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WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Grace Christian Elementary School. It is an honor and privilege to work hand in hand with you as we share the responsibility of providing a Christian education for your children.

This handbook has been assembled by the administration to give parents and students general guidelines and information concerning the organization and administration of our school. Please read the information carefully with your child and keep it for future reference and information as needed.

History - Grace Christian School began as the result of Pastor and Mardel Watterud's vision as they were elected to the position of Senior Pastor at Gladstone Assembly of God. At that time, there was an existing preschool known as Kiddie Kampus. Their vision soon grew to a full elementary and Jr. High program. With the addition of two modular buildings, the school was able to complete the vision and expand the educational program through the high school grades.

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Grace Christian School is to develop students into men and women whose lives glorify our Lord and Savior through their commitment to righteousness, their knowledge of truth, and their heart for service of God and their fellow man.

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of Grace Christian School to provide a distinctively Christian academic environment for its students.

Grace Christian seeks:

1. To direct each student toward spiritual growth in academic and personal excellence
2. To train young people to function in the world as discerning Christians, capable of sharing their faith in Jesus Christ and able to perceive and express that faith in their daily lives
3. To provide a challenging and supportive setting that fully integrates knowledge and faith
4. To provide, in alliance with family and church, an atmosphere in which young people can "grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52)

SCHOOL SCRIPTURE VERSE

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

SCHOOL THEME SONG

I want to strike a match
Let it burn 'til the world's on fire
I want to see a chain reaction
And see the flames burn higher
I want to see Your Word alive
I want to see the orphans laughing
Want to see the sinners cry
Surrounded by the hands of mercy
The hands of mercy, so

Shine, love is an action
Shine, oh, it starts with a passion
'Cause we want to be a heart that's pure
So all will see that we are Yours
Shine

And though it starts with one
There will be a million candles
There will be millions more
Singing with the tongues of angels
The light of Heaven falling down
Spreading love to the darkest places
I want to strike a match
And watch it bring salvation
I'm gonna lift my light up high

Christian lyrics - [SHINE \(LOVE IS AN ACTION\) LYRICS - LUMINATE](#)

PHILOSOPHY

Colossians 1:16, 17 states "For by Him (Jesus Christ) all things were created; things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." This is the source of our philosophy. Providing a distinctively Christian academic environment implies a commitment to excellence both in administration and instruction.

Administrative Excellence requires:

★Fiscal Management

★Personnel selection

★Leadership consistent with the school's purpose.

★The understanding that there is an important difference between Christian and secular approaches to education

★That education must be God-centered, thus a conscious effort is made to view every area of life as God sees it. The knowledge our students acquire will take on significance and meaning only when related to God's Word.

★That our educational programs and methods of instruction be dependent on a Biblical philosophy to provide viewpoint, general background truth, and principles for interpreting facts in the study of any subject.

★Students to understand all viewpoints within each academic discipline, to know not only what they believe, but why they believe it, what they don't believe, and why they don't believe it. It is only through critical thinking and analysis that students will be truly prepared to "give a reason for the hope that is in them". We believe that the truth should be vigorously pursued at every opportunity.

Understanding these goals, Grace Christian School staff members must:

1. Be committed to furthering the vision, mission, core values and philosophy of GCS.
2. Pass a Criminal background check yearly
3. Complete CAPT (Child Abuse Prevention Training) class yearly.
4. Have the opportunity for CPR training and diabetic training every other year.
5. Be a regular church attendee (generally speaking, at least 3 Sundays per month).
6. Live a lifestyle that models that of a committed Christian.
7. Believe that they are called to the ministry of **teaching**.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

According to the Biblical mandate, parents are responsible for the training of their children (Deut 6:1-7; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4). Grace Christian School serves as a partner with parents in providing an excellent education consistent with this biblical truth. Harmony between home and school provides the best environment for Godly training to take place. Therefore, a commitment to our school is essential to the partnering relationship to be successful. (Please refer to the Parental Agreement you signed upon enrolling.) We seek to nurture development of the following essential character traits in the lives of our students.

Integrity - Maintaining a lifestyle that is above reproach.

Respect - An attitude that highly esteems those in properly placed authority.

Obedience - The outworking of the attitude of respect.

Self-Discipline - The ability to control one's thoughts and actions.

Godly Living - A lifestyle that exhibits the fruit of the Spirit and flees from the acts of our sinful nature.

Wisdom - Understanding what is true from God's perspective and doing what is

right.

Responsibility - Being dependable and accountable in all relationships and tasks.

Thankfulness - Developing an attitude of gratefulness.

Service - Demonstrating a spirit of humility in focusing on the needs of others.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe:

- The Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible and authoritative Word of God.
- There is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return to power and glory.
- In the absolute necessity of repentance and regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, that are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and that only by God's grace through faith we are saved.
- In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- In the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by indwelling the Christian, enabling him to live a Godly life.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are a result of our philosophy and will determine the policies and programs of our institution:

Biblical Objectives

- To teach that God is the author of all Truth and develop a desire to know and obey God's will as revealed in the Scriptures.
- To teach the doctrines of the Bible as reflected in our Statement of Faith.
- To develop an understanding of the Christian's role in evangelism, in discipleship, and in fellowship within the local church.
- To teach the biblical view of sin and temptation.
- To encourage godliness through pursuit of the mind of Christ.
- To help each student develop and adopt a Christian world-view by integrating faith, learning and knowledge.

Academic Objectives

- To develop the individual's potential academic abilities by promoting high academic standards.
- To encourage students to use productive study habits.
- To teach skills in independent research, logical reasoning, and critical thinking.
- To motivate students to pursue areas of personal interest and to develop their God-given talents and creative skills.
- To encourage adoption of biblical principles as the basis for value judgments
- To promote responsible and productive citizenship

Personal Objectives

- To teach biblical perspectives toward interpersonal relationships
- To teach the value of using time effectively as a faithful steward of God's resources.
- To teach each student the necessity of forming personal convictions before God and to respect the same of others.
- To teach an appreciation of building relationships in marriage and the family, pursuant to one's commitment to Christ-like living.

AFFILIATIONS

Grace Christian School is a ministry of Gladstone Assembly of God church in Gladstone, Oregon. It is our position that as a church ministry the school should be free to operate without government entanglement.

Our school is a member of the Discover Christian Schools organization which seeks to promote Christian principles and education throughout the United States.

DESIRED PROFILE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

- Has committed his/her life to Jesus Christ and desires to grow in relationship with Christ and others.
- Demonstrates his/her relationship with Christ through actions, attitudes and words.
- Demonstrates an understanding of and respect for God and His Word.
- Believes that respect for authority is a biblical mandate and demonstrates a desire to be respectful in all his/her relationships.
- Has a genuine desire to be at Grace Christian School
- Willing to accept and adhere to school guidelines with a cheerful spirit and an attitude that communicates a desire to comply.
- Displays a sense of self-discipline and accepts responsibility well
- Internally motivated to do his/her best at all times
- has a desire for self-improvement
- believes that honesty is of utmost importance.

ADMISSION POLICY

Grace Christian School reserves the right to limit enrollment of students on the basis of academic performance and personal qualifications. The parents of all students admitted to GCS must be able to support in writing the philosophy, objectives, and policies of the school.

The Administration reserves the right to withhold acceptance of any student if, after transcripts/records review and interview, it is felt that the school is not equipped to educate the student or augment the home.

Enrollment in Grace Christian School is dependent on available space, the academic level of the student, the recommendation of the individuals acquainted with the student, and the student and parent's willingness to cooperate with and support the school's policies and procedures. GCS admits students regardless of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin. Grace Christian reserves the right to administer the school's policies and programs in accordance with a mission to teach and model evangelical biblical beliefs, ethics, and standards.

Prior discipline problems, and/or suspensions or expulsions from another school, may disqualify a student from being accepted at Grace Christian School. Any information revealed after acceptance that would have kept the student from being admitted, as determined by the school administration, will result in the student being denied continued attendance.

All student enrollment is based upon meeting all financial obligations, space availability and other admissions policy requirements.

Requirements for admission

- Registration fees must be paid and are non-refundable.
- Applicants must secure a Student Application packet (school office or website). Upon completion, all forms must be submitted to the school office .
- The Parent/Student handbook must be read by both the parents and the students. Parents and students must sign an agreement to support the philosophy, policies, goals, and discipline of Grace Christian School.

WITHDRAWAL

Parents who desire to withdraw student(s) from the school must notify the school office and Administration before students are no longer attending classes. The office will prepare the necessary withdrawal forms for the parents. The student is considered a full-time student whether in attendance or not until the formal withdrawal process has been completed.

No student records or official transcripts will be forwarded to another school until the withdrawal process is completed, all books and school property are returned and any account balances owing are paid in full or payment arrangements have been made with the administration.

SCHOOL HOURS

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of the academic program to ensure consistent learning. It is also necessary for compliance with Oregon State law.

School begins at 8:30 am and is dismissed at 2:50 pm, Monday through Friday. Changes to this schedule will be made public information in time for planning (i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, or other early dismissals). A yearly schedule of events is available on the school website: <http://gcs.gladstoneaog.org>.

Please do not bring your students to school earlier than 8:15 or pick them up later than 15 minutes after dismissal time. We do not have personnel to monitor students outside of our regular school hours. If you are going to be late, please notify the school office.

After-school policy

Students are not allowed to stay on school grounds after regular hours unless pre-arrangements have been made with the administration or teaching staff.

Written permission

Written permission is required, from both the rider's and driver's parent/guardian, in order for students to ride home with anyone other than authorized drivers.

VISITORS

All visitors to the school must enter through the main building front door, check in at the main office and receive a name tag. For protection of the school community, persons who cannot demonstrate a legitimate reason for their presence on school property will not be allowed to remain and may be charged with trespassing if refusing to leave. Friends and/or relatives are not allowed to attend school with GCS students without prior approval through the teacher and administration.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

The school will send home notes with the oldest child of each family concerning upcoming events and/or changes to the calendar that are school-wide. An email update can also be provided if you have given your email address to the administrative office. All changes and events are also available on the school website.

PARENT COMMUNICATION AND CONFERENCES

If you have a concern about your student that you feel needs to be discussed with a teacher or staff member, please call the office to set up an appointment. Before and after school “drop ins” are discouraged as the teacher and staff are busy getting ready for class or dismissing students. Also, please be sensitive to teachers’ and administrators’ time off. Out of respect and concern for the personal lives of our GCS staff, we ask that you only call their homes in cases of true emergency (unless otherwise instructed.) Serious issues or emergencies are exceptions to this request for privacy.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Grace Christian School neither solicits nor accepts government funding of any type (funding is often followed by unacceptable controls). Therefore, to meet financial obligations, it is necessary that fees and tuition be paid when due.

Registration Fees:

Required for all students pre-K through 12th grade. The registration fee is non-refundable.

General Fund Fee

A general fund fee of \$250 is assessed to each family with one or more children enrolled in first grade or above. This is a per family fee not per child fee.

Tuition

What is tuition? Tuition is a yearly cost rate with payment options as follows:

Full year's tuition by the 1st of August (*5% discount)

Ten equal payments, the first payment due on August 1st, with each succeeding payment due on the 1st day of each month through May 1st

Twelve equal payments, the first payment due on July 1st, with each succeeding payment due on the first day of each month through June 1st

NOTE: Tuition payments do not fluctuate with holidays or with student absenteeism. For specific costs, please contact the school office.

Discounts:

There are several multiple child discounts that may apply. For details, contact the school office.

Late Fee:

Tuition payments are due on the 1st of each month. Payments made after the 10th are considered late and will be automatically assessed a \$25.00 late fee.

Mandatory Fees:

Fees will be assessed for the following:

Defacing school or church property (assessed according to damage)

Lost or damaged library, resource, or text books (book replacement cost).

Other fees:

Field trips (with admission fees); school pictures; special events or activities.

TELEPHONE USE

The school telephone is reserved for official school business, emergency and urgent calls only. If you need to use the phone, please receive permission from the teacher to go to the school office.

MEDICAL GUIDELINES/AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION

State health regulations require that we have certificates of state required vaccinations on files. If these are not kept up to date, the student will not be allowed to attend school until they are updated.

Since a sick student cannot learn or behave normally, GCS urges that they not return to school until they are well enough to participate in the total program of activities.

Required medications will be administered by the office personnel only. An **Authorization for Medication** form must be on file in the school office before any medication can be dispensed.

Communicable diseases

These procedures will be followed when there is good reason to believe that a student has a contagious and/or communicable disease:

1. Students will be sent to the school office.
2. Parents will be contacted and required to take the student home as soon as possible.
3. For some communicable disease (such as hepatitis), a doctor's release may be required for the student to return to school.
4. In the case of head lice, students will not be allowed to return to school until they have been treated with shampoo or creme rinse that kills lice and their eggs, and all nits have been removed from their hair. Students must check with the office upon returning to school.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND DRILLS

Fire Drills

The school is required to hold monthly fire drills. Teachers will explain the exit procedure from each classroom.

Should a fire drill occur between classes, students must go directly to the nearest exit and proceed immediately out of the building to the designated meeting place of their next class. Attendance will be taken.

Students are to remain outside until the all-clear signal is given.

Lock-down

Should a situation arise where an administrator determines an immediate lock-down is necessary, the following procedure will take place:

1. An all call will go out throughout the campus halls and outside areas directing students in halls or out doors to return immediately to their classrooms.
2. An all classroom call will follow directing teachers to secure their classrooms by closing doors and windows (including shades), moving students to areas of the classroom that are least visible from the windows, and turning off the lights.

Power Failure

In the event of a power failure during class time, students are to remain in the classroom until directions are given by the principal.

Should a power failure occur between classes, students are to go quietly and directly to their next class. Students must remain in the classroom until directions are given by the principal.

Other Emergencies (Acts of God)

Should an emergency situation such as extreme wind or thunderstorm occur, before or after school, all students on the school grounds should proceed to their classrooms. Administrators will give appropriate instructions.

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items should be turned in to the office. Items not claimed by the end of each quarter will be donated to a charitable organization.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Grace Christian School follows Gladstone public schools announcements for students in all twelve grades. If Gladstone public schools are closed, Grace Christian is closed. If Gladstone public schools are one hour late, GCS starts one hour late, etc. Please listen to local radio and television stations for specific closure information.

We understand that students come from areas outside of Gladstone and may not be comfortable with road conditions. For this reason, we ask that parents and students personally evaluate their situation before commuting to campus.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

If a book is lost or damaged and has to be replaced, the full price of the book will be charged to the student responsible for its loss. Vandalism of school or student property will not be tolerated. Restitution will be required.

CHAPEL

Weekly chapel is one of the avenues provided to meet the needs of the students in the area of Christian development. It is a time of corporate worship and reverence to the Lord. Chapel participation is required and includes the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with God and a spirit of prayer, worship, and Bible-based teaching. A Spiritual Emphasis week is included each fall to focus on spiritual growth of the students.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parent orientation through Open House, parent/teacher conferences, PTF meetings, etc. promote good understanding between parent/guardians, the faculty, and administration of the school. Every parent is encouraged to participate in these informative and helpful programs.

Parent volunteers are encouraged to participate in activities within their child's classroom, such as reading groups, grading daily work, field trips, classroom parties, etc. Parent volunteers will be asked to pass a background check yearly.

Financial gifts to the school for capital improvements, curriculum development and expansion help keep tuition from being prohibitive to families desirous of Christian education for their children. Gifts are tax deductible. In order for you to take advantage of the tax deduction, your financial gifts should be made out to Grace Christian School. Your help in donations and making this opportunity known to possible donors is appreciated.

Parent Teacher Fellowship

This voluntary organization is the official parent organization of the school. They meet September through June on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the school. This is a parent-coordinated effort to help with the many projects and needs of the school. Your participation is welcomed and appreciated.

Adopt-A-Room

Adopt -A-Room is designed that each class has a Head Room Parent (HRP) and one or two Room Coordinators (RC) volunteers. The HRP will serve as the primary contact to the school administration and the teacher.

Heart of The Servant

This program was established to increase family participation in helping the teachers provide a great education for our students. The program calls for each of the families to be involved in the life and education of their children through important volunteer efforts that help fulfill the mission of parents to “train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) Each family is encouraged to participate in this program. The program provides valuable assistance to our teachers and staff, enabling them to spend more time in classroom instruction.

PARKING, PICK UP, AND DROP OFF PROCEDURES

1. Parking is only allowed in the parking lot.
2. Absolutely, ***NO PARKING IN DRIVE THROUGH covered area***. This is for dropping off and picking up your child only.
3. Arrival Check Sheet:
 - ✓ If you need to come into the building, please park in the parking area and walk to the building
 - ✓ Do not block drive-through area.
4. Pick Up Check Sheet:
 - ✓ Teachers’ assistants will bring the children out to the covered area and put the children into the cars.
 - ✓ Please be prompt about picking up your child.
 - ✓ If someone other than you will be picking up your child, please give us the name of the person, the car description, and license plate number (if possible).
5. We encourage car pools.

6. During the first 2 weeks of school when picking up your children, hold up a sign with the names of those you are picking up. This assists us in matching cars/parents with the children.

STUDENT RE-ENROLLMENT

Preregistration for the coming school year is encouraged. Forms will be sent home the last week of January. Preregistration begins the first Monday of February for returning students and siblings. The registration fees are due at that time. This fee guarantees your child's re-enrollment to the fall classes. Current families who are re-enrolling are given first priority on a "space available" basis. The preregistration fee is non-refundable.

STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Students, from time to time, find it necessary to share with staff members on a personal basis. Students can expect confidentiality if requested prior to the sharing of personal information. Exceptions to this are when the information reported or shared by the student is:

- Life threatening
- Sexually or physically abusive in nature
- Serious information for which parents or guardians need to be made aware
- Illegal or against the law.

The above exceptions to confidentiality will be determined by the staff member or administration.

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

We believe the Scriptures establish the basic principles which should guide the development of Christian character and govern all Christian behavior. These include:

1. Respect and obedience to all staff members.
2. Reverence for the Bible and the flag.
3. Proper care of all physical property
4. Conduct becoming to Christians in the classroom, chapel, playground, hallways and restrooms.

A student who enrolls at GCS agrees to live according to Christian standards whether on or off school grounds. Irresponsible behavior that violates either a civil law or a biblical principle will be handled according to the school discipline policy with the authority that the school has been given.

Any activities or behaviors, on or off campus, that are detrimental to a Christian's testimony will be handled by the school administration and may result in suspension or expulsion.

Open displays of affection between male and female students are considered inappropriate behavior at school or school-related functions.

Showing open disrespect to any teacher or staff member will be referred to the Principal for appropriate action.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Introduction

This school is dedicated to the training of children in a program of study, activity, and living that is Christ-centered. We believe that “all things should be done decently and in order” and that our students should be taught to accept a given responsibility to “walk honorably before all men.”

This is not a corrective institution, therefore, we ask that you do not enroll your student with the idea that we will reform them. We are here to work with the home but not to take the place of parents who have experienced difficulty in fulfilling their role.

Philosophy of Discipline

God shows us throughout Scripture that the primary responsibility for nurturing and training children rests with the parents/guardians. Parents and guardians have delegated to Grace Christian School the responsibility to help them “nurture and instruct” their children. Therefore, GCS has established a discipline policy based upon principles in God’s Word. The purpose of discipline is for growth in the Christian life. It is understood that the role of a school is to support, complement, and encourage godly teaching in homes. (Deut. 6:5-10; Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:4, Heb. 12:5-11)

Discipline Policy

Discipline is an important and essential part of the learning process. The classroom must have an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, and the overall school spirit is to have a positive Christian quality. To accomplish this, teachers and administrators must communicate clearly the expectations and consistently enforce policies. Students must be cooperative and exhibit self-control. Parents and guardians must be supportive and involved.

The following measures have been established to collectively accomplish these goals:

Preventive Discipline

The administration and staff at GCS will endeavor to prevent discipline problems before they begin through:

1. Communicating expectations in a timely manner
2. Use of positive reinforcements
3. Teaching right behavior
4. Addressing issues before they become major
5. Establishing mutual respect

Classroom Management

It is the teacher's responsibility to manage the classroom. Most discipline issues will be handled directly with the student and parent/guardian. Measures of discipline include verbal warnings, seat assignments, discussions with students after class and other appropriate ways of encouraging students to cooperate.

Formal Discipline Measures

If, in the judgement of the school faculty or administration, a student has exhausted the classroom management and discipline procedures established by the teacher and known by the students, formal discipline measures will be implemented. These include written warnings, detentions, probation, probationary contracts, suspensions, and/or expulsion. The extent and severity of these measures will be at the discretion of the faculty and administration.

Probation

Occasionally a student falls below his/her potential or jeopardizes the privilege of continuing to attend Grace Christian School. In such cases, a student may be placed on probation.

Students may be placed on disciplinary probation for any of the following reasons:

1. Continued questionable behavior (in terms of expected behavior), and/or deliberate disobedience.
2. Failure to respond to counseling regarding a rebellious or scornful attitude.
3. A persistent negative attitude toward the standards of the school, particularly when this tends to undermine these standards.
4. Overt behaviors that tend to undermine Christian witness.
5. Open defiance of school authority, use of profane or obscene language, or persistent interference with classes and the rights of teachers to teach and students to learn. These are grounds for disciplinary action which may include probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Suspension

Students may be suspended for any of the following reasons:

1. Profanity or obscene talk
2. Defiance: openly disobeying or defying a member of the faculty and staff.
3. Physical violence toward staff members or other students.

Suspensions are at the discretion of the Principal and may last 1-10 days.

NOTE: Suspension may be defined as "in house" or "home" suspension. "In-house" suspension is defined as removal of the student from the classroom to a supervised area within the school for a specific period of time. "Home" suspension is defined as removal of the student from the school grounds for a specific period of time.

Expulsion

Expulsion may be recommended by the Principal and confirmed through the administration for behavioral problems as stated above that cannot be resolved in any other manner. Expulsion will affect the permanent records of the student.

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If you as a parent/guardian has reason to be concerned or question some policy or action taken by the school personnel or if your child should come home complaining about a policy, discipline, or a staff member's behavior, please follow these procedures:

- Realize that we have reasons for all rules and policies.
- Realize that your student's report may be emotionally biased and without all the information and facts.
- Give the school your confidence and call us for the reasons for discipline and for assessment of the situation. Make an appointment if you anticipate a more serious need of communication than can be warranted in a telephone call.
- In all grievances follow the Matthew 18 principle:
 1. Keep the matter confidential (Proverbs 11:9).
 2. Communicate concern to the person most directly involved.
 3. Be straight forward...tell them your concern.
 4. Be forgiving (Galatians 6:1).
 5. If resolve is not achieved at this first level, make an appointment with the person at the next level of leadership (i.e. principal).

DRESS CODE

The following criteria will be used by school personnel in determining the acceptability of a student's attire and grooming. These guidelines must be followed at all school-sponsored functions. The purpose of the dress code is to set a Christian standard of modesty at all times. **This list is not all inclusive and is at the discretion of the administration and staff.**

- Hair is to be neat, clean, well-groomed, out of eyes and a natural-looking color. Boys' hair is to be no longer than collar length in the back, no longer than eyebrow length in the front and out of the eyes at all times.
- Shoes must be worn at all times, and shoe laces should be tied. Heely shoes are not acceptable for school. Flip flops may not be worn on PE days. No slippers.
- Sweatshirts/Sweaters - Neat (clean, in good order, trim and tidy). Hoods are not be worn in buildings/classrooms.
- Hats and sunglasses are not appropriate.
- Shorts and skirts - walking/cargo shorts are acceptable **except** on chapel days **from May 1st to the last day of school and during the month of September ONLY.** Shorts and skirts must be no more than 2 inches above the knee.
- Slacks or jeans are to be clean and in good condition, not ragged or torn. No pajama-type material. Sagging pants below the waistline and/or visible undergarments are not appropriate. All clothing must be no more than one size larger than the student's size. All clothing must fit properly and not hang below the hips.
- Shirts: (For Girls) - No spaghetti straps or midriff revealing tops or skin-tight clothing. Revealing necklines, tops that do not cover undergarments, or sheer fabric revealing undergarments are not appropriate for the classroom or school sponsored events.
- Shirts (For Boys) - Tank tops are only permitted for PE. No objectionable material or words may be printed on t-shirts, etc.

- For all - Clothing exhibiting the anarchy symbols, other symbols (i.e. skulls), tattoos, concert symbols, words or symbols that do not represent GCS standards are not allowed to be worn and/or displayed on school property. Clothing with secular band logos and other logos representing rock culture may not be worn at school or school sponsored events or when representing the school.

EXCEPTIONS:

Shorts will be allowed ONLY in the month of September and from May 1st to the end of the school year. If the stipulations described below are abused, this privilege will be revoked.

- Length of shorts must be no more than 2 inches above the knee.
- Shorts must be loose-fitting. No spandex or bike shorts.
- **NO SHORTS ON CHAPEL DAYS.**

Chapel Day Attire (Must be worn all day)

- Chapel is every Wednesday, at 9:30 or 1:00pm.
- Girls are required to wear skirts and tops or dresses of prescribed length. Due to recesses on cold days, girls may wear dress pants with appropriate tops.
- Blue jeans **are not allowed** on chapel days for either boys or girls.
- Boys are required to wear dress pants or dress jeans ((khaki, black , or gray) and dress shirts that are tucked in or sweaters.

Additional Prohibitions

- **Shirts** or **items** with gang symbols, nicknames, or weapons.
- **Clothing adorned** with pictures of or promoting tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, guns, or other weapons.
- **Bandanas** of any color.
- **Belt buckles** with gang, drug/alcohol, tobacco symbols, or spikes. All belts should be worn through loops of the pants.
- **Chains**, including wallet, security, or dog chains
- **Hats** and **caps** are not to be worn in the building.
- **Ornamentation** - Nose, cheek,lips, etc. and/or body piercing, tattoos (permanent or wash off) and unnatural hair coloring is not appropriate. Spike jewelry (necklaces, bracelets, belts, etc.) is not appropriate. No ear piercing allowed for boys.

Thoughts on Modesty:

Proper dress is really a heart issue- a desire to please the Lord- to be pure and holy in all that we do. *“But be holy now in everything you do, just as the Lord is holy who invited you to be His child. He himself has said, ‘You must be holy, for I am holy. ‘(1 Peter 1:15, 16 TLB)*

Modesty begins at home. *If your student appears ready for school in an outfit that does not conform to the GCS modesty and neatness guidelines, please address the issue before leaving the house for the day. Modesty and neatness are never out of fashion and purity and holiness are virtues worth establishing and maintaining.*

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Radios, CD players, hand held video games (game boys), CDs and MP3 players/ IPODS etc. are not to be brought to school or played on campus or at GCS functions. Students needing to bring a cell phone to school must leave it in their backpack. Cell phones may not be used during school hours unless permitted by the teacher in charge. GCS is not liable for lost or stolen electronic devices.

RESTRICTIONS

The following items are not allowed on the school campus at any time:

Super balls, Skateboards, Roller blades (skates) or heeies, baseballs, playing cards, knives, matches, lighters, or weapons (toy or real) of any kind.

Materials brought in violation of this rule will be taken and returned to the parents.

Second offense: The administration confiscates them and they will not be returned until the end of the school year.

MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES

Threatening language or gestures.

Any student making either verbal (including sexual harassment) or physical threats to the well-being of another student, or staff member will be subject to immediate suspension pending investigation.

Vandalism, Starting Fires.

Students involved in any of these activities will be subject to disciplinary action which may involve suspension, expulsion, police investigation, and/or prosecution

CURRICULUM

The main purpose of our curriculum is two fold: (1) to provide excellent academic training, and (2) to train the student to see life from God's perspective, to shape attitudes and to mold character into the character of Christ.

Our curriculum is produced by Abeka Publications out of Pensacola, Florida. The textbooks and materials used are selected for their strong academic excellence and Christian philosophy. The Abeka language arts curriculum is a strong grammar-based program.

STUDENT TESTING

Achievement Testing

Every year during the spring, all students will be given the Stanford Achievement test. Tests will be scored and copies will be filed in students records and a copy sent home. The cost of this test will be covered by the comprehensive fee. All students are required to take this test.

GRADING SCALE

The 1-6th grade classes use the following grading scale:

| | |
|----|------------|
| A+ | 100% |
| A | 94-99% |
| A- | 90-93% |
| B+ | 88-89% |
| B | 84-87% |
| B- | 80-83% |
| C+ | 78-79% |
| C | 74-77% |
| C- | 70-73% |
| D+ | 68-69% |
| D | 64-67% |
| D- | 60-63% |
| F | 59 & below |

REPORT CARDS

Grading reports are designed to give parents and students a true indication of the students' progress or lack there of.

Progress reports are sent home with the students the 5th week of each grading period. This allows the student and parent to monitor progress before the final report card.

Report cards are completed at the end of each quarter (9 weeks).

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held during the first quarter and at the request of the parent or the teacher at the end of the third quarter. Report cards are given to the parents at the time of the conference. Report cards are sent home with the student at the end of the 2nd quarter and mailed at the end of the 4th quarters.

NO REPORT CARDS OR GRADES WILL BE RELEASED UNTIL ALL FEES AND TUITION ARE PAID AND CURRENT.

ASSIGNMENT AND HOMEWORK POLICY

The purpose of homework is to complete basic assignments begun in the class to give a better understanding of material presented in class, to memorize facts, or to research topics which cannot be completed in class due to lack of time or facilities. Homework assignments will be left up to the discretion of each teacher.

At the elementary level, homework will be limited in extent.

K-3rd

Occasional assignments up to about 20 minutes per evening on such things as spelling word lists and other simple study materials, scripture memorization, special project assignments.

4th-6th

About 30 minutes per evening in 4th grade up to 1 hour in 6th grade, plus occasional special assignments or projects requiring more than the normal amount of time.

MAKE-UP WORK GUIDELINES

Parents/guardians of elementary children are encouraged to be involved in assuring that proper arrangements are made with their teacher for absences or missing work.

When a student is absent for more than two days, the parent should contact the office. The parent may pick up assignments and any necessary books at 3:15 p.m. that day. If the student has missed any quizzes or tests, the student must make arrangements with the teacher for make-up tests.

STUDENT RECORDS/TRANSFERS

GCS maintains cumulative files as permanent records for students. When a student transfers to another school, the student's cumulative file will be forwarded to the new school upon written request from the new school. All parent/guardian requests for student records to be sent to a new school must be written and signed by a parent/guardian. Verbal or phone requests for records or transcripts will not be honored. Parent/guardians may not carry the files to the new school.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 339.010 requires all children between the ages of 7 and 18 years of age who have not completed the 12th grade to attend school regularly. The ORS 339.020 states that **every person having control** of any child between the ages of 7 and 18 is required to send such child to and maintain such child in regular attendance at a full-time school during the entire school term.

Students may only be excused from attendance for up to 5 days absence within a three month period or ten days absence within a six month period.

Students failing to comply to the above will be subject to the following:

- A "failure to comply letter" will be mailed to the parent or guardian.
- Immediate attendance will be required of the student in order to resume enrollment.
- Failure to return to class could result in notification of law enforcement officials who will proceed with citation process per ORS 163.577

ABSENCES

Excused absences

- GCS and the State of Oregon recognize three categories of excused absences:
- Personal illness
- Illness or death in the family
- Family circumstances or emergencies as determined by the administration of the school.

Please do not schedule vacations or other appointments around the end of the quarters or semesters because of reviews and tests.

Unexcused absences

Any absence from school which is not in accordance with Oregon State law, even with parental permission, may not be excused by the school. (i.e. oversleeping is not considered an excused tardy or absence, even with a note from a parent/guardian).

TARDIES

Students are expected to arrive in class on time. Excessive tardiness generally results in lower achievement. Punctuality is a desired quality not only in schools, but in the world of work which awaits students. Students who arrive late to class not only lose benefit of full instruction but also disrupt the activities in progress. It is a goal of the school to reduce tardiness to an absolute minimum.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Grace Christian School is a closed campus during regular school hours. This means that students needing to leave campus for any reason must have a **written** note from parents explaining the reason.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are scheduled throughout the school year. Although such off-campus learning experiences are of real enjoyment for the students, it is realized that these experiences are also designed to enrich learning. Teachers may ask students to take notes and tests about the trip upon returning to school. There may be a minimal charge for some of these trips. Students not enrolled at GCS may not attend field trips unless cleared through the administration.

Field Trip Rules:

1. The student code of conduct and dress code applies.
2. Waivers and Release/Permission forms will be required for each outing.
3. All drivers must complete all necessary forms/waivers in order to drive

BUILDINGS/GROUNDS ACCESS

- Students are allowed in the building during the hours of 8:00 am - 3:30 pm.
- Students who do not have legitimate reason to be on school campus after official activities have ended will be disciplined accordingly.

CLASSROOMS

Students are to respect property, desks, chairs, etc. Students found defacing chairs, writing on desks/tables, will be given a detention, assigned to cleaning duty, and held financially responsible for any damages which may have occurred.

LIBRARY

The GCS library is located in the main building on the second floor. The library and computers are for use of the 3rd - 12th grade students and staff.

MOVIE POLICY

- If possible, all videos/DVDs shown in the classroom should be educationally produced.
- If it is not possible to obtain educationally edited versions of feature films/videos the following guidelines should be followed:
 1. K-6th Grade -- "G" rating
 2. Jr. High (7-8th Grade) -- "G", "PG" rating
 3. High school (9-12) -- "G", "PG", "PG-13"
- Specific films that vary from in ratings from those specified for a particular grade may be considered if a grade level feels that certain films beyond the rating allowed for that grade level are appropriate and an important part of the curriculum. The following procedures will be followed:
 1. All requests, including rationale and plans for use to show the film, will be submitted to the school principal at least two weeks before it is to be shown.
 2. Films approved by the principal will then be referred to the parents for approval (for their student) or alternate assignment. Parent information will indicate the type of material which may be objectionable, along with the rating.
 3. Teachers are required to preview all film media before showing to students.

Library Policies

- Students will only be allowed to use the library while it is supervised.
- Books may be checked out for 3 weeks.
- Any lost or damaged materials need to be reported and replaced at the original cost or expense of the book or item.

SCHOOL BUILDING RULES

- No running or horseplay inside the buildings or between the buildings.
- **No gum is allowed on the premises.**
- No food or drink except at designated times and areas.
- Bathroom breaks should be during breaks/recess times.
- No loitering in halls (of main building) or bathrooms.

SCHOOL CLEANLINESS

It is important that everyone share in the responsibility of keeping our campus clean and neat. The staff may ask students periodically to do some cleaning projects in order to maintain classrooms and breezeways. Classrooms are the responsibility of the teacher and the students. Trash needs to be picked up and personal items kept in appropriate places.

**** This handbook is not all inclusive. The GCS board and administration reserve the right to change policy at any time in the best interest of the school. The GCS board and administration retain the right to make exceptions to policies in the best interest of the students and the school.*

