



Wisconsin Inspire Academy

Student Handbook 2024 - 2025

Developing leaders who will walk with Jesus into Eternity

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Statement of Purpose

Wisconsin Inspire Academy is an online school whose main purpose is to inspire students with a love and commitment to serve Christ. Through the avenue of technology, our purpose is to provide quality Christian education to the remote corners of the State of Wisconsin.

Mission Statement

The mission of Wisconsin Inspire Academy is to inspire children's hearts and minds to love Jesus Christ, and to develop leaders who will walk with Jesus into eternity.

Objectives for Christian Education

- To encourage reverence for God and kindness to others.
- To glorify God in all things.
- To provide a Christ-centered curriculum.
- To maintain high academic standards.
- To encourage honesty, reliability, and loyalty.
- To maintain a trust relationship as well as a healthy respect between pupils, parents, and teachers.
- To develop and understand the principles of a healthy body and mind.
- To expose pupils to good literature, art, music, and to teach pupils to appreciate "...those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honorable..." (Phil. 4:8 Good News Bible)

Admissions Policy

Wisconsin Inspire Academy admits students of any race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available to students at its school and makes no discrimination in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, Student Aid, and extracurricular programs.

Admissions Procedure

Applicants must complete the following before the application is processed:

- Complete an online application.
- In-person verification of certificate of birth must be presented at registration. (Students entering first grade must be at least six years old by September 1.)

- Students transferring from another school must request transfer of the student’s records.
- Students who have never attended formal schooling will be interviewed and assessed for proper grade placement.
- A commitment to adhere to the school policies printed in this handbook, as well as any other policies approved by the Inspire School Board must be expressed by the signature of each student and parent/guardian on the admission form.

Special Education Needs

Wisconsin Inspire Academy may accept students with special needs if the school feels the child will progress academically and socially. Parents/guardians of students with special needs need to recognize that Wisconsin Inspire Academy does not have the resources (i.e. personnel, facilities, equipment) to offer special education services.

Attendance Policy

Faithful attendance is imperative for success in school. Wisconsin Inspire Academy is not a “work at your own pace” program. It is a technology-mediated elementary school requiring punctual, sustained, live, and daily attendance throughout the whole school year.

This requirement will be reflected in attendance records on each student’s report card. Attendance is taken at the beginning of the day and after each scheduled break (recess, lunch, or other scheduled breaks). NOTE: A late arrival from a scheduled break will result in a tardy for the whole day, even if the student arrived at the start of school on time.

An absence shall be issued if a student misses TWO or more hours of school. These hours do not need to be consecutive. Absences are excusable in the following circumstances:

- Illness (excessive absences due to illness may require a physician statement)
- Medical/dental appointments (however, we highly encourage you to make these appointments on Friday when we are not in live school)
- Required county/state court appointments
- A death of a family member
- Other circumstances discussed with the principal

Please note: The unique nature of Wisconsin Inspire Academy means at some point it may become clear that our program is not the best fit for a student. At any point during the year, the principal may choose to dismiss a student who falls behind in classwork, attendance, or both. The parent(s) may appeal such decision to the Wisconsin Conference Superintendent or the Board of Education. Wisconsin Inspire Academy requires punctual, sustained, live attendance throughout scheduled class periods. When a student is incapable or unwilling to meet these requirements, they will be asked to withdraw.

Parents should email the teacher in advance if their student is going to be tardy or absent from school. Accommodations for missed work will be provided, and an appropriate timeframe will be given for homework to be made up. The Wisconsin Inspire Academy administration will review any student with more than three unexcused absences during any academic quarter. Wisconsin Inspire Academy teachers

will first attempt to address attendance issues with parents but may eventually need to reconsider if the Inspire program is not a good fit for the student.

Requested Family Travel – Excused Absences

To allow some flexibility for parents who may have to travel, students are allowed to miss 9 (20%) class meetings per quarter. Videos for the missed class session with the assignment will be available to the students. Students who miss the class sessions, due to a parent’s schedule, are still required to turn in the assignments and watch the class sessions by the scheduled due date in order to not be counted absent.

Early Dismissals

Parents must contact the school ahead of time for students to leave class during school hours. This permission must be provided in a phone call, email, or text and should include the reason for the early departure and whether the student will return the same day.

Pre-Arranged Absences Homework

When it is necessary to be absent from school for the purpose of urgent family matters, arrangements for make-up work should be completed prior to the absence.

School Day & Weekly Schedule

Monday through Thursday – Live Online Instruction: 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fridays – Independent workday for grades 7-8.

- Students have online assignments without their teacher. These assignments must be completed before the start of school on Monday morning.

NOTE: A detailed daily schedule will be provided closer to the start of school and will be subject to change as needed. The basic framework of our start and stop times will not change.

Wisconsin Inspire Academy is a unique online school that provides daily, direct, online instruction to its students. In addition to instruction, assignments are given during scheduled class periods. Each class period will have time set aside for students to work with their teacher. One of our main goals is to replicate the classroom experience for our Wisconsin Inspire Academy students as much as possible. We also recognize mediating this instruction with technology means students will need time away from their computers. For this reason, daily, live, online instruction will be given Monday through Thursday, with Friday being a weekly independent workday for grades 7 and 8.

Principles of Conduct- Use and Care of School Property

Laptops provided by Wisconsin Inspire Academy are to be used only for intended school use. Students shall be responsible for paying the costs of replacing or repairing all property which they damage.

Textbooks and Laptops

Wisconsin Inspire Academy will provide textbooks (digital or print) and a laptop for academic use. A portion of the registration fee covers the rental costs associated with the textbooks. An additional technology fee is added for the laptop. At times, it may be necessary to return the laptops for repair,

when a student departs from the school, or at the end of the school year. Parents must keep ALL boxes and packing material for the laptops to help facilitate the shipping process.

At the end of the school year, it is expected that all textbooks and laptops will be returned to Wisconsin Inspire Academy. Failure to return either will result in a full replacement charge for the items not returned.

The Inspire issued laptop is to be used solely as an educational resource. The school has full authority over the management of the laptop which includes the ability to remotely monitor its use in the following ways:

- View Live-monitor device
- View history of device
- Lock or disable device
- Set specific parameters on device usability

A laptop is a powerful tool which provides access to the internet. Wisconsin Inspire Academy will place filtering and monitoring software on each of its devices to mitigate the willful or unintended exposure of inappropriate content to students. The software on Wisconsin Inspire Academy computers blocks access to websites with images, language, and advertising containing:

- Sexually explicit, violent, and racist propaganda
- Aggressive behavior
- Controlled substances
- Shopping
- Gaming

PLEASE NOTE: This reasonable best effort on behalf of Inspire does not absolve the responsibility of a parent or guardian in the home to actively monitor internet use, particularly during after-school hours.

Attempts to work around the filtering parameters or any other limiting factors put forth by administration or the teacher on a student device will result in the immediate disabling of the laptop. The laptop will remain disabled until a conference between the principal and parents can be arranged. Repeated attempts to access blocked content or to work around limiting factors on the device during or after school hours will result in an escalation of discipline response by the Wisconsin Inspire Academy teacher and ultimately the Wisconsin Board of Education. In severe cases, the behavior could result in the immediate return of the laptop or dismissal from school.

Wisconsin Inspire Academy students will be called to uphold Christian standards while communicating with others. Information shared in any capacity between students is not private. This is true of any use on the laptop or account provided by laptop. Vulgar language or sharing material which is incompatible with Christian standards and conduct will not be tolerated. Under no circumstances may a student give out his/her name, address, phone number, social media page, or email while online. Games that allow students to communicate with people outside our organizational unit are strictly prohibited.

Laptops that are provided remain the property of Wisconsin Inspire Academy in the hours outside of school. Therefore, the expectation of conduct and use remain the same as during instructional time.

Digital citizenship is incredibly important to Wisconsin Inspire Academy. All student behavior online is a reflection of our school. Therefore, students who practice poor digital citizenship on non-school devices are subject to the same disciplinary actions. Because of this, Wisconsin Inspire Academy cautions students and parents to be thoughtful about how social networking sites are used.

Balanced and Healthful Living- Outdoor Activities

Recess and physical education are part of the curriculum at Wisconsin Inspire Academy. They are designed to promote physical, social, emotional, and spiritual health. Wisconsin Inspire Academy students will be asked to participate in balanced healthful living.

Personal Appearance

Modest, neat, clean attire that is in harmony with Biblical principles are acceptable. Hair and nail color needs to be natural. Teachers have the authority to ask students to change anything that they feel may be distracting to the Christian education process.

While attendance at Wisconsin Inspire Academy is not in a physical school building, students are expected to dress in a manner that denotes readiness to learn. Pajamas will not be allowed.

Discipline

The goal of discipline is self-control. Not every misbehavior requires discipline. Teaching a better way is often sufficient and most effective. However, when discipline is necessary, it will be to aid in improving behavior and will be conducted in a redemptive spirit. The principles of discipline outlined in the book *Education* pages 287-297 provide the foundation of the process. It will vary with the offense committed and the student's need to learn.

Parents have a powerful influence in leading their children to cooperate with the teacher's authority. Students learn best when parents and teachers cooperate directly in dealing with misunderstandings and problems instead of drawing conclusions and taking action on the basis of the child's opinion. "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good... The wise in heart shall be called prudent; and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning." Proverbs 16:20, 21

Despite the best efforts of parents and teachers to instill proper behavior in students, the student cannot be forced into true obedience against his/her will. When a misbehaving student fails to respond to correction or places the welfare of classmates in jeopardy by his/her disruptions to the learning environment, the following sequence will be followed:

1. Verbal (and private, if possible) admonition to the student.

2. Parents are notified and asked to talk to the student.
3. Parents are notified and asked to oversee private instruction for the day, so the student no longer impedes the broader learning environment.
4. **SUSPENSION:** The student is excluded from school for a limited time. This action is taken by the principal.
5. **DISMISSAL/EXPULSION:** The school board chooses to exclude the student from school indefinitely. If this unfortunate action is taken, the school **WILL NOT** provide reimbursement for tuition or fees.

Causes for Potential Immediate Dismissal

Students who engage in any of the following practices may be asked to withdraw from school or may be denied readmission. Note: The expectations of conduct must be practiced in the hours outside of school as well. These things include, but are not limited to:

1. Willfully undermining the religious ideals of the school.
2. Using profane language, indulging lewd conduct or suggestions, or possessing or displaying obscene literature or pictures.
3. Stealing, lying, cheating, willful deception, and dishonesty regarding violation of school regulations or any other part of schoolwork or business.
4. Failing to completely comply with the stipulations of any discipline that has been administered by the faculty.
5. Willfully destroying school property.
6. Using school property (laptops or textbooks) in inappropriate ways.
7. Possessing or using alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco, or cannabis in any form, or misusing legal drugs.
8. Threatening others with malicious intimidation or violence.

Communication

It is not the intention of this handbook to cover every detail of the academic environment. Written and verbal communication between staff, parents, and students will be open and ongoing. This communication will be considered as binding as any guidelines included in this handbook. Because this school is predominantly online, parents should anticipate a high level of electronic communication from the teacher. Responsive communication between the school and home is expected.

Parent-Teacher

Parent and teacher communication is vital to the well-being of every student. It is accomplished through regularly scheduled conferences during the school year, through report cards and interim grade reports,

homework, and classwork assignments, as well as virtual communication after school, and over the phone. Two virtual parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled during the school year.

Guidelines for Parents

Cooperation between parents and teachers will help provide positive educational experiences. When students perceive a spirit of mutual support and cooperation between parents and teachers, they will be more likely to display an eager attitude.

Parental involvement in the classroom is encouraged and appreciated. Please plan with the teacher when and how you might be able to help during class time. This will enable the teacher to coordinate any help offered with areas of need.

Classroom Guidelines for Parents:

1. Never interrupt a teacher while they are teaching.
2. Do not ask questions for your child. We want the child to be independent and comfortable asking questions.
3. The teacher reserves the right to decide how much help, if any, they need.
4. Parents should consider themselves as observers who can ask the teacher questions only during the teacher's office hours or other times designated by the teacher.

Problem Solving Procedures

The student is our prime concern. The following steps are offered with this in mind. It is recommended that the steps be followed in this sequence.

1. A parent-teacher conference should be held to identify the problem and isolate facts. This first step should resolve many of the problems.
2. A parent-teacher conference with the principal may be held if the concerns remain unresolved.
3. Problems not resolved may be brought to a conference superintendent.
4. If no solution is found, the problem is to be sent to the school board for a final resolution. Such items must be placed on the agenda several days prior to the scheduled meeting.

2024- 2025 Financial Information

2024-2025 Tuition Rates and Payment

Each Student	10 monthly Payments	Total Annual Tuition for School Year
1st-8th Grade	\$633.50	\$6,335.00*

- *Includes registration fee of \$450 and technology fee of \$100.
- Scholarships are available to cover up to half of the \$6,335.00, but must be requested.

Financial Aid

The academy realizes that financing your child’s tuition can be difficult for many families, however there are ways this can be done.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs

WPCP is a statewide voucher program that provides tuition for private schools in the state of Wisconsin for families that meet the income requirements. Parents can apply for one of the three different programs, depending on where they live in the state of Wisconsin.

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

If your student resides in the City of Milwaukee, they are eligible to apply to the MPCP. Family income must be equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level.

Racine Parental Choice Program

If your student resides in the Racine Unified School District, they are eligible to apply to the RPCP. Family income must be equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

If your student resides outside of the City of Milwaukee and the Racine Unified school district, they are eligible to apply to the WPCP. Family income must be at or below 220% of the federal poverty level.

The student must meet one of the following prior year attendance requirements: a public-school student in grades K4-12; a student who was not enrolled in school the previous year including attending a homeschool; a private school student in grades K4, K5, 1, 9; and a student who participated in the MPCP or RPCP the previous school year.

Help Applying

For help applying please go to the Wisconsin Inspire page at: wisacad.org/inspire-academy.

Student Aid

You can contact the Wisconsin Academy's Business Manager at (920) 626-4018 to discuss the availability of financial assistance for your child. This can be negotiated based on need.

Church Support

Another source of assistance is your local church from which you can request tuition assistance.

Inspire Scholarships

Contact Wisconsin Conference Superintendents if requesting an Inspire Scholarship.