

## THE STONEHAVEN SCHOOL

### Answer Key to Supplemental Admissions Questionnaire

Why are we giving you an open-book test? It's similar to a driver's license examination. You get the questions and answers ahead of time because the goal is not to flunk applicants, but rather to make sure they read and understand the lesson. Every one of these questions deals with *real issues and concerns* we have at The Stonehaven School. When you read these answers which reflect the school's philosophy, you may wholeheartedly agree, or you may not agree at all. If you do NOT agree, then you have three choices of action. First, you may decide not to enroll your child and choose another school more consistent with your philosophy and goals. Second, you may honestly express your disagreement, but agree to comply with our policies and philosophy of education. Third, you may merely "say" you agree now and then object later, causing difficulties for your child, our staff and anyone else involved. If Stonehaven is not a school you can appreciate and support without significant reservations, the best course would be to back out gracefully now. The Lord God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Ephesians 6:4) requires parents to be active leaders in the education of their children, but that responsibility does not include trying to re-shape an entire class or institution to fit their individual preferences. However, positive criticism and ideas are always welcome, especially when they are in line with our adopted philosophy. We are eager to answer any questions you may have which will help you make a wise decision for your children.

1. You would be surprised how often a parent will object to just one facet of the curriculum. They may love the reading program, but don't see why their child has to memorize, or take Latin, or wear a school-approved uniform. We have prayerfully made many choices concerning our curriculum and program, and we believe we have made sound decisions. We expect parents to support them. We are constantly seeking to upgrade the curriculum and make positive changes to our program. However, no aspect of the curriculum is optional, and school policies should be willingly obeyed. If your attitude is not supportive, your child will pick it up, and this will be reflected in his work and attitude at school.
2. Conflicts should be resolved at the lowest level possible, in accordance with the principles of Matthew 18. If you have a problem with a teacher, the principal, a board member, or other parents, you must first meet with the person involved, and if an agreement cannot be reached, both parties should then approach the next level of authority. You should never gossip with other parents about a problem at the school.
3. Answers to this question will vary from family to family and child to child. We simply wish to get an idea of what values are important to your family.
4. Wise parents will consider the formation of Christian virtue and character in their children as the primary aim of education. Modern society's definition of academic success often pays too much attention to the outward marks of achievement. Our goal is for every student to do his best and work up to his potential in every area. Not every student can slam-dunk a basketball and not every student can get "straight A's" at Stonehaven. Each student has his strengths and weaknesses.
5. One of Stonehaven's greatest strengths is academic excellence. Our curriculum goals are relatively rigorous and demand much effort from every student. We have "set the bar high" in our academic standards. The "average" student may have to work very hard to get average grades at Stonehaven. We define an average grade as a "C." Parents of students who must work harder to keep up with the academic demands may well need to limit extracurricular activities, spend extra time helping with school work, or even secure an outside tutor to assist the student.

6. We base our homework assignments and expectations on what we have come to believe are reasonable, necessary amounts for most students. We also highly value family time and will do all we can to respect it. If your student uses the time given in class to work, normally he should not have an excessive amount of homework. We really are careful to keep homework at a very reasonable level. The amount of time spent on homework by any particular student can vary greatly within any classroom. The focused, diligent, and/or stronger students will generally have light homework loads. The students who do not wisely use the time given in class to complete assignments or who are significantly challenged by the assignments will most likely have heavier homework loads.
7. Students transferring into Stonehaven will often find that good grades are harder to come by at this school. A grade of "C" may represent average achievement at Stonehaven, but may also represent excellent effort by a given student. That student who is working at their highest potential should not be made to feel inferior by a parent's unreasonable expectation for higher marks. If you want uniformly high grades, this may not be the school for you. If you want high achievement, it is.
8. There is no single correct answer here. We simply want to know what is important to your family and how you go about nurturing your children in their faith. Although the Scriptures allow for a spectrum of parenting styles, we believe that the Bible provides parents with a number of essential principles that should be applied in the training and discipline of children. These principles include, but may not be limited to:
  - Parents should cultivate a distinctly Christian culture in the home (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4).
  - God requires parents to train their children in a God-centered way (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
  - The father is ultimately and primarily responsible for child training (Ephesians 6:4).
  - The chief goal must be to train children to fear the Lord and love Him with their whole being, (Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:1-9).
  - Love requires faithful correction and discipline (Proverbs 23:13-14, 29:17; Hebrews 12:5-11).
  - Children are a heritage and blessing from the Lord (Psalm 127:3-5).
  - Children must be taught proper submission and obedience to authority (Romans 13:1-3; Ephesians 6:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-14).
  - The child's heart must be the focus of training –as opposed to controlling only outward behavior (Matthew 12:14, 15:18; Luke 6:45).
  - Discipline must not exasperate children. It is never to be unjust or abusive (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

*The Stonehaven School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, financial assistance and loan programs, athletic programs, and other school administered programs and activities.*