

Parental Handbook

2025-2026

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Introduction:

Welcome to Living Water Elementary! We are delighted to have you as a part of our community. This handbook is designed to provide you with essential information about our learning pod, its vision, values, and expectations. We believe that education should be something that all parents able to be a part of if they choose to. You should know exactly what your children are studying in the curriculum, who your children spend their time with in the community, and who is teaching/discipling your child as their teacher for a significant part of their lives. Our mission is to nurture young minds academically, spiritually, mentally, physically in an outdoor inspired and Jesus loving environment.

About Living Water Elementary:

At Living Water Elementary, we understand that education is not just about academics. We believe in providing a hands on, life changing experiencing approach that fosters academic excellence along with spiritual growth. Our students may be dropped off between 8:30am and 9am and picked up between 2:30pm and 3pm. Our little dream is built upon the following principles:

1. Christian Faith-Based Education: We are graciously given this gift in teaching the Word of God, incorporating biblical teachings, values, and principles into all of our daily activities. Our aim is to instill a love for Jesus, praying that every student will know that we serve a LIVING God and that the love of Jesus in incomparable. How do we show that God is in every subject, from recognizing structure in math to beautiful creativity in art. From true meaning in writing to His will being done through history. This is what we desire alongside the incredible standard of education.

2. Academic Excellence: We provide a thoughtful and parent involved curriculum designed to foster a love of learning and critical thinking. Our dedicated teachers and parents work together in choosing the best curriculums in all subjects to help reach the best potential. Our curriculum may be combined with private school curriculums and home schooling curriculums if those happen to provide the best experience for learning that year.

3. Spiritual Development: We nurture the spiritual growth of our students through prayer, worship, and the study of the Bible. Our teachers have a heart to disciple, not just teach. Their love for the students extend the test report. Their love for their students are about shaping their hearts and helping them be who God created them to be. Our aim is to help students develop a personal relationship with God and a deep understanding of their faith.

4. Community Engagement: We encourage our students to actively participate in community service and outreach activities. We believe in the importance of giving back and being compassionate, Christ-like citizens. Alongside this, our families truly live life alongside each other. We know that the experience of Living Water goes well beyond the schools doors at the end of the day as families live life together in building each other up and supporting each other whenever possible.

5. Safe and Outdoor Environment: We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive space where all students can learn, grow, and thrive in the outdoor environment. We believe that the fresh air and sunshine are vital to the development of our children. Nature in and of itself is a God given teacher and a classroom.

6. Partnership with Parents: We value the partnership between parents and the school. Open communication, involvement, and support from parents are crucial in any child's educational journey. Along with regular communication and full transparency with the teachers about your child's education, parents have the opportunity to serve within the school. Parents are currently serving as teachers for Spanish, Art, Physical Education, and Music. Parents are encouraged to pour their time and gifts into our school in ways that will benefit all the students as a whole.

7. Appreciation for Diversity: While we are based in Little Rock, AR, we know that our God created the entire universe. We strive to expose our students to other cultures, other languages, and other experiences that help them as they prepare to make an impact for Gods kingdom someday. If God calls them to serve in another country or in any career someday, we pray that Living Water has planted a seed and helped prepare them for whatever God calls them to do.

We hope this handbook serves as a valuable resource throughout your time at Living Water Elementary. Below are more details about the aspects of our school. Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We are excited to partner with you in the education and spiritual development of your child. What a gift it is to do life with you!

May God be magnified and glorified in and through Living Water Elementary.

Thank you,

Directors of Living Water Elementary

Missions and Values

To glorify God in all that we do whether learning together in the classroom or living life together with other families outside in the community. To experience the life God has called us to live with full abundance and joy, experiencing as much as we can in a hands on way. Provide an environment where our children's hearts, minds, and souls are molded into the person God has called them to be.

Academic Curriculum

From Bob Jones to Singapore, from The Good and The Beautiful to Sonlight. Our blended curriculum is prayed over and built alongside parents in the summer leading up to the academic year. Our teachers spend endless hours researching and gathering curriculums that ultimately allows for our students to learn all the necessary core subjects such as Bible, English, Math, Art, STEM, Social Studies, History, and Language Arts in the most intentional environment. All parents have the opportunity to sit and work beside our teachers as we build a curriculum that cannot be found elsewhere. Living Water Elementary does OPTIONAL MAP testing every Fall and Spring to accurately assess the students progress as well as the DRA assessments for reading and writing up to 4th grade. These assessments and testings are within the same markers as Arkansas private and home schools. If you choose to partake in the Learn Act program with the State, you will be required to do testing.

Spiritual Development

Our students spend an average of 6 hours a day in school during the week. Teachers teach and disciple your children during that time and strive to help in nurturing a love for Jesus, a love for serving one another, and a love for learning. Jesus tells us to make disciples as we go in the Great Commission. He doesn’t call us to only do it on this day and at this time. Therefore, our spiritual development goal at Living Water is to grow in our faith as we strive to equip our students in Gods word to share the Gospel and follow Jesus, inside and outside the school house.

Parental Involvement

Living Water Elementary is here to help you disciple your child as we educate through all subjects each day. We encourage parents to be a part of our school. Come read to the class outside, share how God is working in your career by showing your skills and sharing your wisdom. Teach our students how to garden. Teach them how to build a wooden structure. Teach them how to use their voices to worship and sing praises. If you feel like you are not called to be the full time teacher for your children but you want to be integrated into their education somehow, then lets embrace your gifts and use it for His glory and for our students good.

Safety and Security

Our gorgeous school is located on a private property, owned by a founding family of Living Water Elementary. Stretching over 20 acres, we strive to take all realistic safety measures when possible. Students are often outdoors in nature. We provide rules such as wearing protective boots and water breaks that gives a small peace of mind for parents, HOWEVER Living Water Elementary, nor the teachers, nor the property owners are liable for any damage, physically or mentally. We enforce boundaries when applicable in seasons of higher likelihood of danger as our best efforts to prevent unwanted situations. Students are required to leave these protective boots in their school locker each day, provide a rain jacket and water bottle to stay hydrated during the school day. Living Water Elementary also provides the mental and spiritual safety for our students in ways of accepting one another and tackling any conflicts as they arise. Our teachers and parents support one another to use any growing conflicts as an opportunity to disciple our students on loving one another and building each other up in the Word of God.

Our school protects its privacy by not revealing location or information on any social media platforms or website. Living Water Elementary has a private Instagram page that parents may follow to see glimpses of our day. We have a gate at the entrance of the property that only parents are given the code to gain access. This code is changed often for security purposes. Given the small size and nature of our school, families stand together in whatever ways possible to provide a safe and secure environment for our students.

Discipline Policy

Sprouts Classroom Behavior/Discipline Protocol (Transitional Kindergarten/4 and 5 year olds)

We are honored to partner with you in the discipleship of your child. Our focus is to create a

Jesus-loving environment where grace is extended to each child while maintaining clear

protocols to ensure safety and development. In the Sprouts classroom, we foster a nurturing

space where children can grow socially and emotionally. Our approach is rooted in careful

observation, understanding the root causes of behavior, and providing guidance to support each child's development. Clear communication with parents and thorough documentation are key to our strategy.

1. Observation: Understanding the Root Cause

* Initial Observation: Teachers observe the child over time to identify behavior triggers

such as transitions, peer interactions, frustration, or fatigue.

• Behavioral Triggers: Look for signs like hunger, tiredness, frustration, lack of

communication skills, or sensory overload.

2. Addressing Specific Behaviors

A. Hitting or Physical Aggression

• Root Cause: Lack of impulse control or frustration.

• Response: Remain calm, redirect to appropriate behavior, and reinforce positive choices.

Teach alternative expressions of frustration like using words or taking breaks.

• Support: Provide emotional regulation guidance, such as breathing exercises.

B. Dangerous Behaviors

• Root Cause: May be intentional or linked to an inability to understand safety.

• Response: Immediately intervene, remove the child from the situation, and document the

incident. A meeting with parents will follow to discuss next steps.

Safety Protocol: Increased supervision and proximity to the teacher are essential.

3. Communication with Parents

• Initial Communication: Notify parents immediately after an incident and focus on

finding solutions together.

• Incident Reports: Document behaviors, including triggers, actions, and steps taken.

• Ongoing Monitoring: Regular updates and collaboration with parents to ensure

consistency between home and school.

4. Behavioral Expectations & Limits

• Clear Expectations: Reinforce simple, positive rules such as “keeping hands to yourself”

and using kind words.

• Freedom within Limits: At times, stricter guidelines may be necessary to maintain

safety and structure.

5. Documentation & Record Keeping

• Incident Documentation: Record all incidents of aggression or dangerous behavior,

detailing the situation and the resolution.

• Ongoing Tracking: Keep a log of repeated behaviors and any strategies used, ensuring

consistent follow-up and decision-making.

6. Managing Repeated Behavior

• First Incident: Immediate intervention, observation, and communication with parents.

• Second Incident: Immediate pickup and a follow-up meeting to discuss further actions.

• Third Incident: Temporary withdrawal from the program until behavior is under control,

with re-enrollment only after improvement.

Discipline for Elementary School

The steps for following through with your concern and/or any disciplinary actions will be as followed:

1- Concern is bought to the teachers attention. Please know that our teachers may very well already be aware of the situation. The teachers truly care about your children's well being and making sure they feel loved, heard, and cared for!

2- The teacher will respond and will directly meet with the individual students involved with the situation during school hours alongside the Director of Discipleship. IF there is evidence and the behavior/language calls for consequences for any or all of the students, the teacher will issue Strike 1 if they feel that it is necessary. The parents will be notified and updated on how the conversation went. Most situations require a confrontation, apology, and the kids move on forward with their day. As parents, we need to trust the teachers to do what they are best at which is teaching these children and classroom management.

3- IF this behavior continues and the teachers sole input was not enough for the student/s to show improvement, the Director of Discipleship and the parents will be notified and asked to step in. Parents will be asked by the staff to meet with the student on campus together. There will be a discussion on why that behavior or language is not acceptable and the expectations and standards for Living Water Elementary will be shared as a reminder of what is expected. Strike 2 is implemented and the student will be asked to stay home for the remainder of the day or longer depending on the severity of misconduct.

4- IF this does not seem to affect the students behavior and willingness to improve and yet another incident of the same misconduct occurs, the student will have reached Strike 3. You will be asked to leave the school indefinitely. Both for the reason that Living Water Elementary's standards were not met and respected as well as the resources provided within the school do not meet the needs of the students and a more structured and larger environment may be better suited for them.

Notes regarding Protocols:

As a small school with only the basic administrative staff working alongside the teachers, we are not equipped to handle consistent inappropriate behavior. Parents are, as the childs primary disciple, required to partner alongside the teachers and other families to be like minded in the values and the character we want to raise our children. That is with kindness, compassion, respect and honesty the way that Jesus modeled the walk of faith for us. We have zero expectations for any student to be perfect, but we have expectations that parents are actively investing in their child's character as they grow and learn and mature through situations.

If you contact a teacher, they are NOT required to respond to your message after 4pm. They may also take 24 hours to process, gather information and assess the classroom. They may respond sooner if they choose to. If there is a big enough concern happening, trust that the teachers will immediately bring it to your attention.

Again, we are a community of families who want our children to not only grow academically but also spiritually and personally. It is essential that we support them as they grow into who God created them to be. While we embrace a relaxing, laid back, and fun environment at Living Water Elementary, we also hold a standard for conduct that fosters positive relationships and behavior towards each other. For example, we teach them that lying is unacceptable not only because it hurts others but because that is not the character of our LIVING GOD. We are created in His image and therefore, when we act out in a way that does not reflect Christ, we are called to lovingly and consistently turn their focus back to Jesus. The same way we should be doing for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We do not believe in handling discipline and conflict physically or disrespectfully but with grace, compassion and willingness to grow in love for one another.

School Policies

Attendance Policy:

At Living Water Elementary, we believe regular attendance is crucial for each student’s academic success. Showing up to what you commit to is a fundamental way to build character and responsibility. In the long run, these habits of character and responsibility extend far beyond the classroom. They equip students with the skills they need to succeed in all aspects of life, instilling values that will serve them well as they grow and take on new challenges. In addition, our educators dedicate significant time to planning meaningful, engaging lessons, and by committing to consistent attendance, you demonstrate that you value their efforts and the opportunities we provide for your child’s growth.

Our program is designed to foster engagement and learning through a structured, in-person

experience five days a week. By working together—students, teachers, and families—we build a strong community focused on success. Your child’s presence plays a key role in their own learning and contributes to the overall success of our school. This policy applies to students in 1st grade and beyond. While we acknowledge that you have submitted a Notice of Intent to Homeschool, we deeply value the collaboration with parents to ensure the best possible learning experience for your children.

Standard Attendance Expectation

• Our school program is held five days a week, and regular attendance is crucial for the

academic success and development of each student.

• Students are expected to attend school each day unless there is a valid reason for absence,

such as illness, family emergency, or prior notice for planned leave.

• Frequent or prolonged absences may result in an assessment of the student’s progress,

and make-up work will be required to ensure academic goals are met.

Make-Up Work During Extracurriculars

• Students who miss school due to illness or any other reason will be expected to complete

make-up work. All make-up work will be scheduled and completed during extracurricular

activities, ensuring that the academic time missed is appropriately accounted for. Teachers will provide the necessary materials for missed lessons.

Notification of Absences

• Parents are required to notify the teacher in advance if their child will be absent for any

reason.

Consequences for Excessive Absences

• Absences that extend beyond 10% of the school year (18 days) will require to meet with

school administration to discuss potential interventions. The school may transfer the

responsibility for the student’s academics to the parents. In this case, the parents will be

required to sign a waiver acknowledging that they assume full responsibility for ensuring

their child’s academic progress and completion of missed work.

Late Pick Up/Early Drop off:

Students are required to be dropped off between 8:30am and 9am. In addition, they are required to be picked up between 2:30pm and 3pm. Living Water Elementary does not have any after care option available so being late means that the teachers or the families are being held back on their own time. This being said, if you show up after 3pm there will be a $25 fee that will be due immediately. The teachers will be keeping a track of the times students arrive and the time that students are picked up. Living Water Elementary will send an invoice the day of late pick ups. If you are late than 3:30pm for pick up, a fee of $40 will be requested.

Illness Policy:

Students are required to stay home if they show new symptoms of illnesses.

For fever relating illnesses, we ask that you stay home until there has been a full 24 hours of NO fever and there has been no need for any medication.

For colds and coughs, we ask that you stay home initially until the contagious period has passed and until your pediatrician has given you the clear to return to school.

For stomach bugs, please stay home until a full 24 hours of no vomiting has passed and no medication is needed.

For Covid, please follow the CDC guidelines.

Weather Policy:

We follow the same guidelines as private schools in Little Rock for SNOW related closings. If the roads are cleared to drive to private schools, we will also be open. However, please use your own judgment when driving on the roads. Two days or less of snow day cancelations, we will not have schoolwork to make up at home. Three days or more, teachers will send home some school work for the students to do at home. Five days or more of missed school for snow days, we will add the extra missed days to the end of the school year.   
  
As for tornado and other weather related policies, we will keep an eye on updates and communicate with all parents. The school does not have storm shelters for all students and will need to be careful when warnings are issued in Little Rock, AR. Please know that we will communicate all updates with every class!

Communication:

Living Water Elementary provides parent teacher conferences every 9 weeks throughout the semester as an opportunity for parents to sit down face to face with their child’s teacher and discuss their progress. Teachers also send out a weekly newsletter that provides the week ahead updates and information on what we will be learning about. Living Water Elementary has an assistant principal is always available to communicate with parents if they have a concern regarding a teacher and is not comfortable to directly communicate with that teacher. Families, as they live life together, are encouraged to communicate about big life changes to one another so that we can walk alongside each other in faith!

Enrollment and Admissions:

Living Water Elementary want families who feel called to be a part of our community. We want to provide a community of believers who foster the love for Jesus and does life together. We know that a huge part of our success in doing what God calls us to do is being surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ who are like minded. This community shares a desire to make an impact on earth for His eternal kingdom. Families wanting to join Living Water Elementary may communicate with Kelli Rackley or Rachel Haynes and schedule a time to meet in person to discuss this possibility and pray that God will provide clarity. Every family that joins Living Water Elementary is prayed over and discussed by all current families as to whether that student may be a fit given our circumstances and our limitations.

Students are encouraged to come by the school to meet the other students and teachers. Teachers will spend time with potential student to assess where they are academically and developmentally before beginning as an official student. Living Water Elementary provide three academic classes which are Preschool, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary. Our preschool class is limited to eight total students and the Elementary classes are limited to ten total students per class.

Tuition fees are subject to change each year as we evaluate the needs of the students in regards to curriculum, supplies, and equipment. There are no supply fees, building fees, or admission fees. Families who want to enroll will be subject to pay a deposit to hold a spot at Living Water Elementary, your spot is not secure otherwise. All field trips and outside of curriculum opportunities, for example a reading interventionist if needed or possible horse riding classes, will be an additional financial responsibility for each family. All salaries, supplies, classroom expenses at Living Water Elementary are fully funded by tuition payments.

Tuition fees for the academic year of 2025-2026:

Transitional Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) : Monday through Friday - $8,500

There are 2 and 3 day options for this class as well.

Kindergarten: Monday through Friday - $12,500

1st Grade: Monday through Friday - $12,500

2nd Grade: Monday through Friday - $13,500

3rd Grade: Monday through Friday - $13,500

4th Grade: Monday through Friday - $14,500

5th Grade: Monday through Friday - $14,500

There is a $1,000 deposit at the time of enrollment which is deducted from the tuition and is used for preparation and expenses needed prior to the beginning of the year. This deposit is due by April 1st, 2025. Every student Kindergarten and above will qualify for the Learns Act and receive $7000 towards their tuition from the State.

The above tuition costs include all fees for the year including supplies, building, technology, rentals, and utilities.