

Charter of Ambleside School of Ocala*

- 1} We believe in and proclaim both the mystery that is God, whom we partly know and partly do not know, and the human need to worship.
- 2} We believe in and proclaim the person of Jesus Christ who distinctively reveals the nature of God and the meaning and purpose of life, and who calls us to follow Him through the death of the cross to the place of the Resurrection.
- 3} We trust in the Holy Spirit who prompts liberty, beauty, truth, love, and joy against the waywardness of human nature.
- 4} We are committed to using the Bible in a way that takes account of all truth and relates it to the real experiences, both good and bad, that people have of life.
- 5} We are committed to exploring the meaning of the Kingdom of God and to making connections between what we profess and the way in which we live and work.
- 6} We acknowledge the destructive power of human sinfulness, and we welcome gratefully the forgiveness that God offers to those who are prepared to turn to the truth.
- 7} We are committed to taking all people seriously wherever they might be at their particular point of understanding, while at the same time sharing with them whatever insights may have been gained by our relationship with God.
- 8} We are committed to identifying and affirming what is good and identifying and opposing what is evil, and living as best we can in the mess in the middle.

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Guiding Principles

Mission

It is the mission of the Ambleside administration and faculty to provide what Charlotte Mason called a “living education,” where each child is guided and empowered to author a full and free life, a life rich in relationship to God, self, others, ideas, and all of creation. Thus, our primary concern is the kind of student each child is becoming, not the mastery of particular data or technique, for we are confident that the student who masters the art of learning will attain his full potential for mastering data and technique. The student who masters the art of relating well to God, self, others, ideas, and creation will attain the fullness of life for which she was created. Our mission is fulfilled through a consistent application of our Fundamental Convictions as applied to education.

Our Faith

We begin with the conviction that the fullness of God’s plan for humanity is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. He is both the example and the source of living a full and free life. The commandments to love God and to love one another are fundamental in the outworking of a fully human life. This conviction is given expression in the Ambleside Charter.

Fundamental Convictions

1. A Non-Competitive, Stimulating Atmosphere

In an atmosphere of sincerity and truth, students are free to learn for the pleasure of learning. Students do not compete with their peers for rank, grades or prizes. Learning is the focus, not besting a classmate. Real life is placed before the students to study and discuss. Students are stimulated to observe, explore, and understand.

2. The Discipline of Habit

At Ambleside, we consider the process of student work to be as important as the end product. Rather than developing persons who are able to study well for the next exam, we are interested in helping students develop a life of study. We ask the questions: Did she attend? Did he put forth effort? And was she thorough? We believe school is not just an institution to get through, but rather a place to develop habits that will serve children the rest of their lives.

3. Education as Vital, Dynamic, Living

Real learning occurs when the learner wonders, asks why and how. And it needs to happen in an atmosphere that stimulates thought, in an atmosphere rich with ideas. Our objective is to place the very best books before our students, books rich in content and ideas, putting them into relationship with the finest authors. Through the use of “living books” students interact with scientists, mathematicians, philosophers, historians, artists, poets, and explorers.

4. The Infinite Dignity and Potential of Each Child

Because children are born in God's image, they are therefore born with great potential for a fruitful and full life of interests and relationships. At Ambleside, children are not identified or limited by their strengths or weaknesses. All children participate in a broad, rigorous curriculum—all children calculate, solve, attend, explore, ponder, recite, paint and sing. The expectation that prevails within the school is that all students will learn and grow to their full potential as persons and attain their vast inheritance.

5. The Priority of the Relational Life

Children live in relationship with God, self, others, creation, and the world of ideas. These relationships are cultivated in the educational process through a broad, challenging curriculum and a faculty that seeks to relate to students, parents, and one another in accordance with the principles of Jesus Christ.

6. The Importance of Delight and of Struggle

Children will naturally delight in the feast of great ideas set before them. They will savor them and grow in the ability to enjoy and celebrate their relations with persons, ideas, and creation. But they will also at times struggle. We consider the struggle to be as essential to the learning process as the delight. Children must learn to labor with problems not yet grasped, to remain on task when uncertain of the outcome, to struggle to completion when mind and hand are tired, to experience the rewards and negative consequences of their actions. There will be no growth in character without the struggle. Foremost among the enemies of the delight and the struggle necessary for the cultivation of a learner are entertainment and indulgence. In the classroom, entertainment and indulgence both encourage passivity. To grow, a student must be strenuously engaged in the work of learning. Thus, Ambleside teachers, while often creative in their presentations, make no effort to entertain their students. Ambleside teachers, while being loving, will not be indulgent.

Application Procedure Checklist

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all steps in the application process are completed. Please use this checklist to keep track of items that need your attention.

1} APPLICATION FORM AND FEE: _____

The application must be completed by the parents/ guardian and returned in person to the Ambleside School office at 1126 E. Silver Springs Blvd., or by mail to: 1521 SE 36th Ave. Suite 1, Ocala, FL 34471. A non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per family must accompany the application form. This is a one-time fee.

2} BOOK READINGS: _____

The parents/guardians of the applicant must read *Charlotte Mason Reviewed*, by Jenny King, or *For the Children's Sake*, by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay, as well as the Ambleside Guiding Principles. *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Neil Postman is also strongly recommended. Readings are available at the school office.

3} TRANSCRIPTS: _____

A Request for Student Records form is included in the Student Application. Please complete and sign so that the applicant's educational records may be released to Ambleside School upon enrollment. This may include report cards, standardized aptitude and/or achievement test scores, etc.

4} APPLICANT EXAMINATION: _____

A testing appointment will be scheduled after the application has been received. The \$50.00 examination fee per child is due at the time of testing. Each applicant is required to take an entrance examination.

5} INTERVIEW: _____

A personal interview with both parents is required for each family applying to Ambleside. A personal interview is not mandatory, but may be requested, for each additional new sibling applying to Ambleside. Please call the school office to arrange an appointment for an interview after completing the required reading for parents.

6} FINANCIAL AID: _____

Families requesting need-based financial aid should notify Ambleside School to obtain the necessary materials and forms.

7} MEDICAL FORMS: _____

A copy of the applicant's immunization record, a certification of a school-entry health exam, and a copy of applicant's birth certificate are required upon notification of acceptance. (The medical forms are available from your doctor or the Marion County Health Department).

8} PARENT HANDBOOK: _____

Upon acceptance, each family should request their personal copy of Ambleside School's Parent Handbook from the school office.



Request for Student Records

Name of Student: _____ Birth Date: _____

Entering Grade: _____ in Spring / Fall of _____ Today's Date: _____
(year)

This student has enrolled at Ambleside School of Ocala. We are requesting the transcripts, health records, grades, test scores and/or any student information, including discipline records, pertaining to this student.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Valarie Lacefield
Director

Name of Previous School: _____

Address: _____

Dates of Attendance: _____ Grade(s): _____

I hereby release my child's records to the above-mentioned school, and attest to this by signing below.

Parents' Signature: _____

Please send records to:

Ambleside School of Ocala
1521 SE 36th Avenue, Ste. 1
Ocala, FL 34471

Tuition
2009-2010

Kindergarten through Second grade	\$ 4,475
Third grade through Sixth grade	\$ 5,560

Tuition Payment Options:

- 1) One full payment (tuition less paid enrollment fee) due July 1, 2009.
- 2) Two equal payments (tuition less paid enrollment fee) due July 1, 2009 and November 1, 2009.
- 3) Ten equal monthly payments (tuition less paid enrollment fee) beginning June 20 *or* July 5, 2009 through April 5, 2010.

Tuition payments for options 1 and 2 above may be made directly to the school. Ambleside School of Ocala uses FACTS Tuition Management to handle the 10-month payment plan. Under this option, you can check on the status of your account, the schedule of payments still to be made, a listing of those payments already made, and a complete listing of all activity through “My FACTS” account. FACTS charges a nominal annual enrollment fee for families who elect this option. FACTS is the largest educational financial service provider in the industry serving schools in all 50 states. They have been in business since 1986 and specialize in working with schools like ours. For more information log onto their website www.factsmgt.com.

Financial aid may be available. Ambleside School of Ocala makes use of FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment to help us evaluate requests for financial aid. If you would like to complete an application online, you may go to <https://www.factstuitionaid.com/facts/gaindex> or call the school office to request a hard copy of the Financial Aid Application.

Fee Schedule

FEE	AMOUNT	DUE
Application Fee per family	\$ 100	with application
Entrance Exam Fee	\$ 50	day of exam
Materials Fee	\$ 75	before first day of school
Enrollment Fee (applied toward tuition)	\$ 500	upon notification of acceptance

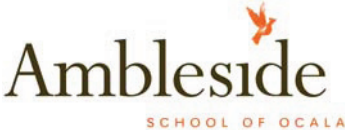
All fees are non-refundable. Unless otherwise noted, fees are stated on a per-student basis. Fees and tuition will be evaluated and re-assessed annually to keep up the inflation rates and operating costs.

Ambleside School of Ocala is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The School Board solicits charitable donations from individuals and organizations whose generous support provides funding for scholarships. The School Board kindly suggests that scholarship recipients write a “Thank you” letter at year’s end sharing their personal stories of growth and development at Ambleside. These may be written anonymously, if desired. They will then be collected by the School Board and distributed to donors. Ambleside School of Ocala does not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in any of its policies or programs.



Student Application





Applicant Information

For Admission Fall, _____ Grade _____ Male _____ Female _____

Applicant's Full Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Citizenship _____ Phone _____

Applicant's Address _____

How did you hear of Ambleside of Ocala? _____

Academic Information

Applicant's Current School _____ Phone _____

School Address _____

Other schools attended in the past three years (include addresses, grade levels, and dates of attendance).

Has the applicant ever been dismissed from school? _____ Suspended? _____

If yes to either of these questions, please give a full explanation on a separate sheet of paper, noting names of schools and dates of attendance.

Describe your child's academic strengths.

Describe any particular circumstances (reading difficulties, learning disabilities, etc.) that should be taken into consideration when reviewing your child's school record.

Describe any physical limitations which would not allow the applicant to participate fully in any academic or athletic program at Ambleside School.

Family Information

Father's Full Name _____

Father's Occupation _____

Firm Name _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____ Email _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Mother's Occupation _____

Firm Name _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____ Email _____

Address of Father or Mother if different from Applicant

Please list siblings other than applicant.

Children	Age	Current School

We publish a school directory for families. Please check here if you do not wish to have the following information published:

_____ Phone number _____ Email address

Parent Questionnaire

Please take the time to thoroughly answer the following questions:

- 1} Why are you considering Ambleside School for your child?
- 2} What are your expectations of Ambleside School?
- 3} What is your religious preference?
- 4} Will you support the Charter of Ambleside School?
- 5} Are there any family circumstances that might affect performance and of which we should be aware? If so, please explain.
- 6} Ambleside School does not tolerate the use or possession of drugs (including alcohol, marijuana, or paraphernalia) and will dismiss a student for violation of this policy. Will you support this policy?
- 7} Has your child ever been convicted of a criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation, or are there such criminal charges pending against him or her at this time? If so, please explain.
- 8} Homework is not assigned indiscriminately, therefore Ambleside School does not tolerate student irresponsibility in the areas of preparedness for class. Should a student come to class unprepared, he will be required to stay after school until 4:30. Will you support this policy?
- 9} If your child is lacking in skills or knowledge, will you take the responsibility to insure your child's growth through tutoring, summer school, or additional reinforcement at home?

Our signatures below confirm that all information given in this application and related forms are correct to the best of our knowledge. We understand that any omission, misrepresentation of the facts, falsifying or withholding of information in completing this application and all required documents constitutes grounds for immediate withdrawal of the application, cancellation of admission, and/or termination of enrollment at Ambleside School. Further, we understand that upon enrollment we are expected to become familiar with and abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in the Ambleside School Handbook.

Father's Signature

Date

Mother's Signature

Date

Guardian's Signature

Date