



The objective of the Pinnacle Classical Academy (PCA) is to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through your child's Dean.

Parent Involvement

State Requirements	Answers
<p>How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?</p>	<p>Philosophy Pinnacle Classical Academy believes that all students can learn and reach their maximum potential. We believe that each student grows and matures in his or her own unique pattern and pace. This may necessitate that a student is retained in a grade in order for the maximum academic growth and development to occur.</p> <p>Promotion Criteria A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level if each of the following exists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade. ● Achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade level. ● Demonstrated the potential to be successful in the next grade. ● Demonstrated the degree of social/emotional maturity necessary to be successful in the next grade. <p>Retention Criteria <u>Elementary (K-5)</u> – A Student will be considered for retention if a combination of the following criteria exists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student performs significantly below grade level on standardized assessments such as EOG

	<p>and BOG tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student earns grades of a “D” or “F” in Reading and/or Math. ● Student demonstrates social/emotional immaturity that affects academic achievement. ● Poor work habits, lack of completing homework/classwork, and/or excessive absences affects academic achievement. ● The committee feels that retention will benefit the student. <p><u>Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12)</u> – A student will be considered for retention if a combination of the following criteria exists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student performs significantly below grade level on standardized assessments such as EOG and EOC tests. ● Student earns a grade of “D” or “F” in any two academic subjects. ● Poor work habits, lack of completing homework/classwork, and/or excessive absences affect academic achievement. ● The committee feels that retention will benefit the student. <p>*Additional factors may be considered in making a decision for retention. In some situations, it may be in the best interest of the student that he or she not be retained even though the student may qualify as a retention candidate.</p>
<p>What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?</p>	<p>Parents are encouraged to be an active part of their student’s educational career. This can begin by attending Curriculum Nights to learn about curriculum and expectations. Beyond that, PCA offers access to Google Classroom that provides access to upcoming assignments, classroom calendar, reminders of upcoming events, etc. Additionally, a weekly update that shares upcoming activities and topics so families can be plugged into their child's learning experiences.</p>
<p>How will a parent learn about my child’s progress in school or with a class? How can I support my student’s learning?</p>	<p>Students will receive progress reports at the midpoint of each grading period. Progress reports are updates about each student's academic progress. At the end of each grading period, students will receive report cards. Scheduled parent/teacher conferences are built into the school calendar. Parents/guardians can monitor students’ progress throughout the year by logging into PowerSchool. If you have trouble logging in or don’t have access please contact the school.</p> <p>Establish a Consistent Routine: Create a daily schedule that includes dedicated time for homework, reading, and other learning activities. Consistency helps children feel secure and develop good study habits.</p>

Create a Quiet and Organized Study Space:

Designate a quiet area where your child can focus on their schoolwork without distractions. Keep essential supplies, such as pens, pencils, and notebooks, readily available.

Encourage Regular Reading:

Foster a love for reading by providing a variety of age-appropriate books. Set aside time for family reading, and discuss the stories with your child to enhance comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Engage in Conversations:

Regularly talk with your child about their school day. Ask open-ended questions to encourage them to share their experiences, challenges, and successes. This helps build strong communication skills.

Support Homework Efforts:

Be available to assist with homework when needed. Offer guidance, but allow your child to work independently as much as possible. This helps build self-confidence and problem-solving skills.

Embrace Technology as a Learning Tool, but Cultivate Balance:

Utilize educational apps, online resources, and interactive tools to enhance your child's learning experience. Be involved in exploring these tools together.

Promote a Healthy Lifestyle:

Encourage regular exercise, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep. Physical well-being directly impacts cognitive function and concentration.

Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Stay informed about your child's progress by attending parent-teacher conferences. Collaborate with teachers to address any concerns and explore ways to further support your child's learning.

Foster a Growth Mindset:

Encourage a positive attitude toward challenges and learning from mistakes. Emphasize the importance of perseverance and resilience in the face of difficulties.

Cultivate Curiosity:

Explore your child's interests and engage in activities that spark their curiosity. This helps create a

	passion for learning and broadens their educational horizons.
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Pinnacle Classical Academy receives federal funding to help students who are or might be in danger of falling behind academically. Parents may request the following information about their child's teacher: professional qualifications, degrees held and certifications in the area that they are teaching to ensure the teacher is "Highly Qualified".
What are the requirements for school enrollment?	As mandated by our Charter from the State of North Carolina, open slots are filled through a lottery. Any applications received after the lottery application deadline (March 1st) will be placed at the end of the waitlist of the grade applied, in the order of receipt. Applications are not accepted and new students will not be admitted after the 20th school day. Once a child is accepted through the lottery process, they will receive a communication from the school about registration (birth certificate, two proofs of residency, immunization, and any special education information, if applicant.)
How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?	<p>At Pinnacle, ten core values represent our overarching beliefs, and the core of our teaching. Values provide the context for how we make decisions and operate our school, as well as the values we intend to instill in our students. Values enable us, as individuals, to live, be successful and achieve happiness. At Pinnacle, our values enable us to achieve our mission and purpose. These ten values are consistent with one another and integrated into a sound framework of staff and student character, judgment, success and happiness. To fully act on one of these values, one must also act consistently with the other values. Our focus on values grows from our belief that ideas matter and that an individual's character is of critical significance.</p> <p>Our values are integrated into not only how we operate, but into what we teach.</p> <p>Character With regard to character, honesty is the bedrock value. Without honesty there is no trust. Without trust there is no organizational or societal growth, because there are no relationships. Honesty is not relative; rather, it is an absolute value. Integrity is about living out honesty and other values on a consistent basis.</p> <p>Honesty</p>

Being honest is simply being consistent with reality. To be dishonest is to be in conflict with reality, which is self-defeating. A primary reason individuals fail is because they become disconnected from reality, pretending that facts are other than they are. To be honest does not require that we know everything. However, we must be responsible for saying what we mean and meaning what we say.

Integrity

Because we have developed our principles logically, based on reality, we will always act consistently with our principles. Regardless of the short-term benefits, acting inconsistently with our principles is to our long-term detriment. We do not, therefore, believe in compromising our principles in any situation. Principles provide carefully thought-out concepts that will lead to our long-term success and happiness. Violating our principles will always lead to failure.

Judgement

Judgment is about thinking clearly and making rational decisions for yourself. It is about dealing with the facts, the reality. This means exploring the facts yourself, not basing your decisions on public opinion. It's about taking the facts and the appropriate time to use reason and having the courage to make independent decisions. Independent thinking supports sound judgment, personal responsibility, and creativity.

Reality (Fact-based)

What is, is. If we want to be better, we must act within the context of reality (the facts). Businesses and individuals often make serious mistakes by making decisions based on what they "wish was so" or based on theories that are disconnected from reality. The foundation for quality decision-making is a careful understanding of the facts.

Independent Thinking

All students are challenged to use their minds to the optimum to make rational decisions. In this context, each of us is responsible for what we do and who we are. While we learn a great deal from each other and teamwork is important at Pinnacle, each of us thinks alone. Each of us must be willing to make an independent judgment of the facts based on our capacity to think logically. Just because the "crowd" says it is so, does not make it so. Each of us is responsible for our own actions and personal success or failure. In addition, creativity is strongly encouraged and only possible with independent thought.

Creativity is not about just doing something differently. It is about doing something better. To be better, the new method/process must be judged by its impact on the whole organization and whether

it contributes to the accomplishment of our mission. There is an infinite opportunity for each of us to do whatever we do better. A significant aspect of self-fulfillment, which work can provide, comes from creative thought and action.

Reason (Objectivity)

Clear thinking is not automatic. It requires intellectual discipline and begins with sound premises based on observed facts. We must be able to draw (and teach to draw) general conclusions in a rational manner from specific examples (induction) and apply general principles to the solution of specific problems (deduction). We must be able to think (and teach to think) in an integrated way to avoid logical contradictions. We cannot all be geniuses, but each of us can develop mental habits to ensure that when making decisions we carefully examine the facts and think logically without contradiction in deriving a conclusion. We must learn to think in terms of what is essential (i.e., about what is important). Rational thinking is a learned skill that requires mental focus and a fundamental commitment to improving the clarity of our mental processes.

Success

Success is about productivity, working together as a team, and a sense of justice. We value individuals who will produce at an individual level. Success is about the commitment to get the job done and doing what needs to be done. It's about going beyond the call of duty. We also recognize that individuals often accomplish results working with and through others, through teamwork. Successful individuals support their team and fellow associates to ensure the team accomplishes all it can. In a free enterprise system, and a capitalistic society, we believe justice should prevail. Those who produce the most should earn the most.

Productivity

PCA is committed to producing thoughtful students, who in turn are productive individuals. The tangible evidence of our productivity in the short term is student performance in various testing and achievement models, and in the long term, success in college and career.

It is through the long term productivity of our alumni, their success in life, that Pinnacle will ultimately be judged. Our mission is dedicated to producing the mental resources necessary for our students to become productive individuals, thus successful in their lives and careers.

Justice (Fairness)

Individuals should be evaluated and rewarded objectively (for better or worse) based on their contributions toward accomplishing our mission and adherence to our values. Employees who

contribute the most should receive the most; just as students who achieve the most should receive the highest academic awards.

If we do not reward those who contribute the most, they will leave, and our organization will be less successful. More importantly, if there is no reward for superior performance, the average person will not be motivated to maximize his productivity.

In evaluating other people, it is critical that we judge based on essentials. At Pinnacle we do not discriminate based on nonessentials such as race, gender, nationality, etc. We respect individuals and value the diversity of their backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. We do discriminate based on competency, performance and character. We consciously reject egalitarianism and collectivism. Individuals must be judged individually based on their personal merits, not their membership in any group.

Teamwork

While independent thought and strong personal goals are critically important, our work is accomplished within teams. Each of us must consistently act to achieve the agreed-upon objectives of the team, with respect for other facility, while acting in a mutually supportive manner. Our work at Pinnacle is complex and requires an integrated effort among many people to accomplish important tasks. While we are looking for self-motivated and independent thinking administrators, faculty and staff, these individuals must recognize that almost nothing at Pinnacle can be accomplished without the help of their team members. One of the responsibilities of leadership in our organization is to ensure individuals are rewarded based on their contributions to the success of the total team. We need outstanding individuals working together to create an outstanding team.

Happiness

While good character and sound judgment typically lead to success, ultimately, most of us are searching for a sense of happiness for those we care about and ourselves. Happiness is the result of finding a purpose in life that drives us to be passionate about its accomplishment. We search for the answer to the key question in life, which is “why am I here?” When we find clarity about our purpose, we begin to see the answer to this life-changing question.

Happiness, then, is about a sense of self-esteem and pride in how we live our lives. Self-esteem is our internal value or intrinsic scorecard of how we live our lives. When we seize opportunities to take action and do the right things to accomplish our purpose, we earn positive self-esteem. We take pride in our success, accomplishments and how we live life. By developing positive self-esteem and taking pride in our work, accomplishments, and life, we can ultimately achieve happiness, and teach

	<p>our students how to achieve happiness in their lives.</p> <p>Esteem (Self-motivation) We expect our faculty and staff to develop positive self-esteem from performing their work well. We want individuals who have strong personal goals aligned with a clear purpose and who expect to accomplish their goals within the context of our mission. A necessary attribute for self-esteem is self-motivation. We have a strong work ethic. We believe that you receive from your work in proportion to how much you contribute. Although there are many trade-offs in the context of life, our faculty and staff need to be clear that Pinnacle is the best place, all things considered, to work to accomplish long-term goals. Individuals are motivated by a dynamic and integrated set of physiological safety, social interaction, self-esteem, and self-actualization needs. We strive to create an environment where our associates have a substantial amount of their needs met while helping accomplish the PCA mission (i.e., they are motivated by their work). When this occurs, our faculty and staff can be more productive and achieve their personal goals as well as their students.</p> <p>Pride Pride is the psychological reward we earn from living by our values, performing meaningful work, and accomplishing positive results. We take pride in helping our students achieve success. Sharing knowledge is important work. We believe in celebrating our successes. Each of us must perform our work in a manner such that we can be justly proud of what we have accomplished. High achievers commit fully to this end. Pinnacle must be the kind of organization with which each employee, student and parent can be proud to be affiliated.</p>
<p>How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</p>	<p>Read communications, regularly check emails, attend Back to School Night & Parent Teacher Conferences</p>
<p>What services are available for parents and their children?</p>	<p>Our school counselors are available for both academic and social-emotional support. A full listing of assigned counselors, as well as resources, can be found on the individual school’s web page under “counseling”.</p> <p>The following services are available on campus for those students that qualify: Speech, Occupational Therapy, Visually Impaired (VI), English Language Learners (ELL). To learn more, please reach out to your students’ counselor.</p>

<p>What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?</p>	<p>We believe that parent involvement plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and supportive educational environment for our students. Your participation not only enhances your child's learning experience but also strengthens the school community as a whole. Here are some exciting ways you can get involved at your child's school:</p> <p>Parent-Teacher Association (PEAK): Join our PEAK community, where parents and teachers collaborate to create enriching experiences for students. Participate in meetings, events, and fundraisers that contribute to the overall well-being of our school.</p> <p>Volunteer Opportunities: We welcome your assistance in various school activities and events. Whether it's helping out during field trips, organizing school functions, or contributing your skills in the classroom, your involvement is valued and appreciated.</p> <p>School Events and Celebrations: Join us in celebrating special occasions (football tailgates, Night of Shenanigans, Family Fun Nights, etc.) and achievements. Your active participation in school events creates a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for our students.</p>
<p>What school choices are available for my child?</p>	<p>Pinnacle Classical Academy is a school of choice, so by applying to the lottery, families are committing to the mission of the school which is:</p> <p><i>The mission of Pinnacle Classical Academy is to provide all students with a premier college preparatory education built on the foundation of the Core Knowledge Sequence, emphases of STEM courses and 21st Century Skills, good citizenship and classical education in collaboration with committed parents, inspiring educators and motivated students.</i></p>
<p>What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</p>	<p>Section 504 defines a person with a disability as anyone who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working; 2. has a record of such impairment; <i>or</i>

	<p>3. is regarded as having such an impairment</p> <p>For students that may require them to have specialized instruction due to suspected intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities, parents can learn more about PCA's Exceptional Children's (EC) department and resources by visiting our website</p>
<p>What is the contact information for the schools and district office?</p>	<p>K-3 Campus 900 S Post Rd, Shelby, NC 28152 704-740-4040</p> <p>4-12 Campus 2401 Joe's Lake Rd, Shelby, NC 28152 704-740-4040</p>
<p>What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?</p>	<p>NC student-required immunizations and the schedule of the recommended times to administer can be found by clicking the link below: https://immunization.dph.ncdhhs.gov/schools/k-12.htm</p> <p>PCA offers the following services to support student health and well being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Responders on every campus (First Aid, CPR, AED and NARCAN) ● AED's on every Campus & Athletic Field ● EpiPen on every Campus ● Narcan on main campus ● Fully stocked healthrooms to address student needs ● Collaborate with Cleveland County Health Department to stay up to date with community health issues and resources ● Student educational instruction on personal hygiene ● Case management of individual health care needs, including administering Individual Health Care plans when necessary ● Open, approachable, confidential communication with families regarding health needs, medication management <p>If you have any questions regarding immunizations and/or health questions, please contact either the School Nurse.</p>

