

# OCA PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(answer key on next page)

Names of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Would you be willing to volunteer in any of the following areas?  fine arts  secretarial  
 classroom aide  building maintenance  subbing  other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you support the following aspects of the curriculum and school policies?

<b>Please circle:</b>	<b>Y=Yes</b>	<b>N=No</b>	<b>Q=Qualified Answer</b>
Discipline Policy	Y-N-Q		Scripture memorization Y-N-Q
Required outside reading	Y-N-Q		Frequent memorization Y-N-Q
Latin	Y-N-Q		Learning Disability Policy Y-N-Q
Dress Code	Y-N-Q		Applied classical ed. philosophy Y-N-Q

3. If a conflict arises between you (or your child) and the classroom teacher, an administrator, or the school board, in your attempt to resolve it, at what point, if any, would you call or write to other parents?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which virtues would you most like your child to exhibit?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. With regard to your child's personal priorities, which is more important: high achievement (grades, leading roles, rebounds) or doing one's best? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If you find that your child is sinking academically, how would you respond?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. How much time for homework is tolerable in your family?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Should a grade of "C" be a cause for pride and praise if a student is working to the best of his potential?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Would you expect a teacher in a class of 18 students to spend 25 % of his/her effort on one child with academic, behavioral, or emotional problems if that child were yours? \_\_\_\_\_ If it were not yours? \_\_\_\_\_.

10. How do you promote spiritual values in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Signatures of adults bearing responsibility for these applicants:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **ANSWER KEY**

### **to Parent 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 those questions deals with real-life questions and concerns that could arise. When you read these answers which reflect the school's philosophy, you may wholeheartedly agree, or you may not agree at all. If you don't agree, then you have three choices of action. First, you can decide not to enroll your child and choose another school more in keeping with your philosophy. Second, you can be honest about your disagreement but plan to go along with our philosophy of education. Third, you can agree and figure you can always object later. If this isn't a school you can appreciate unreservedly (or at least tolerably) and support without major changes, the best course would be to back out gracefully now. The Lord God (Deut. 6:4-9, Eph. 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 your individual preferences. 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 good decision.

1. A great school needs the active participation of parents. Everyone has skills and knowledge which contribute to advancing our educational mission.
2. You would be surprised how often parents will object to one facet of the curriculum. They may love the reading program but don't see why their child has to memorize, take Latin or follow the dress code. We expect parents to support them. We are constantly seeking to upgrade the curriculum. 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.
3. Conflicts should be resolved at the lowest level possible, in accordance with Matthew 18. If you have a problem with a teacher, the headmaster, a board member, or other parents, you must first meet with the headmaster, and if an agreement cannot be reached, both parties should then approach the next level of authority. You should not gossip with other parents about a problem.
4. Answers to this question will vary from family to family and child to child. But we would like to get an idea of what values are important to your family.
5. Wise parents will not contribute to modern society's worship of success by paying too much attention to the outward marks of achievement. Our goal is for every student to do his best, to work up to his potential in every area. Not every student can jump seven feet, and not every student can make the honor rolls at OCA. All students have their strengths and their weaknesses.
6. Our curriculum goals demand much effort from every student. Parents of students who must work harder to keep up with the academic demands may well need to limit extracurricular activities and insist on completion of homework on some nights. We don't work academics around our extracurricular activities; studies come first.
7. We have set certain guidelines for homework within the elementary. We base these guidelines 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.
8. Students transferring in and out of OCA often find that good grades are harder to come by at this school. A grade of "C" may represent average achievement at OCA but may also represent excellent effort by a given student. That student should not be made to feel inferior by a parent's 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.
9. A teacher's attention is never going to be evenly divided among students; nor is a parent's among his own children. But there is a point beyond which we are being unfair to the compliant majority. This is a small school with a conservative budget and limited resources, and we simply

can't be all things to all people.

10. There is no right answer here, of course. We want to know what is important to your family.