

# **The Daniel Academy**

School for Sustainable Living

Inspiring children to be self-disciplined leaders

**PROSPECTUS**

**2018**



**Train up a child in the way he should go**

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**<http://www.thedanielacademy.co.za/>**

## INTRODUCTION

### **The Daniel Academy – School for Sustainable Living & Leadership**

The Daniel Academy is founded on Biblical principles and affiliated to Ambleside Schools International.

It is the mission of The Daniel Academy to “*provide 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 or her full potential for mastering data and technique. Students who master the art of relating well to God, self, others, ideas, and creation will attain the fullness of life for which they were created.*” Charlotte Mason originator of the Ambleside curriculum.

Daniel and his friends, were young people, away from their families and home, who stood for Godly family values, while at the same time being good stewards of their bodies and the world they lived in.

They refused to succumb to a life of luxury and chose to live responsibly in a hedonistic, pleasure-seeking world. They (especially) Daniel became leaders in all aspects of life, including government, which had an impact on the culture and society they lived in.

We have been researching curricula while developing a program that will prepare students to not only understand the importance of a sustainable lifestyle, with Godly, family values, but to impact their families and communities.

The academic curriculum we have chosen is based on Charlotte Mason’s approach to education, which emphasizes kindness, disciplined self-motivation, a love of learning and a passion for nature.

The Ambleside Schools International in Leesburg, Virginia, USA has developed an exceptional academic curriculum, based on Charlotte Mason’s philosophy, which is used by several schools all over the world, including here in the Western Cape, South Africa in Hout Bay, Lansdowne and Pinelands. (See [www.amblesideschools.com](http://www.amblesideschools.com))

Charlotte Mason did not claim to be an innovator, but rather a compiler of timeless, practical insights into the nature of children and education.

Mary-Ann & Mark Shearer have 30 years of experience in the sustainable living and hospitality and natural health education and they have developed a school program that incorporates the Ambleside curriculum, that will prepare children for a changing world.

All meals and snacks will be provided for the children at school. There will therefore be no need for parents to pack school's snacks and meals. The children will be learning how to grow and prepare healthy natural foods from pre-school level. They will also be responsible for cleaning their own space.

We also require that to aid their children's growth, development and behaviour that the family commits to a diet at home that is free of refined and processed foods especially refined and processed sugar. Parents are stewards of their children and should be providing a range of natural healthy foods at home. The diet provided at the Daniel Academy will be vegan and mainly gluten free (strict gluten free available). This will be to aid all children with allergies and intolerances. We do not dictate what families eat in their homes, other than to encourage them to avoid refined and processed foods and encourage their children to eat natural God-made foods.

Students will be exposed to various sustainable businesses, farming methods and sustainable energy practices while learning how to read and write. During their schooling, each child will be encouraged to write/produce their own book on any topic relating to themselves.

The school teaches the students to be self-sufficient in food growing, preparation and life skills, so that they can attain and maintain superb health when they venture into the real world, be it business, marriage and/or raising children.

### **Mission Statement:**

To facilitate a love of learning, an attitude of kindness and care, and of stewardship toward everything we have been given by God and to fulfill our purpose.

**For more information on the Academic curriculum, please view the following links**

<http://www.amblesideschools.com/main/video/introduction> and  
<http://www.amblesideschools.com/main/ambleside-philosophy-education>

### **A Non-Competitive, Stimulating Atmosphere**

Administration, faculty and students are held to the highest standard in their way of relating to one another. We strive to create an atmosphere free of narcissistic comparison, condemnation, pettiness, meanness and gossip. We seek to cultivate an atmosphere of mutual respect, kindness, service, a shared excitement about the good, true, beautiful and heroic, and forgiveness and repentance when necessary.

The Daniel Academy seeks to provide an atmosphere free from the dehumanizing effects of much of popular culture (as mediated through fad and mass media) which reduce persons to consumers and competitors.

In this safe atmosphere, 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.

### **The Discipline of Habit**

At The Daniel Academy, we consider the process of student work as important as the end product. 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. 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 he/she attend?
- Did he/she put forth effort?
- Was he/she thorough?

While recognizing that students have various levels of gifting, it is the expectation of the Daniel Academy that every student will develop the habits necessary for producing work of the highest quality, and that all students will grow to the fullness of their God-given potential.

### **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 and 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 these 'living books' students interact with scientists, mathematicians, philosophers, historians, artists, poets, and explorers.

### **The Infinite Dignity and Potential of each child**

Because children are created in God's image, they are therefore born with great potential for a fruitful and full life of interests and relationships. At The Daniel Academy, 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.

Recognizing that students are created with diverse strengths and weaknesses, it is our desire to minimize this discrepancy in the life of any one student (as much as we are able) through special attention given to the student academically and/or spiritually. The expectation that prevails within the school is that all students will learn and grow to their full potential as persons and attain to their vast inheritance.

### **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 which seeks to relate to students, parents and one another in accordance with biblical principles.

### **The Importance of Delight and of Struggle**

Children will naturally delight in the feast of great ideas set before them. They will savour them and grow in their 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 labour 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. For in the classroom, both entertainment and indulgence 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. And Ambleside teachers, while being loving so as not to overwhelm, will not be indulgent.

### **School Size and Organization**

In order to preserve the student-teacher relationship and the community relationships necessary for the implementation of its educational philosophy, The Daniel Academy will endeavour to limit class size to 16 students per class. Classes may be more than one grade per class, this encourages community awareness and serving others.

### **The Daniel Academy Code of Personal Conduct**

Adult example has a profound effect on the formation of the hearts of children. Thus, all members of The Daniel Academy community, parents, teachers, staff and students are expected to maintain a standard of personal conduct consistent with Biblical teachings on virtue and the relational life. All members of The Daniel Academy community are expected to:

1. Demonstrate consistent care for all persons, treating all with kindness, respect and generosity; never engaging in any behaviour (including verbal) which would be damaging, disrespectful or demeaning of another person, child or adult.
2. Be diligent in fulfilling all tasks related to one's responsibilities, maintaining a high quality of work, honesty or integrity.
3. Be careful and gracious in speech, avoiding any profane speech and never making a public statement (in any medium, including e-mail) regarding the school or any member of the Ambleside community which can be considered injurious to the reputation of another person or the school.
4. Handle all concerns and grievances in a constructive manner, as detailed in the Ambleside Schools Manual, and Parent Handbooks, available from the office.
5. Avoid all illegal activities including illegal drug and alcohol use, theft, vandalism and fraudulent activity.
6. Avoid activities destructive to relationships such as outbursts of rage, violence, stealing, lying or cheating.
7. To be actively conscious of our role as stewards of our bodies and our environment; to that end, The Daniel Academy will actively promote good stewardship of everything God has given us and discourage carelessness.
8. Protect the dignity of human sexuality and the virtue of chastity:
  - I. By avoiding all forms of lewd speech including base jokes, sexual innuendo, and inappropriate sexually explicit talk.

- II. By never viewing, possessing, distributing or fostering the use of pornographic material including but not limited to print, video and audio.
- III. By never advocating or participating in immoral sexual activity (defined as any form of touching or nudity for the purpose of evoking sexual arousal apart from the context of marriage between one man and one woman).
- IV. By never engaging in any physical contact or verbal expression with another person (adult or child) which could be interpreted as being an inappropriate display of affection and thus emotionally abusive, confusing or scandalous.

### **Charlotte Mason's 20 principles for education**

We endeavour to provide a rich education for the heart and mind. Some of the teachings of Charlotte Mason, a Christian Educator, are implemented in our school. She defined education in the following terms (Taken from the preface of Charlotte Mason Vol. 6, pg. Xxix and 2004 L.N. Laurio). For more information see [www.amblesideschools.com](http://www.amblesideschools.com).

## **Curriculum and Methods**

The curriculum coursework for Ambleside provides:

- A wide and varied course of study
- An alternating plan for both the development of skills and the mastery of content
- An acquaintance with knowledge that is vital, fruitful, and interesting with its forming ideas
- The use of books characterized as “the best thought of the best writers”
- The use of materials that aid in understanding and explorations without diluting the thought of the discipline

We endeavour that the students should have relations of pleasure and intimacy established with as many as possible of the interests proper to him: not learning a slight or incomplete smattering about this or that subject, “but plunging into vital knowledge, with a great field before him which all his life he will not be able to fully explore” (Charlotte Mason). The courses of study vary between the grades, their time at school, and the depth at which they are encountered.

Narration is the basic methodology of Charlotte Mason education. Narration is an active retelling of what the student has heard and learned. Such a retelling requires the use of the child's whole mind as well as their memory, and demands careful attention to a single reading of the source, without review and repetitions.

The Daniel Academy students do the scholar's work of the first-hand reading of primary sources of literary merit that present inspiring ideas in all subjects, not dry, pre-digested facts and texts. Their study also includes direct contact and observation of real objects from nature (plants, minerals, animals, the elements), and art, music, and other human discipline (maps, instruments, machines).

**Disciplines of Study:**

Unless otherwise specified, all students in primary and high school participate in the following disciplines every week:

**Art:**

Formal instruction in technique and various media is introduced throughout the grades, providing experience, observation, and study. This is included in Nature Study.

**Bible:**

Readings are selected from the Old and New Testaments as well as Proverbs and Psalms, instructing in the knowledge of God and the knowledge of man.

**Citizenship:**

Beginning in Grade four, students read about men and women in relationship with self and others in choosing the good and refusing the evil, as well as their contributions of service to society.

**Composer Study:**

The students are acquainted with two classical composers and several of their works in every grade, cultivating taste and appreciation for classical music.

**Composition:**

In the beginning years, students are solely acquainted with oral composition in the form of narration. Narration is continued daily throughout the grades as a method of assimilating information. Written composition is begun in Grade three with work in description, and continues throughout the grades, resulting in formal research projects.

**Dictation:**

Each week, students copy beautifully a well-written text, noting spelling, grammar, and punctuation from a classroom text or something studied. Later they are called upon to write a portion or the whole of what has been copied, as it is dictated to them.

**Drama:** The school aims to produce a play regularly involving all the students

**Afrikaans:**

Students are fully immersed in the language through class taught mainly in this language. The time spent in imitation, duplication, dialogues, and writing.

**Geography:**

Atlases are used throughout the days as a reference in areas of study, as geography is naturally integrated into the curriculum. Geography is taught formally from grades five and six.

**Grammar:**

In the early years students are introduced to the rules and regulations of our language by way of formal instruction. In the later years, instruction is based on addressing errors in usage.

**Handwork:**

Each year students undertake two handwork projects, such as stitchery, clay, and woodworking, taught by the classroom teacher or an artisan of the community.

**Handwriting:**

In the early years students master manuscript writing and then are introduced to Cursive writing, working out and practicing form, size, and style.

**History:**

As introduction to history begins in grades one and two. Beginning in grade four, the history of South Africa and the world is taught each year through the twelfth grade.

**Life-Long Sports:**

We believe that physical fitness is an important part of life. Because education includes the relationship with ourselves, we encourage proper stewardship of our physical bodies.

At The Daniel Academy we encourage physical activities that are beneficial from a social aspect such as tennis, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, volley ball, and netball/basketball and as such some of these are included in the school day. This is specifically to encourage children to love and enjoy physical activity so that when they leave school they remain physically active and can enjoy social sports. We also have 2 slack lines available for building core strength and balance.

Any competitive sports that gifted children wish to take part in will be done after 3pm when school ends.

**Literature:**

A variety of living books of different genres are selected each year, some to correlate with history and science, and others are chosen because they have stood the test of time.

**Mathematics:**

Beginning with arithmetic, students master the art of computation in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division in the primary grades. The high school studies other branches consisting of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus. We teach myths sections until the students have a full grasp of the subject, rather than dip in and out of algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus.

**Nature Study:**

Each student keeps a nature journal in which weekly entries are added to include drawings and descriptions. The students become acquainted with their natural surroundings, as well as two other classes of nature, such as birds, butterflies, herbs.

**Phonics and Reading:**

In grades one and two, students go through a formal program of sight and sound correspondence to develop skills in pronunciation and spelling. Phonics rules are introduced and learned for application, not drill. Beginning phonetic readers are used to reinforce these developing skills.

**Picture Study:**

Students are made familiar with two artists a year and four to six of their significant works. They also experience the style and technique of the artist through reproducing one of their works.

**Poetry:**

Two poets and their works are introduced to the students each year. The students are given a volume of their works and memorize poems individually and corporately for personal enjoyment and formal recitation.

**Read-aloud:**

Teachers and students share in the delight of a book that is chosen for the sole reason that we would not want them to miss the opportunity of the joy of reading this book aloud.

**Recitation:**

This time is used to rehearse passages and verses from Scripture, poetry, or history that the students are responsible for keeping in their hearts and minds.

**Science:**

In grade three students are acquainted with animals and fossils through readings, drawings, and hands-on activities. Beginning in grade four through the middle grades, branches of physical, earth, and life sciences are taught each year. Through these varied branches, students are introduced to the principles of science, observation, and demonstration. In the upper grades, the sciences of biology, chemistry, physics, and human behaviour are studied in a more comprehensive manner.

**These extra sustainable subjects, will be taught over the lifetime of school attendance and not necessarily each year. The curriculum and activities will be adapted and be relevant to each age.**

**Life Skills**

Wind and solar energy

Recycling waste

Living off the grid

Sustainable food production and diet

Budgeting

Fixing punctures

Repairing and maintenance

Handiwork

**Food Preparation**

Each grade will have an hour a week to learn how to prepare meals. The idea is to give children from a young age the confidence and skill to make healthy, delicious, natural meals and snacks. True self-confidence comes from completing tasks and becoming a contributing member of the family and community. They also get the opportunity to learn how to present a cooking lesson to their class.

School fees include all snacks and a lunch meal on a daily basis. No food or drink other than water will be brought to school. Filtered (cooled/room temperature) water is available at school.

**Organic gardening:**

*Vegetable and fruit growing*

From garden to table, developing land, timing the crop, companion planting and rotation. Seasonal and local eating.

Using product from garden in the kitchen.

Planning your food production for an entire year based on seasons.

Permaculture

Organic

Lunar culture/growing

Making Compost

Carbon footprint of using out of season and shipped in goods.

### **Starting a business with little or no money and without borrowing**

Children will be taught how the world financial system works and be able to explore alternate systems for funding and starting businesses from crowd funding to allowing natural organic growth, word of mouth and excellent service delivery.

### **The Business of food**

Costing, sourcing, manufacturing, marketing, packaging and sales.

Developing new products.

Students will be taught how to develop new products for the market and then be taught how to market that product.

Creating new menu items to rival old unhealthy ones at their favourite restaurants.

All preparation, cleaning, costing, shopping, marketing and design will be done by students.

### **Life lessons from foot up and bicycle trials**

Learning to balance your life on bicycles and motorbikes. Teaching basic road skills and balance, to prepare children for when they will have to drive a car or motorcycle.

### **How to write a book, from start to finish:**

Students will choose their topic, which will be related to a natural lifestyle, be it fiction for children, food, health, gardening, sustainable living, bee keeping, music, business etc.

As a corporate fund-raising project, the entire school will be involved in producing a recipe book, on a regular basis, which will be sold to raise funds for the school.

### **Physical enjoyment**

Non-competitive games and activities will be encouraged like swimming, hiking, mountain biking & volley ball

Board games will be encouraged like chess and scrabble. Electronic games will not be allowed on the school premises, neither will cell phones or other electronic equipment be allowed at the school. All cell phones or electronic devices will be confiscated and a fine or a work task imposed.

Charlotte Mason encouraged children to spend at least 6 hours a day outdoors. The school activities and curricula will be proactive in encouraging this – weather permitting.

### **Music appreciation**

Learning the basics and reading musical notes.

No music ability required – for Dummies and the tone deaf. Using music as a form of relaxation and stress release.

A separate music school is on the premises and available for piano, guitar, drumming and singing lessons.

**First Aid**

First Aid is essential for life in general and imperative training for life. We will look at natural products that can replace the more harmful ones used.

The lessons will be age appropriate.

**Basics in Natural Health:**

A foundation in natural health is needed as part of life skills. This program is based on current nutritional research by the industries top scientists and will be taught while preparing food.

***Practical Projects*****Environmental Sustainability Project:**

Making a useful (in a home or restaurant) item from recycled materials like a wooden pallet.

**Community Project:**

Choose a community project and teach a sustainable skill and basic healthy living for a year. This activity is a team/class project.

**Running a natural & organic market**

Students will also design & set up and manage an organic food market and develop new food items to sell there. This will be done at the premises in Gordon's Bay. We will be on a Sunday at the premises and we will aim for 2-4 times a year eventually depending on the students. Presently we do it once a year.

All profits will go to the school funds and no fund raising will be required from parents i.e. no cake sales or raffles or any other form of fund raising will be required of parents. Students will manage this entirely. This is to help them understand economics and apply math to real life. Costing of producing and setting up the market will be incorporated.

**Owners**

**Mary-Ann Shearer** –Life skills - Nutrition, book writing, cooking, business  
Best-selling author on Natural Health in the Southern Hemisphere with books published in the USA and South Africa. Co-founder of the Mary-Ann's Emporium and Eatery and Mary-Ann's range of natural products.

**Mark Shearer** – Entrepreneurship, Life skills & motorcycle trials.  
20 Years in the fast food and restaurant industry. Managing owner of the Natural Way businesses for 20 years. Received provincial colours for Motorsport in foot up trials and has developed a program that teaches balance connected to life skills.

## Teachers

**Leanne Russ** - Grade R and Grade 1

**Zarah Zanon** – Grade 2

**Margeaux Cross** - Grade 3 and Grade 4

**Cristel Cranko** – Grade 5

**Martine Cranko** – Grade 6

**Kerrin van Niekerk** – Grade 7 and Grade 8

**Winston Cadman** – Grade 9 to Grade 12. Music appreciation and learning.

**Melissa Shearer** – Worthy work & gardening

**Maria Cranko** – Assistant teacher for Grade R to Grade 2

**Mary-Ann Shearer (Director & Principal)** – Food preparation and health education, Life Skills

## Commencement and Application Procedure:

**Commencement:** 17 January 2018

### Term dates:

17 January 2018 – 28 March 2018

10 April 2018 – 22 June 2018

17 July 2018 – 21 September 2018

9 October 2018 – 7 December 2018

### Times & Hours

Five days a week

Start at 8 am end 3pm (Friday at 2pm) – all classes (this includes extracurricular activities)

Saturday, we encourage as a rest and family day.

Sundays – markets 1-4 times a year is our goal in the long term

### Who is the school for?

Children who want a safe & healthy place to be encouraged to love learning, respect and show kindness to themselves and others and who have a love and respect for their Creator.

### Prerequisites for Application:

Must speak English

Commitment as a family to a healthy and Godly lifestyle  
 Dress and behavior code in keeping with the lifestyle and values.

**Minimum & maximum class sizes:**  
 Maximum of 16 children per class

## Fee Structure 2018

### Annual School Fees and Payment Options

**Please NOTE - Included in the Total Annual Fee:**

- Tuition covering the full range of Academic, Cultural and Sporting activities
- Outdoor curriculum including once a term outings
- Mid-morning & afternoon, refreshments, lunch and fruit
- Stationery, printing and text books

**Not included in the Total Annual Fee:**

- Private Music lessons after 3 pm
- Incidental charges (uniforms, extra events, etc.)

Grade:	Total Annual Fee	Total Annual Fee if paid in full by 31 January 2017	12 x Monthly Debit Order installments (excluding Incidental charges)
Pre-school & Grade 0	R54 000	Less 10%	R4 500
Grade 1 – 10	R54 000	Less 10 %	R4 500
Grade 11 – 12	R54 000 includes GED (R10 000 – subject to change) *	Less 10 %	R4 500
Discount for more than 1 child	Less 10% per child thereafter		Less 10%

**\*For more information on GED and SAT costs, please view the following websites:**

<http://www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com/ged-homeschool-matric.html>

<http://onlineged.co.za/enroll/>

**Please NOTE:** Should the student not pass at the first attempt at each test the parents would be liable if taken more than once in a year.

School fees must be paid for the full 12 months to cover the costs incurred in GED. Should a child leave The Daniel Academy before the fees are paid in full, the parents will be held liable for the full year's fees. In other words: once in the GED system at The Daniel Academy it is imperative that the parent see the year out, even if the students does not complete their GED qualification. This is to cover all the costs incurred.

**Non-refundable investment deposit of R5000 less 10% for each additional child**  
**This is used to acquire the desk, chair, text books, stationary, infrastructure and equipment etc. to set the child up in all areas. This investment is a sign to us that the parents are financially stable and able to pay the ongoing fees.**

**Developmental fee – R1000 per family per year from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year only – this is used to develop the school infrastructure and equipment, library books, science equipment etc.**

**One terms notice period (3 months) is required by the parents should a child leave the school after the 3-month initial probation period.**

The average cost per child per month in a government school:

R1 463 – School fees

R800 - R1 331 - After care

R1 300 – Snacks and lunches

R500 – Stationery and incidentals

**Total: R4 063-R4 594**

Our school fees compare well with this PLUS you get a safe, kind, respectful and Godly environment that inspires your child to reach their full potential.

You also save with regards to following costs:

Uniform – we don't have a full uniform and learners combine our school shirt with their normal clothes

Medical costs - as the children eat healthy, they won't get sick and you'll save on doctor's bills, no need for medications like Ritalin etc.

Tuition – you don't need to pay for extra tuition as this is provided by our teachers should your child need it.

**For more information on this program, please email us at [info@thedanielacademy.co.za](mailto:info@thedanielacademy.co.za).**

**<https://www.facebook.com/The-Daniel-Academy-South-Africa-1531792903765722/>**