



☰ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VACAVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

2021–2022

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## OUR HISTORY

VCS is a private, coeducational, interdenominational Christian school that began as a vision to establish a place where faith and educational excellence could be integrated. In 1975, Vacaville Christian Schools opened its doors, and the families of 35 students were welcomed. Since our beginning as Vacaville Christian Academy, it has been our mission to provide a quality Christian education in a nurturing environment, equipping young people to achieve their full potential in life and in practical service to Jesus Christ.

Today, by the grace of God, the school continues to grow in both size and excellence. With the addition of many academic, sports, and extracurricular programs over the years, VCS has flourished to serve more than 1,000 students annually, from infants to high school seniors.

VCS is recognized by the community as a leader in Christian education and was voted The Best of Solano County 2007, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 by the Daily Republic and The Reporter newspapers. Our outstanding academic program offers AP and Honors courses for college-bound students. To that end, the students of Vacaville Christian Schools are equipped for lifelong learning and success.

**“THE CHILDREN AT VCS ARE RECEIVING AN EDUCATION THAT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFETIMES.”**

**—Former Mayor Len Augustine, City of Vacaville**

**F**

FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST.

**A**

ACHIEVERS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

**L**

LIFELONG LEARNERS.

**C**

CRITICAL THINKERS.

**O**

OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATORS.

**N**

NURTURING, GODLY LEADERS.

**S**

SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

## SECTION 1—CHOICE OF EXCELLENCE

### Mission Statement

Vacaville Christian Schools exists to provide, in partnership with home and church, a distinctive, Christ-centered education in a nurturing environment, which equips young people to excel in life and in service to Jesus Christ.

### Lifestyle Statement

The Bible, not personal judgment, determines what is true and right. Scripture provides instructions for how we are to live, both privately and publicly. The New International Version (NIV) is the version of the Bible used by Vacaville Christian Schools.

### Statement of Faith

VCS was founded and functions on the basic fundamental principles of the Word of God, and it espouses the Historic Christian view of life as presented in the Bible.

**We believe** the Bible to be the only Word of God, divinely inspired, inerrant, infallible, completely expressing His purpose to mankind. We accept the Bible as our final authority and the all-sufficient and complete rule for faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15–17; 1 Peter 1:21).

**We believe** there is one God who is eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, by Whom all life exists (Genesis 14:22; 1:1; Colossians 1:17); Jesus Christ, God the Son, sent to take the form of a man in order to put God’s plan for humanity into effect (John 17:5; Philippians 2:5–11; Hebrews 1:2); God the Holy Spirit, who reveals Jesus Christ and God’s plan to the Christian and bears witness to God’s work in our world (John 16:13–14; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

**We believe** in the person of Jesus Christ, God’s only eternal Son. Born of a virgin, He lived a sinless life, performed mighty miracles, died for the sins of the whole world, and rose again to conquer sin, death, and hell. He ascended to the right hand of His Father to intercede on our behalf and will return to earth again for those who have personally accepted forgiveness of sin through Him (Isaiah 7:14; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

**We believe** all mankind is born sinful and is separated from God. Individual repentance and

forgiveness through Jesus Christ are essential to obtain right standing before God (Romans 10:9–17; John 3:16; Titus 2:11–13).

**We believe** in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within every Christian and enables him or her to live a godly life (Ephesians 5:18; 4:30; 1 Corinthians 3:16).

**We believe** in the resurrection of the dead, both for those saved through Jesus Christ and for those who are lost through their own rejection of Christ’s forgiveness. Those who are saved will be resurrected unto life and those who are lost unto separation from God forever and damnation (1 Thessalonians. 4:16–17; Revelations 19:20; 20:11–15).

**We believe** in the spiritual unity of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23; Romans 8:9).

### School Philosophy

VCS partners with families who desire to reinforce Biblical values at home, church, and school. The administration, faculty, and staff are committed to working hand-in-hand with parents to ensure a Christian learning environment. This Christian learning environment is founded on the following criteria and standards:

- The belief that all truth in the created universe emanates from God.
- The foundational truth that Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is the only way to God and that repentance of sin and belief in Him assures one of eternal life.
- The conviction that Jesus Christ is central to all understanding and wisdom, not only in the Bible, but in history, geography, science, mathematics, music, the arts, extracurricular activities, and all aspects of the universe, including one’s personal daily life.
- The belief that responsibility for a child’s education comes directly from God to the parents. Our school seeks to partner with parents as an extension of this Biblical principle.
- The conviction that consistent Christian values and a Biblical world-view are to be reinforced at home, church, and school.

- The commitment to Christ-centered instruction of the highest quality so that pupils are prepared to take their place in the home, the church, and the world in a manner that glorifies God.
- The conviction that the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word should be the guiding standard for all VCS board members, administrators, faculty and staff members, students, and parents.

## Spiritual Emphasis

As a private Christian school, the leadership of VCS believes that spiritual growth is not a one-time event, but a journey toward Christ-likeness (Ephesians 5:1–2). It is our desire that students who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior come to know him as such and that students who do know Jesus as their Lord and Savior continue to grow and mature in their relationship with Him.

Throughout the course of the school year, VCS students may be exposed to presentations from outside organizations, speakers, and churches. Events include chapels, concerts, and conference-like seminars. Our chapel leadership group and student government will assist in planning events and themes for spiritual emphasis. In line with the Great Commission, some events may be conducive to inviting outside guests and friends to hear God’s Word and meet VCS students and staff.

## Chapel

As a private Christian school that integrates classroom academics and Christian instruction, VCS considers the students’ growth in faith is of utmost importance. Students worship during a scheduled chapel time with their peers at which attendance is required. Students are encouraged to worship regularly with their parents in a local church of their choice. Parents are always welcome to attend chapel with their children. All students must follow their grade-level dress code policy for chapel dress. Please refer to grade-level specific dress code policies within this handbook.

## Bible

VCS believes the Bible is the infallible Word of God and, therefore, the standard by which all values, as reflected in all school programs, policies and traditions, are measured. Bible classes are required as an integral part of our curriculum. High School and Middle School students use the NIV version

of the Bible for classroom instruction. Bibles are to be protected in a Bible cover, and students are required to bring their Bible (standard book format, not an iPad app) to Bible class each day. Students in grades 2–12 are required to have an NIV Bible at school. Class sets are provided for use in first grade. Early Education use the New International Version translation for classroom teaching.

## Church Attendance

It is vital that families recognize the value of church attendance and the positive impact it has on their children. We ask that families partner with VCS by committing to attend a local church regularly.

## SECTION 2–ENROLLMENT

### VCS ESLRs: (Expected School-Wide Learning Results)

**VCS exists to educate students so they will become:**

- F** Faithful Followers of Christ
- A** Achievers of Academic Excellence
- L** Lifelong Learners
- C** Critical Thinkers
- O** Outstanding Communicators
- N** Nurturing, Godly Leaders
- S** Servants of Others

## Accreditation

VCS is dually accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Our preschool is also accredited by ACSI. With these accreditations, VCS meets the standards of both the academic community and the community of faith.

## Racial Nondiscrimination Policy

VCS admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available

to students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships, athletics, and other school-administered programs. If you believe that an incident of discrimination has occurred, you are urged to bring the matter promptly to the attention of the Head of School or other administrator under the complaint procedure described in VCS's Harassment Policy (See Section 6).

## **Admissions Statement**

VCS seeks applications from families whose children embrace Christian values, are of good character, and demonstrate a desire for academic achievement. Acceptance is based upon the evaluation of a personal interview, educational performance, support for our statement of faith, and the student's desire to attend VCS. Acceptance and enrollment is at the sole discretion of the school.

## **Expectations for Student and Parent Conduct**

It is a privilege to attend VCS. Students should realize that they are responsible at all times to conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to the name of Christ, their family, themselves, and their school. By virtue of enrolling at VCS, each student agrees to live within the framework of the school's standards of conduct. Re-enrollment each year is contingent upon maintaining these standards.

VCS reserves the right to discontinue Student's enrollment based upon Student's uncooperative, disruptive, or other unacceptable behavior and/or poor levels of academic achievement, as determined by the Head of School in his or her sole discretion.

Furthermore, a positive and constructive working relationship between VCS and Student's parent(s)/guardian(s) is essential to the fulfillment of VCS's educational purpose. I/we understand that VCS reserves the right to dismiss a student if the Head of School, in his or her sole discretion, determines that the actions of a parent(s)/guardian(s) impair the positive and constructive relationship with VCS.

VCS's expectations about the behavior and actions of its students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) include both on- and off-campus behavior and actions.

## **Re-enrollment**

Each January, VCS will publish the next year's tuition rates and fees. Definition of Continuous Enrollment - A student will have continuous enrollment at VCS each academic year, without the need to complete re-enrollment forms. Current students' enrollment will renew each successive academic year until the student has completed 12th grade at VCS. Any termination of Continuous Enrollment for the following school year will incur a late withdrawal fee of \$375, except when providing written notice of termination (withdrawal form) for the following school year to the Business Office, no later than March 1.

## **Retention**

Students must maintain satisfactory grades and progress in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In some cases, a student may be required to attend the summer remediation program in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In other cases, a student may be retained after a conference with his or her parent, teacher, and principal, if it is agreed that retention is in the best interest of the child. The final decision rests with administration.

## **Withdrawals**

It is not the policy of VCS to enroll students for less than a full school year. The budget is based on receipt of a full year's tuition. That being said, the school understands that sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances, parents may need to withdraw their student from VCS. Should this occur parents must notify the business office in writing.

The signature of all departments is required on the withdrawal form to ensure that there are no outstanding fees (library, sports, electives, camp, etc.). Registration and student fees are not refundable.



**Early Education:** This contract is for the entire school year. Accordingly, to withdraw a child from the early education department, a form in the business office must be completed by the parent. Thirty days' written notice is required for withdrawal from VCS. Parents should understand that they are responsible for tuition until VCS receives a signed notification of withdrawal and for the thirty days following, even if their child does not attend VCS. (This applies to the thirty days prior to the first day of school. The first tuition payment is due by August 1st and will be due unless notice is received before July 1st.)

**K-12:** This contract is for the entire school year. Accordingly, in order to withdraw a student, written notice to VCS is required. A withdrawal form must be completed by the parent and submitted to the business office. Prorated tuition and fees, through the last day of the child's attendance, will be assessed. Parents understand and agree that they are responsible for the balance of tuition, regardless of the reason for withdrawal.

**International Students:** This contract is for the entire school year. Accordingly, in order for International families to withdraw a child from VCS after the student has been accepted, a withdrawal form must be completed by the parent and the agency representative, and submitted to the Admissions Office. If withdrawing after acceptance, prior to the 1st day of school and prior to October 15th, 50% of the tuition balance will be refunded. If withdrawing after October 15th, the entire school year tuition amount is non-refundable. You are responsible for the balance of tuition regardless of the reason for the withdrawal. This includes withdrawal at the request of the school.

## SECTION 3-FINANCE

### Financial Policies and Tuition

A secure financial structure is vital to maintain the high academic standards of the school. The following policies have been instituted to protect the school's financial stability:

All application and registration fees are due upon submission of application and are nonrefundable. Tuition reductions or refunds are not made for

absences, illnesses, or holidays.

Any student with an account that is thirty days past due may be removed from school enrollment. All accounts must be paid in full for all current charges when exams are administered. All accounts must be paid in full in order for students to take final semester exams and to participate in year-end graduation or class programs.

Tuition payments must be paid through the SMART Tuition Management Program.

A charge of \$35 will be added to accounts for each check returned and for any failed auto-debit transaction. Any occurrence of a returned check may require future payments to be paid in cash or by bank check.

A late fee of \$35 will be charged by VCS for any late payment. A \$40 follow-up fee will also be charged by SMART Tuition for any late payment.

HIS Club hours must be completed as defined under Parental Involvement and Responsibilities for the current school year. See below.

Students may not register for or begin classes in the fall until all accounts are paid in full. This includes Summer Enrichment, Summer Day Camp, and all registration fees.

### Release of Records, Report Cards, Grade Notices, and Final Exams

Students whose accounts are not current will not be permitted to attend field trips. Middle school and high school students will not be permitted to take exams or finals until their tuition accounts are paid. Students will not be issued a final report card until final exams are administered. Accounts that are not fully cleared prior to year-end events will exclude students from participation in graduations, year-end events, and field trips.

All library books, textbooks, and sports uniforms must be accounted for. Late fees, fines for damages, or costs for replacements must be cleared before final exams can be administered.

## Extended Care/Financial Policies

Morning Extended Care is available from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. for elementary and 6:30am - 7:30am for middle school students.

Morning Extended Care is provided at no additional charge beginning at 7:30 a.m. for elementary students who carpool with a middle school or high school student.

Afternoon Extended Care is available from regular school dismissal until 6:00 p.m. for elementary and middle school students.

Elementary and middle school students will be signed into Extended Care and billed accordingly if not picked up by the time carpool is over.

Elementary students will be signed in at 3:25 p.m., and middle school students will be signed in at 3:05 p.m.

Minimum Days: elementary students must be picked up by 12:05 p.m., and middle school students must be picked up by 11:30 a.m.

Extended Care fees on Minimum days are included only for students enrolled in Full Time Extended Care from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Early education students must be picked up no later than 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday Early Dismissal Days: elementary and middle school students who are not picked up by 2:25 p.m. will be signed into Extended Care and charged at the hourly rate.

Students who are not signed up for the 6:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Full Time Extended Care program will be charged based on an hourly drop-in rate.

Late pick-up fees will be applied after 6:00 p.m. at a rate of \$15 per 15-minute increment or portion thereof, per occurrence, per child.

After two occurrences, the late pickup charge will increase to \$30 per 15-minute increment, per occurrence, per child.

Extended Care during holidays: Extended Care is available on specific days during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Break.

## Tuition Assistance Policies

The tuition assistance policy of VCS is designed to assist families in meeting their tuition obligations

by helping to subsidize a portion of their tuition costs. Tuition assistance is provided from a limited fund and is awarded based on need, which is determined through an application process. Parents who have a financial need and are interested in applying for a tuition grant should apply online at <https://smartaidforparents.com>.

SMART Tuition will publish the deadline for tuition assistance applications.

## Parental Involvement and Responsibilities

VCS has established a required parent work program called HIS (Hearts in Service) Club. VCS desires to maintain a high level of parental involvement. The quality of each student's education is greatly enhanced through his/her parents' active involvement at school. It is important that parents become involved in the school in whatever capacity they are able.

HIS Club keeps tuition affordable by reducing labor expenditures through service contributions. The parent work program also helps to equitably distribute school-related tasks among the school community.

Each VCS family is responsible for completing a minimum of 20 hours of service for the benefit of the school community or payment of \$500 in lieu of work. Single-parent households and families with a parent who is deployed for more than 5 months of the school year are responsible for completing 10 hours of service or payment of \$250.

The work requirements must be met for the current year by the last day of school and the HIS Club form must be completed and turned in to the business office no later than May 31st. Any work completed after the last day of school will count toward the next school year.

Parents are responsible for recording their hours on a HIS Club form, available in any office. Parents are asked to obtain the signature of their child's teacher or of the staff member who assigns the project, and to submit the form to the business office. The classroom teacher or supervisor will validate these hours.

It is our hope that families will opt for work hours over the payment plan, as it is more beneficial to the school and helps to keep tuition lower.

## Answers to frequently asked questions about “HIS” Club Hours

Events or fundraisers where your child is rewarded with cash, credit, or other benefits for your volunteered efforts do not count toward the twenty-hour requirement.

Personal time spent in supporting fundraisers, such as selling candy, magazines, or gift-wrap on behalf of your child, does not count toward HIS Club hours. However, counting money, tabulating results, distributing orders, making posters and flyers, obtaining prizes for the school, and other approved work related to the school-wide organization of the fundraiser can count toward HIS Club hours.

Hours spent driving for field trips and sports or supervising student camps and retreats (both waking and sleeping hours, as long as you are responsible for other children in addition to your own) may be counted toward HIS Club hours.

Work hours cannot be counted for attending or participating in school functions in which your child is involved, unless you were specifically assigned to work on the set-up, clean up, or preparation for the event. The time you actually attend the event does not count.

Students may not earn hours for parents.

Money spent while working on projects cannot be converted to hours.

HIS Club forms must be used to record hours worked.

VCS is not responsible for contacting parents with projects. Volunteer opportunities may be communicated by electronic newsletters, as they occur.

Parent/Teacher Fellowship (PTF), principals, and teachers are not responsible for tabulating, recording, or turning in hours. Parents must submit their own HIS Club forms with appropriate signatures to the business office. Please keep a copy of your HIS Club form for your records.

VCS makes the final decision as to which projects are credited for work hours.

HIS Club hours will be doubled only as approved by the administration for the following responsibilities: security, some graduation functions, and Saturday work days as scheduled by maintenance.

## SECTION 4–CAMPUS OPERATIONS

### Board of Directors

VCS is an independent, interdenominational, Christian school run by a self-governing board of directors. The board is the authority on all school policies. The board gives authority to the administration to carry out the day-to-day functions and policies of the school. Board members are chosen from interested persons who qualify and apply under board procedure and policy. For more information on how to become a board member, please contact our Head of School office.

### Campus Administration

VCS is made up of many departments that work together to provide a unique educational opportunity. VCS is a twenty-three-acre campus with facilities for children from 2 years old through 12th grade, a possible sixteen-year experience. Our current department leadership consists of the following positions: Head of School, Principals of Elementary, Middle, and High School, Early Education Director, Director of Operations, Director of Admissions, Director of Finance, Director of Annual Fund & Events and Director of Athletics.

### Campus Hours of Operation

The campus is operational from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. The campus is closed Saturdays and Sundays. Events taking place outside operational hours, such as sports, dances, or other gatherings, are scheduled through the appropriate school administration office. For the hours of operation for individual schools, please see the grade-level specific sections of this handbook.

### Electronic School Communications

Instant information can be found on the school website: [www.go-vcs.com](http://www.go-vcs.com). Weekly publications are provided by school administrative staff. If you are not currently receiving school emails, please contact your school office.

### Contacting Students in the Classroom and Parents Visiting Classrooms

Unexpected classroom visits are distracting and disruptive to the students. For this reason, we

ask parents not to go to the classroom to pick up a child, drop off a forgotten lunch, etc. Parents should go to the appropriate school office, and the office staff will contact the student. To release your child from class for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher (elementary) and sign them out in the appropriate school office. Should a parent desire to visit a classroom, we request that any plans to visit be made at least a day in advance through contact with the teacher. Please check in at the office upon arrival to receive a visitor's pass.

## Communications Procedure

Please help us handle concerns effectively and in a Biblical manner by following these scriptural guidelines.

Disputes or concerns about school policy or operations should be expressed directly to the person in charge of the department.

**Step 1** Schedule an appointment with the responsible person. We desire to resolve most situations at this level and believe relationships and trust are built by face-to-face discussions between those involved. This follows the biblical principle found in Matthew 18.

**Step 2** If the situation cannot be resolved, schedule a meeting with the responsible person and his or her immediate supervisor.

## General Concerns, Ideas, and Suggestions

As we strive to improve our operations, we encourage you to communicate your concerns, ideas, or suggestions. You can do so by visiting us at [www.go-vcs.com](http://www.go-vcs.com), clicking on Contact Us, or emailing us your concerns at: <http://www.go-vcs.com/contact>

## Library Guidelines

Students in grades 2 through 5 may take books home from our elementary library following normal checkout procedures. Books are due on or before their due date. A fine of \$0.10 per day (amount subject to change) will be collected on all late books (no exceptions). Library privileges are suspended until fines are paid. Library books must be turned into the Librarian, not the school office. Books that are lost or damaged must be replaced by the student at the list price of the book plus a \$2 handling fee.

## Transportation

Please be respectful of our staff, parents, and students when entering VCS grounds. When operating your vehicle on campus, we ask you to adhere to state motor vehicle laws and regulations at all times. It is the policy of VCS that all children arrive and leave school premises in proper vehicle child restraints. All seatbelt laws are followed on school field trips. We ask that you do not leave children unattended in your vehicle. Operation of a motor vehicle on the VCS campus is a privilege, not a right. Please be advised that failure to adhere to campus transportation and safety regulations will result in your on-campus driving privileges being revoked.

## Field Trips

Our teachers organize well-planned field trips throughout the school year to support classroom studies. Field trips are a valuable educational learning experience and every student is expected to attend. The cost of each field trip will be billed to your account. The registration form used at VCS includes permission for all students to attend all field trips.

Classroom teachers will notify parents in advance of scheduled field trips and special activities. Permission slips for field trips are typically sent each time a field trip will occur.

Students are expected and required to demonstrate behavior in accordance with VCS standards. If a student is unable to do so, appropriate disciplinary action will be necessary. Disciplinary action may consist of excluding the child from the next field trip or requiring a parent to attend future field trips with the child. Students will receive an unexcused absence if parents choose to have their child not attend a field trip.

Eligible parents are needed to drive and chaperone for field trips. It is understood that every parent who assists as a driver on a field trip must be fingerprinted (at driver's expense), have a valid driver's license and evidence of legal minimum coverage for insurance. Fingerprint applications are obtained in each school office. Fingerprint clearance will be communicated by the HR Department to the respective school office. Once fingerprints are cleared, proof of current driver's license and a copy of insurance must be given to the teacher before field trips. (Please allow 5 days for fingerprint clearance).

All seat belt regulations apply when transporting children. This includes the use of car seats or booster seats for students under 8 years or a height of 4' 9". Each child is to have his or her own seat belt—double-buckling is not allowed. VCS takes stringent precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, but assumes no responsibility in the unlikely event of loss, injury, etc. on field trips or activities.

Students are generally not permitted to attend field trips of siblings. Younger siblings may only attend if special permission from the teacher has been granted. Parents will be given a copy of the field trip guideline handbook when driving/supervising on field trips. Further volunteer guidelines are listed below.

### **Volunteer Guidelines**

All chaperones, drivers, coaches, classroom and extracurricular helpers, etc. are expected to follow the school guidelines and maintain a Christlike example at all times.

We expect that volunteers are not now nor have ever been engaged in inappropriate conduct toward minors (inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to verbal, physical, or sexual abuse as defined by Scripture and state law) nor have inclination toward such conduct.

We expect that volunteers will manifest an example of the highest Christian virtue and personal decorum, serving as Christian role models (1 Tim. 4:12).

While supervising VCS students, volunteers should refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol, taking illegal drugs, or condoning or allowing any other illegal infraction or act to occur. Volunteers should refrain from inappropriate language or conversations, either on campus or while off site at VCS related functions (i.e. field trips, etc.).

All drivers must have a valid California driver's license and insurance.

Music and talk programs that contradict the biblical philosophy of VCS are not permitted while traveling. Christian music is encouraged.

Only G-rated movies for elementary and G or appropriate PG movies for middle and high school are permissible in transport vehicles.

Drivers should follow each other as a caravan and should not detour from the group unless the teacher has given permission ahead of time.

Volunteers should speak respectfully to students and staff on trips and should refrain from discussing concerns about students, parents, or staff. Concerns should be referred to the teacher and/or department leader.

Volunteers should be examples to the students by dressing modestly and appropriately while volunteering (please refer to the student dress code section of this handbook for guidelines).

### **Carpool Rules**

- Do not use cell phones while driving on campus.
- Arrive at the appropriate time to pick up your child: not before 3:00 p.m. M/W/Th/F or 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. (EL Only).
- Turn music down (and ensure it is appropriate for our school) so that you can hear carpool workers if they need to direct you.
- Follow the directions of carpool workers.
- Do not leave your car running if you are not in it.
- Do not leave children unattended inside your vehicle.
- Do not exceed the campus speed limit of five miles per hour.
- Drop off and pick up in designated areas of the campus.
- Do not leave cars unattended in the carpool lanes. This includes striped lanes and crosswalks.
- Park in designated parking stalls only. Violators will be towed at owner's expense.
- Do not block or park in fire lanes.
- Multipurpose room yellow zone is used for loading and unloading elementary students during morning carpool. This area is not a designated parking location.
- Student drivers must park in approved areas and must display a permit in their windows.

### **Closed Campus**

The VCS campus is closed to the public at all times.

## Campus Visitor Policy

Visitors (parents, alumni, previous staff, etc.) must always sign in at the respective school office (EE, ELEM, MS or HS).

Students not enrolled at VCS may attend VCS events and must abide by VCS campus rules. Special permission from the school office may be required for certain events for middle and high school.

Students visiting the middle and high school are welcomed on scheduled shadow days. Visitors will be permitted only after arrangements have been made in advance through the middle and high school office.

The following procedures must be followed for student-scheduled shadow days:

- The parent of the visiting student must complete an emergency data/contacts form and turn it in to the office.
- The visitor must sign the visiting student form, stating compliance.

## Campus Rental Policy

Campus facilities are not open for use by the general public.

Facility rental is available by contacting the Operations Department at 707-446-1776, ext. 5130.

## Parent Organizations

### Parent/Teacher Fellowship (PTF)

The purpose of the Parent/Teacher Fellowship (PTF) is to establish a supportive organization that unites the spiritual and educational aims of the school with those of the home. The primary functions of PTF are to coordinate and serve in special school activities and fundraising events, to show appreciation and support for teachers and staff, and to encourage prayer on campus. Meetings are held each year to carry out these functions. A parent committee, approved by the school administration, governs the PTF organization. The Head of School and Principals give guidance and support to the work of PTF.

All parent leadership positions must be approved by VCES Administration.

## Athletics Booster Club

The purpose of the Falcon Athletic Booster Club, hereinafter referred to as the Booster Club, is to support Vacaville Christian Schools hereinafter referred to as (VCS), athletics by raising funds, distributing money and materials to athletic teams, soliciting memberships, offering activities for members, promoting participation in athletic teams, encouraging attendance at athletic events, and assisting the Athletic Director and coaches.

Any current VCS family, alumni or alumni's VCS family, or direct family members of a VCS student in VCS athletics can be a member of the VCS Athletic Booster Club.

Membership in the Booster Club is available throughout the year. A membership year begins on August 1st and ends on July 31st to roughly coincide with the school year.

## SECTION 5-HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Emergency Drills

**Lock Out:** As part of our regularly scheduled inspections, we perform "lock out drills." During a Lockout, the perceived danger is outside of the school. School administrators move all students and activities inside and ensure the building's perimeter is secured. While the Lockout response encourages greater staff situational awareness, it allows for educational practices to continue with little classroom interruption or distraction. The campus becomes closed and no one is permitted to leave or come onto campus until the area is secure and the drill is concluded. The drill is designed to protect our students should we perceive a threat on campus.

**Lockdown:** As part of our regularly scheduled inspections, we perform "lockdown drills." In this exercise, all students, staff, and faculty take shelter in a secured area, designated by campus location, where all doors and windows will be locked. After all areas have been secured and all persons are accounted for by leadership, the drill is concluded. This drill is designed to protect our students should we perceive a threat on campus.

Lockdown (whether a drill or an actual emergency) occurs whenever VCS perceives a situation that may put our students or staff at risk. It is a precautionary measure and does not necessarily indicate imminent danger. For the safety of our students and staff, if a lockdown is in process, our campus will be blocked from access and parents will not be allowed to enter and/or exit classrooms or drop off/pick up students until lockdown has been lifted.

**Fire Drill:** As with lockdown drills, fire drills are also performed periodically throughout the year. Schools will reenact an actual fire drill and will be evacuated to designated areas on campus by our staff. After all areas have been secured and all persons are accounted for by leadership, the drill is concluded. This drill is designed to protect our students should we have an actual fire on campus. Students are instructed not to use their cell phones to text or call parents during this drill. Parents who visit the campus during this drill will not be permitted access to the buildings or their child until the drill is complete.

### **Event of Emergency**

In the event of an emergency, VCS will contact parents/guardians as listed on the emergency contacts and medical information form. This form is completed as part of the enrollment process. It is necessary that parents notify the school regarding changes of address, phone number, or job information for anyone listed as an emergency contact. VCS cannot be responsible for misinformation if the office is not notified of changes. All changes must be made by completing a file maintenance form (available in the business office). All applicable departments will be notified. Verbal changes will not be accepted.

### **Security Measures for Releasing Students to Adults**

Children will not be released to anyone obviously under the influence of alcohol or any other drugs. Anyone not familiar to staff who is picking up a student will be asked for an I.D. We will not release a student to anyone not listed on the emergency pick-up list.

## **Medical Policy**

### **General Health Statement**

Please be sure to keep students at home whenever they are experiencing signs of illness. A child should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Parents should always be aware of the crucial role that sufficient sleep, a nutritious diet, and exercise play in a child's progress and wellbeing.

### **Notification of Accident or Illness**

If a child should become ill or be injured in an accident during the school day, parents will be contacted to pick up their child within the hour of notification. Accident reports will be given to parents when a child is hurt or injured at school. Please ensure that all contact phone numbers are kept up to date in all school offices to guarantee that the office staff will be able to reach you.

### **Medicines**

School personnel will cooperate with parents when a physician prescribes medication to be taken during school hours. All medication must be in the original container and correctly prescribed for the indicated student only. All medication must be kept in the school office. The student is responsible to know the required times to come into the office to take his or her medication.

Administration policies for all medications are on the emergency contacts and medical information form. Medication can only be given between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., except for emergencies. Medicines left at the end of the school year will be discarded after one week.

Prescription medications must have a physician's order. Over-the-counter medications must be accompanied by a form filled out by the parent stating the desired dosage for administering the medication. Forms are available in the school offices.

## Inhalers

Any upper-elementary, middle, or high school student having an immediate need for asthma inhalers during school may carry the necessary medication on his or her person when certain conditions are met. A student wishing to carry his or her own inhaler may pick up an authorization for self-carry form in the office. This form will need to be completed and returned to the appropriate school office. Otherwise, inhalers must be kept in the office and administered as prescribed.

## Allergic Reactions

If your child is allergic to bee stings, pollen, or anything else that would require immediate attention, please notify the appropriate school's office of the procedure to be followed to assist your child in case of an emergency. If medication administration is part of the procedure, please provide the office with the appropriate medication, along with a signed medication authorization form.

## PE/Restriction of Physical Activities

A note from a parent is required for a student to be excused from PE. A physician's note is required if a student needs to be excused from PE for more than three school days.

Middle school and high school students will still be required to dress out (if possible) and to participate to the extent possible, even if that means observation and listening to instruction given. Middle school and high school students who have a doctor's note for an extended exemption—depending on the length of time, severity of injury, and period of the term—may be alternatively placed, and it may be necessary for the student to repeat physical education during another semester.

For elementary students, if a child comes to school, he or she should be well enough to participate in the total school program, including recess and physical education. It will be assumed that a student who is excused from physical education activities should not participate in other physical activities during the school day, including recess, after-school daycare play, and sports.

## Communicable Diseases

A student shall not be permitted to attend classes or other school-sponsored activity if the student is afflicted with or liable to transmit any contagious or infectious disease unless the administration or its designee has determined, based upon medical evidence that:

1. The student is no longer infected or liable to transmit disease.
2. The student is afflicted with a chronic infectious disease that poses little risk of transmission in the school environment with reasonable precautions.

If a student is suspected of being infected with a communicable disease (i.e., conjunctivitis, chicken pox) the school will send the student home and the student will not be permitted to return to school without a signed release from a physician. If a parent has knowledge that his or her child has a communicable disease, he or she must inform the school immediately. Any student permitted to attend school with a chronic infectious disease must do so under specified conditions. Each case shall be handled in an individual manner. Failure to adhere to the conditions will result in the student being excluded from school and may be grounds for termination of a family's relationship with the school.

## Head Lice

Children who have head lice will be excluded from school until the hair has been properly treated and all eggs (nits) have been removed as instructed. Children must be checked by and given a written release from the Health Department, a private physician, or the school office before returning to school.

## Immunization Policy

Each student must have an up-to-date immunization record or waiver on file. Please be sure that this information is kept current in case of an emergency. No student will be allowed to start at VCS without completed emergency and health forms.



VCS immunization guidelines are designed to prevent the spread of illness and preventable diseases in our community. Unless a student's parent or legal guardian provides VCS with an acceptable exemption (see [www.cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions/home](http://www.cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions/home)), a student must be immunized against certain communicable diseases, as provided in California Health and Safety Code section 120335. A student is prohibited from attending school unless, prior to admission to the school, the student has been fully immunized. Immunization documentation is required for our entire student body. Parents must show their child's immunization record as proof of immunization.

If VCS reasonably believes that a student has been exposed to a disease listed in subdivision (b) of Health and Safety Code Section 120335 and his or her documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against that disease, that student may be temporarily excluded from the school until the local health officer is satisfied that the student is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease. (Health and Safety Code, § 120370(b).)

## **Reporting Child Abuse**

While everyone should report suspected child abuse and neglect, the California Penal Code (sections 11164–1174.3) states that professionals, including teachers, teachers' aides, coaches, school staff, school administrators, local pastors, and lay ministry persons, must report suspected abuse to the proper authorities. Parents will not be notified in this event.

## **Internet Use and Safety**

Internet use is to be appropriate, and all materials accessed are to be wholesome and within the guidelines of the school. An Acceptable Technology Use & Social Media Policy agreement (See Appendix B to this Handbook) must be signed by the parent and student before access to the Internet is allowed.

In its continued efforts to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act, VCS shall adopt and enforce a policy of Internet safety that incorporates the use of computer-related technology or the use of Internet service-provider technology designed to block or filter Internet access for minors and adults to certain visual depictions, including without limitation those that are obscene, child pornographic, or harmful to minors, including without limitation sites that are excessively violent, pervasively vulgar, or sexually harassing. Sites which contain information on the manufacturing of bombs or other incendiary devices shall also be prohibited. Only authorized persons may disable for an adult user the blocking or filtering mechanism in order to enable Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, which shall include online services for legitimate scientific or educational purposes.

Every student and parent must read, sign, and return to the appropriate school office the Internet Use and Safety Agreement. For a complete review of this agreement, see the back pages of this handbook or request a copy from the appropriate school office.

## **Section 6--Student Conduct & Discipline**

### **General Principles**

All students at VCS have given testimony that they desire to be in attendance at VCS and adhere to the school's policies and guidelines. Policies regarding student conduct at VCS are governed by principles drawn from God's Word. Each student will conduct himself or herself in accordance with Christian standards on and off campus. This means that the school's standards of conduct disruptive to the school's operations, reflects poorly upon the school's reputation or is inconsistent with the school's religious values. These standards are applicable in these situations because they reflect Christ's character and life. These standards are conveyed in both this Handbook and in the school-specific section of all parent and student handbooks.

A student's conduct is a reflection of his or her relationship with Jesus and with his or her own family. A student's conduct also affects how others view VCS. When disciplinary action toward a student becomes necessary, it is firmly carried out and tempered by good judgment and understanding.

### **Respect for authority**

"Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone" (Titus 3:1-2). Students are expected to be prompt, willing, and cooperative in their obedience and respect toward their teachers and all VCS staff members. Students are permitted in a classroom only when a teacher or administrator is present.

### **A good testimony before the world**

"The integrity of the upright guides them" (Proverbs 11:3).

Honesty is expected at all times. Students should never be in possession of stolen property, nor should they in any way assist in an item being stolen.

### **God-honoring conversation**

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29). "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be" (James 3:9-10).

Any form of communication unbecoming of a Christian is unacceptable. This includes but is not limited to profanity, vulgarity, putdowns, and other offensive language, whether verbal or written. Creation of, maintenance of, or participation in any website that contains material derogatory to VCS, or any of its student or employees, is inconsistent with our religious values and is therefore unacceptable.

Cheerful obedience "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault" (Philippians 2:14-15).

### **The Biblical Foundation for Behavioral Guidelines**

Students will demonstrate a distinctively Christian lifestyle. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### **Guidelines for Students Regarding Avoiding Prohibited Activities; Littering; Gum; Food in Class; and Agreement to Abide by Rules**

Smoking and consumption of tobacco products, alcohol, and nonprescription drugs are not permitted on or off campus.

Students should not remain at an activity where drugs or alcohol are being consumed or where minors are consuming alcohol or smoking.

Littering is prohibited. Students are expected to show respect for their school by keeping the campus clean.

Gum is not allowed on campus. The first offense will result in a consequence that is grade appropriate.

Food is not allowed in the classrooms unless specifically permitted by the teacher for special events.

All middle school and high school students, as well as parents, will sign the student agreement stating that they desire to attend VCS and will live within the rules of the school. This agreement is their commitment to abide by the school rules with a willing attitude.

Students will demonstrate Christ-honoring conduct by following directions given by all VCS staff members and other adults promptly with a positive attitude.

Students will exercise self-control at all times and show courtesy to everyone.

## Zero-Tolerance Drug and Alcohol Policy

The VCS Board, administration, and staff are committed to providing a safe and positive Christian environment for our students. VCS enforces a zero-tolerance policy regarding drug possession and drug use and removes students from school who are found in violation of this policy. As a part this policy, VCS contracts with a company that uses highly trained dogs to search for drugs, alcohol, and explosive materials. This is a routine procedure that the school follows throughout the year. If you have information about alleged drug possession and/or drug use by a VCS student, we ask you to contact VCS Administration at 446-1776 ext. 5450 immediately. Please leave your name and phone number if you are leaving a message. Your name will be held in confidence by our office, except when disclosures are necessary in the course of an investigation or to comply with the law.

## Student Searches

In order to maintain a safe and positive learning environment, a student's outer attire, personal property, or school property, including books, desks, and school lockers, may be searched by administration. (See Education Code Section 49050.) VCS reserves the right to search all personal effects such as backpacks, lunch boxes, purses, cars, etc. Drug detection dogs may be used for inspection without notice.

## Weapons

Under no circumstances should weapons of any kind be brought to VCS. This includes any type of knife, gun, pepper spray, or martial arts apparatus. In most cases, possession of weapons is grounds for immediate expulsion. Combs made to look like switchblades; laser pointers; smoke bombs; stink bombs; firecrackers; incendiary devices of any kind, including matches; and toys that have the general appearance of a real weapon are not allowed on campus.

## Vandalism/Pranks

Students who abuse school property in any way, whether deliberate or accidental, are subject to disciplinary consequences and must pay all repair/clean-up costs as set by the school.

Campus pranks that jeopardize school security or facilities or that create extra custodial work time and costs are not permissible.

## Academic Integrity

There is a clear expectation that all students will conduct themselves with honor and integrity on all school work, assignments and tests. This includes doing their own work, citing sources, and giving proper acknowledgment when work is not their own. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY OR CHEATING CAN TAKE MANY FORMS AND INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:**

- Copy, fax, e-mail, exchange or duplicate assignments that will each be turned in as "original work";
- Use "cheat sheets" or have writing on your person or property during a quiz or test;
- Use cell phones to text message information to another student;
- Exchange answers with others (either giving or receiving answers);
- Take someone else's assignment and submit it as your own;
- Allow parents, family members, or friends to do work for you;
- Submit material created by someone else without giving the name of the author and the source, publication, or website;
- Produce assignments in conjunction with other people (e.g. another student, a tutor) that should be the student's own independent work;
- Duplicate in any manner of another's work during a test or exam; and
- Submitting one's own work that has already been submitted for assessment in another subject or class.

Students who engage in academic dishonesty will be disciplined, up to and including expulsion. The following disciplinary guidelines may be followed, but the school reserves the right to modify or bypass some or all of the below guidelines in its sole discretion:

- Zero on the test, paper or assignment
- Parent notification and/or meeting
- Director and Academic Counselor notification
- Possible suspension or expulsion

## Harassment

Discriminatory harassment is a particular form of personal disrespect that VCS DOES NOT TOLERATE among students, among employees, or between employees and students. VCS is committed to providing a safe educational environment free of discriminatory harassment. This policy defines discriminatory harassment.

Discriminatory harassment of a student includes harassment based on actual or perceived sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, religious creed, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Discriminatory harassment violates this policy and will not be tolerated. It is also improper to retaliate against any individual for making a complaint of discriminatory harassment or for participating in a harassment investigation. Retaliation constitutes a violation of this policy.

Discriminatory harassment can consist of virtually any form or combination of verbal, physical, visual or environmental conduct. It need not be explicit or even specifically directed at the victim. Sexually harassing conduct can occur between students of the same or different gender.

Examples of the types of discriminatory harassment prohibited by this policy include, but are not limited to, the following behavior:

- a. Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations or comments;
- b. Visual conduct such as derogatory and/or sexually-oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures;

- c. Physical conduct such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movement or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- d. Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition to avoid loss and/or offers of other benefits in return for sexual favors; and,
- e. Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report harassment.

All of the above guidelines also apply to online and electronic communication.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

No student shall create a hostile or offensive environment for any other person by engaging in any discriminatory harassment or by tolerating it on the part of any student.

No student shall assist any individual in doing any act that constitutes discriminatory harassment against any student.

All students shall report any conduct that fits the definition of discriminatory harassment to the Head of School or other appropriate authority figure.

All complaints or allegations of discrimination or sexual harassment will be kept confidential during any informal and/or formal complaint procedures except when disclosure is necessary during the course of an investigation, to comply with the law, in order to take subsequent remedial action and to conduct ongoing monitoring.

The school will investigate all reports of possible discriminatory harassment. All students shall cooperate with any investigation authorized or conducted by VCS into any alleged act of discriminatory harassment.

## Sexual Harassment

VCS prohibits unlawful sexual harassment of or by any student by anyone in or from the school. Conduct which constitutes sexual harassment of students impairs the ability of students to make full and effective use of the school's instructional programs. Sexual harassment can cause embarrassment, feelings of powerlessness, reduced ability to perform schoolwork, and increased absenteeism and tardiness. California Education Code section 212.5 defines sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress.
2. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment, academic status, or progress.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.
4. Submission to, or rejection of the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the school.

Students who engage in sexual harassment are subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion from the school.

Any student of VCS who believes that she or he has been the victim of sexual harassment is urged to bring the problem to the attention of the principal so that appropriate action may be taken to resolve the problem. The school will investigate all reports of possible sexual harassment.

Such reports should ordinarily be brought to the attention of the principal or head of school because they are responsible for maintaining a suitable learning environment on the school campus, are trained to investigate misconduct, and are authorized to impose appropriate disciplinary action.

However, the school recognizes that, due to the possibly embarrassing nature of sexual harassment conduct, individual students may instead choose to make a report to another trusted adult employee such as a counselor, nurse, or teacher. VCS employees who receive such reports are expected to take appropriate action to ensure that students are not subjected to sexual harassment.

Additionally, should the sexual harassment constitute child abuse, reporting shall be made in the manner provided in the Employee Handbook.

All VCS staff involved in the receipt of, or investigation of allegations of sexual harassment are to hold such information in appropriate confidence to the extent possible so as to ensure the privacy of the individuals concerned.

## Bullying

VCS believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The school and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

Bullying is exposing a person to abusive actions repeatedly over time. Bullying becomes a concern when hurtful or aggressive behavior toward an individual or group appears to be unprovoked, intentional, and (usually) repeated. Bullying involves a real or perceived imbalance of power, with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. Examples of the type of behavior prohibited by this policy include:

- direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving;
- verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling;
- social isolation or manipulation.

VCS reserves the right to use discretion in determining student bullying.

This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

VCS expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the Head of School or designee. Staff is expected to immediately intervene when they see a bullying incident occur.

Each complaint of bullying should be promptly investigated. The school will make reasonable efforts to keep a report of bullying and the results of investigation confidential.

If the complainant student or the parent of the student feels that appropriate resolution of the investigation or complaint has not been reached, the student or the parent of the student should contact the Head of School. The school prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process.

### **Personal Responsibility, Hands-Off Policy/PDA, and Sexual Immorality.**

“ . . . that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable . . . ”  
 (1 Thessalonians 4:4).

VCS strictly enforces a hands-off policy, which prohibits horseplay, pushing, slapping, punching, kicking, and grabbing. Since small things can quickly escalate or be misinterpreted by others, students are to keep their hands to themselves. The rights and property of others are to be respected at all times. Students should not handle or move the property of others without permission (even as a “joke” or a “game”).

Boy-girl relationships and friendships are important and can be enjoyed without displays of public affection. Kissing, holding hands, frontal hugs, and cuddling are not appropriate behaviors on campus.

Sexual immorality in any context and in any form is not permitted. Consequences may range from suspension to expulsion based on the situation and the decision of the VCS administration. The ultimate goal is to see a change of heart in the offender and true repentance for sin. While there are consequences, we also want to extend grace and reconciliation after those consequences have been carried out, while upholding the beliefs and standards of VCS and setting a clear understanding that sexual immorality is not acceptable. In the meantime, we strive to ensure there is a support system in place to help the student to feel connected to the school; to ensure academic progress; to encourage participation in counseling and classes that will ultimately promote Biblical contrition, restoration, and reconciliation, and benefit them in the future; and to assist in pointing the student toward God’s Word.

### **Expulsion**

Expulsion is the immediate dismissal of a student from school. Recommendation for expulsion is at the discretion of the principal and must be approved by the Head of School. Expelled students will not be allowed to visit the school campus or attend any school-sponsored activity or event. VCS reserves the right to decide under which circumstances expulsion or some lesser penalty, such as warning, detention, or suspension, is appropriate. Confirmed possession of a controlled substance may result in a legal prosecution and expulsion.

A decision of expulsion may be appealed within 5 days of the expulsion decision by submitting a written request for appeal to the Head of School. Upon timely receipt of the written notice of appeal, a meeting or conference call will be scheduled between the Head of School, any other administrator that the school deems appropriate, the parents, and in cases where the school deems appropriate, the student. During the meeting, the parents and/or student will have full opportunity to present their position as to why the expulsion decision should be reconsidered. After the meeting, the Head of School—who has sole discretion to make the determination—will inform the parents and/or student of the outcome of the appeal, which decision will be final.

## Use of School Telephones and Personal Electronic Devices

The school phone system is for official school business only. Classroom phones are for teacher use only. Students needing to make emergency phone calls can do so in the school office.

DS gaming devices and other similar electronic devices are not allowed at school.

Elementary students are not allowed to carry cell phones while on school grounds.

Middle and high school students may carry cell phones; however, cell phones may not be seen, heard, or used in class or Extended Care.

A teacher or administrator may choose to collect cell phones at his or her discretion.

Students may not use their cell phones or iPads to text, email, or call friends, listen to music, watch videos, take pictures, or play games. Pictures and videos taken on phones/iPads should always be of a positive nature and never demeaning, hurtful, illegal, immoral, or inappropriate.

Cell phones at school are the purpose of making contact with parents before or after school or during lunch, never in class or during Chapel, or during passing periods. iPads are to be used for educational purposes as directed by the teachers. during passing periods.

The following cell phone violation consequences will be in place for students:

### 1st Violation

Cell phone will be confiscated and kept in the office. Parents may pick it up at the end of the school day.

### 2nd Violation

Cell phone will be confiscated and kept in the office for two school days. Parents may pick it up at the end of the second school day.

### 3rd Violation

Cell phone will be confiscated and kept in the office for three school days. Parents may pick it up at the end of the third school day. A conference will be held between the parent(s) and the administration and a behavioral contract will be issued and signed by the student, parent(s), and administration.

If you need to reach your child, please contact the appropriate school office for assistance, by dialing their direct line:

<b>Early Education Office:</b>	<b>707 - 724 - 6035</b>
<b>Elementary Office:</b>	<b>707 - 724 - 6034</b>
<b>Middle School Office:</b>	<b>707 - 724 - 6033</b>
<b>High School Office:</b>	<b>707 - 724 - 6032</b>

## SECTION 7-EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Available Options

VCS offers a variety of activities for students. Team sports, cheerleading, student government, music, choir, drama, and various clubs are open to interested students who meet eligibility requirements. Extracurricular activities at VCS are designed for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual advancement of the student. Participation is a privilege that is earned by the student meeting the outlined criteria with regard to behavior, academics, and attendance.

### Sports Rules

Participation in athletics requires record of a recent physical on file (middle and high school students, acceptable school standing, and that payment of all fees is current. Athletes are required to have insurance coverage before they participate in any sport. Parents must provide proof of insurance to the Director of Athletics. The school does not offer an insurance plan for students. Parents must take full responsibility for investigating their insurance coverage.

Students may not participate in any extra-curricular activity on a day or in the evening of a day in which they have been suspended. Students must attend a minimum of 6 periods (or 5 periods if a senior has less than 6 periods). Middle and High school, to attend or participate in an extra-curricular event (if Saturday, 6 periods or 5 periods if a senior has less than 6 periods, must have been in attendance on Friday).

Absences for a doctor or dentist appointment is the exception to this rule but the student must turn in an Office Visit slip from the doctor or dentist in order to be excused. Middle School and High School students leaving early for school athletic competitions must turn in all work due that day prior to their departure from school in order to have the work be considered on time.

All activities are under the supervision of the school and students are expected to be as responsive and cooperative at an activity as they are in the classroom. All school rules, dress codes, and behavioral guidelines apply at such events.

All plans for student activities must be approved by sponsors and the administration.

Team members or participants must use authorized school transportation only. Students may not drive themselves.

## Eligibility

(Board Policy Number 600.4)

Vacaville Christian Schools and Vacaville Christian High School require and enforce an eligibility standard more rigorous than the minimum eligibility standard set forth by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). No probationary period is provided for students. Students are either eligible or ineligible.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities must maintain satisfactory school conduct and academics. Students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average with no grades of "F". Suspended students are not allowed to attend or participate in events.

## High School, Middle, and Elementary Eligibility

Eligible Students wishing to participate in athletic and other extra-curricular activities must maintain a 2.0 grade point average with no "F"s for middle and high school students, for elementary students must maintain at minimum, a "C" in every subject.

An ineligible student is defined as having less than a 2.0 grade point average and/or a grade of "F" in any class. Ineligible students may practice with a sports team but will not be allowed to suit up, sit, or stand with the team during any game or contest (league, non-league, scrimmage, tournament, etc.) and may not travel with the team. Ineligible students are to remain in the bleachers. An ineligible student's academic progress is reviewed every 4.5 weeks to assure VCS standards are met. If eligibility is achieved, full participation will resume. A student's status on academic probation will be reevaluated at the end of each grading period (progress reports and quarterly report cards), not on a week-to-week basis.

## Section 8-Miscellaneous

### Interviewing and Photographing Students

From time to time, the public media or school media may wish to interview or photograph students when covering educational and sporting events at school. We want you to be aware that your son/daughter could be interviewed or photographed in such situations.

In addition, from time to time VCS will hire professional photographers and film crews for the sake of promoting the school with billboards, TV commercials and new images for VCS websites and social media.

During new student enrollment and re-enrollment, all parents are provided a Release of Specific Student Information sheet to either give or deny permission for photography and photos to be used in marketing. This form is kept on file for the entire school year in reference to consent or denial of consent for such images to be used at the school's discretion.

If a parent's consent changes at any time, immediately contact the school registrar to have the student's records updated. For questions or concerns, contact Katie Eads at [katie.eads@go-vcs.com](mailto:katie.eads@go-vcs.com).



“FOR WISDOM WILL  
ENTER YOUR HEART, AND  
KNOWLEDGE WILL FILL  
YOU WITH JOY.  
WISE CHOICES WILL  
WATCH OVER YOU.  
UNDERSTANDING WILL  
KEEP YOU SAFE.”

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(PROVERBS 2:10–11 NIV)



## SECTION 9– ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GENERAL INFORMATION

### Personnel

#### Elementary Principal

Karyn Kempton

#### Elementary Vice Principal

Ingrid Gustafson

#### Elementary Office Administrative Assistant

Terri Roberts & Merle Hopper

General Office Direct Line 707-724-6034

### Office Hours

#### School Year

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Summer Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### School Hours

Grades 1–5 begin at 8:20 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:10 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Tuesday. Grades 1–5 will be dismissed at 2:10 p.m. every Tuesday.

Kindergarten begins at 8:20 a.m. and is dismissed at 2:10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Minimum Days

Grades K–5 are dismissed at noon. Lunch will be served only to students staying for Extended Care.

### Pledges

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we gather in the courtyard to share a time of patriotism and prayer. The following are the pledges we say in unison:

#### Pledge to the Bible

“I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God’s Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path. I will hide its Word in my heart that I might not sin against God.”

#### Pledge to the Christian Flag

“I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands: one Savior crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe.”

#### Pledge to the American Flag

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

### Attendance

#### Absences

In the event of any absence, a parent must email [vcsabscences@go-vcs.com](mailto:vcsabscences@go-vcs.com) with the following information:

1. The student’s full name.
2. The date(s) of absence.
3. The specific reason for the absence.
4. The name and relationship of the person providing the information.

Absences resulting from illness, doctor or dental appointments, a death in the immediate family, school related absences, or other absences approved by the administration are excused. Excessive absences (twelve days per semester) may result in dismissal from the school or failure to pass the school year. Students are considered absent if they arrive more than one hour past school start time. A doctor’s appointment with written verification is the only exception to this policy. However, a student is considered absent if the doctor’s appointment goes past 11:30 a.m. Students will be counted absent for the day if he/she leaves class before 11:30 a.m.

Unexcused absences include school missed for any of the following reasons: staying at home to care for other siblings, lack of transportation to and from school, staying up late the night before school, not attending scheduled field trips, going on another child’s field trip, etc. . . .

Students with unexcused absences will be expected to complete all work, and will receive a zero for all assignments completed on days missed.

Students have two days for every one day of excused absence to complete work.

If a student is absent for more than three consecutive days due to illness, a doctor's note is required.

### **Planned Absences**

Family vacations and trips should be scheduled during school holidays, since it is often difficult for a child to make up work missed during an absence.

It is also a detriment to the child's learning to miss classroom instruction. Should it be absolutely necessary for a child to miss school due to a trip, parents must procure permission from administration five days in advance of the absence by submitting the online planned absence form. Failure to receive advanced absence approval will result in an unexcused absence.

Please note that the act of applying for approval does not ensure that the absence will be considered excused. Up to 5 days of this type of absence can be considered as excused when fulfilling the proper deadlines and paperwork. Special considerations will be made for exceptional situations extending beyond five days. Approval of a planned absence is subject to a review of attendance history and academic standing. Students will not be eligible for excused planned absences if they are on academic probation. In this type of absence, all work missed will be due upon the day of return to school. Ten percent will be deducted from any work not turned in upon the first day of return, up to two days. Any work received after two days will be given a zero.

### **Tardies**

It is important that students are on time to school. Be sure to allow enough time to proceed through the VCS carpool. Students are considered tardy if they are not with their class at 8:20 a.m. Students who are tardy must report to the office to receive an admit slip to class. Students who are tardy will be given a tardy notice. A demerit is issued with their second tardy.

Tardy consequences are based on a quarterly system and are as follows:

1st tardy notice: Written warning

2nd tardy notice: 1st demerit

3rd tardy notice: 2nd demerit and phone call to parents

4th tardy notice: 3rd demerit and parent-teacher conference

5th tardy notice: 4th demerit and parent-teacher-administration conference

Tardies will be marked excused for doctor or dental appointments, traffic accidents or unavoidable circumstances such as major traffic problems en-route to school. Unexcused tardies include sleeping in late, child not able to find shoes, etc. Students are considered absent if they arrive more than one hour past school start time, unless the tardiness is due to a doctor's appointment. Students will be considered absent if the doctor's appointment goes past 11:30 a.m. A note from the doctor is needed to excuse the tardy or absence.

## **Communication**

### **Contacting Students in the Classroom**

Unexpected classroom visits are distracting and disruptive to the learning environment. For that reason, we ask parents not to go to the classroom to pick up a child, drop off a forgotten lunch, etc. Parents should come to the elementary office and office staff will take care of contacting the student. Release from class for appointments is only permitted by sending a note to your child's teacher to have your child meet you in the elementary office for sign-out procedures.

### **School Correspondence**

Classroom teachers post to Schoology weekly to keep parents informed of upcoming events, curriculum issues, tests, etc. Please be sure to read through these newsletters and take note of all dates and events. The "Elementary E-Bulletin" is a newsletter sent electronically from the elementary office on a weekly basis to inform parents of elementary programs and events.

### **Schoology**

Schoology is an electronic learning management system that will serve VCS as a platform to communicate with parents any classroom/school related information. Each family will receive information that will give them access to their child's teacher's homepage.

## Birthdays

If you desire to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please communicate with his/her teacher at least one week before the birthday. Birthday party invitations will only be distributed at school if the entire class is invited to the party. We cannot hand out invitations to just a few children, as the other children always notice and feel left out.

## Safety

Children are to be under adult supervision at all times. Please do not leave your child unattended in your vehicle or on the playground at any time.

Students will not be released to anyone not on the emergency contact list.

Students will not be released to anyone showing signs of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## Walk-In

Parents who are walking onto campus to drop off their students must take them to the MP if before 7:55 a.m. or to the playground from 7:55 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Parents of Kindergarten students walking onto campus for 2:10 p.m. dismissal may be picked up at their classrooms.

Parents of 1st – 5th who are walking onto campus to pick up their students must wait at the covered picnic table area.

K-5 students, who are picked up at 3:10 p.m. by parents walking onto campus, will be delivered to the covered picnic area.

Please do not wait outside classrooms for drop-off or pick-up.

## Carpool

K–5 carpool drop-off time is 7:55 a.m.–8:20 a.m. daily at the designated area by the gym.

Pick-up for Kindergarten is at the breezeway by the Makerspace, from 2:10 p.m.–2:25 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Multiple student pick-up from 2:10 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. available for Kindergarten on Chapel and Minimum Days at the gym.)

K-5 afternoon carpool is 3:10 p.m. – 3:25 p.m. as follows:

- Single-student pick-up will be at the breezeway by the MakerSpace.
- Multiple-student pick-up will be at the gym

Please do not arrive on campus before 3:00 p.m. as this causes middle school carpool to back up. You will be asked to leave carpool if you are here early.

No parking in the carpool lanes.

Morning and afternoon carpools are manned by VCS staff.

Due to arrangements made with First Baptist Church (FBC) and the City of Vacaville, students may not be picked up at First Baptist Church, in VCS's front parking lot by the elementary office, in the front Davis parking lot, or on Davis Street. All students must wait for their rides at the designated carpool pick-up location on campus. Students who violate these policies will be subject to disciplinary action. Elementary students being dropped off or picked up outside designated carpool locations will receive a demerit.

## Walking, Bikes or VCS Sibling Pick Up

Parents who desire to have their children ride a bike, walk onto or off campus, or be picked up by an older sibling at VCS must give the elementary office a note granting their permission.

## Food Programs

### Breakfast

Breakfast items are available for purchase through our VCS kitchen. You will be billed for the items your child purchases.

### Morning Snack

Snack breaks occur at morning recess for all elementary students. Parents are encouraged to send a healthy snack with their children for this recess break. Acceptable snack items include fruit, crackers, cheese, vegetable sticks, etc. Students may not bring candy, cakes, cookies, or like items for this morning break.

### Lunch

All K–5 students are required to eat a nutritious lunch, either brought from home or bought from the VCS food program. Hot lunch menus are available on

the website or in the elementary office and are posted in the E-Bulletin. Students may select which days they would like to participate in the hot lunch program. Hot lunches must be ordered by 9:00 a.m. You will be billed for the lunches your child orders.

Parents may send a sack lunch with their children. Lunches should be well-balanced and nutritious. We request that elementary students drink milk, juice, or water. Milk may be purchased separately. Please do not send soda with your child. Students are not to bring any items that need to be warmed in the microwave.

Elementary students are not allowed to use the vending machines at any time.

### **After-School Snacks**

Snacks may be purchased after school at the snack bar only if students are staying for Extended Care. You will be billed for the items your child purchases.

## **Curriculum**

The curriculum of Vacaville Christian Schools includes academic instruction in reading, language, spelling, math, science, history, and Bible. The curriculum also includes physical education, computer education, vocal music, art education, library use and instruction, and an instrumental band program for grades 3–5. All phases of the curriculum are directed to assist in the ultimate development of the whole child. Emphasis is placed on mastery of academic fundamentals. Bible instruction and application of Biblical principles are integral parts of all instruction in the classroom. Teachers highlight the curriculum at the annual Back-to-School Night.

## **Spiritual Growth**

### **Christian Character Development**

Along with our regular curriculum and memory program, our Bible training focuses on Christian character traits such as love, honesty, respect, and courage. Our goal is that our students begin practicing these character traits in their own lives. We want the truth of the Bible to affect their lives in a real and meaningful way. Monthly character awards are given to correspond with the character quality being studied that month.

## **Chapel**

Students in grades K–5 attend chapel weekly. Chapel provides opportunities for our students to participate in praise, worship, and the study of God’s Word. Each teacher is responsible for a chapel presentation that emphasizes our current chapel theme, one time during each school year. Chapel speakers include local pastors, teachers, administrators, missionaries, and others. Chapel time builds unity in the school, as well as being a time of corporate worship of the Lord. Parents are always welcome to attend chapel. Students are required to wear chapel dress on chapel days. (See dress code section for explanation.)

## **Bible**

The translation of the Bible used at VCS is the New International Version (NIV). You may be asked to provide a children’s NIV Bible should the teacher not already have a class set.

## **Academic Growth**

### **Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)**

We believe that every student is of great value, as each was created in God’s image. Given the unique abilities of each child, we like to give an opportunity for optimal development. Our GATE program is based on methods of developing these unique abilities. We provide a program for students who are willing to demonstrate their talents in academics, creativity, commitment, and leadership. We believe our students are gifted in different areas, and this program will enable them to use their individual learning styles and special abilities. The program strives to help students develop self-awareness, creative, critical thinking, and independent study skills. Students in grades 3–5 who qualify for our GATE program will explore these skills through participation in lessons and activities that align with their classroom curriculum. Specific units integrate art and literature, science and technology, cultural diversity and geography for each grade level.

### **Reading & Math Resource Program**

Vacaville Christian Elementary School (VCES) offers tutoring in reading with an on-site resource teacher. Our goal is to provide for the learning needs of our students without having to send students to other agencies for assistance. Parents pay the resource teacher directly for this service.

We offer five programs:

1. Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing (LiPS) Program
2. Visualizing & Verbalizing for Language Comprehension and Thinking
3. Seeing Stars: Symbol Imagery for Phonemic Awareness, Sight Words, and Spelling
4. Read Naturally for Improving Fluency
5. Susan Barton Reading and Spelling System for Dyslexia

These five programs specifically develop:

- Reading
- Phonemic
- Awareness
- Reading
- Comprehension
- Spelling
- Imagery
- Listening Comprehension
- Critical Thinking
- Following Directions
- Writing
- Academic Performance

Prospective students go through a screening process to determine needs and which program(s) will be most beneficial in the remediation process. Students may be assessed using the Slosson Oral Reading Test for vocabulary, the Woodcock Reading Mastery Test for phonemic awareness, the Wide Range Achievement Test for spelling and math, the Gray Oral Reading Test for comprehension and fluency, the Lindamood Auditory Conceptualization Test, the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test for working vocabulary, or the Susan Barton Screening for Dyslexia. Students meet one-on-one or in small groups for 30–45 minutes, 2–4 times per week during school hours, depending on need. A fee for the initial assessment

and weekly services will be payable directly to the resource teacher.

## Summer Tutoring

Students who are struggling in one or more of the core subject areas (reading, math, and language) may be required to receive private tutoring. Parents will be notified by the classroom teacher if a student will be required to receive extra summer help.

## Summer Camp

Our program provides a wide variety of educational opportunities to accommodate a broad range of interests, ages, and abilities, with various schedule options. Past camp offerings have included crafts, hands-on science, art, cooking, and field trips. A successful summer camp experience can foster a spirit of self-confidence, a sense of direction, and a more positive attitude toward school and friendships.

Information detailing summer camp will be available by the end of April on our school website or in the elementary office.

## Homework

### Homework/Assignment Planner

All K–5 students are expected to complete homework assignments on time. Homework is assigned primarily for the purpose of helping students establish responsible habits and review concepts learned in the classroom.

All students in grades 2–5 are required to use a VCS assignment planner to record daily assignments. These planners will be distributed by the classroom teacher during the first week of school.

### Homework Responsibilities of Parents

The attitude of parents toward their child's homework is important, because it influences the way the child feels about homework. A few recommendations on dealing with homework include:

- Provide a place for study that is well-stocked with pencils, crayons, paper, etc.

- Set a definite time for homework, and stick to the schedule as closely as possible.
- Take an active interest in what your student is doing.
- Give encouragement, but do not do the work for him/her.
- Help your child break large projects into smaller assignments.
- Keep a calendar with your child to plan his/her work.

Ask your child’s teacher for specific tips on subject matter that may be difficult for your child.

### Homework Expectations

Parents can expect the following time frames for the amount of homework given on a daily basis:

Kindergarten	10 minutes
First Grade	10–20 minutes
Second Grade	20 minutes
Third Grade	30 minutes
Fourth Grade	40 minutes
Fifth Grade	50 minutes

These times may vary, depending upon the assignment(s) and a student’s work rate. Homework is not assigned on special all-school program nights. These might include grade-level programs, Back-to-School Night, and Open House. Students enrolled in our extended care program will be provided with a study hall time in grades 1–5 where they will have the opportunity to work on their homework. However, VCS Extended Care teachers are not responsible for checking homework. Parents should be sure to review homework completed during this study hall time.

### Homework Consequences for Incomplete or Missing Assignments

Students who do not return their homework will receive a ten percent deduction per day for late homework. If home-work is not turned in after two days, the student will receive a zero for the

assignment, which will negatively impact his grade. The homework will still need to be completed.

Students will be given one warning per quarter for not turning in homework. After the first warning, students will be given a demerit and serve detention. Detention is served during the first recess. It is a time-out period in a designated classroom, where students complete teacher-assigned work and are given a restroom break. Kindergarten students do not serve detention for not turning in homework but are given a time-out during recess.

### Textbooks

All textbooks are issued to students during the first few weeks of school. All non-consumable textbooks are to be fully covered with a book cover. Adhesive book covers are not to be used, as they can permanently adhere to textbooks. All non-consumable textbooks are on loan and remain the property of VCS. Students who lose books, or return books that are damaged in excess of normal wear will be charged for replacement of the textbook. Students leaving the school are to return all non-consumable books and all remaining pages of consumable text books to their classroom teacher.

### Supplies

A list of supplies will be given to parents to purchase. Parents will also be required to purchase a large backpack for their child. Rolling backpacks (regulation size) are allowed in the 4th and 5th grades only. Please keep in mind VCS does not allow any items that may contain offensive pictures, advertisements, new age imagery, astrology symbols, celebrity groups, evil characters, etc. on any items brought to school.

Parents may also be asked to provide a children’s NIV Bible, should the teacher not already have a class set.

### Volunteering in the Classroom

Each elementary classroom teacher needs one or two room parents who are willing to help organize classroom parties, country fair booths, special events, and activities. The teacher will communicate these needs through weekly newsletters and at Back-to-School Night. If you are interested in helping, please communicate directly

with your child’s teacher. Room parents must set excellent examples of modest dress and Christian character when working at school. Room parents work closely with the classroom teacher to plan classroom parties. Parties may be held for holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Valentine’s Day, and Easter. VCS does not observe Halloween in any manner; therefore, no parties, costumes, or treats may be planned for this day.

### Extended Care

Our K–5 Extended Care program is designed to provide children with opportunities to use and expand their school experience. We know how hard your child has worked in school all day, so we have created a recreational program filled with fun activities and projects. Trained and dedicated staff are on hand to lead your child through arts and crafts, group games, team-building activities, and much more. A time to work on homework is also provided.

Extended Care also offers an array of optional enrichment classes that are available to all students interested in participating. The following is a partial listing of classes available:

- Art
- Robotics
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Sewing
- Taekwondo
- Pottery

### Grade Reporting

#### Grades and Progress Reports

Report cards are issued four times during the school year. The first quarter report will be provided and discussed during a parent/teacher conference. These first quarter conferences are mandatory for all parents and are crucial for developing a strong working relationship between the child’s family and teacher. The second quarter report card will be sent home with the student in a report card envelope.

Parents are required to sign the envelope and return it to school to ensure they have received the report card. Third quarter parent/teacher conferences will be held if teachers deem it necessary or if parents request a meeting. If no parent/teacher conference is held, the third quarter report card will be sent home with the student. The final report card is sent home the last day of school.

A mid-quarter progress report for grades 1-5 will be sent during quarters 1-3. These reports guarantee frequent communication regarding a child’s progress and academic standing. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child’s progress or any other concerns throughout the year. Please call your child’s teacher to set up an appointment. Kindergarten students will receive a progress report only if the child is in special need of help or attention in a specific area. Progress reports will contain grades only. Teacher comments will be on report cards.

#### Grades and Point System

##### Second through Fifth Grade Scale

Percentile	Letter Grade
100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70 Probation Level	C-
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D-
59-below	F



## Kindergarten and First Grade Scale

Kindergarten and first grade students do not receive traditional letter grades but, instead, receive marks of E, S, and N. E stands for excellent, S stands for satisfactory, and N stands for needs improvement. Report cards will also contain written comments from the teacher.

## Academic Probation

Any student in grades 2-5 receiving a C- in an individual subject area (math, reading, language, spelling, history, and science) will be placed on academic probation. Students are required to have their homework assignment planner signed by the parent on a daily basis while on academic probation. This measure is designed to help the child develop more responsible and effective homework habits, thus leading to academic success.

Extracurricular activities and events for traveling teams will be restricted until grades have been improved per the discretion of administration. Any student receiving a C- grade for two consecutive quarters may be dismissed from the school at the discretion of the school administration. Please note that every effort will be made to ensure student success before this measure is taken.

## Retention

Students must maintain satisfactory grades and progress in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In some cases, a student may be required to attend Summer Tutoring in order to be promoted to the next grade level. A student may be retained after a conference with parent, teacher, and principal has been held and it has been agreed that retention is in the best interest for the child. The final decision rests with the administration.

## Awards

### Honor Roll

Awards are given to students in grades 3–5 for their academic achievements each semester of school. Parents are invited to attend the awards ceremony. The awards are given for the following reasons:

Principal's Honor List—given to students with all A's and no A-'s

Principal's Honor Roll—given to students with all A's

Honor Roll—given to students with A's and B's (must have at least one A for this honor roll)

Honor Roll subjects include Bible, language, reading, spelling, science, history, and math. Students on a modified program may not be placed on the honor roll.

A modified program is defined as a change in the activity or testing procedure that in some way changes what is taught or measured. Modifications change what a student is expected to learn and/or demonstrate.

### End of the Year Awards for all 1–5 Grade Students:

**Barnabas Award**—given to one boy and one girl from each class who exemplify outstanding Christian character during the school year?

**Perfect Attendance Award**—given to students who attended every school day and never received an unexcused tardy during the year. Students are considered absent if they arrive one hour past school start time, unless they have a doctor's note for the time away from class, not to exceed more than ½ of the day. (See tardy section).

**Soaring Falcon Award**—presented to one girl and one boy per grade level for going “above and beyond” in our pull-out classes. (Art, Music, Computers, Band, P.E. etc..)

## Standards of Conduct

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.” (Romans 13:1–2)

### General Rules:

I am respectful.

I am responsible.

I am safe.

I am prepared.

## General Expectations:

Prompt and cheerful obedience is expected at all times.

Students are to show courtesy and respect for others at all times. Bullying and harassment are not tolerated.

Students are to obey the hands-off policy at all times. This includes tag, wrestling or karate-type play.

Students must remain in their appointed places under proper supervision.

Students are not to bring electronic games or devices, toys, cellular phones, skateboards, roller blades, expensive or excessive jewelry, knives, weapons, ammunition, matches, lighters, drugs, or alcohol to school. Students who bring knives, weapons, ammunition, drugs, alcohol, etc. will be automatically suspended and/or expelled from VCS.

Students are expected to dress in uniform clothing, with the only exceptions being spirit and free dress days.

Students who ride a bicycle or walk to and from school must have written permission on file in the elementary office.

## Discipline Guidelines

At VCS, the Bible is our authority for teaching and training children. Discipline is always positive, even though at times it may seem to have a negative side to it. Discipline is carried out in the following manner:

### Positive Reinforcement

This is discipline brought about by reinforcing what is acceptable and right. Many different kinds of positive incentives are used in all areas of school life to promote, motivate, and reward good behavior. Incentives include chapel awards, positive verbal praise, and classroom incentive programs.

### Negative Reinforcement

This is using consequences to counteract behavior that is unacceptable. There are two kinds of negative actions in students: those done out of childishness because of immaturity and those done out of rebellion.

Immature acts are handled by helping the student recognize acceptable behaviors and training the student to respond positively. Immature acts may be handled by time-out, loss of privileges, demerits, detention, work duty, verbal reprimand, etc. These consequences are part of the training and discipline process to teach personal responsibility and accountability. They are administered consistently, clearly, lovingly, and firmly. For offenses deemed less serious, the process is carried out as part of the normal teaching process. In order to document ongoing childish misbehaviors, the following system is utilized.

## Daily Discipline Consequences:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Warning

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – Consequence

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – Demerit, consequence, and form sent home for parent signature.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense** – Second demerit, form sent home for parent signature, student phone call made to parents, and additional consequence.

**5<sup>th</sup> Offense** – An administrative referral, visit to the Principal or Vice-Principal, form sent home for parent signature, and additional consequence.

For certain serious offenses, steps may be skipped and your child may receive a demerit or be sent to the office with an administrative referral.

## Administrative Referral

In more serious offenses, parents are notified by a phone call and written administrative referral. All written administrative referrals are placed in the student's cumulative record. A student receiving four administrative referrals in one school year is grounds for expulsion from school. Suspension/expulsion may be used by VCS administrators when deemed necessary, such as for acts of rebellion (I .e ., causing injury to another student/ property, willful disobedience, etc. .) or acts of moral consequence (I .e ., lying, cheating, fighting, etc. .).

The policies of VCS regarding student conduct are governed by principles gleaned from God's Word. Each student will conduct himself or herself in accordance with Christian standards on and off campus. This means that the school's standards of conduct apply in the school setting, at school

sponsored functions, and on the weekends. These standards are applicable in all situations, because they reflect Christ’s character and life. As a student of VCS, the student’s conduct affects how others at school, in the church, and in the community view VCS.

**Conduct Grade**

A student’s conduct grade is derived from the total number of demerits given for the quarter, as well as the total number of warnings given that did not result in a demerit. One administrative referral is equivalent to ten demerits for the purpose of calculating the conduct grade. If a suspension is given as a consequence of an administrative referral, all work missed must be completed and will be counted as a zero when turned in.

Homework: Demerits will be given for missing assignments (see Homework Consequences).

**Conduct/Citizenship Grade Scale**

The following scale represents the citizenship grades on progress reports and report cards as determined by the number of warnings and demerits accumulated by the student per quarter.

Number of Demerits	K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
0-2	E
3-4	E-
5	S+
6	S+
7	S
8	S
9	S
10	S-
11 or more	N

**Conduct Probation**

Any student with an N or below in conduct will be placed on conduct probation. Regular conferences may be required with a counselor, teacher, or principal during this probation period. Parents may also be required to seek outside Christian counseling or view parenting DVDs while a child is

on conduct probation. Any child receiving a C-/N or below in conduct for two or more quarters during the school year may be dismissed from the school at the discretion of school administration.

**Dress Code**

VCS has established a uniform policy for all students in grades Kindergarten through 5th keeping biblical principles of modesty, neatness, and appropriateness. It is also important to realize that parents, as the primary educators of their children (Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 6), play a key role in this area of dress code. It is incumbent upon parents to guide and supervise their young people in the selection of appropriate clothing. Accordingly, this dress code is intended to make known in as clear a way as possible, the position, guidelines, and restrictions of Vacaville Christian Elementary School in the area of dress.

Listed below are dress code/uniform requirements and guidelines:

**Girls’ Uniform Requirements:**

- Shirts/Tops: Solid red, white or navy polo shirt- short or long sleeve approved. Solid white oxford or piped collar- short, ¾, or long sleeve approved. Red, white, or navy blue turtlenecks may be layered or worn alone.
- Sweaters/Sweatshirts: Solid navy sweater/sweatshirts/vests are approved and may be worn in the classroom. Knit, sweatshirt, or fleece fabric approved. VCES spirit sweatshirt OK.
- Pants/Shorts: Solid navy uniform pant or shorts approved. No capris, skinny, cargo or gathered elastic hems allowed. No khaki for girls.
- Jumpers/Skirts/Skorts: Solid navy or VCS plaid jumper (No Knit), skirt or navy skort approved. Jumpers must be sleeveless with an approved shirt worn under it. Shorts must be worn under jumper/ skirt (spandex is preferred).
- Socks/Tights/Leggings: Solid red, white, or navy socks, tights and/or leggings. Leggings worn with skirt/jumpers must fit

snug, like tights.

- Nail Polish: Light pink or clear nail polish is OK.

### **Boys' Uniform Requirements:**

- Shirts: Solid red, white or navy polo shirt- short or long sleeve approved. Solid white oxford- short, or long sleeve approved. Red, white, or navy blue turtlenecks may be layered or worn alone.
- Sweaters/Sweatshirts: Solid navy sweater/sweatshirts/vests are approved and may be worn in the classroom. Knit, sweatshirt, or fleece fabric approved. VCES spirit sweatshirt OK.
- Pants/Shorts: Solid navy or khaki uniform pant or shorts approved. No baggy, skinny, cargo or gathered elastic hems allowed.
- Socks: Solid red, white, navy, black or khaki socks are approved.

### **General Guidelines for Boys and Girls**

- All students are to wear their regular uniform Monday through Friday unless in Free Dress, Theme Dress, or Spirit Day dress (Special Day dress details to follow).
- Uniforms may be purchased through Land's End Uniform Company. Our school number is 900140211. You may choose to purchase through other vendors using the approved VCS Land's End uniform as a guide, adhering to color options, and general style descriptions.
- Uniform shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- All uniform clothing must be either VCS logoed (optional for additional cost) or plain with no branding.
- All shorts/jumpers/skirts are to be within 3 inches of the knee. If this is questionable, teachers may measure the clothing item and students may be sent home to change.
- Tight fitting or baggy clothing is not

permitted.

- No torn or clothes with holes are allowed.

### **Socks**

Students are to wear matching solid colored socks which are visible at all times. "No show" socks are not allowed. (For colors, see Girls & Boys Uniform Requirements)

### **Shoes**

Students should always wear a comfortable, sturdy shoe that will enable them to participate in physical education class (no boots on PE days). No platform shoes, clogs or sandals are allowed. The primary base color must be red, white, blue (no turquoise or light blue), tan, gray, brown or black. No characters or objects (such as fire trucks) on them. Stripes and swooshes are acceptable. Lace up shoes must be tied at all times. No roller shoes or light up shoes allowed.

### **Hair/Make-up**

Unnatural hair coloring, extreme coloring, extreme cuts and shaved-in designs are unacceptable. Boys' hair should not fall below the eyebrow, the middle of the ear, or touch the top of the collar. All hair styles must be neatly kept and have a look of good grooming. No make-up may be worn. Hair accessories must be red, white, or navy.

### **Swim Suits**

Swimsuits must be modest and provide full body coverage. Girls- a one piece or tankini swimsuit with no cutouts is required. Boys- 'trunk' style suit allowed.

### **Miscellaneous/Accessories**

- Tattoos (real or temporary) are not permitted.
- No item with symbols, logos, or images that are contrary to our Christian faith are allowed (ex. Ying yang, astrology symbols, skulls, etc.).
- Jewelry is discouraged because of safety, loss, or damage, but if worn must be modest (no hoop or dangle earrings).

- Body piercing is not permitted (ear piercing for girl is permitted)
- Hats are not to be worn inside buildings.
- Bandanas are not allowed.
- (Grades 3-5) Solid brown, black, khaki, or navy blue belt must be worn when wearing shorts or pants. (No added ornamentations.)

### **Chapel Dress**

Chapel Dress is required of students on chapel day. This consists of a jumper or skirt for the girls and uniform pants for boys. The principal may announce alternatives to these requirements in extreme heat or cold.

### **Outside Coats/Jackets**

All colors are acceptable. Students wearing clothing with hoods will not be allowed to have their hoods up in the classroom or outside when the weather does not require it. All outside wear must be removed in the classroom.

### **Spirit Dress**

Students may wear “school spirit” dress on Friday. Students may wear their spirit shirt/sweatshirt with blue denim jeans. No jean shorts are allowed-uniform shorts OK. Girls may wear blue denim skirt or loose fitting blue denim capris. No skinny pants.

It is expected that the VCES school spirit design must be visible at all times when in the classroom. Regular uniforms are required when a student chooses not to participate in spirit dress. VCS sports shirts may only be worn on Fridays if it is a game day or the weekend of a game. Spirit clothing orders are placed a couple times a year in the fall through the elementary office.

### **Spirit Rally Dress**

Teachers will announce grade-level colors to be worn. Colored hair spray and face painting are subject to teacher and parent approval. Makeup is not allowed.

### **Free Dress Passes/Themed Dress Days**

Free Dress Passes may be granted through Administrative approval as incentives for various occasions and can only be used on Thursdays.

Students must turn in their Free Dress Pass to the teacher on the Thursday they choose to use it. Free Dress Passes may not be transferred or photocopied.

Themed Dress Days will be announced by Administration to celebrate various events and holidays.

These days out of uniform must consist of modest clothing, which conforms to the general philosophy of VCS. No spandex shorts, spaghetti strap tops, skinny pants or leggings worn in place of pants. Shorts and dresses are to be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee, even if leggings are worn underneath. No oversized and baggy clothing.

### **Dress Code Violation**

Students in violation of VCS’ dress code will receive a Dress Code Violation, which must be signed by the parent and returned the next school day. The parent may need to bring a proper change of clothes to school, or pick up their child from school. Students receiving dress code violations also receive one of the following consequences:

- 1st Offense      Warning
- 2nd Offense      Loss of 2 weeks school spirit and free dress privileges
- 3rd Offense      Loss of 4 weeks school spirit and free dress privileges
- 4th Offense      Loss of school spirit and free dress privileges for remainder of the quarter

### **Lost and Found**

Please label all clothing, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc. Lost articles will be brought to the lost and found cabinet. Students may claim their items from there. At the end of each month all unclaimed uniform items will be donated to the Used Uniform Sale. Non- uniform items will be donated to a local charity.

## APPENDIX A: VACAVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS' ACCEPTABLE TECHNOLOGY USE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR STUDENTS

VCS offers its entire community a wide range of electronic communications resources and technologies to support its educational objectives. These include, but are not limited to, computers and the Internet. Their use is a privilege, not a right. Failure to adhere to the rules and standards set forth in this policy will result in having the privilege to use these resources suspended or revoked. Additionally, it may result in discipline up to and including expulsion. The following terms and conditions are meant to provide students and their families, parents and students with examples of prohibited conduct, but are not intended to serve as an exclusive list. Students may be disciplined for engaging in other conduct deemed, in the sole discretion of the school, as detrimental to the school, its mission, and a violation of school policies and/or harmful to other students. This policy applies whether the student's use of the school's technological resources is on-campus or off-campus.

**Lab Behavior** - All VCS standards of conduct apply in the computer labs. Labs may only be used when a VCS staff member is present and agrees to supervise. No food or drink is to be brought to the labs or placed near any classroom computer at any time.

**Proper Usage** - Technology resources are provided to promote educational excellence. Technology includes, but is not limited to the Internet, E-mail, computers/laptops, telecommunication devices, video and audio equipment, wireless networks, data systems, computer systems, servers, networks, software, and other equipment that supports the school's electronic communications services.

Students' use of the school's technology resources shall not conflict with school policies, laws or regulations. During class time, computers and other school technology resources are to be used for academic purposes only. The school also reserves the right to specify how its technology resources are to be used.

Students agree never to use the school's technology resources for purposes such as the following:

To Instant Message.

- To access or use any web log (blog), forum, or "social network" web site of any kind, including but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, Tumblr, Schoology, Instagram, YouTube, Google Hangouts, Flickr, etc. . . .
- To visit and post information and/or messages on social networking sites such as
- To access or use chat rooms.
- To send messages using abusive, or otherwise objectionable language.
- To engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
- To harass another person. Harassment is defined as persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending those messages, you must stop.
- To knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- To enter contests, advertising, political lobbying, or personal commercial activities including

online purchasing on sites such as eBay or Craigslist.

- To post, send or download copyrighted material without permission. Users are to respect the rights of and the intellectual property of others in accordance with state and federal copyright laws. Transferring copyrighted material to or from the school's computer without the express permission of the owner is a violation of Federal Law.
- To access, send, or retrieve pornographic material.
- To post inappropriate text files or files dangerous to the integrity of any network.
- To circumvent security measures on school or remote computers or networks (hacking).
- To attempt to gain access to another's resources, programs, or data.
- To falsify one's identity to others.
- To engage in the unauthorized exploration of the Network Operating System or to change any installed school software is strictly prohibited.
- To disclose personal information, such as address, phone number, age, on the school system to third parties unless the student has parental consent.
- To download or upload software, games, or shareware.
- To communicate any credit card number, bank account number, or any other financial information.
- To gamble.
- To use the name of [Insert school name] on a social networking site.
- To agree to meet with someone he/she has met online.
- To engage in any illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of a person, etc. . . .
- To post chain letters or engage in "spamming." Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher or an administrator. Additionally, to the extent parents inform the student that there is additional material that they think would be inappropriate for the student to access, VCS expects that the student will follow his or her parent's instructions in this matter.

Communication is Not Private - Each student's online communication is a reflection of our school. E-mail to and from our school is like a postcard: it is not private and may be monitored as needed. Therefore, students have no right to privacy in email or other school technology resources. The school has the right to monitor all communications on its server and electronic equipment.

Safety - Students must promptly disclose to their teacher or other administrator, any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Security - It is essential that [Insert school name] computers never be disrupted by any virus. For that reason, using school computers to open any internet-based e-mail system (AOL, Hot-mail, Yahoo, etc.) is strictly prohibited. When work must be transferred from home to school, it must be via the school's official email address.

Vandalism - The entire community suffers when computer systems are disrupted. Students agree to refrain from vandalism, including the following: attempting to access the files or folders of others or to

bypass the security software; revealing passwords to others; unauthorized installation, removal, or copying of any software or data files; modifying or circumventing any computer software or network settings; or changing any hardware connections or cabling.

Password Protection - Students agree to respect others' privacy and not use another person's account or password, even with that person's consent. Students must also not disclose or allow others to use their passwords.

Copyright & Plagiarism - Students are responsible for producing their own work in completing school assignments. Downloading and copying another individual's work from the Internet without crediting the author is plagiarism. Copyright violations include the copying of computer software or written materials without the permission of the author.

Misuse - Students agree to report any misuse of the system to an appropriate staff member.

Social Media -- Part of learning to be a successful citizen and community member includes understanding that social media and digital communication are essential parts of our world today. It is important to recognize that access to information can result in tremendous advantages, but it can also create new responsibilities for students. Social media is any form of on-line publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including social networks, blogs, and photo sharing platforms, Internet websites, Internet forums, and wikis. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, Tumblr, Schoology, Instagram, YouTube, Google Hangouts, Flickr, etc. . . . Students should understand the following principles in order to create the kind of digital footprint and record with which they can feel comfortable. Many colleges and employers will search social media before making hiring and admissions decisions, and it is important to remember that online actions leave a permanent record.

- Be your best self-online – post accurate information and be accountable for what you say.
- Get your parents' input about what information they feel should remain private and what is fine to post publicly. Your parents may provide guidance and supervision of your online activities by having access to your passwords and usernames. Please keep in mind that parents may be liable for your actions or misconduct online while you are a minor. When you use social media for academic purposes, such as for a school assignment, treat the platform as a digital extension of your classroom – the same rules apply online as they do at school.
- Take a few extra minutes to think about whether a post will be hurtful or embarrassing to you or others or whether it could negatively affect a future opportunity.
- While at times, it is easy to tell whether a social media use is school-related or personal, at other times, it may be difficult to distinguish fully between different uses. Sometimes, personal social media use, including off-hours use, may result in disruption at school and the school may need to get involved. This could include disciplinary action such as a parent conference or suspension. It is important to remember that school rules prohibiting certain types of communication, like bullying and harassment, also apply to electronic communication.



Privacy settings are automatically set by social media providers governing who can see your posts, how information is linked, and what data is available to the public. Each social media platform has different privacy setting defaults and some change those settings without making it obvious to you. As a user of social media, you should determine whether to change the default settings to make access to postings more or less private.

- Protect yourself online. Try not to post too much identifying information that could risk your safety or increase the chance of identity theft.
- Take cyberbullying seriously. If you are being cyberbullied or hear about/observe someone else being cyberbullied, report the behavior and get help. You can tell a parent, school staff, another adult family member, or a trusted adult. If no adult is available and you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 911. It is important not to respond to, retaliate to, or forward any harassing, intimidating or bullying content. "De-friend," block, or remove people who send inappropriate content. It may also be a good idea to save harassing messages, as this evidence could be important to show an adult if the behavior continues. If the behavior is school-related, print out the messages and provide them to the school when you report the incident.

This agreement is a legally binding contract between the undersigned and VCS. Your signature below indicates your agreement to support the Technology Use and Social Media Policies stated above and must be on file before access to the computers is granted. A student who does not adhere to these policies will be suspended from computer use and may receive further discipline.



Questions? Call our Elementary School Office.

 707-724-6034

**Go-VCS.com**  
Preschool to 12th Grade

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