

Longview Christian School Parent & Student Handbook



Home of the Eagles

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INTRODUCTION

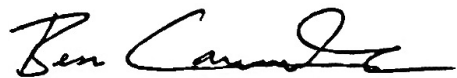
Longview Christian School welcomes you and your student! We believe that your association with LCS will be a happy and rewarding experience. Our staff will be glad to assist you in any way we can, so do not hesitate to ask for assistance and guidance.

This handbook will explain the rules and regulations of LCS. We ask each parent to study the handbook carefully, and to accept the responsibility of instructing your students in grades K – 8th in its contents. High school students are expected to read the handbook. We ask each student to abide by the stated rules and to be governed by the intended spirit of the handbook. If there are any questions concerning this publication, please feel free to ask any staff member for an answer.

Many institutions take the position that their responsibility to the student does not go beyond academic work. We believe it is our responsibility to set full-behavior standards for our students and will take a firm stand in doing so. Parents make the decision for their child to attend LCS. By this decision, parents agree to accept the standards, principles, and requirements of LCS. For us to require less would be to abandon the responsibility of a Christian school.

We believe the commitment you have made to LCS represents an important step in your attempt to provide a Christ-centered education for your child. We appreciate the confidence shown in placing your child in in our care as we guide and teach them socially, academically, and spiritually.

In the Master's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Cammack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ben Cammack, Administrator

TO THE PROSPECTIVE PARENT/GUARDIAN:

Thank you for your interest in our school. We have adopted an admissions policy that opens the school to families who are like-minded spiritually, who are supportive of our philosophy, objectives, and standards of education, and whose children meet our enrollment standards. Our purpose is to serve families who desire not simply a private education, but a distinctively Christian education for their children.

Before applying for admission to our school, please read this handbook. It will introduce you to many of the school's policies, procedures, and expectations for both parents and students.

The first several pages of this handbook explain our religious purpose, mission, and beliefs. This school unashamedly believes, teaches, and practices a literal, context-focused interpretation of the Word of God. If you do not agree with our religious mission and beliefs, enrolling your child in our school will likely cause him or her confusion. For example, if a question regarding biblical lifestyles arises in chapel or your child's classroom, the teacher will answer from a biblical viewpoint consistent with our mission and belief statement. If your beliefs and lifestyle choices are not in agreement with our doctrinal stance, that answer will likely create conflict in your child's heart and mind. This internal conflict could drive a wedge between you and your child, cause your child to negatively judge you as a parent, or force your child to choose between our teaching and what he or she learns at home. We respect your desire to place your child in the best possible learning environment, but if you are not in full agreement with our doctrinal positions, it will be best for all concerned if you do not enroll your child at our school.

Biblical principles are integrated into every subject taught at our school. Our staff is committed not only to academic excellence, but also to teaching students how to apply the truths of God's Word to every aspect of life. If you are in agreement with the teachings of God's Word, this school will complement the beliefs and ideals your child is taught at home. We look forward to partnering with you to educate your child in God's truth.

This handbook has been prepared to explain and clarify the procedures, policies, and regulations at Longview Christian School. These policies are in effect as written or as may be amended during the year. You are urged to contact the LCS Administrator if you have any questions.

All students are held responsible for knowing and abiding by the regulations in the Student-Parent Handbook, which have been approved by the Administration.

LCS PURPOSE AND STUDENT TARGETS

LCS Purpose Statement

We exist to challenge and empower our students to reach their full potential for Christ.

LCS Student Targets

When a student is enrolled at Longview Christian School, parents have decided to trust us to take an important role in preparing that child for life. We take that responsibility very seriously. In that quest, we must address several questions. How do we know if we are accomplishing our goals? What is our measure of success? When a student graduates from Longview Christian School, are they equipped and prepared? The LCS student targets help us identify who we want our students to become. Everything we do at LCS is designed to accomplish one or more of these goals in our students. LCS students should be:

- 1 FAITH-FILLED**
We believe that an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ is the answer to all of life's challenges. Our goal is that every student understands and accepts God's plan of salvation, pursues an authentic relationship with Him, accepts discipleship and mentoring, and graduates ready to defend their faith and lead others to Christ.
- 2 LEARNING**
Our academic programs are designed to meet each student's capabilities and encourage them to do their very best. We challenge those who are gifted academically and support those who struggle. An array of high school degree options assists this endeavor. Our partnership with Austen-Coley also enables us to assist students with dyslexia, dyscalculia, and related learning differences.
- 3 DEVELOPING**
We believe that God gives each individual unique gifts and talents to accomplish unique purposes in life. Not all of our students will be great scholars, athletes, or artists. Our job as teachers is to identify and develop each student's talents, enabling them to flourish and grow into God's plan for their lives.
- 4 EQUIPPED**
Our students should be equipped for life and the challenges that lie ahead. We pursue opportunities to teach students vital skills (outside of traditional academics) that are essential to life. These include computer skills, social skills, personal finance, vehicle maintenance, etiquette, culinary skills, and public speaking, just to name a few.
- 5 SERVING**
We challenge our students to live lives dedicated to reaching beyond themselves. We believe God desires that all Christians impact their world. LCS is dedicated to training our students to embrace this idea by submitting their lives to Christ every day. Community outreach, mission trips, and volunteerism all play a role in this training.

LCS VISION, MISSION, & CORE VALUES

LCS Vision Statement

Our students understand that they are created by God as unique individuals with specific God-given talents, abilities, and purposes. Students graduate equipped with a biblical worldview, a strong academic foundation, and the ability to think creatively and communicate clearly, empowered to be ambassadors to a broken world in desperate need of Christ's saving grace.

LCS Mission Statement

Longview Christian School partners with Christian parents to provide a complete kingdom education for their children designed to inspire, challenge, and equip students to maximize their God-given capabilities and understand their purpose in an environment that is saturated with the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

LCS Core Values

1. **The Bible** - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - a. LCS will encourage board members, administration, faculty, students and parents to be active in a Bible-believing local church and to use the Bible as a tool to implement spiritual development into their everyday lives.
 - b. This means LCS governs itself according to biblical principles in...
 - i. All aspects of school life.
 - ii. When using financial resources.
 - iii. Developing all academic curriculum.
2. **Unity in the Body** - "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 15:5-6
 - a. LCS will cultivate community between school, family, the Church and one another. LCS will develop policies and procedures that honor Christian families. LCS will partner with local churches throughout the community to promote unity within the body of Christ.
 - b. LCS will also provide...
 - i. Training and resources to help parents build a Christ-honoring home.
 - ii. A kingdom education that is accessible to like-minded families.
 - iii. Opportunities for involvement and partnership with all like-minded Christian churches in the local community.
3. **Excellence in Education** - "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." - Colossians 3:23-24
 - a. LCS will develop an entire educational program that is based on the truths of God's Word and the preeminence of Jesus Christ. LCS will be a safe and

comfortable learning environment where students are actively engaged and challenged in their learning. At LCS excellence is not perfection. Instead it insists that we are always giving our very best.

- b. This means LCS will...
 - i. Employ and develop teachers who model godly wisdom and Christian virtues in their lives.
 - ii. Challenge students to develop a biblical worldview.
 - iii. Provide an education that combines formal methods of teaching with a biblical emphasis.
 - iv. Prepare minds to think critically and creatively from a biblical worldview.
- 4. **Stewardship and Honor** - "But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise." - Psalm 79:13
 - a. LCS understands that this ministry was God's idea, and we do not own it. We are simply the stewards of the opportunities and the resources He provides. We also honor those who God has placed in leadership, both past and present. Our leaders are stewards appointed by God who sacrificially serve the ministry and as such, are deserving our respect.
 - b. This means LCS will...
 - i. Develop and operate a budget that reflects biblical principles of stewardship.
 - ii. Maintain all facilities in a way that honors the Lord and meets the needs of students.
 - iii. Partner with families to assist them in providing their children with a quality Christian education.
 - iv. Teach students to show honor and respect to those who God has appointed to leadership.
- 5. **Unique Creations** – "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body." - 1 Corinthians 12:18-20
 - a. LCS believes that God gives people unique gifts and talents to accomplish unique purposes in life. Our job as teachers is to bring out each student's giftings, enabling them to flourish and grow.
 - b. This means LCS will...
 - i. Strive to help students identify and develop their strengths and overcome their weaknesses.
 - ii. Battle against a culture of comparison and instead celebrate that God gives us unique talents to accomplish unique purposes.
 - iii. Seek to provide specialized learning programs and opportunities for children with different learning styles and abilities.
- 6. **Relationship Culture** - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another." – Hebrews 10:24-25a

- a. LCS believes that for training, instruction, and correction to be effective, it must be rooted in the love and respect of true relationship. We strive to promote the concept of “family” within our community.
 - b. This means LCS will...
 - i. Strive to cultivate a loving community in which each student is valued, nurtured and loved, and is taught to love and respect others.
 - ii. Employ teachers who are mature Christian role models who strive to teach effectively and love each student.
 - iii. Partner with parents in the education and spiritual development of their children and actively encourage parental involvement.
- 7. **Grace and Truth** – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14
 - a. LCS works to balance grace and truth in the school discipline policies as modeled by our Lord Jesus. Only through this balance will we reach the hearts of students who have strayed in their relationship with Him.
 - b. This means LCS will...
 - i. Look first to address matters of the heart and root causes of misbehavior before applying disciplinary matters.
 - ii. Pray with students and consistently point them to Jesus Christ.
 - iii. Ensure that students are held to high behavior standards, but redirection and discipline are administered in an attitude of love and grace.
- 8. **Humble Service** - "Whoever wants to become great among us must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." - Matthew 20:26-28
 - a. LCS will encourage students to follow Christ’s example of leadership through servanthood. We challenge our students to live lives dedicated to reaching beyond themselves by submitting their lives to Christ every day.
 - b. This means LCS will...
 - i. Involve students in activities that require them to serve others.
 - ii. Teach students the value and joy of service before self.
 - iii. Train students to glorify God through service in their local school, Church, and community.

LCS STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired, only infallible, authoritative Word of God (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21).
- We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons - God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35; 2:7); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15); His miracles (John 2:11); His shed blood (Luke 22:20); His atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1 :7; Hebrews 2:9); His bodily resurrection (I Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); and His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11).
- We believe that by nature man is sinful, that salvation of the lost is possible by God's grace through faith, and that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (John 3:16-19; 5:24; Romans 3:23; 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:9-10; Titus 3:5).
- We believe in the Holy Spirit's present continuous ministries by indwelling the Christian, thereby enabling the living of a Godly life and manifesting the gifts of the Spirit (I Corinthians 3:16; 12:8-10); Ephesians 5:18-21).
- We believe in water baptism, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Lord's supper, anointing with oil, divine healing, and the laying on of hands (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:4; I Corinthians 11 :23-26; Exodus 15:26; II Timothy 1:6; James 5:4).
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead. The saved will be raised unto eternal life (John 11:25-26); the lost will face condemnation (John 5:28-29).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).
- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders 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 that 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 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, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

- 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 Longview Christian School.

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct - This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Longview Christian School's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our school board is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

LCS PHILOSOPHY OF KINGDOM EDUCATION

Kingdom education is defined as the lifelong, Bible-based, Christ-centered process of leading a child to Christ, building a child up in Christ, and equipping a child to serve Christ. Kingdom education works to develop children according to their specific abilities so that a child will be empowered to live a life characterized by love, trust, and obedience to Christ. The ultimate goal of Kingdom education is to develop a mature disciple of Jesus Christ whose life glorifies God. Let Kingdom Education burn within the hearts of every member of LCS, and let it take root in each office, class, program, and activity of this ministry.

Our Kingdom education philosophy was pulled from God's Word. The Bible provides each and every Christian with principles needed to put Kingdom education into practice. In order to achieve Kingdom education, these biblical principles must be studied, understood and practiced in every aspect of life. Below you will find the Kingdom Education principles that we follow at LCS.

Kingdom Education Principles

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH...

- Is the primary responsibility of parents. (Proverb 22:6)
- Is a 24 hour-a-day, 7 days-per-week process that continues from birth to maturity. (Deuteronomy 11:19)
- Must have as its primary goals the salvation and discipleship of the next generation. (Psalm 78:6-7)
- Must be based on God's Word as absolute truth. (Isaiah 40:8)
- Must hold Christ as preeminent in all of life. (Colossians 2:6-7)
- Must not hinder the spiritual and moral development of the next generation. (Matthew 19:13-14)
- If and when delegated to others by parents, must be done so with utmost care to ensure that all teachers follow these principles. (Proverbs 9:10)
- Results in the formation of a belief system or worldview that will be patterned after the belief systems or worldviews of the person's teachers. (1 Samuel 1:27-28)
- Must lead to true wisdom by connecting all knowledge to a biblical worldview frame of reference. (Philippian)
- Must have a view of the future that includes the eternal perspective. (Colossians 3:1-2)

FINANCIAL POLICY

Most of the financial support of LCS comes directly from tuition paid to the school for services rendered, part from donors and sponsors, and part from several other sources.

Gifts from patrons and supporters are accepted and may be:

- Designated to a specific student as scholarship, upon approval of the administrator
- Designated to a specific project
- Undesignated and deposited into the General Operating Fund of LCS

Various fees may be assessed including:

- Non-refundable Application Fee due with the completed application
- Non-refundable Enrollment Fee due with the completed enrollment packet
- Non-refundable annual Registration Fee

Tuition payments may be paid in full at the beginning of each academic year or monthly in 9 or 12 equal installments due beginning in June or September, respectively, and continuing through May.

All tuition payments and school-related fees are to be paid through the FACTS tuition management system. Due dates will be established when the payment plan is selected. If not paid by the established due date, a \$25.00 late charge will be assessed. Additional penalties will be assessed for payments returned due to insufficient funds.

Students whose accounts fall more than 45 days behind may be denied services. Appeals for payment extensions will be made to the school board through the administrator's office. Student progress reports or student grade cards will not be released from the office until all financial obligations are paid in full. Tuition payments not paid in full by the beginning of the new school year will prohibit the student's re-enrollment.

Tuition is calculated on the basis of the entire year; therefore, no reductions can be made for vacations or school holidays. If a student leaves the school prior to the end of the year or enters after the school year has begun, charges are prorated according to the number of days enrolled. No deductions will be made in tuition for absence during the school year regardless of the cause of such absence. All withdrawals, whether before the school year begins or during the year, must be made in writing and shall be effective when such notice is delivered to the school. If a student is expelled from the school, no tuition refunds shall be issued.

ADMISSION POLICIES

(All application forms are also available at www.lcseagles.com)

1. **Interview/Tour** - Parents must schedule a personal interview with the administration. The student should attend this interview when possible.
2. **Online Application** – The online application must be fully completed and submitted (along with the application fee) and the pastor recommendation must be completed before the application will be considered. A Parent-Student Handbook can also be obtained from the school website. Please read the handbook completely.
3. **Acceptance Email** – If accepted, an acceptance letter will be emailed to the family within 10 days of submitting the fully completed application.
4. **Online Enrollment** - All families are required to complete online enrollment after acceptance. Instructions are included in the acceptance email.
5. **Entrance Testing** - Enrolling students may be tested for grade placement as deemed necessary. Either parents or administration may request placement testing if desired. Call the principal to schedule a date for your child to take the entrance test.
6. **Probation** - All new students are admitted for a nine-week probationary period.

Kindergarten Entrance Requirement (Younger than 5 years)

Special testing and a meeting with the principal is required for a student applying to kindergarten whose fifth birthday is not before September 1st.

Health Records

Students entering school are to present a certificate of immunization meeting current Health Department regulations. In most cases, immunization certificates can be obtained through the local county nurse or your family doctor. Parents must submit a signed Exemption from Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience Affidavit available from the state of Texas if a student has not been immunized or received a tuberculin test because of religious or other objections to immunizations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Handbook Disclaimer

No handbook serves to contractually bind the school in any way. All school handbooks are subject to change without notice by the school administration.

Faculty

All staff members of Longview Christian School have been carefully selected on the basis of their education, experience, and Christian walk. The most outstanding requirements for the instructional staff are an unselfish spirit of dedication to children, a belief that the Christian school ministry is their service to God, and a complete and personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. All full-time teachers or teachers of core subjects have at least a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree from a recognized college or university. In a few rare circumstances, a teacher may be in the process of completing their education or acquire a special waiver from ACSI based on experience or position. In addition to their secular training, our teachers are certified or are working on their certification through ACSI.

Student Grade Level/Schools

At LCS our grade levels are divided into three schools. Elementary is grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Junior High is grades 6th through 8th. High school is grades 9th through 12th.

Office and School Hours

Office and school hours will be established at the beginning of each academic year. Supervision of students will be provided 60 minutes before school starts and for 20 minutes after dismissal. During this time, students will be subject to the supervision, authority, and discipline of LCS. The school will not be responsible for students prior to, or after these times. Parents are asked to adhere closely to this schedule to ensure teachers an adequate preparation and work time.

All students must be picked up by 3:50 p.m. unless they are involved in an after-school activity. Siblings of athletes may not stay for practice. Students picked up after 3:50 will incur additional charges.

If students need supervision outside of regular school hours, LCS offers before-school and after-school care for an additional fee. As a part of this program, students (ages 5-12 years) may be dropped off as early as 6:30 am and must be picked up by 6:00 pm. Contact the school office for enrollment information.

Closed Campus

LCS is a closed campus. Students must stay on the school grounds from arrival until dismissal. Parents/guardians must contact the office directly if students have permission to leave campus for any reason during the school day. Students may not bring guests to school unless they are a prospective student and have prior office approval.

Persons coming to the school to visit or transact business must first come to the school office, and not directly to the student's classroom. Parents/guardians are always welcome to visit; however, pre-school children and visiting school-age guests are not permitted to visit classes without teacher consent. Parents planning to visit a classroom should inform the school of their intentions in advance by note or telephone call.

Parents are encouraged to spend time with their son or daughter during lunch. If parents wish to take a student off campus during lunch, please inform the school office at the beginning of the school day. Students must be returned to school on time for the next class or they will be considered tardy from lunch.

Calendar

Each year, parents will be provided a school calendar listing the school holidays and events.

Chapel & Daily Devotions

For elementary students each school day will begin with a devotional period in the classroom consisting of prayer, Bible reading, and/or singing. Weekly chapel programs will be conducted on Wednesdays.

Junior high and high school students have a short morning chapel period three days a week. This time will be devoted to worship, teaching, and sharing.

Closing of School

The TV station KLTV Channel 7 will carry all school closing announcements due to inclement weather or other emergencies by 6:00 a.m., when possible. We will also post school closings to the LCS Facebook page and send out all-school emails immediately. When it becomes necessary to dismiss during the regular school day, announcements will be made via email. Please do not call staff members for potential school closing information. As soon as a decision is made, it will be announced immediately.

ATTENDANCE

It is the responsibility of the student and parents to develop the habit of being punctual and regular in attendance. Attendance is necessary if the maximum amount of benefit is to be received from the LCS program.

- A. Absences. At LCS our mission is to assist Christian parents in the education of their children. We recognize that God has given parents the responsibility to raise and educate children. Therefore, the parents have the final say in where and how a child is educated. We appreciate that our parents have chosen to trust us to assist in that endeavor. It is this understanding that gives way to our very simple policy regarding excused and unexcused absences. Any absence that is determined to be excused by the parent is excused by the school. An absence is only unexcused when the parent determines it to be so.
- a. Excused absences – When the absence is excused, the student is given an equal number of days to make up work as were missed for full credit. Work received after that time period will be considered late.
 - b. Unexcused absences – When the absence is unexcused (truancy), all missed work will be given a zero grade.
 - c. Cumulative absences (6th-12th grades) – While we recognize parents are the authority in determining how a student is educated, we are also responsible for the quality of the education we are providing our students. Excessive absences lead to an inability to truly master the material. Class time is also a large part of the educational experience. When a student accumulates 10 absences in a semester, 3 points are taken off the total semester grade. For each absence over 10, an additional point will be taken off the semester grade. (i.e. 13 absences would reduce the semester grade by 6 points.) The penalty for cumulative absences applies to 6th-12th grade students on a class-by-class basis. Exceptions will be granted for students with long-term or major medical conditions, doctor's visits (with note provided), and educational absences approved by the principal in advance. Parents are encouraged to provide doctor's notes to the school office and discuss any unusual circumstances that may impact attendance with the school principal in advance.
 - d. Elementary – Absences are tallied on full day or half day basis. There are seven hours in a day.
 - i. Present – Attends at least 6 hours in the day.
 - ii. Half Day Present – Attends between 2 and 6 hours in the day.
 - iii. Absent – Attends less than 2 hours in the day.
 - e. Junior High and High School – Absences are tallied by class period. A student could have a different number of absences in each class. The penalty for cumulative absences is applied individually on a class-by-class basis.

B. Perfect Attendance.

- a. Elementary – Students are allowed one half day absence and will still qualify for perfect attendance. Two half days or one full day absence will eliminate the possibility for perfect attendance.
- b. Junior High and High School – Students can miss up to 4 class periods over the course of the school year and still maintain perfect attendance. If 5 or more periods are missed, they will not earn perfect attendance.

C. Early Dismissal.

- a. Missing Classes - Checking out of school early and missing class is strongly discouraged. Parents are asked to schedule all medical appointments before/after school hours when possible. However, when it is necessary for a child to be taken from school before dismissal, the school office (upper school) or teacher (elementary) should be notified in advance if possible.
- b. Non-Driving Students - Parents must go to the school office to sign out and pick up their child early. All students must be accompanied by a custodial parent/guardian or other person on the approved pickup list to leave campus unless written parent permission is provided (email to the administrator is preferred).
- c. High School Drivers – If high school student drivers need to check out of school early without a parent present, we must have parent permission in writing (email to the administrator is preferred). Phone calls and text messages will not be sufficient as we must have a written record of your permission in order to release the student.

D. Tardiness. It is important for students to be on time to school each morning. Each student is expected to be in their classroom, fully prepared when the day begins.

Penalties for tardiness (excluding tardies due to appointment):

- a. Elementary – Students are counted tardy if they are not in class ready to start the day at 8:30. The third tardy and each additional tardy per quarter will be charged a \$5 tardy fee.
- b. Junior High and High School – Students are counted tardy if they are late to class or chapel starting at 8:30. The third tardy and each additional tardy per quarter will be charged a \$5 tardy fee. When students are late to class throughout the day it is addressed using the discipline system (discussed in detail later in this handbook.)

E. Procedure for Reporting Absences - When a student is absent from school for any reason, the parent or guardian is requested to telephone the school office with that information on the day of the absence by 8:30 a.m.

F. Make-up Work – If your child is absent and you want them to work on assignments from home, the first source for homework, assignments, and lesson plans is the FACTS Family

Portal. Please consult FACTS first and then send questions to the teacher or principal if still unsure what to do.

College Days

Students are allowed a maximum of five days total to visit colleges that may be taken during the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years. These days are not considered absences. Students must have these days approved in advance by the Principal.

Accumulated Absences

Any absence due to illness involving five consecutive days must have a written statement from a doctor. If a student accumulates more than 20 absences in a year, the administration reserves the right to deny credit for any course in which the student has missed this much material during the year.

Truancy

Absence without the knowledge and consent of parents and/or the LCS staff will be considered truancy. Students leaving school without permission before the end of the day, or staying out of any scheduled class without permission, will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken.

Permission to Leave School

Students who must leave school during the school day must sign out in the school office. In order for the student to receive authorization to leave school, parents should email the principal or call the school office.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he will be excused, and the parent notified by telephone. It is very important that we have an **updated, working phone number** on file to reach you. As a general rule, when a student has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above, or exhibits symptoms severe enough to prevent him/her being in the classroom, the student will be sent home. Most children do not perform well when feeling ill. Since contagious diseases are most communicable during the fever stage, students should stay home until free from fever for twenty-four (24) hours. Parents of students injured in school to the degree he/she must see a doctor must submit written permission before the student can return to participate in PE or athletics. The student is expected to obtain and complete any work missed from illness. The student will have the same number of days in which he was absent to complete make up work.

Our staff will exercise reasonable judgment for the care of students. In the case of physical injury, which appears to be serious, LCS retains the right to seek professional help, including ambulance, doctor, and emergency room services. In the event of emergencies, students will be transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview, Texas, or according to the parental preference on the medical consent form. Parents will be called to meet the school official and will be financially responsible for the services obtained in their child's behalf.

COVID-19

If your student tests positive for Covid-19, please contact your child's principal for instructions on returning to school. If your student has cold or flu symptoms, please follow the normal school policy and keep them home until fever-free for 24 hours. The school will not dictate when a Covid test is necessary but will leave that decision to the judgement of parents and medical professionals.

Insurance

A small accident insurance policy is carried on each student at no additional cost. This is a co-insurance that covers only charges not covered by other private insurance.

Long Term Illness

Students who experience a long-term illness/hospitalization (five or more consecutive school days), or who have a physical impairment and/or a medically substantiated problem which entails repeated absences, can be granted an attendance allowance based on a review of the individual case by the principal/administrator.

Control of Communicable Diseases and Parasites

Please report all contagious diseases/parasites to the school. This is of great help when other students in the class develop symptoms. These would include:

Chicken Pox	Mononucleosis	Impetigo
Measles	Ringworm	German Measles
Mumps	Meningitis	Hepatitis
Strep Throat	Whooping Cough	Upper respiratory infections
Lice	Scabies	Intestinal parasites
Gastroenteritis	COVID-19	Staph Infections
Pink eye		

When your child has been ill, please do not return the student to school until fever/symptom free for twenty-four (24) hours without the use of aspirin or Tylenol or other medication. No child with a communicable disease is allowed to attend class.

Medicine

- All prescription medications and most non-prescription medication must be turned in to the school office. Students are not allowed to keep medications on their person or in their bags. Exceptions:
 - 6th-12th grade students may keep non-prescription pain medication (ibuprofen, acetaminophen, etc.) in their locker or purse. Students should not share medications with other students.
 - 6th-12th grade students who need a rescue inhaler or Epi-pen may carry one on their person with a doctor's note.
 - K-5th grade students who need an inhaler or Epi-pen must turn it in to the classroom teacher.
- Prescription drugs will be given only if turned into the office in the **ORIGINAL CONTAINER** and accompanied by a note from the parent stating the time of administration (student's name and dosage should already be on the label). The school will not administer prescriptions that are out of date or written for someone other than the student.
- No student is at any time to give or sell another student medication. If a student does give or sell medication to another student, disciplinary action will be taken.
- Teachers can dispense medication to students on field trips.

- Drops, creams, or ointments should not be used at school, if at all possible.
- Dressing changes will not be done by school staff.
- Injections, narcotics, and controlled substances will not be given at school.
- Students may have their own non-prescription medication that will be stored in the office with a permission slip attached.

CURRICULUM

Longview Christian School has a curriculum guide that the teachers use to inform their teaching. The curriculum guide focuses on both academic rigor and biblical integration. It includes the objectives that a student must meet in each class.

The subjects that we offer at Longview Christian School for all levels are as follows:

- Bible
- Mathematics
- Language Arts
- Social Studies/History
- Science
- Physical Education

Elementary students also take Art, Music, Spanish, and American Sign Language.

Junior High and High School students may take a variety of elective subjects that vary from year to year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All LCS graduates are awarded the same type of diploma. The transcript, rather than the diploma, records individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed and displays appropriate graduation seals. All graduation credits must be earned no later than Grade 12.

Except as noted below, every student shall enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements for the college preparatory program or the distinguished achievement program. LCS administration collaborate with parents to determine when it is appropriate for a student to be placed in the general studies high school program.

A transfer student is eligible to receive a LCS diploma but must complete all requirements of this policy to satisfy graduation requirements. Any course credit required in this section that is not completed by the student before he or she enrolls in LCS must be satisfied prior to graduation.

Seniors will not be permitted to march in commencement exercises if they lack more than $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for graduation. Arrangements must also have been made to earn this $\frac{1}{2}$ credit in an approved manner before the student may march. Longview Christian School cannot be responsible for the inconvenience caused by a senior failing a course during the last days of school.

In order to be eligible for honors at graduation, students must have completed the college preparatory or distinguished achievement program. Honors students will have an overall G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher.

Valedictorian will have the highest overall G.P.A. (4.0 maximum); Salutatorian will have the second highest overall G.P.A. In case of a tie, the highest overall numerical average of grades as stated on the transcript will determine the Valedictorian. If there is still a tie, then the students' College Entrance Exam scores (A.C.T. or S.A.T.) will determine the highest honors. Valedictorian and Salutatorian must have been enrolled at LCS for at least the full junior and senior years and be on the college prep or distinguished achievement degree plan. Class rank is determined on the same basis as valedictorian and salutatorian.

College classes taken during high school (normally in the junior or senior year) will be handled in the following manner:

- All college classes taken for high school credit will be classified as dual credit and included on the LCS transcript. Students and parents understand that any dual credit class not taken for high school credit will not be added to the LCS transcript unless specifically opted in by the student/parent.
- College level classes taken with the purpose to substitute for an LCS class require approval by the school principal/academic counselor. The following classes will not be granted approval in most circumstances: English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Algebra I,

Algebra II, Geometry, World Geography, U.S. History, World History, Government/Economics, Bible, Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II.

- College level classes taken for dual credit to fulfill a high school class graduation requirement while earning college credits will earn the numeric grade received from the college as the high school grade. If the grade is below a 70, no credit will be earned.

General Studies High School Program:

- 1) Credits – A student must earn 26 credits to complete the General Studies program.
- 2) Core Courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:
 - a) English language arts – 4 credits (English I, II, III, and IV)
 - b) Mathematics – 3 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, and one elective math)
 - c) Science – 3 credits (Biology and two elective sciences)
 - d) Social Studies – 4 credits (Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government/Economics)
 - e) Bible – 2 credits*
 - f) Physical Education – 1 ½ credits
 - g) Health/Fitness – ½ credit
 - h) Speech – ½ credit
 - i) Foreign Language – 1 credit
 - j) Computer – ½ credit
 - k) Personal Finance – ½ credit
 - l) Community Service – 1 credit
 - m) Fine Arts – 1 credit (Band, Choir, Theater, Culinary Arts, or Photography)
 - n) Electives – 3 ½ credits

College Preparatory High School Program:

- 1) Credits – A student must earn 28 credits to complete the College Preparatory program.
- 2) Core Courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:
 - a) English language arts – 4 credits (English I, II, III, and IV)
 - b) Mathematics – 4 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one elective math)
 - c) Science – 4 credits (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and one elective science)
 - d) Social Studies – 4 credits (Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government/Economics)

- e) Bible – 2 credits*
- f) Physical Education – 1 ½ credits
- g) Health/Fitness – ½ credit
- h) Speech – ½ credit
- i) Foreign Language – 2 credits
- j) Computer Basics – ½ credit
- k) Personal Finance – ½ credit
- l) Fine Arts – 1 credit (Band, Choir, Theater, Culinary Arts, or Photography)
- o) Community Service – 1 credit
- p) Electives – 2 ½ credits

Distinguished Achievement High School Program:

- 1) Credits – A student must earn 29 credits to complete the Distinguished Achievement program.
- 2) Core Courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:
 - a) English language arts – 4 credits (English I, II, III, and IV)
 - b) Mathematics – 4 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one higher level math elective)
 - c) Science – 4 credits (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and one elective science)
 - d) Social Studies – 4 credits (Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government/Economics)
 - e) Bible – 2 credits*
 - f) Physical Education – 1 ½ credits
 - g) Health/Fitness – ½ credit
 - h) Speech – ½ credit
 - i) Foreign Language – 3 credits
 - j) Computer Basics – ½ credit
 - k) Personal Finance – ½ credit
 - l) Fine Arts – 1 credit (Band, Choir, Theater, Culinary Arts, or Photography)
 - m) Community Service – 1 credit
 - n) Electives – 2 ½ credits

- 3) Advanced Measures. A student also must achieve any combination of four of the following advanced measures. The measures must focus on demonstrating student performance at the college or professional level. No single advanced measure category listed below may be used for more than two of the four required advanced measures. The student may choose from the following options:
- a) Original Research Paper/Project – Details and criteria for this assignment may be obtained from the school principal or academic counselor. All projects must be approved in advance.
 - b) Test data showing the student has earned:
 - i) A score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
 - ii) A score on the ACT of 27 or higher.
 - iii) A score on the SAT of 1200 or higher.
 - c) College academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical credit courses, with a grade of 3.0 or higher.

* The student must pass one semester of Bible each year in attendance at Longview Christian School. Extra Bible credits earned earlier in high school will not cancel out the future requirement in subsequent years. Fewer Bible credits for transfer students will be balanced by more elective courses from the previous school.

ACADEMICS

LCS Academic Grade Codes Listing

GRADE	DESCRIPTION	NUMERICAL RANGE	GRADE POINTS
A	Excellent	90.00 – 100.00	4.00
B	Above Average	80.00 – 89.00	3.00
C	Average	70.00 – 79.00	2.00
F	Failed	00.00 – 69.00	0.00

Cheating

Student cheating in any form will receive a "0" for the assignment and disciplinary penalty. The second offense of cheating may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Doctrine in Bible teaching

At LCS we avoid highly controversial topics as much as possible, especially as they relate to denominational issues. Our student body represents a wide variety of church denominations and theologies. We choose to focus on unifying the body of Christ at LCS. Issues such as the charismatic movement, sequence of events of the last times, mode of baptism, etc., are avoided and referred to the individual's local church.

Homework

Homework is not assigned arbitrarily or carelessly. Teachers at LCS are careful to assign work that is necessary for retaining and for growing knowledge and skills. In general, most instruction is done at school so that teachers can help students apply the skills they have learned. This means homework is a primarily time to review and practice.

There may be times when students are given special projects and assignments to do in addition to review-based homework. Special activities include spelling bee, speech meet, science and history projects, etc. These are examples of situations where students may be required to work on assignments at home with parent supervision.

Below are the general homework guidelines for elementary classes. Upper school students may have a variety of homework assignments.

Grade Level	Possible Types of Homework
Kindergarten	Bible memory verse, occasional practice activities
First and Second Grades	Spelling words, Bible memory verse, reading for 15-20

	minutes, possibly finish 1 worksheet, possibly work on a special assignment on occasion
Third Grade	Spelling words, Bible memory verse, reading for 20 minutes, possibly finish 1 worksheet, possibly work on a special assignment on occasion
Fourth and Fifth Grades	Spelling words, Bible memory verse, reading for 30 minutes, possibly finish 2 worksheets, possibly work on a special assignment on occasion

Grading Policies

- Late work
 - K-5th grade - 10 points taken off for each day daily work is late. 15-20 points taken off each day projects/book reports are late. After the third day the student will receive a zero.
 - 6th-12th grade - 15 points taken off for each day daily work is late. 20 points taken off each day projects/book reports are late. After the third day the student will receive a zero.
- Failed tests - LCS teachers seek to bring mastery in our academics while extending grace to our students when we can. A student may retake a quiz or a test at the teacher's discretion. The student must ask to retake the quiz or test as soon as possible. Any retakes must be done before the current quarter ends. The teacher may deny a request to retest if the student does not present a valid reason, if the student has waited too long to make the request, or if the student habitually makes such a request. A teacher may require a student to retake a quiz or test whenever he or she thinks it would benefit that student to do so. If the student passes the retake, it is up to the teacher's discretion to give the student a 70 as the final grade or the average of the two scores.
- Full Day Absences-Make up work/tests – If a student's absence is excused (see attendance policy), that student will have 1 day for each day they were absent to make up their work that was missed. Any tests missed must be taken the day they return. If the absence is unexcused, no make-up work will be accepted, and all daily work and tests missed will be given a zero. If a student wishes to work on assignments while at home, assignments are listed on FACTS and books can be picked up from the office. Teachers are not able gather work or give special instructions to help students who are absent. They will assist them in catching up once they return to school. NOTE: Major projects and assignments are due on time. If the student is absent, the project or assignment must be turned in by the class period or it will be considered late. No make-up days will be allowed.
- Partial Day Absences-Make up work/tests (6th-12th Grade) – If a student's absence is

excused (see attendance policy), that student will have 1 day for each day they were absent from class to make up any new assignments that they missed. However, they are expected to complete any tests or quizzes they will miss that day during the time they are here. They are also expected to turn in any homework or assignments that were due in class that day. Tests, quizzes, and assignments that are not properly completed according to these rules will follow the late penalty guidelines described above.

- Missed work for tardies (K-5th Grade) - Any work missed because a child is late to class will be sent home to be done for homework that night. Missed tests will be given during the day at the teacher's convenience.
- Communication with parents
 - Grades K-5th – If a student fails to turn in an assignment on time, the teacher will inform the parent as soon as possible, usually the same day, but always within 24 hours.
 - Grades 6th-12th – Upper-level students are expected to exercise additional personal responsibility at this age, and parents should monitor grades and late assignments in FACTS. In most cases, the teacher will notify parents on or before the third day if the student has failed to turn in an assignment.
- Cross-subject grading – As a part of our education philosophy at LCS, we believe that students are learning information to be able to implement in life. While we do focus on individual subjects one class at a time, we do not individualize those subjects for the purposes of grading. Students are expected to utilize learned skills across subjects according to their grade level. This principle is employed in all grades, but especially at the junior high and high school levels. Some practical examples of this philosophy:
 - In any writing assignment in any class, points will be deducted for improper English or spelling. This might be a more costly deduction in the English class than the Bible class, but poor writing must be corrected at every level to show significant improvement.
 - A science question might also require mathematics to answer correctly. If they display mastery of the scientific principle, but fail to answer correctly due to miscalculation, they will only receive partial credit. We deduct for the math error because we expect the principles learned in math class to be applied correctly in science class as well.

Promotion and Retention

The decision to promote or retain a child at the end of the school year is based on the child's ability to function adequately at grade level. Aspects to be considered include academic

progress (especially in reading, language, and mathematics), presence of any learning differences, and social maturity.

Standardized Testing

Standardized testing is used to help meet the needs of the family by giving information about the student's ability, knowledge, experiences, and interest. Testing serves to indicate the student's progress and provides his teacher with information necessary to determine the need for remedial help, enrichment, or other special programs. The result of this test has no bearing on whether or not the student is promoted to the next grade level.

Standardized achievement tests are given to K-8th grade students in April each year. 9th grade takes the PreACT test each year in October. 10th grade takes an aptitude/career/personality-based test. 11th grade students take the PSAT in October each year. Data from all tests are made available to parents, and copies are kept in the permanent records of the school.

Report Cards

Report cards will be emailed at the end of each quarter. At the end of the fourth quarter, report cards will be emailed after final statements are paid.

Quarterly Honor Roll

There are two honor rolls. The Distinguished Scholars honor roll consists of students scoring “A’s” in every subject for the quarter. The Honorable Scholars honor roll consists of students scoring “A’s” and “B’s” in every subject for the quarter.

Tests, Exams, and Special Assignments (Grades 6th – 12th)

We believe that speaking and writing skills are essential to future success. We also desire to inspire students to truly think. If they are simply regurgitating facts and information, we are failing at our job.

To that end, public speaking opportunities, writing assignments, and creative thinking will be integrated across all subjects at regular intervals. Essays and verbal presentations are excellent tools to prepare students for the future. Tests and exams will not be all multiple-choice questions. Tests will contain questions that require essay responses and require the students to apply the principles they have learned to real world situations, not just to recite information.

Test and Final Exam Reviews (Grades 6th – 12th)

One of the goals of an LCS education is to graduate students who are prepared for college. Two important aspects of being ready for that next step are:

1. *Retaining* the knowledge conveyed to them in the classroom and through assignments.
2. Knowing *how to study and evaluate* which facts and concepts are most important to remember.

Our goal is **not** to graduate students with high GPAs, unless that GPA is a reflection of the knowledge they have truly learned and retained.

With that principle in mind, teachers will be very careful in how they review for important tests and final exams. These tests are designed to determine what knowledge was retained from weeks of classroom lectures, quizzes, homework, and projects. To provide a complete review prior to the test has the potential to allow students to “cram” information) to score well on the test but retain little.

Test reviews should guide students. They should help students navigate their own notes to determine what concepts are most important and what information will probably be tested. Teachers will not provide comprehensive review materials or “cheat sheets” as a part of the review. These types of materials marginalize the work that should have been done all semester.

Access to Records

The Buckley Amendment of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 grants the right of access to educational records accumulated subsequent to December 21, 1974. Access must be granted within 45 days of parents submitting written request to the Administrator's office. Records available include student grades, evaluations, and standardized test results. Records will not be released to persons or institutions outside the school without a parent's written request.

The Buckley Amendment affords parents the right to challenge the accuracy of recorded information. A parent making a written statement may challenge the content of student records. That statement shall be inserted in the records. Parents must submit challenges in writing to the Administrator. Statements of challenge will be inserted in the student's records.

CODE OF BEHAVIOR

In order to ensure spiritual and educational benefits for all students, each student will be required to conform to and obey all LCS rules and regulations. The primary objective of our system of discipline is to reach the heart of the student and consistently point them to Jesus Christ. If we succeed in this mission (by producing students who are devoted followers of Christ), desired behaviors such as respect for others, self-discipline, obedience, responsibility, and kindness will all be natural by-products. Students are held to high behavior standards, but redirection and discipline are designed to be administered in an attitude of love and grace.

In the narrative below, we detail many specific actions or behaviors that are considered infractions at LCS. These are listed to help students clearly understand our expectations. However, it is important to note that our desire is to avoid the circumstance where the focus of the discipline system shifts from “heart change” to “behavior modification.” We never want students to feel that our goal is to keep a record of their wrongs, but rather to explain the heart behind each rule and to encourage them in every circumstance to deepen their relationship with Christ.

Minor Infractions

Teachers will generally be responsible for the conduct of students throughout the school day. Students should expect to be corrected by a teacher when they violate the code of behavior. In the case of minor infractions, parents will not be contacted in every circumstance. If the teacher's corrective action has proven unsuccessful, parents will always be involved and informed.

The following examples of unacceptable conduct will be considered MINOR INFRACTIONS of the Code of Behavior.

- Unprepared for class
- Inattention/not participating in class/off task
- Late to class
- Running in the building, horseplay in hallways
- Excessive talking
- Rude or inconsiderate talk
- Minor property damage, meddling with another person's property
- Misconduct in chapels, assemblies, or school-sponsored activities

- Minor dress code violations
- Littering building or grounds or leaving a mess
- Possession of unauthorized items (i.e. electronic devices, toys, etc.)
- Violation of the school cell phone policy
- Consumption of food/drink in "unauthorized areas"
- Other lesser actions considered inappropriate at school

Major Infractions

The Principal/Administrator will generally be responsible for handling major infractions. Parents will be notified in writing and/or telephone of the nature of the infraction and the disciplinary action taken.

The following infractions constitute examples of unacceptable behavior considered MAJOR INFRACTIONS of the Code of Behavior that will be handled in a firm and earnest manner.

- Cheating or lying
- Profanity or obscenity
- Fighting
- Suggestive language or gestures
- Major dress code violations
- Disrespect for staff members
- Major or intentional property damage
- Rebellious attitudes
- Possession/consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs
- Sexual misconduct
- Theft or vandalism
- Truancy
- Possession of knives or other dangerous objects or weapons
- Any type of threat, harassment, or intimidation made against the school, staff, or students
- Any gross violation of the Word of God

Harassment/Bullying Policy

LCS is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals treat each other with dignity and respect, and which is free from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, hazing, and harassment. The school is prepared to take action to prevent and correct any violations of this policy.

Sexuality and Gender

LCS provides opportunities for boys and girls to cultivate friendships with the opposite sex. In some instances, these associations will deepen into more than passing friendships. This is both natural and expected; however, all such friendships must be handled in a responsible manner. Holding hands and other physical intimacies are not allowed at school. Inappropriate public displays of affection will not be allowed at school functions.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders 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. As such, students are expected to 1) dress in conformance with one's biological sex both on and off campus; (2) use the restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities conforming with one's biological sex; and (3) abstain from all intimate sexual conduct outside the marital union of one man and one woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.) All such instances will be dealt with as a major infraction.

Disciplinary Methods for Grades Kindergarten – 5th

Each elementary teacher will have the freedom to personalize their classroom discipline system to fit the changing needs of our young students. At the beginning of the school year, your child's teacher will be happy to share the specifics of their system with parents. Below are the key components that will be present in every classroom discipline system.

- Training and redirection are a normal part of the classroom. Just as we teach our students basic mathematics and language arts, we must teach them to obey and follow the teacher's direction and classroom rules. Consistent training will produce consistent results over time. (Proverbs 22:6)
- Classroom order is necessary for learning. Freedom, fun, and excitement all have their place in the LCS classroom, but to ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn, order and organization must be maintained.

- Love/relationship motivates true discipline/change. Even when students are corrected, they must sense that the penalty has been imposed because they are loved. (Hebrews 12:5-6)
- Behavior failures will happen. Students are humans and like the rest of us, are predisposed to fall short from time to time. We are not surprised when failure occurs. Instead we focus on the mission of restoration in love. (Romans 3:23)
- Behavior failures reflect a heart issue. To simply focus on correcting behavior is to only treat symptoms while ignoring the deeper problem. Teachers understand that discipline must always go back to the heart. When the true nature of Christ is revealed to a child, that encounter will be transformative. (John 10:27-30)
- Performance-based systems will always produce performers, but necessarily not Christ-followers. Discipline systems are necessary to train in God's ways, to teach responsibility, and to model justice and consequences. However, if the system simply encourages/rewards good behavior and discourages/punishes bad behavior, it will ultimately fail the student. Any person can be trained to do the right thing, but without a heart transformation and true love for the One who created the rules, they often abandon the training when the system is removed (adulthood). For this reason, we consciously choose to keep our focus on a relationship with God, rather than keeping track of successes and failures.
- Teachers will not send daily behavior reports home to parents. We understand that parents want to stay informed about their child's behavior - and for good reason, that child is your responsibility! However, problems arise when a child's full day of ups and downs must be characterized by a singular color, smiling stamp, or short note. This method does not allow for a complete understanding of all the successes and failures that occurred in the last 7 hours. Instead we ask for your trust that we will train and instruct your child throughout the day in a manner that is consistent with Biblical instruction. Normal redirection and instruction will be handled by the classroom teacher. When problems are recurring or major violations occur, we will contact you immediately and encourage your involvement in the training process.

Disciplinary Methods for Grades 6th – 12th

The principles explained in the Elementary section apply to Junior High and High School students as well. The goal of our discipline system is to reach/change the hearts of our students, pointing them to Christ in all situations. Instead of "rule-followers", we work to graduate "Christ-followers." One of the biggest goals for our teachers to successfully reach the

students' hearts, is to form personal relationships and to show them genuine love and care. We have purposefully designed our discipline system to be relational.

When our goals are accomplished successfully, students should:

1. Have a comprehensive knowledge of Biblical truth and a desire to follow God's laws.
2. Be devoted to Christ. Their desire to obey should flow naturally out of their love for God.
3. Live lives full of respect and love for others and a passion to introduce the people around them to Christ.

Specific infractions are listed above to provide clarity, but this list is neither comprehensive nor complete. Some LCS policies are detailed in other parts of the handbook. Some teachers may have specific rules not listed at all in the handbook. The point is not to list every action that is considered to be a violation, but instead to focus on the characteristics that are complementary to a Christ-filled life.

The following steps make up the LCS discipline method for 6th-12th grades:

1. Immediate Redirection - Throughout the day teachers may need to remind, redirect, and instruct various students regarding minor infractions or slight missteps. When redirection is well-received and corrective action is taken immediately, the discipline process will be complete.
2. Direct Instruction – When immediate redirection is not sufficient, the teacher will ask the student to stay after class or step aside. This will be a 1-2 minute conversation, intended to speak heart-to-heart about the situation and encourage correction and restoration. When instruction is well-received and corrective action is taken, the discipline process will be complete.
3. Administrative Referral - If the teacher feels the issue is not resolved by redirection or instruction, they will refer the student to the principal or administrator for additional discipline. Administrative referral will also be automatic in the case of Major Infractions. Administrative staff will meet with the student. The focus of the conversation will always be the heart of the matter. Parents will normally receive a phone call when administrative referral takes place. This meeting will also likely result in a consequence.
4. Implementation of Disciplinary Consequences
 - a. Since we are committed to reaching the heart of the student, no mathematical formula can determine how best to respond to each instance of misbehavior on the part of a student. The administration team will use their wisdom and experience to guide them in determining appropriate consequences from the list in the next section. Parents are asked to partner with school staff in disciplinary

matters by supporting their decisions – just as school staff are committed to partnering with parents. Appeals regarding discipline may be made to the administration first and then, if necessary, to the school board.

- b. The principal and/or administrator will take the following items into consideration:
 - i. the seriousness of the infraction
 - ii. the frequency of the infraction
 - iii. the circumstances surrounding the infraction
 - iv. the willingness or unwillingness of the student to accept responsibility, to make amends, and to behave better in the future.
- c. For a first-time offense involving a minor infraction, the student will be given a lower-level consequence. For a repeated offense or a major infraction, the administration might jump immediately to a higher-level consequence.
- d. If a student has already been assigned a consequence but then repeats the same behavior under the same circumstances during the same week, he or she will be assigned a higher-level consequence.

5. Hierarchy of Consequences

- a. A detention during the school day, such as during break time or lunch. Depending on the circumstances, it may be repeated for two or three days in a row.
- b. A detention of thirty to forty-five minutes before or after school.
- c. Work detail – especially, but not limited to, times when the consequence is tied to the infraction, such as cleaning up a mess that was made. A chore might be assigned in conjunction with a detention.
- d. Loss of a privilege, such as missing a special school activity.
- e. Suspensions
 - i. An in-school suspension is the removal of the student from his or her classes and isolating him or her. The student will complete assignments but will not interact with other students and will not attend classes or special activities. An in-school suspension is usually for one day, but it might last for up to three days.
 - ii. An at-home suspension is the requirement that the student remain at home and miss all class and activities occurring during the time of the suspension. The student might be sent home for the rest of the school

day or for a period of one to three days. The student will complete his or her assignments at home.

- f. Probation with a Behavior improvement Plan. The student and parent will receive a list of specific behaviors that the student is to do or is not to do. The student and the parent will be asked to sign it to show that they were given the plan and that they intend to comply with it. The plan will include a warning that the student will move on to a higher level of consequence if he or she violates it. The consequence could include a longer suspension or, eventually, a recommendation for expulsion.
- g. Expulsion. If a student commits a very serious infraction from the list of major infractions or if he or she has already been suspended more than once for the same infraction or if he or she has violated the terms of a Behavior Improvement Plan, the administration team may recommend expulsion to the school board.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Longview Christian School has established an outstanding record in athletic and co-curricular competition throughout its years of existence. Success at the district and state level in basketball, volleyball, track, academics, music, and other activities are part of the LCS heritage. The LCS Lady Eagles volleyball team won a National Championship in 2005.

- **Sports** - Athletic teams are available to students in grades 6 through 12. Boys' teams compete against other schools in cross country, soccer, basketball, baseball, track and field, swimming. Girls' teams compete in cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and field, and swimming. Golf and tennis are individual sports and may be available based on student demand.
- **Class Officers and Student Government Officers** - High school classes elect class officers each year. In addition, a very active Student Government is in place at LCS. Student Government officers campaign for office and are elected by the student body. Students choosing to run for an elected office must be willing to spend time outside of school hours to fulfill the duties of their office.
- **Parties** - Room mothers in K through 8th grade will contact parents concerning regular school parties. Parties for high school will be planned by the students through their class organizations.
- **Field Trips** - Classes at Longview Christian School enjoy the educational advantage of learning away from the school campus. Students enjoy field trips that enlarge their understanding of some phase of their class work. Field trips are designed to be educational, as well as recreational in nature. All students are expected to attend. However, students may be retained at school for disciplinary reasons.
- **Transportation to and from Activities** - Students participating in athletics or other activities are expected to ride the vehicles provided by the school when possible. Drivers are licensed to operate these vehicles. After an activity or game is completed, students may leave to go home with their parents. Parents will need to check out with the coach/sponsor in order for their son/daughter to leave an activity/game with them or any other person. Students will not be allowed to leave with another student or parent without parent authorization.
- **Transportation Policy**
 - LCS will transport students to and from scheduled field trips and other class activities.
 - If school transportation is not available, responsible parents will be approached

and asked to drive for the event. In some circumstances, student drivers may drive themselves to school events with special parent and staff permission.

- Parents have the option to transport their child, and only their child, if for some reason the school provided transportation is objectionable.
- If seat belts are available in the vehicle, they must be worn while the vehicle is moving.
- Students using LCS transportation are expected to follow the bus rules.

- **Rules for Bus Riders**

- Stay seated while bus is moving.
- No more than one person per seat on the bus.
- Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the bus at all times.
- Close windows and pick up trash before leaving your seat.
- For junior high and high school students, boys will sit with boys and girls will sit with girls.

ATHLETICS

See Athletic Handbook for athletic policies.

HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

Purpose

The House System exists in the LCS high school to foster an environment of identity, belonging, and acceptance. It is designed to build comradery and relationship between the student body. It enables leadership and mentoring to develop organically. Community service and outreach are more than a task to be accomplished, but rather blossom into a ministry of the heart in an environment of teamwork and personal responsibility.

Structure/Governance

The House System governance has been designed to empower the students and foster leadership abilities in an atmosphere of mentoring and accountability. Below are the tiers of leadership in descending order with descriptions of their responsibilities.

- House Headmaster – This staff member oversees the entire house system and reports directly to the administrator. He/she ensures the other leaders are following the proper procedures and that the house system is accomplishing its purpose. When necessary the Headmaster will act as a disciplinarian, including arranging replacement of other house leaders, when circumstances dictate. The Headmaster will keep track of all points earned by the various houses throughout the year and will approve house activities. He/she will award the House Championship Cup at the end of each year.
- House Leaders – Each house will have a one or two house leaders. Leaders will normally be seniors and are appointed by the headmaster/principal. These students will be responsible for leading the houses. They will disseminate information to all house members, organize house activities, encourage and mentor housemates, and lead service projects.

House Identity and Membership

Each house has a unique name, color, and crest. These are key to house identification and team spirit. The houses at LCS are named in honor of our founders and key individuals in our school history.

- House of Wooten – Honors founding pastor and visionary Lester Wooten. House colors are red and blue.
- House of Craft – Honors one of our key founders and the second pastor to lead the school, Russell Craft. House colors are green and blue.

- House of Clark – Honors our original principal and long-time administrator, Mark Clark and his wife, Ruth Clark, who has directed the band at LCS since 1983. House colors are black and blue.
- House of Dodd – Honors a family has been a major component of the school since the beginning. Morris and Merte Dodd have been supporters of the school since the founding. Their daughters, Amy (Dodd) Nolan and Karen (Dodd) Williams, served the school for decades as teacher, coach, and athletic director and teacher, vice principal, and principal, respectively. House colors are orange and blue.

Each summer the incoming class of freshmen and any transfer students are assigned to a house by the LCS staff. The goal of this process is to evenly distribute students throughout the houses based on the gifts and talents God has given them. Natural leaders, top athletes, academics, creative artists, and givers/servants will be split up in an effort to create well-equipped, well-rounded houses that can function in unity and balanced competition.

Once a student is assigned to a house, they cannot change to another house. The house will be permanent through high school. Only in extreme circumstances, through an appeal to the Headmaster can a house change be made.

One of the benefits of the house system is to encourage students to form relationships outside of their closest friends. This develops life-skills of networking and relationship building. It also helps us to see outside of our comfort circle to the gifts and talents of those who are different than us.

House Activities

House activities may develop and change over time. Below is a list and description of the current house activities.

- Back-to-School Retreat – The retreat will be first bonding experience of the year for the houses. Much of the retreat will involve fun competitions between the houses. House leaders will also have time to discuss the planning and vision for the coming school year with house members.
- House Service Days – The houses are responsible for community service and outreach. They plan and organize House Serving Days throughout the year as a way to give back to our community. Houses should plan at least 10 hours of community service each year and each house member is required to participate in at least 5 hours. See below for information regarding the annual community service requirement for high school students.

- Academic Competition – Houses will compete in various academic competitions throughout the year. Points will be accumulated toward the House Championship Cup. One such competition will be the number of students on the quarterly honor roll. The goal will be that the houses promote high academic achievement through encouragement and tutoring.
- Athletic Competition – The annual retreat and annual field day will be organized into house competitions. Other athletic competitions may happen throughout the year.

House Championship

The houses will compete for ownership of the championship cup. At the end of the retreat, the house spirit stick will be awarded to the house with the most points during the retreat. The House Captain will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the spirit stick. At the end of each quarter, the house with the most points (total for the year) will be awarded the spirit stick. At the end of the year, the house with the most total points for the year will win the House Championship Cup. The cup will be displayed at the school and will have the winning house name from the previous year engraved on it.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Purpose

Community outreach is something that someone does for the benefit of the community. This program encourages you to step outside your familiar surroundings and focus on a life of serving others. We can all make a difference in our community and as an LCS student you should take time to consider what you could do to really make a difference, not only to your community but also in the individual lives of those who make it up.

The purpose of the community outreach program is to challenge you to live a life dedicated to reaching beyond yourself. The hope is that through service and outreach you will gain an awareness of the multiple needs of the community around you. In Philippians 2, the Apostle Paul encourages believers to “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” This puts a certain emphasis on the importance of serving the needs of others ahead of our own. But more than that, the heart of the matter is that it is better to want to serve others than it is just to do it because you have to.

Elementary and junior high students are encouraged to participate in community outreach as a class. Teachers and parents often plan special events and outreach, especially around the holidays. But they do not have an annual requirement that is tracked. The requirements and details below are for high school students only.

Goals

High school students must complete no less than 10 hours of service to an organization or community program each year they are enrolled at LCS. If ten hours are not completed in a given year, the required hours not fulfilled will be doubled and added to the following year requirement. Your regular commitment to church (serving in the nursery/worship team etc.) is not considered community outreach because it does not satisfy the goal of getting out of your familiar environment. Up to 5 hours of service can be earned by serving at school-based functions (carnival, mud run etc.). You must complete the community service program to graduate. Every year you will have an opportunity to fulfill the community outreach requirement through your house outreach days.

All community outreach (outside of planned house events) should be approved in advance with the campus pastor. Service not approved in advance may not qualify for the LCS requirement.

Guidelines

Always remember that you are representing yourself, your school, and ultimately Christ. Let your actions and attitude reflect those things. Respect those you are working with and for.

- **Appearance** – Be aware of how your dress comes across to others. Clothing will not advertise things that are inconsistent with the standard of behavior expected at school (smoking, alcohol, drugs, profanity, nudity etc.).
- **Accountability** – When participating in personal community outreach projects you must have the organization representative fill out and sign the accountability form (parent signature will not suffice). Forms must be submitted no more than 2 weeks after the service is performed. See the campus pastor for copies of the form.
- **Oversight** – All school sponsored events will be attended by the community outreach coordinator, house parents, or other school staff. For non-school sponsored events you will be monitored by the organization you volunteer through.
- **Benefit** – Volunteering not only serves the community but will build your leadership, communication, and decision-making skills. Through this experience you will learn about yourself and who God is calling you to be. It is also an opportunity to apply practically the things you are learning academically.
- **Transportation** – Unless the community outreach is planned by LCS, you are responsible for transportation for service activities. LCS does not assume any liability for any student travelling to and from volunteer opportunities.
- **Compensation** – No monetary compensation is permitted for work done for community service. It must be voluntary.

MISCELLANEOUS

Student Information Record Changes

Changes in a student's address, phone number, parent's work location, or emergency contact information should be kept current in the school office. Please notify the school in writing of information changes as soon as possible.

Care of Facilities, Equipment, and Textbooks

Students are expected to take care of school facilities, equipment, and textbooks. Disciplinary action will be taken when students abuse the facilities or equipment. A student will also be expected to pay for repair or replacement of any facilities or equipment he/she damages. Hardback textbooks are to be covered immediately after being issued. Fines may be charged for abused textbooks, books lost, or books left in unapproved areas.

Phone Calls

Please feel free to call the office at any time. To contact a teacher, please call the office or email the teacher directly. The teacher will normally respond the same day, but depending on the busyness of their schedule, it may take up to 24 hours to send a response. To contact your son/daughter, call the office and the receptionist will give the student a message or have the student return your call. Incoming messages will be relayed during breaks between classes only. Classes will not be disturbed for non-emergency messages. Please refrain from calling or texting your student while they are in class.

Cell Phones

Cell phone (and other smart device) usage by students on campus will abide by the following guidelines:

Cell Phones – High School Students (9th-12th):

1. General Rules
 - a. Cell phones should never prevent a student from listening and following a staff member's instructions.
 - b. Cell phones should always remain in silent mode. No loud or distracting ring tones. No noisy games or apps.

2. Rules for in the Classroom during Class

- a. In the classroom, students are normally expected to place their phones in a designated location in classroom at the beginning of class. It should be in silent mode. Students are only allowed to retrieve the phone when given permission by the teacher or at the end of class. Phones and smart watches may be collected during tests to prevent cheating.
- b. Students should not use phones for non-educational purposes in the classroom including, but not limited to:
 - i. No texting
 - ii. No emails
 - iii. No phone calls
 - iv. No games
 - v. No social media
- c. Some examples of proper use in the classroom (with teacher permission):
 - i. Reading an electronic book assigned by the teacher.
 - ii. Taking notes
 - iii. Taking pictures of class materials as instructed by the teacher
 - iv. Recording audio of lectures if previously approved by school staff
 - v. Using the calculator or other educationally based apps as instructed by the teacher

3. Rules for Outside the Classroom During Normal Hours (8:00am-4:00pm):

- a. Normal, appropriate cell phone use is allowed including phone calls, texting, emails, social media, games, etc.
- b. Cell phone use that is not allowed:
 - i. Music may not be played while at school.
 - ii. No headphones or ear buds* (unless authorized by the teacher/staff for a specific purpose). Headphones will be confiscated if used without permission. Students may pay \$10 to get them back at the end of the day.
 - iii. If inappropriate messages, emails, or social media are posted online or inappropriate videos, pictures, or websites are visited during school hours, the phone will be immediately confiscated.

4. Penalties for Violation of the Rules

- a. 1st Violation – Phone will be confiscated and held until payment of a \$25 charge.
- b. 2nd Violation – Phone will be confiscated and held until payment of a \$25 charge. Parents will be consulted.
- c. 3rd Violation - Phone will be confiscated and held until payment of a \$25 charge. Parents will be consulted. Student will forfeit the right to bring their cell phone to school.

- d. Additional violations will be handled by the principal/administrator as deemed necessary.

LCS is **not liable** for inappropriate cell phone usage by a student. If we discover it, we will deal with it as necessary. We cannot prevent or police all inappropriate usage. Parents are responsible for determining at what age their children are mature enough to be trusted with a cell phone and for regulating its use.

* Headphones may be allowed on out-of-town school trips as determined by the teacher, coach, or sponsor in charge.

Cell Phones – Elementary and Junior High Students (K -8th):

1. General Rules

- a. Cell phones are not to be used, seen, or heard during school hours (while under school supervision*). Teachers will confiscate phones if this policy is violated.
- b. Cell phones may be brought to school AT YOUR OWN RISK. It is recommended that they be kept in the student backpack or locker on silent mode during school hours.
- c. Smart watches may be worn on campus, however, if it is discovered that a student used the watch to access the internet, call, text, or access phone apps during school hours without permission, it will be confiscated.

2. Special Rules for Athletic Trips

- a. The general rules largely apply whenever the school is responsible for the supervision of the student, including at athletic competitions. If a parent assumes responsibility after the game is over, these rules will no longer apply.
- b. Exception - Junior high athletes while at or traveling to athletic competitions may keep their phones with them, but should not use them to play games, access the internet, or communicate with friends. They may communicate with parents or responsible family members with permission from a coach or staff member. They are also allowed to listen to music on their phones using headphones or earbuds, unless they are instructed otherwise by the coach.

3. Penalties for Violation of the Rules

- a. 1st Violation – Phone/smart watch will be confiscated and held until payment of a \$25 charge.
- b. 2nd Violation – Phone/smart watch will be confiscated and held until payment of a \$25 charge. Parents will be consulted.
- c. 3rd Violation – Phone/smart watch will be confiscated and held until payment of a \$25 charge. Parents will be consulted. Student will forfeit the right to bring their cell phone to school.

- d. Additional violations will be handled by the principal/administrator as deemed necessary.

LCS is **not liable** for inappropriate cell phone usage by a student. If we discover it, we will deal with it as necessary. We cannot prevent or police all inappropriate usage. Parents are responsible for determining at what age their children are mature enough to be trusted with a cell phone and for regulating its use.

* Rules apply at any time the school is responsible for supervision of the student including early drop off, after school care, campus field trips, bus trips, etc.

Lunches

Students may bring a lunch to school or order from our cafeteria. Parents of students K-5th should not send lunches which require special treatment, refrigeration, or re-heating. Please remember that smaller children sometimes have trouble opening packages. If you can place items into a container that your child can open, that is very helpful. We offer a daily hot lunch program for all ages through our cafeteria. Lunches are ordered through the FACTS Family Portal. Student behavior in the lunchroom should be based on courtesy and cleanliness. Each student is expected to clean up after himself. No student is permitted to leave school for lunch unless accompanied by an authorized person over the age of 21.

Use of Automobiles

Students who drive to school must abide by the following rules:

- Cars must be parked in the designated area upon arrival at school.
- Students should always lock cars parked on the school grounds.
- Students will not be allowed to sit in cars upon arrival or dismissal - they must enter the school immediately upon arrival and exit the parking lot immediately upon dismissal.
- Students will not be allowed to enter cars, their own or someone else's, at any time during school hours without permission.

Students violating school regulations regarding use of an automobile will be disciplined accordingly and may be denied permission for auto use on school grounds. The school is not responsible for any stolen items.

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

Students may be dropped off in the morning between 7:30 and 8:30 am at the school entrance on Lake Drive. There will be teachers assigned to supervise students in the morning. Late arrivals (after 8:30 am) must be signed in at the school office (Pegues Place side of campus) by their parents.

Pick-up in the afternoon will be at the Lake Drive entrance. School is dismissed at 3:30. K-8th students must be placed in vehicles by a teacher only after verifying that the vehicle has the proper pickup number. If the number is forgotten, please proceed to the school office. The office will communicate with the teacher to allow pickup. High school students will be dismissed at 3:30 and may go to their car without a pickup number. Students not picked up by 3:45 will be sent to the office and additional charges may apply.

P.E. Participation

Students who are unable to participate in physical education classes must have a note from the parents. A note from a doctor may be requested if the period of time exceeds three days.

Lost and Found

All student clothing and personal items (gym clothes, sweaters, coats, lunch boxes, games, toys, supplies, etc.) should be labeled with the student's name. Lost items will be placed in a box in the library building. Unclaimed lost uniform items will be sold at the end of each semester.

Party Invitations

Birthday or party invitations cannot be passed out at school unless they include all the girls /boys in the class or the entire class.

Fire Drills

Announced and unannounced fire drills will be held throughout the school year. When the fire alarm sounds, all persons in the school building will file out in a quiet, orderly fashion. Each class will have an "assigned exit" through which to pass. Students are to remain quiet without talking with classmates during the drill. A signal will be given to end the drill and grant permission to re-assemble in the classrooms.

Tornado Drills

Announced and unannounced tornado drills will be held throughout the school year. When the siren sounds, all persons in the school building will file quietly to the designated area and sit down. A signal will be given to end the drill and grant permission to re-assemble in the classrooms

Suspected Abuse

The State of Texas requires Longview Christian School to report allegations of suspected child abuse to the proper governmental authority when there is a reasonable suspicion or reasonable basis for believing that physical or emotional abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, inadequate supervision, or other forms of abuse have occurred. While the school is expected to communicate with parents regarding the well-being of their children, the administration is placed between the parent and the state, acting on behalf of the parent and in accordance with state law. It is the school's policy not to contact parents in advance of making a report to legal authorities. Appropriate school staff will make such reports in the best interests of the affected child and do not, once reasonable suspicion is established, have any legal alternative except to make the report to the proper authorities for their investigation and review. The school may also undertake an inquiry prior to making a report to determine whether or not there are sufficient grounds to require reporting.

Parenting Plans or Possession and Access Agreements for LCS Students

1. DEFINITIONS - In the following paragraphs, the terms are given the same meaning as defined by the Texas Family Code.
 - a. JOINT MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP. "Joint managing conservatorship" means the sharing of the rights and duties of a parent by two parties, ordinarily the parents, even if the exclusive right to make certain decisions may be awarded to one party.
 - b. MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP. "Managing conservatorship" means the relationship between a child and a managing conservator appointed by court order.
 - c. SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP. (a) "Suit affecting the parent-child relationship" means a suit filed as provided by this title in which the appointment of a managing conservator or a possessory conservator, access to or support of a child, or establishment or termination of the parent-child relationship is requested.

- d. FOSTER CARE. "Foster care" means the placement of a child who is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services and in care outside the child's home in a residential child-care facility, including an agency foster home, specialized child-care home, cottage home operation, general residential operation, or another facility licensed or certified under Chapter 42, Human Resources Code, in which care is provided for 24 hours a day.
- e. FOSTER CHILD. "Foster child" means a child who is in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.
- f. STANDARD POSSESSION ORDER. "Standard possession order" means an order that provides a parent with rights of possession of a child in accordance with the terms and conditions of Subchapter F, Chapter 153.
- g. SCHOOL. "School" means an elementary or secondary school in which a child is enrolled or, if the child is not enrolled in an elementary or secondary school, the public school district in which the child primarily resides. For purposes of this section, a reference to elementary school includes prekindergarten.
- h. PARENT. (a) "Parent" means the mother, a man presumed to be the father, a man legally determined to be the father, a man who has been adjudicated to be the father by a court of competent jurisdiction, a man who has acknowledged his paternity under applicable law, or an adoptive mother or father. Except as provided by Subsection (b), the term does not include a parent as to whom the parent-child relationship has been terminated.
- i. BEST INTEREST OF CHILD. The best interest of the child shall always be the primary consideration of the court in determining the issues of conservatorship and possession of and access to the child.
- j. WRITTEN FINDING REQUIRED TO LIMIT PARENTAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES. The court may limit the rights and duties of a parent appointed as a conservator if the court makes a written finding that the limitation is in the best interest of the child.
- k. RIGHTS OF PARENT AT ALL TIMES. Unless limited by court order, a parent appointed as a conservator of a child has at all times the right: (those in bold related to school activities)
 - i. to receive information from any other conservator of the child concerning the health, education, and welfare of the child;
 - ii. to confer with the other parent to the extent possible before making a decision concerning the health, education, and welfare of the child;
 - iii. of access to medical, dental, psychological, and educational records of

the child;

iv. to consult with a physician, dentist, or psychologist of the child;

v. **to consult with school officials concerning the child's welfare and educational status, including school activities;**

vi. **to attend school activities, including school lunches, performances, and field trips;**

vii. **to be designated on the child's records as a person to be notified in case of an emergency;**

viii. to consent to medical, dental, and surgical treatment during an emergency involving an immediate danger to the health and safety of the child; and

ix. to manage the estate of the child to the extent the estate has been created by the parent or the parent's family.

I. REFERENCE TO "SCHOOL" IN STANDARD POSSESSION ORDER. In a standard possession order, "school" means the elementary or secondary school in which the child is enrolled or, if the child is not enrolled in an elementary or secondary school, the public school district in which the child primarily resides.

2. LCS Policy - Longview Christian School recognizes the importance of the following rights and duties as recognized by our Legislature. Based on the provisions set out in the Texas Family Code, a court may limit the rights and duties of parents but must put those limitations in writing. Otherwise, the rights both parents have at all times with regard to their child's school related information and activities is listed above in bold (RIGHTS OF PARENTS AT ALL TIMES), and LCS will honor accordingly. LCS also understands that courts routinely encourage parents (or other non-parent conservators) to enter into Agreed Parenting Plans whereby parents agree to alter the court's order or the Standard Possession Order relating to possession and access of the child. Therefore, it is simply not feasible for LCS to monitor the schedules of each parent child relationship to ensure a correct schedule is followed. To address these concerns, LCS is establishing the following policies and procedures related to all children living in two homes. These policies and procedures are made with the primary consideration of the children's best interest and in order to meet two primary goals: 1) protect children from being released to persons specifically prohibited from possession or access pursuant to court order; and 2) allow conservators information, decision-making powers, and possession and access to children pursuant to legal rights and duties set out by the Legislature. In order accomplish these goals, LCS will enact policies and procedures from time to time, and as necessary, as is reasonable and practical under the circumstances. Should conservators

fail to provide necessary information as set out below, LCS shall not be expected to honor terms of limitations in court orders.

- a. First, Any Temporary (if no final) and all Final Orders in a Suit Affecting the Parent Child Relationship or a Final Decree of Divorce containing a Possession and Access Schedule shall be provided to the administrator's office at LCS for any child subject thereto. **If the order LIMITS the rights and duties to any child in that Order special attention must be called to that page.**
- b. Second, if you are in possession of a court order that **LIMITS** the possession and access of another person to your child, you **SHALL** provide a copy of that order to the school office. Vitally important, you **CANNOT** give a car tag to a person with limited access to your child. **If you give a car tag to a person with limited access to your child, you bear the liability of that person having access to your child through LCS car pick-up.**
- c. Third, LCS hereby reserves the right to release a child to any approved person. **THIS INCLUDES PERSONS ON THE APPROVED PICKUP LIST, PERSONS HOLDING A CAR TAG MATCHING THE NUMBER ASSIGNED YOUR CHILD, AND BOTH JOINT-MANAGING CONSERVATORS OF THE CHILD REGARDLESS OF YOUR AGREED PARENTING PLAN OR THE STANDARD POSSESSION ORDER.** LCS DOES NOT BEAR ANY LIABILITY FOR HONORING THE DATES OR TIMES OF YOUR PARENTING SCHEDULE. LCS WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD IS SAFELY IN A VEHICLE BEARING THE CORRECT CAR TAG NUMBER OR PICKED UP FROM THE OFFICE BY AN AUTHORIZED PERSON. That is the extent of LCS's obligation. If both joint managing conservators arrive to pick up a child and cannot agree on terms, LCS has the right to call the Longview Police Department and your child may be asked to leave the school permanently if this results in a disruption to other students.
- d. Fourth, both **joint managing conservators have the right attend school activities including, but not limited to lunches, performances, field trips, and sporting events.** Again, LCS will not be a mediator for adults who cannot co-exist or co-parent in a civilized manner. LCS reserves the right to remove you from the event, call the Longview Police Department, or ask your child to leave the school if you are unable to attend these type events without disturbing the peace of others.
- e. Fifth, **both joint managing conservators have the right to set up an account on FACTS (or any subsequent online software) and view the child's educational, behavioral, family, etc. information.** LCS reserves the right to withhold the financial information from a conservator if that conservator is not the

contractual obligor to LCS on behalf of the child and the contractual obligor requests the payment/financial information be withheld, unless LCS is under Court Order to provide said information.

- f. Sixth, LCS is always willing to work with a parent or guardian in a unique or challenging situation. If you have concerns about your situation and would like to speak with the Administration, we are sure that we can help you and talk through ways to ensure a peaceful school environment for your child. We want a loving environment where all our children can learn without outside struggles and interference.
- g. **IMPORTANT, if a child has been released to the custody of a joint-managing conservator, another person authorized as a “pick-up” by a joint-managing conservator, another person authorized as an “emergency contact” by a joint-managing conservator, or a person with the correctly numbered car-tag in the pick-up line, LCS bears no liability or responsibility for the child leaving the school in violation of the Standard Possession Order, the Agreed Parenting Plan, or any other agreement of the parents or conservators pursuant to possession, access or scheduling.**

Parent-School Communications

1. Communication between the parents and school is of utmost importance. Parents are issued a school calendar that gives important dates. While face to face, phone calls, letters, text messages, LCS website, and social media are all ways that communication may occur, LCS has designated two methods to be our primary means of communication. If you do not have access to either of these options, please contact the school office for assistance.
 - a. Email – We send out informational emails several times per week to parents. Our monthly billing, behavior notices, and academic progress reports are also sent by email.
 - b. FACTS – Each parent is given a log-in to our school FACTS account. FACTS is a direct line of communication between the school, teachers, and parents and our primary means of giving parents information. It is used to view the calendar, receive important information from teachers, view billing, view progress reports and grades, confirm homework assignments, and order lunch.
2. Parent-teacher communications may be in the form of written notes, phone calls, emails, or FACTS. Parents may call the office to set up a conference with the teacher or may send a note requesting a call.

3. Longview Christian School encourages parents to be as involved as possible in their child's education. If you would like to visit your child's classroom, you are more than welcome. Please follow these procedures:
 - a. Call or talk with the school office to let them know when you would like to visit. They will check schedules, etc. Classroom visits should be limited to one hour and at a time that will not be distracting to the students. Please check in at the school office when you arrive.
 - b. Any items (supplies, lunches, sports equipment, etc.) to be delivered to your student should be left in the office. Please do not interrupt the class.
 - c. For security purposes, no one can be on campus without first obtaining a visitor badge from the front desk.

Parent Teacher Alliance

The PTA is a parent/teacher support group. Parents may serve as elected officers for one-year terms. Elections take place at the last meeting of the year, if possible. If not, they will take place at the first meeting of the year. The current PTA Board, along with the LCS Parent Liaison, will serve as the nominating committee. The administration must approve fund-raising projects. The LCS Parent Liaison is an ex-officio member of the PTA board and attends all meetings. PTA meetings occur from time to time. They are an excellent time to obtain information about upcoming school events and volunteer opportunities.

Fund-Raising

LCS is endeavoring to keep tuition rates at a minimum. For that reason, we will have periodic fundraising events throughout the year. We anticipate every student and/or parent's participation in helping us raise additional funds for designated school projects. The school is supported entirely by tuition, gifts, and these projects. Each family is required to raise at least \$750 annually as a part of the fundraising efforts. Any families who do not meet this requirement will be billed for the difference.

Volunteers

Longview Christian School encourages volunteers to assist in many areas of the school program. Some areas of opportunity include library helpers, lunchroom workers, fundraiser assistants, concession workers, handyman helpers, etc. Volunteers who interact directly with students without staff supervision must have a proper background check on file in the office.

Conflict Resolution

As in any endeavor, problems, concerns, or conflicts may arise. Longview Christian School follows the Matthew 18 principle with regard to conflict resolution. Parents should understand and agree that resolution must follow these steps:

1. Pray about the situation and determine if it seems serious enough to pursue.
2. Contact the teacher or other individual directly involved for a personal conference.
3. If unresolved, contact the principal or administrator for a conference.

WITHDRAWALS AND DISMISSALS

Withdrawals

Withdrawals from school must be made through the administrative office. Family accounts will incur additional tuition and fees until the administrator is officially notified of the withdrawal by a parent. School records will not be released until all financial accounts are paid.

Dismissals

Students will not be permitted to attend class if the family fails to keep their financial agreement with the school.

A student may be dismissed from school at any time he/she is found out of harmony with the rules and policies of the school. The school board makes the final decision regarding the involuntary dismissal of any student.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Longview Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and grant programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Longview Christian School

Dress Code

Basic Dress Code - All Students (K - 12th grade)

Polos: Red, white, or navy LCS monogrammed polos. Polos may be purchased from Land's End (search Longview Christian School under "Uniforms") or from any other vendor and monogrammed locally at Global Graphics/Locker Room. All students must have at least one **RED** LCS polo for field trips and special events.

Pants: Blue jeans in good repair. No holes, no jeweled embellishment, no frayed edges, and blue color only - various other colors are not acceptable. Navy, khaki, or tan colored slacks in good repair.

Shorts: Blue jean or navy/khaki shorts (dress-style shorts) must be properly hemmed and in good repair. No holes or jeweled embellishment. Length must be at least mid-thigh. No athletic shorts.

T-Shirt Day: Thursdays at LCS are t-shirt days. Any LCS-issued t-shirts may be worn by all students on Thursdays. T-shirts will be sold each year at the beginning of the year. The shirts are acceptable for PE for 5th-8th grade students on Thursdays.

Socks and Girls Leggings: Must be solid red, white, tan, black, or navy in color and matching. Leggings may only be worn under shorts, skirts, or dresses. They may not be worn as a substitute for pants.

Shoes: K-5th grade students must wear closed toed shoes for safety on the playground. K-12th grade students must wear athletic/running shoes for all PE classes. Shoes with attached wheels are not allowed.

Acceptable Outerwear: Only LCS monogrammed jackets, sweaters, and other outerwear purchased from Land's End, the school-issued crew cut sweatshirt from the prior or current year, or LCS Letterman jackets may be worn in the classroom or school buildings during the school day. All outerwear must have a school polo underneath. Non-LCS zip-up or button-up jackets or coats may be worn outside between buildings or during recess. No sweatshirts may be worn on campus except for school-approved crew-cut sweatshirts.

Acceptable Undershirts: Long-sleeve or short-sleeve undershirts may be worn under school polos. Acceptable colors include white, navy, red, tan, gray, and black.

Hats: No hats may be worn in the school buildings during the school day.

5th-8th PE Uniforms: All 5th-8th grade students must dress out for PE classes. They must wear a grey LCS PE t-shirt. The PE shirt is available for purchase from the school office or through Lands End. Athletic shorts/pants are required and must be navy, black, or red. Leggings or tights must be navy, black, or red and may only be worn under shorts. Shorts length must be at least mid-thigh. Athletic shoes are required. (K-4th grade students do not change for PE.)

9th-12th PE Uniforms: All 9th-12th grade students must dress out for PE or Fitness classes. They may wear any LCS t-shirt or a solid/plain red, navy, or grey t-shirt. Sleeveless shirts and tank tops are not allowed. Athletic shorts/pants are required and must be navy, black, or red. Leggings or tights must be navy, black, or red and may only be worn under shorts. Shorts length must be at least mid-thigh. Athletic shoes are required.

Grooming: Visible body piercing for students is limited to earrings (boys and girls) and a single nose stud (girls only). Piercings deemed to be excessive or distracting may be disallowed at the discretion of the administration. Hair is to be well-maintained, kept out of the eyes, and a natural color.

Additional Options for Elementary Girls (K - 5th grade)

Polo Dresses: Monogrammed polo dresses purchased through the LCS account at Land's End as well as navy, red, or white polo dresses purchased from any other store and monogrammed at Global Graphics are also acceptable for elementary girls.

Additional Options for Girls (K - 12th grade)

Capris: Blue jean or navy/khaki capris are acceptable for the girls and must be in good repair.

Skirts: All girls may wear the navy, khaki, or plaid skirt available through the LCS Lands End website or other vendors. They may also wear blue jean skirts that are at least knee length. These skirts must have shorts built in or they must wear shorts under the skirt. All skirts must have no holes, no jeweled embellishment, and no frayed edges.

IMPORTANT: *This dress code is **NOT OPTIONAL**. Students who arrive at school without proper attire will receive disciplinary action. **The school office will call the parents to have proper clothes brought to the school so the student can change.** Repeated violations will result in more severe consequences.*

LCS Dress Code Special School Events

Below you will find the general guidelines for school activities that do not require the students to be in uniform. These are to be considered “minimum standards.” School staff may enforce more detailed rules for a specific trip. Please keep in mind that the goal of these standards is modesty and being a positive reflection of Christ and LCS. Everyone has different standards for what is appropriate; therefore we strive to err more on the conservative side to respect the convictions of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

School retreats, Athletic trips, Class trips, Mission trips, etc.:

- **Boys** – Shirts should not be in disrepair (holes, cut-off, stained, or visibly dirty). Sleeveless shirts and tank tops are not allowed. Shorts length may be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Clothing should not reflect branding or messages that could be considered contrary to the Christian faith.
- **Girls** – Shirt straps must be at least 1 inch wide and cover the bra strap. Shirts should not be low cut in the front or the back. Shorts length may be no shorter than mid-thigh. Skirts and dresses length may be no shorter than 2.5 inches above the knee. Clothing should not reflect branding or messages that could be considered contrary to the Christian faith.
- **Swimming/Beach Activities** – Boys should wear shirts to and from the swimming area. No speedos for the boys. Girls should wear a cover-up over their bathing suit to and from the swimming area. Girls’ bathing suits must be a modest one-piece or a two-piece that covers the midriff (long tankini). If a bathing suit is worn that shows the midriff, girls must wear a colored t-shirt over it at all times.

Banquets and other formal occasions:

- **Boys** – Boys should dress in appropriate formal attire including tuxedos, suits, shirt and tie, etc. Some events are more formal than others, but it is important that the students dress in attire that is appropriate and respectful.
- **Girls** – Skirts and dresses length (or to the top of the slit, if applicable) may be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Dresses must have at least one strap, not show the bra, and should not be low cut in the front or lower than the middle of the back. Dresses must be tried on and approved by school staff prior to the event for all high school banquets.

Special ceremonies (Graduation, Awards ceremonies, Academic competitions, etc.):

- **Boys** – Boys should dress in nice attire that could be classified as “Sunday-best” including dress pants or very nice jeans, polo-style or button-down collared shirt, dress shoes, and possibly a tie. Some events are dressier than others, but it is important that the students dress in attire that is appropriate and respectful.
- **Girls** – Skirts and dresses length may be no shorter than 2.5 inches above the knee. Dresses must have straps that do not show the bra strap and should not be low cut in the front or the back.

Picture Days:

- **Boys** – Boys should dress in nice attire that could be classified as “Sunday-best”. No t-shirts, sweatshirts, or athletic pants.
- **Girls** – Girls should dress in nice attire that could be classified as “Sunday-best”. Skirts and dresses length may be no shorter than 2.5 inches above the knee. No t-shirts, sweatshirts, or athletic pants. Shirts and blouses must have sleeves and should not be low cut in the front or the back.