Christian Star Academy



Handbook

2023-2024

Christian Star Academy

7 E. Sugar Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Phone: 740-393-0251 * Fax: 740-393-0067 email: csa_mv@yahoo.com

web: www.csaedu.org



Celebrating over 40 years of serving the Lord

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the policies, philosophy, and organization of Christian Star Academy. We regard it as a privilege to assist you in the education of your child, and we want to strengthen the bonds between home and school because when parents and teachers work together in harmony, then the child receives the maximum benefits of a Christian education. This harmony will promote greater growth intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and socially.

This handbook will not answer all the questions concerning school matters. When you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the Administrator. Board member contact information is listed on the school's roster for your reference and as a reminder to keep them in prayer as they do the same for the CSA families. Prayerful support is the absolute best support we can give one another.

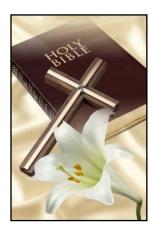
Always remember that the sole purpose for the existence of Christian Star Academy is for you and your children. May our partnership be strong and fruitful.

Building a brighter future—one successful child at a time!

Suzanne (Miss Sue) Feasel – 740-398-2721 Administrator and Teacher

Notice to all interested in Christian Star Academy. We admit students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate because of race, color, and national or ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and other school-administered programs.

CHRISTIAN STAR ACADEMY'S MISSION STATEMENT



In preparing youth for life in the changing society of today, our mission at Christian Star Academy is to support the Christ-centered home as the foundation for educating the whole child as a steward accountable to God. Such an education must be formed upon the absolute authority of God's Word as found in the Scriptures.

It is the belief of both the parents and educators at Christian Star Academy that it is our God-given directive to educate the whole child. We must promote total development and stewardship by providing opportunities and encouragement to grow as a responsible and contributing citizen.

CODE OF CONDUCT

At Christian Star Academy our aim is to help students develop a sense of self-discipline and personal responsibility. Briefly, we want students to deepen their love for God and frequently recall: "What you do to others, you do to Me."

Rules of Respect:

- 1) Respect my own person and rights.
- 2) Respect all other persons and their rights.
- 3) Respect property.
- 4) Respect all authority.

The Lord's greatest two commandments are used as the basis to reinforce good behavior while helping each student learn self-discipline to replace undesirable behavior with what is in accordance with these commandments. Love the Lord with all your mind, heart, and soul and secondly to love your neighbor as yourself.

Violations to the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" can result in bullying. At Christian Star Academy, bullying includes the intentional and repeated disrespect of another physically, socially, or emotionally. It is the Administration's goal to maintain a constant safe haven for all present at Christian Star Academy. This includes all students and staff members. Many of CSA's students have come from an academic environment where they have been bullied. It is now crucial for these students to be able to recover from this negative situation and for them to be allowed to heal. For the continued protection of these vulnerable students and all others, there will be a zero tolerance for bullying of any type. The staff will daily make use of every opportunity to educate the students on what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself." Every occurrence of any type of violation to this will be taken seriously enough for immediate action by the staff/administration. The consequences of bullying will be proportional to the nature of the offense. The goal is to educate the violator to the offensiveness of the behavior and to bring about a restoring of the broken relationship through the demonstration of remorse and the asking for forgiveness in a true Christ-like manner.

Because we live in an imperfect world, minor difficulties between pupils and their teachers will inevitably occur. Misunderstandings, mistakes of judgment, or personality conflicts, are certain to arise in any situation involving human beings.

Parents can use these episodes intelligently and maturely to teach their children some important practical truths or they can react in excitement and anger to make the incident painful and destructive for all involved. Nobody gains and the child loses most of all.

Grant all teachers and staff the kind of courtesy and respect their position deserves. After all, you have entrusted them with your most valued possessions. Confer with Miss Sue regularly. The school is **for** your child, not against him. If there is some question about injustice or fairness in a particular incident, discuss it first with the Miss Sue, not with others who have no knowledge of the incident.

School Hours: 8:45 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Arrival: No earlier than 8:30 a.m.

Students must enter by the alley door.

Pickup: No later than 4:10 p.m. - you must call if later than 4:15 p.m.

NOTE: At no time should a parent park/stop their vehicle by the alley door. If you arrive and the alley door is locked, simply ring the doorbell at the alley door; listen for our communication with you telling you the door has been unlocked for you to enter.

TUITION

The following is the breakdown for the 2023-2024 tuition:

Tuition per Child: \$4,500.00

We are not able to give discounts but encourage parents to considered the Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship provided by the state or possibly the Ed Choice Scholarship depending on your home school district

Payment options:

- •Payment up front in full amount by July 1st
- •Quarterly payments—1st quarter payment due July 1st, 2nd quarter payment due September 20, 3rd quarter payment due December 20, and the 4th quarter payment due March 20
- •Semi-Annual Payments—1st payment due July 1st, 2nd payment due December 20th
- •12 Equal Monthly Payments—First payment will be due by June 15th and each following monthly payment will be due by the 15th, of the months July through May of that school year.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

All parents registering their children in Christian Star Academy must meet the requirements of the State Department of Health in obtaining and maintaining the necessary immunizations for their children. Please make sure your child(ren) is up-to-date on their shots. Exceptions are recognized with the written authorization of the family doctor.

PHYSICALS

All new students need a physical signed by a physician upon admission to Christian Star Academy. This may be on the school's form or another, but must include a statement that the student is free of communicable disease. Physical should be updated as needed.







ATTENDANCE

Excusing students from school attendance for other than personal illness requires the direct permission of the principal. In the event of a student's illness, the <u>parents/guardians are</u> <u>asked to contact the school</u> either the preceding evening or by 8:00 a.m. or the day of the student's absence. It is state law that the school be contacted in the event of a student's absence. Failure to do so necessitates an added burden on the staff as we are obligated to make contact with a parent/guardian in regards to the student's absence.

In the event of a child's illness or medical treatment while at school, parents/guardians are notified immediately by phone. Emergency file forms are updated each year.

Please complete the <u>ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FORM</u> as soon as you know your child will be absent, picked up early, or will arrive late to school. Do not wait until the day of occurrence to provide this information.

TARDINESS

Tardiness will be recorded in minutes and hours to better keep track of how much school time is missed. A record of tardiness and absenteeism will be kept in each child's permanent record as directed by the Ohio State Board of Education.



As stated in CSA's mission statement we are striving to encourage your child "to grow as a responsible and contributing citizen." Making sure your child is here on time and understands the importance of being on time plays an important role in helping them develop respect for others.

CSA ILLNESS GUIDELINES

As stated in Ohio Revised Code, the following precautions shall be taken for children suspected of having a communicable disease:

- 1. The program shall immediately notify the parent or guardian of the child's condition when a child has been observed with signs or symptoms of illness.
- 2. A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated and discharged to his parent or guardian:
 - A. Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a twenty-four-hour period);
 - B. Severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound;
 - C. Difficult or rapid breathing;
 - D. Yellowish skin or eyes;
 - E. Conjunctivitis:
 - F. Temperature of 100° Fahrenheit when in combination with other signs of illness;
 - G. Untreated infected skin patch(es);
 - H. Unusually dark urine and/or grey or white stool;
 - I. Stiff neck.
- 3. A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated from other children. Decisions regarding whether the child should be discharged immediately or at some other time during the day shall be determined by the director and the parent or guardian. The child, while isolated at the program, shall be carefully watched for symptoms listed in paragraph 2 of this rule as well as the following:
 - A. Unusual spots or rashes;
 - B. Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing;
 - C. Elevated temperature;
 - D. Vomiting;
 - E. Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation

4. Programs shall follow the Ohio Department of Health "Child Day Care Communicable Disease Chart" for the appropriate management of suspected illness.

CSA follows these guidelines as mandated by law. We strive to prevent passing communicable disease throughout the school. In effort to limit passing germs, we ask that you please be sure that your children are *well* when they come to school *and* when they return to school after an illness. When deciding whether or not to send your child to school, please be sure you ask yourself, "Is he/she *well*?" and then decide. However, if you ask yourself, "Is he/she *well* enough to go to school?" they probably aren't. Students who come to school when they are "well enough" don't benefit much from that day and they spread germs to other students and staff. Viruses are very easily spread and are usually airborne. Below are some guidelines to follow.

Anyone with a fever over 100° Fahrenheit is contagious until that temperature remains below 100° for a minimum of 24 hours. He/she should not return to school until the fever has been gone without the use of Tylenol, Ibuprofen, or similar medication for 24 hours.

- Students with a cough who don't cover their mouths are contagious to everyone in the room; therefore, children should not come to school when their cough is frequent. (Those who can cover their mouths are contagious, but less so if they very frequently wash their hands.)
- After having a flu/stomach virus, students should not return to school until able to eat two regular meals without nausea or vomiting.
- As stated above, children with diarrhea should not come to school until they have had only one loose stool in the last 24 hours.

We know that with so many families having one or both parents working outside of the home, it is sometimes difficult to keep a sick child home, especially if he/she isn't "that sick." Please keep in mind that the probability of your child passing the illness on to other children is high. While the virus is going through the class, your child is likely to get it again.

If your child should begin to exhibit any of the above symptoms while at school, we will notify you immediately. If we are unable to notify you, we will call the other numbers on your child's emergency form. Your child will be isolated until you can get to school. The final decision of whether or not a child is well enough to be at school will be made by the principal.

We thank you in advance for your help in preventing the spread of contagious disease in our school.

NOTE: ALL medicine must be turned into Miss Sue with necessary form. At no time should a student have medicine in his/her possession.



SCHOOL CANCELLATION

There are circumstances where CSA's closing due to bad weather or other circumstances will be different than Mount Vernon City Schools. Please be advised that CSA families will be notified of any school closures via the ParentSquare App. Please refer to the last page of the handbook on how to get signed up.

CELL PHONE / ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED ON THE STUDENT. I will gladly either pass an important message on to your child or let you talk with him/her. Call my cell phone for this and all other messages for your child or me. (740) 398-2721

PHONES WILL BE TURNED OFF AND KEPT IN YOUR CHILD'S MAILBOX/CUBBY.

Phones are not to be kept in the basement or in any other location

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE

A change of address or telephone number (home or work) should be reported immediately to the school. This is important for our records and for emergencies.

TESTING PROGRAMS



Students participate in our yearly testing program. We will also participate in the proficiency testing programs. Parents will receive graphs/reports from these tests at the final Parent/Teacher conference of the year.

DRESS CODE

Christian Star Academy's dress code keeps in mind your child's safety and comfort. It is asked that you please send your child to school with a clean body and clean clothes. It is important that your child develops self-pride. This can begin by the child feeling good about his appearance. New clothes are **not** required or necessary. Clean and hole-free hand-me-downs are very acceptable by all. Self-pride in appearance carries over into other areas of your children's lives (hopefully academic areas). No article of clothing should display any characters that depict violence or inappropriate characters or themes. What message is your child displaying to classmates and others outside of CSA by what they wear? Our goal is to help your child develop into a sound Christian, eliminating distractions to this goal can only be a plus. A good rule of thumb—would Jesus wear it?

Parents, please keep the following in mind as you plan your child's wardrobe:

Acceptable Dress (Please read carefully with your child.)



<u>clean, non-baggy, non-floor dragging pants (for safety & cleanliness), hole-free clothing</u> (patches are fine)

- * **knee length or longer shorts** in warm weather (no unhemmed cut-off shorts or jeans)
- * **skirts should be no shorter than knee length**. Girls should wear shorts under their skirts when not wearing tights. Girls of all ages will be sitting on the floor and modesty is a must!
- * shoes and socks must be worn by everyone in the building at all times
- * an extra pair of shoes should be brought and kept at school for wearing indoors only (Please see the list below for shoes that shoes that shoes that shoes that <a href="mailto:shoes would be just fine. Shoes with nonskid soles work well. NOTE: for June Sept. 30 ONLY: closed-toe sandals with ankle straps are acceptable for inside wear only with socks or stockings. NO OTHER TYPE OF SANDALS WILL BE ACCEPTED
- * Hair should be clean and neatly combed (Style and color should not be a distraction.)

<u>Unacceptable Dress</u>

- * Shoes that don't fit the student's foot correctly.
- * Slippers
- * cowboy boots (acceptable for outdoor wear only)
- * sandals or any open-toe shoe (not acceptable for indoor or outdoor), with the above exception
- * crocks or clogs without a heel strap (Students frequently use the stairways and we want them to maneuver the steps safely.)
- * belly shirts, muscle or tops with narrow straps, fish-net tops, tight tops or tight pants, (Modesty is a priority at CSA. This should not be looked upon as a negative but a blessing for all. As Christians, it is our duty not to lead others into temptation WWJD.)
- * black, jeweled or glitter nail polish, rings (exception: one solid band ring will be allowed per hand), no large hoop earrings, no body piercings other than ears for girls
- * Since our goal is to help your child develop into a sound Christian, eliminating the distraction of excessive jewelry can only be a plus.
- * no face, hair, or body glitter or sparkles,
- * no tattoos of any kind, including washable tattoos
- * any face makeup that hides God's gift of natural beauty (any makeup that's worn should be so light and natural it's not even noticeable.)

The staff has agreed to abide by this same dress code, striving to be good examples to the students.







Christian Star Academy's Anti-Bullying Policy

Biblical illustration of relationships:

- John 15:12 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."
- Matthew 18 Principle

RATIONALE: To instill biblical principles/values and create a more loving environment, our school has adopted this policy. From time to time, conflict can occur. Christian Star Academy realizes that while bullying may occur, it is never acceptable. **We have zero tolerance for such conduct** and consistent with this policy a true violation will result in appropriate disciplinary action. We seek to implement a clear framework for dealing with bullying incidents in order to protect our students and help the bully learn how to relate in a way that is in line with biblical standards.

DEFINITION: Bullying occurs when a person or group is intimidated, frightened, excluded, or hurt by a pattern of behaviors directed at them by others. (Greg Griffiths, "Bullying in Schools—The Hidden Curriculum" (2003). **The following actions in an <u>ongoing form</u> may be types of bullying and are included in all references to "bullying" herein:**

- Physical aggression including hitting, punching, kicking
- Teasing or verbal abuse including insults, name calling, or racial/sexual remarks
- Intentional exclusion from activities or friendship groups
- The setting up of humiliating experiences
- Damaging a person's property/possessions or taking them without permission
- Threatening gestures, actions, or words
- Written/verbal/electronic messages that contain threats, putdowns, gossip, or slander
- Cyber bullying through Facebook, texting, tweeting, Instagram, or other electronic means

POLICY STATEMENT: From time to time in a community such as a school, conflict and offense can occur. As part of living in a sinful world, bullying can result when we don't always relate to others as we should or when people try to exert power and influence over others. CSA realizes that while bullying may occur, it is never acceptable and CSA seeks to implement a clear framework for dealing with bullying incidents. The school's response to bullying is based on the pattern of relating to one another found in the Bible. God intended for us to live in a way that acknowledges differences and accepts others because we are all made in God's image.

Our policy is based on the principle that bullying is "not OK at CSA." Christian Star Academy will not tolerate any mean-spirited, unlawful, or disruptive behavior including any form of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation in our school building, on school grounds, or during school-related activities that occur away from the school's premises and create a hostile school environment for any student. We will promptly investigate all reports and complaints of bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation and take prompt action to restore a safe learning environment for students who are identified as victims of bullying.

CSA recognizes that not all inappropriate behaviors should be considered bullying or willful violations of this policy. Behaviors will be assessed by the staff member and/or the administrator and addressed according to the procedures below.

PROCEDURES:

- Reporting an act of bullying is to be discussed first with the classroom teacher (Matthew 18). It is further recognized that the first and preferred method of resolution will occur at the student/teacher/parent level.
- Level I offenses are first-time offenses of unacceptable behavior described above with the exception of bodily harm, which is automatically a Level II offense.
- A repeat of a Level I offense will be considered a Level II offense. A repeat of a Level II
 offense will be considered a Level III offense. Any initial bodily harm will begin at Level II
 and be moved to Level III if the action is life threatening.
- 1. The staff member will investigate the infraction. Investigations into bullying allegations must be undertaken in a timely manner after the reporting of a bullying incident and should be carried out in such a way as to minimize the risk of escalation.
- 2. All parties will be spoken to: victim, bully, and bystanders, to establish the facts of the incident and to hold accountable those students whose actions/inactions were unacceptable. Generally, all parties will be asked to give a verified account of what has happened with a view to understanding the whole picture.
- 3. The administrator and/or staff member will call the parents of the student accused of bullying and the victim for a conference. In some cases, parents of bystanders may also be asked to participate. After discussing the bullying incident, if disciplinary actions should result, they will be imposed in accordance with biblical principles, equity, and school policies.
- 4. The administrator or appropriate staff member will document the student's behavior, disciplinary action, and parent's response.
- 5. Involved students will be monitored to ensure the incident has been resolved satisfactorily. The school will take serious disciplinary action in cases of retaliation.

<u>Note</u>: The administration of CSA reserves the right to treat any single act as severe enough to warrant dismissal/expulsion from school. Consequences will only take effect after an incident has been thoroughly investigated and can be corroborated by the students involved, multiple sources, or eye witnesses.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- A student being bullied must ask the offending student to stop!
- Students being bullied must promptly report it to school staff, faculty, or administration.
- Students who are aware of bullying must promptly report it to their teacher. It is the responsibility of all students (victims and witnesses) to report all occurrences of bullying behavior as outlined in this policy, whether directed at them or others. Students who have knowledge of such behavior are required to report this information and may do so without fear of consequences. The filing of a false or fabricated complaint of bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

- Both parties of the bullying incident must be willing to resolve the situation by asking for forgiveness and being willing to forgive.
- Students inclined to bullying must be willing to make necessary changes in their behavior.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- CSA expects parents who witness or become aware of an instance of bullying or retaliation involving a student to promptly report it to their child's teacher.
- Parents need to accept that the whole story may be quite complex and trust the school to resolve bullying matters.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CSA STAFF

- Staff members should take appropriate action in stopping bullying incidents and report the matter to the administrator.
- Students will be provided practical, safe, private, and age-appropriate ways to report and discuss an incident of bullying with a teacher or administrator.

REPORTING BULLYING

It is the responsibility of all students, parents, and staff members to report all occurrences of bullying behavior as outlined in this policy. Parents and students who have knowledge of such behavior are required to report this information and may do so without fear of consequences. Additionally, students who feel that they have been or are the victims of bullying behaviors should promptly notify a school staff member or the administrator. Those parents or students who report such behavior will not be the target of retaliation or reprisal in any way. Any student who withholds information regarding bullying behavior or provides inaccurate or false information will be subject to disciplinary action including possible removal from school. CSA recognizes that not all inappropriate behavior should be considered bullying or willful violation of this policy.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROCEDURES

Written Notices of what constitutes bullying or bullying behavior, that bullying is prohibited, and the consequences of engaging in bullying or bullying behavior will be posted in each classroom.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

There may be special opportunities for hot lunches but generally, students are to bring a packed lunch to school, along with a capped-water bottle. Please keep in mind that high protein lunches provide better fuel than sugary ones. Below you will find recommended snacks.

fruit vegetables yogurt granola bars applesauce raisins slim jims nuts

crackers cheese cheese crackers peanut butter sandwich peanut butter crackers

Minimize the chocolate please! We're building healthy minds & bodies



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

The importance of every family's participation cannot be stressed enough. Tuition alone will not cover our operating expenses so fundraising is essential. Listed below are a few super-easy ways to help that WILL NOT COST YOU ANYTHING, and will help your child(ren) SO MUCH by helping our school!

Recycling – Bring your cans, aluminum, batteries, metal, etc. for more cash. (Do not bring in your plastic or paper.) You may also take your steel, aluminum and batteries to ROSS BROS. RECYCLING and ask them to deposit the money into CSA's jar! (3)

<u>Kroger Cares</u> – Sign up for free! Every "swipe" of your Kroger card, benefits CSA! (Please note this must be renewed every April)



VISITORS

Anyone entering the school building should enter by way of the front door (on Sugar Street). These doors will remain locked at all times so please ring the doorbell and wait for our communication with you.

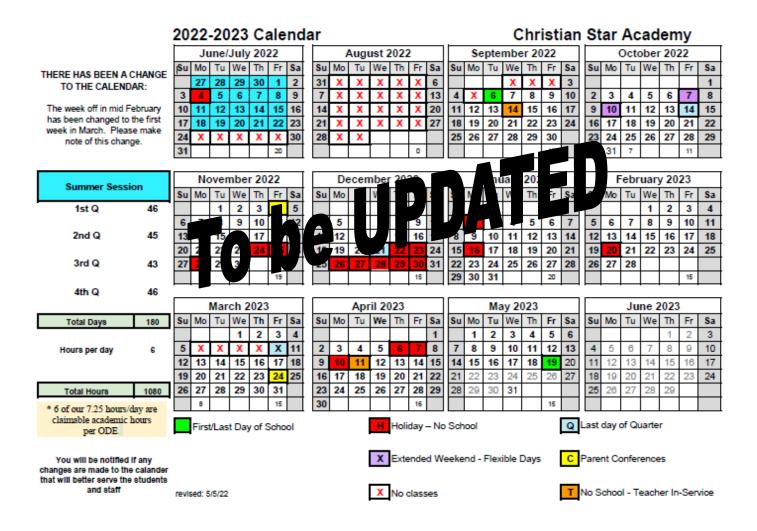
SCHOOL CALENDAR - SCHOOL SUPPLIES - DRESS CODE

All of the above and so much more can be found on our website: www.csaedu.org



Appendix

CALENDAR



COMMUNICATION

ParentSquare is a simple and secure platform for school-to-home communication. The two-way messaging, online participation and simple user interface keeps everyone connected and engaged, creating a vibrant school community.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO <u>REPLY OR MAKE A COMMENT</u> EVERY TIME YOU RECEIVE A MESSAGE SO MISS SUE WILL KNOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT.

ParentSquare communications include:

New information Reminders Changes Alerts Events Links Personal Messages Photos Fundraisers Calendar

Shared Files
Requests
Polls / Voting
Conference Times
Much More

