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2021



GOSPEL BAPTIST
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
student

HAND BOOK

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A WORD FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

To understand the basic rules and standards of GBCS, one must realize how we interpret success. We at GBCS want your child to become a success in life, and we define success according to *Joshua 1:8*. *"This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

Knowledge without character is not the key to success. There are many examples of intelligent, superior individuals who turned out to be superior disappointments because they did not learn self-discipline and how to implement their knowledge. After a student finds Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and Lord, God immediately begins to train him/her in the "way of success." Ultimately, however, the outcome for the individual is based on whether he/she has developed the necessary character. Our definition of one with such character is the person who consistently lives and acts according to a set of principles, rather than responding to impulse, feelings, or external pressures. At salvation one finds new direction, concrete meaning, and a clear-cut set of thought-action patterns to follow as found in and expounded by the Bible.

The rules and structure provided for our students have been adopted to accentuate the process of character-building in conjunction with the basic knowledge and skills needed for our day. At first, one may not understand the reasons behind some of our rules. However, we believe that the student will discover, later in life, what great benefits have been reaped. Then they will realize that these rules played an important part in the building of their character.

Attendance at Gospel Baptist Christian School is understood to be a privilege and not a right. Any student who does not conform to the standards and regulations of this school may forfeit this privilege. The school may request the withdrawal of any student at any time, who, in the opinion of the school, does not fit into the *spirit* of the institution, regardless of whether he/she conforms to the specific rules and regulations of the school.

Your Friend and Administrator,

Pastor William J. Lytell, B.A., M.A., D. Div.

CHARACTER TRAINING SETS US APART...

At Gospel, character training is built into every aspect of education. All schools endeavor to prepare students for academic success. However, GBCS works to teach academics from a Christ-centered perspective. This naturally combines with our character training to produce young people who care for others, seek to please the Lord, and want to do their best. Check out the 49 character qualities we work to instill in our students from Character First.

Alertness vs. Carelessness

Being aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses

Attentiveness vs. Distraction

Showing the worth of a person or task by giving my undivided concentration

Availability vs. Self-Centeredness

Making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I serve

Benevolence vs. Selfishness

Giving to others' basic needs without having as my motive personal reward

Boldness vs. Fearfulness

Confidence that what I have to say or do is true, right, and just

Cautiousness vs. Rashness

Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions

Compassion vs. Indifference

Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others

Contentment vs. Covetousness

Realizing that true happiness does not depend on material conditions

Creativity vs. Underachievement

Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective

Decisiveness vs. Procrastination

The ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions

Deference vs. Rudeness

Limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me

Dependability vs. Inconsistency

Fulfilling what I consented to do, even if it means unexpected sacrifice

Determination vs. Faintheartedness Purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time, regardless of the opposition

Diligence vs. Slothfulness

Investing my time and energy to complete each task assigned to me

Discernment vs. Shortsightedness

Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen

Discretion vs. Simplemindedness

Recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences

Endurance vs. Discouragement

The inward strength to withstand stress and do my best

Enthusiasm vs. Apathy

Expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort

Faith vs. Presumption

Confidence that actions rooted in good character will yield the best outcome, even when I cannot see how

Flexibility vs. Resistance

Willingness to change plans or ideas without getting upset

Forgiveness vs. Rejection

Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge

Generosity vs. Stinginess

Carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need

Gentleness vs. Harshness

Showing consideration and personal concern for others

Gratefulness vs. Unthankfulness

Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life

Honor vs. Disrespect

Respecting others because of the higher authorities they represent

Hospitality vs. Loneliness

Cheerfully sharing food, shelter, or conversation to benefit others

Humility vs. Arrogance

Acknowledging that achievement results from the investment of others in my life

Initiative vs. Idleness

Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it

Joyfulness vs. Self-Pity

Maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions

Justice vs. Corruption

Taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true

Loyalty vs. Unfaithfulness

Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to those I serve

Meekness vs. Anger

Yielding my personal rights and expectations with a desire to serve

Obedience vs. Willfulness

Quickly and cheerfully carrying out the direction of those who are responsible for me

Orderliness vs. Confusion

Arranging myself and my surroundings to achieve greater efficiency

Patience vs. Restlessness

Accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it

Persuasiveness vs. Contentiousness Guiding vital truths around another's mental roadblocks

Punctuality vs. Tardiness

Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time

Resourcefulness vs. Wastefulness

Finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard

Responsibility vs. Unreliability Knowing and doing what is expected of me

Security vs. Anxiety

Structuring my life around that which cannot be destroyed or taken away

Self-Control vs. Self-Indulgence

Rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right

Sensitivity vs. Callousness

Perceiving the true attitudes and emotions of those around me

Sincerity vs. Hypocrisy

Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives

Thoroughness vs. Incompleteness Knowing what factors will diminish the effectiveness of my work or words if neglected

Thriftness vs. Extravagance

Allowing myself and others to spend only what is necessary

Tolerance vs. Prejudice

Realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development

Truthfulness vs. Deception

Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts

Virtue vs. Impurity

The moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right

Wisdom vs. Foolishness

Seeing and responding to life situations from a perspective that transcends my current circumstances

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

- We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (Romans 10:17; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; Hebrews 4:12)
- We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments were “God-breathed,” or given by inspiration of God, resulting in a product that was inerrant and infallible in the original autographs.
- We believe that God has fulfilled His promise to preserve His Word for every generation of human history, through copies and translations of those original writings.
- We believe that inspiration applied only to the autographs, but that their words have been accurately retained through God’s preservation.
- We believe that God has preserved His Word in the Masoretic Hebrew Text of the Old Testament and the Textus Receptus Greek Text of the New Testament.
- We believe that the King James Version of the Bible is the best English translation available, not only because it is an excellent translation, but because it is a translation of the best Hebrew and Greek texts.
- We believe that consistency in position demands that we use only the above mentioned Hebrew and Greek texts and the KJV translation in our church services, Sunday school classrooms, and all other Bible classes affiliated with Gospel Baptist Church.

GOD THE FATHER - We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 45:21-22; Exodus 15:6,11; Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 15:3; John 3:16; I John 4:7,16)

GOD THE SON - We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in salvation through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, and in His ascension to the right hand of the Father. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 20, 25; John 1:1-14; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 2:22; Acts 10:38; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Mark 15; Luke 24; Acts 1:9-10; Titus 2:13)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8,11,14,16-17; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 8:11,16, 27; II Peter 1:21; Ephesians 1:13-14)

MAN - We believe that fallen man is sinful by nature, totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3:6-7; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12)

SALVATION - We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10, 13; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

LAST THINGS - We believe in the personal, visible, pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His saints. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto eternal life in Heaven and they that are lost unto eternal damnation in Hell. (John 14:3; Acts 1:2; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 3:10; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31)

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

Although the terminology "**Christian education**" does not occur in the Bible, the Bible speaks of the moral and spiritual instruction of believers, in general, and of children, in particular. The Scriptures place high value upon knowledge, both of God and of His works. It describes the moral and spiritual fruit which will be produced through this type of knowledge and defines its ultimate purpose. The present Christian school movement may be understood to be a significant part of the total endeavor of Christian education.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Christian education is the guiding of human development toward God's objective for man, which is godliness of character and actions. Christian education directs its efforts to this end, *"that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (**II Timothy 3:17**). This goal of godliness pre-supposes the experience of regeneration. As education, in general, begins with our physical birth, Christian education begins with spiritual re-birth, when the life of God is communicated to the soul. To say that Christian education begins with the new birth is not, however, to say that it is pointless before regeneration. The student can be provided with necessary awareness of God and responses to His Word, so that when the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin, he/she will readily and with full understanding accept Christ as their Savior. To make children and even unregenerate adults *"wise unto salvation"* is no less a legitimate function of Christian education today than it has always been.

RECIPIENT

Without a regenerated, willing student, Christian education cannot carry out its purpose. Regeneration does not eliminate the old nature, which the Apostle Paul called, "the old man," or the "flesh." The carnal attitudes and inclinations of "the old nature" can hinder or totally halt spiritual growth.

RESPONSIBILITY

In the Scriptures, God has commanded two institutions to educate: the home and the church. As an extension of either or both of these institutions, the Christian school has a Biblical mandate to educate. The Bible is clear; education is to begin in the home (**Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; II Timothy 1:5; II Timothy 3:15**). The New Testament instructs us that the responsibilities of the church include edification as well as evangelism: **thus the Christian school. Christian parents have a Biblical mandate to educate their children in their homes as well as in their churches.** Christian parents need to reinforce the educational ministries of these two institutions and protect these ministries from secular interference. The work of the Christian school is an extension of the Christian education ministries of the Christian home and the church. Its purpose, therefore, is the development of the student in the image of God. This purpose determines both the content and the means of instruction.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

CONTENT

Students in the Christian school are challenged to truly know God and to imitate Him in His character and in His works. The whole body of the Christian educational theory rests upon the recognition that all truth is of God: He is the God of truth (**Psalm 31:5**), His Son is the Lord of truth (**John 14:6**), and His Spirit is the Spirit of truth (**John 14:16-17**). Consequently, God's written self-revelation (the Bible) is the starting point of all rational inquiry and the guide to all interpretation of reality. No concept can be true that conflicts with the statements of the Scriptures.

Since it is the purpose of Christian education to develop the redeemed man in the image of God, Christian educators must point students to the Originator of this image, God Himself. Students come to know God by studying His revelation of Himself in His Word and in His works. Therefore, the Bible is the center of the Christian school curriculum. The presentation of Biblical truth is thus not confined to a single segment of the curriculum (the study of the Bible), but diffused throughout the teaching of all subjects. It follows that without a student body composed mainly of students possessing this personal knowledge of God, no school can legitimately be regarded as a Christian educational institution. The purpose of Christian education is the development of Christ-likeness in the student. The Christian school teaches, as a consequence of the knowledge of God, that God desires that believers "be conformed to the image of His Son." Students learn of God so they may imitate Him. They are to become "followers of God" (**Ephesians 5:1**). The student learns that the physical body must not be abused or neglected but developed and disciplined for the service of God and presented to Him for His use and His glory (**Romans 12:1-2, I Corinthians 6:20**).

MEANS

The means of achieving godliness (which is the purpose of Christian education) is the imitation of God. The imitation of God, by the student, depends upon and conforms to the imitation of God by the teacher. The teacher, in the Christian school, stands, in relation to his/her students, much as Paul stood with regard to his Corinthian converts when he wrote, "*Be ye followers of me*" (**I Corinthians 4:16**). The Spirit-filled, Christian teacher stands in a very delicate and important position as he/she represents God to the student. What the student knows of God is often what he/she sees in his/her teacher. "*Ye became followers of us, and of the Lord,*" Paul reminded the Thessalonians (**I Thessalonians 1:6**). It is for this reason that the Christian school must pay careful attention to the character and conduct of its teachers. No school that is careless concerning the Christ-likeness of its teachers can hope to fulfill the purpose of Christian education.

AFTERWORD

This statement of philosophy does not presume to be a theologically exhaustive discussion nor a definitive treatment of the issues it raises. Additionally, it does not assume that the ideals set forth must be fully realized by those who profess it in order for it to have the force of Christian conviction. The very nature of spiritual standards precludes their absolute fulfillment in this present world. It does claim to be distinctive. We realize that these premises, goals, and claims are mutually antagonistic with those of modern, secularist, governmental education. For this we make no apology as we stand on **Romans 1:16**, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*"

STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

As a private, Christian, religious-based school, Gospel Baptist Christian School hires employees who meet standards of good moral and ethical character. The school seeks those teachers who exhibit honorable characteristics such as honesty, responsibility, loyalty, dependability, and Bible-based morality. Therefore, we expect our educators to uphold certain standards of ethical conduct.

1. GBCS understands that each teacher and student is a creation of God, and as such, is precious in His sight. We therefore value the worth and dignity of each person as well as their right to the pursuit of truth, excellence, and knowledge. All students are given the same opportunity to learn.
2. As a Christian educational institution, GBCS seeks to fulfill its mission of using Bible-based education to develop children spiritually, morally, and socially. Since our goal is the development of students, GBCS seeks to employ those individuals who have integrity, are professional, and act in an ethical manner.
3. GBCS teachers follow certain guidelines related to ethical conduct with students:
 - work to protect students from academic, mental, physical, and spiritual harm
 - should be well prepared so as not to present faulty information or present material in such a way that a student's interest in learning is diminished
 - maintain a caring and loving heart with each student, not intentionally bringing embarrassment or disparagement
 - understand that each person is created in the image of God, and as such are equal in God's sight
 - shall not harass or discriminate on any basis against any student that is admitted into the school
 - shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage
 - shall maintain confidentiality about personal identifiable information unless required otherwise by law
4. GBCS believes that Christian teachers must work together in fulfilling the school mission; therefore, teachers must maintain ethical relationships with each other as well. Teachers must not discriminate or harass based on race, sex, ethnicity, handicap, or family background in a manner that denies benefits and advantages or fosters an abusive and oppressive environment. As instructed in the Bible, Christian teachers seek to edify each other and remain unified.

TRAINING REQUIREMENT

All instructional personnel, administrators, and educational support staff are required to complete training on these standards of conduct. The information is available in the faculty manual and is reviewed annually during in-service training. This training includes content from video as well as administrator-led instruction.

STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

REPORTING MISCONDUCT BY INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATORS

All employees, educational support staff, and administrators have an obligation to report misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Examples of misconduct include obscene language, drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual misconduct, cheating or testing violations, physical aggression, and accepting or offering favors. Reports of misconduct of employees should be made to Pastor Bill Lytell, School Administrator (lytell.b@mygbc.com or (239) 980-0543). Reports of misconduct by administrators should be made to Tom Gillaspie, Deacon/School Board Chairman (tgillaspie@comcast.net or (239) 292-1753). Appropriate action will be taken as detailed in the GBCS Faculty Manual. Policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted in the school office, faculty manual, and student handbook and are available on the school website: www.gospelbaptistchristianschool.com.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, OR NEGLECT

GBCS requires each teacher to sign the DCF form on their obligation to report child abuse. All employees have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report online at www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report. The following suggestions may help a teacher with reporting such abuse:

Signs of Physical Abuse: The child may have unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home, or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.

Signs of Sexual Abuse: The child may have torn, stained, or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child experiencing abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person, seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.

Signs of Neglect: The child may have unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.

Patterns of Abuse: Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.

LIABILITY PROTECTIONS

Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by law, or reporting in good faith in any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action. (F.S. 39.203).

An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer of the former or current employee upon request of the prospective employer or of the former or current employee is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the former or current employer was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the former or current employee protected under F.S. Chapter 7600. (F.S. 768.095)

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

CLASS SESSIONS

Classes begin promptly at 8:30 am and end at 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Students may enter the classroom at 8:15 am, and should be ready to begin class at 8:30 am. Before Care (7:00-8:15 am) and After Care (3:15-6:00 pm) are provided for your benefit. For more information on Before & After Care please refer to page 10 in the handbook.

AGES FOR ENROLLMENT

Preschool: A child must be 3 years old by September 1st to enter our pre school program for the current school year. All children in pre school must be potty trained and out of diapers/pull-ups. Preschool students will not be admitted each day, without a clean change of clothes (please place these in a large Ziploc bag clearly marked with the child's name). When that change of clothes has been used, the parent(s) must provide another change of clothing before the child will be re-admitted. Preschoolers must wear sneakers that do not tie (velcro or elastic slip-on style).

Kindergarten: A child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter our K5 program for the current school year. Kindergarteners must wear sneakers that do not tie (velcro or elastic slip-on style). A graduation ceremony will be held for those students completing our five year old kindergarten program. Kindergarten students will present a program demonstrating various abilities. Graduation diplomas will be presented at the conclusion of the graduation program.

INSURANCE

Evidence of a medical insurance plan should be furnished to the school prior to the beginning of each new school year. Students are covered by a school accident policy which is included in the enrollment fee.

LUNCHES

GBCS does not offer a hot lunch program. Therefore, parents are responsible to furnish an adequate, nutritious lunch, snacks, and drinks. Microwaves are not available for use by children in preschool through 6th grade. In case of an emergency where a parent forgets their child's lunch, a minimal lunch will be provided at a fee of \$3 per day. Abuse of this policy will not be tolerated. Parents must supply their own party supplies if they wish to throw a birthday party for their child's class. This includes napkins, paper plates, and utensils. All shared food and drink items must be "store bought" and not homemade.

PARENTAL VISITS TO SCHOOL OR CLASSROOMS

Parents wishing to visit a student must contact the school office to make arrangements for visits. Teacher/class schedules and related issues (testing times, etc.) will be considered prior to scheduling a visit. All visitors must first check in at the school office. If parents/relatives are dropping off items for students (lunch/snacks, homework, books, clothing, etc.), those items must be dropped off at the office and they will be delivered to your child by school personnel.

PHONE CALLS

Please limit phone calls to emergency situations. No phone calls will be allowed to teachers during school hours. Please contact your child's teacher before or after school hours.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In case of emergency weather conditions or other disaster, parents should tune to local TV or radio for information regarding GBCS's decision about classes. GBCS normally follows Lee County Public Schools for weather/disaster related school closings. Messages may be sent through Gradelink or text message.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

TRAFFIC PATTERN FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

For the safety and well-being of all of our students, please follow this traffic flow pattern during drop-off and pick-up times.

Observe a 5 MPH speed limit on school property at all times!

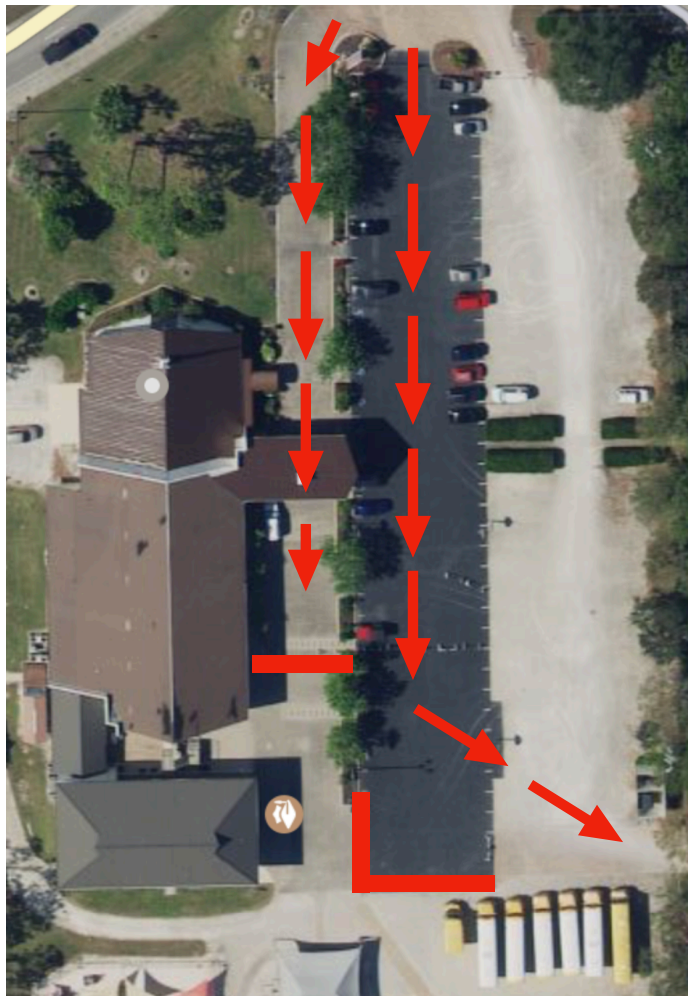
You have **3 ways to enter** the property.

1. Drive under the portico of the church building (rainy days)
2. Drive on the parking lot
3. Drive through the rocks

We only have **1 way to exit the property**. All 3 lanes of traffic should drive on the west side of the barricades into the rocks, and exit by the dumpsters.

DO NOT pass the barricades for any reason.

A staff member will be outside each morning and afternoon to help direct you.



ABSENCES & TARDINESS

ABSENCES

Regular attendance is essential to successful class work. Non-attendance for instructional activities is established by tardiness, early sign-outs, or absences for all or any part of the day. A parent must provide proper notification of any absences by way of our online Absence Notification Form (found on our website) or through the office. In setting proper standards for compulsory school attendance, GBCS will follow the Lee County School Board policy which states that "unless acceptable documentation is presented/submitted, an accumulation of daily unexcused absences or tardiness, or early sign-outs that equal 5 days in a calendar month or 10 days within a 90 calendar day period may be exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance." A student with 20 or more absences within a school year may not be eligible for promotion to the next grade level.

TARDINESS

Tardiness is when any student is not in class when the clock strikes 8:30 am. Any student who is tardy must report directly to the office to sign in and receive a tardy slip. If a child has six (6) unexcused episodes of tardiness within a quarter, the child's parent(s) may be contacted by the administration. If the pattern of tardiness continues, the child's parent(s) may be contacted for an administrative meeting at the school. GBCS will also follow the Lee County School board policy in this area which states "three unexcused tardies or unexcused early sign-outs may, at the discretion of the school principal, be considered equal to one day of absence."

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

The following shall constitute valid excuses for temporary non-attendance for a part or all of a day. The parent must provide satisfactory evidence of the excuse by way of our online Absence Notification Form.

- A. Illness or injury
- B. Death in the immediate family
- C. Quarantine
- D. Medical or dental appointment — prior approval required
- E. Court or administrative proceedings — prior approval required
- F. Educational opportunity — prior approval required

Students with excused absences can make up work within the following guidelines:

1. Missed class work can be made up, and the deadline for makeup work is determined by this formula: the number of days absent plus one additional day.
2. Students with excused tardies must make up the work by the next class meeting.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

Students who are absent or tardy from school with a reason other than the ones mentioned above are unexcused and will receive zeros for all class work missed. However, if the school is notified before the unexcused absence or tardy occurs, the student will be allowed to make up the missed work in advance of the absence. The absence remains unexcused but the work submitted in advance will be accepted. Notification must be made via the online Absence Notification Form.

BEFORE CARE & AFTER CARE

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE (Before Care)

Children may be dropped off as early as 7:00 am, each day school is in session. Before care charges apply to each of the first three children; the 4th child and above from the same family are free. These fees cover any portion of time within the time range listed. A teacher/staff member will supervise the children. No students will be allowed to remain on campus outside of Before Care prior to 8:15 am without adult supervision. If a child is dropped off prior to 8:15 am they will be placed with the Before Care Supervisor and the parent(s) will be charged for these services.

Before Care Charges (per student)	
7:00-8:15 AM	\$3.00/day
8:00-8:15 AM	\$1.00/day

AFTER SCHOOL CARE (After Care)

After School Care is offered beginning at 3:15 pm and ending promptly at 6:00 pm. Students who participate in sports will be signed into aftercare 15 minutes after practices and games are concluded. A teacher/staff member will supervise the children. This service is for the working parent(s) or for special cases when a parent needs to pick-up their child(ren) after the 3:00 pm dismissal time.

1. AFTER CARE CHARGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$3.00 will be charged as shown per child up to and including three children (all additional children from the same family are free). Any part of an hour constitutes the whole hour. (There is a maximum grace period of 5 minutes.)

After Care Charges (per student)	
3:16-4:15 PM	\$3.00/day
3:16-5:15 PM	\$5.00/day
3:16-6:00 PM	\$7.00/day

2. LATE CHARGES

For children not picked up by 6:00 pm, the following late charges will apply per child:

- A. Additional \$7.00 from 6:05-6:15 pm
- B. Additional \$7.00 from 6:16-6:30 pm
- C. Additional \$7.00 from 6:31-6:45 pm
- D. Additional \$7.00 from 6:46-7:00 pm

The school must be notified if pick up will be after 6:00 pm. This will allow us to make arrangements for supervision.

Payment for all before care and after care services must be made on **Friday** of each week. Charges may be paid on Gradelink along with your tuition billing. You may be disqualified for before care or after care if payments are not received in full each Friday.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

CURRICULUM

We use Abeka Book and Bob Jones University Press curriculum at GBCS. Multi-grade curriculum is utilized for many classes. Please see the Administrator for further information.

1. The curriculum at GBCS is time-tested, thorough in content, and Biblically based.
2. Each year, students from K-5 through high school are given national standardized tests. We use the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a nationally recognized assessment. The results from this testing allow the parent(s) to evaluate his/her child's progress compared with other students nationally.

HOMEWORK

We believe homework to be an integral part of any school program; therefore, each teacher is at liberty to assign homework to aid student(s) in advancement in his/her studies. Each student is expected to complete all homework assignments. Homework is given for several purposes:

1. FOR DRILL: Most students require solid drilling to master material essential to their educational progress.
2. FOR PRACTICE: Following classroom explanation, illustration, and drilling on new work, homework is given so the material will be mastered.
3. FOR REMEDIAL ACTIVITY: As instruction progresses, various weak points in a student's grasp of a subject become evident. Homework, following proper instruction, is given to overcome such difficulties.
4. FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS: Book reports, compositions, special research assignments, and projects are some of the activities that are frequently given as homework assignments.

EVALUATION SYSTEM

All class levels at GBCS observe the following grading and effort scales:

Effort & Conduct (Preschool & K-5)	
E	Excellent
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
X	Not Introduced

Effort & Conduct (1 st through 12 th Grade)	
E	Excellent
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory

Academic Grades (1 st through 12 th Grade)	
Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

Gospel Baptist Christian School is not an accredited institution. While we are not an accredited school, we hold high academic standards and are a member school of both the American Association of Christian Schools and the Sunshine State Association of Christian Schools.

FORGOTTEN OR MISPLACED TEXTBOOKS

It is imperative that students have their textbooks at school each day. If a student forgets a textbook at home, copies of necessary pages will be made for \$.05 per page. This will be automatically billed through Gradelink. If a textbook is lost, parents will need to replace the textbook in a timely fashion.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards will be issued every nine (9) weeks with progress reports issued every four and a half (4 1/2) weeks. All report cards (except 4th quarter) must be signed by the parent and returned to the teacher within three (3) school days.

- A. Students receiving all "A's" on their report cards will be recognized and their names will be posted publicly under "A" Honor Roll. Students receiving all "B's" on their report cards will be recognized on the "B" Honor Roll listing.
- B. A student with a "D" or lower in two or more subjects on a report card/progress report will be placed on academic probation. The student will remain on probation until the next issue of a report card/progress report.
- C. If the failing student has not brought his/her grades up to at least "C," probation will continue for four and a half (4 1/2) additional weeks.

PROBATION

Probation provides the student an opportunity to correct his/her academic problem(s). A student may be placed on **academic** probation for insufficient progress.

It is vital for parents to understand the importance of their cooperation. Parent(s) should enforce the best study habits at home and possibly seek tutorial help after school. Otherwise, we will be limited in our ability to assist the student. Ultimately, GBCS may require the withdrawal of any student who remains deficient for an entire semester without satisfactory improvements and substantial effort demonstrated. We will not pass students or babysit those who will not attempt to succeed.

SPIRITUAL PROBATION

A student will be placed on **spiritual** probation when he/she demonstrates a bad attitude and/or a negative influence upon other students. This pervasive attitude can also result in dismissal from GBCS.

SUSPENSION

Any class work missed during a period of suspension will receive the grade of zero.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Since we are a distinctively Christian school, we only permit approved dual enrollment programs from Christian colleges. Students must meet the enrollment requirements of the approved institution and GBCS in order to be considered for dual enrollment opportunities. Your child's performance with his/her current course load will be a factor, and it is expected that your school bill be current before considering "extra" opportunities.

Because each higher learning institution is autonomous, we cannot be responsible for determining acceptance of a particular dual enrollment program. Generally speaking, we allow Pensacola Christian College, West Coast Baptist College, and Bob Jones University dual enrollment programs, and we have not had any problems with these programs being denied by any Christian colleges.

If you are choosing for your child to participate in a dual enrollment program, you and your child are required to complete the enrollment applications directly, pay the fees to the institution, and establish communication with your child's teacher at GBCS. It is your responsibility to contact your student's chosen college to verify that the dual enrollment program is accepted by their institution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office to set up an appointment with the principal and appropriate faculty members.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (24 CREDIT DIPLOMA)

4 Credits ELA

4 Credits Mathematics (Algebra 1 and Geometry are required)

3 Credits Science (Biology & Chemistry are required for the lab component)

3 Credits Social Studies (World History, US History, & Government/Economics are required)

1 Credit Fine/Performing Arts

1 Credit Health/PE

8 Credits Electives (keyboarding is required for the "online" component)

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA for all cohort years.

GRADELINK LOGIN INFORMATION

You can access Gradelink from any web browser by typing the address: <https://secure.gradelink.com> There is also a parent app available in both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

Once you've reached the Gradelink login screen:

1. Type in our School ID: 1422
2. Type in your personal username and password. They ARE case sensitive.
Usernames and passwords can be obtained through the school secretary.

On Gradelink, you will be taken to the **Communicate** tab. If you have multiple children enrolled, you will see a dropdown menu on the top right side where you can select which child's records you would like to access. You will see a School News page where current events and news will be listed. Your child's teacher also has pages available where you can find information pertaining to specific classes.

The following descriptions explain each of the tabs:

Calendar - This has all school events listed. Special events pertaining to your child's classes and/or athletics may be listed.

Grades - You will see your child's averages thus far in the year. You can also see your child's current GPA and upcoming assignments.

Attendance - This tab will show when your child has been absent and whether or not the absence was excused.

Alerts - This is a fabulous tool for parents. You can set up alerts to be sent to your E-mail for your child's attendance and grades. Any time your child meets the criteria you set, you will be notified via E-mail.

Discipline - This tab shows any major disciplinary issues your child has exhibited. You will also receive communication from your child's teacher if there is a serious problem.

Re-enroll - This allows you to set up the sign-out permissions each year for your child.

Billing - On the left side of this page, you will be able to view your statements. On the right side of the page you will be able to pay your bill online. This is the easiest and fastest way to keep current on your school bill.

My Account - This allows you to change your password. Please keep track of your password. We can help you reset it, but we cannot see your current password.

The last detail that may help some folks is the multi-lingual feature. English is selected as the default for each student and parent. **If you prefer to see the Spanish translation when available, click on the *Español* link on the bottom left.**

If you have any questions, feel free to call the office at (239) 947-1285. You can also watch a short informational video by clicking on the question mark icon in the top right corner of the screen.

STUDENT DRESS REQUIREMENTS

UNIFORMS

Clothing purchased through Zavada's Renegades (www.renegadesfl.com) is required for all GBCS students. With this day's slovenly and fad types of dress, we want our students to stand out as neat and well kept. One method of relieving the pressure of style on each parent and student is to give one standard of dress for all. Each student must have at least 2 full sets (top/bottom). If your child wishes to wear a jacket on school property, it must be the one purchased from Renegades. "Hoodies" are not permitted. If the weather is cold enough for layers to be worn under uniforms, ensure that solid colors that coordinate with the colors of the uniform are chosen.

HAIR STANDARDS

Boys' hair should be tapered evenly on the back and sides. It should be above the eyebrows in the front and not longer than the top of the ears on the sides. Hair is to be off the collar in the back. There should be an easy transition from the sides to the top with no abrupt cuts. Fad styles including long hair, ponytails, bowl cuts, grooved hair, surf cuts or any other current, fad styles are not acceptable at GBCS. Words, letters or numbers cut into the hair are unacceptable. Boys are not allowed to have facial hair of any type including mustaches, beards, long side burns, etc. Eyebrows should not be shaved or slashed. Girls' bangs should be cut above the eyebrows. For girls, hair dye of any unnatural color is not permitted, and boys may not highlight or dye their hair.

JEWELRY

No jewelry is permitted on boys except a hand ring or a watch. Acceptable jewelry for girls includes conservative earrings (one per earlobe), bracelets, necklaces, or a watch.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Any student on school property for any function, at any time, must be in school dress or in the "spirit" of school dress.



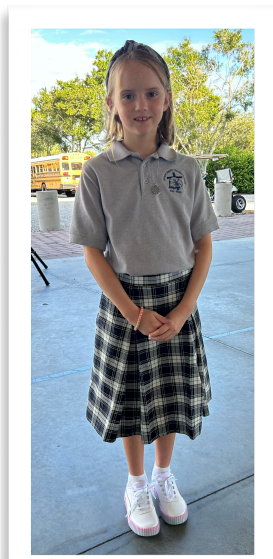
K3-2 nd Grade Girls	K3-2 nd Grade Boys
Girls wear a uniform dress that must extend below the knee, and shorts must be worn underneath (for the sake of modesty).	Boys wear a gray uniform polo with navy pants (navy shorts are permitted for K3-K5 only). 1st-2nd grade boys are to wear a belt.
Sneakers must be worn during the school day (dress shoes, slip-ons, sandals, Heelys, and boots are not allowed). Preschoolers and kindergarteners need sneakers that do not tie.	
Jackets must be purchased from Renegades. Accessories must be free of worldly logos and slogans. Any clothing with images (worn on spirit days) is subject to the teacher's and/or the principal's discretion.	



NOTE: We are in the process of updating our uniforms. More details to be announced...

STUDENT DRESS REQUIREMENTS

3rd-6th Grade Girls	3rd-6th Grade Boys
Girls wear a gray uniform polo with the uniform skirt. Skirts must extend below the knee, and shorts must be worn underneath (for the sake of modesty).	Boys wear a gray uniform polo with navy pants. All boys are to wear a belt.
Sneakers must be worn during the school day (dress shoes, slip-ons, sandals, Heelys, and boots are not allowed).	
Jackets must be purchased from Renegades. Accessories must be free of worldly logos and slogans. Any clothing with images (worn on spirit days) is subject to the teacher's and/or the principal's discretion.	



SCHOOL JACKETS

If your child wishes to wear a jacket on campus, it must be the uniform jacket purchased from Renegades.

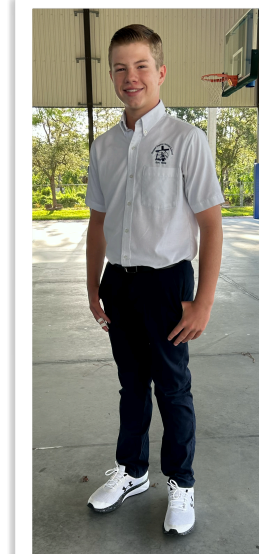
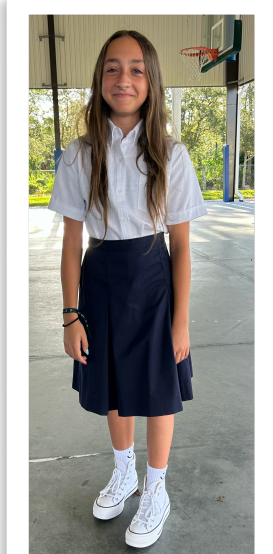


DRESS CODE FOR PE AND SPORTS PRACTICES

Elementary students are required to purchase a PE uniform from Renegades (gray PE t-shirt and knee-length navy shorts). T-shirts and loose-fitting, knee-length shorts are required for all sports practices (no sleeveless shirts).



7th-12th Grade Girls	7th-12th Grade Boys
Girls wear a white oxford shirt with a navy skirt. Skirts must extend below the knee.	Boys wear a white oxford shirt with navy pants. All boys are to wear a belt.
Sneakers must be worn during the school day by junior high students. Senior high students may wear black or brown leather tie shoes or loafers (no open-toe or open-heel shoes). Slip-ons, sandals, Heelys, or boots will not be allowed.	
Jackets must be purchased from Renegades. Accessories must be free of worldly logos and slogans. Any clothing with images (worn on spirit days) is subject to the teacher's and/or the principal's discretion.	



STUDENT CONDUCT

MUSIC STANDARDS

Philippians 4:8, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* The type of music to which one listens will have external, behavioral results. For this reason, no student of GBCS will be permitted to listen to, sing, play, or encourage any type of "ROCK" music (so-called Christian or not) while on campus or at any GBCS function. This would include other types of worldly music (rap, country, hip hop, etc.). We realize that this issue is emotionally charged. Nevertheless, we are convinced, music which appeals to the physical, sensual nature, is harmful to the spiritual growth of the students and parents who seek to please the Lord Jesus Christ. If a parent chooses to play this type of music in their home (for specific definition, please contact the principal) it will offset one of the school's main goals of training your child to be godly and strong in spirit. We cannot presume to pry into your personal lives, but would ask you to think about this issue seriously.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

GBCS must provide an environment conducive to the spiritual growth and development of the young people whom concerned parents have placed in our care. We feel that Christian students should avoid practices which cause the loss of sensitivity to the spiritual needs of the world, and the loss of the Christian's physical, mental, or spiritual well-being. **Romans 12:1-2** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

GBCS PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

1. We desire our young people to maintain high standards of courtesy, kindness, morality, honesty, and respect on and/or away from the school campus.
2. We desire our young people to provide good examples of leadership to their peers as well as to our younger students.
3. We expect our students to always show respect for their elders and especially for all those in authority. No cursing, degrading or name calling will be tolerated.
4. Students are not to bring radios, CDs, MP3s, iPods, AirPods (or other bluetooth devices), walkie-talkies, game devices, unauthorized books or magazines, knives, weapons, firearms, matches, lighters, or any form of video games (handheld or otherwise) onto school property.
5. Students are not permitted to use a cell phone, smart watch, or smart device on campus or during school activities. Students who bring these devices to school must turn them off and secure them in their lockers. GBCS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items on campus.
6. Neither students NOR parents are permitted to bring animals out of their vehicles on the campus under any circumstance.

STUDENT CONDUCT

7. Students may not sit in any vehicles with their peers, loiter in the parking lot, or wander through unauthorized areas before or after school hours.
8. Students may not drive any other student without written parental consent.
9. Students are not allowed to have visitors without clearance from the administrator or principal.
10. Students may not obtain a key or code to any of the buildings without permission from the administration or staff.
11. Students may not actively participate in vandalism or destruction of GBCS property or other private property.
12. Students may not have in their possession or use any alcoholic beverage on or off GBCS property.
13. We expect our students to be free of immoral conduct at school and in their personal lives (for a definition of "immoral" see the principal or administrator).
14. We expect our students to stay away from the use or possession of (this includes the pretense of using or encouraging others to use) illegal narcotics at anytime.
15. Students are prohibited from the use of tobacco on or off campus (suspended on the first offense, and expelled on the second). This includes vaping of any kind.
16. We will not tolerate students who consistently display an uncooperative and anti-authority spirit, which is contrary to the ministry at GBCS.
17. We will not tolerate students who demonstrate, encourage, and/or "act out" homosexual or lesbian activity, whether verbal or physical.
18. Students may not have tattoos or body piercings (except for any female who has one earring per ear in the lobe).
19. Senior Privileges: Seniors may sign out early (no earlier than 12:00 pm) pending their teacher's approval, if their class work is finished. Seniors may also leave for lunch during their lunch period. They may not carpool with other students without written parental consent, and one boy and one girl may never be alone in a vehicle. Juniors may leave campus for lunch during the last two weeks of the school year (pending approval).

NOTE: There is a "zero-tolerance" policy for violence, pornographic talk, and threatening language whether real or implied. In the case of illegal activity, the Sheriff's office may be called.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES THROUGH 4TH GRADE

CORRECTION POLICY

GBCS cannot effectively and solely solve all behavioral problems, therefore, the parents must contribute and assist the school in solving student problems. The main goal of GBCS is not to educate only the mind but to educate the heart as well. In doing so, an effective standard of right and wrong is placed within the structure of the school to help guide the students in their maturity as well as spiritual and academic growth. As an extension of the home, we operate in the same realm which you do. We will give positive reinforcements and rewards for good behavior, but then sadly, will have to correct any wrong behavior which is seen by a teacher or school personnel.

Listed below are two areas of discipline under which the school operates: major and minor. Minor offenses are taken care of in small steps by the teacher and are listed for your information. The major offenses are taken care of by the parents for this reason: GBCS cannot effectively solve the behavioral problems without the teamwork of the parent(s). With that in mind, we recommend that major offenses are taken care of by way of a spanking. This is in accordance with the admonitions given to us in the Bible. (As a side note, if you have not yet read the pamphlet, *Under Loving Command*, please stop by the office and request a copy. It will help you understand what we are attempting to accomplish). Please look at the major discipline areas and see that offenses are corrected.

Major Offenses	Minor Offenses
1. lying 2. cheating 3. stealing 4. damaging school or other people's property 5. willful disobedience 6. repetitive offenses 7. cursing 8. fighting (both parties will be punished) 9. disrespect to authority 10. back-talking 11. inappropriate sexual behaviors 12. bullying 13. intentionally disrupting class 14. sexual talk 15. threats of violence 16. cell phone/smart device violation	1. horseplay 2. inattentiveness 3. purposefully distracting others in class 4. speaking out of turn 5. incomplete assignment/homework 6. gum chewing 7. minor disrespect of students or teachers 8. abusing school or church property or equipment 9. littering 10. sleeping in class or chapel 11. shirt untucked

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Any offense not listed will be subject to the discretion of the administration.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

The merit/demerit system is used in order to encourage good behavior in the classroom, and demerits will be calculated on a day to day basis. Merits result in positive reinforcement. **Each minor offense represents one demerit.** If, during the course of one full school day, a student receives any demerits, the following actions will be taken:

2 demerits = privileges restricted next school day

3 demerits = minor offense letter & teacher discretionary discipline

5 demerits = minor offense letter & parental discretionary discipline

DISCIPLINE POLICIES 5TH-6TH GRADE

Students in 5th through 6th grade must be aware that the accountability level has been raised. Students in these grades are accountable for their actions and behaviors. Therefore, Gospel Baptist Christian School waives forms of corporal correction while enforcing more adult-like discipline.

Positive reinforcements are used in all areas to encourage and strengthen performance. The following disciplines will be given to ensure a “pure” and “upright” group of students whose main emphasis is to please the Lord Jesus Christ. The major discipline areas are listed below and will be addressed in this manner:

1st offense = 1 day suspension per semester
2nd offense (same kind) = 2 day suspension per semester
3rd offense (same kind) = permanent expulsion

If the problem is not corrected through these actions, the parent(s) will be called for a mandatory conference. For the welfare of the school, the administration reserves the right without notice to expel a student for any offense that it deems worthy of such action.

DEMERIT/DETENTION SYSTEM

In the case of “minor discipline” issues, the students will be reprimanded according to a demerit system. The demerit system of GBCS will be calculated on a semester basis. Each minor discipline area represents one demerit.

1. Demerits will be kept in a log by the teacher.
2. When a student receives fifteen (15) demerits, he/she will be issued a detention. The detention time will consist of thirty (30) minutes to be served the following Wednesday.
3. Following two (2) such detentions, all subsequent detentions will be for one (1) hour.
4. When a student receives four (4) detentions, a mandatory conference will be held with the parent(s). When the next detention threshold is reached, a one (1) day suspension will be served by the student.

MAJOR “DISCIPLINE” AREAS	MINOR “DISCIPLINE” AREAS
1. lying 2. cheating 3. stealing 4. damaging school or other people’s property 5. willful disobedience 6. repetitive offenses 7. cursing 8. fighting (both parties will be punished) 9. disrespect to authority 10. back-talking 11. inappropriate sexual behaviors 12. bullying 13. intentionally disrupting class 14. sexual talk 15. threats of violence 16. cell phone/smart device violation	1. horseplay 2. inattentiveness 3. purposefully distracting others in class 4. speaking out of turn 5. incomplete assignment/homework 6. gum chewing 7. minor disrespect of students or teachers 8. abusing school or church property or equipment 9. littering 10. sleeping in class or chapel 11. shirt untucked

DISCIPLINE POLICIES FOR 7th-12th GRADE

Students in 7th through 12th grade must be aware that the accountability level has been raised. Students in these grades are accountable for their actions and behaviors. Therefore, Gospel Baptist Christian School waives forms of corporal correction while enforcing more adult-like discipline.

Positive reinforcements are used in all areas to encourage and strengthen performance. The following disciplines will be given to ensure a “pure” and “upright” group of teenagers whose main emphasis is to please the Lord Jesus Christ. The major discipline areas are listed below and will be addressed in this manner:

- 1st offense = 1 day suspension per semester
- 2nd offense (same kind) = 2 day suspension per semester
- 3rd offense (same kind) = permanent expulsion

If the problem is not corrected through these actions, the parent(s) will be called for a mandatory conference. For the welfare of the school, the administration reserves the right without notice to expel a student for any offense that it deems worthy of such action.

DEMERIT/DETENTION SYSTEM

In the case of “minor discipline” issues, the students will be reprimanded according to a demerit system. The demerit system of GBCS will be calculated on a semester basis. Each minor discipline area represents one demerit.

1. Demerits will be kept in a log by the teacher.
2. When a student receives five (5) demerits, he/she will be issued a detention. The detention time will consist of thirty (30) minutes to be served the following Wednesday.
3. Following two (2) such detentions, all subsequent detentions will be for one (1) hour.
4. When a student receives four (4) detentions, a mandatory conference will be held with the parent(s). When the next detention threshold is reached, a one (1) day suspension will be served by the student.

MAJOR “DISCIPLINE” AREAS	MINOR “DISCIPLINE” AREAS
1. lying 2. cheating 3. stealing 4. damaging school or other people’s property 5. willful disobedience 6. repetitive offenses 7. cursing 8. fighting (both parties will be punished) 9. disrespect to authority 10. back-talking 11. inappropriate sexual behaviors 12. bullying 13. intentionally disrupting class 14. sexual talk 15. threats of violence 16. cell phone/smart device violation	1. horseplay 2. inattentiveness 3. purposefully distracting others in class 4. speaking out of turn 5. incomplete assignment/homework 6. gum chewing 7. minor disrespect of students or teachers 8. abusing school or church property or equipment 9. littering 10. sleeping in class or chapel 11. shirt untucked

REST & MEDICATIONS

ILLNESS OR INJURY

If a student becomes ill during school hours, one of our staff members will be asked to evaluate the student, and the parent(s) will be called if necessary. When a student is ill enough to be out of class (at the faculty's discretion), parents will be asked to take the student home or to the doctor immediately. GBCS reserves the right to require that a child must be excluded from class until the following guidelines are met.

Guidelines for Re-entry:

- The student should be fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine) for 24 hours
- It has been 24 hours since the last bout of vomiting or diarrhea
- Other symptoms have improved

In the event of a serious, on-campus injury or accident, parent(s) are notified immediately. Every effort is made to contact parents prior to seeking any medical attention. The signed emergency medical authorization form is sent with the student to the doctor indicating parental permission for treatment. Only first aid is administered by the school.

MEDICATIONS

If a child needs to have a physician-prescribed medication administered during school hours, the medication bottle must have the child's name, physician's name, medication name, and the approved dosage printed on the label.

Non-prescription medications or vitamins are not permitted on campus unless a note from the parent(s) and/or the doctor accompanies the medication indicating the reason for the medication and the required dosage. All medications are kept in the school office and are administered from the school office.

HEAD LICE

The student body of GBCS will be regularly checked for head lice. If any student is found to have lice (either live or nits), the parent(s) or emergency contact(s) will be called and the student must be picked up from school. The parent(s) will be responsible for treating the child and the household in the appropriate method to rid the child of all live lice as well as nits (lice eggs). Upon successful treatment and removal of nits, the child must be checked by one of our staff members in order to return to class. Each student must be **nit free** before returning to class.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY

This school desires to maintain a healthy school environment by instituting controls designed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The term “communicable disease” shall mean an illness which arises as a result of a specific infectious agent which may be transmitted either directly or indirectly by a susceptible host, infected person or animal, to other persons. A teacher or administration official who reasonably suspects that a student or employee has a communicable disease shall immediately notify the school principal or administrator. The reportable diseases include the following:

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Aids Related Complex (ARC), Amebiasis, Animal Bite of Humans by a potentially rabid animal, Anthrax, Botulism, Brucellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Chancroid, Chicken Pox, COVID-19, Dengue, Diphtheria, Encephalitis, Giardiasis (acute), Gonorrhea, Granuloma, Inguinale, Hansens Disease (Leprosy), Hemorrhagic Fevers, Hepatitis, Histoplasmosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Legionnaires Disease, Leptospirosis, Lymphogranuloma Venereum, Malaria, Measles (Rubeola), Meningitis, Meningococcal Disease, Mumps, Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, Pertussis, Pesticide Poisoning, Plaque, Poliomyelitis, Psittacosis, Rabies, Relapsing Fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Rickettsia, Rubellas including congenital, Salmonellosis, Schistosomiasis, Shigellosis, Smallpox, Syphilis, Tetanus, Toxoplasmosis acute, Trichinosis, Tuberculosis, Tularemia, Typhoid Fever, Typhus, Vibrio Cholera, Vibrio Infections, Yellow Fever

Any student or employee with a communicable disease for which immunization is required by law or is available, shall be temporarily excluded from school while ill and during recognized periods of communicability. Students and employees with a communicable disease for which immunization is not available shall be excluded from school while ill. If the nature of the disease and circumstances warrant, our school may require an independent physician’s examination of the student or employee to verify the diagnosis of the communicable disease.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The selection of students who will attend GBCS is determined by achievement, proven testing programs (either Stanford University or Iowa University national achievement tests), interview of students and parent(s), and signature by parent(s) declaring their cooperation and agreement with the standards set forth by GBCS.

STEP #1

Read the handbook and packet information.

STEP #2

Call the school office and ask to set up an interview with the school principal. Prospective junior and senior high school students must be in attendance at the interview and must want to attend this school.

STEP #3

Upon acceptance into GBCS, the necessary entrance tests will be given (does not apply to preschool-2nd grade). Parents will need to submit all necessary records to the school office.

STEP #4

The registration and book fees are to be paid at the time of registration. School uniforms are not optional and must be purchased through our uniform supplier, Zavada's Renegades (www.renegadesfl.com). No look-a-like uniforms will be accepted.

STEP #5

The initial tuition payment must be made prior to, or upon receipt of the first month's bill.

STEP #6

There will be a mandatory Parent-Teacher Orientation held on the Thursday before the first day of school. Notification of this meeting will be provided in advance.

All the policies and procedures of this handbook are subject to change without notice.

A parentally placed private school student with a disability does not have an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services that the student would receive if enrolled in a public school under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Gospel Baptist Christian School's preschool is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and Families.

Gospel Baptist Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and 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 and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

As one of the founding members of Gospel Baptist Christian School and as the acting Administrator, I would like to share my heart with you. First, allow me to inform you of my background. My wife, Cathy, and I put our son through Christian school for 11 years, until he graduated from High School. He went from there and graduated from Bob Jones University with a Business Administration and Management Degree some four years later.

Cathy and I have never regretted the money, sacrifice, and time (driving him back and forth) that was invested for eternity in our son. We sacrificed new vehicles, a better house, newer clothes, etc., etc. As we look back at what is left from all those years, we realize that only that which lasts is left...our son and the impact godly teachers, chapel messages, and Bible-based curriculum had on him.

Our goal is to provide quality Christian education at a compassionate price. We really do care about you and wish that somehow we could do more to help you obey God in raising your child(ren). In no way is this comparison meant to be derogatory toward those schools we surveyed. This comparison is given simply to give you as much information as possible to make an educated decision regarding placement of your child(ren) in Christian education.

Thank you for considering Gospel Baptist Christian School. We count it a privilege to educate children with sound Christian principles and high academic standards. Should you have any further questions regarding this comparison, please feel free to discuss it with us.

Gratefully saved,
William J. Lytell, B.A., M.A., D. Div.
Administrator

PAYMENT & WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

MAKING SENSE OF THE PAYMENT AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

Because the financial budget is based on full term students, **all tuition is non-refundable.** However, the year's tuition may be paid in ten monthly installments beginning in August and extending through May.

If a student withdraws, for any reason, the tuition through the whole month of departure is due. For example, if a student withdraws from school on November 15th, payment is expected for the entire month of November.

The first tuition payment of the school year (for non-scholarship students) is due no later than August 10th. Each subsequent payment is due on or before the 10th of the following month. Monthly statements will be available on Gradelink.

TEXTBOOK AND ENROLLMENT FEES ARE DUE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

If you have pre-registered/pre-enrolled, then these fees along with your 1st month's tuition are due no later than August 10th. Uniform fees are to be paid directly to the uniform company when the order is placed. Ordering information may be obtained through the school office or on the school website.

SPECIAL NOTE: This policy is for the welfare of the entire ministry and must be adhered to for its survival. **If you encounter financial hardships, notify the administration immediately and request a meeting to discuss arrangements.**

30 days past due = you will receive a 10 day notice of intent to expel
40 days past due = expulsion

REPORT CARDS & PERMANENT RECORDS RELEASE

No report cards or permanent records will be released from Gospel Baptist Christian School until all financial indebtedness is paid in full, or satisfactory arrangements are made with the school administration. **The final due date, for all outstanding balances owed, will be May 15th.**

NOTE: REPORT CARDS AND PERMANENT RECORDS WILL ONLY BE RELEASED FROM INSTITUTION TO INSTITUTION.

TUITION & FEES

We do not accept government funded scholarships.

We **do** accept the Step Up for Students Scholarships (FTC and FES-EO) to pay for tuition (K5-12th Grade).

You can apply at www.stepupforstudents.org.

For more information about this opportunity, speak with the school office staff.

Children	Annual Tuition	Monthly Tuition
Preschool	\$4,300	\$430
K5	\$8,300	\$830
1st - 3rd Grades	\$8,100	\$810
4th - 8th Grades	\$7,500	\$750
9th - 12th Grades	\$7,400	\$740

- Payment Schedule:** Tuition is paid directly to the school office. We offer a 10-month payment plan which begins in August and ends in May. You may pay by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard. A 12-month plan can be made available by speaking with the business manager.
- Enrollment Fee:** Enrollment fees are \$150.00 per child. Enrollment fees secure a seat for your child for the upcoming school year. Included in the enrollment fees are such things as classroom and office supplies, student insurance, annual standardized testing, a yearbook, as well as technology costs for school-related software. All enrollment fees are due with submission of enrollment or re-enrollment paperwork.
- Book Fees:** GBCS does not incorporate the pricing for books into the tuition rate. However, book fees may be covered by the Step Up Scholarship for participating students in K5-12th grade. All book fees for Pre-K and non-scholarship students must be paid in full prior to your child beginning classes and are due by August 1. The book charges include materials for all the classes your child will be taking. The fee to be paid to GBCS prior to August 1 will be:

Book Fees		Before Care Fees	After Care Fees
<i>Pre-K & K5</i>	<i>\$300</i>	7:00-8:15 AM \$3.00/day 8:00-8:15 AM \$1.00/day	\$3.00/child from 3:16 - 4:15 \$5.00/child from 3:16 - 5:15 \$7.00/child from 3:16 - 6:00
<i>1st-12th Grade</i>	<i>\$500</i>		More details are on page 13.

- Prepayment Discounts:** If you prepay annually, (for Pre-K only), we will provide a 3% discount on your total. For more information contact the business office at (239) 947-2341.

PART TIME PRESCHOOL

Part time preschool is available, but the tuition rate is the same as full time.

ATHLETIC FEE (5TH-12TH GRADE ONLY)

This fee of \$100 per child, per sport covers transportation, referee costs, equipment, etc. Fees will not be refunded after the season has started. This fee must be paid in advance of the season and does not include playoff expenses.

GRADUATION FEE

A graduation fee is mandatory for all seniors (12th grade). The fee is \$150 and covers the cost of the gown, diploma, etc.



WHETHER

therefore

ye eat, or drink,

or whatsoever ye do,

do all to the glory

OF GOD.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31