



**Gilead Christian School
Kindergarten - 6th Grade
2021 - 2022 Handbook**

**North Campus
Elementary School
Kindergarten - 6th Grade**

**220 South Main Street
Mount Gilead, OH 43338
419.947.5739**

Revised March 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Non-Discriminatory Policy	3
Statement of Purpose	3
Mission and Vision Statements	3
Statement of Faith	3-4
Philosophy of Education	4
• Objectives	4-6
Expected Student Outcomes	6
Accreditation, Affiliation & Curriculum Areas	6
Extra-Curricular and In-School Activities	7
Requirements for Extra-Curricular Activities	7
Procedure to Request Pupil Assistance	7-8
Admission Procedure	8
• New Student	8
• Continuous Enrollment	8
Withdrawal Policy	8-9
Responsibility for Payment	9
Christian Conduct and Discipline	9-10
Anti-Bullying Policy	10-11
Weapons	11
Sexual Immorality	11
Inappropriate Displays of Affection	11
Sexual Harassment of Employees and Students	11-12
Pupil Attendance Policy	12-13
Before/After School	13
Pupil Report Cards	13
Grading System	13-14
Honor Roll	14
Homework and Assignments	14-15
• Amount of Homework	14
• Make-Up Homework	14-15
Parent/Teacher Conferences	15
Statement on Bible Versions	15
Textbook Care	15
Communications	15
The Matthew 18 Principle	15-16
Achievement Testing	16
Dress Code - North Campus Students	16-17
Dress for Outside Recess	18
School Rules	18
Internet Policy	18-20
Substance Abuse Policy	20
Cell Phone Policy	20
School Lunches	20
Lunchroom Rules & Healthy Snack/Lunch	20
Transportation to School	20
Bus Guidelines	21
Walkers	21
Carline	21
Student Health	21-22
• Health Records	21
• Communicable Diseases	21-22
• Medication	22
• Peanut & Tree Nut Allergy	22
Class Parties/Celebrations	22
Field Trips	22
Visitors	22
Lost Articles	22
Fire, Tornado, and Safety Drills	22
Playground Rules	23
Emergency Closings	23
Delay Schedule	23

WELCOME

It is one of the few institutions in our American culture where a group of like-minded people can determine the educational policies of that institution, according to the dictates of their conscience, without government intervention. We thank God for the freedom to train our children as we deem appropriate! In order to be successful in educating our children, there must be close cooperation between parents and school. This handbook is to help you better understand the school program and how we can effectively work together. If this handbook does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact the school office. In fact, visit us often. It encourages both your child and us!

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Gilead Christian School admits students of any gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, tuition assistance programs, and other school-administered programs, nor in the hiring of faculty or administrative staff. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Gilead Christian School exists primarily to assist parents in fulfilling their God-given responsibility, to train thoroughly each child to obey God in every area of life. This will be accomplished by providing a program of learning experience to guide the individual student in understanding, appreciating and relating to the truth of God as revealed in His Word - The Bible - and His world - the realms of nature and humankind.

Academically, the school seeks to provide a learning program which is flexible and comprehensive enough to offer the best education possible for each individual student. In the final analysis, it is the purpose of Gilead Christian School to help the student to grow as Jesus grew, "...and Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: Gilead Christian School partners with families and churches to be and make active disciples of Jesus Christ by training hearts, growing minds and inspiring lives.

Vision Statement: Gilead Christian School will contribute to our community by fostering Christ centered disciples through the pursuit of spiritual development and academic excellence founded on a Biblical worldview.

Gilead Friends Church...as the ministry sponsor of the Gilead Christian School, the Gilead Evangelical Friends Church does not advance new teachings or doctrines. Instead, we seek to rediscover New Testament teachings and apply these age-old lives. As Friends we believe:

1. God is our Father.
2. Jesus Christ is "the Word made flesh" for us.
3. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Strengthener and Guide.
4. The Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by Him.
5. A person received forgiveness through repentance for sins and belief in Jesus Christ as Savior.
6. The mission of the Church is to communicate the Good News of salvation to people everywhere.

("What We Believe"...taken from Our Faith and Proactive of the Ohio Yearly Meeting/Friends/2007)

STATEMENT OF FAITH*

1. *We believe* the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. *We believe* that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
3. *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 His personal return in power and glory.
4. *We believe* that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. *We believe* in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. *We believe* in the resurrection of both saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. *We believe* in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
8. *We believe* that God wonderfully creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27) We believe gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one's self-perception. (Ephesians 4:17-18).

9. *We believe* that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one natural-born man and one natural- born woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (I Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a natural-born man and a natural-born woman.
10. *We believe* that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; I Corinthians 6:9-10).
11. *We believe* that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; I Corinthians 6:9-11).
12. *We believe* that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Gilead Friends Church/Gilead Christian School.
13. *We believe* that all human life is a gift from God and is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage of condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

Our Statement of Faith is not exhaustive of all our beliefs. The Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with absolute authority regarding the proper conduct of mankind and is the unchanging foundation for all belief and behavior.

**The statement of Faith of the National Association of Evangelicals.*

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Christian Education refers to the type of sound learning, which takes place when all the academic disciplines are taught by dedicated, highly qualified teachers with a Christian perspective of God and the world. Christ and His teaching permeate the entire educative process.

All truth resides in God. The student’s course of study and activities are opportunities, given by the Creator, through which the student can express obedience to God. Gilead Christian School will provide an environment, which encourages each student:

1. to discover his unique abilities;
2. to develop those graces and skills demonstrated in the life of Christ;
3. to achieve academic excellence in all disciplines;
4. and to exercise his God-given gifts in the expanding opportunities of his Christian development.

PREMISE: A philosophy is simply what one believes. Therefore, the following ten statements express what GCS believes with respect to Christian education and its role as an educational enterprise.

VIEW OF LIFE - World View

There is a clear distinction between the Humanistic (man-centered) view and the Theistic view. The Theistic view is God-centered and seeks to interpret all of life through the eyes of God and His Word- the Bible. God created man in His image (Genesis 1:26) and the Bible is the account of God’s efforts to bring man, the sinner, back to Himself in a perfect relationship as it was in the beginning (Genesis 1:31).

This supernatural, theistic view of life is the foundation upon which the GCS philosophy of Christian education is grounded.

GOD

The existence of God is central to GCS philosophy. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). He created all things (John 1:1). Through these creations, He continues to reveal Himself to man.

God exists in the Trinity with Jesus, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Via the functions and roles of the Trinity, God’s creation is destined to bring honor, glory, and praise to the Creator (Psalm 150:6).

We desire all who enter GCS to become cognizant of God, His majesty, and His unique purpose for each human being.

JESUS CHRIST

The Son, Jesus, is the mediator between God and man (I Timothy 2:5). The Father has given all and vested all in His Son (Colossians 1:14-17).

In Christian education we choose to pattern our lives and our teaching after the Master teacher (Matthew 5:2).

The “life-blood” of GCS is dependent on the Son – just as is the case for every believer. Hence, the verse “In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28a).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables every believer to live the holy life. The Holy Spirit teaches (Luke 12:12). Furthermore, He guides, empowers, convinces the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (I John 4:6). It is the Holy Spirit who enables the Child of God to know that which the natural man can never know (I Corinthians 2:14).

In the Christian school where the Holy Spirit is welcome, there is freedom and liberty (II Corinthians 3:17). Where there is liberty, students are free, relaxed, and able to learn at their greatest potential.

MAN

Mankind was created in the likeness and image of God (Genesis 1:22). Through disobedience, man became something less than what God intended, and therefore must be born again (John 3:7).

The fool (Humanist) hath said in his heart there is no God (Psalm 14:1). The wise man recognizes God and strives to honor and fulfill God’s will for his life.

Man’s highest calling is to become a Son; “and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Galatians 4:6&7).

EDUCATION

To God there exists no schism between secular and the religious. All truth is God’s truth. “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1).

Since truth cannot be divided, there can be no true education apart from God’s Word, the Bible. Christian education, then, becomes the process whereby we learn to see things as God sees them.

The purpose of Christian education becomes two-fold; 1) to reveal God, and 2) to bring students into conformity with His revealed will.

The purpose of education is given in Isaiah 28:10. “For it is: Do this, do that, a rule for this, a rule for that; a little here, a little there.” God reveals knowledge and wisdom in sequential, small portions at a time! Learning occurs in stages or sessions according to Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

In Proverbs we read that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7a). In Proverbs 2:6, we read “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

GCS is a place where we emphasize “training hearts and growing minds.” We desire to teach about Christ to the mind and to provide an atmosphere where the heart can accept Christ. When the facts of the gospel can move from the head (cognitive) to the heart (affective) and affect proper actions, we then are incorporating wisdom.

TRUTH AND GOD’S WORD

Man, since his existence, has pursued truth. Jesus said He is the truth (John 14:6). This is a bold statement for a man to express. It has been and is still a stumbling block to many.

Jesus also said that “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

Paul said “For we cannot do anything against the truth” (II Corinthians 13:8). Pilate was silenced when Jesus said “The reason I was born and came into this world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me” (John 18:37 & 38).

Many people live their lives without the truth. Families are raised with little knowledge of the truth. Christian education is one of the few remaining places where children can be exposed to the truth. All knowledge is purified and filtered through God’s Word.

There is a striving that ceases when the truth is found in God and His word. Children and adults alike, come to a rest (Hebrew 4) once the truth has entered in.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

GCS exists to assist parents in the training of their children to understand and obey God. The fact that the education and training of children are the responsibilities of the parents is mandated in the following scriptures:

- Proverbs 22:6 – “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”
- Deuteronomy 6:7 – “Impress the Word upon your children.”
- Deuteronomy 31:13 – “...their children...must hear it and learn to fear the Lord...”
- I Timothy 3:4 – “...and see that his children obey him...”
- Proverbs 29:15 – “...the rod a reprimand impart wisdom...”
- Proverbs 28:7 – “...A discerning son heeds instruction...”
- Matthew 19:14 – “...Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

SALVATION - The Common Ground

The benchmark; the trait that characterizes; the cement that fuses a Christian school is salvation. “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (I John 5:12).

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again (John 3:3). We believe this to be the foundational goal of Christian education. Salvation must be the omnipresent thought throughout the fiber of the entire school.

All who center GCS; the staff, parents, children, friends, must feel the urgency of being born again and experiencing the newness of life in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). As GCS becomes an instrument of salvation, it fulfills the purpose for which it was created by the sponsoring Gilead Friends Church.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

From the purpose and philosophy of Gilead Christian School stem certain aims and objectives, here are our ESOs:

Gilead Christian School partners with families and churches to be and make active disciples of Jesus Christ by

TRAINING HEARTS *so that students*

- Know the Bible, understand its principles, and apply God’s Word in daily life.
- Become a new creation in Christ and develop a relationship with Jesus.
- Are empowered by the Holy Spirit to pursue a life of faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

GROWING MINDS *so that students*

- Achieve proficiency in all academic disciplines inspiring a desire for lifelong learning.
- Value intellectual inquiry and employ skills to question, solve problems, and make wise decisions for God’s glory.
- Articulate and accurately defend a Christian worldview while having a basic understanding of opposing worldviews.

INSPIRING LIVES *so that students*

- Utilize resources, including technology, to locate and evaluate information so that students are best prepared to live in obedience to God’s calling on their lives.
- Embrace the worth of every human being as created in the image of God; therefore, appreciating languages and cultures, dispelling prejudice, promoting interethnic harmony, and encouraging biblical hospitality toward all people.

ACCREDITATION, AFFILIATION & CURRICULUM AREAS

The Ohio Department of Education charters Gilead Christian School (K-12). The school is also a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and an accredited member for grades K-12.

The school is operated as a non-profit organization under Articles of Incorporation of the Gilead Friends Church, a member of the Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region, with headquarters in Canton, Ohio.

The basic curriculum areas are the following:

Bible, Mathematics, Language of Arts, Social Studies, Science, Health, Physical Education, and Fine Arts.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students have the opportunity to participate in the many ACSI sponsored events such as speech meet, math olympics and spelling bee.

School musical programs at Christmas and in the spring and a Spring Arts Show have school wide participation. GCS offers band starting in 5th grade.

Students 3rd through 12th grade can participate in a variety of sports.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In order for students to be eligible for extra-curricular activities such as sports, choir, band, etc. they must meet the following requirements:

1. At least an overall “C” average and no “F’s” in any class (on quarterly report cards and/or weekly eligibility slips). If a student loses academic eligibility, it may be regained when the teacher(s) notifies the administration that the student has corrected the deficiency.
2. The student cannot be a discipline problem in class or at school-related activities.

PROCEDURE TO REQUEST PUPIL ASSISTANCE

Students Grades K - 12

- I. **Existing student referral may be initiated from teachers and/or parents**
 - a. Complete Assistance Request Checklist (ARC) 3-6 or 7-12 form and give to principal.
 - b. Initial Meeting with parent, teacher, principal, and resource room teacher.
 - c. Determination will be made to move on to step D, based on severity of issues and student’s grade level.
 - d. Set up meeting with Intervention Specialist (IS) to discuss concerns.
 - e. Upon determination, faculty will be instructed to collect evidence (work samples, anecdotal notes) and formal observation will be conducted by principal or resource teacher.
 - f. Second meeting with IS to review evidence collected.
 - g. Determination will be made to either continue monitoring student or proceed with MFE testing.
 - h. The IS instructor will administer testing deemed necessary to student.
 - i. After testing is completed, a team meeting (parents, principal, resource room teacher, school counselor, intervention specialist) will be held to review results and determine if a learning disability exists.
 - j. If learning disability exists, principal and resource teacher will work with parents to write a service plan. At this time, the principal and resource room teacher will review services GCS can and cannot provide. Once signed, changes cannot be made to service plan without a team meeting.
 - k. Service plans will be reviewed each August prior to the new school year and adjusted accordingly.
 - l. Students on service plans will be re-evaluated by a intervention specialist every three years until either disability no longer exists or they graduate.
- II. **New student with existing service plans**
 - a. Set up meeting with parents, principal, and resource room teacher to review student’s existing service plan.
 - b. Principal and resource room teacher will inform parents of services which can and cannot be provided.
 - c. If parents still desire to enroll their student, principal and resource teacher will work with parents to write a GCS service plan.
 - d. Service plans will be reviewed each August prior to the new school year and adjusted accordingly.
 - e. Students on service plans will be re-evaluated by a school intervention specialist every three years until either disability no longer exists or they graduate.
- III. **New student with suspected disability**
 - a. Complete ARC form and give to principal.
 - b. Initial Meeting with parent, teacher, principal, and resource room teacher to discuss student needs. As this time, parents will be informed of our referral process and what services GCS can and cannot provide.
 - c. Follow steps D– K under existing student referral process.
- IV. **John Peterson Scholarship**

Gilead Christian School provides these services to our students when proper credentialed staffing is available. Parents must know that we will do our best to either provide in-house or use outside resources to accommodate students with special needs; however, not all services will be able to be given if staffing is not available.

 - Aide Services
 - Behavioral Services
 - Educational Services
 - Counseling Services

- Intervention Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Speech Therapy

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

NEW STUDENTS

1. Each new applicant shall secure, fill out, and return an initial application form for admission. A non-refundable one time \$40 application fee must accompany the application.
2. Each new applicant and parents will be interviewed. At the time of the interview:
 - a. The applicant may be asked to take standardized placement tests.
 - b. The applicant and/or his parents or guardian shall be fully informed of the stated purpose, philosophy, and religious beliefs of the school.
 - c. The parents or guardians shall be informed of the policies of the school.
 - d. Parents or guardians shall be informed of the tuition costs and payment plans.
3. All applicants are considered for enrollment regardless of race, color or national origin. The Gilead Christian School recruits and admits students of any race, color, gender, or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs, scholarships, loans, fees, tuition waivers, and athletics/extracurricular activities, nor in the hiring of faculty or administrative staff. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to or court administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation.
4. No student will be admitted;
 - a. Who has serious academic, conduct, emotional, learning, or physical problems which interfere with participation in the regular academic program and for which our program is not equipped or staffed, unless parents are willing to bear the expense of all additional staff and services.
 - b. Whose parents or guardian are not willing to abide by the purpose, philosophy, objectives and policies of Gilead Christian School.
5. Appropriate testing and screening procedures will be used to determine the admission and placement of each student. This may include:
 - a. Review of report cards, school records, and standardized tests as appropriate
6. Upon acceptance, receipt of the family enrollment form, emergency cards completed and tuition payment arrangements made the student's place on the class roster will be secured. Tuition payments will be set up through the Finance Office.
7. Enrollment is considered complete when all forms have been received and tuition payment arrangements made, and when all student records have been received (transcripts, immunization, health records, standardized test scores, special education reports and IEP's). Emergency cards must be turned in by the first day of school.
8. Students admitted to Kindergarten must be 5 years of age by September 30th of the current school year.
9. A probationary period of six school weeks for all new students will be required for final acceptance and appointment to grades.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

1. Each student shall secure, fill out and return a continuous enrollment form and emergency cards annually for admission to GCS. A deposit per child as set forth by the GCS School Board must also be submitted.
2. Each student shall be considered enrolled for the following year unless a withdrawal form is filled out and given to the office.
3. In order for a child to remain at GCS, the student's account must be current or an alternate payment plan must be in place and approved by the finance committee prior to the start of school.

Upon acceptance, receipt of the family enrollment form, emergency cards completed and tuition payment arrangements made the student's place on the class roster will be secured. Tuition payments will be set up through the automatic tuition withdrawal program unless other arrangements have been made with the Finance Office.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Upon the withdrawal of a student from GCS, a prorated tuition refund will be given based on the last day of attendance. If there are book fees, they will not be refunded.

Process for Withdrawal: Students who enroll at Gilead Christian School are expected to attend for the entire school year, but we understand that unexpected events may necessitate a student's leaving during the school year. In those instances, students withdrawing from GCS should follow these steps:

1. Parents must notify the Main Office and schedule a meeting with the appropriate principal to discuss the withdrawal. At that time a withdrawal form should be filled out and given to the office staff.
2. On the last day of school, the withdrawing student must return all books and school equipment to the Main Office.
3. Parents must pay all tuition and fees accrued through the date of withdrawal per the Continuous Enrollment Contract should they apply. Official transcripts and school records will not be released or forwarded to another school until all school obligations have been satisfied.

Families that opt out of Gilead Christian School or withdrawal are not guaranteed re-enrollment

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYMENT

The person(s) (usually the parent/legal guardian) signing the enrollment forms are ultimately responsible for payment of tuition, daycare and lunch charges, and other fees. In the event that someone other than the parent/legal guardian is assuming responsibility for making payments, both the parent or legal guardian and that person should sign a Tuition Agreement form. If the latter does not meet the financial obligation, the parent/legal guardian who enrolled the child is responsible.

All fees are due in full by the school's fiscal year end (June 30th). The school has the right to terminate the attendance of any student for any reason addressed in the GCS Student/Parent Handbook, including the failure of the parent to maintain their financial obligation of Gilead Christian School. (A senior student's tuition must be current in order for them to participate in graduation ceremonies.)

There is a \$25 returned payment fee for each payment returned. (If an electronic payment is returned, the payment amount as well as the returned payment fee will be attempted on the next payment date.)

An invoice not paid within 30 days of the due date is subject to a late fee of \$25 for every 30 days it is not paid in full. Payments will be applied to the oldest outstanding invoice moving forward until payment is exhausted. In the event that prior or present obligations have not been met; any sum paid for any purpose including Tuition Deposit for a future year will be applied first to the satisfaction of prior and/or current obligations.

If no payment is made within sixty (60) days of the due date, the school may, at will suspend the student and is under no obligation to provide services, educational or otherwise to aid said student.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Christianity is full of positives. New life is achieved through faith in Jesus, not through a system of negatives. Although God is a holy God demanding justice, He has also provided redemption and forgiveness. Jesus, Himself, taught Peter about the 70 times 7.

The general behavior of the pupils affects their growth and progress. Therefore, the teaching staff works together to model positive, constructive behavior on the part of the pupils. Each teacher assumes authority whenever necessary throughout the building or grounds regardless of whose pupils are involved.

The individual teacher will handle minor cases of misconduct by pupils. The teacher may take reasonable action as necessary to maintain order and discipline in the classroom or at any school event.

If the misconduct of a pupil is persistent or if the misconduct is of a serious nature, the teacher shall refer the discipline problem to the administration. The administration will counsel the student, and if necessary, will contact the parents or guardian of the student to seek their cooperation in correcting the problem. Thus, both parents and school cooperate in constructive discipline of the student.

Seldom will learning occur in confusion. We believe students must be able to listen, follow directions, treat their peers with respect, and not impede the learning of others. We use discipline measures to ensure that each student has the freedom to learn. If all positive measures fail, negative measures such as removal of privileges, additional consequences may be considered and used at the discretion of the administrator in continual collaboration with teachers.

In cases of serious misconduct, it shall be noted in the student's cumulative record file. The following are considered to be serious misconduct by the school:

- Continued disobedience of classroom rules or procedures
- Inappropriate behavior or displays
- Unwholesome or obscene language or gestures
- Possession or viewing of off-color media
- Truancy
- Cheating/academic dishonesty

- Insubordination or disrespect
- Stealing
- Lying
- Intimidating, degrading, bullying or hazing of others
- Fighting or provoking a fight
- Use or possession of tobacco, drugs or alcohol
- Defacing or destruction of school or others personal property
- Sexual harassment or immorality

This is a sample list, as no list of offenses can be all encompassing.

The administrator/principal may suspend or expel a student for serious misconduct or for persistent misconduct at his discretion. The student may also be referred to the Gilead Christian School Board for expulsion. Students suspended or expelled are considered absent. Any student who is suspended or expelled from Gilead Christian School shall not be permitted to attend extra-curricular activities or be on school property without permission from the administration.

- Suspension-In-School- The student will be allowed to make up work.
- Out of School- All work must be completed. The highest grade you can obtain is a C.

In order to deal more consistently with students who are seriously or persistently misbehaving we use a misconduct report. This provides documentation necessary for parent conferences, etc.

We believe that classroom procedures, rules, and instructor implementation of the same should be the initial discipline policy. Some examples of classroom discipline would be tardiness, class and homework assignment promptness, and other behavior as deemed by the instructor. We believe that the teacher in the leadership role should use his discernment for classroom management. The instructor will bring about change by using some other method and will not issue demerits for the above circumstances. Demerits will be issued when a specific offense involves a heart issue of direct disobedience willingly conducted by the student or behavior not appropriate of a Gilead Christian attendee.

The administration shall be involved when a heart issue arises. Examples of this would be dress code violation, disrespect to teacher or another individual, cheating, and other inappropriate behavior.

Procedure in response to any repeated heart issue will be as follows:

- 1st offense – a warning and counseling with the principal. A discipline letter may be sent home depending upon the severity of the infraction.
- 2nd offense – A discipline letter will be sent home noting an appropriate consequence that may have been given.
- 3rd offense – A call home to parent by student with administration present. Consequences may involve a lunch or after school detention.
- 4th offense – parent/staff meeting conference to determine punishment.

(Some examples of possible consequences may be in school suspension, further detention, home or school privileges or a combination of home and school discipline.)

It is our intent to place the emphasis on the student’s development of character as well as including the parent in the discipline procedure.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone intentionally and repeatedly engages in behavior that is harmful toward another person.

Bullying may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical
- Social/emotional
- Verbal

Cyberbullying will not be tolerated.

“Cyberbullying” is bullying by use of an electronic device using, but not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, cell phones, online games, websites, social media, etc.

Guiding Principles for Students to Prevent Bullying

- 1) We will not bully others. (Ephesians 4:32)
- 2) We will help others who may be bullied. (Romans 15:1-2)
- 3) We will include all students. (Romans 15:7)
- 4) We will tell an adult at school or at home if we know someone is being bullied. (Ephesians 5:11-14)

Where misconduct reports demonstrate a pattern of misbehavior, the situation will be handled by staff and administration in accordance with GCS policies. In cases of bullying, the school administration will meet with the parents of all students involved. The consequences of bullying will be proportional to the nature of the offense. The consequences include, but are not limited to, admonition, counseling, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

WEAPONS

Firearms, flammable materials, explosives, knives, chains, illegal weapons, or anything that could be used to portray a weapon will NOT be permitted on school property. This includes "look-alike" weapons and anything else that could be used against another student or school personnel to cause bodily harm or intimidation. Violators may receive up to a 10-day suspension with recommendation for expulsion. Authorities may be contacted.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Related to student:

Gilead Christian School is in complete agreement with the Evangelical Friends statement as printed below: Evangelical Friends believe that every person is created in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of same sex attraction. We adhere to an orthodox reading of Scripture and Christian tradition which teaches that homosexual behavior is sinful and contrary to Scripture (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:27, 1 Corinthians 6:9). Therefore Gilead Christian School reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or discontinue enrollment of a student who engages in sexual immorality such as: heterosexual activity outside of marriage (ex. premarital sex, cohabitations), homosexual activity, sexual harassment, use or viewing of pornographic material or websites, and sexual abuse or improprieties toward minors as defined by Scripture and Federal or State law.

Related to parent(s):

Evangelical Friends believe that every person is created in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of same sex attraction. We adhere to an orthodox reading of Scripture and Christian tradition which teaches that homosexual behavior is sinful and contrary to Scripture (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:27, 1 Corinthians 6:9). If the atmosphere or conduct of a particular home influences, promotes or encourages the behaviors defined by the Parent and Student handbook as sexually immoral, Gilead Christian School reserves the right to deny enrollment, re-enrollment, or discontinue enrollment at any time in the school year.

Sexting is the act of sending, knowingly receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit or suggestive messages, photos, or images via cell phone, IPOD, computer, or other digital service. Students engaged in such activities, both on campus and off campus, are subject to state laws and school discipline. The school considers sending, sharing, possessing, or even viewing pictures, text messages, or emails that contain a sexual message or image a violation of this policy. This violation could result in school discipline, up to, and including, expulsion, and the notification of local law enforcement. Students are required to immediately report any such activities to a teacher or the Principal. If a student reports any such activities or a staff member has reason to believe "sexting" has taken place, it is the responsibility of the staff member to report it to the Principal. The parents of all parties will be notified. If a student receives unsolicited sexual material and reports, he or she will not be held liable. The Principal has the right to verify, through legitimate means, that "sexting" has occurred and to decide on the necessary disciplinary action.

INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

As a school we encourage students, particularly at the upper level to develop comfortable friendships with the opposite gender. However, pairing off is discouraged, and inappropriate displays of affection are unacceptable. GCS understands that students may develop a social relationship with members of the opposite sex, but school is not the appropriate place for hugging, kissing, holding hands, or having an arm around a boyfriend or girlfriend. Inappropriate touching of any kind is not acceptable.

SEXUAL HARASSMENTS OF EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

Any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, constitutes sexual harassment. Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- A. The victim as well as the harasser may be a female or a male. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.
- B. The victim does not have to be the person to whom the harassing action was directed, but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.
- C. The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.

Any member of the school community who believes that he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment will report the incident(s) to the grievance counselor. The grievance counselor will attempt to resolve the problem in an informal manner, through the following process:

1. Confer with the charging party to make clear the alleged facts.
2. Meet with the charged party to make clear the alleged facts.
 - a. Attempt to resolve the matter informally through conciliation.
 - b. Transfer the record to the Administrator or his designee and notify the parties by certified mail of his/her official action relative to the complaint.

Should one of the grievance counselors be involved, the incident should be reported to the Administrator or the Senior Pastor of the Gilead Friends Church.

The Administrator or Principal reserves the right to rule on any discipline situation that is not specifically covered in this handbook. There may be various disciplinary steps used in dealing with situations not covered in this handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ELEMENTARY GRADES

Pupil Attendance:

1. **Compulsory Attendance Law:** Students who attend Gilead Christian School are under the jurisdiction of the "Compulsory Attendance Law" (state code section 7.06). "Every child of compulsory school age (6 to 18 years) who is not employed on an age and schooling certificate, and has not been determined to be incapable of profiting substantially by further instruction, shall attend a school which conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education".
2. **Length of School Year:** There shall be 910 hours for students in full-day kindergarten through Grade 6. There shall be 2 days for parent-teacher conferences (evenings). There will be two days of Professional Development for the teachers built into the school year also.
3. **Length of School Day:** The school day at North Campus begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. each day. Students arriving before 7:45 a.m. should report to daycare. Daycare will begin at 7:00 a.m. unless otherwise set up with daycare staff. School office hours are 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
4. **Policy Regarding Absences:** It is essential that students assume the obligation to attend their classes regularly and on time. Frequent absences result in decreased academic interest and achievement. Regular and punctual attendance is an important habit contributing to success in high school, college, and career. Classroom experiences such as field trips, labs, and simulations cannot be duplicated.

Absence from school is legally permissible as written in the State Attendance Law for:

- a. Personal illness.
- b. Illness in the family.
- c. Death of a relative.
- d. Home duties due to the absence of parents.
- e. Observance of religious holidays.
- f. Quarantine of home.
- g. Any emergency or set of circumstances which, in the judgment of the administration, constitutes good cause.

Further excused absences will be considered for medical, dental, or other appointments which cannot be scheduled outside school hours. It is highly encouraged that families plan ahead for medical appointments and vacation that will not interfere with class schedules.

5. Procedures to follow when an absence occurs: Parents of students who are absent from school are required, by state law (MISSING CHILD ACT), to call the school office by 9:00 a.m. each day. We must know that all children are accounted for. If a call has been made, a written notification is not necessary for North Campus students.
6. Pre-approved absences: A pre-approved absence form must be completed at least 10 days in advance of the absence by both the student and the parent/guardian. This allows time for teachers and administrators to prepare make up assignments. Since the school calendar allows ample time for vacation in and around holiday seasons, parents should make every effort to arrange their vacations to coincide with school vacations.

7. Early Dismissals: Students must be signed out and back in at the office. In the event a student becomes ill during the school day, they must report to the school office and parents will be contacted. If a child is in the clinic for more than 45 minutes, a parent will be called a second time to determine if the child needs to be picked up and taken home. If they feel the child should return to class, then the child will be sent back to class.
8. Make up work: Students who are absent are required to make up all work missed. Unless an absence has been preapproved, students are responsible for collecting make up assignments from teachers and rescheduling tests/exams with teachers. The school is not responsible for this.
9. Yearly Attendance: When a student has missed 15 days of school per semester, he may be considered for retention even if work has been made up and the parent will be notified. Any student missing 30 or more days will be retained unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been approved by the administration and all work has been completed.
10. Tardiness: A tardy will be charged to a student's record when they arrive after 8:00 a.m. After 8:00 a.m. the student will need to sign in at the office. Parents will be contacted to meet with administration should tardiness become habitual and excessive. Families are required to call the office before 9:00 a.m. to report a tardy or absence.
11. Policy Regarding Student Release: If student is to be released to anyone other than custodial parent/guardian/their designee, the parent should call or send a note.
12. Family Vacations: Since the school calendar allows ample time for vacations in and around holiday seasons, parents should make every effort to arrange their vacations to coincide with school vacations. However, whenever parents believe additional family vacation times are needed, such days (not to exceed five total per year) may be taken without penalty. Family vacations are not to be taken during examination weeks (i.e. the five day period prior to the end of the first semester and the last five days of the school year). Both the student and the parent/guardian should complete a "pre arranged absence form" at least 10 days in advance.
13. Hunting: Students who go hunting should fill out a prearranged absence form at least two days in advance. Students will receive one day of excused absence for hunting with a note from the parents/guardians and a valid hunting license. More than one day per school year will be unexcused.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Since both campuses begin at the same time each morning, morning daycare begins from the time a child is dropped off until 7:45 a.m. At 7:45 a.m. children are dismissed to go to their classrooms. There is no "grace" period in the mornings due to the same starting times. If a child is not picked up by the time the last car goes through the carline, they are sent to daycare and will be charged beginning from 3:15 p.m. until the time they are picked up. (All daycare times are charged in 15 minute increments.) Before school care begins at 7:00 a.m. (unless otherwise set up with daycare staff) and ends at 7:45 a.m. After school care begins at 3:15 p.m. and concludes at 5:30 p.m.

Hourly Rates (subject to change from year to year), are invoiced monthly at an hourly rate in 15 minute increments.

Afterschool care begins at 3:15 p.m. After 5:30 p.m. our specified closing time, parents will be charged at the rate of \$10.00 per child in 15 minute increments. (Time is rounded up and begins at 5:31 p.m.) Late pick-up time will be invoiced and mailed the following day. Parents who are consistently late in picking up children will lose daycare privileges.

Names of persons authorized to pick up your child must be provided on the emergency daycare card. I.D. may be requested if persons are not recognized by our daycare staff.

PUPIL REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued four (4) times each year at the end of each nine weeks period. All fees and outstanding balances must be current to receive the student's report card at the end of the school year. If a family is not current, Blackbaud access will be locked two weeks prior to the end of the year.

Due to identified special educational needs, some students with administrative, parent and teacher agreement may have their educational program content modified. In such cases, grade cards will have a notation that the assigned work was modified.

GRADING SYSTEM

First Grade Grading Scale

Percentage Range	Letter Grade
98-100	O
90-97	S+
73-89	S
60-72	S-
59 or below	U

Grades 2-6 Grading Scale

A+	98-100
A	93-97
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 or below

N	=	Needs Improving
I	=	Is Improving
S	=	Satisfactory Progress
O	=	Outstanding
U	=	Unsatisfactory Progress

HONOR ROLL

Honor rolls will include academic subjects only (those where A-F grades are given). **Honor Roll** – All A's **Merit Roll** – All A's and B's

Honor roll is an indication that a student has reached an academic standard for their grade level. Students doing modified academic work are not eligible for honor rolls.

HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments of work outside of school by teachers to pupils shall be a direct outgrowth of classroom lessons and shall be given in reasonable amounts consistent with the age level and capabilities of the pupils involved. A progression of independent student homework responsibility throughout his/her school year and school career at GCS is expected.

Amount of Homework

The amount of time a student needs to do homework varies from day to day and from student to student. The faculty attempts to assign a reasonable amount of homework in light of the subject matter and the abilities and needs of the students. A common rule to follow is 10 minutes per grade. i.e. Kindergarten 10 min., 1st grade 20 min., etc.

Teachers are expected to give reasonable homework assignments with consideration being given to Wednesday-night church meetings and special church activities. At these times the homework load should be lighter.

Here are some ways you can help your child with his/her studies:

1. Parents should see that the students have an organized and complete list of assignments. A daily homework log book is very helpful in getting students organized.
2. Be sure the student is provided with a quiet, secluded study place. Check ventilation, lighting, heat, etc.
3. Keep distractions of any sort to a minimum. Any electronic device should be off if they bother the student. Phone calls and text messages should be limited and minimized.
4. The hours reserved for study should be planned, written out and held to as rigidly as possible to be effective.
5. Parents may need to check from time to time to see how much and what kind of work is being done. Showing this interest can be a help and encouragement in itself. Make certain, however, the child is working independently. If there is a problem, why not pray together about it? We also encourage you to communicate regularly with you children's teacher.
6. Be sure all necessary tools and materials for work are available including paper, pen or pencil, rulers, books, compasses, protractors and other helps.
7. Plan for regular 5-minute breaks in the study time. Do something stimulating every 30 to 60 minutes.
8. Emphasize learning and appreciation, not marks or grades. Reading and studying are as important as written assignments.

Make-Up Work

Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up work within a reasonable length of time. A reasonable length of time will be from one to five class days, depending on circumstances. Students should not expect teachers to delay tests or allow them extra time simply because they missed a day of school just before the test. Consideration will be given to students missing several days in a row or those obviously too ill to prepare for school. For normal two to three day illnesses, all work must be made up within five class days after returning to school. If not, the student receives an incomplete on report card; the work must be completed within 5 class days after returning to school.

Teachers will assist students in making up work. However, it is the student's responsibility to determine what work has been missed and see that it is made up. When a student has obviously delayed or put off work, the teacher is no longer technically obligated to assist the student in making up the work and a grade of 0 will be given. Students are not permitted to miss regularly scheduled classes in order to make-up work.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Gilead Christian School believes it is very important for school and home to work together. In order to promote effective communication and understanding, parents are asked to cooperate with the following guidelines:

1. School-wide conferences will be conducted following the first nine-week grading period and after the third nine-week grading period.
2. Teachers will also use letters, phone calls, Blackbaud, emails and regular progress reports as needed to communicate with the parents.
3. It is important that each parent schedules a conference with a teacher whenever a need or concern is evident. Parents should not feel limited to the personal conference. Many needs can be met through a simple conference between parent and teacher. Concerns need to be shared first between the parent and teacher. The principal is interested in all areas concerning students and the school and will be available for parent-teacher conferences following the initial parent-teacher contact.

STATEMENT ON BIBLE VERSIONS

Gilead Christian School recognizes the *New International Version* as the translation normally used in the classroom for study, quotation and memorization. This decision was made for several reasons:

- The modern language, grammar, syntax, and style
- The ease of reading
- The translation philosophy

The parents may request in writing an exception for use of another translation (not a paraphrase) by their child for memorization.

The use of the NIV is authorized for all grade levels on the date this policy is adopted by the board of education. The NIV will be included in the required materials list, for the second grade where each student will be given a copy included as a result of his/her tuition.

TEXTBOOK CARE

Students should treat all textbooks with care (especially school-owned, non-consumable books) that will be used from year to year.

It is recommended that students use book covers on their own hardback Bibles to prolong their life.

Textbooks, which have been neglected, abused excessively or lost, will need to be replaced at the student's expense. Students will be invoiced for replacement cost of lost or replaced books. Payment must be made prior to student receiving their grade card at the end of the school year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Through these communication methods, we are building routines that students will need throughout their school career and future.

Elementary Student Folders: All teachers will send home student work throughout the week with their weekly papers and other important communications. The Eagle News is a weekly communication letter that will contain important information for infant/toddler thru 12 and will be emailed to parents. Please check your child's folder daily and return the folder with the student the following day.

School information website: www.gileadchristianschool.org

Check the GCS website, Facebook, or Blackbaud for the most current information on school and athletic events.

PARENT/SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP: THE MATTHEW 18 PRINCIPLE

Gilead Christian School is made up of people –parents, administrators, teachers, board members, and students. Like any other institution where you have a large group of people, you have the potential for misunderstanding, disagreement, and even wrongdoing. Nevertheless, it is God's will that we all work together in harmony. When misunderstandings or strong disagreements occur, the following principles should be followed in solving people-to-people problems. These principles are based in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-17.

KEEP THE MATTER CONFIDENTIAL

The very pattern of sharing the problem only with those directly involved establishes the principle of confidentiality. This is important in that it stops gossip and statements, which can hurt.

KEEP THE CIRCLE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE

The first step and usually the only step needed in solving a person-to-person problem is for one of the two people involved to initiate face to face dialogue. Most problems are solved at the two people level.

BE STRAIGHTFORWARD

Sometimes it is difficult to be straightforward and tell someone the very heart of the matter. But restoration and improvement can only come when the issues are lovingly and clearly presented.

BE FORGIVING

“...If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.” This implies that once the matter is resolved, you should wholeheartedly forgive and restore the person whose fault has caused the problem.

-But, if the problem hasn't been resolved, the persons involved should agree to share the matter with the school principal and/or administrator.

“...Take with thee one or two, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every work may be established.” An open and honest discussion among people who are sensitive to godly principles will most often reach an amicable solution.

-But, if it hasn't been reached, the school administrator should explain the problem to the president of the school board, who will then have input on how the matter will be presented to the board or resolve the issues with the administrator and others involved and then report to the board at the next meeting.

Depending on the complexity of the problem, it may be appropriate for the board to request a special board meeting. The goal of such a high level meeting is to:

- Have a clear understanding of the problem.
- Offer a solution or solutions for resolving the problem.
- Give reproof and correction if necessary.
- Give forgiveness and wholehearted restoration of those who have made amends.

In summary, the Matthew 18 principle requires that parents talk to teachers about students' problems before they talk to administrators. Also, in-house problems should be discussed between individual staff members, before they talk to the administrator.

A prayerful systematic approach to any problem dealing with people can help to improve any situation, if not solve the problem completely. GCS is a Christian school and as a result, we need to especially handle our problems the best way possible with guidelines that lead us to a “good report”.

ACHIEVEMENT AND MENTAL MATURITY TESTS

Achievement tests will be given in the spring of the school year. The IOWA Achievement test is given to grades K-6. Cognitive testing will be given as determined by the guidance counselor.

State law provides for special needs tests to be paid for by the district in which the private school resides.

DRESS CODE

It is the desire of Gilead Christian School that our students live and conduct themselves in a manner that will be pleasing to God and glorifying to the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Standards for appearance are a means of building character and distinction in the lives of our students. The code is not intended to measure spirituality, but rather to serve as a tool in fostering the academic and character development of the students as they participate in their education. The standard of dress at Gilead Christian Schools is designed to reflect modesty, neatness, and moderation.

Decisions regarding clothing choices are, at times, very complex. Because styles change frequently, we cannot anticipate and cover every possible fashion style ahead of time. Developing a dress code that is all encompassing is nearly impossible. **In all dress code issues, the administration reserves the right to make the final decisions on the appropriateness of clothing and appearance. The administration also reserves the right to make adjustments to the dress code should the need arise.**

We recognize that families and school officials interpret the dress code in a different manner. We realize that consistency and fairness are vital to having an effective dress code. To that end, the following guidelines should provide a better understanding of what is acceptable.

General Guidelines:

- Parents are expected to be the first to enforce the GCS dress code.
- Students are expected to arrive on campus in dress code appropriate clothing and ready for class.
- All clothing should be clean and in good repair. Clothing with holes, rips, or tears should not be worn.
- GCS campus wear must be free of all logos other than school logos approved by the administration.
- Shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be knee length which is defined as top of the knee when standing up. Leggings and tights may only be worn under knee-length skirts or jumpers.
- Jackets, coats, sweatshirts (hooded, pullover, or zippered), or shirts worn as jackets and other forms of outer wear may not be worn during the school day.
- GCS uniform fleece/hoodie may be worn during school hours with a polo shirt underneath.
- All students must wear footwear. Elementary students must wear closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes for safety reasons.
- Dress and hair should not be distracting to teachers or students. Hair should be of natural color, clean, and neatly maintained.
- Boys must have hair off of the collar and ears and be clean shaven.
- Hats and bandanas will not be worn in the building.
- Tattoos and body piercings are not permitted for any school event. Earrings are only acceptable to be worn by girls.

Spirit-Wear Days

- Every Friday, unless otherwise indicated, students may wear school approved pants or jeans with their Spirit Wear (GCS labeled shirts/sweatshirts).
- Students who choose not to wear GCS Spirit Wear must dress in the regular school uniform.

Spirit Wear

- School logo items may be available to purchase at Embroidery Warehouse located in Edison, OH.

North Campus Chapel

- Students are allowed to dress-up on chapel day (Wednesday) in their “Sunday best”. Knee length skirts and a nice shirt or knee length dresses (no spaghetti straps) are acceptable for girls and boys can wear dress pants and a nice button up dress shirt with a collar instead of a polo shirt.

Outside Recess Guidelines

- Elementary will follow the following guidelines for outside wear during recess:
 - 60 and above-no jacket needed
 - 45-59-jacket or sweatshirt
 - 21-44-snow-coat, hat, mittens, boots, and snow pants

Field Trip and Special Events Attire

- We dress for the occasion. Notices will be sent home before the event. Please make sure your student knows what to wear. Appropriateness and modesty is a must.

Gym Day Dress Code

- Tennis shoes for gym days MUST be non-marking. This will ensure we are being good stewards of the floors God has provided for us. If students do not have proper footwear for gym, students will not participate. Sweatpants are permitted on gym days. Exceptions to this would be tear away pants (pants with buttons down the side to open up the legs) and wind pants (pants that are noisy when you walk).

Elementary Guidelines: K-6th

Item	Style	Description
Shirts	Polo: Long/Short Sleeve Oxfords: Long/Short Sleeve	Polo: Any solid color* Oxford: White or light blue* *GCS approved logo permitted (not required), NO OTHER LOGOS
Sweaters	Cardigan, Sweater, Sweater Vest, GCS Approved Fleece	Sweaters: white, navy, maroon, or gray* *GCS approved logo permitted (not required), NO OTHER LOGOS Fleece: black, gray, navy, or maroon (<i>GCS approved logo required</i>)
Pants	Jeans, Capri, Khaki	No holes or rips and they must fit properly
Shorts	Knee length	Jean (<i>no cut offs</i>), khaki, solid color. (<i>no holes or rips and they must fit properly</i>)
Skirts or Jumpers	Knee-length, Uniform Skirt or Jumper	Skirts: School plaid, khaki, black, or navy Jumpers: School plaid only

DRESS FOR OUTSIDE RECESS

During the winter months always make sure your child has warm clothing and boots for recess outdoors. In cold weather we will not go outside if the temperature is below 20 degrees (or the wind chill), but always dress your child as if we will go out. If the class goes out, so will your child. Students will not remain inside without supervision. We will follow the general guidelines for weather and what is considered appropriate dress:

- 60 and above: no jacket
- 45-59: jacket or sweatshirt only
- 21-44: snow:coat, hat, mittens, boots and snow pants

GENERAL SCHOOL RULES

1. Listen to the person in supervision.
 - a. Close the mouth.
 - b. Open the eyes and ears.
2. Obey the person in supervision.
3. Obey all posted rules.

SPECIFIC SCHOOL RULES

- a. No running in the classrooms or hallways. Please walk quietly!
- b. School property, buildings and equipment must be kept neat and clean at all times.
- c. Fighting, wrestling, pushing, scratching or biting playfully or intentionally will not be tolerated.
- d. Guns, toys from home, and gum are not allowed. This includes electronic games, headphones, phones, etc.
- e. Loud talking or yelling is not allowed indoors.
- f. No objects such as stones, sticks or toys are to be thrown or brought to school/inside after recess.
- g. Items such as playing cards, baseball cards, etc. that cause undue distraction at school should be left at home.

INTERNET POLICY

Please read carefully before signing the Internet Usage Permission Form.

Internet access is available to students, faculty and staff at GCS.

GCS is pleased to provide this access and believes the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources and is a privilege from which everyone can reap tremendous rewards. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in our school by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Every person desiring access must have a signed Internet Usage Permission Form on file to use our computers for accessing the Internet and its various services. Students can have limited access to:

- The Worldwide Web (www) for research purposes.
- Many Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress and College/University information systems.

With Internet access to people all over the world comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting morally, ethically or spiritually. GCS has taken precautions to restrict access to many controversial materials by installing a filtering server. Materials available on the Internet can include those of sexual behavior, violence, offensive language, etc. However, because of daily changes on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. These materials would not likely be found accidentally while doing normal research; a user would have to intentionally look for them. We at GCS firmly believe that valuable information available on the Internet far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational and spiritual goals of the school.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a GCS user violates any of these provisions, he or she will be subject to school discipline which can include: school suspension, or expulsion, termination of their Internet account and/or denial of future use of GCS computers. The signatures on the Internet Usage Permission Form are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance and indicate approval.

Internet - Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable Use** - The purpose of GCS Internet access is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of GCS. Transmission of any material in violation of any international, U.S., state regulation or school use policy is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
2. **Privileges** - The use of GCS computers and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use can result in a cancellation of those privileges. The school administration will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the administration may close an account or deny access at any time as required. The administration, faculty, or staff of GCS may request the administration to deny, revoke, or suspend specific users.
3. **Network Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - Do not make any changes or modifications to computer programs or setups on GCS computers or any others that are accessible through the Internet.
 - Students who do not have permission to access the Internet should not be allowed to watch another student access the Internet.
 - All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
4. GCS makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The school, its operators, and any institutions with which it is affiliated will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. GCS specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
5. **Security** – We have a monitoring security system set up on all of our school networks but it does not replace parental guidance and monitoring of your child’s use on their Chromebook. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the school network, you must notify a staff member in charge. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Attempts to log on to the network as a system administrator or faculty or staff, or attempting to evade, disable or “crack” passwords or other security provisions, will result in cancellation of user privileges and possible suspension or expulsion. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet as well as any computer at GCS.
6. **Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware or data of another user, the school, Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to the GCS Internet backbone. This includes, but not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, modifying computer programs or files, or making changes to GCS computer setups or programs. You do NOT have permission to install any software programs or download and save any programs from the Internet to computers at GCS. You do NOT have permission to hook up any devices (except headphones) to any GCS computer or to the GCS network.

FOR THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

1. Read Internet Usage Policy
2. Any violation of the regulations included is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense.
3. Personally discuss the agreement with your son/daughter and make them aware of the conditions and consequences of its use/misuse.
4. Understand that it is impossible for GCS administrators, faculty and staff to monitor or restrict access to all controversial materials when students are given access to the Internet.
5. *By signing the authorization statement you release GCS, its operators, and any institutions with which it is affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature which may arise from my son’s/daughter’s use, or inability to use this access.
6. This approval will remain in effect during this school year unless cancellation is submitted in writing by the parent/guardian or canceled by the administration.

FOR THE STUDENT:

1. Read Internet Usage Policy and agree to follow this agreement completely.
2. Do not access forbidden information, do not install any software programs, and do not change or modify any computer setups or programs belonging to GCS or any other facility.
3. Checking personal email accounts, instant messaging, entering chat rooms, Facebook, personal web pages and game playing is prohibited.
4. Students must immediately notify a staff member in charge if a security problem is discovered.

5. Should you commit any violation, your access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.
6. Understand that general student guidelines always apply.

**A signed copy of this form must be on file at time of enrollment.*

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

We believe that any non-medical involvement (i.e. consumption, procurement, provision) with controlled substances, or material generally acknowledged to be harmful to an individual's physical, spiritual, or psychological health is inconsistent with the Christian lifestyle.

Although Scripture does not speak directly to the problem of drug abuse, it does instruct individuals in the maintenance of healthful lifestyles and avoidance of harmful indulgences and excesses.

Furthermore, since drug involvement is specifically defined and prohibited under Ohio and Federal Criminal Laws, its avoidance is implied by the Biblical injunction to be subject to our governmental authorities. The Scripture gives us guidelines in this situation. Romans 13:1-7 instructs us to be subject to the civil authorities ordained of God. In obedience to the Scripture, we have checked with the civil authorities and find that "crime is committed when drugs are sold or in some cases possessed." The official position for GCS is then to report all such violations to the local law enforcement agencies as well as consider what action that we as an institution must take in reference to that student's future at GCS.

Total abstinence and absence (use or possession) from tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and non-prescribed use of drugs is expected of all students at all times. Students taking medicine or prescribed drugs are to follow school written guidelines. (1Corinthians 6:19,20; 1 Corinthians 8:9)

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not to be used by GCS elementary students during the school day (8am – 3pm). Cell phones should be turned off and left in lockers, or in the school office. The school is not responsible for any student's cell phone. Any student who uses a cell phone during the school day without prior authorization from school administration will have that cell phone confiscated, and the phone may be picked up in the office at the conclusion of the school day. School phones are not to be used during before or after school care as well. They should be left in their book bags or given to whomever is in charge.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Full lunches will be offered for our elementary students. The menus will be posted in the weekly newsletter every Friday. The 4th-6th grade students are permitted to order an extra entrée for an additional charge, with a parent's permission. All meal fees will be added to the family Smart Tuition account. **We do NOT provide free or reduced meals.**

LUNCHROOM RULES & HEALTHY SNACK/LUNCH

- a. At lunchtime, remain seated at your own table during the entire meal unless given permission to move.
- b. Pick up all paper or trash after eating and dispose of it properly when you are dismissed.
- c. Talk only to those people at your table during lunch.
- d. Eat your own food.
- e. If packing, please pack a balanced lunch for your child.
- f. Packed lunches can only be warmed up after being cooked at home first. Please do not pack frozen meals.
- g. Do not leave the table until your dismissal time.
- h. While waiting for your teacher, follow hallway procedures.
- i. Any lunch time visits must be pre-arranged with teacher/office.
- j. Please send a HEALTHY snack in for your child's classroom snack.

TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

GCS does not provide transportation to and from school. Some public school districts provide transportation to our school and others provide an "in-lieu-of" reimbursement to parents. **Contact your public school district office for information and requirements.** It is also important to let the GCS school office know if you change school districts during the school year.

Standards of behavior expected while at school also apply while waiting for, riding on, or departing from school buses. In addition, each public school district providing bus transportation may have other guidelines. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action by GCS and may also result in suspension of bus privilege by the providing school district.

BUS GUIDELINES

1. Be at bus stop on time (or 5 minutes before).
2. No misbehaving at bus stop - be respectful of property and others waiting for the bus.
3. Board the bus in an orderly manner taking an assigned seat or the first available seat.
4. Remain seated during the entire ride.
5. Talk at a conversational level - No shouting or rowdy behavior.
6. No talking/noise at railroad crossings or other danger points.
7. Do not extend any body parts out the windows.
8. Do not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus.
9. No eating or drinking on the bus.
10. Do not transport animals or pets, weapons or hazardous items. Keep carry-on items to a minimum.
11. The bus driver is in charge! Obey the driver's instructions. Report any problems to the driver.
12. Do not leave seat until bus has come to a complete stop.
13. For afternoon dismissal: come to the front hallway. Remain quiet and orderly until your bus arrives. Do not leave the hallway or enter other areas without permission from bus supervisor. Board the bus in an orderly manner once it arrives.

WALKERS

Students who are walking will be released from the front of the building. Students should go directly to their destination when released.

CARLINE

Most of the students will be released from the rear of the school in carline. They will be dismissed after being called by the teachers on duty. Please show your GCS carline pass in your car window that shows your name so the teacher will know who to call.

HEALTH OF STUDENTS

A. HEALTH RECORDS

Health records for each student shall be kept on file at the school. These shall include:

1. Record of immunizations (including exemption forms)
2. Eye tests
3. Hearing tests
4. Medication forms (administered at school)
5. Physical forms

B. COMMON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The following is a list of regulations adopted for the control of contagious diseases. These regulations are for your protection. Please give full compliance.

1. Regular Measles: Exclusions from school for six days from the onset of the rash. Re-admission to school with note from parent.
2. German Measles: Exclusions from school for four weeks from onset. Re-admission to school with a note from parent.
3. Whooping Cough: Exclusions from school for four weeks from onset. Re-admission to school with a note from parent.
4. Chicken Pox: Exclusion from school until all pox marks are dry and child is free of fever. Re-admission to school with note from parent.
5. Mumps: Exclusions from school until fever is gone. Re-admission to school with a note from parent.
6. Respiratory Streptococcal Infection including Scarlet Fever: Exclusions from school for not less than seven days. Re-admission to school with a certificate of recovery from physician.
7. Tonsillitis: Exclusions from school and re-admission with note from the parent.
8. Impetigo Contagiosa: Exclusions from school and re-admission with note from parent.
9. Scabies: Exclusion from school and re-admission with certificate of recovery from physician.
10. Tines Circinta: (Ring Worm) Exclusion from school and re-admission with a certificate of recovery from the physician.
11. Lice: Exclusion from school until treated and release by Health department. Head checks may be done at the discretion of the school
12. Pink Eye: (Conjunctivitis) Isolate eye discharge/reddening is noted. Exclusion for 24 hours with appropriate antibiotic treatment. Re-admission with parental note.
13. Flu: Exclusion of children with fever above 100 degrees, diarrhea or vomiting, and those who feel ill. Re-admission after 24 hours symptom free with parental note.

14. There are many other infectious diseases of various severity categorized by the Ohio Department of Health. The protocol for these will be followed as per instructions found on the Ohio Department Health Communicable Disease Chart.
- C. **MEDICATION** Policy for Prescribed and Non-Prescribed Medications:
1. Students are not to bring any medication to school unless it is absolutely necessary.
 2. If a student must bring a prescribed or non-prescribed medication to school, the school must have a written and signed form with the parent's instructions and their permission to take the medication. The **MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RECORD** forms are available in the office.
 3. Prescription medication must come in original packaging with the prescription label.
 4. Prescribed and non-prescribed medication must not be expired.
 5. If the student needs to self-carry their prescribed emergency medication, both the parent and the prescriber must fill out and sign an **AUTHORIZATION TO SELF-CARRY** form available in the school office.
 6. The office personnel must be given the form and administer the medicine at the proper time. Administered medication will be documented.
 7. Medication will be kept locked in a safe place in the school clinic/office. If refrigeration is required, the medication will be stored in the refrigerator away from any food.
 8. No student may, at any time, give medication to another student.
- D. **Peanut & Tree Nut Allergy** (a copy of Gilead Christian School's policy is available upon request)

CLASS PARTIES/CELEBRATIONS

Elementary (K-6) class parties will be held at Christmas and Valentine's Day. Other special occasions may be celebrated in your child's room such as Thanksgiving and Easter. Teachers will be in charge of planning their parties or requesting for parents to help.

Birthdays may be celebrated with a special treat from the child. Parents need to inform the teacher in advance of any celebrations so that they are fully informed of the intent and type of party. All students per grade are to be included in the celebration.

Please be aware that our school board has a policy, which states that, our school "in no way promotes, enhances, or celebrates Halloween in school activities." We recognize that as a school family, we are united in Christ and made up of individuals who do not always share the same convictions on specific issues. We ask, however, that each one be sensitive to and respectful of others. Please do not send in any items to school, which are not in accordance with school board policy.

FIELD TRIPS

Before participating, each pupil must have an emergency card on file for the current school year, and a permission slip signed by the parent or guardian. Parents will be notified of planned field trips and proper dress required.

Students are expected to represent our school and be a good Christian witness in appearance, word, and deed.

The school asks that parent chaperones do not bring siblings on field trips for which they have volunteered to assist a teacher with a class. This is for the safety of the sibling as well as for the students that the parent is chaperoning.

VISITORS

Visitors are always welcome and **must** sign in at the school office upon their arrival and departure. All visits must be pre-arranged with the teacher or school office prior to arrival. Parents must wait in the office until the teacher has given permission through the office for visitors to come to the classroom.

LOST ARTICLES

All unclaimed articles will be kept in the "Lost & Found" in the school office. At Christmas Break and again at the end of the school year, all unclaimed items will be donated to the less fortunate.

FIRE, TORNADO AND SAFETY DRILLS

Monthly throughout the year, there will be fire drills. Tornado drills will also take place in the spring. When the fire signal sounds, the students and teachers should leave the building as shown on the posted exit charts in each classroom. Students and teachers are to remain in the designated area until instructed to return to the building. When a tornado drill takes place, students will crouch in the "duck and cover" position in prior designated areas as assigned to the teachers at the beginning of the year. Safety drills are required at least once per year in order to practice lock-down procedures.

PLAYGROUND RULES

These are the rules we ask our teachers/playground supervisors to enforce with the students when they are at recess on our playground. The student should:

- Most importantly remember the GOLDEN RULE!!
- Always be able to see the teacher/person in charge.
- Never go behind the school building or outside of the fenced area of the playground without the teacher's permission.
- Stay out of water and mud whenever possible.

Slide rules to be enforced by teachers/playground supervisors:

- Children should go down slide on their seat only.
- Don't walk up the slide.
- Don't put stones on the slide.
- Don't hang on the slide support bars.

Swing rules to be enforced by teachers/playground supervisors:

- Children should not twist while swinging.
- Don't jump out of the swing while it is in motion.
- Must swing with seat in swing, not lying on stomach.
- No double swinging.

Monkey bar rules to be enforced by teachers/playground supervisors:

- Stay off the top of the bars.
- Do not hang upside down from bars.

Additional playground rules:

- Do not throw stones.
- Don't pick up or play with sticks.

Baseball:

- Stay in designated area.
- Only use tennis balls and play "catch" as opposed to "pitcher/catcher."
- Bats may only be used during teacher organized and supervised games of baseball.

Football:

- Stay in designated area.
- No tackle football allowed (touch or flag only).

Soccer:

- Kick the ball with the side of foot.
- Aim for knee or below.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

In the event that school must be closed or delayed because of weather conditions or other reasons, the school will notify the parents by the following:

1. The Administrator will place a call using the Pre-K through 12 notification system. (TRZ)
2. The closing or delay will be posted on Blackbaud as well as our social media outlets.
3. The television stations listed below will be notified:

WBNS - TV	Columbus	Channel 10
WNBC - TV	Columbus	Channel 4
WTVN - TV	Columbus	Channel 6

If a student arrives late due to weather conditions, they will not be counted as tardy; however, they must bring a note from their parent/guardian.

DELAY SCHEDULE

The Early Childhood Center and K-12 may follow a 1-2 hour delay schedule when weather conditions warrant. In the event of school delays or closings, the Early Childhood Center will communicate its schedule to its families.