



GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

REVISED 6/2026

WCA'S MISSION

Partnering with Christian parents, Westside Christian Academy equips students with a Biblically integrated, academically excellent, classical education so that they engage the world with the truth of the gospel and the love of Christ, near and far, across generations.

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INTRODUCTION

Dear WCA Parents and Students,

We are honored to partner with you in fulfilling the mission of our school: *to integrate biblical truth with academic excellence so that its students will become leaders committed to impacting the world for Jesus Christ*. We do this by coming alongside Christian parents, working together providing a strong classically-based program with a biblical worldview. Communication with our families is imperative and this handbook is part of that process.

This handbook is an attempt to articulate the necessary routines, guidelines, requirements and expectations to which a family commits when becoming part of the WCA community. It is important for all parents to read this handbook carefully and discuss the contents with your children. Though there is much helpful information here, the handbook is never complete and the information here is subject to change throughout the year. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

In the classical philosophy, we base much of our teaching on three language-related stages of development called the Trivium: grammar, logic and rhetoric. Grammar School embraces the first of these stages as we develop the “grammar,” or foundation, of various interconnected subject areas – especially reading, writing and mathematics – to help create a strong biblical worldview in the minds of our children.

Partnering in Christ with you,

Tim Piazza, Principal

Lord, may we be filled with the knowledge of his will, in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Col. 1:9-10).

MISSION-VISION-PHILOSOPHY

Mission

Westside Christian Academy seeks to aid children in their moral and academic development so that they may be equipped to fulfill God's purpose for their lives in the home, church, and society. WCA, as an extension of the home and of the church, exists to fulfill God's commands to raise children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." While we believe that the Bible clearly gives the responsibility of training children to parents, WCA exists to assist parents in fulfilling this biblical responsibility.

Mission Statement: Partnering with Christian parents, Westside Christian Academy equips students with a Biblically integrated, academically excellent, classical education so that they engage the world with the truth of the gospel and the love of Christ, near and far, across generations.

The educational philosophy of WCA is based on the understanding that the knowledge of God is the beginning of wisdom, and that Truth can only be understood through a relationship with Jesus Christ as the Creator and Sustainer of the world around us. Included in our philosophy is the acknowledgment that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, and has authority to guide us in our pursuit of Truth and in the instruction of the children entrusted to us. WCA's philosophy embodies the concept that education is more than just academics; it also involves character development which prepares children to fulfill God's will in their lives.

Vision

Our vision arises from a desire to create an atmosphere where Christian teachers and administrators can challenge their students to develop an understanding of God's hand in all of creation while striving for the highest level of academic achievement. We believe that we have a God-given responsibility to educate children in a way that integrates faith and learning. Through this integration, a Christian worldview is being instilled in our students, preparing them to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

Portrait of a Graduate¹

Our mission is to integrate biblical truth with academic excellence so that our students will become leaders committed to impacting the world for Jesus Christ. WCA seeks to cultivate students...

- Who are growing Christians, equipped to receive and proclaim the Truth of the Gospel, and who genuinely love God and others.
- Who are virtuous servant-leaders, equipped to eloquently proclaim Truth and graciously communicate a biblical perspective to the cultural issues of their day.
- Who are educated, disciplined, logical, discerning, loving, and mature lifelong-learners who contribute to the Great Conversation. They listen intently, reason wisely, write skillfully, and speak persuasively.
- Who are prepared to build a redemptive community, especially in family life, church membership, and citizenship.
- Whose affections are rightly oriented towards that which is true, beautiful, and good, with hearts which desire Christ-centered living.

¹ This "portrait" is a general picture of the qualities we strive to instill. When someone asks, "What is your hoped-for outcome by the time a student graduates?" This is the essence of our answer. Much could be written and discussed to unpack each of these statements under the umbrella of our mission.

Non Discrimination Policy

Westside Christian Academy recruits and admits students of any race, color or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs and athletics/extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation.

Westside Christian Academy will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its personnel.

Statement of Faith

In accordance with the mission of Westside Christian Academy, we hold the following Statement to be true and to be the foundation upon which the Christian Faith is practiced. We therefore request that all who wish to associate themselves with Westside Christian Academy accept and agree with the following statement:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error in its original writings, the only complete and authoritative source of His will and His plan for the salvation of man, and of guidance for Christian life (II Timothy 3:16, 17).
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Gen 1:1; John 10:30; John 10:37-38).
3. We believe in the deity of the 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 imminent return in power and glory (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23; Luke 1:35; Heb 4:15; Heb 7:25; John 2:11; Heb 9:12; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; John 11:25; Acts 1:11; Rev 19:11-16).
4. We believe that Man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in thought, word and deed (John 3:5; Rom 5:8).
5. We believe that the sinless life, sacrificial death and physical resurrection of Jesus Christ provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God (Titus 3: 4-7; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:21-28; Rom 5:8; Gal 4:4-7).
6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, and that those who are saved through faith in Jesus Christ shall have eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord; those who have not believed in Jesus Christ through faith shall receive judgment and eternal damnation (John 5:24; 28-29; Matt 25:46).
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 8:9; I Cor 12:12-13; Gal 3:26-28).

Statement on Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that marriage between one man and one woman, for life, uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:21-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Westside Christian Academy as part of the Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the WCA community, it is imperative that all persons employed by WCA in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Westside Christian Academy.

WCA employees of all classifications must be in full agreement with WCA's Statement of Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality.

Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

Secondary Doctrines

Because there are many different denominations and churches represented at WCA, occasional doctrinal differences may arise between students, families, and/or faculty. Although we all share a commitment to the central message of the Word of God and have agreed to not

compromise on the primary doctrinal positions found within the WCA Statement of Faith, it is expected that some of us may hold secondary doctrines that are specific to our particular church or denomination and which may differ from doctrines held by other churches or denominations represented at WCA. When these differences are raised in the WCA community, they should be referred back to the parents and local church for guidance, and not let them divide the community that makes up WCA. In this spirit we adhere to the following statement by the seventeenth century German theologian Rupertus Meldenius: **In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things charity.**

Core Values

WCA's core values are those foundational beliefs or principles by which we carry out our mission and conduct daily business. Our attitudes and actions should ever be seeking to align with these values.

E.U.C.L.I.D.

E - EXCELLENCE

U - UNITY

C - CHRISTLIKENESS

L - LOVE

I - INTEGRITY

D - DISCIPLESHIP

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Regular attendance and punctuality are important aspects of a student's character. The school day begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. Students may arrive as early as 8:00 a.m. It is strongly recommended that they arrive no later than 8:20 a.m. (allowing plenty of time to put away coats, lunches, and books before being expected to attend assembly). WCA strongly recommends that students take NO MORE than 15 unexcused absences in a single school year. *EdChoice Scholarship recipients will not be eligible to renew their scholarship the following school year if they exceed 20 unexcused absences this school year.*

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) provides an Excused Absence Policy for chartered nonpublic schools for reference. As required by the EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs, WCA must report attendance monthly for all scholarship recipients, and continued eligibility for EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarships is contingent upon a student's attendance record.

To comply with ODEW attendance guidelines for chartered nonpublic schools and to promote regular attendance and punctuality, WCA will adhere to the approved list of excused absences. In addition, ODEW requires that absences due to illness or injury exceeding three consecutive days be certified in writing by a physician or other appropriate health professional.

Excused Absences

Parents are requested to schedule medical, dental, or mental health appointments and family vacation times when school is not in session (if possible). Students are responsible for making up any work they miss due to absences. (See Makeup Work under Homework Policy)

Excused absences (missed instructional time) include:

- Illness or injury of the child
- Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- Quarantine of the home
- Death in the family
- Medical, dental, or mental health appointment
- Observance of religious holidays
- Emergency or other set of circumstances
- Out-of-state enrichment activities or extracurricular activities

Unexcused absences (missed instructional time) include:

- Vacations
- Elective days off at family discretion
- Other appointments

Parents can use the Planned Absence Request form found on the WCA app or website to report any missed educational time in the form of absences, tardiness, or early dismissals. Please notify the office before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence/missed educational time. Please turn in vacation requests at least one week prior. Additional documentation may be requested based on the reason for the absence.

You may also request homework assignments at that time. Homework assignments may be picked up at the reception desk at the end of the school day and no later than 3:30pm.

Tardiness

The school day begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. School doors are closed and locked at this time. Students may be dropped off at the school as early as 8:00 a.m. They are to report to a study hall in the Eagles Landing (K-2) or the gymnasium (3-6), which is monitored by a staff member until 8:20 a.m. We would encourage you to drop off your students by 8:20 a.m. so they have plenty of time to take off their coats and put away their books before they are expected to start class. All students arriving late must be signed in at the school office by the parent or carpool driver. Unless the school is notified by the parents of an acceptable reason (illness, doctor appt., etc.), the tardy will be recorded as unexcused. Parents will receive a notification email when their student reaches 3 unexcused tardies. Six unexcused tardies accrued at any point in the school year will result in an unexcused absence and will be recorded as such on their student record and parents will receive a notification. If the pattern continues, parents will be contacted by the principal to discuss a plan for improvement. If necessary, the principal may give the student an appropriate consequence.

Early Dismissal

If a parent desires that a student be dismissed from school for part of a school day, a written notification (Planned Absence Form) from the parent stating the reason, time leaving, and time returning must be submitted through the App/Website no later than the morning of the absence/tardy/early dismissal. For the safety of the children, we ask that all visitors, including parents, report to the school office to sign out the student and inform the school secretary to get their child out of the classroom. Parents should not go to the classroom to pick up their child. If a friend or relative is signing out the student for the parents, they must have an authorization dated and signed by a parent or called in by the parent. It is the responsibility of the parent to come to the school office to sign their children in or out. If the student returns to school the same day, the parent must come in with their children to sign them back in. A record of all students who arrive late or leave early is kept in the school office. This record gives the time the student arrives or leaves, the reason for leaving, and the time the student returns to school.

Posting Absences, Early Dismissals, and Tardies to Report Cards

Absences: Absences are recorded two ways on a report card - full day or half day. If a child misses two to four hours of school, they will be marked with a half day absence. If a child misses four or more hours of school, it is considered a full-day absence. If a student acquires 6 or more unexcused tardies, it will be considered one unexcused absence. Please see above for a list of excused and unexcused absences/missed instructional time.

Early Dismissals: Students that leave for any part of the day are recorded as having an early dismissal with time out and time in. All early dismissals show up as tardies on the report card unless the student is absent for more than two hours. (See above policy under Absences). Early dismissals are included in the tardy totals on a student's report card per quarter. Unexcused tardies incurred through early dismissal and/or missed instructional time will count towards the total unexcused tardy count that

could result in an unexcused absence. Please see above for a list of excused and unexcused absences/missed instructional time.

Tardy: Students should be ready for school and seated at their desk by 8:30 a.m. Depending on the circumstance, tardies will be considered either excused or unexcused. (Excused tardy would include events that are physically out of your control such as: an accident, road closing, power outage, etc.)

Emergency Closing of School

In the case of inclement weather, the administration may decide to close the school for part of or for the entire school day. A school-wide text message and email will be sent to parents in the event of a school closing. The closing will also be posted on some local radio and TV stations. Parents should use their own judgment concerning safe driving conditions to ensure the safety of the children. Should school close before the normally scheduled time, parents will be notified as soon as possible by text message and/or telephone.

HEALTH POLICIES

Immunizations

State law requires that, prior to admittance, all students attending WCA should be immunized according to the state guidelines which can be found at:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/immunization/media/immunization-summary-school>.

The state law allows for the following exception: “A pupil who presents a written statement of the pupil's parent or guardian in which the parent or guardian declines to have the pupil immunized for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, is not required to be immunized.” **Prior to attending WCA, a completed School Entrance Medical Record Form signed by a student's physician must be submitted to WCA. Parents who decline to immunize their children must also have a written statement on file declining immunizations.**

Communicable Diseases

All students with signs or symptoms of diseases suspected as being communicable to others are given immediate attention and sent home if such action is indicated. Re-admission is dependent upon a decision by a physician, school nurse or public health nurse.

In case of doubt, the Head of School, principal or other school personnel will decide on needed action after consulting with parents and appropriate health professionals.

Parents are informed when a communicable disease occurs in their child's classroom so that early signs or symptoms can be observed and appropriate preventive measures can be instituted.

Food Allergies

Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students.

Family's Responsibility

- Notify the school of the child's allergies.
- Work with the school to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school, including in the classroom, playground, and on field trips.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration.
- Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including:
 - safe and unsafe foods
 - strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods symptoms of allergic reactions
 - how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
 - how to read food labels (age appropriate)
- Review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide emergency contact information.

Student's Responsibility

- Should not trade food with others.
- Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.

Medication

For this policy, the term 'medication' is defined as *any prescription or non-prescription / over-the-counter medicine*.

In compliance with Ohio State law, which mandates strict policy and procedures regarding the administration of medication in school settings, WCA requires adherence to the following:

- When possible, all medication should be given by the parent at home. In the event this is not possible, parents may come to school to administer medication to their children.
- If no alternative is available *and* the parent has given specific written permission, school personnel are permitted to administer medications *once the following requirements are met*:
 - **Prescription medications:** A Medication Authorization Form for Prescription medication is completed and signed by the student's physician and parent/guardian and is on file in the school office.
 - **Over-the-counter medications:** A Medication Authorization Form for

over-the-counter medication is completed and signed by the student's parent/guardian and is on file in the school office.

- All medications are in their original container clearly marked with the student's name.
- All medications are brought to the school office by an adult (students MAY NOT carry medication to school).
- Parents are responsible for supplying their own non-prescription/over-the-counter medicines.

WCA will assume no responsibility for liability in association with administration of medications at school. These regulations are in accordance with Section 3313.713 of Ohio Law regarding administration of medications to students at school. Compliance with this law is part of the continuing effort to provide a safe setting for students.

Illnesses Requiring Absence

Children should remain at home should any sign of illness be present. Your child must be present at school at least 1/2 of the day in order to participate in any school sponsored event after school hours.

If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be called to take him/her home. Please sign your child out at the school office. Children will be sent home if they have a fever, experience vomiting or diarrhea at school, or if they exhibit other signs of illness. The decision will be made at the discretion of the school nurse or principal. This is both for the benefit of your child and to minimize the spread of illness to other children.

Prevention is the best way to protect your child from illness. Instruct your child on proper hand washing, covering their cough, not touching their eyes, nose and mouth and not sharing personal items with others. If your child is sick or becomes sick at school, make plans on who will be able to pick up and take care of your child.

Children should be free from symptoms of illness and fever without medication for at least 24-36 hours before returning to the classroom. If your child becomes ill with a communicable disease, please notify the school. Remember to update your child's emergency contact information or changes in health issues throughout the year.

Inability to Participate in P.E.

All students are required to participate in Physical Education class. If a student is unable to participate in physical activity or has a limited ability to participate (either during PE class or other activities on school premises) due to illness or injury, a note from a parent or physician will be required to excuse him/her from participation or to limit the student's participation. Students unable to participate in PE will complete an alternative assignment, which is an extension of some aspect of our PE curriculum. Students with limited participation will do the best that they can for that day. If a student has a chronic condition that limits participation, the teacher and parent will collaborate on the best level of activity.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Philippians 4:8: *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things.*

Colossian 3:23-24: *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

Proverbs 18:15 *An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

Scripture is filled with passages that exhort us to learn, seek knowledge and wisdom and to work hard. We are to strive for excellence out of a heart to serve the Lord and each other. At WCA we teach our students to work hard, serve well, learn with diligence and joy, ask questions, and seek truth, beauty and goodness. We do not expect a child to have top grades in every subject, nor for them to work for the grade. We simply expect our students to do their best as they work alongside their classmates and with the guidance and encouragement from teachers and parents. The policies below are not rigid or arbitrary, but guidelines to help meet our goals.

Grade Level Entrance Requirements (Moving from one grade to the next)

- Students must pass reading, math, and English with at least a “70” average.
- Students receiving more than one “Unsatisfactory” per grading period in any subject and no more than two "U's" in the same subject within an academic year must be approved for promotion by the academic team.

Appeals

All appeals for diverging from or waiving the requirements of this policy should be submitted to the Principal and GS Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Summer school and Summer plans

Students that do not meet the aforementioned requirements may be asked to attend summer school or summer tutoring. Also, a summer plan may be prescribed by the student’s teacher and the principal. The summer plan is to be completed before August 1st and the student will then be retested according to the appropriate standards. Failure to complete summer school or a summer plan may result in the student not being promoted to the next grade level.

Math Advancement

Westside Christian Academy allows the opportunity for qualified students rising in grades 4-6 to advance in mathematics on an individual basis. A parent or teacher may recommend a student for assessment. The assessment process will result in either a recommendation to advance or a recommendation not to advance.

Grade Level Advancement

Westside Christian Academy allows the opportunity for qualified students for grade level advancement on an individual basis. A parent or teacher may recommend a student for the advancement assessment. The assessment process will result in either a recommendation to advance or a recommendation not to advance.

Grading Periods, Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

WCA has four nine week grading periods. A report card will be emailed home one week after the period ends. Should there be any question concerning a grade, please make an appointment to speak with the teacher. There are two scheduled parent-teacher conferences which are required for parents to attend. One is typically in October following the first grading period and the other follows the third grading period in late March or early April.

Parents are invited at any time during the school year to discuss their child's progress; however, an advance appointment with the teacher should be made. Parents are asked to not stop in to meet with a teacher (or stop a teacher in the hallway or carpool line) without an appointment. The faculty is also urged to request special conferences with parents at any time they may be considered necessary.

Extra-Curricular Activities

As an academic institution, it is expected that students will pursue excellence in their academic subjects and that extra-curricular activities are a privilege they may pursue if they have achieved a certain standard academically. Therefore, a student must have at least a 75% average overall in the most recent quarter to begin participation in an extracurricular activity (sports and clubs) and must have no U's in any subject. This must be maintained to continue participation. If a student drops below this standard the teacher should inform the student, parents, and adult responsible for the extra-curricular activity. The teacher, principal and the athletic director, along with the adult who is in charge of the extra-curricular activity, will put a plan in place which may include loss of privilege to attend practice, game, competition, or performance until the academic progress is satisfactory.

Standardized Testing

WCA has selected the IOWA Assessment and CogAT as an additional validation of our students' achievements, beginning with first grade. Parents are notified in advance as to when the tests will be held and the results are made available to the parents.

Student Records

Student records are confidential. A written request from a parent is required to view or transfer a student's records. Only the student's current teachers, administrators, school nurse and school secretary are allowed access to a student's file. In some cases, appropriate portions of a student's file may be provided to the Board when the information is needed for decision-making purposes (such as suspension or other discipline decisions, etc.). Student records may not be taken from the school for any reason.

Homework

WCA recognizes the educational value of homework for students. We believe that meaningful home study is a necessary part of each pupil's educational program and that it should be related to the educational philosophy and goals of the school. Homework should be a purposeful extension of the school day which provides the student with additional opportunities for the development and reinforcement of the school's instructional objectives. While parents should assist in seeing that the work is completed satisfactorily and in explaining the work when necessary, the child must take full responsibility for the work. Students will receive a lower grade for late assignments.

Homework Assignment Planner

In grades 2-6, these are used as a tool to remind students of their assignments and communicate with parents about what is due. They are provided by the school. The teachers in second, third, and fourth grade will check periodically that the homework assignments are recorded correctly. **Teachers may ask parents to initial the planner each night.**

In fourth grade, we begin to help the children transition into greater responsibility. The first semester, the teacher will check that the assignment planners are adequately filled out and that parents have initialed it. By the second semester, the assignments will be on the board and the student will be given ample time to record them. The teacher will not check them for accuracy. By sixth grade, it is expected that students will be self-sufficient in keeping up their assignment planners, though the teacher and parent should periodically check.

If for some reason homework has not been completed, or if the parent has some question regarding the assignment, that may be indicated in the assignment planner as well.

How Much Homework?

The time it should take a student to complete his homework will vary with each individual. What one student may accomplish in twenty minutes may take another student forty. The amount of homework will increase from year to year. Generally speaking, about 10 minutes per grade will be required (grade 1 = 10 minutes, grade 2 = 20 minutes). Grammar School students are generally required regularly to review Bible memory verse(s), spelling words/vocabulary, Latin vocabulary and math facts along with any assigned work. Some students may have additional homework on any given evening to make up for work left unfinished in class when ample time was given. If a pattern of classroom unproductivity develops, the parents will be notified and a plan designed to assist.

Practice, Practice, Practice

Repetition is a very valuable teaching tool and many things need to be reviewed over and over and over in order for the child to "own" it. Math facts are a good example. Parents of young children are **STRONGLY URGED** to review math facts with their children throughout the week and on the weekend. This can be fun and can be done just about anywhere. The same is true with spelling words, phonics, geography, Latin vocabulary and history facts. Make a game of it and give small rewards.

Makeup Work

We realize that often when children are ill, they are not always able to do work. **Students will have as many days as they were absent to make up their work.** Please talk to your child's teacher if they are absent for an extended period of time.

Please call/email the school office or utilize the WCA app by 9:00 a.m. to inform us that your student is ill. It is the parent's responsibility to request homework assignments for their child. The assignments will be ready for you to pick up at the end of the day.

Students who will be absent a day or more from school because of vacation or appointments must fill out a Planned Absence Request form at least one week in advance of the absence and turn in to the school office. Teachers may give students assignments before they leave (if possible) and they should be turned in upon return to school. The classroom teacher may give an extension if they believe it is warranted.

Completing missed school work generally does not make up for the learning. Much goes on in one day at WCA and missing several days places a measure of loss and/or difficulty on the child. Nothing adequately replaces the classroom experience, so even if work is "made up" the actual educational lessons might not be.

Field Trips

Students will participate in numerous field trips to areas and/or activities of interest in our community. Participation on any field trip requires parental permission. These trips serve to enhance the educational experience of the students and are usually enjoyed by students and adults alike.

Parents will be asked to drive and help supervise the students during the activity. Parents must complete a Volunteer Drivers Application Form to be able to drive (due by the end of September). If you listen to music in your car when you drive for a field trip, we ask that only Christian music or radio stations be used. We ask that you not show movies/DVDs while traveling. Students may not take electronic devices with them on field trips. Parents are asked not to purchase lunch, snacks or souvenirs on field trips unless arranged by the teacher.

Students should ride in the back seat until they are at least 12 years old, whether or not there is a passenger airbag in front. Students should never be double-buckled. Ohio law states that all children less than 8 years old and less than 4ft. 9 inches tall are to be secured in a booster seat when traveling in a motor vehicle.

All school rules apply on all field trips and on all school-sponsored events on the school campus and away from it.

In order to maintain a professional appearance and provide school identification, students are required to wear a specific uniform on field trips. Students will be notified on each information sheet whether dress or field uniform is required.

Safety and Communication

At times, WCA field trips may need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, safety issues, or other reasons. The process to consider a field trip cancellation starts with the Head of School (HoS). The HoS will make an informed decision based on weather conditions or safety concerns. The HoS may consult with the WCA Leadership Team or the WCA Health and Safety Committee, if necessary. Once the decision has been made, the GS or US principal will communicate the decision to the teachers and parents. Parents have the option to keep their child home from a field trip if they believe it is not safe for their child to attend.

Semper Crescente

Progress reports of students in the Semper Crescente program will be generated quarterly for all student goals. Progress will be entered into the Ohio Department of Education JPS scholarship portal. All progress reports will be sent to each respective child's parents or guardians, and a copy will also be kept in the student's record.

PARENT-FACULTY RELATIONSHIPS

Parents' Responsibilities

WCA is an independent school that counts on our parents to become involved in the activities of the school and support the policies of the school. For this reason, WCA has adopted a Parent's Pledge of Acceptance that must be signed by at least one parent prior to admission. The following list of responsibilities incorporates that pledge with some additional requests:

- Earnestly pray for WCA, the students, the school board, faculty, and parents.
- Accept the WCA Statement of Faith.
- Attend parent meetings and lend support to the school programs by participating as able in volunteer services within the school and ensuring that assigned duties are fulfilled so that our school can function smoothly.
- Trust in the authority of the teachers, staff, and administration of WCA to discipline your children as necessary and agree to cooperate with the school and to discipline your child in the home, as needed. If it becomes necessary to discipline your children, we will do so out of love and with your knowledge. For parents to indiscriminately side with their children will destroy our common effort.
- Parents should never approach another student or staff member at WCA in anger. If there is a concern, contact the student's teacher or parent to set up a meeting.
- Do not let politics, doctrinal controversy and denominationalism become an issue within the school.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding any incidents, policies, or practices pertaining to the school, in the love of Christ and with prayer, please voice your concerns only to the teacher, staff, or administrator involved, avoiding unbiblical gossip and slander; deal promptly with any problems or misunderstandings with the administration or faculty, and to do so directly with the person involved (See the procedure outlined under Handling Complaints).
- Also, please do not discuss the problem or dissatisfaction with your children as this tends to erode respect for the authority of the faculty. We also ask that parents support the implementation of school policies even when they are not structured according to your own personal feelings. Any criticism or downgrading of the school in front of your children nullifies the effectiveness of the school's authority and ministry.
- Participate faithfully in a Bible teaching church and exemplify Christian principles of life in your home.
- Promptly pay your tuition and other fees when due.
- Support the school financially above tuition requirements as the Lord leads and as you are able.
- React to all communication between parent and school promptly, reading all notices carefully and responding to any deadlines given.
- Provide regular student attendance and ensure that students arrive at school on time.
- Supervise homework assignments. See that all work is completed neatly and on time, and provide guidance when your children need help with it. A note should be provided explaining the reason whenever homework is not completed, however this does not necessarily mean the homework is excused.

- And finally, please check with your children regarding all the subjects they are studying. Show your interest, discover and learn with them, encourage them when needed, follow up and provide enrichment if you can. You will see your children enthusiastic about school!

Code of Ethics

All parents and other volunteers, when serving in a capacity that might be regarded as representative of WCA (e.g., while serving at the school for lunch, in the classroom, or for school programs, etc., and/or serving away from the school during field trips, or any other school-related activity), are expected to abide by basic biblical standards of behavior for the complete duration of such events or activities. We are to strive to model Christ-like lives for the WCA children and the community around us. A parent or volunteer who behaves in ways contrary to WCA's policies and practices may be asked to refrain from participation in school events.

Handling Complaints

Faculty-parent relationships require careful attention. Problems must be resolved together rather than having them carried to and discussed with uninvolved persons. Often problems stem from information that is untrue and based on gossip. Even when this type of information proves to be true, it is not necessary to involve otherwise neutral parties. There is often a possibility of misunderstanding when the source is a child. Please contact the source and ascertain the validity of such information before acting. Above all, do not discuss the problem or your dissatisfaction with your children. We urge all who would support our school to solve interpersonal problems according to the biblical principles found in Matthew 18.

First, one should talk to the other party involved (teacher, parent, other adult). If no results or satisfaction are obtained, they may report to the principal. If there is still no solution, satisfaction, or correction, they may bring the matter in writing to the attention of the Head of School. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the Head of School will investigate and take action to find a satisfactory solution.

The Head of School will not entertain a complaint by hearsay from a parent, a Board member, nor anyone else if these steps have not been taken and if the complaint is not substantiated by proven facts.

Parent Notification/Permission Guidelines Regarding Sensitive Information

Westside Christian Academy takes seriously the partnership we have with our parents. We recognize that parents are welcome to have access to our curriculum materials and to understand the content of lessons. We also recognize that certain areas of instruction are best taught by the parent or in complete cooperation with parent and teacher. With this in mind, our teachers are to notify parents of planned instruction that deals with any topics or materials that might be deemed mature, very personal or controversial (ie. aspects of puberty, biblical circumcision, abortion, sexuality, etc.). Such notice is to be specific and clear. Parents, as always, have the opportunity to understand the nature of the instruction, preview materials and either give permission for their child's participation or exclusion from the lesson(s). Also, teachers are

to notify parents of any movie/video that they may be showing in class. If a parent chooses to have their child removed from the classroom during the movie/video, then the teacher will set up an alternative learning activity for the student in the Eagles Landing or school lobby.

Guest Instructors

When our children have a guest instructor, the classroom teacher is typically present with the children. In some circumstances children will engage in guest instruction without a WCA staff member. Examples include volunteer tutors, library teachers or guest readers. If the classroom teacher is not to be present, the background of the guest and content of the instruction is to be properly vetted by the teacher or administration to ensure that the content and methodology are appropriate in keeping with the WCA mission and philosophy.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Philosophy

Parents and teachers work together in the God-given task of training children. For this reason it is essential that the right relationship exists between these adults. Generally, where faithful, believing parents and teachers maintain the proper relationship, they can expect the Lord's blessing.

That right relationship is captured in the Latin phrase *in loco parentis*, which means "in the place of the parents." In this relationship the teacher performs his/her work in the place of the parent for a specific time and purpose. It indicates that the teacher neither replaces the parent nor takes over the responsibilities of the parent. Rather, the teacher stands in for the parents, performing the noble, God-given task that the parents would do if it were possible. Thus, the teacher and parent are in a serious partnership and must engage with each other in communication, commitment, and prayer.

Like Christian parents, the Christian school teacher is to be a model of living faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The modeling is a major element in true Christian education (cf. 1 Cor. 4:16; 1 Thes. 2:10). All teachers at Westside Christian Academy acknowledge their responsibility to see their students develop in Christian character as well as in good scholarship.

Discipline is essential to the accomplishment of these ends. Accordingly, it is expected that students will show respect to those in authority at the school and will render cheerful obedience at all times. Firmness and fairness are the general guidelines for the school's policy in corrective discipline. While we must show love, grace, understanding and forgiveness, we must also administer justice when necessary.

Misconduct will generally be handled by the teacher in charge. The goal of our correction will be to show God's standard for behavior and to help a child get to the real heart-issues of the individual's misbehavior. Persistent, dangerous or illegal misconduct, may lead to suspension or expulsion of the student.

Standards of Behavior

We seek to model and teach behavior that is pleasing to God, rooted in a humble heart eager for wisdom, righteousness and obedience to the Lord. We teach respect for authority, beginning by honoring one's mother and father, and extending this to teachers and others in an elder or authoritative role.

In the school environment, behavioral expectations include the following:

- Respect adult authority and show courtesy and obedience toward teachers.
- Respect all other students and their right to learn and grow, showing kindness and courtesy at all times. Refrain from conduct intended to induce others to sin and refrain from tempting others to sin.
- Respect all school property, as well as the property of others.
- Honor scriptural dictates concerning truthfulness, honesty, and integrity.

- Follow after purity of thought, word and action, and conversely, shun worldly and godless influences.
- Use his or her time profitably to increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man, in the pattern of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:52).
- Concentrate his or her attention on those things that are pure and lovely and of good report (Phil. 4:8).
- Show a desire for and demonstrate an effort toward improvement when disciplined.
- Encourage others to take spiritual concerns seriously and respect conduct that is upright and honorable.
- Respect and practice the various WCA protocols. For instance, it is expected that older students will hold doors for adults and for younger students and boys will hold doors for girls. We have certain respectful behaviors we have set for lunch time, Chapel, gym, etc.

The faculty will strive to approach students in the spirit dictated by the Holy Spirit through Paul in Galatians 6:1: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering yourself, lest you also be tempted." The teachers, thus, strive to shepherd a child's heart, not just shape behavior.

Reverence

In all areas of instruction, the student should show proper respect and consideration of God's character. Specifically, class songs, skits, stories, and discussion that include references to the name and attributes of the Lord should be consistent with biblical principles.

Student-Faculty Relationships

It is expected that every student at WCA should develop and maintain an attitude of respect for the faculty and fellow students. The proper method of addressing adults (other than parents) while at school is to use the term "Miss," "Mrs.," or "Mr.," and all dialogue between students and adults should be respectful.

In responding to adults, students are to respond respectfully with such phrases as "Yes (or No), Sir," and "Yes (or No), Ma'am." Mannerly expressions such as "please," "thank you," and "excuse me" are to be used when appropriate when speaking with any adult. It is expected that boys will hold doors for girls and allow girls to go first when going through a door, etc.

Beginning in third grade, whenever students enter the classroom they are to stand behind their desks until the teacher instructs them to be seated. When an adult guest enters the room, at the request of the teacher, students will stand and remain standing politely until the person sits down, leaves, or the teacher gives them permission to be seated. If the adult's name is known to the students, in unison, they should politely greet the adult as "Good Morning (Afternoon), Mr. (Mrs., Miss, Dr.)," and then state the adult's last name. Students in grades 3-6 will also stand when answering or asking a question in class unless the teacher directs them otherwise.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

General Procedures

The following progression is typically used in seeking to resolve problems due to misbehavior.

- Teacher talks to, counsels, and prays with the student.
- If necessary, the teacher confers with a parent via email, over the phone, or in person.
- Disciplinary action is taken in keeping with the offense.
- Parent - teacher - student conference.
- Student referred to the principal.
- Parent - teacher - student - principal conference.

The principal/Head of School may shape appropriate consequences for needed discipline in school. The discipline will be administered in the light of the individual student's behavior, attitude and perceived needs. This will be based upon biblical principles, e.g. restitution, seeking forgiveness, (public and private), restoration of fellowship and no lingering attitudes. We, at WCA, seek to bring together "shepherding the child's heart" with the biblical "sowing and reaping" principle. The vast majority of everyday discipline problems are dealt with at the classroom level.

WCA has chosen not to use popular behavioristic techniques to constrain the behavior of students. We do not threaten, promise, bribe, issue demerits, award points or systematically deny privileges in an attempt to control the classroom. We recognize that children are made for a relationship with the living God. The things they say and do are a reflection of the abundance of their hearts; therefore, our correction and discipline must address heart issues. We desire, in correction, discipline and motivation to understand and help our students understand the overflow of their hearts. This instruction and correction will take place in the classroom when possible.

It is vital for parents and students to realize that maintaining an orderly atmosphere in the school and the classroom is critical to the learning process and more importantly, it is reflective of the principles and absolutes of Scripture. As in all other areas of education at WCA, love and forgiveness will be an integral part of the discipline of a student.

There are six basic behaviors that will automatically necessitate discipline from the administration (versus the teacher).

- *Willful disrespect* shown to any staff member.
- *Dishonesty* in any situation while at school, including lying, cheating, and stealing.
- *Rebellion*, i.e. outright disobedience in response to instruction or correction.
- *Fighting*, any physical force used with the intention to harm or intimidate another student or staff member.
- *Obscene language*, including taking the name of the Lord in vain.
- *Unsafe or illegal behavior* that would potentially place the student or others at risk of harm.

Consequences from the principal

The principal will contact the student's parent (phone call or email) after a time of shepherding and prayer. An appropriate consequence will be given, and the principal will ask the parent to follow up with a similar shepherding approach at home. **Like our Lord, WCA will strive to teach, train and discipline with a spirit of grace, mercy and justice.**

Suspension or Expulsion

In extremely rare situations, the Principal or Head of School may elect to suspend a student from school for one or more days or expel the student for the remainder of the school year. This would be due to behaviors deemed severe by the principal and/or Head of School which may include (but not limited to) one or more of the following: continued uncooperative or disrespectful actions that disrupt the educational process, fighting, unsafe or illegal behavior, dishonesty or destruction of property. The administration will have the final decision for readmission based on the student's attitude and circumstances at the time of re-application.

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Chapel

We have a weekly Chapel service in the sanctuary that typically takes place Wednesday mornings at 8:30 - 9:05 (grades K-2) and 9:10 - 9:45 (grades 3-6). During Chapel, faculty and students sing, recite memorized verses, pray, share special news and an area ministry leader or special guest presents a short children's sermon or presentation. Individual students are invited to perform appropriate musical selections during Chapel, but this must be approved in advance by the music teacher. Parents and siblings are welcome to attend Chapel, but should sit away from the students to avoid interrupting the regular routine. Students are required to wear their dress uniforms on Chapel days.

Church Attendance

Believing that our role at WCA is to assist the home and church in the task of training young people, we feel that it is of utmost importance for all of our students to be in regular attendance at their church. We do not feel that we are working in harmony with the home if the family is not actively engaged in a local fellowship. Church participation is required for continued attendance at Westside Christian Academy as we are meant to come alongside the family and local church, not replace it.

Class Parties and Extra Activities

Parties and special non-curricular activities can provide fun and bring students together in ways the classroom may not. If not planned well, however, they can have a negative effect. A few simple guidelines include: 1) If your child is having a birthday party during the school year and inviting classmates, please do not bring invitations to school. Please consider inviting the entire class or all of the same gender. 2) End-of-year class parties and other official WCA class gatherings should be simple, held at school or a park. We generally will refrain from amusement-type outings that cost money and may present other challenges (Ex: Sky Zone, Swings and Things). These activities are best left for the summer with participation being optional.

Daily Schedule

School activities will follow the school calendar. Parents will be notified of any changes or additions. Students are to begin arriving no earlier than 8:00 a.m. Parents should have students at school by 8:20 a.m. so that they have time to put away their hats, coats, and book bags. Students should be seated and ready to begin at 8:30 a.m. Students arriving after 8:30 a.m. must be signed in at the school office by the parent or carpool driver and will be marked tardy. During the first week of school, parents are encouraged to come in with their children and ensure that they understand the correct procedures. **After the first week, parents are requested to drop their students off following the carpool plan.**

In a typical week, the beginning of the day in Grammar School will include:

Monday, 8:30-8:45: Class discussion about the weekend and looking at the week ahead

Tuesday, 8:30-9:00: K-6 Assembly in the gym

Wednesday, 8:40-9:05/9:10-9:45: Chapel in the sanctuary

Friday, 8:30-9:00: Family group activity/prayer

Students are expected to be orderly and respectful to adults and to each other throughout the school day. Students are to walk and remain quiet while in the hallways and bathrooms.

Students and their parents are responsible to the school for any abuse or damage to school or church property.

Donations

God has graciously allowed us to be involved in the work of spreading His Word by providing resources to use in this ministry. As you think about which ministries your gifts can help this year, please consider our school and the Christian families we serve. Your financial gift to WCA will be used prayerfully and carefully for the benefit of teaching your children and others about God. All donations are acknowledged in writing and are tax deductible on your federal income tax return. WCA typically conducts an annual campaign and a few fundraising events.

Participation from our parent body is important.

WCA also gratefully accepts donations of supplies and educational books and materials. Please get the approval of the administrator before bringing large items for donation. All donations are acknowledged with a letter. It is up to the donor to determine the fair market value for federal tax deductions.

Dress Code

The Bible tells us that “man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). God knows our spiritual condition by our hearts, but men initially see only the physical body and how it is attired. We believe the way we dress is important and needs to be appropriate for the occasion. It can affect our behavior and play a part in who we become. Please consider preparing your child’s uniform the night before. Have it pressed and ready according to the uniform guide.

WCA students have been wearing uniforms since the school began in order to:

- Promote an atmosphere of order and neatness that suggests a readiness for learning.
- Eliminate the temptation for students to exclude those who don’t dress “a certain way” or buy a particular brand.
- Remove the temptation to call attention to oneself through clothing or to be distracted by another's attire.

Parents’ full support of this dress code is imperative. You do this by the cooperative attitude you display to students and by seeing that your children dress in compliance with this code.

Failure to follow dress code

Students are given one warning each quarter. After this warning, teachers will contact the parent describing the dress code infraction(s). After four offenses in the quarter, the principal will be notified and will contact the student's parents. If appropriate for the situation, the principal will shepherd the student. Also, an appropriate consequence may be given.

Technology Philosophy

As classical educators, we believe technology is an end of education, not a means of education, one of the many ends that can be successfully pursued with a well- rounded liberal arts foundation. To this end, we focus on developing the whole person, which includes, especially in the primary grades, interactions with physical books and physical handwriting. By building on the time-tested fundamentals in our grammar school, we enable our logic school students to use technology to become active producers rather than passive consumers. We recognize the dangers of technology, specifically, that technology has an atrophic nature and is designed to promote an addictive nature in its consumers. We also recognize the benefits of properly used technology; therefore, we strive to be responsible sub creators, learners, and worshippers when using this medium.

Electronics in School

Electronics include, but are not limited to drones, cell phones, iPods, iPads, electronic tablets, Apple watches (or similar device) and any device that can be used with earphones.

- The school strongly discourages bringing electronic devices to school.
- If it is imperative for a student to have an electronic device in school, then
 - A student will not use any electronic device in school unless he/she has been given permission from a teacher/staff member and is under direct supervision.
 - A student may not keep devices with him/her at school. All electronic devices brought to school will be placed in a basket in the student's homeroom when they arrive at school and remain there until the student is dismissed for the day and leaves the building.
- If a student uses or misuses an electronic device on school property or during school activities, the student will be shepherded and may receive an appropriate consequence.
- Electronic devices designed and used exclusively for reading (ie. Kindle) are acceptable with specific teacher permission.
- SMART watches are not permitted to be worn at school.

Electronics and Social Media Outside of School

Media communications posted by students such as, but not limited to, texting, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, email and blogging should reflect the high moral standards of our Christian faith. We represent our Savior Jesus Christ, our families and Westside Christian Academy. Communications using media that are brought to our attention will be handled on an individual basis. Communications of this sort are accessible to the public; therefore, we want to protect our children from any detrimental consequences of misinterpreted messages. Our parents are quite involved at WCA and love to take pictures!

We ask that the privacy of other people's children be taken into account and respected if posting photos. WCA related photos should only be posted on WCA sites such as a class social media page.

Lost and Found

Articles left in the classrooms, halls, or on the grounds will be placed in the lost and found. Unclaimed articles will be given to charity.

Lunch and Recess

The grammar school has 4 lunch periods and 4 recess periods. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom. If you would like to volunteer during one or all of these periods, please see your classroom teacher.

Recess will be outdoors as long as the temperature is not below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, it is very important that students come to school with coats, gloves, and hats on those cold days. If it is too cold or it is raining, recess will be in the classroom. As of 2022, indoor recess in the gym is no longer an option.

Please provide your child with any necessary utensils and napkins as well as having the food ready to eat (peeled oranges, etc.). In this way teachers and lunchroom volunteers are not overburdened with these tasks and students are able to complete their lunches on time. Students are encouraged to use lunch boxes, thermos bottles, and reusable or recyclable containers in order to encourage environmental responsibility. A microwave is not available for use. We ask parents to pack healthy lunches and to avoid "junk" food as much as possible. Soda would not be appropriate for lunch or snack.

Students will be eating lunch in the classroom, with supervision from the teacher or a parent volunteer. Parents are welcome to come to school and eat lunch with their children or sign their children out for lunch. Please understand that space is limited. If signing your child out for lunch, please return by the end of the lunch/recess period. Parents must sign their child back in at the school office upon their return.

Morning Snack

Parents are asked to pack a healthy snack (i.e. fruit, crackers, pretzels) for the students to enjoy mid-morning. Students are allowed and encouraged to have water bottles in their classrooms.

School Materials and Inappropriate Items

Students are to bring all classroom materials from the supply list to school on the first day. These materials will remain at school to encourage learning readiness. Parents should also keep an adequate supply of materials such as lined paper, pencils, crayons, scissors, glue, etc. for preparing homework assignments.

Items such as cell phones, smart watches, **toys**, video games, electronic musical devices, skates, sleds, slingshots (or any type of weapon), etc. are not permitted at school unless a special request or permission for them is given by the teacher.

Class Placement Policy

Each Grammar School grade (K-6) will contain two homerooms for the current school year. When developing the class lists, the class placement committee works together to create the best composition for each class. This committee considers many facets of a student's makeup when prayerfully making class lists. First, they will consider the students' learning needs/differences, student relationships, gender balance of the class, teacher workload, and any special circumstances. Our teachers and principal know the children and their colleagues well and carefully create homeroom groups that are best for all.

We will gladly consider a request from parents whose child is enrolled for the next school year (all enrollment fees paid), but we never promise the student will have a certain teacher or be with a particular classmate as many factors go into class composition. When submitting a request, please be very specific as to the reason(s). This will become additional criteria in the decision-making process. Any teacher request must be submitted to the class placement committee before **February 1st**.

Anti-Bullying and Suicide Prevention Policy

Purpose

Westside Christian Academy understands the duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our students. We believe the greatest commandments of "loving the Lord with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself" set the standard for these policies. We plan to work alongside the family and the church as part of a three-legged stool in order to maintain a safe environment for all.

Definitions

According to the Ohio Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation or Anti-Bullying Model Policy, Harassment, intimidation or bullying means any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibited toward other particular student more than once and the behavior both: "causes mental or physical hardship to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student."

Prevention

Prevention is the ultimate goal for these circumstances. Prevention includes training staff for signs of bullying, suicidal tendencies and providing biblical counseling for these subjects. Prevention for students includes the building of peer and faculty relationships through compass groups where students meet weekly to discuss, build and grow together throughout their educational career. Students also participate in house groups with elected student leaders and frequent bonding opportunities. These relationships promote school connectedness and offer peer leaders that a child can feel comfortable seeking help or support from.

Along with these, 6th grade students will receive training on how to discuss suicide and bullying awareness, allowing open conversation about these topics. The assembly informs students on the recognition, prevention of harassment, intimidation or bullying, and their rights and

responsibilities under this policy. Parents will be provided with information to discuss with their child/children as well.

Reporting

In the case of bullying, students should report by informing a school staff member or, if they are uncomfortable, by using the Safer Ohio School Safety tipline. Reporting should include the individuals involved, discussions between the individuals, where and when actions took place, any witnesses that observed and the target of the harassment. Faculty should document the report and resolve the report with the individuals and keep the reporter's information confidential.

Disciplinary Action

Any student found responsible for harassing, bullying or intentionally disturbing another is subject to disciplinary action set by the Principal. These actions intend to focus on mending the relationship while teaching biblical principles for all individuals involved. It is our goal to have our students be leaders and disciples for Christ even beyond the classroom. Any disciplinary action is intended to grow and shape our students to be God-fearing and respectful men and women of God.

CARPOOL AND DISMISSAL

At all times please enter the school grounds via the WEST driveway and exit using the East driveway. WCA uses the following carpool plan for parents picking up students after school. This is to make it easier to load students, but is also for the protection of the students. **To avoid disrupting the orderly flow of carpool, parents are requested to not come inside the building to pick up children and to not engage the teacher in conversation during dismissal time.** Also, if you need to assist your student with buckling up, please drive out of the carpool line and park. It is important to keep the carpool line moving quickly.

Families carpooling must submit a completed WCA Carpool Roster form listing authorized carpool drivers for their children. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their children know who their carpool driver is each day. Please remember that it is illegal for any child to be allowed to ride in a car not specifically designated by their parents **in writing**. If your child will be going home with someone other than his or her regular carpool driver, you must notify the office wca@westsideacademy.org.

After 8:30 a.m. all building entrances will be locked and you must use the WCA school office entrance D.

Loading and Unloading

Cutting through traffic or exceeding 10 mph is dangerous. Please be cautious and patient during the drop off and dismissal times.

The GS principal and WCA staff will ensure that students are safely unloaded during drop off and safely loaded during dismissal. We are happy to provide this service in order to keep our students safe. During winter months, please ensure that students have coats and hats on before unloading.

Parent Parking

Parents please park along the periphery of the parking lot or behind the gym during the school day. The parking lot is used as the play area during outdoor recess times. Administration may ask you to move if you are parked in a recess area.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

In order to maintain a uniform standard of dress, only certain styles and colors of clothing are allowed for students of Westside Christian Academy. The purpose of the uniform is:

1. To promote a serious academic atmosphere by encouraging the students to think of their attire as an aspect of their work.
2. To minimize social competition and self-consciousness which fashion tends to promote.
3. To promote a sense of identity with the school and among the students as a group.
4. To provide financial and social benefits for the parents by limiting their children's school clothing needs.

Students are expected to be in uniform everyday.

- Dress Uniform is required for Chapel every Wednesday and for some field trips.
- Field Uniform is required for field trips when casual wear is appropriate. Field trip information sent home in advance of the field trip will specify which uniform should be worn.
- Students in grades 5-6 are required to have a P.E. uniform.

SEE THE WCA WEBSITE FOR A FULL VISUAL: <https://westsideacademy.org/uniforms/>

There are two approved vendors for uniform clothing and we suggest you look carefully at both before ordering:

- Schoolbelles – (WCA Uniform Guide #S1293) - This is a local vendor with quality one-stop shopping.
 - Schoolbelles carries all our uniform requirements
 - P.E. Uniforms (for grades 5-6)
 - The WCA green sweatshirt
 - WCA hoodie (hoodies are a spirit wear item and may not be worn in the classroom)

When ordering uniforms through Schoolbelles, make sure you give them our school number (S1293).

- Lands' End - This is a catalog/internet vendor at www.landsend.com/school
Our School number is 900062142. Lands End may not have all of the uniforms required for Upper School students.

When ordering uniforms through Lands End, make sure you give them our **school number (900062142)**. Not everything on the Lands End website or catalog is an approved uniform item. You must use our school number above.

- Used uniform closet is available to all our families. You may take items free of charge. If you have uniform items that no longer fit your child, we take **clean, gently worn** uniforms. If possible, please label it with “boy” or “girl” and size.

Miscellaneous Dress Guidelines

- Hair
 - Girls’ hair must be neatly styled and away from the face. Any hair bows, headbands, or scrunchies should match the WCA uniform colors: white, navy, dark green, black, or Schoolbelles plaid.
 - Boys’ hair must be neatly styled, not lie on the collar, and not cover the eyebrows. No mohawk hair styles, please.
 - Hair must be a color natural to the human race.
- Distractions
 - Any type of distracting make-up, jewelry, hairstyle, nails, etc. is not acceptable.
 - Athletic shoes should not be distracting, mismatching, or calling unnecessary attention to oneself.
- Uniforms (See Boys and Girls Uniform Guidelines)
 - For dress uniforms, students are to keep their ties on all day so they will not be lost. Taking a tie off for recess and P.E. is acceptable, but boys should put them back on afterwards. Ties may be loosened and top shirt buttons may be unbuttoned after Chapel or when the field trip is over. Girls are not to unbutton their ties. Girls may not wear boys’ ties and boys may not wear girls’.
 - In grades 5 and 6, when dress uniform is required, if time permits and at the teacher’s discretion, students may wear athletic shoes during recess. Students are to put their dress shoes back on after recess.
 - If a student is missing a part of their uniform, they will receive a notice indicating what item was missing or did not meet the WCA uniform requirements. If this is repeated, or if the violation is flagrant, the parent will be notified.
 - **Non-uniform jackets, sweaters, pullovers, sweatshirts, hoodies, etc. are not to be worn in the classroom.** Students may wear their uniform sweatshirts or sweaters. WCA sweatshirts may **not** be worn with dress uniforms; only uniform sweaters or vests are allowed.
 - Shirts are to be tucked in at all times and uniform shirts are required under sweatshirts, sweaters, and vests.
 - Boys are not to wear jewelry to school (necklaces and bracelets). Certain exceptions can be made upon the principal's approval.
 - Girls may wear navy blue leggings under their skirts from November to March.
- Shoes
 - K-4 Students should wear athletic shoes every school day.
 - Grades 5-6 should wear dress shoes with the dress uniform on Chapel day. Boys may wear athletic shoes with shorts on Chapel days.
 - Shoes that light up or have rollers on them are not permitted.
 - Neon or bright colors are not permitted (Pink, Orange, Yellow, Green, Red, Purple, Turquoise)
 - Pastel colors are permitted

- **When in doubt, think conservative in keeping with the uniform.**
- Dress shoes should be dark in color - brown, black or cordovan.
- Shoes must have closed heels and toes. No boots, clogs, crocs, slippers, moccasins or sandals.
- See [GS Parent Handbook Shoe Guide](#) for visual guidelines.
- Length of shorts, skirts, skorts
 - Shorts or skorts should not be any shorter than 4" above the knee.
 - Skirts are to be no shorter than 2" above the knee. Longer skirts (below the knee) are also fine.
- Socks
 - White, black, gray, navy, tan, dark green and WCA socks in these colors are permitted
 - Socks should be solid without designs
 - "No Show" socks are not permitted
 - Crew socks are encouraged
- Areas of dress not mentioned or defined in our written descriptions will be left to school personnel for interpretation and enforcement. If any item of clothing leaves a question in one's mind, the child should simply not wear it.
- Smart Devices, including smart watches, are not permitted.
- For any other questions regarding appropriate dress, please contact Mrs. Gaitaniella or Mrs. Santos.

P.E. Uniform Policy

Shirts

WCA approved P.E. uniform shirts can be purchased at WCA for \$10 and are no longer required to be purchased through School Belles or Land's End. They will be available for purchase at the WCA Back to School Open House on August 14th (and throughout the remainder of the school year). Parents should make an exact cash payment or provide verification of a receipt if using the WCA App. *Any gym shirts purchased in prior years through School Belles and Land's End may still be worn.*

Shorts

Gym shorts are not required to be purchased through School Belles or Land's End. Students must provide their own athletic shorts, of respectable length (no more than 3 inches above the knee), in **solid** color of black, navy, gray, or forest green. No compression shorts or spandex.

Boys' Uniform Guidelines

All uniform items can be purchased through Schoolbelles (school #S1293) or Lands' End (school #900062142). However, identical clothing from other vendors is acceptable.

Boys' Everyday Uniform, Grammar School

- Shirts – Short or long sleeve knit polo style shirts or oxford white shirts.
(Approved colors: white, uniform dark green, or navy)

- Pants/Shorts – (khaki or navy only) Shorts may be worn only from August thru October 31 and after April 1 thru May.
- Belts - students in grades 3-6 wear a belt every school day and are optional in K-2. Belts must be navy, black, or brown.
- Shoes – Athletic shoes (non-distracting and no Neon colors) or leather shoes. Socks must be worn at all times. Boys are encouraged to wear crew socks. “No show” socks are not permitted.
- WCA green or navy uniform sweatshirts may be worn on non-Chapel days.
- Dark green or navy v-neck sweater (optional)

Required Field Uniform (for field trips) – Grammar School

- Khaki slacks with belt (Belt must be navy, black or brown in color)
- Long or short sleeve dark green knit shirt
- WCA green or navy sweatshirt
- Athletic shoes (non distracting and no neon colors) See [GS Parent Handbook Shoe Guide](#) for visual guidelines.

Required Dress Uniform – Grammar School

- Navy slacks with belt (Belt must be navy, black or brown in color)
- Grade 5-6 boys should wear dress shoes (Navy, brown, black) to Chapel. If boys in grades 5-6 are wearing shorts, they may wear casual shoes.
- K-4 may wear non-distracting, athletic shoes.
- Long or short sleeve white oxford shirt – (Buttoned-down collar shirt in similar style and material to the approved supplier shirts may be purchased from any store. No logos of any kind should be on the shirt.)
- Plaid tie (purchased through schoolbelles)
- Dark Crew Socks-avoid “no show” socks
- Optional - Dark green or navy v-neck sweater
- No sweatshirts allowed for Chapel

Girls’ Uniform Guidelines

All uniform items can be purchased through Schoolbelles (school #S1293) or Lands’ End (school #900062142). However, identical clothing from other vendors is acceptable.

Girls’ Everyday Uniform, Grammar School

- Shirts – Short or long sleeve knit polo style shirts or oxford white shirts. (Approved colors: white, uniform dark green, or navy).
- Slacks/Shorts – (khaki or navy only) Shorts may be worn only from August thru October 31 and after April 1st thru June. Belts must be worn if the clothing is designed for such in grades 3-6 (navy, black, or brown).
- Navy blue leggings are permitted underneath skirts/jumpers November - March. Slacks and navy blue tights are acceptable. Jeggings are not permitted.
- Skirt or skort – (khaki or navy only). Girls may wear their dress uniform skirt or jumper as daily wear.

- Shoes – Athletic shoes (non distracting and no neon colors) or dress shoes. Socks in school colors only. See [GS Parent Handbook Shoe Guide](#) for visual guidelines.
- WCA green or navy sweatshirt
- V-neck cardigan sweater

Required Field Uniform – Grammar School

- Khaki slacks (with a navy, black, or brown belt in grades 3-6) or skorts
- Long or short sleeve dark green knit shirt
- WCA green or navy sweatshirt
- Athletic shoes

Required Dress Uniform - All Girls Kindergarten thru 3rd

- Plaid jumper
- White blouse with peter pan collar
- Plaid continental snap-on cross tie
- Navy opaque tights or navy knee socks
- Non-distracting athletic shoes or navy, brown, or black dress shoes.
- Optional – Dark green or navy sweater

Required Dress Uniform - All Girls 4th-6th Grade

- Plaid kilt skirt
- White oxford button down blouse
- Plaid continental snap-on cross tie
- Navy opaque tights or navy knee high socks
- Grade 4 may still wear non-distracting athletic shoes
- Grades 5-6 – navy, brown, or black dress shoes
- Optional – Dark green or navy sweater

It is very important that our student body come to school, ready to learn, with a sense of confidence and uniformity in their dress. For this purpose, please ensure that the uniform is clean, pressed, size appropriate, and untattered.

Dress Down Days

Please do not wear spandex pants, leggings, or short shorts.