

What We Offer

Administrative and Academic Services

SMICA administration and staff will do the following:

Recordkeeping

- file your church school enrollment form with your local school district
- request records from your previous school
- fulfill records requests from your next school if you cease enrollment
- keep a copy of students' records each year
- maintain and build a transcript for 9th-12th grades
- send transcripts to colleges, etc. upon request

Communication

- communicate with members as a group primarily via email
- communicate with members personally, when needed, via email and additional methods
- provide a website with a calendar of events, forms to download, and many ways to connect with other members personally (including a Facebook group for Premiers and for the Academy)
- interface with public/private schools, colleges, etc. when necessary

Educating Parents

- offer customized academic advising for any grade level, K3 through graduation.
- provide opportunities for parents to grow in their knowledge about home education through:
 - Premiers support group focusing on K3-3rd grade with monthly speakers and mentor moms
 - Faculty meetings (3 per year) usually with guest speakers, as well as updates on laws, opportunities, and requirements
 - High School 101 & 102 workshops each summer for first-time parents of rising 8th-10th and 11th-12th graders (2.5 hours each workshop)
 - Middle school workshop each year for first-time parents of rising 6th-9th graders (2-2.5 hours)
 - Achievement testing workshop to explain the standardized testing reports
 - Resource Room which is a library of homeschool materials available for checkout
 - notifications of other opportunities in our community for parent education (dyslexia and other challenges, parenting conferences, etc.)

Testing

- offer participation in annual current achievement tests (Iowa TBS) for 3rd-10th grade
- access to the DukeTIP (Talent Identification Program for gifted students) for 7th graders
- host an annual administration of the PSAT for 9th-11th grade
- host or offer access to an annual administration of the PreACT (or current product) for 9th-11th grade
- interface with testing services (ACT, SAT, DukeTIP, NMSQT, etc.) when necessary

Additional benefits for high schoolers:

- Our high school advisors will meet with you to help make sure your student is on track for graduation.
- SMIC Academy has its own school code for ACT, SAT, AP, and DukeTIP.
- We have a Dual Enrollment agreement with Jefferson State Community College, which allows high schoolers to use selected JSCC courses to fulfill high school graduation requirements. We offer 0.5 credits per approved 100-level course.

- Our administrators can sign documents as your principal (driver's license, administrative letters of recommendation, dual/concurrent enrollment at colleges, etc.).
- We offer a graduation ceremony and reception.

Associations

- SMIC Academy is a member of the Alabama Christian School Association (ACEA <http://www.alabamachristianed.com/about.html>), which is one of the largest state Christian school organizations in the country. ACEA is a member of the American Association of Christian Schools (www.AACS.org). The AACS serves 100,000 students and teachers mainly in brick-and-mortar Christian schools.

Activities

To keep our costs low, we rely on parent volunteers to coordinate our activities, with the support of communication by Academy staff. The following activities are current or recent. Some offerings are subject to change. * indicates these activities are limited to SMICA/Premiers families only.

Academic:

- *ACEA Competitions 3rd-12th (Speech, Fine Arts, Music, Academic, Spelling, Bible)
- Speech Club 3rd-12th (fun, drama type activities; currently monthly)
- *Local Academic competitions, like math team 5th-12th
- Spelling Bee (school and district) 1st-8th
- National Geographic GeoBee 4th-8th
- Enrichment Classes (2018-19: Spelling Club, Bird Watching, Scripture Melodies; monthly)
- High school tutorial classes (fee-for-service) when the need arises
- *Graduation Ceremony and reception for Kindergarten
- *Graduation Ceremony and reception for 12th graders

Social and/or Service:

- *High School Student Council (determines high school social activities like prom, park days, etc.)
- Fellowship activities (this week's Chili Cook-off, Ice Skating, Bowling, Valentine's Party)
- Park Days
- *Field Trips (Premiers organizes for K3-3rd, SMICA organizes trips for 4th-up; science, history, technology industry)
- Keepers and Contenders Clubs
- Access to Beta Club 4th-12th (through Charger Academy)
- Access to National Homeschool Honor Society 9th-12th (through Crossroads)
- SMICA Community Service Award for 80+ hours/year

Sports:

We do not **currently** sponsor any athletic teams; however, our students can (and do!) still participate in the public school athletics. Because we are members of ACEA, we can compete in some sports. All homeschool athletic teams need a coach, so when our school has had parents interested in coaching, we have had teams (competitive and non-competitive). In the past, we have had a *cross-country track team (for several years because the practice schedule is homeschool friendly), soccer camps, and a *volleyball team. We limit our enrollment, so this limits our ability to have teams that require larger numbers of players.