

## **WHAT IS THE DANIEL ACADEMY?**

### **ABOUT US**

The Daniel Academy, established in 2007, is a private Christian school in Kansas City, Missouri, serving students in daycare, preschool, and traditional Kindergarten through 12th grade. We sit on 18 acres of land in the heart of the city, and have students join us from all over the area. We have classroom instruction 4 days per week (Monday through Thursday) and the students school at home on Fridays. Our Daycare is open 5 days per week (Monday through Friday). The Daniel Academy has over 300 students enrolled. Our model integrates families into the education process, allowing parents to directly participate at the school with their children.

### **OUR VISION FOR NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL WISDOM**

Our vision is to train our students like modern-day versions of Daniel in the Old Testament, helping them become young men and women prepared with both spiritual and academic excellence. We equip them to be ready to bring the Lord's Presence and use their gifts to serve others wherever they go. We build around these four main pillars:

- PRAYER...first response is to turn to the Lord
- CONSECRATION...a dedicated, set apart lifestyle
- EXCELLENCE...in both academics and character
- MARVELOUS CAMARADERIE...cultivating godly and wonderful friends

Our desire is to launch students who love Jesus, who know His heart, His Word, and His ways. We desire them to be well-educated and trained in both academics and Biblical/spiritual understanding, having cultivated pure hearts and been given discernment to walk in positions of influence. (Daniel 1:4)

## OUR MODEL FOR EDUCATION

We know parents are the most important part of a child's life and education. Our goal is to become individual "Daniel Families" and then join together to raise our children in the context of this model. Our goal is for our families and our school to be linked, both walking out our four pillars with His grace – lifestyle of prayer, consecration/dedication, excellence, and with marvelous friends.

**Preschool students** – parents of preschoolers beginning to broaden their child's world in terms of meeting new friends, learning how to relate in a classroom, beginning academic learning, and enjoying a little bit of independence. While your child will be learning quite a bit academically, we also focus on all the other areas of a child's first experience in a classroom to make it a positive experience.

**Elementary students** – parents in this category are a strong support academically and in all areas. They should be aware of how amazing, and at times challenging, these ages can be. Children need a great deal of time with their parents to thrive. Parents should also plan to sit with their students during the home-study times to ensure comprehension and follow through of work assigned. (Parents will not be expected to teach new concepts during home-study times.)

**Junior High students** – parents of these students are helping them transition from direct parental oversight to more independence and choices. Parents now are monitoring assigned work from the classroom teacher and providing accountability in the follow through. In this season, parents are more of a guide in helping their students become independent learners. However, this age is so critical for very involved parenting in helping students understand godly values in our complex world.

**Senior High students** – parenting in this season is a joy as we get ready to launch our students into the world. Parents play a key role in this development and should work on establishing good communication in all areas with their teen. At this level our students should be preparing for autonomous learning where parents help monitor the status of grades and work done from time to time, allowing the students to learn faithfulness and accountability to their classroom teachers.

We utilize a web-based online system (FACTS/RenWeb) that allows parents to track and monitor all homework assignments and grades. Parents need to access FACTS/RenWeb daily or a couple of times a week in order to monitor their students' grades and assignments.

## **WAYS TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE DANIEL ACADEMY**

*The Daniel Academy would love to find the best way for your family to join us!*

We know each family has unique needs in different seasons. We offer a 4-day schooling option (Monday – Thursday). (See preschool options at the end.)

### **4 Day IN SCHOOL/1 Day AT HOME**

- Students will attend the classroom for academic instruction Monday – Thursday.
- Students will do Friday work at home.

### **Preschool Children**

We offer a 4-day specialized preschool program for any 3-5 year olds (students must be potty-trained). They may be a half day or full day student. Children will learn new skills, build new friendships, enjoy hands-on activities, and prepare for kindergarten.

### **Testing and Individualized Programs for Students with Special Learning Issues**

Our SOAR program is designed to help students who are typically gifted in some areas and behind in others, making traditional schooling difficult at times. With this program, we are able to test the student, place them in specialized SOAR classes if needed, or create an individualized program for them, often partnering with the classroom experience.

## **SPECIAL ACADEMICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

We realize that much of learning and growth comes through enrichment activities outside the normal classroom instruction. Therefore we love to add in many opportunities to discover God and His amazing world.

### **PRAYER AND MORNING ASSEMBLIES**

TDA is known for prayer/adoration and worship assemblies. We start every morning off with a half hour (1.5 hours on Wednesdays) of student-led worship and prayer. We teach the value of adoration prayer – simply loving Jesus for who He is. We sing the Bible, pray over one another and ask Him to show us more about Himself. We also stop 3 times a day as Daniel of old was known for. We intercede for our families and nation and nations of the earth. And we remember what He's done in thanksgiving. This attitude of prayer shapes everything we do and positions our hearts to receive from Him.

### **BIBLE AND DANIEL TRACK CLASSES**

These are classes that are unique to The Daniel Academy. The Daniel Track includes our Bible Classes, Practical Theology (includes Worldview and Body Talks), our Philosophy Class, Junior Foundations, and Senior Foundations. We believe these classes are a crucial part to equip and train the students to become modern day Daniels in the world. These classes teach them to engage with and apply the Word of God, and then to bring God's heart and ways to all areas of society. We look at the Word, the world, and get God's perspective. We train them and give them language for current issues. We use these classes to give them confidence to stand upon the Word and to become influential leaders wherever they go.

### **SPECIAL ACADEMICS**

We offer special school projects and events for our students to grow in different ways. For our elementary students we take many field trips and do much hands-on learning. In addition, we have a spelling bee, science fair, creation and art fair, innovation fair, historical figure fair, accelerated reading programs, and more. Students also take part in art and choir. The elementary math classes are augmented throughout the semester with math games, challenges and competitions designed to strengthen number sense and problem solving skills. These events are in addition to the daily scheduled math classes.

For our older students in addition to sports, music, art and theater, we also offer different classes and tracks for them to discover their interests and talents. We have classes such as Engineering Practicum, Innovation and Entrepreneurialism, Home Improvement, Computer Coding, Photography, Permaculture, Personal Finance, Student Leadership, and more. We also offer AP courses and have partnerships with STA (Summit Technology Academy) explained more below.

### **SPORTS**

Elementary – We enjoy fall, winter, and spring sports through community leagues (K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

JH and HS – We offer boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, and boys and girls volleyball, baseball, cross country, and track.

**PROJECT 330 (not all are offered every year)** These are special hobbies/activities and classes after 3:30pm, our after school program

- Lego Robotics
- Musical Theater/Drama
- Choir
- Art
- Writing competitions
- Student Government
- Elementary sport clinics
- Student led worship teams
- Musical instruments
- Dance classes
- SOAR tutoring
- Homework Lab

## **OUR VISION FOR OUR STUDENTS**

### **CHRISTIAN REFORMERS**

We know this generation of youth is called to great things and we focus on discipleship and helping them discover their gifts, talents and callings. We have been privileged to interact with a number of great men and women of God and allow our students to glean from their teaching and experiences. We have also had local Kansas City leaders including senators, doctors, businessmen and other professionals speak to our students about how to bring impact wherever the Lord sends them. We pray and counsel one-on-one with all our seniors, helping them map out their next steps.

We understand that our students today will be called upon to solve real issues and problems in the days ahead. We believe that by thinking creatively, many problems can be solved. We want to foster an entrepreneurial spirit in our classes, helping students think outside the box and create new ideas and plans. We have lego robotics for our younger students and Engineering Practicum for our older students.

### **CORPORATE PRAYER**

Understanding the power and importance of corporate prayer has been a longstanding value of this school. We start off every day with worship, prayer, and hosting His Presence in our morning assemblies. We break mid-day for intercession prayer on current events or issues in the world and then end our days with prayers of thanksgiving. Students also participate in corporate prayer meetings in the city throughout the week, including our school's Saturday prayer and worship meeting. We want our students to naturally turn to prayer, partnering with the Lord and depending on his help for all things.

### **LEADERSHIP IN ALL AREAS OF SOCIETY**

We know today's students will be tomorrow's leaders in all areas of society. We seek to equip our students by offering a diverse set of classes, clubs, activities, and sports. Our school is like a greenhouse, where students feel safe and loved and are able to grow in leadership and wisdom in the areas they are called to. We have opportunities for our students to lead in worship services, student government, student humanitarian council, musical productions, sports, art and science. We have had the opportunity to offer classes that will give our students a taste of future areas of study including entrepreneurialism, permaculture, music production, film production, web design, novel writing, international relations and foreign policies and more. We have also partnered with STA (Summit Technology Academy) where our 11th grade students have an incredible opportunity to explore and be trained in the fields of their interest with state of the art equipment. Our seniors have hands-on internships in the field of their interests, such as working in medical facilities, watching surgeries, hands on music production in music studios, film editing, architecture, teaching internships, illustrating with artists, and baking internships. These opportunities allow students to explore their fields of interest in a safe environment where they are able to process their experiences together with teachers and mentors, giving them a stronger foundation and start for their future.

### **POG (Policy of Opposite Gender) - CONSECRATION AND HONORING ONE ANOTHER**

At The Daniel Academy, we have a NO DATING policy. We want Jesus to be their FIRST LOVE. We want our students to have undistracted devotion. We want them to truly have a space where they can run hard after Jesus, and give to Jesus their teenage years.

We want TDA to be a SAFE PLACE for the students to truly be free to find out and BE who God has made them to be. We want to create a space where they can explore who they are without feeling the need to please someone of the opposite gender. We want to create a greenhouse for the students to grow into who they are called to be! While we have taken dating off the table, we desire to see the students go deep in their friendships, based on their relationships with God. One of the pillars of our school is to be marvelous comrades, or friends, like the ones Daniel had. Without dating, we limit the distraction and emotional traffic of 'who likes who' and 'who's going out with who', and the endless hours of chatter that accompanies all of that. That doesn't mean our students won't develop feelings of affection for each other, but we are calling them to go beyond that, to consecrate themselves, and to not act on those feelings while they are at TDA. We want them to learn to HONOR the opposite gender well, HONOR the same gender well, HONOR themselves well, and to be life-long friends beyond TDA.



### **5 Day Option:**

- Students will attend the classroom for academic instruction Monday – Thursday.
- Students will have a less formal day on Friday, working on homework, tutoring, taking private or group lessons (such as music, art, karate, krav, etc). These days will have structure but will be more low-key, and some grades will be combined. (Some extra activities may have fees associated).

### **Full-time and Part-time Options for Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade:**

To offer the opportunity for families to participate as much as they are able to in their child's education, TDA offers both full-time and part-time options for our Elementary K-5<sup>th</sup> graders and also for our Junior High students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (see high school options below). Our full time students will get first priority in registration. Part time student options will open up on June 15th.

Elementary families who choose the part-time option will send their children each morning (Monday – Thursday) and have all the required math and language arts covered for the year. This allows families to supplement the other requirements themselves at home. Fridays are schooling days at home with parents.

Families with junior high students will have all their required math, English and science covered in the mornings (Monday – Thursday) and can then supplement other requirements themselves at home in the afternoons. Fridays are schooling days at home with parents.

### **Full-time or Single Class Options for High School**

Our high school students can either attend TDA as a full time student, or they may join us for up to 3 single classes per semester to supplement their own homeschooling program. For full-time students, TDA will track and record all credits on the student's transcript required for graduation. For homeschool students who take extra classes with us, they will receive their final grade but will not have credits tracked or a transcript completed by TDA.

## **INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURIALISM, AND STEM**

We understand that our students today will be called upon to solve real issues and problems in the days ahead. We believe that by thinking creatively, many problems can be solved. We want to foster an entrepreneurial spirit in our classes, helping students think outside the box and create new ideas and plans. We have lego robotics for our younger students and Engineering Practicum for our older students.

We offer multiple AP classes that are recognized throughout the nation so that our students can receive the status of AP classes and also get college credit if they pass the AP tests. We also partner with colleges for dual credit classes and programs. And finally, we want to be tied into the new things happening in Kansas City in this arena, and both glean from and be contributors to the wave of innovation and business start-up here.

People such as Lou Engle, Todd White, Rick Santorum, Loren Cunningham, Peter Xu, George Verwer, Steve Douglas and Father Anton from India have visited our school to speak to and pray over our students. We have also had local Kansas City leaders including senators, doctors, businessmen and other professionals speak to our students about how to bring impact wherever the Lord sends them. We pray and counsel one-on-one with all our seniors, helping them map out their next steps.

We believe they are free to develop deep friendships based on their relationships with God with one another. We want them to learn to HONOR the opposite gender so well, HONOR the same gender so well since there is no competition, and to be forever friends, way past TDA.

At the Daniel Academy, we aim to create an environment that is safe for boys and girls to run after God together, to support and encourage one another, grow in their friendships, and become lifelong Marvelous Comrades, like the ones Daniel had. By eliminating the option to date, we limit the distraction and emotional traffic of 'who likes who' and 'who's going out with who', and the endless hours of chatter that accompanies all of that. That doesn't mean our students won't develop feelings of affection for each other, but we are calling them to go beyond that, to consecrate themselves, and to not act on those feelings while they are at TDA.