



# The Potter's School

Bringing the classroom to the world

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## Jericho International Honor Society

Since 1996 The Potter's School has promoted academic excellence in home education. Many years of working with thousands of TPS families as well as raising and schooling our own children have convinced us of the link between Godly character and academic success. There are many biblical reasons for this connection, some obvious and some subtle. The most basic is that all excellence, including academic, depends on purpose, initiative, diligence, persistence and other aspects of Godly character more than it does on ability.

Understanding the importance of Godly character as a foundation for excellence has prompted us to consider processes that encourage and credit development of that character. Toward that end we are announcing the formation of Jericho International, an organization for promoting in youth a life of service and obedience to God's calling.

**Why call it "Jericho International"?** Jericho was the first city that Joshua, a young man, took in God's Name. This organization will recognize many of our students' first opportunities to influence their city or even the world in Jesus' Name.

**What is the advantage of participation?** Every semester we will issue a letter of recognition to each student who actively participated for that entire semester. We suggest that families use this as a reference on applications. Specifically, we suggest that families list "Jericho International service organization (2004-2006)" or something similar in an "Extracurricular Activities" block, and make the entry "Jericho International Distinguished Service Award (three awards)" or something similar in an "Awards" block. This gives home educated students recognition they deserve on college, scholarship and other applications while building their character for a life of service to God.

**What are the participation criteria?** At the end of the semester parents must provide the following items to The Potter's School.

1. Any currently enrolled TPS student can participate. **We do not require prior notification for participation.**
2. Each student must maintain a 3.0 or better GPA in each TPS course. This is because academics are a primary labor responsibility of students and therefore students should demonstrate diligence in academics. Parents certify this by making a statement that this requirement has been met. **We do not want to see transcripts or other certification.**
3. Each student must perform an average of six hours of service per month, as demonstrated with a written log maintained by the student and certified by a parent. This service can include leadership within a church group, active participation in a service organization or ministry, evangelistic outreach, leading a Bible study, or other similar activities involving more than simply passive membership and for which the student receives no compensation. It cannot include normal household chores in the student's own home, regular attendance at church, personal devotions, or other functions that, while they are foundational for developing character, should not be considered as extra service to others. While the objective is to develop and demonstrate a lifestyle of service rather than to perform a one-time project, extended projects like a church outreach trip or overseas service trip that requires considerable planning and labor can count

toward the required hours. **Parents certify this by making a statement that this requirement has been met. We do not want to see this log.**

4. Each student must submit a short (approximately three-quarters page) essay at the end of each semester discussing how he perceives he has grown in Christian faith and character as a result of his service activities. **We want to see this essay.**
5. Each student must have someone other than a parent perform a character evaluation each semester of participation. The student must submit this evaluation with the essay. We facilitate this by providing a short questionnaire to be completed and discussed with the student and parents. We prefer that this come from a leader in the local church or someone else who fills a role of spiritual leadership in the family's life. We recognize that parents provide continual feedback to their children and we do not intend to challenge that process, but we also appreciate the character-building value of submission to local church leadership and mutual submission to other believers. We even find that some families do not regularly seek counsel from others, thereby missing the sharpening that such counsel provides. This external feedback requirement should serve to encourage families where they are already strong in building Godly character and instilling a lifetime commitment to service, and strengthen families where they can improve, which is the objective of Jericho International. We want to see this completed form.
6. At the completion of the semester, please mail the essay, a statement signed by a parent stating that the GPA criteria was met, and the completed character evaluation form. Mail these in one envelope to the address on the Contact page of our web site.

We look forward to hearing of your service to the Lord and seeing how God transforms your character to be more like that of His Son.