety of classroom activities which are difficult to replicate at home including STEM activities, clear and concise instruction of new concepts, group projects, science experiments, academic fairs and public speaking.
- Participate in opportunities to grow and serve as leaders through local service and mission projects.

Pinnacle Christian School admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students, and does not discriminate on the basis of race in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.

# Unique Family Partnership School

We understand that your children are your most treasured gifts. Most parents want to be a big part of their children's education, but because of a variety of factors don't find a way to do so, and therefore find themselves "stuck" in a less than ideal educational situation. Pinnacle Christian School offers the unique opportunity for families to partner with us as we provide accelerated classroom instruction utilizing proven curriculum and techniques. Comprehensive classes in History, Science, Mathematics, Language Arts and Reading as well as a chapel period are taught during classes twice weekly. During the remainder of the week, parents\* follow the assignment guides at home with their children reinforcing lessons and helping with weekly assignments assuring mastery of concepts.

## Pinnacle Christian School Partnership Model

### Pinnacle Christian School

PCS provides academic classes taught twice weekly by highly qualified and experienced teachers

PCS provides comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum in the areas of History, Science, Mathematics, Language Arts and Reading

Teachers introduce new concepts and teach lessons in actively engaging classroom settings

Teachers provide clear weekly assignment checklists with course work that reinforces in-class lessons

Teachers maintain grades, administer tests and issue quarterly report cards

Teachers make themselves available to clarify and answer parent questions after school hours via email or text

### Parents\*

Parents reinforce all lessons and concepts to ensure completion and mastery

Parents check assignments as they are completed and provide one-on-one re-teaching as necessary

Parents follow weekly assignment checklists to make sure assignments are completed

Parents support students in establishing routines and organizational systems to encourage development of positive, independent work habits

Parents hold students accountable and maintain high standards for their student's work and behavior

Parents provide an area and environment at home that is conducive to learning

\* While we recognize parents as our primary partner at PCS, some parents choose to enlist the help of additional committed people to help in this role including (but not limited to) grandparents and private tutors. Please see "Weekly Assignments" section for more information on partnership expectations.

# Tuition/Fees

## 2018-2019 TUITION & FEE SCHEDULE

### Application Fee **\$175/\$50 for Pre-K**

New Students only – One time fee  
Includes placement testing and family interview

### Enrollment Fee **\$150/\$75 for Pre-K**

Annual fee -- Currently enrolled students – due Feb. 28 to hold spot  
New student registration opens March 1 space permitting  
Family maximum Enrollment Fee: \$250 annually

### Supply Fee **\$200/\$100 for Pre-K** **\$50 for High School**

All students – due June 1  
Used to purchase textbooks, workbooks, classroom supplies

### Tuition (9 payments: Sept 1 - May 1)

Pre-K (4 & 5 year old class)	\$1377 annual/\$153 month
Elementary School (K-6 <sup>th</sup> )	\$2070 annual/\$230 month
Middle School (7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> )*	\$2520 annual/\$280 month
High School**	\$2950 annual/\$328 month

### Discounts:

- 5% Tuition payment in full discount if paid by September 1
- 15% Sibling discount (Each student after the 1<sup>st</sup> enrolled)\*\*
- 10% Member of host church\*\*

*\*Students enrolled in Middle School receive 1 hour additional teaching time weekly in Science and 1 hour additional teaching time in Math (Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1)*

*\*\*Maximum of one discount per student. Discount may be applied to tuition only – fees may not be discounted. Maximum discount for high school students is 5%*

# Admissions

Pinnacle Christian School opens the enrollment during March each year for the following school year. Priority enrollment is given to currently enrolled families. New applications include several components and must be complete before students will be considered for enrollment.

## Application Components (New students only):

1. Completed Application (online document- available on website)
2. Application Fee (\$125 prior to June 1st)
3. Family Information Form
4. Personal Reference Form
5. Copy of most recent report card or transcript (non-homeschooled students)
6. Student Questionnaire – students entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades only
7. Academic Placement Testing
8. Family Interview

## Enrollment Components Upon Acceptance (All enrolled students annually):

9. Enrollment Form
10. Enrollment Fee (\$150 due June 1st -- all students annually)
11. Supply/Consumables Fee (\$200 due June 1st -- all students annually)
12. Immunization Record (Required before start of school)

Several factors are considered for admission. These factors include (but are not limited to):

- Open space in classes
- Date/time completed applications are received with all applicable components (see above)
- Family interview
- Personal reference
- Results of academic testing
- Current enrollment of siblings

Once completed applications are received, directors and teachers will conduct family interviews, complete academic testing and fill classes. Completion of the application process does not guarantee acceptance. All classes are subject to a minimum number of students enrolled, and may be cancelled prior to June 1st if minimums are not filled. Priority enrollment is given to currently enrolled families. If application is denied admission, \$100 of the Application fee may be refunded. If applicant chooses not to enroll once application has been accepted, no refund will be provided. If student withdraws from PCS at anytime during the school year, no refund of fees or tuition payments will be made.

# Discipline Policy

Because of the nature of Pinnacle Christian School, it is of the utmost importance that each student consistently demonstrates respect for rules, teachers, peers and property. We do not take time away from class in order to handle disruptive behavior. Students who do not follow school rules will be immediately reported to parents. We expect parents to work in partnership with our staff to promptly correct any behavioral problems that may arise. We understand that no child is perfect, and everyone makes poor choices at one time or another. It is our desire to provide your child an atmosphere of grace and seek opportunities to build the character of our students through loving correction. However, due to our condensed schedule, none of our valuable teaching time will be taken from classes to address behavioral problems. If a behavior problem persists, Pinnacle Christian School may require a parent to sit in the classroom with his/her student, walk them to classes and sit beside them during lunch. Students and parents are expected to accept this discipline measure with positive, cooperative spirits. Pinnacle Christian School reserves the right to remove students who have ongoing behavioral issues or any one issue that is severe in nature. Examples of behavioral issues that are grounds for immediate expulsion include bullying, drugs, abuse of any nature, vandalism, lewd or vulgar behavior and theft.

# Weekly Assignments

Pinnacle Christian School is an advanced and accelerated college-preparatory school which requires many hours weekly of parental partnership and involvement. Although our core classes only meet twice weekly, it is a full-time program that provides complete and comprehensive curriculum for each grade level. In order for students to be successful, it is critical that a parent provides weekly guidance, re-teaching of concepts when necessary and school work help. In addition, parents are expected to provide each student with an appropriate work space at home which includes basic schools supplies, occasional access to a computer with internet access and an atmosphere conducive to learning with limited distractions. Parents are expected to look over weekly work for accuracy and mastery. Parents are expected to provide prompt correction, and review any concepts that the child hasn't mastered. Teachers will provide answer keys when necessary. A weekly assignment sheet will go home on the first school day of each week with a checklist of assignments expected to be completed. Unless otherwise indicated, students have one week to complete the assignments and are expected to bring them completed the following week. If assignments are late, teachers may choose to accept the assignment at an adjusted grade (10-50% off).

# Modifications for Exceptional Learners

Due to the nature of Pinnacle Christian School, we are not equipped to provide students with learning disabilities the specialized teaching they need. Because of our compressed schedule, most students with learning disabilities require additional help that we are unable to provide. The presence of a mild learning difference will not necessarily exempt a student for acceptance at Pinnacle Christian School, but must be disclosed and will be carefully considered by all teachers before acceptance in the program.

If a student is slightly below grade level in one academic subject, teachers may choose to modify the assignments to best suit the student's specific needs. Before any modifications take place, parents and teachers will collaborate to ensure that all decisions will be made in the best interest of the child's academic success. Progress will be carefully assessed in an ongoing basis, and modifications may be changed or removed as needed.

Gifted and Talented students thrive at Pinnacle Christian School. Our program provides the fast-paced challenges that many GT students crave. In addition, we are able to provide additional challenges when necessary to ensure that these students are pushed to reach their maximum potential.

## Attendance/Tardiness

Consistent attendance is vital for students to be successful at Pinnacle Christian School. If your child is absent for any reason, please notify the staff as soon as possible. Teachers will place assignments in the designated place to be picked up at your earliest convenience. If your child has been sick with symptoms of communicable illness including fever, sore throat, rash, vomiting or diarrhea, please keep them at home for at least 24 hours after the symptoms clear.

Classes will begin promptly each day. Tardiness causes a disruption to the class and takes away from learning. Please make every effort to have your child at school at the designated time daily. Absences and tardies are noted on the report cards.

If absences or tardies create a cause for concern, a conference may be scheduled with teachers and/or directors and may be taken to School Board for consideration of further action including possible removal from the program.

# Inclement Weather

Pinnacle Christian School follows Weatherford and Aledo ISD's closure schedules. Should there be snow, ice or any inclement weather, please watch local news stations reports regarding closures. Weather reports will also be posted on Pinnacle Christian School's Facebook page. If school should have to close early due to inclement weather, we will contact parents via phone, text and/or email. In order to keep our students and staff safe, please make arrangements to pick up your child promptly.

## General Information

**Our Physical Address:**

Pinnacle Christian School  
(Grace Community Fellowship)  
111 W. Ranch Lane  
Weatherford, Texas 76088  
(817) 350-4850  
Website: [pinnaclechristian.org](http://pinnaclechristian.org)  
Email: [info@pinnaclechristian.org](mailto:info@pinnaclechristian.org)

**Our Mailing Address:**

Pinnacle Christian School  
P.O. Box 2712  
Weatherford, Texas 76088

It is important to promptly notify Pinnacle Christian School of changes to your address, phone numbers or email addresses. Any information changes should be communicated via email.

## Academic Performance

It is our desire that every student enrolled in Pinnacle Christian School be successful. We are committed to working diligently with the partnership of parents to ensure that every one of our students is given the opportunity to do well academically. In the event that a student should fall behind or fail to stay on track academically, teachers will work closely with parents to provide the guidance and support that the student needs. In the event of any quarterly grade dropping below passing, (below 70), the student will be placed on Academic Probation. Parents will be notified by email, and a parent conference will be scheduled to discuss academic concerns and formulate a plan to help the student in the subject area(s) of concern. In the event of a grade below passing in a subsequent quarterly grading period within the same school year, the student's eligibility for re-enrollment will be reviewed by directors and teachers, and student may be deemed ineligible for enrollment in the following school year.

# Statement of Faith

**Pinnacle Christian School holds the following statements of Christian belief to be the foundation upon which we operate:**

1. We believe the Bible to be the only authoritative Word of God, inerrant and infallible. (II Timothy 3:16,11 Peter 2:21)
2. We believe there is one true God, manifested in three distinct Persons known as the Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, John 10:30)
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, who is the second person of the Trinity and that He possesses all of the attributes of the Father. He is the only son of God. He was born of a virgin and He is God incarnate (both God and man). He is mediator between God and man and will return in glory. (Matthew 16:27)
4. We believe the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity, possesses all the attributes of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit indwells, instructs and empowers all believers for spiritual service. (Matthew 28:19)
5. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and the lost, the saved to eternal life and the lost to eternal punishment (John 5:28-29)
6. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit who gives us spiritual gifts for the purpose of equipping us for the building up of the body of Christ. (John 14:26)
7. We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are placed by the Holy Spirit into the spiritual body of believers known as the church with Christ as the head. Genuine salvation will show itself by righteous attitudes and edifying conduct as a believer submits himself or herself to the control of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 5:16, Acts 26:20, James 3:13, 1 Peter 27:12)
8. We believe in the creation of man by the direct act of God. (Genesis 1:26, Genesis 5:1-2)
9. We believe that man is sinful by nature and that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential and an absolute necessity for his salvation. We believe that eternal life is a free gift of grace for all who believe. (Romans 3:19 and 23, John 3:16-19, Ephesians 2:18-19, Titus 3:5-6)
10. We believe in marriage as traditional and as defined in the Bible as a union between one man and one woman in a covenant commitment with God for a lifetime. (Genesis 1:26-28, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, Hebrews 13:4)

# Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much time outside of class will my child spend doing schoolwork each week?

A: The amount your child will need to spend on school work weekly will vary from child to child and from grade to grade. In the early primary grades, parents (and/or tutors) will often need to work along side their children for many of their assignments and to allow them time to practice reading aloud. In the upper-elementary grades students typically become more independent and will require less time and help from parents. As a rule of thumb, plan on one hour per day per class of homework. For example, a math class should average 3-5 hours each week of outside work time, but this number will vary greatly from one student to the next. Middle/high school students will spend on average 3-7 hours daily on assignments.

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Q: Is this a part-time school? I want to make sure my child stays on track academically, and will be prepared for high school/college. Will I need to purchase additional curriculum to have my child complete at home?

A: Pinnacle Christian School is designed to provide you with a complete and comprehensive academic program. We will provide you with everything your child should need for success in their particular grade. Just like in any school, if your child struggles in a particular area, their teacher may recommend outside resources such as supplemental materials and/or tutoring. Each student enrolled in Pinnacle Christian School is expected to be on or above grade level academically. If your child is behind in one or more subject areas or has learning differences, we ask that you discuss these concerns with us prior to enrollment to make sure that your child will be able to succeed in this environment.

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Q: Is Pinnacle Christian School a homeschool co-op?

A: No, PCS is not considered a homeschool co-op. Classes are taught by highly qualified teachers (many holding advanced degrees and certifications) rather than by parents as in traditional homeschool co-ops. Parents are welcome and encouraged to be involved at PCS, but are not required to stay on campus during school hours.

**Q: When is tuition due?**

A: Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month (Sept-May).

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**Q: What curriculum is used?**

A: Pinnacle Christian School uses several curriculums including ABeka Reading and Language Arts (K-2), BJU Press (LA – 3<sup>rd</sup> & up), Singapore Math, The Story of the World/Answers in Genesis History and Bible and Apologia Science. These publications are chosen because of their proven track-record as Biblically-based, rigorous, grade appropriate and college preparatory materials. You and your child will find these materials easy to follow, engaging and yet challenging. We encourage you to visit the publications' websites to find more information about each curriculum. In addition, one factor which sets our teachers apart is their ability to supplement the curriculum with exciting, engaging classroom activities which provide opportunities beyond the basic lessons. Some of these activities include group STEM projects, experiments, logic and critical thinking activities and public speaking opportunities.

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**Q: How will I know how my child is doing academically?**

A: Because of the "Partnership" design of our school and small class sizes, you will be in close communication with your child's teachers throughout the year. Graded work with teacher feedback is returned to students promptly, and report cards are issued quarterly. Some families choose to have their children complete standardized tests each year, and teachers work together with parents to facilitate diagnostic testing when necessary.

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**Q: Is Pinnacle Christian School a good fit for all families and students?**

A: Because of the heavy parental commitment, Pinnacle Christian School is NOT a good fit for every family. In order for students to be successful, it is imperative that they have parent(s) who are ready, willing and able to dedicate many hours weekly to invest in their child's education. In addition, because of our accelerated model and abbreviated weekly class schedule, it is important that students are working at or above grade level in most subject areas. Any learning differences must be disclosed at the time of application to determine if each child's unique needs can be accommodated.