



Community Handbook

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Mission Statement of Ambleside School of Fredericksburg:

Ambleside School seeks to bring students, parents, and teachers to the truths of Christ as they exist in the created world, in a highly relational atmosphere, through a rich and vigorous curriculum, where students are free to learn and inspired to grow. To fulfill this mission, Ambleside will apply the educational principles and philosophy of Charlotte Mason.

Introduction:

The Ambleside Community Handbook is meant to describe and share the school's rhythms, patterns, habits, and traditions in order to equip community members to enter into the fullness of life at Ambleside. By knowing and understanding the structure of our school community, from the all-school events we hold to the daily practices we cherish, we hope that our reader will understand this text as an invitation to become a full participant in supporting, influencing, and being influenced by the powerful ethos of our community.

As Ambleside School of Fredericksburg is committed to the educational philosophy of Charlotte Mason in the classroom, it also strives to follow her guiding ideas about habits and routines as they apply not only to children but also to the community surrounding the children and school. This community includes siblings, parents, grandparents, staff, neighbors, and friends. The Leadership of Ambleside School believes encouraging the community into relationship with the rhythm of the school day, week, and year will not only benefit the individual students but will also benefit the community as a whole.

School Calendar:

The Ambleside School Calendar is the document that conveys the rhythm and order of the school year most comprehensively. The School Calendar is proposed by Leadership and approved by the Board of Directors in the spring semester of the previous year. It is published on the school website and included in enrollment and re-enrollment materials. The calendar highlights Student Holidays, Teacher Inservice Days, and various school events. Attention to and assimilation of the All School Calendar and this Operations Manual prior to the beginning of the school year is strongly suggested as a way to understand the rhythm of the year and prepare your family and your student for the fullness of an Ambleside education.

School Dress Code:

The Ambleside School Dress Code is the document that shares the uniform requirements for Ambleside Students. Consistent Student adherence and Parent support to the Ambleside Dress Code are expected. Sections detail specific item requirements by grade and by activity, ie. daily wear, Wednesday Chapel, Performance Attire. Specific guidelines for personal presentation and grooming are also included in the document. Please become familiar with the various approved items and the Lands End ordering process.

School Communication:

Communication will come from the school in a variety of ways.

- Ambleside School of Fredericksburg Website:
www.amblesidefredericksburg.com/forourfamilies
This web page will include the Calendar, Handbooks, Dress Code, various Parent Forms, and a brief overview of Upcoming Events
- The Ambleside Weekly Update Email will be sent on Tuesday mornings from the School Office: administration@amblesidefredericksburg.com. To ensure delivery, please add this email address to your contact list. This email may include hyperlinks to additional information or forms.
- In the Classroom Updates are weekly emails created by the classroom teacher and sent Monday (or Tuesday if Monday is a student holiday) afternoons by the School Office: administration@amblesidefredericksburg.com
- The REMIND APP will share Urgent Communication and Reminders by text and email. All Parents are strongly encouraged to enroll in REMIND. Download the REMIND mobile app by opening an internet browser, typing rmd.at/ambles, and following the instructions, or sign up for Text Notifications only by texting the message @ambles to 81010
- Phone Call when necessary. Please add the school phone number 830-990-9059 to your personal contact list in order to easily reach the school office and recognize when the school office is reaching out to you.

Safety & Security:

Ambleside School follows strict safety and security procedures. In order to support these procedures, we ask all Parents and Visitors to only enter the School through the Main Entrance and stop to sign in at the Front Office any time on Campus during the school day. We ask that Parents and Visitors also sign out when they leave and only exit through the Main Entrance. There can be no exceptions and avoidance of this policy will require Ambleside Faculty or Staff members to enforce the policy upon you.

If a Parent or Visitor is on campus during any type of Safety or Security event, real or drill, they must follow all instructions provided by the Faculty or Staff until the event is over.

In the event of a security situation of any type at the Ambleside Campus, Ambleside will communicate via the REMIND texting app, and follow up with email communication as soon as possible.

The possibility of inclement weather or emergency situations that create hazardous conditions may mean that Ambleside needs to cancel school for the sake of protecting our school community members. If a potential inclement weather event appears in the 10-day forecast, the school will carefully evaluate the necessary action to take. Ambleside always makes independent decisions that may differ from other schools in the area, which have different criteria to consider. If school leadership determines that a delayed start, early dismissal, or school cancellation is necessary, families and staff will be notified using the REMIND text notification system and email. The notifications may come very late at night, or very early in the morning, depending on when a decision can be made.

In the event Ambleside cancels school, teachers will make adjustments to the scope and sequence of each class to ensure completion of the predetermined curriculum, however,

planned student holidays will be maintained. Ambleside's school calendar is judiciously crafted, so planned time off has been determined to be in the best interest of our school community. Details of this event will be shared via REMIND and an email from the School Office or Head of School.

The Pattern of the School Day

The rhythm and routine of an Ambleside School day are thoughtfully orchestrated in order to provide balance and support curiosity in the student's mind, heart, and spirit. Ambleside School supports student growth through opportunities for a focused time in an ordered classroom, imaginative play outdoors, painting, proper courtesy, listening to friends, stories and music, conversations around an idea, observing part of nature, practicing learned skills, retelling stories, and asking questions. All of these efforts resonate with a student's desire to know, ask questions, move, laugh, and serve. Engaging in the fullness of the school day, week, and year with the Teacher and Classmates supports the student's growth in relationship to God, self, work, and others. Parents can support this growth by ensuring prepared attendance to the full school day, engaging fully with all School Communication, and allowing the student to share about their day through positive questions and interest.

The rhythm of the Ambleside School year is an intertwining of the calendar year, the liturgical year, the natural year, and the culmination of curricular efforts. As these various cyclic rhythms interweave, we have opportunities to enjoy times of remembrance, fellowship, and celebration together. The repetition of these moments through the years encourages a sense of belonging and purpose within the classroom and community.

Morning:

Ambleside Teachers and Staff are expected to arrive by 7:40 am in order to be settled and present to welcome students into the classroom. They report to assigned duty stations by 7:50.

Parents are asked to support their students by ensuring they are well rested, groomed, dressed according to the school dress code, and fed before dropping them off on time. Students should not arrive prior to 7:50 am in respect of the Teachers' time to pray and prepare. Parents are expected to ensure Students arrive no later than 8:10 am in order to have ample time to place book bags, jackets, lunches, etc. in designated areas, greet Teachers and Classmates, prepare their desks for the first class, and report to Assembly on time by 8:20 am.

It is essential that school begins on time.

If students grades 1 - 12 arrive after 8:20 am, Parents are required to park and walk the Student into the School building and sign in at the Front Office.

Students who drive themselves may sign themselves in at the Front Office.

Student Drop-Off Procedure:

Morning dropoff is usually in the car line in front of the school in the lane along the sidewalk. ,
When within the drop-off zone please put the car in park and allow your student(s) to exit the

vehicle on the passenger side of the car only. Students should be able to leave the car with all of their belongings efficiently and close the door behind them. Teachers will be stationed to greet and help Students if necessary.

Should a Parent wish to walk their child to the door, or if it is necessary for the Parent to leave the vehicle to help the student out of the car or up to school, the Parent should park in the center portion of the parking lot (Middle Earth) and the Parent and Student(s) should cross at the far crosswalk in front of the drop-off zone together.

Students in grades K4 and Kindergarten may arrive any time between 7:50 am - 8:50 am. Between 7:50 am - 8:15 am, Teachers and Staff Members will ensure welcome and student support from the front of the school. After 8:15 am, Parents may drop students at the front entrance or walk students to the side gate to meet the Teacher. If it is raining after 8:15 am, Students will enter through the Main Entrance and meet the Teacher there. After 9:00 am, Parents must park and walk in a child in grades K4 - K. Parents must sign the Student in at the Front Office.

While it is highly discouraged, students arriving at school with smart devices, such as phones and watches, must power them off completely and place them in the caddy provided at the Front Office before continuing to the classroom. Devices will stay in the Front Office for the remainder of the day and will not be accessed by any Student or Staff.

Staff will be stationed in classrooms and at duty stations ready to receive students. In classrooms, Teachers will greet each student by name and support them in putting away their things, preparing their desks, and arriving at Assembly on time. At this time, Teachers will also note if student dress is according to the Ambleside School Dress Code.

Morning Assembly & Wednesday Chapel Service:

Our All School Assembly begins at 8:20 am with the call and response led by the Head of School, "The Lord be with you, "... And also with you." This is followed by the singing of a hymn, the pledge of allegiance, brief announcements, occasionally classroom recitations, and prayer, all according to a Morning Liturgy created by Leadership.

It is tradition for the first and last week's hymn to be "Morning Has Broken," to sing "Jubilate Deo" together on Mondays and to recite The Lord's Prayer together in English on Thursday and in Spanish on Friday. Church Liturgy is included for the seasons of Advent and Lent.

On Wednesdays, Ambleside engages in a Chapel Service, 8:20 - 8:55 am, with thoughtful messages provided to the student body who sit with their Buddies. Speakers include Ambleside Staff, Parents, Students, Grandparents, local Faith Leaders, and Friends. The Wednesday Chapel closes with the singing of the School Song, "Ode to a Skylark." Student and Staff attire is elevated on Wednesdays in respect for the Chapel Service and as such, Students and Staff are expected to abide by the Chapel Attire section of the School Dress Code.

Parents are welcome to be part of all Morning Assemblies and are especially welcome to stay for the Wednesday Chapel Service.

Attendance:

Teachers record attendance each morning at the beginning of Morning Assembly indicating if a student is present or absent. If a student joins Assembly late they will be recorded as tardy. This information is provided to the Front Office where it is maintained and reported on each student's Report of Growth and a part of the student's permanent record.

While a student may be present to start in the classroom, routine tardiness to Morning Assembly or Chapel will consistently leave the student feeling hurried, unsettled, or unprepared to engage with the morning. It should be a goal of each student and family to arrive in the morning with time to be prepared for the day ahead. Similarly, routine early departures will interrupt the student's daily work and often lead to unfinished work. It should be a goal of each Student and family to fully complete each school day.

As soon as an absence is known, Parents should take care to email both the Teacher and the Front Office or call the Front Office as a courtesy, regardless if it is for a part or all of the school day, and especially if known in advance. The Front Office will reach out to confirm student absences and to know how our Staff and Community might help or be in prayer for an absent student.

Students are not to be absent except in cases of illness, injury, family emergency, or the rare special family event (i.e. wedding). Family trips should be planned to coincide with school holidays, but not Parent-Teacher conference days. Vacations taken while school is in session are disruptive to students, classes, and teachers, and missed classwork is expected to be completed in order to support continued academic growth.

If a student misses more than seventeen school days or is tardy in excess of sixteen times in a given school year the parents of the student must submit an Explanation of Absence Letter to the School Board explaining the cause(s). The School Board will then decide if action is required regarding graduation or enrollment eligibility, whichever applies most reasonably to the student in question.

The School Day & Week:

After Assembly or Chapel, students are dismissed to their classrooms with Teachers to engage in the fullness of the day. Daily Class Schedules are created by Leadership according to the philosophy of Charlotte Mason to achieve a balance of disciplinary and inspirational subjects throughout the day and the week.

All supplies needed in the classroom are provided by Ambleside and students are asked to not bring personal supplies to school. Should a student bring an item from home, the Teacher will ask the Student to return it to a backpack to go home. If the item remains in the classroom or returns on another day, the Teacher will take it and return it to a Parent during pick-up.

The daily schedule includes a morning break when students are allowed to eat a light snack and enjoy time outdoors as well as a lunch break. The length of the morning break and lunch break varies depending on the age of the students.

A look at the weekly schedule sees the inclusion of additional subjects such as art, music, physical education, nature study, music appreciation, picture study, and handwork according to grade.

Lunch and Play:

Lunch begins for all students at 12:30 pm and is eaten outside unless the weather is disagreeable. Students are expected to bring a nutritious sack lunch appropriate for their size and age. Teachers will work from the perspective that if parents have sent food with their student, the student is expected to eat it. Students will not be permitted to share or trade food. Students and Teachers will sit at an assigned picnic table until the Teacher dismisses students to play. A student must have eaten a sufficient amount of the packed lunch and have secured personal trash to begin play.

Students old enough to be responsible for their lunch, who forget their lunch, will not be allowed to call home for it or have it delivered. In this case, the Teacher will be able to offer the student a lunch of a simple peanut butter or lunch meat sandwich.

Parents should help children develop the habit of being responsible for their lunches and should not make an extra trip to deliver lunches. However, if a lunch is brought late, it should be left at the Front Office for the Student to retrieve. Parents must enter campus through the front door and are not permitted to walk on campus to deliver food to a student. Fast food lunches are not acceptable; neither are soft drinks, powdered drink mixes, or candy. Please keep in mind that a nutritious lunch will benefit your student in many ways throughout the school day. The habit of sharing meals among students is not allowed as each family packs what they feel is best for their child's diet. Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child and the child's classmates but must stop by the office to sign in before entering the lunch area and it is a courtesy to let the Classroom Teacher know ahead of the intention.

Students in all grades are encouraged to play outdoors during the morning and lunch breaks. Games of imagination are particularly enjoyed by the younger students while games of skill become more sought after by the older students. Ambleside does not have playground equipment but does have a variety of balls, jump ropes, and hula hoops in order to facilitate these activities. Students are expected to include all who wish to participate and adhere to school-wide rules. Teachers will observe the games, allowing students to work out their differences, but will not hesitate to disband a game or remove players if rules or good sportsmanship become hard to follow.

Students should be prepared to be outside several times per day. This preparation should include footwear for running and playing, a warm outer layer, a light rain jacket, and/or sun hat. The School Dress Code governs these items and students are expected to abide by it.

Physical Education, Conditioning, Sports:

Students in grades 1-5 will engage in Physical Education lead on campus during the school day according to the classroom schedule. Students will engage in these activities in the Daily

School Uniform. All should have footwear for running and playing, and a light outer layer or hat if needed. Indoor activities will be substituted in case of inclement weather.

Students in grades 6-8 will engage in various Conditioning classes throughout the year during the school day according to the School Calendar. Classes in Running, Tennis, Swimming, and Golf will be led on and off campus by professional Coaches. Parents must complete all required forms and Students must abide by the Conditioning Section of the Student Dress Code. Students are not required to provide personal tennis or golf equipment, but may if they prefer. Students not prepared for the Conditioning class will not be able to call home for forgotten equipment. Parents should be proactive in ensuring Students are prepared for Conditioning at morning drop-off. In the event a student is unprepared for Conditioning Class, alternate, appropriate activities will be identified for the Student.

Details of the upcoming Conditioning class will be shared through the Weekly Email from the School Office and the In the Classroom Update.

Participation of all Students in grades 1-8 is expected and may vary according to the School Calendar. Parents must provide written documentation to the Lead Classroom Teacher for a Student's absence from the Physical Education or Conditioning class for any period of time. In that case, alternate, appropriate activities will be identified for the Student.

Students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to participate in Cross Country, Swimming, Tennis (Team & Individual), Track, and Golf throughout the year. Students can be part of a competitive team or take part in practices for personal fitness purposes only. High School Sports practices are held outside of the school day and are further detailed in the [Ambleside High School Handbook](#). Parents must complete all required forms and Students must abide by the Athletics Section of the Student Dress Code.

Field Studies:

Field studies are excursions intended to engage learning outside of the classroom. Teachers plan and organize Field Studies with support from School Leadership. Three Field Studies are encouraged per class per year. These events are expected to relate directly to items currently in the curriculum and support student understanding or experience with the curricular ideas. Field studies should never be a practice in entertainment or consumerism.

Student Participation is expected.

Parent Volunteers are often needed to accompany the students and on occasion provide additional transportation. Expectations for Parent Volunteers will be shared prior to the Field Study including providing proof of insurance and submission to a personal background check. Please note siblings are not permitted to accompany a Field Study.

All Parents in the class are asked to complete the student permission forms in a timely manner. Fees due will be invoiced through FACTS and Parents are asked to complete all payments accordingly.

Details and forms will be shared through the In the Classroom Email from the school office.

Dismissal & Pick Up:

K4 and Kindergarten dismiss at 1:00 pm daily, unless students are formally enrolled in Ambleside Afternoons. Ambleside Afternoons and grades 1 - 12 dismiss at 3:30 pm daily, 3:00 pm for grades 11 and 12 on Wednesdays when part of Personal Pursuits.

During pick-up, Teachers wait with their students in assigned classroom order at the Main Entrance. Students and Teachers are expected to watch for parent cars and listen for names to be called.

Students who drive themselves are permitted to walk directly to their vehicles once dismissed by their Teacher.

Students will not be permitted to change clothes before or during dismissal, however, Parents may park and receive their Student from the Teacher in order to use the school restrooms to change.

Specific Staff and Faculty Members are present to direct Parent vehicles. Parents are asked to be attentive and follow all Teacher verbal and motioned instructions.

Once a student's name is called the Student will walk to the appropriate loading area. There are two loading areas on campus. The loading area directly in front of the school (The Shire) is preferred for younger students (grades K4 - 4), families including younger students, and when there is no waiting line of cars. All students should enter the car on the passenger side.

The loading area in the central parking lot (Middle Earth) consists of two lines along the central parking spaces and is preferred for older students (grades 5 - 12) who will cross with Teacher Supervision at the crosswalk and then load themselves. Parents should avoid parking in the central parking area at the close of the school day. Instead, at pick-up, parents should park in the straight section of the lot.

Parents are asked to use extreme caution during pick-up, refraining from all cell phone usage when Students are outside and present. Parents are also asked not to park and leave their vehicles to assist students while in the loading areas. Teachers are present to provide support.

Patience is of the utmost importance during pick-up by Students, Parents, and Teachers in order to ensure safety. If a Parent prefers to park and approach school they must park in the far straight section of the parking lot.

Parents and Teachers should keep any conversation to the time that it takes the student(s) to load in the car. If a longer conversation must take place, the Parent must park the car and walk up to the School in order to show courtesy to other Students and Parents.

Students who arrived with smart devices will be permitted to claim their device only once they are actively leaving school property. Devices must not be engaged while on campus. If Parents

join their Student on campus it is preferred that the Parent keep the device with them until leaving campus.

If a change occurs to the pick-up plan for a student during the school day, Parents should call the Front Office as soon as possible to share the information so Staff and Teachers can be aware and prepare students for the change. Students will use the school phone to call Parents to verify pick-up plans if needed or prudent.

If there is inclement weather during pick-up, all students will remain inside the Assembly Hall. Only the loading area closest to the Main Entrance (The Shire) will be utilized and Students will be called from the Assembly Hall to load under cover at the Main Entrance of the school.

Per School Policy and as a courtesy to Teachers and Staff, all Students in grades K4-K, not enrolled in Ambleside Afternoons, must be picked up at 1:00 pm. After 15 minutes all remaining Students will be taken to wait in the Front Office. Parents must park and sign out their child(ren) at the Front Office.

Per School Policy and as a courtesy to Teachers and Staff, all Students in grades 1 - 12 must be picked up at 3:30 pm. After 15 minutes all remaining Students will be taken to wait in the Assembly Hall. Parents must park and sign out their child(ren) at the Front Office.

After the third late pick-up in grades K4-12 in any year, parents will be notified by email and late pick-up fees will be assessed according to the Ambleside Policy Handbook.

School Work at Home:

Ambleside School creates an atmosphere where worthy work is engaged and completed. Students are given ample opportunity to complete their curricular work during class time throughout the day, week, and year either during the class time or in scheduled study halls. By developing habits of diligence and perseverance, students grow in using their time well and to the purpose set before them. Exceptions will occur when time in class is missed for any reason and the student is unable to catch up during the school day or if a student does not use class time or study hall time well. The need to use "free time at home" for school work is often a quick and effective encouragement to use the time at school more wisely.

Even with a diligent approach to the school day, there are still academic areas that require continued practice and support from home, primarily, Reading, Composition, and Mathematics. Parents and Students should ensure time spent on work at home is in a distraction-free environment if possible.

Grade K4: No school work at home is expected.

Grade K: Math concepts may come home for review and support. Additional reading time with a parent is recommended. Home Narrations may begin in Term 2.

Grades 1 - 2: Math concepts, flashcards, and Reading texts may come home for review and support. Home Narrations will be sent weekly. 30 minutes of reading with a parent or alone is recommended.

Grades 3 - 4: Math concepts, flashcards, and Reading texts may come home for review and support. Home Narrations will be sent weekly until students are consistently writing Narrations by hand. 30 minutes of reading with a parent or alone is recommended.

Grades 5 - 6: Math practice problems, written Narrations, and Composition assignments not finished during class time. 30 minutes of reading is recommended.

Grades 7 - 8: Math practice problems, written Narrations, and Composition assignments not finished during class time. One Chapter of a Literature text per week. 30 minutes of personal reading is recommended. Students will have one study hall per week.

Grades 9 - 12: Math practice problems, Spanish, Science, and Composition work not finished during class time. Literature reading according to the syllabus provided. Students have one study hall per day. Teachers provide syllabi and coordinate and balance work across subjects and the week. Students are encouraged to complete work other than Literature first during Study Hall. Additional personal reading is encouraged.

The Teacher's Day:

Teachers and School Staff are expected to arrive at school by 7:40 am at which time they gather in a brief time of prayer. As Students arrive, Teachers greet them by name and provide guidance in habits of preparation for the day. Teachers lead Students to Assembly or Chapel each morning to ensure timeliness. Teachers then continue the day leading the classroom through the various ideas, subjects, and activities according to the class schedule. Teachers enjoy the morning break and eat lunch at the table with their Students. Teachers have short Planning Periods during the day and often support one another during Morning Break and Lunch Play in order to ensure students are supervised at all times. Teachers come alongside students in support of academic and behavioral weakness according to the Faculty and Staff Handbook with consistency and peace. Teachers remain present at dismissal with their Students to wave goodbye and stay until the last student from their classroom is picked up. Teachers remain on campus daily until 4:00 pm and until 5:00 pm on Tuesdays for a Weekly Staff Meeting.

Teachers have many responsibilities and often very full days. It is a courtesy to a Teacher to schedule a meeting time in advance by email rather than try to "catch them" at the end of the day.

Members of Leadership remain on campus until 4:30 pm and 5:00 pm on Tuesdays for a Weekly Staff Meeting.

The Rhythm of the Year

Teacher/Student Holidays:

Teacher and Student Holidays are marked clearly on the School Calendar. The School Office is closed on these days.

Teacher Inservice Days:

Teacher Preparation Week and Teacher Inservice Week begin the school year while a Teacher Work Week closes the school year. Teacher Inservice Days are also scheduled during the school year. All Staff are expected to attend according to their Job Descriptions.

Teacher Work Weeks and Teacher Inservice Days are Student Holidays.

The School Office is open on these days.

New Parent Orientation:

All Parents of students new to Ambleside School are strongly encouraged to attend a New Parent Orientation on a Saturday morning in August prior to the start of school. Parents will be greeted by Administration and conversation will be led by the Head of School with the purpose of welcoming new families to the Ambleside Community as well as providing information and answering specific questions regarding the school and its operation. An invitation is sent from the School Office in early August and RSVPs are collected in order to provide adequate childcare.

Back to School Night:

Back to School Night will be held during the Teacher Inservice Week, prior to the first day of school. This evening event is intended to welcome students, new and returning, as well as parents to the campus for an evening of fellowship and information. Parents and students will spend time hearing from the Head of School and have opportunities to visit the classrooms spending time with Teachers and looking forward to the year's curriculum.

All Ambleside Families are strongly encouraged to attend.

Childcare is not provided for younger siblings at this event.

Reports of Growth:

Reports of Growth are comprehensive reports prepared by Teachers and divided into two major sections. The first section provides a detailed assessment of the maturity of the student's relationship to self, others, ideas, and work, noting both the student's strengths and areas where growth is to be encouraged. The second section provides an opportunity for each Teacher to detail the student's academic progress. Various Teachers will comment on specific content areas when appropriate.

Reports of Growth are printed and distributed to Parents at 3:30 pm, during pick-up, on the last Friday of the Term (usually the end of October, the middle of February, and the middle of May). Parents are encouraged to make every effort to pick up the Report of Growth at dismissal on those Fridays, review it and bring it with them to the Parent-Teacher Conference.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

While requests to meet with a teacher(s) may be made at any time, three Mondays are set aside for Parent-Teacher Conferences following the distribution of Reports of Growth at the end

of each Term. Conversations will typically include a discussion of the student's growth in maturity traits, academic understanding, and as needed, strategies to support the student in both areas at school and at home.

Thirty-minute conference times are available from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm for each Lead Classroom Teacher.

Attendance by both parents is highly encouraged and familiarity with the student's Report of Growth is expected. Students in grades 6 and below should not attend the conference, however, students in grades 7 - 12 are expected to attend all conferences with their parents. Details and an electronic sign-up sheet will be included in the Weekly Email from the School Office.

Exams:

Exam Days are opportunities for students to show all that they have come to know. During these three half-days near the end of each semester, in Term 2 and Term 3, students are given broad questions covering aspects of the semester's study in each subject. Younger students dictate their answers to Staff or Volunteer Scribes while older students handwrite or type their responses. Exams in disciplinary subjects include solving equations and reproducing maps, tables, nature study specimens, and works of art. On Exam Days, dismissal is at 12:30 pm.

Students in K4 and Kindergarten do not take exams, but engage in a normal schedule with early dismissal at 12:30 pm. Students and Parents in grades 1 - 8 are not to study or review in anticipation of exams. Each Student's exam is to reflect what the student has learned during the course of their studies. However, Students in grades 9 - 12 may spend time in preparation for each exam including review time within the classroom.

Results and the exams themselves are returned to the parents with the Reports of Growth, approximately two weeks later, to give parents and students an opportunity to review and discuss the results at the Parent-Teacher Conferences of Term 2 and Term 3.

Please note the exam days at the end of Term 2 are for grades 1 - 12, while exam days in April (Term 3) are for grades 1 - 8 only and days in May (Term 3) are for grades 9 - 12 only, according to the School Calendar. K4 and Kindergarten dismiss early according to the grade 1 - 8 exams.

Family Night:

Family Nights are planned during the year to welcome Ambleside families to campus and encourage community building. These Family Nights take on a variety of forms, including games, trivia, activities, and helpful speakers. Families are encouraged to attend and spend time together with the greater Ambleside community as a way to grow in support of one another and the School.

Typically, two Family Nights are held each year.

Details of the evening will be shared through the Weekly Email from the school office.

Breakfasts, Prayer Groups, and Coffee:

On occasion throughout the year, breakfasts, prayer meetings, and casual coffees hosted by Ambleside Leadership or Parent Volunteers are held with the purpose of welcoming Ambleside Parents and Friends onto campus for fellowship and discussion.

Parents are encouraged to attend.

Details of the meetings will be shared through the Weekly Email from the school office.

Campus Beautification:

A Campus Beautification Saturday is scheduled in order to invite the Community onto campus in support of campus needs. The Director of Campus Maintenance will oversee and prepare for this effort. All ages are welcome and will be purposefully put to work. Details of the day will be shared through the Weekly Email from the school office and the following Saturday will be the rain-out rescheduled day.

Student Buddies:

Students are assigned Big or Little Buddies at the beginning of the year as a way to foster inter-classroom relationships and provide positive role models for younger students. Older students, usually grades 6-12 are matched with up to two younger students in grades K4-5. When possible and appropriate, Buddies may be paired together for multiple years. Older Buddies are primarily asked to model positive habits during Wednesday Chapel Service, All School Lunches, and Community Caroling. Older Buddies are asked to collect Younger Buddies from the Classroom on Wednesday mornings, so arriving at school in a timely manner on Wednesday is important to the Buddy relationship as well as being present at All School Lunches, and Community Caroling. Younger Buddies often look to their Older Buddies for acknowledgment at break and lunch and will rush over to give high fives. Notes of encouragement throughout the school year as well as small, inexpensive, personal gifts at Christmas and the End of the Year are welcome. Older Buddies should also consider supporting the Younger Buddy during a Puppet Show or Shakespeare Dance, just as Younger Buddies should consider supporting Older Buddies in Shakespeare Plays and Graduations.

All School Lunches:

Three times per year the Students of Ambleside gather together to enjoy a hot lunch and fellowship within the broader student body. Volunteers plan, organize, and serve the lunch menu to students and their student buddies. These lunches, indicated on the School Calendar, are typically served and eaten outside during an extended lunch period beginning at 12:00 pm. Allergies and religious observations are considered and students are always welcome to bring a sack lunch if it is their preference. Following lunch the students have an extended opportunity for play and fellowship with their buddies.

School Picture Day:

School picture day is typically held on a Wednesday in September. Individual, Sibling, and Class Pictures are taken. Students in grades K4-8 are asked to wear Performance Chapel Attire and grades 9-12 are asked to wear elevated Daily Chapel Attire.

Additional days may be scheduled for absent students and High School Sports Teams. Parents are asked to complete all forms and submit payments in a timely manner. School Photos are billed separately from the School. Details and forms will be shared through the Weekly Email from the school office.

Ambleside Schools International Visits:

At times during the school year, the School will host visitors from Ambleside Schools International (ASI), our founding organization and accreditation affiliation. ASI Staff visit to support Leadership and Faculty in the method of Charlotte Mason, provide encouragement, and connect ASF with the broader community of Ambleside Schools. During a visit, ASI Staff will also lead a three-day internship for people interested in knowing more about the Charlotte Mason Educational Philosophy. During portions of these days, the interns will be welcomed into the daily routine and at times into the classroom to observe the Charlotte Mason method in practice. Small changes may be made to the daily class schedules during the internship but otherwise Ambleside School of Fredericksburg will operate as normal. Internship dates are communicated on the School Calendar and a reminder will be shared through the Weekly Email from the school office. Parents are welcome to engage with interns during Morning Assembly and Wednesday Chapel.

Ambleside School Board Meetings:

Traditionally the Ambleside School Board holds meetings on campus on the second Thursday of every month. The Board may be contacted at any time by email at board@amblesidefredericksburg.com

Annual Traditions

Go Outside 5K - Fun Run & Family Day Fundraiser:

Once a year, typically in the fall, Ambleside School promotes a 5K run/walk and children's Fun Run. The 5K course begins and ends in the school parking lot with the course traveling through the nearby neighborhoods and with the Fun Run contained on campus. Registration is run through AthleteGuild.com and is promoted to participants both in and outside the Ambleside Community. The Fun Run often has a costume theme reflecting the outdoors and nature. Families are invited to remain on campus following the running events to fellowship and enjoy a day outside together.

This event is a fundraiser for the school with runner registrations as the primary funding source. Sponsorships and vendors are sought to offset costs and provide additional funding as well as food concessions and activities. This event is planned and executed by the Parent Volunteers of Ambleside in concert with School Leadership. All Ambleside Parents, Students, Families, and Friends are encouraged to attend and participate as able.

Details of the event will be shared on promotional materials, the School Website, and the Weekly Email from the school office.

Veterans Day Chapel Service:

On the closest Wednesday before November 10th, Ambleside School holds its Chapel Service at a local church and dedicates the service to honor Veterans. The Chapel Service includes student songs and recitations in honor of those fallen in war as well as guest speakers. A brief time of fellowship is held afterward to allow the older students to talk with guests and a reception of coffee and finger foods are available. Occasionally, the Chapel is followed by a Q&A session with Veterans.

This Chapel is typically held off campus to accommodate Parents and Guests and Parents are asked to drop their student(s) at the venue in the morning by 8:20 am. Students are returned to school after the Chapel by school transportation and the school day resumes as scheduled. Veterans Day Chapel is considered a Performance and all Students are expected to abide by the Performance Attire section of the School Dress Code.

Parents and Students are encouraged to invite neighbors and friends, especially those who have served in the Armed Forces, to the Veterans Day Chapel.

K-12 Student participation is expected.

Details of this event will be shared on the School Website, and the Weekly Email from the school office.

An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to Veteran friends and family.

High School Play:

Students in grades 9-12 present a play for the school community and guests. This is an extracurricular activity and is subject to many variables. The play productions range from ancient to modern scripts and are influenced by curricular relevance, interested participants, and potential cast size. The location of the performance has recently been on campus, though off-campus locations have been utilized. Students prepare and are cast through an audition process and are required to attend all rehearsals as scheduled. The Director may be an Ambleside Staff member or another Adult Volunteer. The greater School community may be asked to help in providing specific costuming or set/prop needs. Two performances, one matinee and one evening, are scheduled on sequential days, usually coinciding with Grandparents Day. Tickets are required for entry and the Ambleside Leadership Council offers refreshments by donation at the event.

Student participation is optional.

Details of this event will be shared on promotional materials, the School Website, and the Weekly Email from the school office.

Grandparents Day:

Grandparents Day is traditionally scheduled on the Friday before the Thanksgiving Student/Teacher Holiday in November. Grandparents of all Ambleside Students are invited to campus at 10 am to hear a message from the Head of School and presentations by each classroom. Following a short reception, Grandparents are welcomed into the classrooms to

see student work and hear presentations about the various areas of study. Time is given for visits to multiple classrooms.

Grandparents are also welcome to join the Grandparent Volunteers of Ambleside. This group primarily works to provide the three All School Lunches but is also involved and supports various activities on campus.

The Friday before the Thanksgiving Holiday is an early dismissal day and Grandparents are welcome to remain on campus to visit and pick up their students at 12:30 pm dismissal.

All students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm according to the School Calendar.

If a Student does not have a Grandparent able to attend for any reason, the Student is welcome to extend an invitation to an adult guest to stand in place.

Students wear Daily Dress Code Attire.

Details of this event will be shared on the School Website and the Weekly Email from the school office. An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to Grandparents.

Christmas Candlelight Service:

The Christmas Candlelight Service is a Christian worship service led by Ambleside Students and Staff following a Carols and Tales format. This Service is held the Wednesday or Thursday evening before the Christmas - New Year Student/Teacher Holiday at a local Church. The Candlelight Service includes Congregational Hymns, Scripture Readings, Student Songs, and Recitations telling the Good News of Christ's Birth and the response of the Faithful. The closing song of the service invites Ambleside High School Graduates and past Staff members to the stage to join current Staff members in singing Night of Silence while Student choirs sing Silent Night by candlelight. A time of fellowship is held after the Service including light refreshments. This is one of our most anticipated and attended events of the year and all Ambleside Families, Grandparents, neighbors, and friends are encouraged to attend.

K-12 Student participation is expected.

The Christmas Candlelight Service is considered a Performance and all Students and Staff are expected to abide by the Performance Attire section of the School Dress Code.

Details of this event will be shared on the School Website and the Weekly Email from the school office. The Weekly Email will contain any rehearsal instructions and the performance arrival time. An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to guests.

Ambleside Skylark Alumni Gathering:

The evening of the day after the Christmas Candlelight Service, Ambleside High School Graduates are invited to come together to reconnect with each other and hear about the activities of the school. The Alumni are invited to hear from the Head of School and visit with current Teachers and Staff. The traditions of this event are still being established, however, the evening will include a meal and fellowship.

Details of this event will be shared in the Weekly Email from the school office and a personal invitation will be sent by post/email to the Alumni.

Community Caroling:

The Thursday or Friday before the Christmas - New Year Student/Teacher Holiday, the Students and Staff of Ambleside School visit nursing homes, businesses, and friends, and walk the Main Street of Fredericksburg singing Christmas Carols. Students begin the day with the normal schedule and then transition to the Caroling schedule. Traditionally, two groups of Students and Staff are created by Leadership to coordinate the sharing of the Christmas spirit with our neighbors. Students are asked to walk or ride on School Transportation and follow instructions by Teachers and Staff as they sing from the Ambleside collection of Carols.

Student participation is expected.

Students wear Daily Dress Code Attire and are asked to ensure outerwear layers are appropriate to the weather.

Caroling Day is an early dismissal day and all students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm.

Details of this event will be shared in the Weekly Email from the school office. Parents and Alumni are welcome.

First Grade Puppet Show:

Each March the Students in grade 1 present a Puppet Show of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis. Students are assigned parts in class and create puppet heads as part of the handwork curriculum. Parents support the costuming of the puppets. The Puppet Show is traditionally held on campus with one performance during the day for the student body and one performance in the evening for Parents, Grandparents, Neighbors, and Friends. Inviting prospective families with young children to this performance is a lovely way to introduce them to Ambleside.

Student participation is expected.

The Puppet Show is considered a performance and all First Grade Students and attending Staff are expected to abide by the Performance Attire section of the School Dress Code.

Parents in the First grade thoughtfully organize a reception of light refreshments following the evening performance.

The Teacher offers each student a single flower in recognition of their achievement.

Details of this event will be shared on the School Website and the Weekly Email from the school office. The Classroom Update will also contain specific instructions and deadlines.

An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to guests.

Starry Night:

Starry Night is our primary fundraising event for the School Year. It is traditionally a gala event including a cocktail attire party with dinner, drinks, and dancing held at a local event center.

This event is planned and executed by the Parent Volunteers of Ambleside in concert with School Leadership. Event Sponsorships, Guest Table Sponsors, and Donations are sought to offset costs and support fundraising efforts. Live and Silent Auction donations are also carefully procured to appeal to a broad audience and secure the fundraising goals. Student Artwork and Handwork are included as Auction Items. All proceeds from the event support the Ambleside School Scholarship Fund.

All Ambleside Parents and Friends are strongly encouraged to attend and invite friends to this event.

Many Volunteers are needed to execute the planning and the event evening itself and all Ambleside Parents are asked to consider how they can personally support the event and its purpose.

Details of the event will be shared on promotional materials, the School Website, and the Weekly Email from the school office.

The Spring Flourish: (The event formally known as The Spring Concert)

The Flourish is a celebration of all things happening in the classrooms at Ambleside School. Traditionally held on a Thursday evening in April at a local Church, The Spring Flourish begins with an Exposition of Student Work from each classroom spanning much of the curricular efforts throughout the year. Parents and Guests are invited to view Student work and enjoy light refreshments before the Students gather to present Recitations and Songs representing the ideas they have come to know in the year. The closing song of the evening is the school song, "Ode to a Skylark."

K - 12 Student participation is expected.

The Spring Flourish is considered a Performance and all Students and Staff are expected to abide by the Performance Attire section of the School Dress Code.

Details of this event will be shared on the School Website and the Weekly Email from the school office. The Weekly Email will contain any rehearsal instructions and the performance arrival time. An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to guests.

The Sports Ball:

Ambleside High School Athletes, grades 9 - 12, and their families gather in mid-May to acknowledge the effort and growth of the students and thank the Coaches for their expertise and support with an on-campus Ice Cream Social. Earned awards are distributed and Coaches are presented with gifts of thanks.

Student and Family participation is highly encouraged.

Parents and siblings are welcome to attend.

Details of this event will be shared in the Weekly Email from the school office as well as In the Classroom Updates. An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to Guests.

High School Presentations:

Students in grades 9 - 12 present completed efforts in the areas below to their peers, family, and guests in early to mid-May.

9th grade - Freshman Theologian Project

10th grade - Original Poetry Portfolio

11th grade - Junior Novel Project

12th grade - Senior Author Project

Students in grades 9 - 11 will read portions of their completed work to the audience, while Students in grade 12 will present a synopsis of their research paper to a review panel who will then question the student regarding the proposed ideas.

This event will be held on campus and may require multiple days.

Student participation is required.

Student Dress should follow the Chapel Dress Attire in the School Dress Code.

Details of this event will be shared in the Weekly Email from the school office as well as in the Classroom Updates. An invitation will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to guests.

The Last Week of School:

The last week of school is full of special events and opportunities for gratitude. See the outline below with details of each event following.

Day by Day:

Monday - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Student Holiday

Tuesday - Normal School Day with particular efforts in support of the Shakespeare Festival. Students in grades K4 - 8 wear Daily Attire according to the School Dress Code. Students in grades 9 - 12 wear Casual Wear in order to support classroom cleaning and Shakespeare preparations.

Wednesday - School Day with a Gratitude Chapel and Shakespeare Festival. Students in grades K4 - 12 wear Chapel Attire with the Teacher option in grades 5 - 12 to change into Daily Attire or Casual Wear in order to support the Shakespeare Festival setup. Students will change into Shakespeare Costumes as needed according to the day's schedule.

Thursday - Normal School Day with efforts in support of Shakespeare Festival Clean Up, Baccalaureate Brunch, and Graduation Ceremony. Students in grades K4 wear Daily Attire according to the School Dress Code. Parents in grades K4 host their Teacher Appreciation Day. Students in grades K - 8 wear Daily Attire according to the School Dress Code with the option to wear any Ambleside Shakespeare Festival t-shirt and uniform bottoms. Students in grades 1 - 8 gather up student work to send home and work to ensure the Shakespeare Festival is cleaned up and put away. Students in grades 9 - 12 wear Chapel Attire with the option to change into Casual Attire. Students in grades 9 - 12 enjoy the Baccalaureate Brunch and rehearse the Graduation Ceremony. Grade 12 students are dismissed and grades 9-11 continue to support the clean up of the Shakespeare Festival and set up for the Graduation Ceremony.

Friday - Late Arrival/Early Dismissal for all Students and all Students wear Daily Attire. Please drop off students at 9:50 am for Morning Assembly at 10:00 am. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm. Parent Volunteers in grades K - 12 will host Appreciations Brunches for Students, Faculty, and Staff.

Gratitude Chapel:

The Final Wednesday Chapel Service of the school year is named the "Gratitude Chapel." Led by the Head of School and members of the Senior Class, Students, Teachers, Parents, and

Guests participate in an open forum declaring what they are grateful for, particularly during the closing school year. All are welcome and encouraged to offer thanks to God publicly for the goodness He has bestowed and for the people He has provided as support and encouragement in the past year.

An invitation to this Chapel Service will be included in the Weekly Email from the school office.

Shakespeare Festival:

The Shakespeare Festival is a full day of activity and fellowship on Ambleside's campus typically on the Wednesday of the last week of school. The Shakespeare Festival includes Maypole Fairy Dancers with a Team of Soldiers (grades K4 - 2), a Renaissance Song and Dance (grade 3), Wondering Sonneteers (grades K4 - 2), as well as up to five abridged productions of Shakespeare's plays (grades 4 - 8).

The Ambleside High School offers various festival-type activities and treats and items for purchase to support the Leadership Council events.

Food and T-shirts are historically available for purchase.

The Festival is scheduled according to the needs of the productions and may begin shortly after the close of the Gratitude Chapel.

Prior to the first production, all rise to give honor to "The Queen" as she enters, acknowledges her subjects, and is seated in the "Royal Box."

Shakespearean costumes and folding chairs or blankets from home are welcome.

All Ambleside Families are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in a day of community fun and entertainment.

Parent Volunteers may be needed in the older grades to support costuming, makeup, and props.

Student participation is expected.

Details of the event will be shared on the School Website and the Weekly Email from the school office. A program including the schedule will be shared in the Weekly Email for printing or forwarding to guests. The In the Classroom Updates will also contain specific instructions by class.

Adjustments to the festivities for inclement weather are made as needed and communicated through the REMIND APP.

Baccalaureate Brunch:

Ambleside School hosts a Baccalaureate Service and Brunch for the graduating Senior Class on the morning of Graduation Day. The Service is typically held on campus and begins at 9:00 am. All Faculty in grades 9 - 12 are welcome to attend. Members of the Senior class are also welcome to invite immediate Family and Grandparents. The Head of School shares a message and then leads the attendees in a congregational prayer. Following the prayer, Students, Faculty, and Guests are welcome to give messages of appreciation and encouragement to the graduating Seniors.

Immediately following the Baccalaureate Service, students participate in a rehearsal of the Graduation Ceremony, and grade 12 is dismissed.

Students and Faculty are expected to wear their best Chapel Attire.

Student participation in grades 9-11 is expected.

Details of the event will be shared on the School Website, the Weekly Email from the school office, and In the Classroom Updates.

K4 Last Day:

The K4 class spends the last day of school (Thursday) at a local park outdoors, weather permitting with Parents in attendance walking through "A Day in the Life of K4." This is a special time at the end of the year for Teachers and Parents to reflect on the growth of the students and recognize their preparedness for Kindergarten.

Graduation Ceremony:

On the last Thursday evening of the school year, Ambleside hosts a Senior Class Graduation on the front lawn, with a rain plan if needed. An Ambleside Graduation is a community event and it is a hope that all Ambleside Families will join us in celebrating the fulfillment of many years of hard work, study, countless narrations, artist and composer studies, hours of discussion, and the exploration of new ideas.

Graduation from Ambleside represents years of meeting mind-to-mind with authors, mastering the Spanish language, and creating beautiful art pieces along with the development of personal habits that create space for a full and fruitful life.

Graduation is a joyful celebration of the students' growth, an offering of gratitude for God's provision throughout their journey, and an opportunity for inspiration and vision for all in attendance to appreciate and look ahead to the culmination of an Ambleside education.

All graduating students, the Head of School, Board Members, and High School Faculty will be present on stage. Prayers, a Keynote Speech, and individual Student messages of personal gratitude are shared along with congregational hymns. High School Alumni and Faculty are welcome to participate with students in grades 9-11 in singing, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" as the Benediction.

A reception with student memory tables, slide shows and refreshments provided by the Students in grades 9-11 follows the ceremony in the Main Hall.

Students and Faculty should wear their best Chapel Attire.

Student participation in grades 9-12 is expected. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend.

Parents and Students in grades K4-8 are strongly encouraged to attend.

Details of the event will be shared on the School Website, the Weekly Email from the school office, and In the Classroom Updates.

Teacher Appreciation Brunches:

The last day of school is set aside for Students and Teachers to come together to share a time of reflection and appreciation for the year.

K4 typically celebrates Teacher Appreciation on Tuesday.

Grades K-12 celebrate the Teacher Appreciation Brunch on Friday.

Parent Volunteers in each classroom provide tablecloths, flower arrangement(s), and light brunch fare and arrive before 10:00 am to set up the room. No additional decorations or party favors are needed and up to three Faculty or Staff members may be assigned to each classroom. Once the Brunch is set, the Lead Teacher will guide the class through a time of

reflection and gratitude. Classrooms have until 12:30 pm dismissal to complete their time together and say goodbyes. Parent Volunteers will return to the classroom to collect tablecloths and clean up.

Students and Parents are encouraged to write personal notes of Thanks to the Teachers included in their classroom Brunch. Parents are welcome to organize a group classroom gift(s) or thank teachers individually if preferred. The table flower arrangement will be a gift to the Lead Teacher.

Parent Volunteers will be needed in each classroom to set up the room, provide the brunch, provide the flowers, and clean up.

Students wear Daily School Day Attire according to the School Dress Code.

Student participation is expected.

Details of the event will be shared in the Weekly Email from the school office and the In the Classroom Updates will contain specific instructions by class.

Thoughts for Parents:

Parents on Campus:

Various rhythms and traditions bring Parents on to campus during the school year and the Faculty and Staff of Ambleside welcome parent involvement and attention to student and community activities. In support of the Atmosphere at Ambleside School we ask that parents consider their behavior and appearance while on campus in the following ways:

We ask Parents to refrain from smoking or drinking on property.

We ask Parents to show respect for the Classrooms and the furniture and materials in them.

We ask Parents to demonstrate good stewardship of School property, clean up after themselves, and help clean up after community events.

We ask Parents to be responsible for their children at school events.

We ask Parents to follow all Teacher or authorized Volunteer instructions and show respect to all Teachers and Staff.

We ask Parents to consider their appearance from the same perspective as the students who are asked to demonstrate modesty and respect for the place, people, ideas, and work they engage in every day through their personal presentation.

We ask Parents to refrain from or minimize cell phone usage while on Campus.

Parents serving regularly on campus or as Chaperones for a Field Study will be required to provide proof of insurance and submit to a personal background check.

Routines and Relationships:

We welcome everyone in our community into these patterns and habits of the School Year because we know the beauty, peace, and joy that comes from both the routine and the anticipated. We want that peace to extend to your home and family and by coming to know and committing to following the patterns and routines above, we encourage you that it is possible. If your family has a specific need that is in conflict with the above routines, please let the School Leadership know. If you find yourself consistently missing these routines or not fitting the pattern, we would ask you to consider why and how you might be more able to

comply. If you personally question these routines or habits, we ask that you visit with School Leadership to share your concern or difference.

Parent and Grandparent Volunteers:

The volunteer work of Parents is essential for the life of Ambleside School and it is a desire of the Ambleside School Board and Leadership that all Ambleside Parents will find a way to serve at Ambleside and respond positively when asked to support the School as a whole and the Classroom.

Ambleside Grandparents are also excited to be involved in the life of their grandchildren. All are welcome.

The various Volunteer opportunities are coordinated under the leadership of the PVA Coordinator, a Parent Volunteer working under the guidance and direction of the Director of Operations.

All direct email communications from the PVA coordinator will come through pva@amblesidefredericksburg.com while general announcements will be made through the Weekly Email Update.

The Grandparents of Ambleside is a Community group in support of the education of their Grandchildren and Ambleside School. The Grandparents of Ambleside will also operate under the guidance of the Director of Operations. The Grandparents of Ambleside has monthly meetings for coffee and conversation around supporting the mission of Ambleside School.

The opportunities for parent and grandparent participation and service include (but are not limited to):

School Life

- Classroom Parents
- All School Lunches
- Scribing for Exams in Fall and Spring
- Teacher Appreciation Activities
- Library Support

Community Relationships

- Back to School Picnic
- Welcome Family
- Breakfast, Coffee, and Prayer
- Family Nights

School Events

- Go Outside 5K - Fun Run & Family Day Fundraiser
- Starry Night Fundraiser
- Shakespeare Festival
- Various concerts and student performances throughout the year

At the beginning of each school year, the PVA Coordinator in coordination with School Leadership will provide information regarding these and other service opportunities and efforts will be made to secure commitments at that time.

Ambleside Code of Personal Conduct:

Ambleside School of Fredericksburg is committed to fostering a way of life consistent with the moral norms taught by Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. Adult example has a profound effect on the formation of the hearts of children. Failure on the part of faculty, staff, or Board members to maintain the standards of conduct expressed in this document is grounds for dismissal. Failure on the part of a student will result in disciplinary action with the possibility of the student being required to withdraw from the school. It is not the place of Ambleside staff to be "checking up" on parents, but should a parent's repeated violation of the Ambleside Code of Personal Conduct become scandalous to the children of the Ambleside community (i.e. a parent consistently arrives intoxicated at Ambleside events), the parent may be required to withdraw his/her student from Ambleside.

At Ambleside, we believe that an optimal way of life requires that we:

- Demonstrate consistent care for all persons, treating all with kindness, respect, and generosity; never engaging in any behavior (including verbal) which would be damaging, disrespectful or demeaning of another person, child or adult.
- Be diligent in fulfilling all tasks related to one's responsibilities, maintaining a high quality of work, honesty and integrity.
- Be careful and gracious in speech, avoiding any profane speech and never making a public statement (in any medium, including e-mail) regarding the school or any member of the Ambleside community which can be considered injurious to the reputation of another person or the school.
- Handle all concerns and grievances in a constructive manner.
- Avoid all illegal activities including illegal drug use, theft, vandalism and fraudulent activity.
- Avoid activities destructive to relationships such as outbursts of rage, violence, stealing, lying or cheating.
- Be moderate and appropriate in the consumption of alcohol, avoiding drunkenness and never giving alcohol or tobacco products to a minor.
- Protect the dignity of human sexuality and the virtue of chastity
 - By avoiding all forms of lewd speech including base jokes, sexual innuendo, and inappropriate sexually explicit talk and text.
 - By never viewing, possessing, distributing or fostering the use of pornographic material including but not limited to print, digital image, video and audio.
 - By never advocating or participating in immoral sexual activity (defined as any form of touching or nudity for the purpose of evoking sexual arousal apart from the context of marriage between one man and one woman).
 - By never engaging in any physical contact or verbal expression with another person (adult or child) which could be interpreted as being an inappropriate display of affection and thus emotionally abusive and confusing.

Parent Concerns:

Ambleside School is committed to handling any concern in a healthy, constructive manner. The Ambleside School Board requests that the process outlined below is followed for concerns within the community. Parents are encouraged to keep all discussions within the confines of this process.

- Parents and Staff are always directed to go to the responsible person (be that teacher, Head of School, staff or parent) first.
- If a parent's concerns have not been alleviated after consulting with the responsible person, he or she may then seek a meeting with the Head of School.
- If the concerned parent wishes to question a Board policy or should the Head of School be unable to resolve the parent's concern to his/her satisfaction, the parent may then file a formal Statement of Concern with the Ambleside School Board.
- Upon reaching a decision, the Board will communicate its decision to the concerned party.

Ambleside School-Parent Policy Agreement:

Policies and procedures supporting these routines as well as any documents mentioned are contained in the Ambleside School-Parent Policy Agreement which is available to Parents in the Ambleside School Front Office.