



Bethlehem Christian School Handbook

Printed - 10/13/2015

Section One - General Information

1.011

Missions Statement

MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Christian School exists to assist Christian parents in their responsibility of training their children by providing a complete educational program that is Biblically sound, Christ centered and of excellent standards. Bethlehem Christian School is committed to equip students for Christian living by instilling Biblical principals of self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity and good citizenship.



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1.0112

Statement of Faith

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible, made up of 66 books, verbally inspired, and free from error in doctrine, fact and ethic, i.e., inerrant, is the Word of God and the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existent in three co-equal personsóFather, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His imminent personal and physical return in power and glory.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that through sin, he brought upon himself and his posterity, not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; that all human beings by physical birth possess a sinful nature and are therefore actual sinners in thought, word, and deed; and that man, as such, is condemned to hell and utterly unable to remedy his lost condition by himself or by ecclesiastical rite.

We believe that the salvation of lost and sinful man is a free gift of Godís grace apart from works, based solely upon Christís vicarious and atoning death, effected by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and received by trusting in Christís finished work on the cross.

We believe in the Deity and present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by Whose solitary baptism of every believer at the moment of regeneration and by Whose indwelling each Christian is enabled to lead a godly life as manifested by the fruit of the Spirit.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lostóthey that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.



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Biblical Philosophy of Education

BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

We recognize scripture as the revealed Word of God.

We teach the scripture as truth.

We integrate that truth into the learning experience.



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Admissions

ADMISSIONS

Parents are cordially invited to contact the school office regarding admission to the school. This personal contact will give valuable insight and help prospective parents and their students to obtain answers to their questions. Following this initial inquiry, interested parents shall submit the application forms with the registration fee. A child must be five years old by September 1 to be eligible for Kindergarten in September. Before the child can be admitted to class in September, evidence must be given that the child has all immunizations required by the State of Pennsylvania or that the parent has signed a statement claiming religious or medical exemption. A physician's health report, a copy of the child's birth certificate, a copy of the child's comprehensive educational record (if applicable), and a Pastor's recommendation is also part of the admissions process.

Upon receipt of the completed forms, the Principal may require a prospective student going into Grades 1-8 to take an assessment test. Arrangements will be made by the school office. All prospective kindergarten students **must** take a kindergarten readiness assessment. In addition, an interview is scheduled with the parents and student with the Principal. The results of these tests and interview must be satisfactory before a student is admitted to the school.

It is school policy that, upon admissions application, parents provide testimony of their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is desired that both parents profess faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, however, at least one parent must provide a testimony of their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The school recognizes that it cannot meet the educational needs of all children. Bethlehem Christian School offers a high quality Christ-centered education, but it is not able to address the needs of every child. For this reason, the administrators may find it necessary to reject or defer an application. Other causes for rejection of an application may be found among the following: use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, foul language, sexual misconduct; arrest by police; prior history of disciplinary actions and or expulsion from a school. Final decisions in these matters will be made by the Superintendent/building Principals.

Bethlehem Christian School is a religious institution providing an education in a distinctly Christian environment, and believes that its Biblical role is to work in conjunction with the home to mold students to be Christlike. On those occasions in which the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home is counter to or in opposition to the Biblical lifestyle the school teaches, the school reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to living in, condoning, or supporting sexual immorality; practicing a homosexual



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lifestyle or alternative gender identity; promoting such practices; or otherwise having the inability to support the moral principles of the school. (Leviticus 20:13a, Romans 1:27, Matthew 19:4-6)

The school is a nondenominational Christian school and is owned and operated by the Bethlehem Christian School Association. Neither race nor national or ethnic origin are ever a factor in admissions. A duly elected Board of Trustees, made up of active members of the Bethlehem Christian School Association, manages the affairs of the school for the Association. The Board feels that parental support of, and commitment to, the school's Philosophy and Objectives, Statement of Faith, Educational Objectives and various operating rules and regulations is a prerequisite for the enrollment of any child. Therefore, parents must give evidence of such support and commitment, both upon application for admission and throughout the student's tenure at Bethlehem Christian School. Parental support and commitment is implied upon reenrollment of the student.

Application forms are available online or by contacting the school office at:

www.bethlehemchristianschool.org

Ebenezer Campus (610) 868-6020

Calvary Campus (610) 365-8176

NONDISCRIMINATION

Bethlehem 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 the students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



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Expected School-Wide Learning Results

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS

Bethlehem Christian School's Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRs) are the product of a collaborative effort involving faculty and administrators.

Each ESLR was developed based on the Mission Statement and the Philosophy of BCS. The BCS program will prepare its graduates to be...

BIBLICALLY EQUIPPED

BCS students will be equipped with biblical knowledge and principles that strengthen or result in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Students will demonstrate a Biblical Worldview and be able to effectively communicate and defend their faith.

CRITICAL THINKERS & EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

BCS students will be active learners who think critically, work independently and cooperatively, and creatively solve problems using a variety of resources. Students will be effective communicators able to use oral, written, and technological forms. Students will be lifelong learners who strive for academic excellence and perform at or above grade level in all subjects in accordance with state standards.

STEWARDS

BCS students will be responsible citizens who use their time, talents, and abilities to serve the school, home, church, and community. Students will demonstrate self-discipline and a respect for God, authority, and others. Students will compassionately resolve conflict in a loving, Christ-centered way.



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1.012

Philosophy of the School/School Verse / Motto

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL

School Motto: Growing in Christ

School Verse: And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.
Luke 2:52

Bethlehem Christian School has been established to provide a sound elementary education with high spiritual, academic and aesthetic standards, integrated with the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and to assist parents in carrying out Scriptural direction, as found in Deuteronomy 6:6,7: “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” and Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

We believe that true education must seek to meet the needs of the whole child, and engender in that child the positive development of the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical and social aspects of life. We realize that an important difference exists between the Christian and non-Christian viewpoints on any given subject. Although knowledge is factually the same for both, no subject can be taught in the totality of its truth if the Creator, Christ, is ignored or denied.

A further goal of the school is to instill in its students a system of values consistent with the Bible and to educate them in the highest principles of Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and good citizenship.

Attendance at Bethlehem Christian School is a privilege, not a right. Parents are expected to be fully committed to, and wholly supportive of, the philosophy and objectives of the school.



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Purpose of the School

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL

The Bethlehem Christian School's purpose of existence is:

... to provide a sound elementary education with high spiritual, academic and aesthetic standards that puts God and His Word, The Bible, at the center. The foundation for a complete education is the Lord Jesus Christ. The student and the teacher must evaluate all knowledge and experience in relation to God's Word. No subject can be taught in the totality of its truth if the Creator, Christ, is ignored or denied. The value system and view of life which underlie any formal educational program should be consistent with the fundamental tenets set forth in the school "Statement of Faith;"

... to impart knowledge and basic skills and the wisdom of the Bible and Jesus Christ. This is essential to the development and growth of the individual in matters spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and social. An educational program should incorporate the recognition that each of these areas needs to be stimulated and developed fully.

The objective is to provide an education which will challenge each student to strive for academic excellence (Colossians 3:23) and assist each student in his attempt to relate effectively with his Creator, himself and those in the world around him. As a student matures in these relationships he should begin to develop an understanding of how he has been gifted and will begin to take his place in the body of Christ and in society;

... to instill in its students a system of values consistent with the Bible and to educate them in the highest principles of Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and good citizenship. We believe that the Holy Scriptures provide absolute values. It is by diligent study of the Holy Scriptures that one receives the guidelines for Christian living. The committed life of the Christian teacher and other persons affiliated with the school provides a model for the students.

... to assist parents in carrying out Scriptural direction, as found in Deuteronomy 6:6,7: And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up;

NATURE OF THE STUDENTS



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SPIRITUAL NATURE

Each student is a spiritual being created in the image of God. Our spirituality is based upon our belief that, in fact, the Bible is the only written word of God. It teaches that every person is a sinner from birth: “There is none righteous, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10). Therefore, we are alienated from God until, by faith, we accept God’s gift of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Spiritual development proceeds to teach that growth in the Christian life depends upon fellowship with God and fellow Christians by Bible study, prayer and service.

Spiritual development proceeds to teach the student to love God and one’s fellow man, to manifest fairness, courtesy, kindness, and other Christian graces. Spiritual development proceeds to encourage the student to get along with non-Christians and with Christians who hold differing views (Romans 12:18).

Spiritual development increases by integrating the various subject matter areas with Biblical truth. Students must understand that Christianity is a way of life and that God pervades all areas of life. Learning more about others and about the world can help students learn more about themselves. Since the world and man are creations of God, learning about them without the inclusion of Biblical truth would be an incomplete study.

INTELLECTUAL NATURE

The interchange of knowledge is a God-given characteristic which distinguishes man from the animal kingdom. According to Scripture, God is a rational Being. Because man is created in God’s image, one of His noblest features is the capacity to think. We believe that children are most content when they are involved in the learning process; in fact, unfulfilled intellectual needs can be a source of frustration and cause children to expend their energies in unprofitable ways. Students need reasons for their behavior. If such reasons are not provided within the educational framework, the child will invent his own system of thought and behavior.

Bethlehem Christian School believes that God never intended for knowledge to be an end in itself, but always to be a means to another end. We trust that our students will become aware that the acquisition of knowledge carries a solemn responsibility to act on that knowledge and to translate such knowledge into appropriate, productive behavior. Such individuals should become God-revering, upright citizens who will make a positive and decisive impact upon their society.

Intellectual development proceeds to show the student his present civic responsibility and to prepare him for adult responsibility as a citizen of Heaven and of our nation. George Washington said, “True religion affords government its surest support. The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of the youth. It is impossible to govern without the



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Bible.”

Intellectual development of the student can only come about with a solid foundation of broad basic learning skills:

Communication skills:

Abstract and concrete reasoning skills:

Knowledge and appreciation of art and music:

Communication skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Bethlehem Christian School believes that communication on the human level stems from the divine model demonstrated by God when He initiated communication with His creatures. In a more mundane aspect, individuals need to develop these skills for the purpose of interaction (individual and societal), cultural transmission, and also self-expression. Much practice and drill exercises are required to develop these skills. The teacher generally serves as a model; however, various instructional and reference materials need to be employed in the development of language skills.

For centuries, mankind has relied on concrete and abstract thinking skills which have enabled him to explore many aspects of mathematics, the sciences, and technology. Bethlehem Christian School believes that when students are introduced to these two basic types of thinking they will be able to understand significant technological discoveries of the past as well as develop the potential to contribute significantly to future achievements. Experimentation, teacher demonstrations, research projects, and guided discussions where thinking skills are exercised are a significant part of our curriculum.

Creativity is part of the revealed nature of God. When one considers the endless variety of creatures, sounds, and artistic hues, it is evident that God intended to develop a creative and artistic aspect in man. Throughout the ages, art and music have served as vehicles of expression for man and have also inspired him to see higher aspects of the world around him. We believe that the Bethlehem Christian School students should be afforded the opportunity to discover and develop talents in these areas, both as a performer (artist) and as a consumer. Directed instruction in art and music, as well as exposure to concerts, museums, and other resources expand the students' artistic horizons.

PERSONAL NATURE

The self-image of a child significantly affects his personal development. The early foundations of self-image are established during the pre-school years, primarily by the family unit. This early self-concept will be reinforced, altered, or enhanced by the educational environment. It is important that in this environment the student has a sense of belonging which allows him to



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experience achievement, success, and failure, secure in the knowledge that he is loved and accepted by God, his peers, and his teachers.

We believe it is our responsibility to teach each student that:

As an individual, created by God in His image, he has intrinsic worth, and has been given unique talents and abilities which are to be discovered and developed;

He has a free will and is capable of and responsible for making choices which will determine the direction of his life;

As he matures he must assume more individual responsibility for self-discipline, personal integrity, and recognition of the needs of his fellow man;

God has a purpose for each life, and a principal measure of a successful life is one in which that purpose is fulfilled.

SOCIAL NATURE

Bethlehem Christian School views society not as a large collection of self-sufficient individuals, but rather as a proving ground for human interaction and relations. As Christians, we are indeed “our brother’s keeper.” Within this framework, the student should learn respect for the feelings and opinions of others. He should also become aware of the responsibility, privilege, and rewards of service to his fellow man. This concept extends from the student body to the local, national, and world communities. As the student’s concept of the world expands, he should increase his knowledge of various cultures and develop an appreciation and respect for the worth of all people. On the individual level, one should remain cognizant that skill in personal interaction is not innate, but must be learned and refined. We recognize that the student’s future will be significantly affected by his ability or inability to accept and work with other people.

The student, as a social being, must learn to recognize and function within hierarchical relationships. Scripture instructs that, in such relationships, God placed individuals of His choosing in positions of authority. As a student develops he should learn to recognize and submit to those whom God has placed in authority over him, and not to abuse authority entrusted to him.

PHYSICAL NATURE

The human body has been given by God and must be developed by structured exercise, formal and informal games, and free play as is pertinent to each grade level. Since the body involves mental as well as physical aspects, coordination of the two is a goal of our physical education training.



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An awareness of the parts of the body, their intended function, and knowledge of what is needed to maintain good physical condition and to stay healthy needs to be part of the curriculum.

A student must learn to control his body. I Corinthians 6:20 says that we have been “bought with a price” and should therefore glorify God in our bodies. Romans 12:1 tells us to “present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.” The body is “the temple of the Holy Spirit.” (I Corinthians 6:19). It is therefore important that the students learn to appreciate their bodies and perceive them with a loving Christian attitude as will be pleasing to the Creator.

NATURE OF SCHOOL RELATIONS

TEACHER AND STUDENT RELATIONS

The teacher has an “in loco parentis” relationship with his/her students. This is an awesome responsibility which requires a strong commitment to Christ. It is through the enabling of the Holy Spirit that the teacher can channel Christ’s love to his/her students.

His/her responsibility is many-faceted:

- Role model
- Leader
- Problem-solver
- Disciplinarian

His/her students should desire to emulate him/her even as the teacher has desired to imitate Christ. As a leader, the teacher should be able to integrate his/her Christian philosophy into his/her lifestyle and the curriculum. As a problem-solver, he/she should guide his/her students to discover for themselves the Christian course of action in a given situation. When the teacher functions as a disciplinarian, it is his/her aim not to provoke unduly, but rather to exercise the student unto godliness.

TEACHER AND PARENT RELATIONS

God has given the responsibility for the child’s education to parents. Parents must not abdicate this responsibility but authorize the teacher to assume an “in loco parentis” role during school hours.

The teachers confer with parents on the academic and social progress and the spiritual growth of the students on a regular basis or as the need arises. Parents are informed about what they can and should do in their child’s education. Parents and teachers share many similar values and strive to instill these in the child.



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TEACHER AND TEACHER RELATIONS

The teachers of the school consider themselves part of a team devoted to assisting each other in meeting the needs of the students. Each teacher brings a unique combination of background experiences and talents. As a unified body, they promote the pursuit of academic excellence and social and spiritual growth for all the students. They also work toward the best interests of the school.

The teachers are unified through their common belief in Jesus Christ as Savior. There are “many members, yet but one body.” (ICorinthians 12:20).

TEACHER AND SCHOOL RELATIONS

The teacher as an employee of the school is regarded as a role-model of a committed, knowledgeable Christian for the student, parents, and the school community. He/she is of vital importance in the entire process of learning and in interpersonal relationships in the school. The teacher is the catalyst, the one who brings the truth and the one who lives it. There must be evidence in his/her life that he/she has established a foundational Christian philosophy of life for himself/herself and is putting it into practice. His/her life is looked upon as a “Living Curriculum.”

The teacher is expected to uphold the policies and procedures set by the Board of Trustees and the Administration, to be loyal to the school’s purposes, and to contribute to its growth and development. These expectations also apply to the administrative staff. The faculty and the administration regard themselves as a team, serving the school community in love and working toward the common purpose to glorify God in all things. This unique relationship should serve as an inspiration and challenge to all who observe the school both from within and without.

NATURE OF THE PROCESS

ADMINISTRATIVE

The school is owned and operated by an incorporated, nonprofit Association. Membership in the Association is open to any person who professes belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and is in agreement with the Association’s statement of purpose and faith.

The management of the school, along with all business and affairs of the association, is vested in a Board of Trustees. Board members are elected by and from the membership of the Association. The majority of the Board members must be parents of students attending the school.



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The Board of Trustees, elected by the Bethlehem Christian School Association, is the policymaking body of the school. Input into the making of policies is received from the Administrator and other standing committees of the Board of Trustees as required. The committees of the Board are advisory in nature, their recommendations being subject to agreement by and approval of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the appointment of all staff positions with the recommendation of the Administrator and the tabulated opinion of the Education Committee when appropriate.

The implementation of policy is the responsibility of the administration as authorized agent of the Board.

Bethlehem Christian School business management functions are carried out by members of the Board.

All students, parents, and teachers have a right to approach the Board of Trustees on matters relating to policy or its implementation by observing the proper channels of communication, as outlined in the Parent and Student Handbook.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

We believe that true education must develop the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and social aspects of life. We feel that students should be made aware of both Christian and non-Christian viewpoints in the various subject areas. It is our position that no subject matter has been totally explored if Christ, the Creator, is ignored.

We espouse the “back to basics” approach to education. It is our goal that students become proficient in the language arts, as well as computational and reasoning skills in mathematics and the sciences, (natural, physical, and social). It is our firm belief that opportunity must also be provided to foster creativity and develop the artistic talents in the students. The curriculum of Bethlehem Christian School is developed in accordance with these beliefs and objectives.

The curriculum is developed to meet the educational and spiritual objectives of the school. Materials are chosen to satisfy these goals. Subject matter is logically and sequentially presented and developed level by level. Concrete experiences provide a foundation for learning abstract concepts.

Emphasis is placed on the relevance of the subject matter to everyday living experiences. Classroom demonstrations, field trips, and audio-visual aids enhance the learning process. Children should learn to translate knowledge into practice, to find solutions to their problems and experiences.

Since communication between teacher and students and the general learning environment are improved as class size is reduced, we endeavor to keep the class size as small as is financially feasible. Generally, students are grouped in classrooms according to chronological age, but for



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instructional purposes are grouped homogeneously according to grade level, but for some instructional purposes are grouped homogeneously according to ability and achievement. Individual instruction is offered on a one-to-one basis or in very small groups by the teacher and assistant teachers.

The Administration and faculty of the Bethlehem Christian School is responsible for the development of the school curriculum, which is then subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. The curriculum is reviewed annually by the faculty.

The curriculum is eclectic in that both secular and Christian publications are represented in the resource materials utilized in the school. Resource materials are selected by the faculty and subject to approval by the Administration and Education Committee if so indicated.

TEACHING

Classroom teaching combines a variety of organized and spontaneous activities and experiences. Teachers instruct by using the materials specified in the curriculum, pertinent outside materials, and by drawing from their own experiences. Although the teaching approach is generally that of a formally organized presentation, the students are encouraged to apply their knowledge and to raise questions during discussions. The freedom exists to pursue issues or activities of a tangential nature as long as it will enrich the learning experience and will be consistent with the school's standards and code of conduct. Spiritual principles are integrated into subject matter and topics are viewed in light of Biblical truths.

Present knowledge becomes the basis for learning in future lessons. Therefore, certain concepts and skills must be mastered before progressing to new materials.

The teaching process also moves from teacher-directed classroom activities to a teacher-guided, independent pursuit of knowledge. Students in the higher grades can be expected to do more studying and to work on their own. A principal aim of the teaching process is to educate students to pursue and discern sacred truth and secular knowledge.

EVALUATION

The Bethlehem Christian School encourages informal, affirmative, and positive evaluation in its school community. The Holy Scripture encourages us to edify and build up the body of Christ and one another by speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Teachers, students, and parents are repeatedly encouraged to demonstrate positive attitudes. Negative, destructive judgments and criticism are considered undesirable and unacceptable. All staff members, students, and parents are expected to prayerfully evaluate themselves daily in light of the Holy Scripture with Jesus Christ as the measure of all things.

Formal evaluation of the teacher measures how successfully he meets professional standards and fulfills the spiritual, emotional, academic, and physical objectives of the school. This



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evaluation is performed once a year by the administration. Before evaluation is conducted, each teacher is given the opportunity to informally evaluate himself utilizing established criteria. Results of the evaluation process are communicated to the teacher.

The student's formal evaluation is carried out by the teacher according to fixed standards. Three grading systems are employed, namely, one for Kindergarten pupils one for primary and one for middle school students. Formal reports in the form of report cards are sent to the parents quarterly. In addition, mid-quarter progress reports are issued.

Various modes of formal testing are used to evaluate the student's understanding and the acquired skills in each subject area. They include teacher-designed written and oral tests, book reports, oral reports, class participation, homework, assignments, and any form of written, oral, artistic, and musical expression of creativity. We believe that complete objective evaluation must include measurements of progress based on national norms. Standardized achievement tests are administered near the end of each school year.

We believe that special testing, including psychological testing and testing for learning, speech, and related disabilities may be required to understand special educational needs of individual students. We have an Instructional Support Team system in place, where we work closely with the Northampton Intermediate Unit #20, local school districts, and parents to obtain these types of evaluations. Admissions testing, in the form of ability testing, is administered by Bethlehem Christian School to all Kindergarten students, and to other students whose transfer records are incomplete.

I/we, the undersigned, have read with clear understanding and hereby subscribe to, without reservation, the foregoing statements compiled in this document entitled iBethlehem Christian School, Philosophy and Objectives



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1.03

Educational Objectives

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES:

To teach that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who came to earth to die for our sin.

To teach the necessity of being born again by the Spirit of God by personally receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.

To teach that growth in the Christian life depends upon fellowship with God and other fellow Christians through membership in a local church, reading the Bible, prayer and service. At the same time, we do not teach any non-credal doctrines that may vary among denominations. These matters are referred to the student's parents or local church.

To teach that the Bible is the only written Word of God.

To teach the application of Biblical ethics and standards of morality to every part of life.

To teach the student to love God and one's fellow man, to manifest fairness, courtesy, kindness, and other Christian graces.

To stress the urgency of world and local missions.

To teach the student to get along with non-Christians and with Christians who hold differing views.

To integrate the various subject matter areas with Biblical truth.

To teach that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and of man.

To stress the role of the Holy Spirit in the sanctification process and the need to glorify God in every aspect of life.

ACADEMIC OBJECTIVES

To teach the student to apply himself to his work and to fulfill his various responsibilities.

To teach the student to work independently and cooperatively.



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To teach the student to know himself, to think for himself and to stand up for his personal convictions in the face of pressure.

To create a climate which fosters creativity and an appreciation of aesthetic values.

To develop effective communication skills in the student.

To provide a thorough foundation in the basic academic disciplines.

To teach the knowledge and skills required for future study or occupational development.

To develop desire for and discretion in wholesome physical and mental recreation.

To teach our American heritage and the current problems facing our country and the world.

To show the student his present civic responsibility as a citizen of Christ's Kingdom and a citizen of our nation.



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1.051

Citizenship and Patriotism

CITIZENSHIP AND PATRIOTISM

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” - Romans 13:1

Believing that all authority is ordained of God, we as Americans live in a Republic worthy of our allegiance where the democratic process works to give it form and life.

Students will be graded for citizenship. Evaluation of each pupil will be based on the following criteria: conduct, cooperation, effort, initiative, attitude, contribution, regard for others, influence on others, honesty, and respect for all authority.

It is important for parents to recognize that a student can only mature properly in this area when strong emphasis on citizenship and patriotism is put into practice both at home and in school.

George Washington said, *True religion affords government its surest support. The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of the youth. It is impossible to govern without the Bible.*



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Association

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The school is owned and operated by the Bethlehem Christian School Association, which is an independent, nondenominational, nonprofit corporation. Membership in the Association is open to those who agree with the Doctrinal Basis and Purpose of the Association as stated in the Charter, who affirm Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who can testify to their relationship with Christ by a written testimony, and who support the school by contributing to meet the school's financial needs each year.

Parents and interested friends of the school may apply for membership by submitting an application to the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees for review and recommendation to the Board for final action on approval of membership. A member shall remain in the Association by attending each Annual Association meeting. Except by special consent of the Board of Trustees, once a second consecutive Annual meeting is missed, membership shall be considered to have lapsed and the member shall have to reapply for membership. The membership year is from July 1 though June 30 of the succeeding year.

The Association normally holds one meeting each year to receive reports and act on any business necessary to the operation of the school. This annual business meeting is held in May of each year. At such time, at least five members are elected to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term. Additionally, unexpired term vacancies, if any, from resignation or death of a Trustee may also be filled at this election. Members receive copies of the proposed Annual Budget, candidate profiles and voting information prior to the annual May business meeting. The Board of Trustees is responsible to the Association for the direction of the affairs of the school. Association members may, from time to time, be asked to serve on committees of the Board.



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Section One - General Information

1.053

Immunizations

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

Children in ALL grades (K-12) need the following vaccines:

4 doses of tetanus *

4 doses of diphtheria *

3 doses of polio

2 doses of measles **

2 doses of mumps **

1 dose of rubella **

3 doses of hepatitis B

2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease

Children ENTERING 7th GRADE need the following additional vaccines:

1 dose of tetanus*

1 dose of diphtheria*

Acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization)

1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

* Usually given as DTP or Tdap or DT or Td

** Usually given as MMR

The only exemptions to the school laws for immunizations are:

medical reasons



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religious beliefs

If your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be removed from school during an outbreak.



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Section One - General Information

1.08

Dress Code

DRESS CODE

Go to www.bethlehemchristianschool.org

The following Link will take you directly to the current Dress Code.

<http://www.bethlehemchristianschool.org/parents/dress-code.html>



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Section One - General Information

1.095

Playground Rules

PLAYGROUND RULES

1. Students are to use the playground equipment properly and safely.
2. Always SIT to go down the slides. Do not lie on your back or your stomach. NO CLIMBING up the slides...always use the steps. After sliding down, move quickly out of the way so the next person does not bump into you.
3. You may hang from the monkey bars by your hands only. Do not climb on top of the monkey bars and jump off.
4. Always SIT on the swings...no swinging on your belly. Use your FEET to stop the swing. Do not JUMP from the swing while you are swinging. Never run behind the swings while others are swinging.
5. DO NOT JUMP from the top of the playground equipment.
6. Keep your hands to yourself...no pushing, wrestling, or tackling is allowed.
7. Do not pick up, throw, kick, or play with the wood chips.
8. Do not climb the playground fence; do not go outside the fence unless there is an adult with you.
9. Line up IMMEDIATELY when the recess aide calls.
10. Always be respectful and obedient.

Outside Play Policy - Cold Weather

1. Wind chill or standing temperature in the mid to upper 30s.
2. No active precipitation.
3. No public announcement that advises caution due to extreme weather (e.g., wind advisory).
4. No ice on playground equipment and/or black ice on parking lot.
5. Non-soggy conditions on playground and/or non-slippery conditions on parking lot.



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Outside Play Policy - Hot Weather

1. Children will not go outside when heat index is in the mid to upper 90s or a combination of relative humidity and temperature are in the danger category of the Heat Index Chart.
2. No public announcement that advises caution due to heat that may cause health problems.

****Note: Final determination of outdoor play is left to the discretion of the building administrator.*



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Section One - General Information

1.10

Discipline Policy

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline administered with love, firmness and consistency is essential to any learning process. Discipline and its application at Bethlehem Christian School is grounded in Scripture (see particularly Proverbs 12:1, 13:18 and 24, 22:15; Ephesians 5:1-4; Hebrews 12; I Corinthians 13 and Revelation 3:19). Just as discipline and disciple come from the same root word, so it is, we believe, that the full meaning and intent of discipline should be not only to correct behavior, but also to build up, encourage and train an individual in concepts as well as behavior that is pleasing to God. God admonishes us that reproof and correction are to be administered in love and with a measure of grace and compassion. The school seeks to work within a Christian framework of discipline. Teachers and Administrators have authority from the parents to administer discipline within the limits and guidelines of the Discipline and Probation Policy. Unacceptable behavior often differs in its severity and, therefore, disciplinary responses may vary. Behavior offenses and misconduct will be acted upon by the individual teachers and/or administrators according to the severity or persistence of the offense (s).

Less serious offense: Warning to students - explanation of offense - head on desk - isolation from other students - miss recess - call to parents - conference with teacher.

More serious offense: Isolation from other students - dismissal from class - miss recess, gym and other activities, such as field trips and special events - suspension - conference with parents - probation - expulsion.

A student may be suspended and/or placed on probation, or expelled upon the recommendation of the faculty and the Administrator(s), depending on the severity of the offense.

Suspension: A student may be suspended by the Principal for unacceptable behavior and accumulated offenses. Suspension will be no more than three (3) days. Parents are notified of suspension and are responsible for securing assignments from the teacher(s). Suspension may also be of the in-school variety. In this situation, the student will be given a list of assignments to be completed on that given school day. The student will be placed in a separate room for the entire school day in order to complete this work.

Probation: A student may be placed on probation up to sixty (60) days by the Principal. Such action will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Probation exceeding sixty days requires approval by the Board of Trustees. A conference is held with the parents, teachers, student and Principal to explain probation. This is followed by a letter which reviews the



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results of the conference. At the end of the probation period, the faculty/administration decides whether there is sufficient improvement to remove the student from probation. During probation, students are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.

Reasons for probation are:

- Continued deliberate disobedience.
- A rebellious spirit which is unchanged after much effort by a teacher.
- A negative attitude and bad influence upon others.
- Insufficient academic progress because of failure to work to capacity.
- Committing a serious breach of conduct inside or outside of school, which has an adverse effect upon the testimony of the school.
- Failure of the parents to comply with the disciplinary procedure of the school.
- Failure of the parents to get recommended professional help for a student when needed.

Probation gives a student an opportunity to correct the problem area which, if not accomplished to a satisfactory degree, will result in the parents being asked to withdraw their child from the school.

Expulsion. Expulsion is by action of the Board of Trustees after review and recommendation by the Executive Committee and Principal. A meeting involving the Executive Committee and Principal, together with the student, parents and teacher(s), will be held prior to making this recommendation.

Abraham Lincoln stated it this way, *The philosophy of the classroom is the philosophy of the government in the next generation.*

The true purpose of Christian school education is to hand the torch of a Bible-centered, Christ-honoring philosophy of education to the next generation.



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Section One - General Information

1.11

Telephone Policy

Telephone

Students are not permitted to use the phone. Exceptions to this would be emergency calls, which should be made from the front office.

Students are not allowed to use teacher's cell phones during class for personal calls.

Personal cell phones are not permitted in the classroom and must be silenced and stowed in backpacks kept in the hallways and/or in lockers. If a student is seen using a personal cell phone the classroom teacher or building administrator will confiscate the phone. Parents will be notified and must come to the school campus to reclaim the phone.



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Section Two - School operation

2.0

Transportation

TRANSPORTATION

In accordance with Pennsylvania School Transportation Law, transportation to each BCS campus is provided at no cost by some Public School Districts for families who reside in those Districts. Each District has its own method of providing this service, and specific information can be furnished by each campus office. Bethlehem Christian School does not provide transportation. Parents should request bus transportation at the time of registration.



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Section Two - School operation

2.1

Parent Teacher Conferences

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences will be held around the midpoint of the first and third marking periods. The parents will be notified of the exact date and time of the conference. Parents are expected to attend these most important meetings. Parents should not feel limited to these two scheduled conferences, but are encouraged to request additional conferences as the need arises. Parents are asked to make appointments with the teacher and principal several days in advance.



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Employee Mandated Responsibilities

4.19

Child Protective Services - Mandated Reporting Procedure

4.19 Child Protective Services - Mandated Reporting Procedure

Employee Suspecting Abuse must report IMMEDIATELY to PA Dept. of Human Services. Note - the immediacy mandated by law cannot be delayed for any reason!

Employee Suspecting Abuse, IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, must notify the “person in charge of the school” or designees.

Employee Suspecting Abuse, within 48 hours of making an oral report to Childline, must make a written (DHS Form CY 47) or electronic report.



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5.0



Handbooks do not create a contract and are subject to change at anytime.