

Westminster Christian Academy

Family Handbook

Introduction

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” – Psalm 111:10

Westminster Christian Academy believes that the only legitimate system of education is deeply rooted in scripture. The doctrines of creation and providence state that God both originated and arranged all of the facts and systems of the universe according to His own logic, which far exceeds the logic of man. With this in mind, Westminster Christian Academy always strives to place God’s Word above the ideas of men and to keep Christ and the Holy Spirit at the center of all instruction.

Our Values

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” – John 8:31-32

Westminster Christian Academy is governed by the true and living God, who has revealed himself through his Holy Word. Our teaching is always rooted in scripture because there is no truth apart from God.

Our understanding of scripture is informed by the Westminster Assembly, a gathering of over 100 ministers from England and Scotland in the 1640s, who wrote seven documents outlining the Christian faith with delicate precision. These seven documents are *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, the *Larger Catechism*, the *Shorter Catechism*, the *Directory of Public Worship*, the *Directory of Family Worship*, the *Sum of Saving Faith*, and the *Presbyterian Form of Church Government*.

Parents should understand that the Bible will be taught from the perspective of these documents and we encourage parents to become familiar with them.

Attendance

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.” – Proverbs 10:4

Westminster Christian Academy strives to ensure that parents have the opportunity to spend time with their children and play an active role in their education. However, this means that each day spent in the classroom is even more important. With this in mind, parents should do their best to ensure that their child(ren) attends school as often as possible. Doctor, dental, and other appointments should be scheduled outside school hours whenever possible.

Student absences are excused for reasons such as inclement weather, a death in the family, or medical needs. If an excused absence is foreseeable, the student’s first-period teacher should be notified beforehand. For excused absences that are unforeseeable, parents should email westminsterchristian@gmail.com, email the student’s teacher, or provide a signed note when their child returns to school.

Absences for other reasons will be counted as unexcused.

If a student accumulates fifteen unexcused absences in a single school year, a conference with the administration and staff will be necessary to assess whether the student has developed the skills needed to advance to the next grade level. This policy is in place to maintain the academic integrity of the school. Teachers cannot accurately assess the knowledge of students that they rarely see.

Arriving on time is also vitally important. Teachers expect to begin their lessons promptly at 8:00 AM, so a student arriving late has a negative effect on the entire class. A student is considered late if he or she has not reached his or her first-period classroom by 7:58 AM. This two-minute buffer ensures the student will be seated and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. For every five lates, a student will be charged with one unexcused absence.

Appearance and Dress Code

“Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Christians of all ages should present themselves in a way that pleases and honors Christ. In pursuit of this ideal, we ask that students do not seek to draw undue attention to themselves through choices in clothing, jewelry, makeup, or hairstyle.

Westminster Christian Academy does not require students to wear uniforms. However, students must observe a handful of rules when picking out their clothes for school each day. These rules serve three purposes: to encourage modesty, to remove temptation, and to separate students from their secular peers.

- Clothing with inappropriate language or images is not to be worn.
- Crop tops, short shorts, low-cut shirts, and sleeveless shirts are off-limits.
- Form-fitting leggings and yoga pants can be worn under skirts and dresses, but are not to be worn alone.
- Dresses and skirts must be no higher than four inches above the knee unless leggings are worn.

Boys: In keeping with 1 Corinthians 11, we ask that boys keep their hair relatively short. Boys are not permitted to have piercings of any kind.

Girls: Girls are permitted to wear earrings but may not wear piercings in the nose, lip, or other areas.

General Guidelines for Parents and Students

Church Affiliation: Students and parents are expected to belong to and regularly attend a Bible-believing church.

School Property: Any defaced or broken property is to be replaced by the offending student.

Personal Property: Guns, knives, matches, and lighters should not be brought to school.

Language: Students are expected to glorify the Lord with their words. As such, profanity and hurtful language will not be permitted.

Personal Contact: Students are to keep their hands off of other students. Students of the opposite sex should maintain a proper distance.

Off Limits:

- Church sanctuary
- Prayer rooms behind the sanctuary
- Second-floor offices
- Kitchen (without teacher approval)
- Gymnasium (without teacher approval)

Closed Campus Policy: Students may not leave the school building during school hours without a note from a legal guardian that has been approved by the student's teacher.

Phones: Students must keep cell phones in their backpacks. Students must have their teacher's permission to use their cell phones. Students may not use their cell phones to take or distribute photos or videos of classmates.

Computers: Students may bring their own laptop computer or tablet to school for word processing and completing online assignments. Computers should only be used at approved times for approved purposes. Students are expected to make the most of their school day, so games and social media should be reserved for after school.

Books: Independent reading is encouraged and sometimes required. In these instances, students are permitted to bring books from home or from the library, assuming the book is school-appropriate.