

Seminary Handbook

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What to Expect

Each day at Seminary we'll follow a simple routine. Here's what to expect:

- 1) **Sign in** - You'll mark if you're tardy and whether or not you read your scriptures the evening before. Any items you will need from your cubby during our lesson will be noted on the sign in form.
- 2) **Pick up / drop off materials** – Get your binder, pencil pouch, notebook, and other items from your cubby. Place your cell phone (turned off) and any schoolbooks in the cubby until class is over.
- 3) **6:10 AM, Welcome** – the class president or vice-president will welcome you to class and make any announcements. He or she will also select a name for the opening and closing prayer.
- 4) **Devotional Activity**
- 5) **Opening Prayer / Song**
- 6) **Scripture Mastery Repetition**
- 7) **Study review and lesson**
- 8) **6:55 AM, Closing prayer**
- 9) **7:06 AM, Bus pickup (Bus 96, Denyce Dugan)**

The #1 Most Important Thing: Keeping up on your Reading

My number one very most important thing that I ask you to do is stay up on the reading. I will not require you to do any other work outside of class – no devotional preparation, nothing – except to stay current on the reading. I've worked hard on the reading schedule to make sure that no daily reading assignment takes more than 30 minutes to complete, even when read out loud. Most assignments are in the 15-20 minute range.

Please read the day's reading assignment before class whenever possible. If you miss a day – that's okay. Read the next day's assignment. You can make up missed reading later.

Please stay with the reading chart as closely as possible. You can split the block of scriptures up into 7 days if you prefer, but please, please, please stay with the chart as closely as you can.

Reading the material we'll cover is the single most important thing you can do to get maximum results from Seminary.

Grading / Seminary Credit

A student must attend at least 80% of classes to receive Seminary credit. Attendance is calculated quarterly.

Tardies / Early departures

Please arrive on time for Seminary. Tardiness and early departures are reported to parents quarterly on the Seminary report card.

According to stake seminary policy, flagrant tardiness or early departures may result in Seminary credit being withheld, and makeup work may be assigned.

Inclement weather policy

Seminary is held on dates when school is in session. When --- schools are closed, there is no Seminary. Please continue with your reading assignment on the reading chart as if we held class.

Seminary may need to be canceled with very short notice. The class president will notify you by telephone or text message in case of a short-notice cancellation.

Report cards / Grading

The Seminary report card has three parts: attendance/credit, conduct, and an academic grade. Students who receive 80% attendance or better receive credit for Seminary. The conduct grade is a self-assessment completed by the student and reviewed by the teacher. The academic grade is given by the seminary teacher.

My academic grading policy is simple: keep up on the assigned reading, and you've got an A.

- A+ – 100% of reading assignments completed
- A – 95% of reading assignments completed
- A- – 85% of reading assignments completed
- B – 70% of reading assignments completed
- C – less than 70% of reading assignments completed
- I – Incomplete, less than 25% of reading completed

Report cards are passed out quarterly at the same time as --- school district.

Makeup work

Students who miss more than 20% of classes during each quarter may make up absences by completing makeup work. Absences may be made up by attending or watching General Conference, watching a Seminary Broadcast, completing assignments from the Student Study Guide, or by attending during the makeup week (after the last week of Seminary, before Seminary graduation).

Students can easily pull up a disappointing academic grade at any time by catching up on their reading.

Scripture Mastery

There are two levels of Scripture Mastery in my class – Mastery and Jedi. Mastering a scripture means you can find and use a passage. Jedis have memorized an entire passage word-for-word and passed it off to a teacher.

Jedi Scripture Master

Those wishing to advance beyond Padawan learner and become a Jedi Scripture Master memorize all 25 scripture mastery passages word-for-word and repeat them to a teacher. Masters will be rewarded with a prize of their choosing, AND may enjoy Seminary while relaxing luxuriously Jabba the Hut style on one of our cushy green couches for one week!

Developing leadership skills at Seminary

Our seminary class will be developing leadership skills that will both enhance the gospel learning process and help you engage with the teacher and other students. We use an acronym (SLAMM) to remind us of these leadership skills:

- S** – Sit up
- L** – Look at the speaker
- A** – Apply messages to your life
- M** – Make relevant comments
- M** – Mark your scriptures

Leadership skills like being alert, looking at those who are speaking, making relevant comments, finding application and connections with real life in written materials, and note-taking apply not only to gospel study, but to secular learning, future missionary work, students' future careers, and home gospel teaching.

Other policies

Parking

You can park anywhere in my driveway or along the sides of the long gravel drive. The farmer often brings in trucks or equipment in the morning, so please be sure that your vehicle is parked completely off the gravel.

If you're uncomfortable backing up, just follow the driveway to the bottom of the hill, or up the the barn where there is plenty of space to turn around and park your car facing the road.

Food/beverage policy

Beverages are allowed at class only if they are inside of a spill-proof container. **Please note that bottles with twist-off lids are not spill-proof.**

Food is allowed, but please don't be messy!

Cell phone policy

Cell phones must be switched off or to airplane mode before being seated. Silent mode or vibrate is not allowed during class.

Contacting a student during class

Your student's cell phone will be unable to receive calls or messages when he or she is in class, but if there is an emergency please call our home telephone number at ---.

Schoolwork policy

Schoolwork may not be completed during Seminary. Leave your backpack and/or school books at your cubby when you enter your classroom.

Scripture policy

Students should have a full set of scriptures with all four standard works for reading at home and study at Seminary. I prefer that you have one set that you bring back and forth each day; however, some students keep a set at Seminary and one at home.

Electronic scriptures

I allow electronic scriptures at Seminary provided the listed rules are followed:

- 1) Turn your smart device to airplane mode before you sit down. Failure to do so will result in immediate loss of the electronic scripture privilege.
- 2) Use the official LDS Gospel Library App available for smart devices. (Free from <http://mobile.lds.org/>)
- 3) Know how to use the following functions before class begins: footnotes, highlighting, opening multiple windows, notes, search, and cross-referencing. You should be able to find the study helps like the Bible Dictionary and JST Appendix.

For the best experience, you should have your Gospel Library App connected with an LDS Login account.

School Bus Pickup

School bus pickup is available from my house after Seminary. Those wishing to ride the bus should fill out the form available at the school's website. Here's how to download the form:

1. Go to ---.
2. Click "Transportation Services" in the left column.
3. Click "Bus Routes".
4. Click "---" in the right hand column.
5. Fill out and return this form to the school by mid-August.