



Rising
Warrior
Academy

2025

Rising Warrior Academy Handbook

Parent Handbook

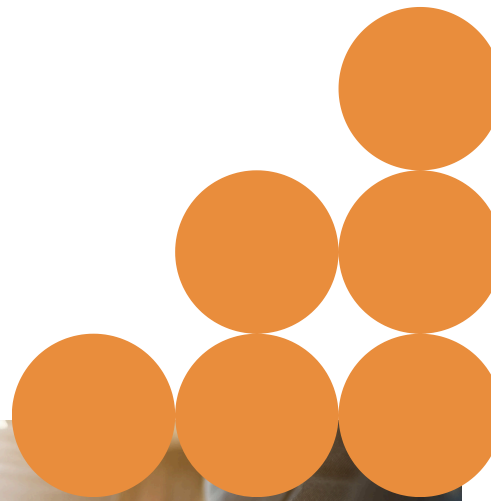


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Welcome to Rising Warriors Academy

Welcome to Rising Warriors Academy! We are honored to partner with your family in building warriors of faith, character, and purpose.



Welcome from our founder

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Rising Warriors Academy!

Here, we believe that the greatest battles our children face are not simply academic or social — they are spiritual. Our struggles are not against people, but against unseen forces that seek to hinder growth, purpose, and identity. That's why we are committed to nurturing a warrior's mindset in every Rising Warrior — one grounded in faith, resilience, and unwavering focus.

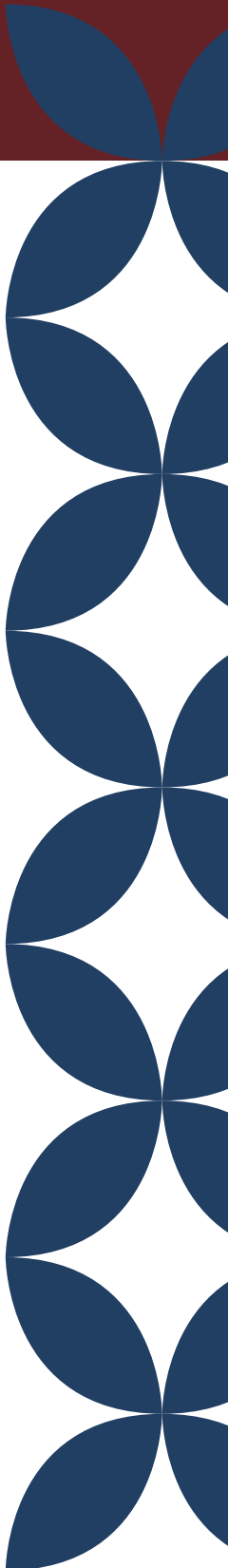
At Rising Warriors, we know that true victory is not found in physical strength alone, but in a life shaped by disciplined living, persistent prayer, and a steadfast belief in God's divine purpose. These values guide everything we do — from our approach to education to the way we build community.

We are devoted to equipping Rising Warriors with spiritual fortitude, academic excellence, and practical life skills that empower them to rise above challenges and walk confidently in their calling. Through a Christ-centered environment, our Rising Warriors learn to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and impact the world for God's glory.

We're honored to walk alongside your family in this transformative journey. Thank you for choosing to partner with us in raising the next generation of warriors.

With faith and purpose,

Sherrie Sams



Rising Warriors Academy Overview

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Our Mission

Rising Warriors Academy is dedicated to equipping Rising Warriors with the spiritual fortitude, academic excellence, and practical skills necessary to overcome challenges and lead purposeful lives. Through a Christ-centered approach, we cultivate a community of resilience, integrity, and excellence where Rising Warriors emerge as leaders prepared to make a lasting impact in the world.

From humble beginnings to industry leaders, our history highlights our dedication to innovation and excellence

Our Core Beliefs



Christ is Our Foundation

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." – 1 Corinthians 3:11



Education is a Calling

Learning is sacred—it prepares our students to fulfill their God-given purpose.



Spiritual Growth is Essential

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." – Proverbs 22:6



Discipline Leads to Freedom

Through structure, self-control, and accountability, we raise leaders.



Community Builds Strength

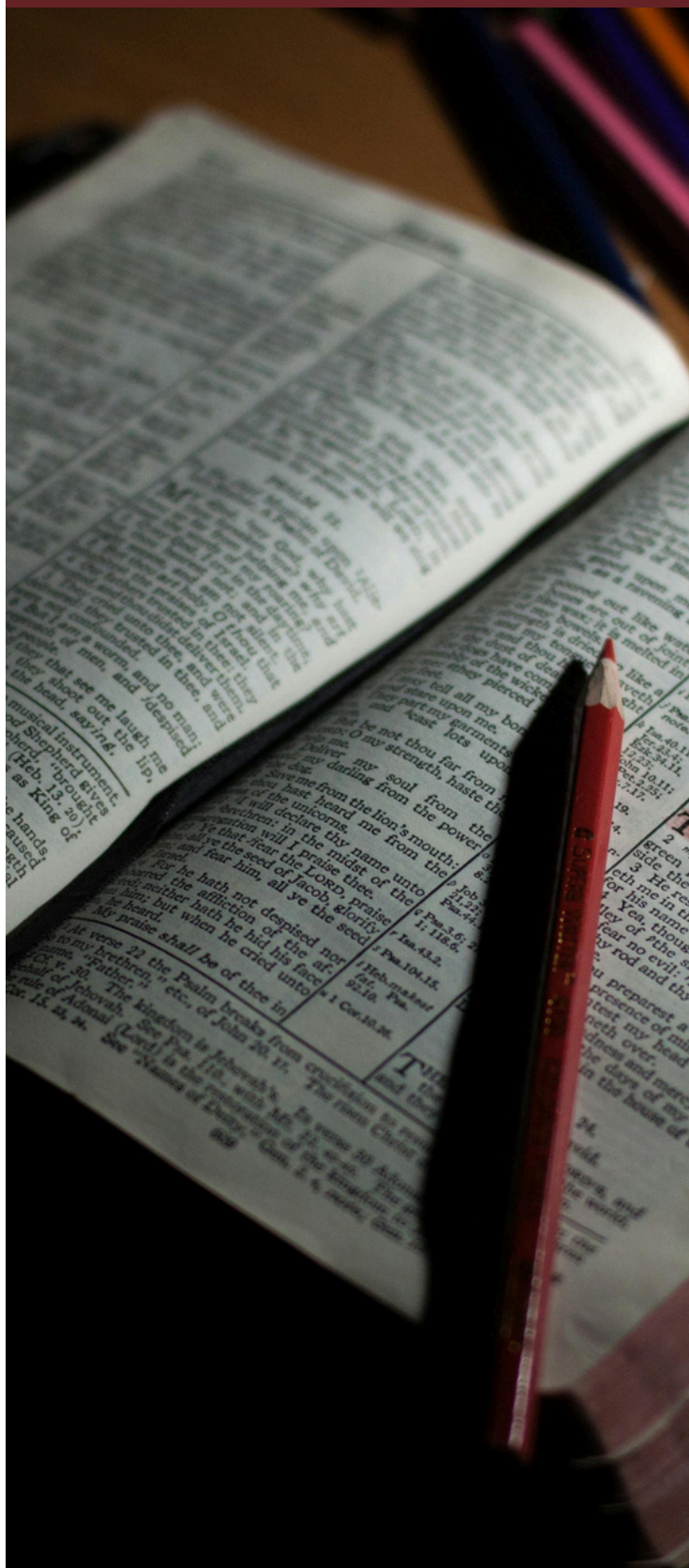
We grow best in partnership with families and peers.



Wellness Matters

We honor the body and mind as temples of God.

Our Four Pillars



Christianity

Faith and character development through Bible study, worship, and prayer.



Academics

Rigorous, holistic education rooted in excellence.



Occupational Skills

Practical tools for real-world success.



Nutrition & Wellness

Healthy bodies and minds for lifelong strength.

School Culture: “Rising Warriors– Answer the Call”

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“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

— *Ephesians 6:12*

At Rising Warriors Academy, culture is not just what we do — it’s who we are. We believe that every Rising Warrior is called to rise above mediocrity and embrace a life of faith, excellence, and purpose. Our culture is built around the mindset of a warrior — not one who seeks conflict, but one who understands that life’s greatest battles are spiritual and internal: fear, doubt, distraction, and discouragement.

A Rising Warrior is committed to discipline, focused on purpose, and strengthened by persistent prayer and unwavering faith in God. Inspired by the truth in Ephesians 6:12, our Rising Warriors learn that the real struggle is not against people, but against the spiritual forces that seek to hold them back. This mindset equips them to lead with courage, integrity, and grace — both inside and outside the classroom.

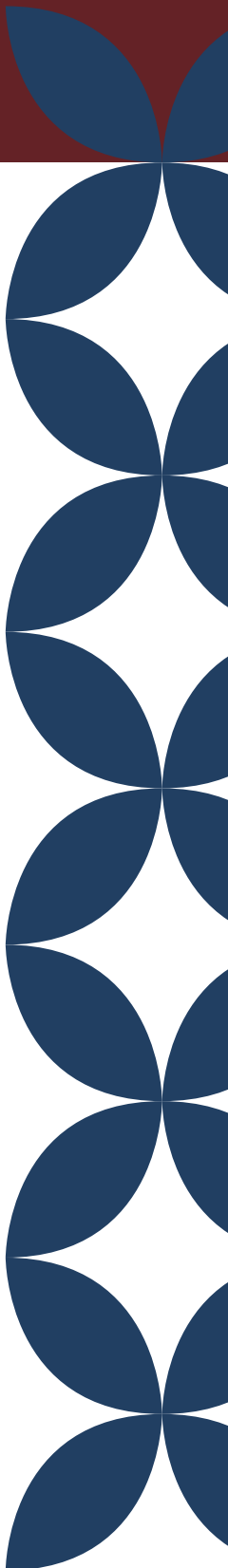
Rising Warriors is more than a micro school — it’s a movement. We are building a new kind of Rising Warrior experience: one that integrates rigorous academics, hands-on learning, spiritual growth, and whole-child development. Our Rising Warriors don’t just study — they build, create, lead, grow, and serve.

Warriors travel and explore beyond the traditional classroom, growing their own food, participating in wellness education, and engaging in career-centered training across industries. Each experience is rooted in Christ-centered values, emphasizing service, leadership, and stewardship. Rising Warriors take ownership of their learning as an act of honoring God — respecting their time, their peers, and the resources entrusted to them.

Learning Communities

Our **Learning Communities** are collaborative spaces where Rising Warriors pursue both academic excellence and real-world application. In these communities, Rising Warriors are guided by purpose-driven mentors, work in teams, and co-create the culture of their environment through shared expectations and discipline.

We foster a **growth mindset**, emphasizing **intrinsic motivation** over external rewards. Warriors are encouraged to challenge themselves, take initiative, and grow from failure — knowing that every step Rising Warriors Academy is part of God’s greater plan.



Academic Excellence Rooted in Purpose



Academic Overview

We believe every Rising Warrior should be equipped to read deeply, think critically, and communicate effectively. Our curriculum covers core subjects—Reading, Writing, Math, Science, History, and the Arts and all required courses for graduation in the state of Arkansas. We partner with Virtual Arkansas to provide every family a unique experience catered to meet the needs and interests of their warrior(s).



Grading Philosophy

We emphasize mastery over memorization. Feedback is used to guide growth, not label ability. Grades reflect academic progress and personal effort. We honor productive struggles and encourage independence. We aim to develop free-thinkers who take full ownership of their grades and life choices. Parents will remain updated. If the grade is lower than a B, we will need to see the student on Friday until grade is improved. Failure is not an option.



Homework & Study

Homework is purposeful—not busywork—and is meant to reinforce what's learned. Students are encouraged to manage time wisely and ask for help when needed. If there is an extended project, this may require work outside of school hours. All homework will be communicated with parents that it is being sent home.



Progress Monitoring

Families receive regular updates through parent-teacher conferences, progress reports, and student showcases. Parents will also receive regular updates from the facilitator. If a student is falling behind in Virtual Arkansas courses, parents will be notified immediately.



Dress Code: Modesty, Honor, Identity

Our dress code reflects our values: modesty, unity, and dignity. We aim to eliminate distractions and affirm student identity in Christ. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." – Romans 12:2

✓ ****Acceptable Attire****

- Modest tops (no crop tops or plunging necklines)
- Pants/skirts must be at the waist and knee-length or longer
- No offensive graphics or secular influences

✗ ****Unacceptable Attire****

- Midriff showing, short shorts, sagging pants
- Head coverings unless for religious purposes
- Clothing promoting violence, profanity, or rebellion

Discipline with Grace and Structure

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Biblical Discipline Model

At Rising Warriors Academy, we believe that discipline is an extension of discipleship. When children make mistakes, our goal is not just to correct behavior, but to reach their hearts. We use restorative practices because we believe children can learn from their choices. Discipline is done in love—with a focus on teaching, healing, and helping them grow into who God created them to be.



Guiding Scripture

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”—Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)



Redemptive Practices

- Reflection sheets and apology letters
- Written Warning Sent Home
- Phone Call to Parent
- Peace circles and prayer
- Loss of Privileges
- Short-term separation with restorative conversations.



Serious Infractions

Bullying, fighting, or repeated disrespect may lead to behavior plans, suspension, or dismissal—with redemption always in mind.



Parent Partnership: We walk Together



Family Is Ministry

We believe in shared responsibility—what happens at school must be supported at home. We equip parents with tools to be faith leaders and academic partners.

“These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.” - Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Engagement Opportunities

- 4 Fundraisers throughout the Year
- Rising Warrior Parent Association (RWPA)
- Volunteer days
- Family devotion nights and parent workshops

Attendance & Expectations

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Every Day Counts

Our Hours are Monday - Thursday 7:30AM-3:30PM; Friday 7:30AM-12:00PM (Fridays are optional) Rising Warriors are expected to be on time and present each day unless there is a valid excuse. Attendance impacts learning and community connection. **Please arrive by 7:45AM.** Morning Devotion begins promptly at 8:00AM. Please be picked up by 3:45PM. Staff will provide supervision until **4:00 PM**. Students not picked up by that time will be escorted to the front office, and parents will be contacted. Repeated late pickups may result in a parent meeting or an administrative fee.



Absences

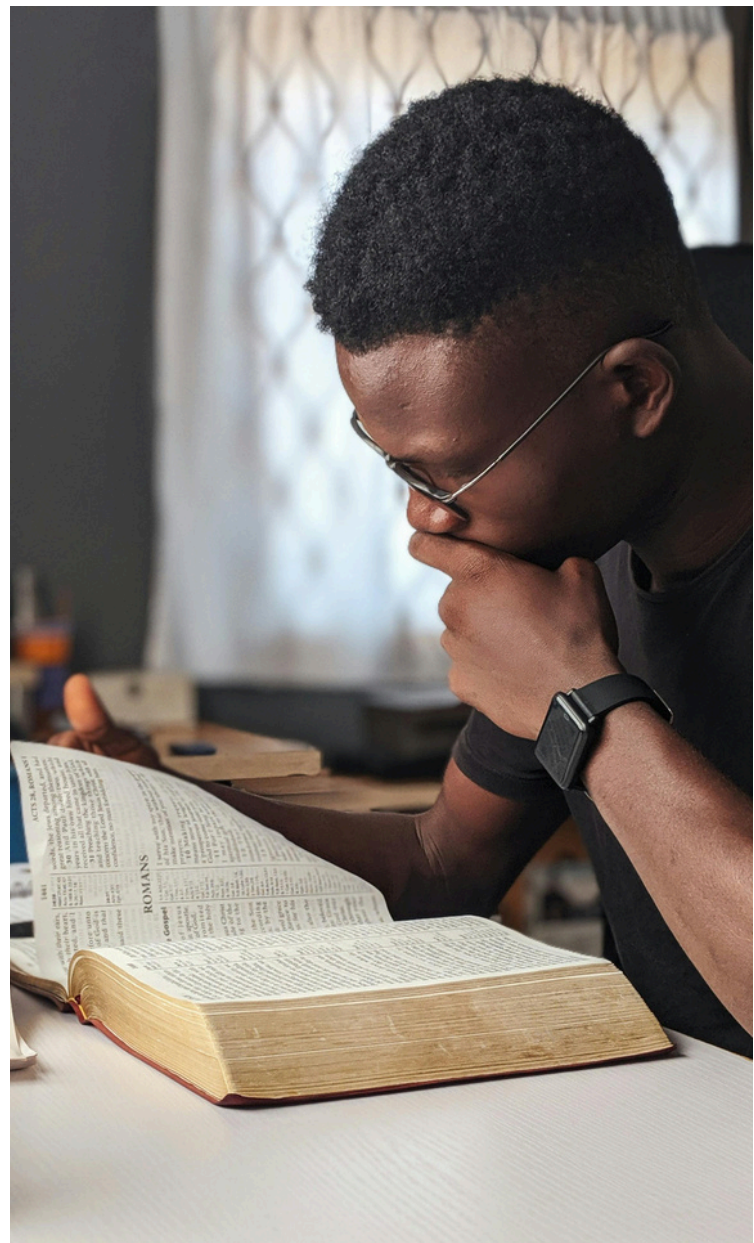
Parents must notify the school with a written excuse for all absences. Excessive unexcused absences may result in withdrawal. **If your child will be absent**, please **call the school office at (870) 868-0299 before 8:00 AM** on the day of the absence.

When calling, it is helpful to let us know the reason for the absence—especially in cases of contagious illnesses such as **chicken pox, strep throat etc.**. This helps us take any necessary precautions and, if needed, notify other families to ensure the health and safety of our school community.



Tardies & Early Dismissals

Frequent tardiness or early checkouts hinder student growth and disrupt class flow. Please make appointments after school hours when possible.





Safety, Security & Wellness

Physical & Emotional Safety

We are committed to providing a physically safe and emotionally supportive environment. We monitor behavior and health throughout the day. Every Visitor is required to sign in. **Classroom visits must be scheduled;** this will help with the flow of the day and allow the facilitator and warriors to focus learning with minimal disruptions.



Mental Health

Students journal, attend community circles, and engage in prayer/devotion time daily. We will practice mindfulness and words of affirmation daily. We provide referrals to outside counselors as needed.



Medication & Health Protocol

All medications must be checked in with school staff. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. **Rising Warriors is a Nut-Free School.** If we call you to pick up your child due to fever, not feeling well, or injury, please pick up within one hour.

Communication & Staying Connected

Media Policy

At Rising Warriors Academy, we enjoy capturing moments that reflect the joy, growth, and faith-filled learning that happen each day. Photos and videos may be taken during school activities, classroom experiences, field trips, and special events to help us document and celebrate our Rising Warriors' journeys.

These images may be used in:

- School newsletters or printed communications
- The official school website or social media pages
- End-of-year presentations or yearbooks
- Promotional or educational materials for the Academy



Remind App & Email

We use the Remind App to send updates and messages. Please ensure you are signed up and check messages regularly.

Meetings & Conferences

Parents are encouraged to request meetings with teachers and attend all scheduled conferences.



Website & Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and check our website for calendars, events, and forms.

"Let all you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14

It is our sincere hope that we meet and exceed the expectations you have for the education of your child(ren). Frequent, proactive communication can prevent situations from arising. If you have a complaint about any aspect of Rising Warriors Academy, you should follow the **school's grievance policy**.

1. Discuss the issue with your child's classroom guide. More often than not a simple conversation can lead to better understanding and your child's guide will be able to help you solve the problem or will be able to bring up the issue to another staff member who can help solve the problem. If you do not feel comfortable doing so, or you are dissatisfied with the guide's response. Proceed to Step 2.
2. Contact the School Director. Notify the School Director you would like to file a grievance. The School Director will provide you with a grievance form and initiate a situation or conflict resolution plan. This plan may include a meeting with you and/or other staff members. Depending on the situation, the School Director may ask a member of the Board of Directors to attend the meeting. If you have already filed a formal grievance with the School Director and are dissatisfied with the Director's Response, proceed to Step 3.
3. Contact a member of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors member will listen to your grievance and work with involved parties to address your concerns.

It is never appropriate to publicly broadcast grievances on social media or other public platforms. Such actions are detrimental to the peaceful environment of the school and could result in your child's dismissal from our program.

Our State Registration

Rising Warriors Academy is registered with the State of Arkansas Board of Education as a non-public micro-school not seeking state approval. Our Rising Warriors are considered by the state to be home-schooling Rising Warriors. Our graduates qualify for a state approved homeschool diploma.

Our decision to remain a homeschooling program is based on the ultimate flexibility we have to determine our own curriculum apart from influences of the state, and to allow flexible enrollment options for our Rising Warriors who choose to attend on a part time basis.

School Governance and Funding

Rising Warriors Academy is an independent Christian microschool that operates without state or federal education funding. Instead, our school is supported through tuition contributions and fundraising efforts, which allow us to maintain small class sizes, invest in quality resources, and provide an enriching, faith-based education.

Rising Warriors Academy operates as a DBA (Doing Business As) of Ambassadors For Christ Youth Ministries, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This partnership allows us to stay mission-focused while providing families with a unique and nurturing educational experience rooted in faith, leadership, and academic excellence.

Rising Warriors Academy is guided and supported by a dedicated Board of Directors through our parent organization, Ambassadors For Christ Youth Ministries. Our board is made up of mission-minded individuals who bring a wealth of experience in education, ministry, business, and community leadership.

The Board of Directors provides oversight, ensures financial accountability, and helps shape the strategic direction of the academy. While the board does not manage the day-to-day operations of the school, it works closely with school leadership to uphold the vision, values, and long-term sustainability of Rising Warriors Academy.

We are grateful for their faithful service and commitment to excellence, integrity, and Christ-centered education.

Chief Academic Officer

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Rebecca Newby serves as the Chief Academic Officer of Rising Warriors Academy. With a heart for youth and a deep commitment to Christian-based education, Mrs. Newby brings vision, compassion, and a wealth of experience to our academy community. Her leadership is rooted in the belief that every Rising Warrior has God-given potential and deserves a learning environment that nurtures both academic growth and spiritual development.

As School Director, Mrs. Newby is responsible for:

- Overseeing day-to-day school operations
- Leading staff and supporting teachers
- Building strong relationships with Rising Warriors and families
- Upholding the school's mission, values, and Christ-centered culture
- Ensuring academic excellence and Rising Warrior well-being
- Representing Rising Warriors Academy in the community and beyond

With wisdom, grace, and unwavering dedication, Mrs. Newby leads Rising Warriors Academy as both a servant and a visionary—helping every Warrior rise with purpose, character, and confidence.

Admissions & Administrative Details

Admission Process

At Rising Warriors Academy, we view the admissions process as more than just paperwork—it's a **relational journey** designed to ensure alignment with our mission, values, and community culture.

The process begins with a brief **Interest Form**, giving us a snapshot of your Rising Warrior and your family's desire to join the Rising Warriors community. From there, families are invited to an **Information Session** (held virtually or in person) where we introduce our approach to education, daily structure, family expectations, and tuition assistance options.

Following the session, families may complete the **Full Application**, which includes:

- A Rising Warrior questionnaire
- A parent statement of intent
- Previous school records (if applicable)
- Optional assessments or references

Once submitted, we schedule a **Family Interview**—a warm, informal conversation that helps us build connection, learn about your child's goals, and ensure Rising Warriors is a great fit for both Rising Warrior and family.

Families are notified of their admission decision within a few days of the interview. If accepted and space is available, you'll receive a **Welcome Packet** with everything needed to prepare for the school year—enrollment forms, supply list, calendar dates, and more.

To complete the process, families sign the **enrollment agreement** and attend a **Family Welcome & Orientation** as the final step to officially join the Rising Warriors family.

Book and Material Fees

At Rising Warriors Academy, we are committed to providing high-quality learning experiences with the tools and resources our Rising Warriors need to thrive.

Each Rising Warrior is responsible for an **annual Book & Material Fee**, which covers the cost of curriculum materials, learning supplies, enrichment tools, and hands-on project resources used throughout the year. This fee helps us ensure that all Rising Warriors have consistent access to:

- Core academic workbooks and texts
- Science, art, and project-based learning supplies
- Wellness and outdoor learning materials
- Technology tools (where applicable)

Fees are due at the time of enrollment and are separate from tuition. Families will receive a breakdown of materials and supply needs in the Welcome Packet. If your family is in need of support, please contact the school office—we're happy to work with you.

Admissions & Administrative Details (cont.)

Tuition Payments and Late Fees

At Rising Warriors Academy, tuition helps us provide a rich, Christ-centered education with small class sizes, dedicated teachers, and meaningful learning experiences. We aim to make tuition manageable and transparent for all families.

Payment Schedule

Tuition may be paid annually, by semester, or monthly, depending on your family's chosen plan. All tuition payments are due on the 1st of each month, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. assessed a \$45 service charge.

Late Payments

A **late fee of \$50** will be applied to any payments not received by the **5th of the month**. We understand that unexpected situations can arise—if you anticipate a delay, please contact the school office before the due date so we can work together on a solution.

Open Communication

We value our partnership with families and are here to support you. If financial challenges arise at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are committed to working with you in grace, understanding, and discretion.

Delinquent Accounts

Rising Warriors Academy relies on timely tuition and fee payments to maintain the quality of our educational programs and support services. We understand that life circumstances can sometimes affect a family's ability to pay on time, and we are committed to working with families through open and respectful communication.

What Happens if an Account Becomes Delinquent:

- An account is considered **delinquent if tuition or fees are not paid by the 5th of the month** and no communication has been made with the school office.
- Families will receive a **written notice** and may be asked to schedule a meeting to discuss the account and create a plan.
- If no payment arrangement is made or the account remains unpaid for **more than 30 days, the school reserves the right to suspend the Rising Warrior's enrollment** until the account is brought current.

Our Commitment:

We are here to help. If you're experiencing financial difficulty, please contact us as early as possible. We believe in grace and partnership and are often able to offer flexible solutions when families reach out. All financial conversations will be handled with **confidentiality, compassion, and care**.

Admissions & Administrative Details (cont.)

Contract Cancellation Policy

We understand that life circumstances can change unexpectedly, and we are committed to working with families in a compassionate and transparent way. However, once the academic year has begun, there are financial commitments that have already been made on behalf of each Rising Warrior. Below is our Contract

Notice of Cancellation

If a family needs to cancel their enrollment, we ask for written notice to be submitted to the school office at least 30 days in advance of the desired cancellation date.

Cancellation After August 1st

If a Rising Warrior withdraws from the program after August 1st, the parent or guardian is responsible for 100% of the tuition and the non-refundable deposit as liquidated damages. This is due to the commitment we have made to staff, curriculum, and resources for each Rising Warrior.

No Refunds or Cancellations After Enrollment

Once the school year has begun, no portion of tuition or fees—paid or outstanding—will be refunded or canceled, even in the event of absence, early withdrawal, or early dismissal. We recognize that these situations may be difficult, but this policy helps ensure that our resources and planning remain consistent for all Rising Warriors.

We Are Here to Support You

We want to make this process as smooth and understanding as possible. If you are facing challenges, please contact the school office as soon as possible, and we will work with you to find a solution. Our goal is always to support your family in the best way possible.

Final Word to Warriors

You were not born to be ordinary. You were born to be bold, wise, and holy—shining as lights in a world that needs truth. At *Rising Warriors Academy*, your journey is sacred. Learn to listen. Learn to lead. And most importantly, learn to yield—because the strongest warrior is the one who knows how to surrender to God.



Contact Us

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