

# PINNACLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



2021-2022  
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 and resources from classroom teachers, administration, and parent resource coordinator in the form of 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 Hybrid 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.

<b>Pinnacle Christian School Partnership Model</b>	
<b>Pinnacle Christian School</b>	<b>Parents*</b>
PCS provides academic classes taught twice weekly by highly qualified and experienced teachers	Parents reinforce all lessons and concepts to ensure completion and mastery
PCS provides comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum in the areas of History, Science, Mathematics, Language Arts and Reading	Parents check assignments as they are completed and provide one-on-one re-teaching as necessary
Teachers introduce new concepts and teach lessons in actively engaging classroom settings	Parents follow weekly assignment checklists to make sure assignments are completed
Teachers provide clear weekly assignment checklists with course work that reinforces in-class lessons	Parents support students in establishing routines and organizational systems to encourage development of positive, independent work habits
Teachers maintain grades, administer tests and issue quarterly report cards	Parents hold students accountable and maintain high standards for their student's work and behavior
Teachers make themselves available to clarify and answer parent questions outside school hours via email or text	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

## 2021-2022 TUITION & FEE SCHEDULE

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

New Students only – One time fee \$250/\$100 after June 1  
Includes placement testing and family interview

### Enrollment Fee \$150/\$100 for Pre-K

Annual fee -- Currently enrolled students – due Feb. 29 to hold spot  
New student registration opens March 1 space permitting  
Family maximum Enrollment Fee: \$300 annually

### Curriculum Materials Fee \$225/\$125 for Pre-K

**\$75 for High School**

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

### Tuition (9 payments: Aug 1 - Apr 1)

Pre-K (4 & 5 year old class)	\$1535 annual/\$171 month
Kindergarten - 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$2307 annual/\$257 month
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade*	\$2772 annual/\$308 month
High School**	\$3327 annual/\$370 month

### Discounts:

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

*\*Students enrolled in 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade receive 1 hour class hour daily (core classes for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade run until 1:00pm on Tuesdays AND Thursdays)*

*\*\*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/Enrollment

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
3. Family Information Form (available on website)
4. Copy of most recent report card or transcript (non-homeschooled students)
5. Student Questionnaire – students entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades only
6. Academic Placement Testing
7. Family Interview

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

8. Enrollment Form (will be emailed upon acceptance)
9. Enrollment Fee (\$150 due June 1st -- all students annually)
10. Curriculum Materials Fee (\$225 due April 1st -- all students annually)
11. 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 & fees
- Family interview
- Personal reference
- Results of academic testing
- Current enrollment of siblings

Once completed applications are received, administration 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. Enrollment in Pinnacle Christian School is an annual commitment. Annual tuition is expected to be paid in full even in the event that a student withdraws from PCS mid-year. If student withdraws from PCS at anytime during the school year, no refund of fees or tuition payments will be made. Late fees of \$25/month may be assessed on delinquent accounts. If a family falls behind on payments, they are expected to contact the billing office to set up payment arrangements in effort to bring the account current. In the case of a delinquency of 30 days or more, Pinnacle Christian School reserves the right to withdraw student from enrollment in an effort to resolve the outstanding balance.

# 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 administration and teachers, and student may be deemed ineligible for enrollment in the following school year.

# 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 and a positive and cooperative attitude at all times. 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, students may be placed on behavioral probation, and may lose eligibility to continue at PCS. Students and parents are expected to accept discipline measures 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 defiance of authority, 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, 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 and additional resources when necessary. A weekly assignment checklist will be emailed on the first school day of each week with a list 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 Tuesday. In an effort to raise the bar of excellence, PCS has implemented a school-wide policy regarding late & missing work. Late work will only be accepted a maximum of one school day late. No credit will be given to any assignment that is turned in more than one school day late. The maximum score that a late assignment will receive is 70%. If a student's work is late due to an excused absence, one additional school day for every day of school missed will be given to complete the missing work with full credit. Each class will offer one optional extra assignment per marking period (quarter) that can be used to replace the lowest grade (with the exception of a test or project).

# Modifications for Exceptional Learners

Due to the nature of Pinnacle Christian School, we are not equipped to provide students with learning disabilities, behavioral, and/or emotional disorders 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 or behavioral/emotional disorder 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 to ensure that the student's needs can be met and has what he/she needs to be successful. If a student has been diagnosed with a learning disability and/or behavioral/emotional disorder and this information is not disclosed at the time of student admission, Pinnacle Christian School reserves the right to remove student immediately upon discover of diagnosis.

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, or in the case of COVID-19 or other viruses, in accordance with Parker County Hospital District recommendations.

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. Students who arrive late or need to leave early must be signed in or out by a parent or individual named on the Authorized Pickup Form. Driving High School students must have daily written permission if leaving campus before dismissal time. 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 and ineligibility to re-enroll.

# Inclement Weather

Should there be snow, ice or any inclement weather, please watch local news stations reports regarding closures. Weather reports will also be posted in Pinnacle Christian School's private Facebook group. 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: [admissions@pinnaclechristian.org](mailto:admissions@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.

# 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, but will generally require a smaller time commitment from parents as they develop more ownership of their learning.

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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, teachers 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: Will my child's high school credits/diploma be acceptable for college admissions/scholarships?**

A: The high school program at Pinnacle Christian School works in partnership with Enlightium Academy to provide dual accreditation and NCAA-eligibility for student athletes. High school students at Pinnacle have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of elite programs including National Honor Society, dual-credit/AP/Honors courses, student leadership and mission/service projects. Each high schooler will receive a personalized four-year plan complete with specialized courses based on the student's individual interests and post-high school goals. Students who graduate from Pinnacle Christian School through Enlightium Academy are eligible to be considered for the most prestigious colleges and universities nationwide.

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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. Students who are enrolled at PCS are required to complete mandatory assignments and grades will be reported on report cards. Parents are welcome and encouraged to be involved at PCS, but are not required to stay on campus during school hours.

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**Q: When is tuition due?**

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

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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 / Answers in Genesis 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. Each family with students in grades 1-8 will have access to real-time gradebooks and updates of student progress via Thinkwave. Parents of students in grades 9-12 will receive weekly updates of student progress. 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.

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Q: Can Pinnacle Christian School be a good fit if both parents work outside the home?

A: We have had many families with both parents working outside the home whose children have been successful in the program. Parents may choose to hire a tutor and/or relative to work alongside their children to complete the daily parental role according to our Family Handbook. Parents are expected to still be integrally involved with the educational partnership even when tutors/families are utilized.