



COLUMBUS
Christian Academy

2025-2026

STUDENT HANDBOOK

COLUMBUS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
6405 Military Road
Steens, MS 39766

columbuschristian.com

FOREWORD

This handbook has been prepared for your convenience and guidance. Please consult it often. In it, you will find outlined most of the school's policies and regulations. When policies, rules, and regulations are adopted, the first consideration is the welfare of the students. We believe the handbook we have set up will promote that welfare. You are asked to follow the rules as stated. Please do not ask for exceptions to be made. While many areas have been addressed, this handbook does not and cannot address every situation, question, or problem that may arise. All problems involving interpretation of and enforcement of these policies and rules are the responsibility of the and at the discretion of the administration. If you do not find herein the information desired, please ask the head of school or teacher.

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COLUMBUS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Board of Directors

Officers

Joseph Grissom, President
Rex Gillis, Vice-President
Jeremy Bandre, Secretary/Treasurer

Members

Chelsea Baulch
Mike Bogue
David Cook
Beau Easterling
Jake Hand

Accreditation

Columbus Christian Academy is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International, the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools, Cognia, and the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability. The requirements for this accreditation included a lengthy process of examination by each accrediting agency to verify that our school meets and maintains accreditation standards.

History

Immanuel Center for Christian Education (I.C.C.E) was founded in 1978 by Reverend Mike Stephens and Immanuel Baptist Church. Athletic teams were known as the Immanuel Rams. Immanuel ("God with us" Matthew 1:23) and Rams ("God will provide" Genesis 22:13-14). The school grew and developed under his direction through the years.

The school's original location was on 18th Avenue in Columbus, Mississippi along with Immanuel Baptist Church and a full-service daycare. Brother Mike's wife, Sara, was the Daycare Director. Karl Novak and Gary White (also members of IBC staff) served as administrators over the course of the first 25 years and they were assisted by multiple staff members of Immanuel Baptist Church serving in various capacities.

A new school facility was built on property purchased by the church in Steens in 2004. The church moved shortly after and began worshiping in the gym on Sunday mornings. In addition, Grace Tabernacle donated their facility across Military Road to IBC and the church initially used it as an office facility, later moving all church activities to this location.

The school and church separated in 2014 to allow each organization independence in pursuing the unique mission that God was placing on the hearts and minds of leadership. The school's name officially changed to Columbus Christian Academy and has been under the direction of an independent school board since that time.

Each year, both new and returning families affirm and reaffirm their commitment of support for the CCA statements of faith and practice: what we believe and what we do.

Statement of Faith

We believe in the Triune nature of God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe these three are one God, Creator of Heaven and earth.

We believe in the full humanity and full deity of Jesus Christ. We believe He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died vicariously to provide atonement for the sins of humanity, resurrected bodily from the tomb, ascended to the Father in Heaven, and will physically return according to the Father's perfect will.

We believe that the Bible is the written word of God, is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God's truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.

We believe salvation is by grace through faith alone. We believe God offers redemption to all who repent of their sin and confess Jesus as Lord.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost-the saved to a resurrection of life and the lost to a resurrection of judgment.

We believe the church is the body of Jesus Christ and is invested with the responsibility to be witnesses of both the truth and love of God.

We believe God created humanity as distinctly male and female, and that each person is made in God's image. We believe human life is God's gift and should be fully valued from conception through death.

We believe marriage is the union of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe God intends sexual intimacy to occur between only a man and a woman who are covenanted together in the union of marriage.

Acts 3:19-21
Romans 10:9-10

Leviticus 20:13
1 Corinthians 6:9-20

1 Corinthians 6:9-11
Genesis 1:26-27

1 Corinthians 7:2-5
Hebrews 13:4

Mark 10:6-9
Romans 1:25-27
Psalms 139

Mark 21:28-31
Philippians 2:14-16
Matthew 5:16

Genesis 2:18-25
1 Corinthians 6:18

Matthew 15:18-20
Thessalonians 5:22

Family Practices

Because parents believe in the importance of (1) Church attendance (2) Bible study (3) Prayer (4) Christian community and (5) Family time, they affirm their commitment to establish healthy family routines in each of these areas.

CCA does not set or direct how they implement these practices but does express the sentiment that as a community, we all have a vested interest in encouraging and supporting one another in these areas.

Mission Statement

Columbus Christian Academy, in partnership with parents and area evangelistic churches, strives to provide a Christ-centered education of excellence to enable students to soar in truth and wisdom and to become men and women of true faith, equipped to stand strong for Christ and impact their world for eternity.

Vision Statement

Columbus Christian Academy exists to provide a Christ-centered, Bible-based college preparatory educational program aimed at spiritual growth and academic excellence. We will provide an environment in which every student is cared for spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. Columbus Christian Academy students, by God's grace, will be servant-leaders who effectively live out and communicate a biblical world view, strive to realize their academic potential, and seek to know and fulfill the unique purpose that God has planned for each of their lives.

Educational Philosophy

The purpose of Columbus Christian Academy is to provide a Christ-centered excellent education. Columbus Christian Academy welcomes children from families in the Columbus area who are like-minded in our Christian beliefs and practices.

Scripture teaches that each person is divinely equipped with a unique set of abilities and potentials and is worthy of respect and dignity as an individual. As such, the school is concerned for the whole person and strives to develop each segment of the student's life: spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, physical. The school helps students to become disciplined, creative thinkers who learn to balance the pursuit of personal development with service-oriented values toward the home, church and society.

Spiritual

Spiritual values are the foundation of a person's character. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ instruct us how to have a relationship with God as well as provide us with the model of right behavior, values, and healthy human relationships. For this reason, students are challenged to develop and deepen a personal faith in Jesus Christ and exhibit Christ-like character.

(Galatians 5:22; 1 Timothy 6:11)

Intellectual

We believe that God is the author of all that is true, good, and beautiful. Therefore, the pursuit of truth at Columbus Christian Academy is intimately connected to our relationship with the

Author of Truth. This means that we seek to demonstrate faithful learning by developing in our students a deep and wide base of knowledge about God's world, and the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to interpret and utilize that knowledge ethically. We want to see a transformation in the very character of our students' minds. In other words, we want our students to become God-honoring in the *way* they think as demonstrated by consistently honest, careful, tenacious, courageous and humble thinking habits.

(Revelation 22:13; James 1:17)

Social

We believe that next to the home and church, the school is the most important training ground for the social skills and values necessary to become a healthy and positive contributor to the world community. As a Christian school we are intentional about instilling in our students Christ-like social values such as kindness, integrity, mutual respect, and compassion.

(Proverbs 16:16; Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Emotional

We believe that demonstrating faithful learning in an atmosphere of positive social interaction between staff, students, and parents/guardians, students will develop the sense of personal worth and dignity they will need to become healthy and positive contributors to their families, social circles, and society at large.

(Psalm 133:1; Genesis 1:27)

Physical

We believe that a Christian education includes the development of the whole person. Concern for the whole person includes the value of the body and its proper and wise use. Knowledge of the body and the importance of physical fitness development are an integral part of a balanced education.

(1 Corinthians 6:20; Psalm 139:14)

Core Values

We value ***strong Spiritual foundations***. Therefore, our Bible classes, chapels, and integration of faith into all subjects are aligned with traditional Christian orthodoxy.

We value ***community and family***. Therefore, we take the idea of partnership seriously and seek ways to cultivate strong relationships with families.

We value ***truth***. Therefore, our academic subjects are rigorous and comprehensive. God's truth is accessible and plentiful.

We value ***character***. Therefore, we teach and honor virtues such as courage, carefulness, curiosity, humility, honesty, fair-mindedness, and tenacity.

Graduate Profile

Columbus Christian Academy is intentional and purposeful in its efforts to shape students' thinking, attitudes, and behaviors. The Graduate Profile is a target and compass. Parents should look closely where we are aiming and the path we intend to take.

Success requires agreement and partnership between home and school. Success also requires students to receive what is offered and to give their best efforts. That is why our Graduate Profile is worded this way:

Graduate Profile: A graduate of CCA who receives the best of what we have to offer and who gives to others his/her very best will:

SPIRITUAL

- Understand and personalize a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Integrate Biblical principles and values into everyday life
- Practice spiritual disciplines which lead to healthy spiritual growth
- Nurture a life of love, grace, and service toward others

CHARACTER

- Demonstrate moral qualities of integrity, honesty, and trustworthiness
- Demonstrate self-control in attitude and behavior
- Accept responsibility
- Exhibit wisdom through well-informed decision-making

INTELLECTUAL

- Demonstrate a Biblical worldview and mindset
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, logically, and creatively to solve problems
- Communicate clearly and expressively in writing and speech
- Effectively use media and technology for academic development

SOCIAL

- Possess a healthy appreciation for one's gifts and limitations
- Display strong interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate a commitment to excellence by seeking, accepting, evaluating, and applying feedback
- Cultivate broad, healthy relationships

SERVICE

- Contribute to society using gifts and talents in a Christ-like manner
- Develop a lifestyle of service to others
- Serve intelligently, responsibly, cooperatively and with humility
- Serve with a joyful heart

General School Information

Admissions

Admission, Ongoing Enrollment, and Re-enrollment policy

By Board mandate, the mission of Columbus Christian Academy is to partner with parents in providing their children with a Christ-centered education. The school requires at least one parent to affirm and follow the belief and practice statements included in the application and re-enrollment documents which include participation in a Christian church.

Students in grades 7-12 need to affirm their support of and intent to follow the expectations, guidelines, and policies as written in the Parent-Student Handbook. This is a condition of re-enrollment.

Admission to Columbus Christian Academy further requires that students meet age, health, behavior, and academic ability guidelines as set forth by Columbus Christian Academy and the State of Mississippi.

Generally, students are expected to achieve at or close to grade level on standardized assessments.

The Head of School is responsible for all admission decisions.

Columbus Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, and loan programs received from colleges and universities, athletic programs, and other school-administered programs.

Age Requirements for Pre-K through Kindergarten

Columbus Christian Academy is in compliance with the Mississippi school entrance law which requires that a child must be five on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten. We accept both three- and four-year-olds in our Pre-K program. To ensure that we are in compliance with the Mississippi school entrance law for kindergarten, we have the following policy for Pre-K enrollment:

- **Three-year-old entrance:** the child must be three on or before September 1.
- **Four-year-old entrance:** the child must be four on or before September 1.

Other Requirements for Three-Year-Old Entrance to Pre-K:

- The child must be completely potty trained.
- If a 3-year-old proves to be too immature for our Pre-K program, Columbus Christian Academy reserves the right to request withdrawal of that student.

Birth Certificates and Immunization Records

Each student's file must contain a certified copy of his birth certificate.

Three-year-old preschoolers must be up to date with shots and have Form No. 121 Certificate of Immunization Compliance marked "Temporary Compliance" with a date for next immunization on file in the school office. All four- and five-year-old kindergarten students, 1st graders, and students attending Columbus Christian Academy for the first time MUST have form No. 121 Certificate of Immunization Compliance on file in the school office.

Vaccines required for school entry:

5 doses of DTaP, unless the 4th dose is given on or after the 4th birthday.

4 doses of Polio, unless the 3rd dose is given on or after the 4th birthday.

3 doses of Hepatitis B

2 doses of MMR

2 doses of the Varicella-containing vaccine or a history of typical varicella (chickenpox)

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year the Mississippi State Department of Health will require the Tdap vaccination for all students entering 7th grade. Immunization certificates may be obtained from the Lowndes County Health Department or your physician. Immunization requirements must be completed **no later than the 15th day of school or the child will be excluded from school until requirements are met.** There will be no tuition credit for any time lost from school.

Birth Certificates and Mississippi Immunization documentation should be uploaded to the student's FACTS portfolio or delivered to the school office before the first day of enrollment.

SOAR Program

The purpose of the SOAR Program is to assist families and students that require additional academic intervention outside of the regular classroom setting. Students with diagnosed learning differences can apply to the SOAR program for assistance in their academic program. A diagnosis does not guarantee admission to the SOAR program. The admissions committee will assess the data provided and will decide based on the best interest of the child and the integrity of the school.

There is an additional fee assessed yearly to families admitted into the SOAR program. The fee is billed annually and may be paid in installments. The total amount should be paid in full by the end of the school year.

School Closure or Modifications Due to a Force Majeure Event

Should events beyond the control of the school, including, but not limited to, any fire, act of God, hurricane, tornado, flood, extreme inclement weather, explosion, war (including armed conflict), governmental action, act of terrorism, risk of infectious illness, epidemic, pandemic, shortage or disruption of necessary utilities (water, electricity, etc.), or any other event beyond the school's control occur, the school has the discretion to close the school and/or modify its

curriculum, schedules, length of school day, length of school year, and/or means of learning and teaching methods. The family's contractual financial obligations for tuition and fees remain in full force and effect. Should the school close, the school's duties and obligations shall be suspended immediately without notice until such time as the school, in its sole and reasonable discretion, may safely reopen. If the school cannot reopen due to a force majeure event, the school is under no obligation to refund any portion of tuition paid.

Financial Information

Registration and Tuition

All tuition and registration information and payments are located in the school's FACTS family portal.

Athletic Fee

This is a yearly fee of \$250 per athlete. This fee applies to students in grades 7 through 12 that participate in athletics at CCA.

Delinquent Accounts

Payment of tuition in full is due by July 5th. Full tuition payments are delinquent after September 5th.

Payment of tuition by semester is due by July 5th and January 5th. Semester tuition payments are considered to be delinquent after September 5th for first semester and after March 5th for second semester.

Monthly payments are due on the first day of each month.

On the date an account becomes 3 billing periods overdue, the account will be declared delinquent. When an account becomes delinquent, the student or students may be withheld from class. If the problem has not been satisfactorily taken care of within one week after that date, the student/students may be officially dismissed from the Columbus Christian Academy program. No final exams may be taken until delinquent accounts are settled.

Withdrawal for Pre-Paid Plan:

If a student withdraws during the school year, no fees (registration fee etc.) will be refunded. Tuition will be refunded on a percentage basis as follows:

Non-refundable Building & Resource fee of \$600 assessed for early withdrawal.

<u>Withdrawal during the period of</u>	<u>Refund Percentage</u>
1 st day of school through October 15	75%
October 16 through December 31	50%
January 1 through March 15	25%
March 16 through the end of school	0%

Withdrawal for Monthly Payment Plan

Payments must be current through the month of withdrawal. **Example:** If a child withdraws on October 10, the July, August, September, and October payments must have been paid.

Non-refundable Building & Resource fee of \$600 assessed for early withdrawal.

No records will be transferred, no report cards will be presented, and no diplomas will be conferred until all accounts are brought up to date.



COLUMBUS

Christian Academy

Tuition Rates 2025-2026

Annual Fees:

Application Fee (New Student)	\$50
Registration (Due @ Enrollment)	\$375
FACTS Enrollment	\$25/student (1 or 2 payments)
School Supply (Due July 1)	\$55 (3 or more payments)
Athletic Fee	\$100
	\$250/student (not including practice & game day wear)

Grade Level	Prepaid Annual Tuition	Payment Plan Total (More than 2 Payments)	Monthly Payment
Preschool (K3 & K4)	\$3,400	\$3,536.00	\$353.60
Kindergarten	\$4,400	\$4,576.00	\$457.60
1 st – 12 th Grade	\$6,225	\$6,474.00	\$647.40

Multi-Child Examples (1st-12th)

	Prepaid	Monthly	Total with Payment Plan
one child	\$6,225.00	\$647.40	\$6,474.00
two children	\$11,750.00	\$1,222.00	\$12,220
three children	\$16,875.00	\$1,755.00	\$17,550
four children	\$21,900.00	\$2,277.60	22,776.00

Extended Care

Early Care (6:30-7:30)	\$5/morning
After Care Registration	\$40
After Care Annual Fee (pre-paid August)	\$1,500
After Care Monthly Rate	\$160
After Care Drop-In (when available)	\$25 – Elementary \$10 – Secondary

***Non-Refundable Building & Resource Fee - \$600 (all payment plans)**

Approved 1.7.25

Emergency Closures

Weather Problems: In the case of severe weather conditions, necessitating the closing of school and extended care during a school day, announcements summoning parents to the school to pick up their children will be made on **WCBI TV (CHANNEL 4) and WTVA TV (CHANNEL 9)**. These announcements will also be posted to **social media, Ram Mail, and CCA Parent Alert text messaging via our student information system**.

In the event of emergencies during the school day such as environmental, fire, police or medical emergencies, parents will be called directly by school personnel.

We do not dismiss school for every national holiday. If there is some particular reason why you wish to have your child excused from school on one of these holidays, please pre-arrange for this at least one week prior to the holiday.

School Hours

Our school day begins at 8:00 a.m. Throughout the year we follow a Full Day Schedule and sometimes a Half Day Schedule with early dismissal times. School hours are defined as the time a student arrives at school in the morning) until 3:05 p.m. in the afternoon.

	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
Full Day Dismissal Times	3:00 pm	3:05 pm
Early Dismissal Times	11:15 am	11:35 am

Students not enrolled in Extended Care must be picked up by 3:30 p.m. **Any students not picked up by 3:30 pm (Full Day Schedule) will be taken to Extended Care. The parent will be charged \$25.00 per day per child for elementary students and \$10 per day per child for secondary students.** On Half Days students not enrolled in Extended Care must be picked up by 11:45. Extended Care is not offered to students on Half Days unless they are enrolled in this program. Drop-ins are not accepted on Half Days due to the number of children enrolled.

Early Morning Care Program

We offer an Early Morning Care Program for working parents who must leave their child/children at the school before 7:30 a.m. This program is available from 6:35 – 7:30 in the lower elementary building. Parents interested in early morning care will be provided the opportunity to sign up for this program the night of Parent Orientation. The cost of this program is \$5.00 per day per student, and there is no registration fee.

Extended Care Program

Our Extended Care Program is offered to parents who are unable to pick up their child/children directly from school at the designated times. Extended Care provides a snack time, study hall, recreation, etc. **Parents are expected to send a snack from home.** Parents need to register their child/children for Extended Care the same time that they register for the school term.

Please see the FACTS family portal for registration, tuition, and late pick-up fees. Drop-ins will not be accepted on half days.

Student Health Plan

The school recognizes it has an important role in slowing the spread of communicable diseases to ensure a healthy learning environment for our students. In the event a communicable disease threatens the safety of our community or our school staff, visitors, and students, the school will take reasonable measures of protection. Any measures taken by the school will be guided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local health departments, and other agencies as appropriate. Each communicable disease is unique; therefore, the school's response will depend on public health guidance for each specific communicable disease. Possible actions taken by the school include, but are not limited to no action, mandatory health screenings, mandatory medical exam and release, refraining student(s) from certain activities, enhanced housekeeping, utilizing bandages or other barriers, cancelling field trips, being sent home from school, or implementing intermittent distance learning. During communicable disease outbreaks, threat levels may change. In this case, the school may modify response measures as information becomes available. The school may modify its curriculum, schedules, length of school year, and/or means of learning or teaching methods.

Student Illness/Accidents

We rely on our parents to take the first step in preventing infection from entering our school. Students with fever, nausea (vomiting), severe headache, or other symptoms of serious or contagious illness should not be sent to school under any circumstances. Students who attend school while displaying these symptoms do not feel well enough to participate in school activities, and they pose a health hazard to others. When a student returns to school after an absence due to illness, he/she should bring the teacher a note of explanation from a parent or health care provider.

If a student becomes ill at school, the office staff will make every effort to contact the parent, and the student should be picked up within the hour of the school's request. Please be sure that contact information is updated regularly so you can be contacted immediately should your child become ill at school. If you and your emergency contacts will be unavailable for the day, please provide the office and teacher with alternate numbers.

Exclude If:	Re-Admit:
1. <u>Temperature of 100 degrees or higher orally.</u>	<u>Free of fever for 24 hours without medication.</u>
2. Excessive amounts of yellowish-green nasal discharge. Severe, excessive, or persistent disruptive cough. Sore throat with difficulty swallowing.	Symptom free or clinical clearance to return to school
3. Untreated red, watery or draining eye(s).	All discharge from eye(s) has ceased or clinical clearance to return to school.
4. Lice	After treatment
5. Untreated, exposed, and draining skin lesions.	Skin lesions are dry or clinical clearance to return to school.

6. Vomiting	Free of upset stomachache and vomiting for 24 hours.
7. Diarrhea (two or more loose, watery stools).	Free of diarrhea for 24 hours.
8. Fainting or seizures or general signs of listlessness	Free of symptoms
9. Fever with any specific signs and symptoms of a communicable disease to which the child has been exposed.	Free of fever for 24 hours without medication and clinical clearance to return to school.

Notice of Risk

We have taken enhanced health and safety measures for those who come to our campus – students, employees, and visitors. While on campus, you must follow all posted instructions. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. COVID-19 is a contagious disease. If infected, you may exhibit no symptoms or mild symptoms or become severely ill or die. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and persons with underlying health conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting our campus, you voluntarily assume all risks related to the possible exposure to COVID-19.

Your child's attendance at Columbus Christian Academy demonstrates agreement to these terms and conditions.

Administering Medicine

1. Medications that are sent by the parent will be administered by a member of the office staff, faculty, or administration.
2. All medications will be kept in a secure area separate from first aid supplies and not accessible to students.
3. All medications must be in the original pharmacy labeled or commercially labeled containers.
4. Prescription medications will be given only as ordered by a physician.
5. All prescription and non-prescription medications for students in **Pre-K through 6th** must be brought to the office by the parent/guardian (we suggest a week's supply of medication at a time). The only exception will be inhalers and epi-pens that may be carried and self-administered by the student.
6. Students in grades **7th through 12th** may carry and self-administer prescription and non-prescription medication with the exception of controlled substances. Parents/guardians of **7th through 12th** grade students must bring controlled substances to the office to be administered by school personnel.
7. Parents/guardians of students in **Pre-K through 12th** grade must provide written permission for the in-school administration or self-administration of prescription or non-

prescription medications to be kept on file. This written permission must include student's name, medication name, dosage, time to be administered, and parent/guardian signature.

8. School personnel administering the medication shall use a logbook. The logbook will indicate the student's name; the name of the medication; the name of the person administering the medication; the date; the time; and the dosage. The person administering the medication will initial the record immediately after the medication is given.
9. The school staff must count and record the quantity of any controlled substance (i.e., Ritalin) received from the parents/guardians. When controlled substances are administered, the medications administration record includes the amount on hand, the amount received, the amount given, and the amount remaining.

Student Accident Insurance

An additional fee for student accident insurance is included in tuition. This insurance is necessary since our property and casualty medical liability insurance is not adequate for student accident protection.

Affordable student accident insurance policies are only available when purchased for all students, and therefore, the premium is included as a mandatory fee for all students. Specific information regarding coverage is available in the school office.

Telephoning

Students are not allowed to make phone calls during class periods. The office phone will be available for student use only in case of emergency. Students receiving calls will not be called out of class unless there is an emergency. Students having to call home due to illness are required to use the office phone.

Parent-School Communication

Weekly Newsletters and Text Alerts

One of our most important means of communicating with parents is through our Ram Mail. School information is emailed to our entire school family weekly. Texting is also an important means of school communication. Texts may be sent to the entire school or to specific groups. The school office will use the cell number provided on the admissions application. You can also take advantage of social media by following the school on facebook.com/columbuschristianacademy.

Parent – Teacher Conferences

Parent involvement is vital for the overall success of our students. We strongly encourage parents to maintain open communication with teachers, coaches, the guidance counselor, and the administration. Elementary school and secondary school parents may schedule an appointment by contacting the teacher.

Grievance/Compliance Procedures

If a question or complaint arises with a matter which is related to assignments, classroom management, or classroom interpersonal relationships, the following order of procedures should be followed:

1. Schedule a conference with the teacher (coach, if applicable).
2. Schedule a conference with the area principal.
3. Schedule a conference with the head of school.
4. Schedule a conference with the board of directors by contacting the head of school.

Parent Organizations

1. **ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB** – This club is composed of all individuals who wish to be part of helping the CCA athletic program grow. Members pay an annual membership fee, participate in fund raisers, and serve in a variety of ways to support and improve the Columbus Christian Academy athletic program.
2. **PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)** – The Columbus Christian Academy PTO's basic tenet is to assist the Administrators, teachers, and students in achieving the mission goals of CCA. The bylaws have been adopted for organizational structure, with officers chosen for each school year. The organizational vision entails a free flow of information and ideas between teachers and parents. The practical application of PTO action includes increased parent-teacher communication, fundraising, volunteerism, and most importantly, a free flow of ideas and solutions to help make Columbus Christian Academy a premier "Christ centered" educational institution.

Lost and Found

Please write your child's name on all personal items to enable us to return lost items. *Also, please write your child's name on the inside collar of jackets, sweaters, coats, etc.* We do collect and store lost items for a reasonable length of time. However, the collection of unclaimed items will eventually be taken to a goodwill organization. Students should check in the office when they are missing a personal item.

Use of Special Equipment

In the event that a student requires special equipment to assist in the educational process, CCA will be responsible for storing the equipment in a secure place while it is not in use (nights and weekends). It will be the responsibility of the owner of the equipment to arrange for maintenance or repair due to damage caused by normal wear. CCA will not be responsible for any damage to the equipment that is caused by a malicious or intentional act on behalf of the students.

Computer Acceptable Use Policies

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide the students, faculty, and staff of Columbus Christian Academy (CCA) with notice of what conduct shall be deemed acceptable with regard to the use of technology. The use of technology is one way of enhancing our mission to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need as responsible citizens in the global community. Students learn collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking in a variety

of ways throughout the school day.

- II. This Policy covers all students, faculty, and staff (collectively “Users”).
- III. This Policy applies to all Users at all times, regardless of their location. This policy applies whether or not the User is engaged in school related activity or making use of Columbus Christian Academy technology.
- IV. “Technology” as used in this Policy, means any electronic communication tool, system, or process, including, but not limited to telephones, cellular telephones, computers, software, the Internet, web sites, or Internet related software and communication tools. For example, Technology encompasses all cellular and SMS text messages, email, instant messenger sessions, newsgroups, on-line forums, and file sharing and/or BitTorrent clients.
- V. Devices will include laptops, netbooks, cell phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, and eReaders. Please note that “Gaming Devices” (such as Nintendo DS) with internet access are not permissible at this time.
- VI. “CCA technology,” as used in this Policy, means any Technology owned, controlled, or provided by CCA.

VII. Responsibilities of the User

Users of CCA Technology must take full responsibility for what they publish, transmit, or possess. Users of CCA Technology must connect equipment and install software in a manner that meets the technical and security standards set by Columbus Christian Academy. Users are also responsible for keeping their account information confidential at all times.

A certain measure of caution and awareness is required by Users to ensure the efficient and trouble-free use of CCA Technology. While CCA has systems in place to combat viruses, spy ware, spam, and other computer “bugs,” CCA will not be responsible for damage to a User’s Technology which results from viruses, spy ware, spam, or any other use of CCA Technology. Users are responsible for adequately protecting and maintaining their own Technology.

Users are responsible for keeping their personally identifiable information, which may include, but is not limited to, a user’s telephone number, address, age, gender, date of birth, credit card data, Social Security, and Driver’s License numbers etc., strictly confidential.

VIII. Acceptable Use

Use of CCA Technology is a privilege, not a right. Users may make use of CCA Technology for purposes of scholarship and academic research only.

IX. Unacceptable Uses

Technology – No User may use any Technology to do the following:

- A. Steal, forge, lie, cheat, plagiarize or masquerade.
- B. Bully or threaten.
- C. Violate the confidentiality of another.
- D. Tamper with, misuse, damage, interfere with or destroy the technology of another.
- E. Upload, post, or transmit content that is obscene, threatening, harassing, defamatory, libelous, invasive of another’s privacy, hateful or racially/ethnically motivated or incite violence or the imminent threat of violence

- X. CCA Technology - CCA Technology exists to advance the mission of CCA. CCA will manage these resources accordingly. Users may not do any of the following with CCA Technology:
- A. Steal, forge, lie, cheat, plagiarize or masquerade.
 - B. Bully or threaten.
 - C. Access the account of another.
 - D. Generate activities which consume more than a User's fair share of either system.
 - E. Time or network bandwidth [ex: sending chain letters]
 - F. Fraudulently log into any computer
 - G. Forge e-mail headers or manipulate other identifiers in order to disguise the origin of any system or network activity.
 - H. Attempt to determine the passwords of others or obtain privileges on any computer to which a User is not entitled.
 - I. Possess, willingly receive or distribute obscene material.
 - J. Copy, install, or use any data in violation of applicable copyrights or license agreements [Downloading and distributing movies, songs and software without authorization from the owner of the copyright is a violation of copyright law. The Recording Industry of America and Motion Picture Association of America can and do aggressively sue to enforce their copyrights.]
 - K. Utilize IP forwarding, bridging, ARP proxying, IP masquerading, DHCP, Network Address Translation (NAT), IP/IPX tunneling, SOCKS, application layer proxies, SSH, BitTorrent and/or peer-to-peer (P2P) software or any similarly enabling technology.
 - L. Add new devices such as hubs, switches, gateways, routers, access points and/or servers of any kind to existing CCA Technology
 - M. Use any CCA Technology for commercial purposes or advertising; including unsolicited commercial e-mail [Commercial sponsorship of academic projects, e.g., the inclusion of banner ads on a project web site, is strictly prohibited absent the express authorization of the Administrator].
 - N. Use any CCA Technology for partisan political activities.
 - O. Install software on CCA Technology that interferes with day-to-day work or hinders the operation of CCA Technology
 - P. Violate this Policy off-campus anywhere in the world using CCA Technology
 - Q. Possess any software, resource or equipment whose purpose is to effect one of the violations listed in this Policy; or attempt to violate any provision of this Policy.

XI. Privacy

Users should have no expectation of privacy with regard to their use of CCA Technology. CCA may access, view, investigate, and delete any and all information stored on or created with CCA Technology. CCA may do so without cause and without prior notice to the User.

XII. Duty of Parent or Guardian to Monitor Out-of-School Use of Technology

It is the responsibility of each parent or guardian to verify that their student's use of Technology is in compliance with the law and all of CCA's policies. Failure to monitor a student's use of Technology may result in serious consequences.

- XIII. Personal websites, Blogs, profile directories, or social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Vine, Pinterest, WhatsApp, MySpace, and Xanga are not monitored by CCA. However, Users who engage in behavior unbecoming a member of the CCA community during school hours or during school related events through the use of a website will be subject to penalties. Unacceptable use directed at any employee of Columbus Christian Academy, whether during school hours or any other time, will result in the User being subject to penalties.

Unacceptable use that causes a negative impact on the school environment, whether during school hours or any other time, will result in the User being subject to penalties.

XIV. CCA reserves the right, but is not obligated, to take disciplinary action with any student(s) if unacceptable uses/behaviors occur outside of CCA school hours, school related events or on CCA property.

XV. In addition, if CCA, in its sole discretion, believes that any information on a website, or in an email or text message, is obscene, constitutes a threat, defames, infringes on copyrights or is in any way illegal, whether directed at CCA, faculty, staff, students or other, CCA will be compelled to contact the appropriate authorities.

Technology School Wide Goals

The school wide goal of the technology program at Columbus Christian Academy is to enhance student learning through the use of network programming, (i.e., Accelerated Reading).

Technology will also be used to give students greater opportunities and understanding of digital skills and responsibilities, broaden the accessibility of academic information, and provide research access. These and other opportunities will help the students to have a broader overall outreach as a part of the mission of Columbus Christian Academy to be evangelistic.

Student Activities

The goals of the student activities program of Columbus Christian Academy are to uphold and maintain the Christian values of the school. Activities are to enhance an overall environment that is conducive to the spiritual growth and development of young people who are not yet mature Christians. Every activity should guide the student in right thinking, good conduct, and clean living in the light of the principle of God's Word.

Handbook Revision Policy

The Columbus Christian School Board reserves the right to change any policy or procedure in the Parent/Student Handbook at any time when, at the discretion of the board and administration, it deems the change to be in the best interest of the school.

Access to Student Records

Student records are available to school personnel and parents who need access to those records to provide educational services to that student. Purposes for accessing student records include, but may not be exclusive to academic, behavior, health, and/or disciplinary action.

Asbestos Inspection

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) law requires all K-12 private and public schools to be inspected for building materials that might contain asbestos. Columbus Christian Academy is in compliance with the AHERA regulations and has been determined to be free of any asbestos materials. Copies of the school's inspection report and management report are on file for your review in the school's administrative office.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre K3 – 6th Grade

Daily Schedule

The school building will be open to students at 7:30 each morning. *When the two duty teachers begin opening car doors, students may begin entering the building through the front doors.* Students should walk alone to their classrooms where their teachers will be supervising. We want to train our students to walk independently to their classrooms and to get ready for the school day without the assistance of parents/guardians. For security measures, all adults entering the building must sign in at the front office. If you need to speak with your child's teacher you may send a text, email, send a written note in your child's backpack, or schedule a conference.

All elementary students are to be dropped off at the front entrance of the building when personnel are on duty.

BELLS

7:56	Warning bell
8:00	School begins
3:00	Dismissal begins
3:30	Dismissal ends (Remaining students will be taken to Extended Care).

The Academic Program

The Columbus Christian Academy elementary program consists of a pre-kindergarten program through sixth grade. All kindergarten and elementary grades begin the day with Bible class which includes the pledges to the American flag, the Christian flag, and the Bible. Students sing songs, memorize a weekly Bible verse, and learn about God's Word through a Bible lesson.

Curriculum from Abeka, Bob Jones, Purposeful Design, and Deep Roots is used in our K3 – 6th grade program. All Kindergarten through sixth grade students participate in weekly extracurricular classes in physical education, music, art, computer and library. Enrichment experiences, such as field trips and resource speakers, are encouraged and incorporated at all levels of the elementary school.

Accelerated Reading

Accelerated Reader is a vital part of the elementary reading program for 2nd – 6th grade students. At the beginning of each school year, students in these grades will be tested for appropriate reading levels. The school librarian, in collaboration with classroom teachers, will determine point goals for each student per nine weeks dependent upon student ability and classroom reading requirements. Parents will receive a letter of explanation at the beginning of each school year with detailed information concerning point goals and due dates for each nine weeks.

Accelerated Reading will be introduced in 1st grade for students demonstrating an academic readiness for advanced reading without point requirements or grading.

Weekly Progress Reports

Graded quizzes, tests, seatwork, and other student work will be sent home weekly. Parents are expected to review this work and follow the teacher's directions for signing and returning this

work to school in a timely manner. **It is extremely important for parents to carefully review the weekly graded/checked work so you will be aware of any problem academic areas.**

Grading System

The Columbus Christian Academy's year consists of four 9-week grading periods. Pre-K students will receive a progress update at the end of each grading period. Kindergarten students will receive letter evaluations. The following grading scale is used for 1st through 6th grades.

<u>Grading Scale</u>		<u>Penmanship Grading Scale</u>	
A	90 – 100	E	Excellent
B	80 – 89	S	Satisfactory
C	70-79	N	Needs Improvement
F	Below 70	U	Unsatisfactory

Report Cards

Report cards will be issued on the Thursdays immediately following the end of a nine-week grading period. Two copies of the report card will be sent home. One copy should be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to school the next day. If any school holidays immediately follow a nine-week grading period, report cards will be issued the Thursday after the holiday. Report cards will also be sent electronically.

Academic Recognition

Students with final grades in A or A-B Honor Roll are recognized at the Elementary Awards ceremony at the end of the school year.

Pledges

Pledge to the Christian Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands; one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

Pledge to the Bible

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

Pledge to the American Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Library Policy

1. Students will be allowed to check out one book at a time.
2. Books may not be checked out unless the librarian is on duty.
3. Books that are damaged or lost will be the financial responsibility of the student.

The student will not be issued another book until the lost book is returned to the librarian or the proper fees are paid to the librarian.

If a lost book is found after being replaced, no refund will be given.

Rental Books

Some of the textbooks are rental books, and we ask that students handle them responsibly. Any student who loses a rental book or mutilates a book beyond repair will purchase a new book to replace it. The cost will include any necessary shipping expenses.

At the end of the school year, a student must turn in the same book he was issued. Unusual wear will result in an additional fee being charged to the student. The additional fees are as follows:

<u>USAGE</u>	<u>FEE</u>
Normal wear	\$0
Slightly worn past normal usage	\$5
Badly worn inside or out	\$10
Book lost or unusable	Price of book.

Annual Student Assessments

MAP Growth Assessments will be given to students in grades K through 6th grades at the end of first and second semester. These tests are machine scored by the testing agency. Testing results will be sent home once received at the school. If a student misses any of the testing sessions, we cannot guarantee that make-up tests will be given.

Elementary School Promotion Policy

Because a student has many facets (academic, physical, social, emotional) the decision regarding promotion is not based solely on academic standing. Many factors will be used in considering the promotion of a student. These factors may include age, ability, and maturity. However, a general rule is that a student will not be promoted if he/she fails two major subjects (English, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies) with a 69 average or lower. If a student fails one major subject with a 69 average or lower, a summer tutorial program will be recommended for promotion to the next grade level. In the case of a summer tutorial program, documentation of the academic material covered must be presented to the school. The final decision for promotion or retention of an elementary student will be at the discretion of the teacher and the principal.

Kindergarten Promotion Policy

Kindergarten students may be promoted to first grade based on the mastery of skills and objectives provided in the kindergarten curriculum (80% for reading and language, 70% for math) and teacher recommendation based upon the readiness and maturity of the student.

ATTENDANCE

Absences

Columbus Christian Academy complies with the Compulsory Education Law (Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 37-13-91). Regular daily attendance at school is the responsibility of each student and his/her parents or guardians. **Students absent for any reason (excused, unexcused, or pre-arranged) for more than 20 days during the school year may be retained. Exceptions concerning a prolonged illness will be open for review by the school administration. A decision will not be favorable for promotion if a student has had an extended illness as well as a large number of absences due to family trips.**

When a student is absent, the teacher will provide make-up assignments. When necessary, arrangements may be made for a parent to pick up materials from the school. On the day a student returns from an absence, the parent(s) are required to send a written explanation or doctor's excuse to the school office via email to office@columbuschristian.com. The note should include the student's name, the reason for the absence(s) and come from a parent or guardian.

Excused Absences

Unavoidable: Excused absences are those due to personal illness, a death in the family, or extreme emergencies.

Avoidable but justifiable: These absences include doctor or dentist appointments or similar reasons that might be justified. Afternoons appointments are preferred as they are the least disruptive to student instruction. **Advance notice is appreciated.**

Pre-arranged: Since the school calendar allows ample time for vacations in and around holiday season, parents should make every effort to arrange their vacations to coincide with school vacations. However, when parents believe additional family vacation days are needed, such days (not to exceed five (5) per year) may be taken. Such days require prior notification to the students' homeroom teacher. Please note that family vacation days count, although excused, as part of the twenty (20) days under the Absences promotion policy.

Unexcused Absences or Out of School Suspension

Any absence from school, which falls outside the parameters of an excused absence is an unexcused absence. Any tests or quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence will be marked as a missing assignment and calculated as a zero (0) until work is completed. A student returning from an unexcused absence will be expected to take any tests or quizzes previously assigned on the day of return. A student will also be expected to turn in completed work that is due upon the day of return.

Long Term Illness or Incapacitation

When a student has been absent for an uninterrupted four-week period, the administration will examine the situation and determine whether or not the student should be classified as "long-term illness or incapacitation."

Students who have missed lengthy periods due to illness will be evaluated upon their return to school to determine whether they must be retained or whether additional tutorial assistance will

allow them to successfully complete their year of school. Students in this situation should also expect to spend the summer in a tutorial program at the parents' expense.

Tardy Policy

Class time is instructional time. Punctuality is expected of all students. We believe it is the responsibility of parents to see that students arrive at school early enough to allow your child to walk to the classroom, unpack, and get settled in the classrooms several minutes before the 8:00 a.m. bell rings. **At the beginning of the new school year, students are given two days to adjust to their schedule. Starting with the third day of school, parents must enter the school office and sign their student(s) in for the day.** At the ringing of the 8:00 am bell, the teachers will close and lock their classroom doors for security reasons.

Penalties for Tardies:

1 st Tardy to class	Recorded
2 nd Tardy to class	Recorded
3 rd Tardy to class	Recorded with a note home to parents/guardians.

Exceptions to the Tardy Policy: A student arriving to school from a doctor's appointment will not be counted as tardy. If there is another legitimate reason for a student arriving late to school, the principal will decide if the tardy is excused or unexcused.

Checking Out

Transportation Form: Each elementary child must have a **Transportation/Pick up information** completed and submitted during enrollment. This necessary so that the teachers and office personnel will be aware of those authorized to pick up each child. If your child will be leaving school with someone other than those listed on the **Transportation Form**, you must send a note to your child's teacher with the necessary information or call the school office to give the necessary information. If you want to add or delete someone to the **Transportation Form** after school has begun, please call or come to the office to make necessary changes.

When parents/guardians need to check out an elementary student prior to regular dismissal, it should be done before 2:40 PM, they must come to the office to sign him/her out. If possible, parents should give prior notification to the teacher when this will be necessary.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones or any wearable technology are not allowed for K3-6th grade students.

Snacks and Hot Lunch Program

CCA offers hot lunches catered by local restaurants. To order a catered lunch option, parents need to login to their FACTS account and order their students' lunch. Lunch orders are due on Wednesday of the preceding week. Drinks must be brought from home or purchased from the cafeteria window. During lunch time, students may purchase snacks, "quick" meals, bottled water, fruit juice, and Powerade/Gatorade at the cafeteria's kitchen window.

Pre-K and kindergarten.

Pre-school and kindergarten students will eat lunch in their classrooms and should bring a drink from home.

Students in Pre-K through 6th Grade should bring a nut-free snack or lunch when bringing food to school. Nuts, peanuts, tree nuts, or items appearing to be made from these items are prohibited from classrooms, cafeteria, lunch boxes, or school events.

Dress Code

At Columbus Christian Academy we believe that personal appearance is an essential element in developing personal responsibility and communicating respect for ourselves and others. All students are required to wear school uniforms unless a special dress day is designated.

The school reserves the right to identify styles or colors of clothing as disruptive to the educational setting.

General Elementary School Guidelines:

- Students should enter the building each day in dress code compliance.
- All uniform tops must be purchased from Schoolbelles.com (code: s3092) and each will be marked with the CCA logo.
- If any student is not in uniform, a parent will be notified for correction the first time, subsequent times a parent may be asked to correct the offense.
- Clothing must be neat, clean, modest, hemmed, free from excessive wear, and size/length appropriate.
- Any item of outerwear may be worn to school, but any outerwear entering the classroom or worn in the hallways must be from Schoolbelles.com, CCA Spirit Store, or CCA special events.
- Skirts for girls should be a minimum of fingertip length.
- Polo shirts for boys must be tucked in; shirts must be long enough to be tucked in.
- Boys: PK & K should **not** wear belts. 1st through 6th belts must work and should be brown or black only (no large buckles).
- Tights/Leggings must be mid-calf or longer and must be solid black, grey, or white.
- Shoes: Tennis shoes or casual shoes, Crocs (strap around the back), boots of neutral color (exception for rainboots). (No flip-flops, or athletic slides)
- Boots: Boys may only wear boots with pants.
- Shorts may be worn year-round for boys and girls.
- Boys Hair: above collar, out of eyes, no ponytails, manbuns, or the like.
Braids are allowed as long hair is neat, above the collar, and not a distraction to the educational setting.

The following are not acceptable:

- Writing on clothing, shoes, or body.
- Jewelry:
 - Males: No earrings or body piercings on males.
 - Females: no body piercing other than ears.
- Hats/Caps/Scarves/Bandanas or other headgear/sunglasses inside the building.
- Extreme types of haircuts and/or color.
- Cosmetic makeup other than non-colored ChapStick or lip gloss.

- Shaved lines, carvings, artwork cut into the hair or eyebrows.
- Clothing that is not properly sized. Pants/slacks/skirts/shorts and tops must overlap enough to avoid exposing the midriff with normal movement.
- Stained, dirty, and/or frayed clothing with holes or patches, regardless of design.
- Visible undergarments
- Visible tattoos (temporary or permanent)
- Clothing that may be deemed divisive or offensive and take away from the educational setting.

SPECIAL DRESS DAYS

- Designated special dress days (Spirit Days, Homecoming Week, and Dress Down Days) are expected to maintain school appropriate representation.
- Fridays: A CCA spirit shirt with uniform bottoms or jeans that do not have holes or rips, huge legs, sagging, or chains hanging from pockets.

Note for Uniform Bottoms: Bottom wear may be purchased from the vendor of choice and must be medium khaki or black (Consistent with the Schoolbelles Uniform Store) No holes in pants. All bottom wear purchased from a vendor of choice must meet school regulations.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

7th Grade – 12th Grade

Schedule

The school building will be open to students at 7:30 each morning. At that time students should enter the secondary building. Students should prepare for school by making necessary trips to lockers, going to the restroom, and waiting in the 1st period classroom until the 8:00 bell rings.

BELLS

7:56	Warning bell
8:00	School begins
3:05	Dismissal begins
3:30	Dismissal ends (Remaining students will be taken to Extended Care).

General Rules & Guidelines

1. School hours are defined as the time a student arrives at school in the morning until 3:05 pm in the afternoon.
2. Teachers are on duty from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. Coaches' hours will vary according to their duties.
3. Conferences with teachers can be arranged by contacting the teacher directly or through the guidance counselor. by emailing the teacher directly or contacting the school office.
4. Conferences with the administrator may be scheduled by appointment Monday – Friday from 8:00 am until 3:30. If there is a need for an immediate conference due to an emergency situation, the administrator will make every effort to meet immediately.

Visitors

No visitors, including parents, are to come into the school building during school hours for any reason without checking in through the office. Student visitation will be allowed only in emergency/special situations as determined by the administration.

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned to each student during the first week of school. Students are responsible for keeping books or supplies in the places assigned and should report any unsatisfactory condition of the lockers to your class sponsor. Lockers are the property of Columbus Christian Academy. The administration has the right to search lockers. Changing locker assignments without permission is not allowed. Nothing is to be taped or in any way attached to the outside of the lockers without approval from the administration.

Delivery of Personal Items

The office staff will deliver any necessities that are brought to a student. Deliveries of flowers, balloons, or other favors on special occasions should be made to the student's home.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones and electronic devices have become a major distraction for students; therefore, cell phones, iPods, iPads, wearable technology, and other electronic devices are to be powered off and stored in the classroom's designated holder during classroom instructional time. Earbuds are for instructional purposes only. Students are not allowed to wear earbuds in the hallways.

Personal laptops and tablets are not allowed in classes. Students are to use their CCA issued Chromebook during classes. The use of other electronic devices during these times will result in disciplinary action. Electronic devices such as PlayStation, x-box, laser pointers, and devices similar are always prohibited on campus.

Note: Columbus Christian Academy is not responsible or liable for loss, theft, or damage related to students' personal mobile devices.

Cell Phone Violation (using when and where prohibited)

Students in possession of electronic devices without permission will:

1st Offense	Receive a warning and the device will be taken to the administrator and only returned to the student after school hours. Parent notified.
2nd Offense	Device will be confiscated, and student will pick up after regular dismissal from administrator. For the following 3 school days, the device will be turned in to the administrator or the administrator's designee
3rd Offense	Device will be confiscated, the parent must pick up, and device will be turned into administrator or designee for a minimum of two weeks of school time.
Additional Offenses	Determined by the administrator

Students may be allowed to use cell phones during break and lunch. This privilege may be revoked at any time by the administration.

Morning Break and Hot Lunch Program

Columbus Christian Academy offers the option for catered lunches from local restaurants. Students must bring their own nut free lunches or purchase a catered lunch from a weekly menu provided one week in advance. **All lunches brought by parents/guardians need to be delivered to the office.**

Drinks are not provided with a catered lunch. Students may purchase drinks from the machines or cafeteria window.

Seventh through twelfth grade students have a 15-minute morning break that provides them the opportunity to have snack and/or drink. They may purchase drinks and snacks at the school, or they may bring them from home.

All food items should be consumed in designated eating areas to minimize the risk of exposure to students with severe allergies.

Dress Code

At Columbus Christian Academy we believe that personal appearance is an essential element in developing personal responsibility and communicating respect for ourselves and others. All students are required to wear school uniforms unless a special dress day is designated.

The school reserves the right to identify styles or colors of clothing as disruptive to the educational setting.

General Middle School & High School Guidelines: *Students should* **ENTER AND EXIT** the building each day in dress code compliance.

- All uniform tops must be purchased from Schoolbelles.com (code: s3092) and each will be marked with the CCA logo.
- If any student is not in uniform, he/she will be asked to correct the offense and receive disciplinary action.
- Clothing must be neat, clean, modest, hemmed, free from excessive wear, and size/length appropriate.
- Non-school related outerwear may be worn to school, but any outerwear entering the classroom or worn in the hallways must be from Schoolbelles.com, CCA Spirit Store, CCA Letter Jacket, and team jackets.
- Skirts for girls should be a minimum of fingertip length.
- Polo shirts for boys must be tucked in; shirts must be long enough to be tucked in. Boys: belts must work and should be brown or black only (no large buckles).
- Tights/Leggings must be mid-calf or longer and must be solid black.
- Shoes: Tennis shoes or casual shoes, Crocs (neutral color), boots of neutral color. (No flip-flops, or athletic slides)
- Boots: Boys may only wear boots with pants
- Shorts may be worn year-round for boys and girls.
- Boys Hair: above collar, out of eyes, no ponytails, manbuns, or the like.
- Boys Facial Hair: short, neatly groomed mustaches, goatees, or beards with clearly defined lines. Short = ½ inch in length; Neatly Groomed = defined line where hair ends (no neck scruff). Sideburns should not extend below the base of the earlobe. *The administration may require a student to get a haircut at any time.

The following are not acceptable:

- Writing on clothing, shoes, or body.
- Jewelry: No earrings or body piercings on males. Females: no body piercing other than ears.
- Hats/Caps/Scarves/Bandanas or other headgear/sunglasses inside the building.

- Extreme types of haircuts and/or color.
- Shaved lines, carvings, artwork cut into the hair or eyebrows.
- Clothing that is not properly sized. Pants/slacks/skirts/shorts and tops must overlap enough to avoid exposing the midriff with normal movement.
- Stained, dirty, and/or frayed clothing with holes or patches, regardless of design.
- Visible undergarments
- Visible tattoos (temporary or permanent)
- Blankets are not allowed in classrooms, chapel, etc.
- Clothing that may be deemed divisive or offensive and take away from the educational setting.

SPECIAL DRESS DAYS

- Designated special dress days (Spirit Days, Homecoming Week, and Dress Down Days) are expected to maintain school appropriate representation.
- Fridays: A CCA spirit shirt with uniform bottoms or jeans that do not have holes or rips, huge legs, sagging, or chains hanging from pockets.

*Note for Uniform Bottoms: Bottom wear may be purchased from the vendor of choice and must be medium khaki or black (Consistent with the Schoolbelles Uniform Store) No holes in pants, and boys' shorts should have a 7" inseam. All bottom wear purchased from a vendor of choice must meet school regulations.

DRESS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Homecoming Dress: This dress must be approved by the Homecoming Director for the homecoming court.

School Dances, Formals & Prom: Expected dress code will be issued by the director of the event when approved by administration.

Designated Programs and Athletic Banquet: For designated chapel programs held during school hours, secondary awards program, and the athletic banquet students will be required to wear Sunday type dress that meets the school dress code. Boys should wear dress pants and an appropriate shirt. Girls should wear an appropriate dress that are longer than fingertip length, modest arm holes (no sundresses, spaghetti straps, off the shoulder or halter cut dresses, and cover cleavage).

Graduation Dress: includes cap/gown pictures, senior walk-through, and ceremony.

- Boys – Dark slacks, white oxford shirt, conservative tie, brown/black dress shoes
- Girls – Black dress, no more than 2" above knee, and black dress shoes.

All student dress is subject to the approval of the administrator. Columbus Christian Academy students are held responsible for dressing appropriately for ANY school function on or off campus.

Game Day Athletic Wear:

- Game day Athlete clothing will be set by the Athletic Director and Administrator.

Fundraising and Ticket Sales

Any fundraising or ticket sales done at Columbus Christian Academy or on the school campus MUST be approved by the Administrator.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The CCA 7th- 12th grade academic programs consist of 50-minute, 7 period days. Courses are year-long courses, (except for some elective courses) that meet three times a week.

The Christian curricula used for most academic subjects are BJU Press, Summit Ministries, Deep Roots Curriculum and A Beka.

Grading System

Junior high school and high school consist of 4 nine-week grading periods.

Grading Scale for 7th – 12th

Grading Scale:

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

F Below 70

Determining Grades

1. Nine Week Grades:

Daily/Quiz Grades – 50%

Tests/Major Projects 50%.

2. Semester Grades: 1st nine weeks grade 40%

2nd nine weeks grade 40%

Semester Exam 20%

3. Final Grade: First Semester Grade 50%

Second Semester Grade 50%

Report Cards

Report cards are issued on the Thursday via email following the end of a nine-week period.

Academic Recognition

Students earning all A's (90-100) for each nine-week grading period will be on the A Honor Roll and recognized at the annual awards ceremony. Students earning all A's and B's (80-100) for each nine-week grading period will be on the A-B Honor Roll and recognized at the annual awards ceremony.

Students achieving Honor Roll status in all four terms of the school year will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony held at the end of the school year.

Exemption from Exams

Grade 12 Only

1st SEMESTER – Grade 12 only (Only on Semester course)

85 or above average

3 Tardies or less in a semester

Less than 8 absences in the course

Less than 2 ISS referrals

No Out of School Suspensions

2nd SEMESTER – Grade 12 only

85 or above yearly average in a full year course

3 Tardies or less in a semester

Less than 8 absences in the course

Less than 2 ISS referrals

No Out of School Suspensions

Grades 7-11

90 or above yearly average

3 Tardies or less per semester

Less than 8 absences

Less than 2 ISS referrals

No Out of School Suspensions

CRITERIA FOR SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Exam exemption is a privilege, not a right, afforded to students who satisfy criteria pertaining to attendance, grade average, and discipline. An exempted student may opt to take his/her exam to improve his/her average with the assurance that the results of the exam will not lower his/her average.

Community Service incentives for exam exemption will be set for each grade level at the beginning of the school year.

Homework Policy

Believing that homework is an integral part of the school program, each teacher is at liberty to give homework to aid student advancement in academics. Therefore, each student is required to complete homework assignments. Homework is given for several reasons.

- **FOR REINFORCEMENT:** We believe that most students require solid drilling to master material essential to their educational progress.
- **FOR PRACTICE:** Following classroom explanation, illustration, and drill on new work, homework is given so that the material will be mastered.

- **FOR REMEDIAL ACTIVITY:** As instruction progresses, various weak points in a student's grasp of a subject become evident. Homework following instruction is given to overcome such difficulties.
- **FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Book reports, compositions, special research assignments, and projects are some of the activities that are frequently the subject of homework attention.

Late Assignment Policy

Meeting deadlines is an essential skill in preparation for college, work, and family. As part of the training process to meet deadlines in academics the following penalties will be assessed for late work submitted.

- 1 Day Late = -5 points
- 2 Days Late = -10 points
- 3 Days Late = -20 points
- 4 Days Late = -30 points

After four days, accepting the assignment is at the discretion of the teacher.

*Days are defined as weekdays when school is open regardless of class meeting schedule.

Rental Books

Many of the textbooks are rental books. We ask that students handle these books responsibly.

Any student who loses a rental book or mutilates a book beyond repair will purchase a new book to replace it. The cost will include any necessary shipping expenses.

At the end of the school year, a student must turn in the same book he was issued. Unusual wear will result in an additional fee being charged to the student. The additional fees are as follows:

<u>USAGE</u>	<u>FEE</u>
Normal wear	\$0
Slightly worn past normal usage	\$5.00
Badly worn inside or out	\$10.00
Book lost or unusable	Price of book

Annual Student Assessments

Each grade level at CCA is annually assessed using respected assessment tools to quantify each student's understanding of material and readiness for their next level of academic progress.

7th Grade Students are assessed using the MAP Growth Assessment. Testing is done at the end of each semester.

8th & 9th Grade Students are assessed using the Pre-ACT. Dates will be announced as soon as determined.

10th – 12th Grade Students have the option to take the ACT College Admissions test on campus in October and March.

11th Grade Students participate in the PSAT/NMSQT test in the fall and also in the ACT College Admissions test.

12th Grade Students are required to take the ACT College Admissions test prior to graduation.

Student Assessments are an integral part of student, school, teacher, and curriculum evaluation. It is very important that families make every effort for students to be present and do their best work on student assessments. If students miss any of the testing sessions given at CCA, make-up tests may be required. These tests are machine scored and results will be sent to CCA. Results for the ACT are also sent directly to students at the home address provided during registration.

Final Report Cards

Report cards will be emailed to parents and/or custodial guardians on the days noted in the CCA Calendar.

Summer School

Any 7th or 8th grade student receiving an *F* for the year in any of the four core subjects must make up that subject in summer school to be promoted to the next grade level. Any 9th – 12th grade student receiving an *F* for the year in any course must make up that course during summer school to receive credit. Students may take two (2) courses during summer school each year. A maximum of four summer school classes may be taken for credit in 9th-12th grades.

Credit Recovery On-Campus:

Requires the availability of content area course instructor for the summer. There will be a \$40.00 book and registration fee, and a \$500.00 fee paid to the teacher, with a total of thirty classroom hours for each course taken during summer school. This total of \$540.00 per class must be paid to the teacher before the student meets class. Should the student fail to complete the course there will be no refund. Any student who fails a course with an average lower than 55 will not qualify for summer school.

Online options for credit recovery may be available for summer school. The guidance counselor will assist families with that registration and payment information.

CURRICULUM

Graduation Tracks and Honors Program

Columbus Christian Academy offers two college preparatory tracks of study. The **College-Prep Track I** requires 22 credits, 2 of which may be non-academic, and meets all requirements for admission to a four-year college or university. The **Honors Track II** requires 22 credits, 2 of which may be non-academic, and meets all requirements and recommendations of the Institutions of Higher Learning for **admission to a four-year university**. Honors courses are more challenging for students than many of the regular courses. Additional material and more in-depth study should be typical of honors courses.

Schedule Requirements

All students in grades 9-12 must be enrolled in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Bible each year and must be taking five (5) academic classes. Students who have earned credits for all core requirements may substitute an on-campus elective but must be enrolled in five (5) or more courses.

The total number of credits earned for graduation must be 22 or more.

Outside Curriculum

All outside curriculum coursework must be approved by the Administrator/Guidance Counselor before the class begins. Failure to do so may result in no credit toward graduation requirements at Columbus Christian Academy. To earn high school credit for any course work taken outside of Columbus Christian Academy, a student must have permission on file in the guidance office listing the course work and the accredited school where the course work is to be taken along with the signatures of the high school administrator and the guidance counselor. Additional fees may apply and will be agreed upon by the payer and administration.

College Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit

Columbus Christian Academy offers dual enrollment and dual credit opportunities for students in grades 11 and 12 through East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) and Mississippi University for Women (MUW). Admissions applications are required to the respective schools for dual enrollment/credit. Required documents, testing, GPA, and permission statements may be obtained from the guidance counselor or school administrator.

College course grades for courses taken online or away from CCA campus will be listed on the transcript but will not be calculated into the cumulative GPA. Any Dual Enrollment class taken for CCA elective credit must be a 3 or 4 credit hour course.

College Days

Senior visits to potential colleges or universities will be excused absences with a letter from the admissions office of the visited school. Juniors may possibly receive a special invitation from potential schools to visit a college or university regarding scholarship opportunities. In such case, the junior will need to provide a letter of invitation to the school office in order to be excused.

Graduation Policy & Graduation Tracks

Columbus Christian Academy is a college preparatory high school. All students must earn 22 units to graduate. Columbus Christian Academy reserves the right to withhold the privilege of participating in the graduation ceremony from any potential graduate whose conduct in or out of school at the time of graduation does not warrant public honor. Columbus Christian Academy students must have completed all graduation requirements in order to participate in the graduation ceremonies.

Beginning with Class of 2028
GRADUATION TRACKS

College Prep		
English	4	
Math	4	Required: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
Science	4	Required: Biology I
History	4	Required: US History, American Government., and Economics.
Foreign language	1	Spanish I
General Electives	2.5	
Advanced Elective	1	See 7th-12th Counselor
Fine Art	1	
Computer App.	½	
Total	22	20 credits must be academic credits

Honors		
English	4	
Math	4	Required: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus/Trig with 2 credits being higher math (Options: Honors Alg II, Precal/Trig.)
Science	4	Required: Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Human A&P (*or comparable transfer science credits) (2 credits of advanced science (Honors Bio, Honors, Chemistry, Honors A&P, or Honors Physical Science)
History	4	Required: MS Studies, Intro to Geography, World History, US History, American Government., and Economics. (*or comparable transfer science credits)
Advanced Electives	2	Spanish I & II
General Electives	2 ½	
Fine Art	1	
Computer App.	½	
Total	22	20 credits must be academic credits

*Bible is required each year at Columbus Christian Academy. Students gain 1 credit each year for Bible courses in 9th – 12th grade that count toward general electives.

*Students gain .5 credits for varsity athletics for each year of participation.

Carnegie units may be awarded in 8th grade for Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Foreign Language, Mississippi Studies, World Geography, and entry level computer.

Class of 2026 & Class of 2027 Honors Track

College Prep		
English	4	
Math	4	Required: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
Science	4	Required: Biology I
History	4	Required: US History, American Government., and Economics.
Foreign language	1	Spanish I
General Electives	2.5	
Advanced Elective	1	See 7th-12th Counselor
Fine Art	1	
Computer App.	½	
Total	22	20 credits must be academic credits

Honors		
English	4	Required: Dual Credit English Comp I & II
Math	4	Required: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus/Trig with 2 credits being higher math (Options: Honors Alg II, Precal/Trig)
Science	4	Required: Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Human A&P (*or comparable transfer science credits) (2 credits of advanced science (Honors Bio, Honors, Chemistry, Honors A&P, or Honors Physical Science)
History	4	Required: MS Studies, Intro to Geography, World History, US History, American Government., and Economics. (*or comparable transfer science credits)
Advanced Electives	2	Spanish I & II
General Electives	2 ½	
Fine Art	1	
Computer App.	½	
Total	22	20 credits must be academic credits

Bible is required each year at Columbus Christian Academy. Students gain 1 credit for each year of Bible courses in 9th-12th grade that count toward their general electives.

GRADUATION HONORS

Honor Graduates

To graduate from Columbus Christian Academy with Honors a student must:

- Complete the Honors Graduation Track
- Maintain an overall grade average of 90 or better

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

- Student must meet all the qualifications of being an Honor Graduate.
- Student must attend and receive grades from CCA for the final six consecutive semesters
- Only grades from CCA will be used. Grades for course work taken outside Columbus Christian Academy will be used in calculating a student's graduation credits and GPA; however, these grades will not be used in the calculation for class rank.
- Class rank will be determined by the highest weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4-point scale.
- If GPA is tied, then highest weighted numeric average will be used.
- Students with a long-term illness or incapacitation will not be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian.
- Students serving OSS (out of school suspension) at any time during the senior year will not be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Columbus Christian Academy National Honor Society Qualifications

PERSONAL - The student who obtains membership:

- Must be a member of the sophomore, junior, or senior class
- Must have been in attendance at CCA High School for one semester
- Must be a professing Christian and active member of a church
- Must present his salvation testimony in writing
- Must have a recommendation by his pastor

SCHOLARSHIP – The student who exhibits scholarship:

- Is working toward a college preparatory diploma in graduation Track II
- Has a minimum scholastic average of 90 percent
- To graduate with National Honor Society distinction the student must complete the Honors Graduate Track

LEADERSHIP – The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative and integrity
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibilities, conducting business effectively, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted

SERVICE - The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
- Participates in some outside activity such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged, or family duties

- Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance; is gladly available and willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaining
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

CHARACTER – The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honest and reliability
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness in Christian behavior both inside and outside the school
- Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Expresses genuine repentance at any wrongdoing and forgiveness toward others

Attendance

Columbus Christian Academy complies with the Compulsory Education Law (Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 37-13-91). Regular daily attendance at school is the responsibility of each student and his/her parents or guardians. **Students absent for any reason (excused, unexcused, or pre-arranged) for more than 20 days during the school year may be retained. Exceptions concerning a prolonged illness will be open for review by the school administration. (See Long Term Illness or Incapacitation)**

Absences

Excused absences are given for illness of a student or serious illness in the immediate family, death, or funeral in the immediate family, or a court summons. Other absences may be excused by the administration.

Each excuse should be verified by a doctor's statement, parent's phone call, or direct parent contact.

A student who is absent from school all day or a half of the day on the day of an interscholastic game, event or practice will be ineligible to participate unless approved by the Administrator.

Each student's daily and period attendance record is accessible to parents through FACTS Family Portal. Upon return from an absence, a student must verify with the school office their absence has been excused

Policy of Leaving School

Students are not allowed to leave the campus during school hours without permission from the administrator. Columbus Christian Academy reserves the right to approve or disapprove dismissals.

Early Dismissal Students

Columbus Christian Academy gives students in grades 10-12 the privilege of leaving school each day at the end of his/her scheduled academic classes. If a student leaves school/campus during a scheduled class time, he/she will be suspended.

All students must have a signed Early Dismissal Form on file at the school in order to leave before 3:05 p.m.

Early dismissal students returning for extra-curricular activities should report directly to the coach or sponsor of that activity. The privilege of Early Dismissal may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the administration.

Early Dismissal students are subject to the same academic requirements as full day students for participation in after-school events.

Early Dismissal students are required to attend all assemblies and class meetings.

Sign-Out

Parents of students needing to leave school during the day are requested to call the office by 8:30 a.m. and make arrangements for the student to be dismissed early. Students are then to sign-out before being officially dismissed from school. A student may sign-out if permission has been granted by the Administrator. We encourage each parent to arrange dental and doctor appointments after school.

Parents who come to school to pick up a student must come by the office and the office staff will get your student. Parents are not to go to the classrooms. The office staff will also deliver any necessities that are brought to a student.

Arrival after 8:00 a.m. – Sign-In

If a student arrives at school at any time after 8:00 a.m., he/she must check by the office and sign-in. Any student leaving during the day and returning must also sign back in through the office.

Make-Up Work

Students are responsible to schedule make-up work with their teachers within 5 days of a missed absence. If a student misses assigned work, the student must work out a satisfactory timetable for

making up the missed work with the teacher. **Failure to make up work within the satisfactory timetable will result in as the assignment being marked as “Missing” and calculated as a zero.**

Make-Up Tests Policy and Time Period

Failure to take assigned tests, turn in assigned projects, or complete missing assignments in the make-up time frame will subject to late grade policies.

It is the responsibility of the student to schedule make-up work with each teacher.

Tardiness

Punctuality is expected of all students. It is the RESPONSIBILITY of the STUDENT to arrive at school and be in class on time throughout the day.

Tardy Policy

Teachers and students have the right to uninterrupted instructional time by students who come to class late. This offense will not be tolerated. Any student arriving after the bell will receive a TARDY for that class.

Procedure

- Students are allowed five (5) minutes to move from one class to another.
- A tardy bell will sound to signal the end of the class exchange. When this bell rings, the teacher will close and lock the door.
- Any student not in the classroom will receive a tardy.

Consequences

Offenses within each nine-week grading period:

1st Tardy – Warning

2nd Tardy – Parent notified & lunch detention issued.

3rd Tardy – Teacher assigns lunch detention. **Teacher notifies parent on the same day detention is assigned.**

4th Tardy – Lunch detention and exam exemption forfeited.

GENERAL BEHAVIORAL POLICIES

(all grades)

Students at CCA are held to a high moral and ethical behavior. Behavioral expectations encompass a wide range of areas, from academic integrity to personal conduct. The following list gives students and parents some general guidelines of the school's expectations but is not considered to be exhaustive of issues that may be deemed beyond the scope of acceptable behaviors. The Head of School and Elementary Administrator are authorized to institute the appropriate disciplinary action including immediate suspension, if warranted, of any student for disorderly conduct, or misconduct including **but not limited** to the following.

Unacceptable Behaviors

- Inappropriate comments (including comments made on social media)
- Inappropriate displays of affection - *Physical contact between students on school property or during school activities must be avoided for the purpose of maintaining an exemplary testimony for the students and for the school ministry. Public known, non-school connected, sinful behavior on the part of Columbus Christian Academy students may result in probation, expulsion, or some other disciplinary action depending on the severity of the behavior. Columbus Christian Academy students are identified with CCA even during the hours when they are not in school.*
- Inappropriate gestures
- Profanity - written, spoken, drawn, or otherwise communicated.
- Suggestive language
- Distribution of obscene, violent, or threatening material
- Fighting
- Any offense punishable by law
- Any other activity that is not representative of a Christian school student

Academic Dishonesty

If a teacher, including any online course teacher, has sufficient reason to believe that a CCA student has plagiarized, received information dishonestly, or given information in attempt to aid another student to be dishonest on assignments, the teacher must determine the level of academic dishonesty. Punishments can range from a grade reduction to a grade of "0" being given for the assignment. Students found to be guilty of plagiarism or other academically dishonest acts may also be suspended. Repeated violations will be dealt with more severely,

Members of the National Honor Society students and Student Government group are expected to maintain a reputation of integrity and set the moral standard of honesty and hard work. Any student that is a member of these organizations and is found to be in violation academic dishonesty will be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year. Members found in violation for a second offense will be heard by a committee made up of faculty members and administration to determine the necessity for removal from the organization.

Plagiarism Policy

The faculty at Columbus Christian Academy is committed to teaching students how to become ethical users of information and ideas. It is our responsibility not only to educate students in the research process and mechanics of writing and proper documentation, but also to hold these

students accountable for honest work. Whether an assigned project is in visual, written, or spoken format, students are expected to accurately reference all sources of information consulted for the project. Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will not be tolerated by Columbus Christian Academy or any other institution of higher learning. It is an expectation that all departments and students adhere to and enforce this policy.

Definition of Plagiarism

- Copying of another person's ideas and/or works, whether intentional or not, in whole or part, from a print or non-print source and using those ideas or works as your own.
- Deliberate and/or consistent lack of proper documentation and citation in the project or paper.
- In-text documentation that is not reflected in the Works Cited page.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in school assignment

The faculty and administration of CCA is committed to learn and understand best uses of AI technology in education. While there may be some acceptable uses for this tool, when a student submits work created by artificial intelligence as his/her own work, it is considered plagiarism.

Student Responsibilities

- Submit authentic work.
- Follow the project instructions and deadlines assigned by the teacher.
- Ask questions and seek help from appropriate persons.
- Cite in-text or in-project sources correctly and accurately.
- Format Works Cited pages correctly and accurately.

Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive behavior, or disturbances will not be tolerated at Columbus Christian Academy during school, school functions, or any school sponsored events. Consequences for violations shall be determined by the Administration. Verbal or written threats toward students or staff will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely by the Administration.

Student Conduct at School Sponsored Events

Students should always display good sportsmanship when attending an event. The visiting team and officials are our guests and should be treated as such. CCA spectators are to cheer for their own team and not against anyone else.

Students should remember that when attending school functions or school sponsored events, on or off the Columbus Christian Academy campus, that they will be expected to follow the same code of conduct that is applied during a regular school day. Possession and use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and drugs are prohibited. Students found to be in violation of these rules will face severe disciplinary action.

Harassment

Harassment is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Harassment may be physical, verbal, sexual, or electronic.

Physical Harassment:

- Hitting, punching, jostling, pushing, spitting, or sexual abuse
- Frightening others by threatening these actions against them.
- Hiding, damaging, or destroying the property of others

Non-physical Harassment:

- Name calling or ridiculing others.
- Using offensive names, making suggestive comments or other forms of sexual harassment
- Using abusive language to others
- Making degrading comments about another's race, culture, gender, religious or social background.
- Ridiculing a person or making derogatory comments about his/her body, face, or clothing
- Writing derogatory graffiti about others
- Writing crude notes or crude drawings about others
- Spreading rumors about people or their families
- Belittling another person's abilities and achievements
- Making hurtful comments or posts on social media that cause a disruption during school or during school functions.

We are committed to providing a friendly, caring, and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Harassment of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Columbus Christian Academy. If harassment does occur, students are encouraged to tell a teacher or administrator so that the incident may be dealt with promptly. Students found to be guilty of harassment will face consequences as severe as suspension or even expulsion.

Gang Insignia

Gang Insignias, Signs, Drawings, Pictures or Related Activity will not be tolerated.

If it is determined that the student is involved in disruptive activity or has an undesirable behavior that is directly attributed to gang affiliation, the student may be expelled.

- 1st offense - A parent conference and in-school suspension.
- 2nd offense –The student may be expelled.

Fighting

(See Physical Harassment)

Sexual Integrity

Columbus Christian Academy upholds a traditional Biblical view of sexual morality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). Columbus Christian Academy (CCA) is a school for students who are unmarried and who live at home with their Parent(s). CCA upholds a traditional Biblical view of sexual morality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). Students shall not engage in inappropriate sexual behavior (including but not limited to premarital sexual relations, homosexual, bisexuality, or transgender related actions) on or off campus. Violation of this policy will result in either probation, suspension, exclusion, a request that the student be withdrawn from the school, or a recommendation of expulsion. The sanctions will be agreed upon by the CCA Administration

and School Board Executive Committee.

Students or Parents who disrupt the school environment by advocating the acceptance of inappropriate sexual practices or beliefs (including but not limited to premarital sexual relations, homosexuality, bisexuality or transgender related actions or advocacy of such) are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion of the student or students.

The School Administration reserves the right to use its own discretion to determine, on a case-by-case basis, what constitutes sexually inappropriate behavior or advocacy and what constitutes disruption of the school environment. The Administration also reserves the right to make inquiries of students and Parents regarding these issues. (Romans 1:27, Leviticus 18:22, Matthew 19:4-6, Genesis 1:27, Deuteronomy 22:5, I Corinthians 6:9-10)

Pregnancy

A girl who becomes pregnant while she is a student at CCA will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in extracurricular activities. Every attempt will be made to encourage the girl to give birth to the child. A program of home study utilizing video instruction monitored by the administration will be established to assist the student in completing the present year of education. (*See Outside Curriculum) If the father is also a CCA student, the same restrictions and opportunities for home study will be applicable to him. Counseling will be offered to both individuals and to their families. Neither party will be considered for readmission until the semester following the semester in which delivery occurred.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Columbus Christian Academy is committed to maintaining an academic environment in which all individuals treat each other with dignity and respect, and which is free from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, and harassment, including sexual harassment. Columbus Christian Academy is prepared to take action to prevent and correct any violations of this policy. Anyone who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the work or educational setting, under any of the following conditions: Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's academic status or progress. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of academic decisions affecting the individual. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through this school.

Examples of Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual conduct of this type can include a wide range of verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Among the types of conduct that would violate this policy are the following: Unwanted sexual advances or propositions; pressure for sexual activity; Offering academic benefits in exchange for sexual favors; Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances; Visual conduct such as leering, making sexual gestures, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, calendars, or posters; Verbal conduct such as making or using derogatory comments, epithets, name-calling, slurs and jokes; Spreading sexual

rumors; Sexual threats, demands, teasing, taunting; Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body; Sexually degrading words used to describe an individual; whistling or catcalls; suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations; passing of pornographic material; Physical conduct such as touching, poking, pinching, patting, sexual grabbing, bumping; assaulting, impeding or blocking movements; Pulling clothes, or snapping bras.

What to Do if You Experience or Observe Sexual Harassment

Students who feel that they have been subjected to conduct of a harassing nature are encouraged to promptly report the matter to one of the school officials. Students who observe conduct of a sexually harassing nature are also encouraged to report the matter to one of the school officials. All complaints will be promptly investigated in a manner deemed appropriate. A written report of the incident will be maintained in a confidential file.

Confidentiality

Every effort will be made to reasonably protect the privacy of the parties involved in any complaint. However, the school reserves the right to fully investigate every complaint, and to notify a student's parent, guardian, and appropriate government officials as the circumstances warrant.

Protection Against Retaliation

It is against the school's policy to discriminate or retaliate against any person who has filed a complaint concerning sexual harassment or has testified, assisted or participated in any manner in any investigation proceeding or hearing concerning sexual harassment. If the investigation confirms the allegations, prompt corrective actions shall be taken. The individual who suffered the harassing conduct shall be informed of the corrective action taken. In addition, any employee or student found to be responsible for sexual harassment in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. The severity of the disciplinary action will be based upon the circumstances of the infraction.

Respect

Being insubordinate or showing disrespect toward a teacher, school employee, student, or guest of Columbus Christian Academy will not be tolerated. Students who are disrespectful will be assigned detention. If a student is repeatedly or extremely disrespectful, the student will be given ISS, and the student and parents must meet with the Administrator before the student is readmitted to class. Any student who continues to show disrespect after receiving ISS will be given OSS.

Transportation

The following are rules and regulations that govern transportation in a school-owned vehicle.

- No products containing peanuts or tree nuts
- No standing while vehicle is in operation.
- Nothing is to be outside of vehicle (i.e., hands, arms, clothing, etc.)
- No trash to be thrown out of windows.
- Trash must be placed in trash containers provided.
- No feet on seats or on backs of seats.
- No climbing over seats.
- No sitting on backs of seats.
- No rider forward of the rear of the driver's seat.
- No one is to be allowed in driver's area.

- Riders will be responsible for any acts of vandalism.
- Riders may not open emergency exits except in emergency situations.

NOTE: Passengers of school-owned vehicles may lose their privilege of riding in a school owned vehicle. Each driver is properly licensed to drive the vehicle, properly trained, and insured.

Theft

Columbus Christian Academy does not condone the taking or possessing of another's personal property. This includes "borrowing" or hiding of another's books, notebooks, pens, pencils, calculators, book bags, etc. without permission. Anyone involved in such activities will be given corrective punishment.

Vandalism

Vandalism will not be tolerated. Students guilty of vandalism of school property or another person's property must make restitution for damages and face appropriate punishment deemed by the administration. Damages to textbooks will be considered vandalism.

Acts of vandalism toward school personnel will not be tolerated. Any student participating in acts of vandalism or malicious mischief toward a school employee or an employee's immediate family, or their property, will face severe disciplinary action.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments.

Students shall not possess, handle, or transmit knives, razors, ice picks, explosives, fireworks, cigarette lighters, matches, pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, or any other object that can be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument or any contraband materials. Consequences for violations shall be determined by the Administration.

Tobacco and Smoking

Possession or use of tobacco and simulated tobacco in all forms (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, pipes, blunts, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and all other electronic smoking devices) is prohibited on all CCA property (including but not limited to all buildings, grounds, parking areas, walkways, and sports fields) and vehicles owned or leased by CCA, as well as any spaces where school-sponsored or school-related activities are held. Violation of this code will result in ISS. Repeated violations of this policy will be dealt with more severely.

Drugs and Alcohol

No student shall possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or other intoxicant. No student shall possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of an illegal drug substitute, herbal smoking blends, or synthetic drugs. These include but are not limited to K2 and Spice. Substances represented to be a drug, or an alcoholic beverage shall be treated as drugs or alcohol for the purpose of student discipline. The same applies to the selling, or transferring of alcohol, drugs, or other illegal substances at a school-sponsored activity whether on or off campus. Such activity will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. The specific discipline will be as follows:

For a student's first offense, the student shall be suspended for 3 days. As a condition of continued attendance, the student will be required to attend counseling and be subject to random drug testing at the discretion of the administrator.

For a student's second offense within 24 months of the student's first offense, the student will be expelled. The parents or legal guardians of a student expelled under this policy shall not be entitled to a refund of any fees or tuition.

Students' personal effects which are on school premises, including automobiles operated or parked on school premises may be inspected at the discretion of school administration, which may include the assistance of the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or K-9 units.

Weapons

Columbus Christian Academy recognizes that the possession of firearms or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to employees, students, visitors, and guests and further creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of damage to properties of employees, students, visitors, and guests. Because of such dangers, Columbus Christian Academy prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms, or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or a school function, regardless of whether such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms, or weapons.

Snacks, Drinks, Gum & Candy

All food, gum, candy, and drinks (other than water) shall be kept in the cafeteria. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a detention unless prior permission is given by the Administration.

Parking Lots

Students may not sit in or on their cars at any time. Common courtesy dictates that we respect other people's property as well. When students arrive on campus, they should leave the parking lot as quickly as possible. **Students are not allowed in the parking lot during school hours.**

DISCIPLINE CODE

Since lifelong success depends in part on self-discipline, CCA has developed a school discipline code to provide each student with accountability in making wise decisions about his/her behavior. Disciplinary actions of the school are intended to provide an opportunity to learn in a positive, nurturing school environment. Students deserve the most positive educational climate possible for his/her growth, and we know that accountability and parent partnership with the school will create the needed atmosphere for students to be successful in learning.

Columbus Christian Academy's Philosophy of Discipline

CCA believes that discipline is one of the bases of learning. Therefore, the school insists upon socially acceptable behavior and commit to holding students accountable in a way that is restorative and conducive to making best choices for themselves. This school believes that home

and school should work together for the good of the child and that all programs must be evaluated constantly in the light of accomplishment.

Types of Disciplinary Action

Columbus Christian Academy's disciplinary program is incremental in nature. Any particular behavior, which comes after a sequence of prior infractions, may be addressed in a manner more severe than it may have been addressed as an initial offense. Repeated violations of minor infractions may indicate a student's stance of defiance; therefore, the defiance becomes the cause for discipline.

The following are types of disciplinary action used by the Administration at Columbus Christian Academy:

1. Warnings
2. Loss of Privileges
3. Lunch Detention
4. Afternoon Detention
5. In-School Suspension
6. Out-of-School Suspension
7. Permanent Expulsion

Specific punishment for unacceptable behavior will be determined by the Administration and faculty for each classroom. These consequences will be explained to all students and posted in each classroom. The level of punishment will increase in severity if the inappropriate behavior continues.

It is the Administration's intention to keep parents informed of disciplinary action. Parents will be contacted via phone, email, or both if a student is required to visit the office and receives some form of disciplinary action.

Detention

Lunch Detention – Students must serve the required 25 minutes in the designated detention classroom. No electronic devices will be accessible by students during this time.

Afternoon Detention – Students must serve 65 minutes in the designated detention classroom. No electronic devices will be accessible by students during this time. Afternoon detention may include campus clean-up and duties outside of the classroom.

After a student has been assigned to three lunch detentions in a nine-week term will automatically be given Afternoon Detention. Students in Afternoon Detention are eligible to participate in extra-curriculars after school dismissal.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

In-school suspension will be assigned by the Administrator. Parents will be notified. Before the suspension, the student is responsible for gathering the necessary textbooks and notebooks to complete all assignments. The student will be allowed to complete all work during the period of the suspension, but this work must be turned in at the end of each day of ISS.

Students given ISS more than one time during the school year is ineligible for exam exemption.

ISS results in a \$60 fine to the family of the student. Students serving ISS will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity including practices.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Students who repeatedly violate (or commit a severe violation of) the rules and regulations will be subject to suspension from school for a period determined at the Administration's discretion by the severity of the act. The student will be allowed to complete all work during the period of the suspension and all make-up work must be handed in the day the student is re-admitted to class.

Students serving OSS will not be allowed to be exempt from exams.

Students serving OSS will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities or practices for the duration of the suspension.

Any student who is suspended from Columbus Christian Academy is not allowed to attend any CCA School activity/event or be on campus at any time until such suspension ends.

Expulsion

In the event of a severe offense, the repetition of suspension-producing offenses, or the breach of disciplinary probation a student will be subject to expulsion. Should such an occasion arise, the Head of School will issue expulsion to the student.

*Any student expelled from Columbus Christian Academy is not allowed to attend any CCA School activity/event at minimum for the current school year, but the time frame may be extended based on the severity of the incident or the cooperation of the student.

COLUMBUS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DRUG PREVENTION POLICY

There are several biblical principles that place drug use well outside the realm of acceptable behavior. Christians are to respect and obey the laws of the land (Ecclesiastes 8:2-5; Matthew 22:21; 23:2-3; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17) and Christians are required to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us (Matthew 25:14-30). This includes our earthly bodies. Illicit drug use is an extremely effective way to destroy your health, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. In summary, the Bible teaches us that "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

Therefore, Columbus Christian Academy has adopted the following drug prevention policy.

CCA reserves the right to require anyone suspected of using illegal drugs or alcohol to be tested at any time. CCA reserves the right to search all vehicles, containers, lockers, or other items on school property in furtherance of this policy. Individuals may be requested to display personal property for visual inspection upon request. Individuals may be required to empty their pockets, but no student will be required to remove articles of clothing they are wearing to be physically searched. A student's refusal for visual inspection may result in suspension or expulsion as determined by the administrator.

1. Purpose of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Policy
 - a. To protect the Christian witness of CCA
 - b. To deter and prevent drug usage
 - c. To identify persons associated with CCA who may be using illegal drugs
 - d. To ensure any drug use is recognized, addressed, and treated
 - e. To promote the health and academic progress of each student
2. Participants
 - a. Administrators, employees, volunteers, and the Board of Directors will be tested randomly.
 - b. All students enrolled in grades 7-12 will be required to participate in the drug-screening program. Students may be selected at random at any point during the school year. Consent to the student's participation is a condition of the enrollment contract.
 - c. Any student who refuses to participate will be dismissed from the school immediately.
3. Testing Procedure
 - a. CCA may utilize a company such as DFS (Drug Free Schools) to provide an economical, efficient, and effective drug testing program.
 - b. Companies may provide on-site screening for amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, oxycodone, PCP, Propoxyphene, synthetic marijuana, and bath salts.
 - c. Positive results will be sent to the laboratory for further testing.
 - d. The primary method of testing is urine, but hair analysis may also be utilized.
4. Cost
 - a. Drug screening will be funded through the cost of tuition as assessed by the Board of Directors.
 - b. Individuals who test positive will be responsible for all costs associated with a positive screening including, but not limited to consultation and retesting.
5. Consequences

All samples showing a positive result will automatically be retested by the testing laboratory immediately to assure that no error has occurred. The second test will be a more specific test. If the first positive result is verified and confirmed, the following steps will be taken:

a. First Positive Result

- i. A board member, administrator, employee, or volunteer with a confirmed positive drug screening shall be immediately terminated from CCA. In such event, the employee's salary will be terminated.
- ii. The administrator will inform parents that their child tested positive and that a MRO (Medical Review Officer) will be in contact with them to interpret the test results.
- iii. The student must then be evaluated by a professional consultant or counselor. The professional treatment plan must be successfully completed. The cost of the evaluation and treatment program will be at the parents' expense. Failure to enroll in and/or complete the requirements of the treatment plan will result in the student's immediate dismissal, and he/she may not apply for readmission until the successful completion of an approved treatment plan and the beginning of the succeeding school year.
- iv. The student will be required to be tested again at the time the drug should be clear from the body. The timeframe will be determined by the MRO. The cost of testing will be paid by the parent. Failure to comply with the retesting mandate within the specified timeframe will result in the student's immediate dismissal from CCA, and he/she may not apply for readmission until the beginning of the next school year.
- v. At the next scheduled drug testing, the student would automatically appear on the random testing roster.
- vi. A positive result may affect a student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. The administrator will use discretion based on the totality of the circumstances.

b. Second Positive Result

- i. The administrator will inform the parents that their child tested positive and that an MRO will be in contact with them to interpret the test results.
- ii. A second positive drug screening will result in the student's immediate dismissal from CCA. In such event, the payer of said student shall not be entitled to reimbursement of fees or tuition previously paid.
- iii. A confirmed positive result remains in effect throughout the student's enrollment at CCA. It is not abolished upon grade completion. In the event a student is dismissed from CCA for violation of the drug testing policy, the payer of said student shall not be entitled to reimbursement of fees or tuition previously paid.

Student's Responsibilities and Rights

- I. Privacy: The administration recognizes that all students possess the constitutional right to be secure in their persons, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. The administration seeks to assure a climate in the school, which is appropriate for school, and which assures the safety and welfare of personnel and students. To assist the administration in achieving and maintaining these goals, students and school officials are advised of the following:

Search and Seizure: According to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, “a student may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated either the law or the rules of the school.” A particular student’s effects are also subject to being searched by school officials and are subject to the same rule. Effects may include automobiles located on school property.

Student lockers, desks, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over the school property, and a student should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school property. School property is subject to search at any time by school officials.

The scope of the search must be “reasonably related” to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

In the event where reasonable belief of information on a student cell phone or other personal electronic device is believed to be in violation of the law or school policy, the students’ parents/guardians will be contacted or an appropriate law enforcement agency.