Carolina Christian School

Lower School Handbook



"To teach the mind and guide the soul through a deeper understanding of God the Creator and His World."

SCHOOL TIMES AND ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- School hours are from 8:15 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.
- School instruction begins at 8:15 am and a student will be considered tardy if they are not in their classroom and ready for instruction at 8:15 am.
- A tardy slip will have to be completed in the Front Office for anyone arriving after 8:15 am to school for any reason.
- Any student leaving early or arriving last must be signed in or out by a
 parent or legal guardian and have a Student Dismissal Form on file in the
 Front Office. Students must present a written excuse note from a parent or
 medical provider to the Front Office upon return to school to be marked
 excused.
- Whenever a student leaves school early, a guardian must sign their student out in the Front Office. If a student returns to school during the day, he/she must be signed back in by the parent or guardian. Any early dismissal from school will be considered unexcused without proper reason and a note from the parent. Leaving school for haircuts, shopping trips, etc. will not be excused. Five (5) unexcused early dismissals will result in one full absence on the students record.
- A Lower School student must be in school a minimum of 3 ½ hours of the 6 ¾ hours to be considered present for the whole day. Half day of school will equal 3 ½ hours. Generally, 8:15-11:45 am or 11:30 3:00 pm is considered a half-day for determining attendance and athletic eligibility.
- Students have the option to attend Cub Club. Cub Club offers:
 - o Before school care: 7:00-8:00am
 - o After school care: 3:00-6:00pm
 - If you are interested in Cub Club, please contact the front office for more information

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Student Promotion and Retention

• Promotion will be used to show progress of the student from one grade level to another. Except in the case of extenuating excused absences, each student is expected to attend the designated number of school days to be eligible for promotion.

Report Cards

- For all students, progress reports and/or report cards are issued four times a year. The evaluation reflects the child's performance in relation to grade level course standards. When expectations have been modified for a child, it will be indicated in the evaluation. Parent Conferences are mandatory for all students after the first grading period.
- Grades are regularly entered and constantly available to parents throughout the grading periods on Blackbaud. Parents are encouraged to

actively monitor their child's progress.

Make-up Work

If a child is out of school for involuntarily (excused absence) or because of an excused lengthy illness, it will be the responsibility of the student or parent to communicate with the teacher to discuss class assignments and tests.

Grading Scales:

PK-2nd Grade:

Pk-2nd students will now be assessed on a rubric based grading scale. This allows teachers to support the positive growth that students are meeting while assisting with areas of need without promoting punitive measures for learning outcomes. At CCS we believe that learning is a process and all growth must be celebrated, not torn down.

Grades will read as:

E-Emerging

D-Developing

P-Proficient

E+-Extending

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	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Proficiency Scale	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

3rd-5th Grade:

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade
90-100	А

80-89	В
70-79	С
60-69	D
Below 60	F

Homework Policy

Purpose

Carolina Christian School believes that homework serves to build responsibility, self-discipline, and positive habits. It is the intention of the faculty to assign relevant, challenging, and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. Homework should provide students with opportunities to apply what they have learned, complete unfinished classroom assignments, and promote independence.

Homework Assignments include:

- Practice exercises to follow classroom instruction
- Review Assignments to prepare for assessments
- Extension assignments to transfer learned skills to new situations
- Integration of many skills to create a product

Time

The actual time a student takes to complete homework will vary depending on study habits, academic skills, and selected course load. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, the teacher should be contacted. The average student should complete homework within 20-45 minutes.

Late Work Policy for Grades 3-5

Students are expected to turn in homework on time. Students who turn in late assignments will accrue -10 points each day the assignment is late.

STUDENT LIFE

The underlying foundation and philosophy for all student conduct policies and procedures is based upon biblical principles. In matters of morality and practice, we hold guidelines as biblically stated. The school is best able to provide an enriching, enjoyable, and constructive educational experience for each student by maintaining a positive and disciplined learning environment where consideration is given to each person's needs.

It is our responsibility to provide the proper learning environment for students. It is the student's responsibility to make the commitment to live within the rules and regulations that are necessary for us to function together each school day in a God-honoring manner. Discipline can be defined as self-control. In a well-disciplined classroom, both the teacher and the student exercise self-control. Any breakdown in self-control by individuals hinders learning.

Matthew 18 Principle

Teachers, students, and our CCS Community as a whole are expected to follow the Matthew 18 Principle. Discuss any concerns (academic, social, or behavioral) before leaving school for the day with the person it concerns.

ROOTED

Colossians 2:6-7

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith...abounding in thanksgiving."

At Carolina Christian School, we strive to honor God in all we do. The ROOTED principles help guide our character and conduct:

R - Show RESPECT

Honor those God has placed in your life.

- Listen well
- ✓ Show appreciation
- Choose a respectful attitude

O – Follow with OBEDIENCE

Follow God's Word and school expectations with a willing heart.

- Actions reflect your faith
- Obedience is a form of worship
- Lead by example

O - Take OWNERSHIP

Take responsibility for your behavior, growth, and environment.

- Own your choices
- Care for school and church property
- Be a good steward

T – Be a TRUSTWORTHY Team Player

Live with integrity and honor God with your body.

Make wise, God-honoring choices

Avoid dishonoring influences

Protect your heart and body

E - EDIFY Others and Self

Do your best in all things—for God's glory.

Be kind and helpful

Show care for people and places

Uplift others made in God's image

D - Be a DOER of the Word

Grow in Christ and help others do the same.

Seek Jesus daily

Encourage and walk with others

Be a light wherever you go

By embracing these principles, we create a nurturing and respectful environment that reflects our shared commitment to faith and excellence.

Educator's Handbook

Educator's Handbook is a program used to document all behavior. This program will be used as a tool to keep note of exemplary behavior as well as areas where students can grow. Educator's Handbook will allow for teachers and administration to collect data and observe trends to help guide and improve behavioral patterns.

Words of Affirmation

The underlying foundation and philosophy for all student conduct policies and procedures are based upon biblical principles. In matters of morality and practice, we hold guidelines as biblically stated. The school is best able to provide an enriching, enjoyable, and constructive educational experience for each student by maintaining a positive and disciplined learning environment where consideration is given to each person's needs. The Bible is clear on the role of believers to affirm one another by encouraging others and speaking kind words. With this understanding, the CCS staff will look for ways to affirm our students by recognizing positive character traits and efforts. In doing so, CCS staff members will assign "Merits" as an affirmation of the student.

Positive Behavioral Outcomes that are God honoring are top priority! For the 25-26 school year, students have the opportunity to participate in positive behavioral incentive rewards at the end of each quarter! Details regarding each behavioral incentive will be sent to parents at the beginning of each quarter!

Accountability Codes

Category 1 (Minor): Academic Integrity & Student Responsibility

- Academic Infractions*
- Class disruption
- Dress code violation: Receive conduct code and must fix the dress code issue at the time of the infraction
- Eating or chewing gum at inappropriate times.
- Excessive talking or talking without permission
- Failure to comply with instructions
- Inattentive
- Not prepared for class: Pencil, Paper, Charged Computer, Notebooks, Textbooks
- Dishonesty (Teacher Discretion)
- Disrespect to Staff or Classmates (Teacher Discretion)
- In off-limits area of campus
- Inappropriate speech (swear words, sexual inuendos, gestures, or jokes, etc.)

Consequences for Category 1 (Minor): Academic Integrity & Student Responsibility

- One conduct code with parent email notification.
- At 4 conduct codes, a 2-hour detention will be assigned. Additionally, the administration will counsel the student on ways to avoid accumulating more codes. An email notification of a meeting will be sent to parents.
- After one 2-hour detention, the student will only be allowed to receive 2 additional conduct codes before being assigned a 1-day in-school suspension.
- After one 1-day in-school suspension, the student will only be allowed to receive 2 additional conduct codes before being assigned a 1-day out of school suspension.
- Every semester, a new slate begins for counting Category 1 infractions.

Category 2 (Major): Character Formation

- Dishonesty (Teacher Discretion)
- Destruction or misuse of school property
- Disrespect to Staff or Classmates (Teacher Discretion)
- Inappropriate speech (vulgarities, sexually explicit phrases, gestures, or jokes, etc.)
- Outright Disobedience
- Improper use of technology and/or cell phone usage during school hours
- On-campus driving violation
- Public Display of Affection
- Horseplay CCS will not tolerate horseplay. This includes but is not limited to slapping, twisting, non-sexual touching, and other types of engagement with

other students that are inappropriate for a school setting. These actions can escalate into physical violence at worst and distraction from studies at the least.

Consequences for Category 2 (Major): Character Formation

- An automatic 2-hour detention notice will be assigned.
- If a second Category 2 code is given, In School Suspension will be assigned.
- If a third Category 2 code is given, Out of School Suspension will be assigned.
- After ISS and OSS have been utilized, the CCS School Board, at the Head of School's recommendation, may ask a student to withdraw from CCS, expel him/her, or not allow him/her to re-enroll if he/she engages in major disciplinary infractions or does not reflect a desire to live within the philosophy of CCS.
- Every semester, a new slate begins for counting Category 2 infractions.

The process above will be used for normal disciplinary concerns. If any disciplinary incident is serious enough, the process may be accelerated.

Category 3: Serious Infractions

- Fighting
- Vandalism of school property or graffiti
- Possession of alcohol or drugs (Expulsion)
- Possession or use of weapons (Expulsion)
- Failure to appear for detention
- Practice sexual impurity as defined in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
- Sexual harassment
- Stealing
- Truancy
- Bullying
 - o Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, that takes place on school property or at any school-sponsored function, and that: (1) Places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or (2) Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits. For purposes of this section, "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior includes, but is not limited to, acts reasonably

perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability, or by association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics.

Reference:

https://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_115c/Article_29C.pdf

Consequences for Category 3: Serious Infractions Suspension or Expulsion

Suspension will be determined by the Head of School. The Head of School will recommend a student's expulsion to the CCS School Board for final review and decision.

Conduct Code Consequences Overview

- Notification: Every time a conduct code (Category 1 or 2) is entered into on our new student behavior platform, Educator's Handbook, an email will be sent to the student, parent, and academic team.
- Important: If a 2-hour detention has already been assigned for a Category 1 code and a Category 2 code is later given, the consequence will immediately escalate to a 1-day In-School Suspension (ISS).

Detentions (3rd-5th Grade)

A detention will be 2 hours in length and scheduled as needed. Students will report to the administration. Detentions may include general cleaning around the school and grounds; therefore, students should dress accordingly. Detention must be served within one week of the assigned date. If necessary, students are expected to miss extracurricular activities to fulfill this requirement.

ISS (3rd-5th Grade)

In-School Suspension is defined as a temporary separation from the classroom environment. All class work for ISS receives full credit if turned in on the assignment due date. Grading for work turned in beyond the due date will be evaluated according to the Late Work Policy. Students are responsible for being prepared for the following day's school work. Students assigned to ISS will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities on the day the ISS is served.

OSS (Dependent on Major Infraction as coded in Educator's Handbook)
Out of School Suspension is defined as a temporary absence from school. When a
student is suspended from school, they are not permitted on campus at any time or

to attend any school events. Classwork is to be completed at home as assigned and turned in upon return to regular classes. All class work for OSS will receive half credit. Grading for work turned in beyond the due date will be evaluated according to the late-work policy. Students are responsible for being prepared for the following day's school work. No quizzes or tests will be given to a student during OSS, but will be given on the day they return to school.

- Each code will be followed by a restorative process focused on reconciliation and restoring right relationships in the school community.
- Every time a conduct code (Category 1 or 2) is entered into Educator's Handbook, an email will be sent to the student, parent, and academic team.
- If a 2-hour detention has already been assigned for a Category 1 code and a Category 2 code is later given, the consequence will immediately escalate to a 1-day In-School Suspension (ISS).

Categories 2-3 consequences for PK-2nd will be at Principal's discretion based on developmentally appropriate practices.

Number of Codes	Category 1	Category 2 THIS CONSEQUENCE SEQUENCE IS FOR 3rd-5th	Category 3
1	Code given	Code given with a 2-hour Detention	Code given with suspension or expulsion
2	Code given	Code given with a 1-day In-School Suspension (ISS)	
3	Code given	Code given with a 1-day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)	
4	Code given with a 2-hour Detention		
5	Code given		
6	Code given with a 1-day In-School Suspension (ISS)		
7	Code given		

8	Code given with a 1-day Out-of-School	
	Suspension (OSS)	

*Academic Infractions

- Using unauthorized materials or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination or in connection with any work completed for academic credit. Unauthorized material may include (but is not limited to) notes, textbooks, previous examinations, exhibits, experiments, papers, or other supplementary items.
- Giving false or misleading information regarding an academic matter.
- Copying information from another student—whether during an exam, quiz, classwork, or homework—is considered cheating because it involves presenting someone else's work or knowledge as your own, which violates principles of academic honesty and integrity.
- Rendering unauthorized assistance to another student by knowingly permitting him or her to see a copy of all or a portion of an examination, or any work to be submitted for academic credit.
- Discussing any examination with another student before all students have completed the examination.
 Obtaining prior knowledge of examination materials (including using copies of
 - previously given examinations) in an unauthorized manner. Selling or giving to another student unauthorized copies of any portion of an examination.
- Using a commercially prepared paper or research project, or submitting for academic credit for any work completed by someone else.
- Falsifying reasons why a student did not attend a required class or take a scheduled examination.
- Making unauthorized changes in any reported grade or on an official academic report form, such as in-class grading.
- Falsifying scientific or other data submitted for academic credit.
- Collaborating in an unauthorized manner with one or more students on an examination or any work submitted for academic credit, including classwork and homework.
- Committing the act of plagiarism, the deliberate copying, writing, or presenting as one's information, ideas, or phrasing of another person without proper acknowledgement of the true source.
- Using computing facilities or library resources in an academically dishonest manner or a manner that betrays the values of Carolina Christian School.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, GrammarlyGO, or other AI-based writing or problem-solving platforms) to complete assignments, tests, or projects is not permitted unless explicitly authorized by the teacher. Submitting work generated by AI as your own is considered a violation of academic integrity. Students are expected to submit original work that reflects their understanding and effort. Any unauthorized use of AI will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy.

Note: All reports and papers are subject to review through plagiarism detection software to ensure academic integrity.

Expulsion

Expulsion is defined as complete dismissal from Carolina Christian School. If expulsion is required, the family will not receive a refund of the tuition that has been paid to Carolina Christian School. The parents have the right to file a formal appeal in writing with the CCS School Board, which has the final decision. No appeals may be made to the Pastor or the Session of Carolina Presbyterian Church.

Readmission after Expulsion or Forced Withdrawal

Parents who seek readmission or participation in school activities (athletics, clubs, fine arts) of a student expelled or withdrawn as a result of the disciplinary process shall request such by a letter to the Head of School. There should be evidence of a changed attitude sustained over some time. It is the School's policy not to re-admit a previously expelled student for at least one year from the date of expulsion. The School Board, or its delegated committee, will make a decision based on the student's attitude and circumstances at the time of reapplication.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

Immediate Withdrawal

- Students who commit serious conduct infractions may be asked to withdraw from CCS immediately, depending on the level of danger, risk, influence on others, effect on the integrity and safety of others, perceived desire to change, and past conduct history.
- If parents do not accept the recommendations from the Head of School to withdraw the student, the School Board will study the case and decide if the student will be expelled immediately.

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PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

No public display of affection is allowed at CCS, at any CCS sponsored event, or at any event in which CCS is represented. This does include holding hands. This is a 2-hour detention.

Carolina Christian School Lower School Dress Code		
Monday-Wednesday UNIFORMS	Thursday-Friday UNIFORM OR SPIRITWEAR	
School clothes must be modest, neat and clean. Tight-fitting clothing will not be allowed.		
Uniforms are not required to be purchased through Lands' End.	Spirit wear is apparel from special CCS events (i.e. Running Club, Field Day and athletic events) and/or Parent Teacher Coalition.	
SHIRTS/BLOUSI	ES/TOPS	
 Collared shirts must be of the approved uniform colors of white, navy, light blue or garnet (maroon). Turtlenecks must be white or navy Long and short sleeved Peter Pan blouses. The school crest is optional and can be done through Lands' End or Signature Embroidery at 304 N. Main Street, Oakboro, NC or by phone 704-485-6200 . Lands' End School Code: 900171364. 	 Long sleeve/short sleeve essential shirt Crewneck sweatshirt (must be worn over school approved shirt) Hoodie Pullover sweatshirt (must be worn over school approved shirt) - Zip front sweatshirt (must be worn over school approved shirt) approved school approved shirt) 	

Crewneck t-shirts with the crest
 Sweatpants
 Mesh shorts

Pants/Capris/Shorts/Skorts

- Navy and Khaki colors only; jeans may only be worn on approved days
- Leggings are NOT to be worn as pants; they are only to be worn under dresses.

Dresses/Skirts/Skorts

- Jersey Dresses can be navy, light blue and burgundy and a school crest is not required. Jumpers are to be worn with collared shirts and the school crest is not required. Colors may be burgundy, khaki, or navy.
- Belts: are not required but if worn, must be black, brown, navy, or khaki.

Socks/Shoes

Sandals and Crocs are allowed but MUST have a back; no slides or flip flops. - Please have your student wear tennis shoes on PE days; see the classroom schedule for days your child attends. No hard-sole shoes, boots, crocs or sandals are allowed on PE days.

Outerwear

CCS does not require coats to be school approved. Coats should be worn to school during the winter months over CCS approved uniform items. Coats are not to be worn during class. Your student may prefer to wear a non-CCS hoodie, jacket or sweatshirt to school as their coat, but this will not be permitted to be worn in class.

Chapel Days

School approved collared shirts are required on Chapel days. Students may wear solid color (white, blue, black or burgundy) collared polo shirts. No hoodies, jackets, or t-shirts are permitted during the Chapel service.

Specific Standards at Extra-Curricular Activities

During after school activities the students are still representing our school. We expect them to dress appropriately and be modest and neat. Tight fitting clothing should not be worn. While

uniforms are not required, school spirit wear preferred. We expect the students to follow the policy guidelines for length of shorts, skirts, dresses, and skorts. Outlines of undergarments should not be visible.

LOWER SCHOOL DAILY ACTIVITIES

Lower School will have designated extracurricular activities daily in addition to their regular classroom schedule. This is not a graded activity with assignments. It is a participatory grade to enhance our student skills and to give them a love for the Arts.

Enrichment Courses Consist of:

- PE
- Wellness
- Music
- Art
- STEM (3-5)
- Tech (3-5)
- Intervention with Teacher Assistant

CHAPEL SERVICES

Chapel services will be held on Mondays from 8:20 am – 9:00 am. Chapel will be led by selected speakers with some participation of the students and school staff. Chapel dress is expected to include collared shirts and uniform pants, dresses or skirts.

MORNING PRAYER AND PLEDGES

In addition to weekly chapel services, the class will begin each morning with prayer and pledges.

FOOD/LUNCH POLICY

Snacks

Students may pack a small snack to be eaten during the morning break. It is not the responsibility of the staff to provide snacks if a student does not have one. Water is the only beverage allowed in classrooms. Parents, please do not provide any other beverage for snack time or in the classroom. Snack Cart

Lunch

Students need to pack their lunch daily, unless they purchase a hot lunch meal on selected days. Candy, carbonated beverages, and energy drinks are not permitted. Lower School students are not permitted to use the microwaves and teachers are not able to warm food for them. For lunch only, students may bring milk, juice boxes and water. Students and parents will not be permitted to order food and have it delivered during school hours.

Special hot meal lunch options will be communicated to parents through CCS emails and available a variety of times throughout the year. Hot meals must be arranged through Renweb/CCS Connect App and paid for before the meal is served. Lunch orders not completed and paid for will not be placed with the vendor and will not be available. No cash or other payment is available the day of the meal. Please order via computer to ensure your order goes through.

Please communicate any food allergies to the school nurse and/or teacher at the beginning of the school year. Lunch room and classroom accommodations will be made for students with severe allergies that require isolation from certain foods.

Parents and/or grandparents may eat lunch with their students if it is pre-arranged with the Front Office and/or teacher. They must sign in at the Front Office and get a visitor's pass.

ASSEMBLIES AND SCHOOL EVENT

Parties and Invitations

Occasionally, teachers will have classroom parties for special events. Teachers will communicate what foods and activities are appropriate and will be served at the discretion of the teacher.

Field Trips

Parents will be notified by the teacher of upcoming field trips. Classroom Teachers will be responsible for planning their classroom's field trip. Permission slips will be required for each trip. If you do not want your child to participate, then the teacher must be notified before the Field Trip. At times, there will be a cost to the student (and parent, if attending) for the field trip. All fees will be billed through FACTS in

advance of the trip, unless prior arrangements are made with the institution you are visiting.

All parents will need to drive their child to and from the field trip. Please arrive on time so that the group can enter and participate on time; otherwise you may be left behind. Younger siblings may not attend unless administration has given prior permission based on a circumstantial event.

CELLPHONE/ELECTRONIC POLICY

A CCS Lower School student may NOT possess a cell phone, Smartwatch, iPod, or MP3 player in school or during BASC programs, unless specified by CCS Administration. If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day, a note from the teacher to use the school phone will be needed. Parents, please contact the school and leave a message for your student during school hours.

CCS AWARDS

Elementary Awards

CCS recognizes student achievement in academics and character development. Parents will be notified of when special recognitions are scheduled, so plans can be made to attend. All students will receive a character award but may not receive an academic award based on their merits in class.

Pre-K

Character Awards

Kindergarten- 2nd Grade

- Character Awards
- Citizenship- one boy/girl

3rd- 5th Grade

Quarterly:

- Headmaster's List
- A/B Honor Roll

End of Year:

- Headmaster's List (All A's all 4 Quarters)
- A/B Honor Roll (All A's and B's all 4 Quarters)
- Subject Highest Average

Please complete the following acknowledgement form once you have completed a review of the handbook

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT