

A decorative border of colorful handprints in various colors (purple, pink, green, blue, red, orange, yellow, light green, dark blue, magenta) surrounds the central text.

Oasis_K

Parent / Student Handbook

2022-2023

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A Message from Mrs. Danna Beale

With joy, I adventure out of 24 years in the public school classroom (K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, AND 6 at some point, plus 7-8 ESL and Gifted) in Alabama and Kentucky to put my love of world cultures, travel, language, and inspiring children to use in birthing OasisK@WellSpring! I grew up in Auburn, Alabama, daughter of a botany professor and a high school biology teacher. I have one brother who lives in Japan with his family. Married to Rev. Dr. Michael Beale for 33 years come June, we have together with our children planted Well-Spring Community Church in Millbrook (2006), where I enjoy leading worship and serving alongside "Pastor Mike." Anna Caroline (26) teaches 7th grade Geography/Civics/World Cultures at Millbrook Junior High; John Michael (23 in August) graduated from Auburn University in December with a degree in professional & public writing/Asian studies and is working from home in interim. Both children (and we, eventually) desire to serve overseas eventually. In my spare time, I love to travel/travel/travel/travel (!), bike in the neighborhood, walk, garden, READ, decorate, find bargains, play with photography, meet new people, encourage others, and explore new cultures. My favorite animal is the butterfly...very apt.

Although I am grateful for my formal training (Auburn U—BS/Elementary Education, Magna CL, 1988; Auburn U/Montgomery—MS/Elementary Education, Summa CL, 1998--both by grace of God; post-graduate work in Gifted certification), I have found that the **children themselves have been my wisest teachers**. Their enthusiasm, resilience, empathy, and desire to change the world for the better captivate me. To be able to return to my preferred teaching age and capture this God-given resource at the earliest age of formal education is a gift. To unashamedly embed and share the love of Christ without reservation as I pour into them academically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually is a dream come true. Together, working with "my families" as their children's FIRST and most important earthly teachers, I believe we genuinely will see "His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."



Vision Statement

Our desire is to help parents cultivate in their children an enduring love of learning, a commitment to serve others, and a dedication to the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, forged from Biblical Christianity. We aim to equip virtuous scholars to think clearly, listen carefully, discern wisely, reason persuasively, and articulate precisely — all with an eagerness to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Mission Statement

First, the mission of Oasis K is to glorify God through providing academic excellence through developmentally-appropriate learning activities to the students and parents of K5 age learners in order to prepare them to meet or surpass first-grade entry standards for Alabama public schools.

Second, Oasis K is established to provide an atmosphere of Christian values, Scripture, music, and personal mentoring to guide students and families in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Third, Oasis K will provide an invitational point for families to become an actively serving part of the WellSpring Community Church family of faith, if they desire.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and life.
2. We believe in one true and living God existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal.
3. We believe that the heavens and the earth and all things in them were created by God.
4. We believe God created man in His image, and the first man, Adam sinned against God incurring physical and spiritual death for himself and for all who descended from him by ordinary generation.
5. We believe all human beings are born with a sinful nature and need the Savior, Jesus Christ, to be reconciled to God.
6. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, truly God and truly man, begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
7. We believe Jesus Christ by His righteous life and obedient death obtained redemption for all His people.
8. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, His ascension into heaven, His position at the right hand of the Father, and His personal and visible return to this earth at the end of this age.
9. We believe all who are born again of the Holy Spirit receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, become children of God by adoption, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, are enabled more and more to die to sin and to live righteously, and to persevere to the end.
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all persons, the judgment to come, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost

Philosophy of Kindergarten

Kindergarten (“children’s garden” in German) is the formal academic foundation for a child’s entire school experience. It should address the physical, emotional, mental, relational, social, and spiritual needs of every individual personally as well as collectively as a team. Learning ideally takes place across all modalities: visual, auditory, kinesthetic, musical, inter and intrapersonal, and naturalistic—creatively exploring an integrated, thematic curriculum through meaningful project-based and literacy-building opportunities. In any classroom, but especially in the Kindergarten environment, children should thirst for more, bursting with passion to share the day’s discoveries with anyone who will listen. This can be accomplished by using a garden metaphor: *all sprouts need soil (basic foundation of facts/processes/application), air (freedom to move, grow, explore, especially topics of special interest to learners), rain (constructive guidance that brings loving structure and stretching opportunities), and sunshine (plenty of love and praise, encouragement to risk and become world-changers for the better...in a time when our society seeks to reconnect beyond a screen).* Though still unmandated by the state of Alabama, Kindergarten has become a “given.” Our philosophy believes in returning to the way “Kindergarten used to be”—organic, community-based, multifaceted, and purpose-driven.

Admission and Withdrawal Policies and Procedures

Admissions

1. OasisK admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all programs and activities of the school.
2. Applications for admissions will be processed in the order received and at any time during the school year.
3. Acceptance is not finalized until the first month’s tuition is paid.
4. Age of applicant is 5th birthday by September 1st of the year of application, but children with “fall birthdays” may be considered for early admission on a case-by-case basis.
5. Standard school-entry immunization certificate is requested for admittance.
6. Student screening and interview is required prior to admittance by Mrs. Beale with a separate interview with parents/guardians.
7. If space is available and parents/guardians have signed the Parent Signature Page agreeing to all rules, fees, and procedures, the child will be admitted to the program. If there is no space available, families will have the option to place the child on a waiting list for future consideration.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is due on the first (1st) of each month and is considered late after the tenth (10th) of the month. A \$10 late fee is added after the tenth (10th) of the month. There will be a \$50 fee assessed for any payment that is returned for any reason.

Tuition: \$275 per month. No registration or textbook/curriculum fees are added. We do have a Kindergarten supply list for each entering child. Field trip fees and special project item donations will be needed throughout the year to enrich the OasisK learning experience. Any field trip-associated cost will be announced and collected prior to the event. Costs may vary according to trip, and participation is optional.

Dismissal: Late charges of \$5/half-hour will be added for every pick-up later than 15 minutes without prior

notification (334-220-0560—Headmaster Beale). Please note: consistent late pick-up may affect program placement continuance.

Automatic withdrawal is the preferred method of payment. Electronic payment is available.

Financial Responsibility

All parents are expected to fulfill their financial responsibility. Therefore timely payment of tuition is expected. If late payments continue, or non-payment occurs, the child may be suspended from school until those payments are repaid with all late fees. Consistent fee concerns will affect program placement continuance.

Withdrawal Policy

Just as children may enroll at any time, they may also withdraw at any time, but we request that families notify OasisK in writing two weeks in advance, if possible. This allows us to alert waiting-list families who need time to make adjustments for OasisK enrollment if desired. Tuition must be paid up to date before records are released. Tuition refunds are not possible with mid-month withdrawals, but if tuition has been paid several months in advance, reimbursement of non-attended months can be remitted.

Program of Instruction

School Hours

Half-day program: 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM. Arrival may begin at 8:00 AM.

Five days a week: Monday—Friday

Instructional Materials

Mrs. Beale has saved the “tried and true” learning experiences/materials from her public school years. Children will be provided with journals and a variety of learning tools designed to help them master and go beyond Kindergarten standards-based criteria. They will be exposed to advanced, high quality literature as well as leveled decodable readers that will help them be inspired to read on their own. Mastery criteria/assessment tools have been adapted from area school systems and specifically address early literacy, math, social science/science, and relational skills. We are excited to be able to provide resources to families without passing on additional materials costs due to being required to follow a “set” curriculum. This allows us the freedom to tailor the materials toward student abilities and interests, thus keeping the focus on teaching the child, rather than the curriculum. Using an age-appropriate mastery standards guide allows for creativity and flexibility interwoven with structure and accountability, a key draw to beginning OasisK as an alternative.

Field Trips

We envision monthly field trips that exceed the “three per year” at most typically offered through the public school experience. Unlike using school or chartered buses, we will need and welcome adult chaperones to make these memories with us. Field trips will be based upon current thematic explorations, but we as well seek to visit parents’ workplaces to learn more about those occupations, if such opportunity is feasible. We anticipate a regular visitation with the residents of the neighboring Charlton Place Assisted Living Center, for cross-generational connections benefit everyone from a living history perspective. Possible field trips include, but are not limited to: the Montgomery Zoo, the pumpkin patch, Hilltop Farm, Lanark Nature Center, downtown historic Prattville, area factories, virtual trips, and wherever the Lord leads and provides!

Chapel

Each day the children will begin their day in “Chapel Time” where they will enjoy singing children’s songs, learning to recite their weekly Scripture verses, hearing a Bible story that relates to their weekly academic theme, and beginning the day with prayer and flag pledges.

Our chapel leader and song leader is our Headmaster Rev. Dr. Michael Beale—the Pastor of WellSpring Community Church.

Daily Discipline Reporting

We use an adaptation of the daily “behavior calendar” that Mrs. Beale used in Garden Patch Kindergarten with Elmore County Public Schools. In this way, families can initial nightly, celebrate progress together, and make a plan for continued best. Everyone learns best in a loving-but-structured learning environment. We have found that if you capture the wonder of the joy of learning and create the environment of “want to” in a collective sense, then discipline usually takes care of itself. Happy and productive children as individuals are key to a pleasant learning-conducive atmosphere for all.

Quarterly and Final Mastery Reports

Each quarter, you will receive a skill-based checklist report card indicating current progress toward ongoing Kindergarten mastery skills as well as those that still need work. Mid-quarter progress reports will be shared as well. We seek the “fine line” between “over-testing” and timely review. An “Honors Day” celebration of learning - end of the year celebration - is planned for all learners. Families will receive a final mastery report indicating overall mastery (promotion, indicating first-grade readiness) or non-mastery (more time needed) at the conclusion of the school year.

Attendance Requirements

Absence Procedures

If your child has to be absent from school...

Excused absences include those caused by illness or injury, doctor, dentist or other professional appointments, and family emergencies such as a death in the family. The makeup of missed work is the responsibility of the student. If the absence is not meet the above criteria a note is made, but opportunity to make up missed work is still granted. It is expected that it is to the child’s benefit to be at school as much as possible for the best investment return.

Tardiness

School will begin each day at 8:15 a.m. Any student not on premises and ready to learn by this time is considered tardy. Excessive tardiness can cause your student to miss learning opportunities that will not be able to be recaptured.

Parent-School Relations

School-Home Communication

We understand that the key to good relationships is good communication. Therefore, if you have questions or concerns please ask Mrs. Beale or Rev. Dr. Michael Beale. Mrs. Beale will keep parents informed about upcoming events and special days through class newsletters, folder notes, and calls/e-mail/texts as needed. You can contact Headmaster Beale 8:00 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday at 334-220-0560 or e-mail

him at welcometowellspring@yahoo.com. Either may be reached at oasisk@yahoo.com for a timely response.

Classroom Visitation Procedures

Special volunteer opportunities will be welcomed, announced, and embedded during the week/month throughout the year depending upon the nature and needs of the participants/activity. Some visits/field trips will be 'whole-family-inclusive' and others will be 'adults-only.' It is understood that children learn best with a steady routine that can be achieved by preserving the daily learning space's focus through minimal distractions/interruptions. Special requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Party Procedures

We WELCOME birthday celebrations with whatever food or craft items families would like to send or bring. We will celebrate special holidays with activities and gatherings that fit the occasion throughout the year. We are unlimited by the amount of parties we can have at OasisK, but each one must be reflective of our mission to bring God glory. For example, we will not host "traditional Halloween parties," but we will provide a Christian alternative such as a "Fall Harvest" celebration with a possible opportunity for children to dress up, OasisK-value-style.

Safety Issues

Severe Weather Plan

We are realistic in believing that children will be safest with families in the event of inclement weather based upon the construction of our facility. When given advance warning of possible storms, we will join the list of school closures automatically, notifying families as soon as this decision is known and made. In the case of sudden inclement weather where it is practical and possible to walk across the street to the Charlton Place Assisted Living Center for deeper levels of security, we will do so.

Emergency Drills

WellSpring Community Church is equipped with multiple exits, ramps, and smoke alarms. Although the need for monthly drills is not as critical as might be experienced in a larger facility with higher enrollment, we consider teaching emergency safety procedures in a group setting beneficial to learners and do include it. These will include fire, severe weather, and intruder drills.

Social Media/Technology Procedures

We are excited about sharing what God is up to through OasisK as an inspiration to others. We request family permission to post pictures/video of our educational adventures for public relations (i.e. press release). If a parent/guardian notifies Headmaster and Mrs. Beale in writing that he/she objects to the use of any photos and video of his/her child, we will honor this objection; otherwise, it is assumed that the OasisK media request is granted. We will be mindful of sharing confidential information that would compromise the safety of our learners when using social media technology for good. Technology in itself will be used as is appropriate in lesson delivery; however, we are not equipped physically or by philosophy to center our instruction around student technology use. In this way, children are protected under our care from exposure that can be better directed in the home environment. We believe the present generation is overexposed to technological devices, hence our desire to provide an alternative that will address the physical, mental, and social needs of the whole child.

Health Issues

Each child’s safety is our top concern at OasisK. We will ask every registering family to provide a brief medical history, including allergies, of their child. This information will be part of the selection process, as we are looking for a synergistic blend of students/families whose health won’t be compromised by the inclusion or exclusion of a specific need. For example, if one child has a peanut allergy but eleven do not, OasisK may not be the best learning environment for him. We understand that some applicants may be better served in a larger school environment that has the resources available to meet needs that Oasis K cannot.

In regard to sickness, we adopt the best recommended practice of area daycares/schools. If your child is running a fever, we ask that you not send him to school until he has been fever-free for 24 hours. Masks are optional at OasisK. We will request multiple phone numbers in order to notify families as soon as possible if your child becomes sick at school and is unable to participate as usual. We keep a first-aid supply kit on hand as we are not staffed with a school nurse; obtaining a detailed medical history and with multiple contact options in the case of an emergency will be of great importance. For your child’s optimal safety, we ask that any medicine your child may need according to your family doctor be given to him BEFORE arrival at OasisK. We will not dispense medicine, including cough drops, at OasisK.

If a student is known or suspected to have or be infected with a communicable condition for which a reasonable probability for transmission exists in a school setting (common examples: chicken pox, red measles, head lice, strep throat, pink-eye, etc.), we ask that children stay home until a doctor’s written note clearing the illness/contagion factor can release him for return. We will notify individual families immediately if symptoms show up at school, and per example of area schools, must discreetly share exposure possibilities for the protection of all.

This is adapted reference chart for handy home use.

Illness/ Condition	Signs/Symptoms	Instructions for Exclusion
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge	Exclude from school until after treatment has been initiated with proof of treatment by a physician
Rash	Any type of flat or raised area of redness with or without drainage on any area of the skin	Exclude until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease. Impetigo – exclude until 24 hours after treatment Chickenpox – exclude until all sores have dried and crusted Shingles – exclude if the rash cannot be covered up Ringworm (Scalp) – exclude until proof of treatment by a physician Ringworm (Body) – exclude until proof of treatment
Diarrhea	Watery stools or blood in stools that is not associated with a change in diet	Exclude from school until the diarrhea goes away OR if diarrhea is caused by <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , or <i>E Coli</i> , student may return with health care provider approval
Fever of unknown origin	Above 100° F	Exclude student from school if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or a fever of 100 or greater for 14 days. Medical excuse may be required by the school administrator to return to school prior to 14 days.
Vomiting	Two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours	Exclude from school until vomiting stops; or until a health care provider determines that the cause of vomiting is not contagious nor in danger of dehydration with a physician statement provided to the school

Discipline Plan

Philosophy

Ideally, children will bloom in a learning environment that recognizes and celebrates their strengths as individuals. Often, discipline issues arise when children, naturally egocentric at this age, brush up against the egocentrism of others. Although families are the experts on their children due to prior history together, educators become the experts as to how each child interacts and learns the give-and-take of a group learning environment. It is expected that individual children learn to embrace their own gifts, acknowledge their need for growth in specific areas, and discover that more is accomplished when we learn to embrace the gifts and help offset the growth areas in others through kindness in word and deed.

Though OasisK seeks to return to the creativity and whole-child-centered developmental needs of “Kindergarten the way it used to be,” it must be done in a structured environment so that maximum learning can take place. It is our goal at OasisK that children will be “overprepared” to enter first grade; therefore, as stated earlier in the Health Issues section, OasisK will not be able to meet the needs of families whose children require specialized academic or behavioral assistance/severe health interventions as might be found in the regular public school setting.

Specific Rules

OasisK “procedures” will be created during the first week of school, crafted in a positive manner with the “why” fully understood, communicated to families, and begun to be practiced from the onset. Children will help create our system of “best practices”; what we own and create, we tend to embrace.

Discipline Plan Procedures

The daily behavior chart/daily folder will share each day’s choices, inviting celebration or correction. Consequences for unwise choices increase in severity: warning, time-out, loss of recess, parent contact. Repeated refusal to cooperate with the class’s created procedural plan will result in a family conference with Headmaster Beale who, along with Mrs. Beale’s input, will help decide if continuance at OasisK is permissible. We predict discipline will not be an issue as the selection process will guide and scaffold for a beneficial experience for all. We also predict that being able to participate and enjoy each day’s adventures will be motivational in itself, inspiring of individual cooperation and wise choices for the sake of everyone’s best educational experience.

OasisK Handbook Special Note

As OasisK experiences its inaugural year as a ministry extension of WellSpring Community Church, seeking to provide a unique, educational alternative of highest quality for area families, we are unashamedly a work in progress. This handbook is meant to be a starter guide that is subject to revision if the need arises as the schoolyear unfolds. We strive to meet the holistic needs of area families as well as fulfill the ministry call God has upon our lives and church by keeping things as natural and as streamlined as possible.

We believe in open communication and transparency. We look forward to working with you to raise the next generation to be “increasing in wisdom and stature, full of favor with God and with men.” Luke 2:52

Family Signature Page

I have read and agree to abide by the procedures and policies outlined in the OasisK Parent/Student Handbook both on campus and at all activities and events associated with Oasis Kindergarten @ WellSpring.

(Child's signature)

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)

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I have read and agree to abide by the procedures and policies outlined in the OasisK Parent/Student Handbook both on campus and at all activities and events associated with Oasis Kindergarten @ WellSpring.

(Child's signature)

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