



A ministry of Iron Life Ministries

ONLINE CHURCH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027



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LIFE PREPARATORY ACADEMY ONLINE CHURCH SCHOOL HANDBOOK 2026-2027

Welcome to **Life Preparatory Academy (LPA)**, a ministry of **Iron Life Ministries** — where transformation begins, education is elevated, and empowerment becomes a way of life. We are honored that you have chosen to partner with us in shaping the academic and spiritual journey of your scholar. Consequently, the home – school connection is vital for each scholar’s success.

As a church-exempt school founded on faith, excellence, and purpose, LPA exists to **transform minds, educate with wisdom, and empower young leaders** to fulfill their God-given destiny. Our program is designed to provide flexibility, structure, and unwavering support through quality online instruction, intentional community, and Christ-centered values. As an entity built on Christian faith, our foundational and guiding scriptural references are as follows:

- **TRANSFORM:** “And be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” Romans 12:2
- **EDUCATE:** “How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather than silver!” Proverbs 16:16
- **EMPOWER:** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

Please keep the following statements in mind as you read through this handbook and/or consider enrollment as they apply throughout:

- LPA is a parent-supported educational model
- Parents remain actively responsible for supervision and accountability
- LPA is not a self-paced “do school whenever” environment without deadlines.
- Enrollment does not guarantee promotion, credits, graduation, or diploma issuance.
- Flexibility should not be interpreted as reduced rigor.
- LPA does not replace parental involvement.

This handbook serves as your guide for the 2026–2027 school year to facilitate a seamless transition for scholars, parents, and staff. Inside, you'll find everything you need to know about our policies, expectations, academic and procedural structure, and support systems. It is our commitment to walk with you each step of the way, cultivating not just academic success, but a life of integrity, leadership, and faith.

We look forward to a successful year. Welcome to the Life Prep family! #RiseUpEagles

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Enrollment Procedures

Enrollment Procedures

Enrollment at Life Preparatory Academy (LPA) is a structured, multi-step process designed to ensure that each scholar and family are fully prepared to begin the school year with clarity and confidence.

Step 1: Online Registration

A parent or guardian must complete the online registration form using the official LPA enrollment link provided. A \$50 non-refundable registration fee per family is required and must be submitted as directed to begin the enrollment process.

Step 2: Application Processing

Once registration is submitted, LPA staff will:

- Process the scholar's application and payments, and request any additional information
- Prepare the necessary legal and administrative forms for submission to the local school board or other reporting entity (Church School Enrollment Form for new scholars in AL)
- Begin activation of the scholar's online curriculum platform
- Select appropriate grade-level classes and course materials
- Schedule a mandatory orientation session with both the scholar and the parent/guardian

Step 3: Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- To complete the enrollment process, the parent or guardian must:
- Submit registration fee, tuition, any additional required payments or fees
- Provide prior academic records, information release forms, and other requested information for new scholars
- Sign and return all required documentation to LPA or, when applicable, to the local/state reporting agency

Completion of all steps is necessary before the scholar can be considered officially enrolled and granted access to the online learning system.

Curriculum

Power Homeschool Services (PHS), which provides video based Acellus courses, is the primary online curriculum that LPA has chosen to utilize. Acellus courses have been used by numerous educational institutions and are well-respected in online education. Scholars will have opportunities to excel beyond his or her grade-level in subjects that are completed ahead of schedule and explore other interests. Scholars will also have access to academic planning and support during scheduled check-ins with LPA staff. Though this curriculum allows students to work at their own pace, courses are expected to be completed within the allotted time. Also, we will provide log-in information for each new scholar after registration and class assignment. That information may be used for classes on the Acellus platform for the duration of enrollment at LPA, unless changes are made. ***Note: scholars who enroll at any point within the school year must still begin Acellus classwork at the beginning of each course.***

Grading

Quizzes and tests that appear on the Acellus platform will be graded by the system, while other assignments or assessments will be graded by LPA staff. **Scholars are expected to complete at least 45% of a class's curriculum each semester to receive their platform grade. If not, scholars may receive a grade of Incomplete (only in verified special circumstances) or their grade will be reduced by the percentage of work not completed, which may result in a failing grade.** No passing status or class credits are earned for Incomplete or Failing (below 60%) grades. LPA staff will maintain all records and distribute report cards and transcripts.

While working on the Acellus platform, scholars must earn a 70% or higher on each graded activity (step) to move to the next step. If the scholar does not achieve this minimum score, then he/she will be redirected into "vectored learning" which is a built-in remediation tool to help reinforce the concepts that are not understood. Once completed, the scholar will then be allowed to do the activity again to achieve the minimum mastery score of 70%. This may occur multiple times, causing the scholar to remain on this step number until a passing score is achieved. We highly recommend that scholars make their best effort on each activity so that progress won't be significantly slowed down by multiple remediations and attempts.

The platform also graciously allows you to choose to redo a step if you did not make a desired score above a 70%. **Per LPA policy, you are only allowed to redo an activity once more to achieve a higher score if you scored a 70% or above on the previous attempt. If more than 2X is indicated on your summary for a step that you scored a 70% or above on the previous attempt, then you will be subject to obtaining a ZERO for that assignment at the administrator's discretion.**

*The LPA Grading Scale is as follows: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 or Below = F
We do NOT have a (+) (-) grading scale that you may see on the Acellus platform.*

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High School Credit-Bearing Courses

High school credit-bearing courses count toward your high school GPA (grade point average on a 4.0 scale) and the requirements for your high school diploma. LPA follows, in general, the course requirements for a scholar's state of residence and awards credits for courses that are completed and passed. For example, Alabama high school graduation standards require 24 credits, with certain core subjects and elective requirements. LPA makes every effort to ensure that scholars fulfill those requirements through academic planning and advising.

For credit-bearing classes, no credit is awarded for an "F" or Incomplete grade. Full year classes are awarded 1.0 credits for completion and half-year classes are awarded 0.5 credit units upon completion. The required Weekly Zoom Check-in Sessions will be a graded class, *Life Preparatory Weekly Advisory & Enrichment*, for all grade levels. Grades are based on attendance, participation, conduct, and execution of assigned activities before, during and after sessions. High school scholars in grades 9-12 will be awarded 0.5 Life Preparation credit units per school year with a passing grade of 60% or higher; this class will be included within the high school G.P.A. calculation.

Dual Enrollment

Scholars who are recommended for dual enrollment will have a chance to earn college credit and high school credit for classes taken through an accredited post-secondary program, college, or university. We currently have partnerships with Auburn University and Auburn University Montgomery, and we are building partnerships with other post-secondary institutions and programs. Scholars are reviewed for dual enrollment by administration initially during the 10th grade year unless special circumstances occur (as determined by administration). Any costs associated with dual enrollment must be fulfilled by the parent or guardian and paid directly to the institution according to their procedures. LPA is not responsible for registering scholars for classes or any payments associated with dual enrollment. Academic support staff will recommend classes and submit any official records that is formally requested in writing. ***Dual enrollment grades that receive high school credit will be recorded using a weighted grading scale.***

Attendance

Attendance will be recorded daily and is a critical part of accountability at LPA. Since staff members are not household members, we have developed an efficient system to document daily attendance. ***To be counted as present, scholars must log on and complete at least 3 steps in each core course (Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies) by 11:59 pm CST each day, Monday – Thursday, except for holidays outlined on the school calendar. Ten or more unexcused absences per semester may result in failure of classes, pausing of classes, suspension, or expulsion from LPA.*** Additionally, scholars are expected to complete weekly goals in ALL classes

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to maintain the pace needed to complete the courses. Parents and scholars are expected to work together to ensure attendance.

Scholars may work in the system at any time. Scholars' daily work schedules should be determined by parent/ guardian (a suggested schedule will be provided for you). Please see the school calendar for holidays and academic semesters.

Weekly Zoom Check-in sessions are a vital part of our attendance. This is the scholar's time to get extra help, ask questions, and be held accountable for performance during the previous week. Staff members diligently prepare for sessions, so prior communication regarding absences, etc. and participation during sessions are expected as a form of common courtesy. The scholar will have a 10-minute window before being counted as a "No Show," unless staff is notified of an absence prior to the session, with a valid excuse. After 10 minutes, the Zoom meeting will be closed and notes recorded. Additionally, reminders will be sent for the first 2 Zoom sessions, then scholars are expected to attend regularly without reminders

Academic Dishonesty

LPA expects each scholar to practice academic honesty. Unit tests are expected to be done without unauthorized assistance (i.e., internet searches for answers, notes, parents answering questions for the scholar, peer help, etc.). **You are expected to do your own work!** Practice and quizzes may require a review of notes or use of examples from notes, especially in math. ***Tests are expected to be completed without the use of notes, unless noted in your Individual Learning Plan with documented and agreed upon accommodations.***

Consequences of academic dishonesty include a grade of "0" for the assignment, a possible grade of "F" for the grading period, and/or suspension (as determined by administration).

Conduct

Scholars are expected to be always on their best behavior. **Disrespectful behavior or speech toward LPA staff, other scholars, and anyone in authority will not be tolerated.** Students violating conduct expectations will be warned on the first offense and subject to suspension or expulsion on the subsequent offense.

Supplies and Technology Use 2026-2027

At Life Preparatory Academy (LPA), technology plays a vital role in delivering high-quality, flexible education to our scholars. As part of our online church school program, we utilize, but are not limited to, the following core platforms:

- **Acellus** – our primary online curriculum delivery system
- **Zoom** – used for weekly live check-in sessions, academic advising, and school-based and ministry-based engagement

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Student Expectations

To ensure a safe and productive learning environment, students are expected to:

- Log in to Acellus daily to complete assigned coursework and monitor progress
- Attend weekly Zoom check-ins on time, with cameras on and appropriate dress attire
- Communicate respectfully and professionally in all digital spaces
- Use only authorized accounts and credentials for login (no account sharing or impersonation)
- Refrain from recording or distributing Zoom sessions without school authorization

Parent Support

Parents should ensure that scholars have:

- A reliable internet connection and access to a device compatible with both Acellus and Zoom
- A quiet, distraction-free learning space during scheduled sessions
- Routine supervision of student progress within the Acellus platform

The Acellus app should be downloaded to an adequate technology device. We recommend a laptop or desktop PC, but the app does work on mobile devices. Headphones are recommended when doing work where others are present as the scholar must listen intently to the lessons taught. Scholars should also keep a notebook for each course to take notes as needed and a binder or folder to store extra work and materials. You can also store notes electronically as screenshots, etc. These will be great resources as they progress in grade levels.

Dress Code

LPA will continue to uphold scholarly standards for dress. Uniforms are not required for daily online learning. However, scholars are required to dress appropriately and groom for face-to-face interactions, including group sessions. For in-person events, scholars will receive instructions on what attire is expected.

Staff Availability (subject to change)

Generally, LPA staff is available for feedback or questions at the following times, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 12 Noon via phone or text; 9:00 am – 2:00 pm via email; Zoom Check-ins as Scheduled.

Tuition & Fees

A registration fee of \$50 per family (per school year) is due upon registration. Monthly tuition should be paid by the 5th of each month or be subject to late fees. Additionally, final records may be held until outstanding balances are paid in full. Please see the ***2026-2027 Tuition and Fees*** page (p. 14) for complete information on tuition costs and available pay schedules.

Withdrawal Procedures

We understand that families may experience changes that require withdrawal from Life Preparatory Academy (LPA). To ensure a smooth and responsible transition, the following steps should be followed when withdrawing a scholar:

Step 1: Submit Written Notice

A parent or legal guardian must submit a formal written notice of withdrawal to LPA via email or the official withdrawal form. This notice must include the scholar's full name, grade level, and effective date of withdrawal, as well as the reason for leaving, if available.

Step 2: Fulfill Financial Obligations

All outstanding tuition fees, or balances must be paid in full before records can be released or final documentation processed. The initial registration fee and tuition payments are non-refundable.

Step 3: Academic Record Review

LPA staff will conduct a final academic progress review, and parents must ensure that all work through the withdrawal date is submitted and graded. No grades or transcripts will be finalized or released if there is missing coursework or unresolved attendance issues.

Step 4: Records & Reporting

Once withdrawal is confirmed and accounts are settled:

- LPA will prepare and release a Withdrawal Form or Letter of Confirmation
- The parent/guardian is responsible for notifying the local school board or state reporting entity of the change in enrollment
- Academic records (including transcripts, if applicable) will be transferred to the next educational institution upon written request and completion of all procedures

Important: Failure to follow proper withdrawal procedures may result in the scholar being reported as truant or improperly unenrolled according to state reporting guidelines.

We encourage all families to communicate openly and early if withdrawal is considered so that we can support a smooth transition.

Promotion and Retention

At Life Preparatory Academy (LPA), student promotion is based on a holistic review of academic progress, course completion, attendance, and mastery of grade-level content. We are committed to ensuring that every scholar advances with confidence, competence, and character.

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Promotion Criteria:

Scholars may be promoted to the next grade level when the following conditions are met:

- Satisfactory completion of all assigned core courses in Acellus or other approved platforms
- Demonstrated academic growth through unit mastery and end-of-course assessments
- Consistent engagement with instructional materials and participation in weekly check-ins
- A minimum overall passing average of 60% or higher

Retention Considerations:

If a scholar does not meet the promotion criteria, LPA leadership may recommend retention. This decision is made with care, and may consider the following:

- Academic performance and course completion
- Attendance records and effort
- Parent/guardian input
- Support interventions attempted during the academic year

Parents will be notified in advance of any risk of retention and will be involved in all decision-making discussions. A written retention plan may be developed if the scholar remains in the current grade level for an additional year.

Graduation Procedures

Life Preparatory Academy celebrates the successful completion of high school with an excellence-driven graduation experience. We take joy in honoring scholars who have demonstrated academic achievement, spiritual growth, and personal integrity.

Graduation Eligibility:

To be eligible for graduation, a scholar must:

- Complete all required high school coursework as outlined in the LPA graduation plan (using state requirements as the guide)
- Earn a minimum of 24 credits, including core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) and electives
- Submit all required documents, including prior transcripts (if transferring in)
- Be in good financial standing with no outstanding balances, including graduation fees
- Abide by graduation procedures as communicated by LPA staff (emailed to parent/guardian and scholar)
- Meet any additional requirements established by LPA or your state of residence for church school students

Graduation Ceremony:

Graduates will be recognized during LPA's formal commencement celebration, which includes a commencement speaker and graduate reflections, and is usually followed by a reception for families and friends in attendance. Participation in the ceremony is strongly encouraged. Diplomas will be issued at the ceremony. As LPA grows and expands its territory, states or regions with an abundance of graduating scholars could possibly have separate state or regional graduations.

Other Notes

Please practice patience as we move through this school year. We will work diligently with scholars and parents to give the best opportunities for success. The content of this document is subject to change as the year progresses.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Disclosure

Life Preparatory Academy – Online Church School, 2026-2027

Educational Records

Educational records include all records, files, documents, and other materials that contain information directly related to a student and are maintained by Life Preparatory Academy or its authorized representatives. This includes:

- Enrollment documents
- Grades and academic progress
- Attendance records
- Disciplinary records
- Transcripts and report cards
- Communications between LPA and the family regarding the student

Parent/Guardian Rights Under This Policy

Parents or legal guardians of students enrolled in LPA have the following rights:

1. The Right to Access Records

You may inspect and review your child’s educational records upon request. A written request must be submitted to the school administration, and access will be provided within 10 business days.

2. The Right to Request Amendments

If you believe any information in your child’s records is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the child’s privacy, you may request an amendment. This request must be submitted in writing with a detailed explanation.

3. The Right to Consent Before Disclosure

LPA will not disclose personally identifiable information (PII) from your child’s records without written consent, except where disclosure is legally permitted or required.

4. The Right to File a Concern

Although LPA is not subject to direct federal FERPA enforcement, we take complaints seriously.

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Directory Information Policy

LPA may identify limited “directory information” for use in school yearbooks, honor rolls, awards, or graduation programs. Examples of directory information may include:

- Student’s name
- Grade level
- Honors and awards received
- Participation in school-sponsored activities

Parents have the right to opt out of directory information sharing in writing.

Online Safety and Data Use

LPA uses secure digital platforms to manage student data. We make every reasonable effort to:

- Maintain encrypted and password-protected access
- Limit internal access to authorized staff only
- Train faculty on student privacy expectations and digital responsibility

Consent & Acknowledgment

All parents/guardians will be required to sign a FERPA Privacy Acknowledgment Section at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. This form confirms your awareness of our privacy practices and affirms your rights regarding your child’s academic records.

For questions, please contact:

Life Preparatory Academy, Attn: Office of the Lead Principal

Email: lifeprepeagles@gmail.com

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LIFE PREPARATORY ACADEMY ONLINE TUITION & FEES 2026-2027

****All fees paid are NON-REFUNDABLE****

- Price paid per year (paid in advance): **\$2750/ year (Aug – May)**
 - You save: \$250/ year

- Price paid per semester (paid in advance): **\$1,450/ semester**
 - Total Paid per year when paying by semester: \$2,900/ year
 - You save: \$100/ year

- Price paid per month (paid by the 5th of each month): **\$300/ month**
 - Total Paid per year by month: \$3,000/ year

- **Registration Fee: \$50.00 / year per family** (Due at registration)

**All payments are due at the beginning of the billing cycle chosen, whether monthly, per semester, or per year. Monthly payments received after the 5th of the month are subject to a \$25 late fee. After 10 calendar days of nonpayment, the scholar's account will be frozen until payment (plus late fee) is made or until scholar is withdrawn. Scholars will be counted as absent during this period.*

**Discount for multiple-scholar enrollment households/ parents – 10% for the first additional enrolled scholar; 5% for each scholar beyond the first additional one.*

**CHOOSE Act parents must submit an invoice from LPA for payment of tuition via their Class Wallet (CW) accounts. CW payments to LPA are done on a semester or yearly basis. If CW payments do not cover the entire semester or year, remaining balances will revert to monthly payments unless the parent/guardian chooses to pay the entire remaining balance in advance.*

**Senior scholars who finish all required coursework for a diploma within an enrolled semester are expected to remain enrolled until the end of that semester and fulfill full tuition obligations, as monthly tuition payments are a courtesy breakdown of yearly tuition fees. Special credit-bearing classes or projects may be added at administration's discretion to fulfill this timeline.*

**Other fees may include special classes, software, supplies, field trips, senior fees for graduating seniors, and other school-related costs.*

LPA Academic Calendar 2026-2027

2026

TBA	Parent Orientation (Zoom)
August 10	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day Holiday
October 12	Indigenous People’s Day
November 11	Veteran’s Day Holiday
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 21-31	Christmas/ Winter Holidays

2027

January 1-4	Christmas/ Winter Holidays
January 5	Scholars Return
January 18	MLK Holiday
February 15	Presidents’ Day
March 15 - 19	Spring Break Holiday
May 20	Last Day of School
May 22	LPA Graduation

ACADEMIC SEMESTERS

Semester 1	August 10, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Semester 2	January 1, 2027 – May 20, 2026

Attendance days are Monday-Thursday each week beginning August 10, 2026, except for holidays

*** The calendar is subject to change as the school year progresses***