



AmbleSide
School of the Rio Grande

Student Application Procedure & Checklist

Applicant is responsible for ensuring that all steps in the application process are completed.

_____ 1. APPLICATION FORM AND FEE

The application must be completed and signed by the parents/guardian, and student. Turn completed application forms and one-time, non-refundable \$100 application fee (new Ambleside students only) to the Ambleside School office.

_____ 2. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS and BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Families requesting board-funded, needs-based financial aid should request a Preliminary Scholarship Application form.

_____ 3. APPLICANT EXAMINATION

A testing appointment will be scheduled after the application has been received. The \$50.00 examination fee per student is due at the time of testing. Each applicant is required to take an entrance examination.

_____ 4. REQUIRED READINGS

Parents/guardians **must** read the following:

All Grades:

- For the Children's Sake*, by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay
- the Ambleside Guiding Principles, Charter (both included) **and** the Parent/Student Handbook (A loaned copy will be made available at the student entrance exam.)

_____ 5. INTERVIEWS

A personal interview with the Head of School and/or School Board members is required for parents/guardians. High School student applicants must interview as well. Call the school office to schedule an appointment for an interview after completing the required reading.

_____ 6. ACADEMIC RECORDS and REFERENCE REPORT

The following two forms, included in this Student Application, are to be completed, signed, and submitted by you to your child's current school: 1) Consent for Release of Student Information-**used for all applicants** and, 2) Teacher/Administrator Reference Report-**used only for applicants in 5th grade or higher**.

_____ 7. MEDICAL FORMS

A copy of the applicant's immunization record, a certification of a school-entry health exam, and a copy of applicant's birth certificate are required before a student can attend classes. (The medical forms are available from your doctor or the Hidalgo County Health Department.)

Guiding Principles

Mission

It is the mission of the Ambleside administration and faculty to provide what Charlotte Mason called a “living education,” where each child is guided and empowered to author a full and free life, a life rich in relationship to God, self, others, ideas, and all of creation. Thus, our primary concern is the kind of student each child is becoming, not the mastery of particular data or technique, for we are confident that the student who masters the art of learning will attain his full potential for mastering data and technique. The student who masters the art of relating well to God, self, others, ideas, and creation will attain the fullness of life for which she was created. Our mission is fulfilled through a consistent application of our Fundamental Convictions as applied to education.

Our Faith

We begin with the conviction that the fullness of God’s plan for humanity is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. He is both the example and the source of living a full and free life. The commandments to love God and to love one another are fundamental in the outworking of a fully human life. This conviction is given expression in the Ambleside Charter.

Fundamental Convictions

1. A Non-Competitive, Stimulating Atmosphere

In an atmosphere of sincerity and truth, students are free to learn for the pleasure of learning. Students do not compete with their peers for rank, grades or prizes. Learning is the focus, not besting a classmate. Real life is placed before the students to study and discuss. Students are stimulated to observe, explore, and understand.

2. The Discipline of Habit

At Ambleside, we consider the process of student work to be as important as the end product. Rather than developing persons who are able to study well for the next exam, we are interested in helping students develop a life of study. We ask the questions: Did she attend? Did he put forth effort? And was she thorough? We believe school is not just an institution to get through, but rather a place to develop habits that will serve children the rest of their lives.

3. Education as Vital, Dynamic, Living

Real learning occurs when the learner wonders, asks why and how. And it needs to happen in an atmosphere that stimulates thought, in an atmosphere rich with ideas. Our objective is to place the very best books before our students, books rich in content and ideas, putting them into relationship with the finest authors. Through the use of “living books” students interact with scientists, mathematicians, philosophers, historians, artists, poets, and explorers.

4. The Infinite Dignity and Potential of Each Child

Because children are born in God’s image, they are therefore born with great potential for a fruitful and full life of interests and relationships. At Ambleside, children are not identified or limited by their strengths or weaknesses. All children participate in a broad, rigorous curriculum—all children calculate, solve, attend, explore, ponder, recite, paint and sing. The expectation that prevails within the school is that all students will learn and grow to their full potential as persons and attain their vast inheritance.

5. The Priority of the Relational Life

Children live in relationship with God, self, others, creation, and the world of ideas. These relationships are cultivated in the educational process through a broad, challenging curriculum and a faculty that seeks to relate to students, parents, and one another in accordance with the principles of Jesus Christ.

6. The Importance of Delight and of Struggle

Children will naturally delight in the feast of great ideas set before them. They will savor them and grow in the ability to enjoy and celebrate their relations with persons, ideas, and creation. But they will also at times struggle. We consider the struggle to be as essential to the learning process as the delight. Children must learn to labor with problems not yet grasped, to remain on task when uncertain of the outcome, to struggle to completion when mind and hand are tired, to experience the rewards and negative consequences of their actions. There will be no growth in character without the struggle. Foremost among the enemies of the delight and the struggle necessary for the cultivation of a learner are entertainment and indulgence. In the classroom, entertainment and indulgence both encourage passivity. To grow, a student must be strenuously engaged in the work of learning. Thus, Ambleside teachers, while often creative in their presentations, make no effort to entertain their students. Ambleside teachers, while being loving, will not be indulgent.

Charter of Ambleside School of the Rio Grande*

- 1} We believe in and proclaim both the mystery that is God, whom we partly know and partly do not know, and the human need to worship.
- 2} We believe in and proclaim the person of Jesus Christ who distinctively reveals the nature of God and the meaning and purpose of life, and who calls us to follow Him through the death of the cross to the place of the Resurrection.
- 3} We trust in the Holy Spirit who prompts liberty, beauty, truth, love, and joy against the waywardness of human nature.
- 4} We are committed to using the Bible in a way that takes account of all truth and relates it to the real experiences, both good and bad, that people have of life.
- 5} We are committed to exploring the meaning of the Kingdom of God and to making connections between what we profess and the way in which we live and work.
- 6} We acknowledge the destructive power of human sinfulness, and we welcome gratefully the forgiveness that God offers to those who are prepared to turn to the truth.
- 7} We are committed to taking all people seriously wherever they might be at their particular point of understanding, while at the same time sharing with them whatever insights may have been gained by our relationship with God.
- 8} We are committed to identifying and affirming what is good and identifying and opposing what is evil, and living as best we can in the mess in the middle.

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Application for Admission

Applicant Information

<i>Applying for Admission</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring	<i>Year</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Gender</i> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>												
Applicant's Full Name (<i>Last, First Middle</i>)															
Date of Birth <i>MM/DD/YYYY</i>		Place of Birth													
Citizenship		Social Security Number													
Home Address															
City		ST	ZIP												
Cell Phone		Home Phone													
E-mail address															
Please check the box that best describes the applicant's race or ethnicity (<i>optional</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latin origin <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian 															
How did you hear of Ambleside? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Relative: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Billboard/advertisement <input type="checkbox"/> Church: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> School: _____ 															
We publish a school directory for school families' use only. Please check here if you do not wish to have the following information published: <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's address</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Father's address</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Mother's address</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's home number</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Father's phone number</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Mother's home number</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's cell number</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Father's cell number</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Mother's cell number</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's e-mail</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Father's e-mail</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Mother's e-mail</td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's address	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's address	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's address	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's home number	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's phone number	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's home number	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's cell number	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's cell number	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's cell number	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's e-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's e-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's e-mail
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<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's cell number	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's cell number	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's cell number													
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's e-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's e-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's e-mail													

Family Information

Father or Primary Guardian

Full Name <i>(First, Middle, Last)</i>		
Home address <i>(if different from applicant)</i>		
City	ST	ZIP
Occupation	Firm Name	
Business address		
City	ST	ZIP
Cell Phone	Home Phone	
E-mail address		

Mother or Primary Guardian

Full Name <i>(First, Middle, Last)</i>		
Home address <i>(if different from applicant)</i>		
City	ST	ZIP
Occupation	Firm Name	
Business address		
City	ST	ZIP
Cell Phone	Home Phone	
E-mail address		

Applicant's Sibling(s)-Please list siblings other than applicant.

Name	Age	Grade	Current School

Academic Information

Current School

School Name		Grade Levels (<i>I.e. K-1st^h</i>)
School Address		
City	ST	ZIP
School Phone	Dates of Attendance	

School Immediately Prior

School Name		Grade Levels (<i>I.e. Pre-k-K^h</i>)
School Address		
City	ST	ZIP
School Phone	Dates of Attendance	

School Immediately Prior

School Name		Grade Levels (<i>I.e. Pre-k-K^h</i>)
School Address		
City	ST	ZIP
School Phone	Dates of Attendance	

Other Applicant Information

<p>1. Has applicant ever been: <i>(Provide a complete explanation on a separate sheet of paper for any of first four boxes checked.)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sent home from school for misbehavior? How many times sent home from school? _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> suspended for _____ full school day(s) for misbehavior? How many times suspended? _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> expelled from a school for misbehavior? How many times expelled from a school? _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> been put on any form of academic probation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> none of the above</p>		
<p>2. Describe applicant's academic strengths. <i>I.e. personal habits that facilitate learning, subject area strengths, etc.</i></p> 		
<p>3. Describe any particular circumstances that should be taken into consideration when reviewing applicant's school record. <i>I.e. reading difficulties, learning disabilities, etc.</i></p> 		
<p>4. Describe any physical limitations which would not allow applicant to participate fully in any academic or athletic program.</p> 		
<p>5. Is the student applicant currently employed? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>(If yes, answer question #6 below.)</i></p>		
<p>6. Applicant's Employer</p>		
<p>Employer Address</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">City</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ST</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ZIP</p>
<p>Employer Phone</p>	<p>Start Date</p>	<p>Hours of work per week</p>
<p>Name of Supervisor</p>		
<p>7. List social media used by applicant: <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram <input type="checkbox"/> Pinterest <input type="checkbox"/> MySpace <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter <input type="checkbox"/> YouTube <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>(specify)</i></p>		
<p>8. Ambleside School staff may request access to applicant via social media. Is the applicant willing to allow access to his/her social media accounts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(If no, explain why not on a separate sheet of paper.)</i></p>		

Parent Questionnaire

Parents or Guardian are to thoughtfully and thoroughly answer the following questions:

1. Why are you considering Ambleside School for your son or daughter?
2. What are your expectations of Ambleside School?
3. What is your religious preference, if any?
4. Are you familiar with and will you support the Charter and Guiding Principles of Ambleside School?
5. Are there any family circumstances that might affect performance and of which we should be aware? If so, please explain.
6. Ambleside School does not tolerate the use or possession of drugs (including alcohol, marijuana, or paraphernalia) and will expel a student for violation of this policy. Will you support this policy?
7. Has your son/daughter ever been convicted of a criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation, or are there such criminal charges pending against him or her at this time? If so, please explain on separate sheet of paper.
8. Academic work to be done in school and/or at home is not assigned indiscriminately, therefore Ambleside High School does not tolerate student irresponsibility in the areas of in-class work or preparedness for class. Should a student come to class unprepared, or abuse in-class work time, they will be sent home. Will you support this policy?
9. If your son/daughter is lacking in skills or knowledge, will you support his/her growth by bringing them into the responsibility of providing for their necessary tutoring, summer school, or any additional reinforcement as needed?

Our signatures below confirm that all information given in this application and related forms are correct to the best of our knowledge. We understand that any omission, misrepresentation of the facts, falsifying or withholding of information in completing this application and all required documents constitutes grounds for immediate withdrawal of the application, cancellation of admission, and/or termination of enrollment at Ambleside School. Further, we understand that upon enrollment we are expected to become familiar with and abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in the Ambleside High School Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature (5th-12th Grade applicants only) Date

Ambleside School of the Rio Grande does not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in any of its policies or programs.

Consent for Release of Student Information

To the Parent or guardian: Please complete and sign this consent for release of information. Submit this sheet as well as the Teacher/Administrator Reference Report to an official at your child's school.

Today's Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Birth Date: _____ Applying to Grade: _____
MM/DD/YYYY *Last first middle*

I, _____, parent or legal guardian
Parent/guardian's name
of _____ hereby grant permission to
Student's name
_____ to release the following educational
Current school

records of our child to **Ambleside School of the Rio Grande:**

1. Copies of courses and grades
2. Copies of standardized testing results
3. Discipline records
4. Personal comments and impressions requested in the Teacher/Administrator Reference Report for applicants in 5th grade or higher

I understand that information on the Teacher/Administrator Reference Report regarding my child is strictly confidential and can not be shared with me and is used only for admissions purposes.

Signature of parent or guardian

Date

Address of parent or guardian

Telephone

To the School Administrator: If the applicant is applying to 5th grade or higher, and is known to you, your personal comments and impressions regarding his/her character and academic performance would be sincerely appreciated. The parent/guardian is aware that any information you supply is used only for admissions purposes and will not be shared with the student or parent/guardian.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office at (956)789-2682. Please send records and evaluation information directly to **Ambleside School of the Rio Grande**