

**CORNERSTONE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
HANDBOOK 2026-2027**

Mission Statement

Cornerstone Christian School is a college preparatory school offering quality education in a Christ-centered environment based on the highest moral standards with Biblical principles to equip students for living in today's society in a way that glorifies God.

From the Faculty:

We are honored and happy that you have chosen to partner with us at Cornerstone Christian School. Our primary goal is to provide a challenging education to your child, teaching them to engage society through the lens of a biblical worldview. Our teachers and staff see Christian education as their mission, stemming directly from our separate encounters with the truth of God and the grace of Christ. We believe Christian education covers more than mere academic excellence. We also hope to attend to your child's spiritual, moral, and social education during his or her time here. As faculty and staff, we covet your prayers and support as we work with your children on a daily basis.

To the Parents:

The goal of the student handbook is to provide students, parents, and staff a clear and concise statement on basic philosophy, policies, and expectations. **Although the handbook is not intended as a definitive statement on these subjects,** it is written to answer the most frequently asked questions about policies. The handbook is to provide **basic guidelines** to enable parents, students, and staff to be "of one mind" in our daily privilege of training children to honor God.

ACCREDITATION

CCS is honored to be accredited by the following institutions:

- The Alabama Independent School Association (AISA)
- AdvancEd (formerly SACS)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Armstrong, Chairman

(CCS/Bethel Deacon)

Abigail Merkl

(CCS Parent/Bethel Member)

Dan Blankenship

(CCS Parent/Bethel Member)

David Oakes

(CCS Parent/Alumnus/Bethel Deacon)

Chesley Phillips

(CCS Parent/Alumna)

Lorna Davis

(Faculty Liaison)

The following are *ex officio*, non-voting members: Eric Wilson—Financial Administrator and Wesley Criswell—Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church

ADMINISTRATION

Margaret Pickett

School Director

Terry Garrett

Assistant Principal

James Lee

Athletic Director

Laurie Porter

Dean of Students

Christina Benz

Administrative Assistant

Eric Wilson

Financial Director

Lorna Davis

Counselor

School History

Cornerstone Christian School is here today because of the vision, prayers, and hard work of many people. Shortly after becoming pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in 1988, Bro. Allen Dennis was given a vision concerning the way God wanted to use Bethel in the years to come. That vision included a Christian school.

In 1993, plans were made to open a school by August 1994. Surveys were sent to homes in southern Shelby County, and Dr. Byrle Kynerd, Superintendent of Briarwood Christian School, was hired as a consultant. Dr. Kynerd led us through the planning, organization, and structuring that laid a necessary foundation before the school could open. The surveys indicated that parents of about 300 children were interested, so we proceeded to the next steps: electing a school board, having a public meeting with interested parents, and beginning pre-registration.

The meeting took place in March 1994. The response was underwhelming. It was decided that the school could not start in the fall, and we put information in a file cabinet and waited to see if the Lord would allow us to open the school.

In 1995, we began planning and building our new facilities with classrooms that could accommodate schoolrooms. In February or March of 1997, as our building neared completion, it was decided that God was ready for our school to open in the fall, and things began to fall into place.

The first year CCS had 103 students in grades K-8. We grew in numbers and added grades 9-12 over the next few years. Since the initial church/school building was built, we have added classroom wings onto the main building and Charger Hall. Since the first graduating class of 2001, we have since graduated 25 classes, including 442 students. What a blessing it is to know that Cornerstone alumni are taking their knowledge of Christ into the world of college and work!

In the extracurricular area, we have also built a football facility, a baseball/softball facility, and a gymnasium for basketball and volleyball. We are proud of our student athletes and their accomplishments in academics, character, and sports achievements, including 9 state championships since the school started the sports program. In 2023 the Chargers won their first AISA state championship in 1A 8-man football. They followed that accomplishment up with another state championship in 2024.

We know that the Lord has provided all of these things over the years in response to the faithfulness of families at Cornerstone and members of Bethel Baptist Church. For what we see now by sight and see in the future by faith, we praise God. We thank Him for everyone who has had a hand in this ministry. We know that this would not be possible without God; therefore, we give Him all the praise, honor, and glory.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

As of the 2025-2026 school year, families enrolling at Cornerstone must read and agree with the following statements. Where there are disagreements, parents should make an appointment with the administration to discuss.

We believe in the Trinity, affirming that God exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are co-equal, co-eternal, and of one essence. (Mt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14, John 10:30)

We believe that God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. God is all-powerful and all-knowing, and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, (Psalm 139:7, Isaiah 46:10)

The Holy Bible was written by divinely inspired men and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. (Romans 15:4, Mt. 5:17-18, Ps. 19:7-10)

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. It is a gift from God, not earned by works, and is available to all who believe and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. (Eph. 2:8-9, John 14:6, Romans 10:9)

We believe that God created humanity in His image, intentionally designing them as male and female, and that these two genders reflect His divine purpose and design for creation. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person a male or female at birth. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within a person. Genesis 2:18-25 (Gen 1:27, Mt. 19:4, Psalm 139:13-14)

We believe that God created man and woman and that only these two genders are recognized by Him according to His divine design and purpose. (Gen. 1:27, Mt. 19:4, Gen. 5:2)

We believe that God ordained marriage to be a sacred covenant between one man and one woman. Any form of sexual immorality—including fornication, homosexuality, transgender expressions, or any behavior outside of God's design for marriage—is not in harmony with His Word or the values of our school. (Gen. 2:24, Mt. 19:4-6, I Cor. 6:18-20, Rom. 1:26-27)

We believe that the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—are evidence of a life transformed by God. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect these fruits in our daily lives.

We affirm that God is the ultimate judge, and He appoints leaders and authorities to represent His truth, reflect His love, and promote His principles. We recognize that all authority is established by God, and we seek to honor and uphold His purposes in our leadership and community. (Gal 5:22-23, John 7:24, Rom. 13:1-2, 2 Cor. 5:20)

This is not an exhaustive list of our beliefs, and the Board and administration reserve the right to make clarifications or address additional matters as needed to align with biblical principles and the mission of the school. The school reserves the right to make decisions regarding any issue of morality. We expect this behavior not only at school but also off school grounds, at school functions, and on social media—at all times and in all situations. Our students represent CCS beyond our campus, and we expect them to be in compliance with these standards at all times.

We welcome any questions from anyone seeking to learn more about what it means to be a Christian and how to best honor our Savior.

MATTHEW PRINCIPLES

Any parent or student who is part of the CCS family is expected to abide by the Matthew principles when it comes to complaints and concerns. This biblical principle is found in Matthew 18:15-17, and it is already part of the faculty/staff contract, and they are expected to comply with this policy. The policy basically means that if there is a problem, the person who feels slighted should address the person who has caused the offense and not engage in discussions about the person or the situation with others. The situation should be discussed in brotherly/sisterly love, and each party should be willing to hear and attempt to reconcile the issue with a godly heart. If such a reconciliation is not possible, then the person who feels offended should involve the next level of school leadership so that an appropriate meeting can be arranged for discussion. Members of the CCS family who choose to ignore the Matthew Principles and engage in discussing or complaining about the situation with people who are not involved in the situation will be found to be in violation of this policy, which is part of the enrollment agreement with CCS.

ENROLLMENT POLICIES

Cornerstone Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, or national/ethnic origin. Students must score on grade level to be eligible for unqualified enrollment; probationary enrollment is available at the sole discretion of the CCS administration. The school will not enroll students whose special educational or physical needs cannot be met by existing programs and staff.

REQUIRED FORMS

- Application for Admission
- Last report card, unofficial transcript, and most recent standardized test results.
- Entrance testing may be required
- Immunization forms, birth certificate, and social security card.

NOTIFICATION

Parents will be notified of the outcome of the admissions process via letter, telephone, or e-mail.

ACCEPTANCE FACTORS

- Behavioral record: we need complete disclosure of any past behavior issues. *Failure to disclose issues may be grounds for non-acceptance or dismissal.*
- Academic record: students MUST have a 2.0 GPA to qualify for enrollment. Students who have been homeschooled without a homeschool cover may be admitted but will need to achieve B averages in their classes for the first year of enrollment.
- Parent Support: The parents must agree to abide by the standards laid out in the CCS handbook, including the Matthew Principles of expressing concerns.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Under the rules of AISA (Alabama Independent School Association), 1st grade students must be six years old by September 1st. This rule applies starting in Pre-K so students will be on track to start 1st grade on target.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Married/pregnant students/students with children may not attend CCS.
- Students entering CCS on probation will be provided with a probationary contract, which outlines clear academic/behavioral goals and guidelines for their first semester with us.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Students' needs and abilities are considered in all placement decisions. CCS makes decisions in the best interest of both the school and the student; parents may be invited to this conversation, but the final decision rests with the school administration.

Please do not make requests for specific teachers.

PROGRESS REVIEW

The most objective indicators of basic progress are standardized test scores and grades. However, general classroom demeanor and willingness to learn are also vital. A student who demonstrates poor progress, poor attitude, and/or lack of interest in learning may be placed on probation, invited to withdraw, or required to complete their education elsewhere.

PROMOTION/RETENTION

The purpose of class is to learn the material. Students with academic deficits may be held back in one or more subjects. These decisions are never made lightly.

In pre-K and kindergarten, students are assessed to gauge their readiness for the next grade, especially in reading.

Elementary students who fail any subject or demonstrate cause for concern (especially in English and math) may be promoted only at the discretion of the teacher/administration. Further, they may be required to work over the summer to demonstrate readiness to move ahead.

Students in grades 1-8 will not be promoted with more than one F on their final averages.

In grades 9-12, any core semester failed must be repeated or made up through alternative credit, such as distance learning. We do not offer summer school.

All Bible classes must be passed to remain at CCS. Any semester of the Bible that is failed must be made up with 75 hours of community service and school-approved Bible study.

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA or a C average to be eligible to re-enroll each year.

All of these policies are designed to ensure that students do not carry a deficit from one year to the next.

FINANCES

CCS relies on tuition and fees to pay our teachers, purchase textbooks, help our church with utilities, and fund the instructional programs. It is never our intent to place a family in an awkward situation; however, we must insist that all families honor their financial obligations to the school in order to protect the school's integrity and its future.

CCS assesses a \$25 returned check fee for all NSF checks. If collection is turned over to an attorney, the parent/guardian is responsible for all legal fees as well as past-due amounts.

TUITION

A tuition schedule is available online or in the school office. Families who withdraw during the school year will receive no records or transcripts until financial obligations are met in full. The only exceptions to this policy are clearly outlined in the CCS Financial Contract. Financial contracts are between our families and our school board; CCS administration does not have the authority to make or break contracts with families outside of the grounds already approved by the board. **All tuition must be paid in full up front or serviced through our automated debit system.**

NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE

CCS offers a tuition model based on family needs through a third-party company. For more information, contact Eric Wilson at the school.

PAST DUE ACCOUNTS

When a family's tuition account is past due, the following steps will be taken:

30 days: Access to all student grades and records is terminated until the account is current.

60 days: Student barred from participating in all extracurricular activities/field trips.

90 days: Student dismissed from CCS; account turned over to collections.

Students with past-due accounts are not eligible for re-enrollment until satisfactory arrangements have been made. Seniors with past-due accounts are not eligible to participate in graduation, receive a diploma, or receive transcripts until all accounts have been cleared.

SCHOOL HOURS

K3-K5: Full-day 8:00-2:45

1st – 6th Grades: 8:00-2:45

7th-12th Grades: 8:00-2:55

MORNING ARRIVAL

The plan for arrival is as follows; however, changes may be made based on unforeseen circumstances.

Students must not arrive before 7:30, when the building will be opened. Students in grades K-12 are expected to report to the sanctuary and sit in the designated areas for their grade level. K5 parents may accompany their children to the classroom for the first 2 days of school; after that, K5 students should report to the sanctuary with all other students. Students in K3 and K4 are to

report directly to their classroom in the morning; parents may accompany their children to the classroom the first week of school. Students should be dropped off in the drive-through of the main entrance. Elementary students who drive or ride with an older student should come through the front doors and report to the sanctuary. Teachers will be in the drive-through area to help students get safely into the building. High school students who drive or ride with a student driver should come through the cafeteria since they will be parking on the cafeteria side of the school. They must report to the sanctuary and wait for dismissal. Since students are all gathered together in the sanctuary before school begins, often announcements will be made before dismissal, so it is important that all students be in the sanctuary.

AFTERNOON PICKUP

All elementary students will be sent to after-school care at 3:00. In grades 7-12, non-driving students who aren't under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach will be told at the start of school where they should report. CCS assumes no liability for students who remain on our campus inside or out after school is over unless they are being supervised in after-school care.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

After-School Care (ASC) charges a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Families have the option of paying \$250 per month for monthly access. ASC runs from 3-6 p.m. After 6 p.m. parents are charged at a rate of \$10 per child for every minute they are late. You are encouraged to call ahead and let the ASC worker know you are having an emergency and running late. The ASC program will need a current copy of the driver's license of anyone who has been designated as a person who can check students out of ASC.

PICK-UP, PARKING, AND HIGH SCHOOL DRIVERS: Rules

Please maintain a speed of less than 10 MPH in our parking lot. Drivers who fail to observe this safety request may be denied permission to bring their vehicle on our campus.

STUDENT RECORDS

Health records, grades, test scores, conference reports, and disciplinary notes make up most of these records. A copy will be provided upon request to families whose financial obligations have been met. The transcript will include the full high school record of grades, as well as any standardized test scores required by colleges. Any transcript given to a parent or student is unofficial, unless the school seal is affixed.

CCS will release records upon the written request of an authorized official of another school system. No school records other than a transcript defined above will be released to a student's parent/guardians or any agency other than the other school. The confidentiality of school records will be maintained. The professional staff may have access to school records by

consulting with an administrator. Parents may view records in the school office with an appointment.

Records and transcripts will not be released for students who have outstanding balances in any area.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Most textbooks are provided as part of tuition. These books are CCS property and must be returned or replaced. Damage to books will result in the full replacement price being assessed. In some courses, students may be required to purchase additional textbooks/supplies or pay additional fees to cover supplemental instructional material.

CCS does not furnish supplies (such as paper, pens, pencils, etc.) to students. A list of supplies will be provided during the summer; parents will have the option to purchase supplies through PTF and the First Day program.

LOCKER POLICY

All high school students, and some elementary students, will be assigned lockers. Locks not rented from CCS will be removed with bolt cutters. School locks that are damaged or lost will need to be replaced with a \$25 fee.

The school reserves the right to search any locker at any time for any reason. Items deemed inappropriate will not be allowed to remain in lockers and may be confiscated by the school and not returned. Students may not swap locks or lockers or claim lockers not assigned to them.

We would love to say everyone that is around us is 100% honest, but sadly that is not the world we live in. CCS is not responsible for items left in an unlocked locker or locker room. **Please leave valuables at home or under lock and key.**

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at CCS, as long as they don't distract from our school day. School-aged visitors will typically only be allowed to visit for lunch; if they need to visit all day, they should request permission from the administration. To be welcomed on our campus and to avoid being asked to leave, all visitors should do the following:

1. Call at least 24 hours in advance
2. Be sure they're dressed appropriately for a school environment.
3. Check in at the front office and get a visitor pass.

LUNCHROOM

Cornerstone is a closed campus. This means that students must remain on school grounds for the duration of their class schedule, and only families and school vendors are allowed on campus during the day. No outside food can be brought to students for lunches or snacks

unless brought by a parent. Ordering food for delivery to any outside service or person is not allowed. Students need to bring their own lunches or purchase from the cafeteria. Lunch should be ordered and prepaid, although we may sell any extras that we have each day. CCS does not allow students to purchase lunch or snacks on credit. No refunds will be given on lunches not served due to absences, early checkouts, or forgotten orders. Refunds will be given if the school is dismissed unexpectedly. **Questions about the menu should be directed to the lunchroom manager. ALL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS AND/OR FOOD ALLERGIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO LUNCHROOM STAFF, THE FRONT OFFICE, AND THE STUDENT'S TEACHERS.**

CCS provides a limited number of microwaves for student use. At this time, we are unable to provide refrigeration. Students must be able to prepare their food on their own if they bring it from home; there is not adequate time for teachers to prepare each student's lunch in our short lunch periods. **Students in grades 4-12 are allowed to use microwaves; younger students should bring any food that needs to be heated up in a thermos or other insulated container.**

CHAPELS AND ASSEMBLIES

CCS students will have chapel as often as it can be arranged, based on the school calendar and the availability of speakers/presenters. These are required events and should be missed only for unavoidable reasons. Parents are invited to attend chapel at any time, although we do ask that you call ahead to let us know you are coming.

Students who skip chapel will meet with administrators, and future plans for the student may include assigned seating or other reasonable requirements.

LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to use the CCS library for reading and research. Students with overdue or damaged books will be assessed a fee or lose their privilege of checking out books. Keeping a book in our library does not necessarily mean that we endorse or promote the ideas or content of the book.

CLUBS, ATHLETICS, AND SERVICE

School years are a time when many interests should be cultivated. Under the direction of the faculty, special interest clubs, service organizations, and athletic teams may be organized each year. Parents with special talents and interests are encouraged to make themselves available for these organizations.

Any extracurricular activity is under the direction of the leadership of the faculty sponsor or team coach; direct all questions and resolve any differences at that level before promoting it to the administration.

ASBESTOS-FREE FACILITIES

CCS was inspected in the fall of 2012 and declared asbestos-free by RainCrow Environmental.

CELL PHONES/TABLETS/DIGITAL DEVICES

As per the Alabama Focus Act, we discourage students from bringing cell phones, smart watches, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices to school. Students may not have any devices during the school day. If a parent feels that his/her child needs access to an electronic device for safety reasons, students may bring the device to school, **but must** turn the device in at the start of the day. Devices will be kept in the office in a location monitored by the administration. Parents should contact the school for any messages that need to be conveyed to their children; likewise, students will have access to the school phone if necessary. Teachers may also contact parents via Class Dojo (elementary) or email (middle/high school) with any important information; parents may use Class Dojo or email to reach out to teachers during the day. **IF A STUDENT TURNS IN ONE PHONE, BUT IS FOUND TO HAVE A SEPARATE PHONE DURING THE DAY, THE STUDENT WILL BE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY UNTIL THE SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSES THE SITUATION.**

If a student has an electronic device during the school day and teachers or administrators become aware of the situation, the student will receive the following consequences: the first time, the phone will be confiscated and parents will be notified and will need to pick up the phone at the end of the day. The second time a student has a device during the day, the student will be given in-school suspension. The third offense will result in a one-day suspension, and the student will be given zeros for all work/tests/projects/etc. missed, and the suspension will count as an unexcused absence. If a student has more than three offenses of having an electronic device, the student will be given a three-day suspension, and the parents will need to meet with administration about continued enrollment.

Social Media Use: Even when students are not at school, their online activity should reflect the values of Cornerstone Christian School and Bethel Baptist Church. In addition to abiding by the Statement of Faith provided earlier in this handbook, students are expected to comply with the student code of conduct:

Cornerstone will strive to create a culture conducive to the spiritual growth and development of its students. Conduct based on the following Biblical imperatives is necessary to provide such a culture. CCS, therefore, requests that each student:

- Refrain from cheating, stealing, swearing, indecent language, smoking, vaping, drinking alcoholic beverages, selling and/or using narcotics, pornography, premarital sex, negative peer pressure, bullying, harassment, recording in any manner (audio or visual) without permission at school, in appropriate online behavior, and
- Maintain Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, honesty, morality, modest attire; always acting in a very orderly and respectful manner.
- Follow the Matthew Principles for Conflict Resolution: **“If someone offends you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If that person listens to you, you have regained that one.”** Gossiping, complaining, or talking about the issue with someone other than the offender is unbiblical. Students need to advocate for themselves with faculty and staff in an attempt to solve the problem. If a student is reluctant to go alone, then he/she should ask another faculty or staff member for help. If the problem cannot be resolved at that point, the student should

appeal to an administrator. Parents should encourage their teenagers to learn to handle issues on their own. It is biblical to do so, and will greatly improve the child's ability to handle conflict as an adult.

Students are expected to abide by the above standards throughout their enrollment, whether at home, school, or elsewhere. Students found to be out of harmony with these CCS ideals may be invited to withdraw whenever the general welfare demands it, even though there may be no special breach of conduct.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Fall pictures will be taken, and parents have the right to purchase or decline the photographs.

SCHOOL OFFICE

The school office is open from 7:45 to 3:30 on regular school days. Parents may schedule appointments with teachers or administrators by calling the office or emailing the teacher directly. Students or parents should never contact a teacher at home or on a cell phone or interrupt the school day.

Lunches, homework, books, uniforms, etc. may be dropped off in the office to be delivered to the student. Please do not interrupt classroom time for these matters.

School phones and computers are intended for business or educational use. Students are permitted to use them when needed. Office printers are not intended for students to print out homework or assignments.

LOST AND FOUND

The school assumes no responsibility for misplaced or improperly stored items. Lost and found items will be placed in the front office. If not claimed after a reasonable time, such items will be donated.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

During inclement weather, school closings or delays will be announced as soon as reasonably possible. In most situations, the announcement will not be made until the morning of the school day. All closing/delay decisions are made with the safety of our school family in mind.

When the school is closed for inclement weather, all school-sponsored events for the day—including practice and evening activities—will be canceled, unless otherwise notified.

The only official media to report school closings/delays are the school's website (cornerstonechargers.com), the school app, Facebook page, and school-wide email. Please download the school app and sign up for schoolwide notifications, as well as any notifications specific to your child's enrollment (class, teacher, sport, etc.). Also, be sure to have a current email address in RenWeb.

Typically, we will also call the information in to ABC 33/40 and FOX6.

We are currently under the policy that states when Shelby County School System closes/delays/early dismissal Cornerstone will be closed/delayed/dismissed as well.

ATTENDANCE

Alabama state law requires students aged 6-16 to attend school; beyond age 16, possession of a driver's license in our state is contingent upon school attendance. CCS is required to keep daily records of attendance and tardies on file. Any failure to follow state guidelines will require a report to the truancy office.

The goal of these policies is to satisfy the state's legal requirements, protecting the integrity of our school & the education of our students.

ABSENCE/TARDY VERIFICATION

Attendance is a must; a student who is not in the classroom simply cannot learn as effectively as a student under the instruction of a teacher. In addition, Cornerstone is obligated to our accrediting agencies to verify that our grades are given in alignment with AISA, AdvancEd, and Alabama state standards.

While Cornerstone is not a public school, we are held to some basic expectations of the state guidelines.

It is the responsibility of the parent and child to ensure that excuses are provided upon the return to school. Any absences not cleared up by an excuse will be classified as unexcused **if they are not handled *within 2 days of return to school***. Notes produced at the end of the term to clear up attendance for exam exemptions will not be accepted. All absences must be cleared within the first days of a student's return.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In grades K-8 students may have **no more than 20 TOTAL** absences for the year. Any student whose absences exceed 20 will have to go before the administration and school board for approval. Consequences for exceeding 20 may result in a repeat of the grade. In order for a student to be counted present for the entire day, a student must attend 3.5 hours of the school day.

In grades 9-12 credits toward graduation are being earned, and attendance requirements are based on absences per semester. Absences are not to exceed 10 per semester, regardless of what classes are missed. In the past the policy has been if you missed one class 10 times, but now it is a cumulative total of 10 per semester.

Tardies also play a role in attendance. **Every 3 unexcused tardies will be converted to equal 1 unexcused absence.**

Athletes who miss more than the allotted absences as outlined above will not be allowed to participate in games that cause them to leave school early.

COLLEGE VISITS

The college visit is a privilege reserved for juniors and seniors. Juniors and seniors are allowed two 1-day college visits per year. A written request must be made to the administration at least 4 days prior to the visit. This should be a serious visit, not a vacation day. Proof of the college visit must be provided—either by an email to the school counselor from a college official or by a letter on college letterhead, signed by the college administrator.

College visits cannot be made in December or May.

EXEMPTION FROM ABSENCE POLICY

In some cases, students may violate the school's attendance policy through no fault of their own and should therefore be excused from consequences. It should be clearly stated that CCS believes these cases are exceedingly rare. Nonetheless, students who feel they fit this category may apply for exemption in writing and know this will go before the school board for approval. Students and parents should regularly monitor grades and absences using RenWeb.

EXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES

1. Parental note indicating that a student was ill but did not need to see a doctor (stomach virus, cold with a fever, pinkeye, etc.)
2. Death in family
3. Illness/injury with a doctor's note
4. Educational Opportunity (schedule in advance)
5. Court/Driver's Test
6. Religious Observance (provide documentation)
7. Medical/Dental appointment (provide excuse)
8. Pre-approved absence—must be requested in writing to administration at least 4 days in advance. These requests may be denied if a student is close to exceeding state-allowable days or the request is simply unacceptable. Even a pre-approved absence, while excused, may have a bearing on exam exemptions for grades 7-12, as it is still an absence.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES

1. No note, undocumented
2. Suspended from school
3. Traffic
4. Other reasons as determined by office staff/administration

TARDY TO SCHOOL

Part of preparing our students for life is teaching them to be on time. A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in his/her assigned class/area when the bell rings for that class/day to begin. Three unexcused tardies in a grading period will convert to an unexcused absence. This may jeopardize exam exemptions and will be added to total absences for the year/semester.

Tardies to class will go on an individual class basis and will be converted to unexcused absences if 3 are accumulated in a grading period. Students with 3 unexcused tardies in a class for the semester will not be allowed to exempt the semester exam for that class.

MAKE UP WORK

Teachers post the week's lesson plans to Dojo (elementary) or RenWeb (high school). Students who are absent are expected to keep up with the assignments even when they are absent. Any work due for the class while a student is absent is due when the student returns (reasonable exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis). Work missed during the period of *unexcused absence and unexcused tardies* will not be allowed to be made up.

CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

In most situations, students who do not attend at least half of the school day will be barred from participating in school events that evening. Consideration will be given for unusual circumstances.

This policy is based on the simple premise that a student who is unable to attend school is also unable to play sports.

ABSENCE/TARDY VERIFICATION

It is the responsibility of the parent and child to ensure that excuses are provided at the office upon return to school. After 2 days of student return, if no note has been provided, the absence/tardy will remain unexcused permanently. All work missed for unexcused absences will be given a zero.

Students who have an excused absence should visit any teacher/class they missed and collect any missed assignments on the day they return to school even if that class is not meeting the day they return to school.

CHECKING IN AND OUT

All students checking in or out must go through the front office. Drivers who fail to check in or out will face loss of driving privileges. Any student who needs to leave campus should notify the front office. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for any makeup work missed before they check out if possible. If checking in late, the student should go to any class missed and get makeup work the day of the tardy. Students may not check out to eat or get lunch off campus unless part of a sanctioned outing.

***Parents must provide written/emailed permission for students to leave campus on their own and include the reason for the departure. A phone call is not acceptable.**

INJURY AND ILLNESS

ILLNESS

Students with a fever (99.9 or higher), students who are vomiting, and students who show signs of undiagnosed illness (rash, flu, covid, strep, pink eye, etc.) **must** be kept home or picked up from school with symptoms present. Students should always be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

INJURY

In the event of a major injury, paramedics will be called immediately, and then parents will be contacted. Please be sure that the office has a current list of phone numbers and emergency contacts at all times. Changes can be made on the family portal of RenWeb.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Any student diagnosed with a contagious/communicable disease that is listed by the Alabama Department of Public Health as a “notifiable disease/condition” may not attend classes until cleared by a medical doctor. A list of these conditions is on file in the office and available on the [Alabama Department of Health](#) website. Any student who cannot attend class due to such conditions will be able to keep up with classwork via the class playlist on the school app. Students returning after such an illness must be cleared by a doctor. CCS has adopted the AISA policy concerning the recommended precautions against the transmission of blood-borne pathogens and diseases.

MEDICATION

All medications (prescription, alternative, and over-the-counter) **MUST** be distributed through the office. Students may not medicate themselves on our campus. Please bring the medication with the medicine authorization form filled out to the office. Prescription medication should be in the original bottle with a pharmacy label. (Your pharmacy will provide you with a school bottle if you request it.)

Any student given medication by our office must first have parental permission.

REQUIRED REPORTING TO DHR

All school personnel are required by law to report any alleged or suspected abuse, neglect, or threats of harm/suicide to Shelby County DHR. School personnel are instructed to immediately notify an administrator if they hear or suspect any of the above.

We encourage parents to address this issue at home with their children to ensure they understand the magnitude of such comments. The school is not legally allowed to assume a child was not serious, or only joking, when abuse, neglect, or self-harm is alleged.

Once DHR has been contacted, the school cannot legally contact parents without THEIR consent.

ACADEMICS

GRADING SCALE/PROMOTION

CCS operates on a 10-point grading scale and a 4-point GPA scale. Final grades are recorded numerically on permanent record folders. Each year, students in grades 9-11 should earn a minimum of 6 credits in order to be classified at the next grade level. Students cannot earn more than 8 credits per year. High school students may withdraw from specific classes or amend their schedule without penalty until the second week of class. At that point, withdrawal from class is not an option. If the students fail to attend the class, they will be assigned a failing grade.

AWARDS DAY

At the end of the spring semester, students are honored on Awards Day. Some awards are strictly numerical; others are chosen by teachers. The Charger Award is given to one boy and one girl in grades 7-12 and to one student in each grade 1-6. The Charger Award is selected by the staff, based on criteria such as integrity, work ethic, compassion, school spirit, love of learning, and Christian character. Any other period awards ceremonies will be announced by grade-level teachers.

ACADEMIC CLUBS

Some students may be invited to join an academic club based on overall GPA and standardized test scores. Such clubs may include Junior and Senior Beta. Once invited, parents and students will be notified and inducted in accordance with the club traditions. A small monetary due may be assessed for members. These clubs often are involved in service projects and academic competitions.

MAKE UP WORK

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. It is scheduled at the teacher's discretion. Any work a student was assigned before their absence is due immediately upon their return. Failure to have work ready upon return, or to complete new make-up work in the time assigned by the teacher, will result in a zero. In general, we recommend that teachers allow two days to complete make-up work for each day the student missed. It is to be pointed out that this is **measured in days, not the number of times the class meets.**

FIELD TRIPS

Most CCS field trips are required as part of class instruction and, as such, cannot be missed. Parents and students should recognize that it is impossible for a teacher to “make up” a missed field trip; as such, students may be given zeroes for any work associated with the trip at the teacher’s discretion.

Parents will receive notice of upcoming field trips, along with the cost and dress codes. Students not properly attired for a trip will not be allowed to participate. Teachers and administrators reserve the right to deny field trips to any student with repeated documented classroom behavior problems.

Chaperone Guidelines:

1. Students should remain in the assigned vehicle for the entire trip.
2. Drivers must follow the route and agenda assigned by the teacher.
3. Chaperones should “count off” the students each time they enter and exit the vehicle.
4. As a rule, **siblings are not allowed on field trips.**
5. On returning to campus, drivers should remain with their students until the teacher arrives.
6. Chaperone must be willing to serve as an authority figure and act as a reasonable adult.
7. Chaperones should reflect CCS ideals on field trips, especially regarding the music, television, and conversation students are exposed to while in their charge.

REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards are delivered electronically at the end of each quarter. A student's progress may be viewed at that time through our online system, Renweb; however, grades are constantly in flux throughout the quarter as assignments are graded and entered. Parents should be advised that the staff are instructed that grades must be up-to-date at the end of weeks 3, 6, and 9.

Grades are viewable through Renweb at any time. Passwords should be obtained through the office.

FAILURES

Occasionally, students at CCS may fail to demonstrate passing competence in a course. The school will make a recommendation of online credit recovery at the student’s expense or re-taking the course on the CCS campus. Contact the counselor or director within one month of receiving a failing grade for instructions.

Students in grades 1-8 cannot fail more than 1 course for the year and move to the next grade. Even if only one course is failed, the school reserves the right to require summer remediation in the failed subject to move to the next level. For grades 9-12, any credit failed must be made up for graduation requirements.

Kindergarten is the bedrock of a child's education. CCS supports the teacher in decisions about the need to repeat on occasion. While repeating any grade is unpleasant, the K5 year is vital to set the platform for future success. Socially, K5 is the best time to hold a child back if they need that extra year to gain full success.

Students who have lower than a 2.0 average for the year risk being barred from re-enrollment.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

CCS administers the following: STAR test for elementary students. This test is given 3 times per year and helps the teachers assess the instructional needs of students so they can adapt instruction to meet the needs of their students.

PRE-ACT is given to students in grades 8-10.

ACT: CCS administers the ACT on campus in the fall and again in the spring; additionally, we encourage students to begin taking it during their junior year. Sophomores may take their first ACT at CCS during the spring semester. Students who do not take the ACT are not eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, as the ACT is a component of that determination.

SGO students are required to be tested every year.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

CCS believes strongly in the importance of dual enrollment for students who wish to get ahead in college. Students in 10th-12th grades may participate if all requirements are met. CCS has a partnership with Central Alabama Community College, and students can take college courses that also earn them high school credit as well. These classes are at a reduced rate or, in most cases, **free** thanks to a state work grant.

Dual enrollment is intended for a student to get ahead in college classes but not to replace high school requirements. At this time the state of Alabama does allow several courses to replace high school courses while earning high school credits. A detailed list may be obtained from the office or counselor.

Classes taken for dual enrollment credit are for a weighted GPA.

A = 5.0 GPA

B = 4.0 GPA

C = 3.0 GPA

D=2.0 GPA

F = 0 GPA (Having an F in a dual enrollment class will result in a zero GPA on both high school and college transcripts, and will also bar a student from taking additional dual enrollment classes for one semester from failure—the loss of privilege is a college rule.)

If interested in the program, contact the school for further information, including testing, scholarships, eligibility, and more.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

To earn these honors, students must attend CCS for the four semesters preceding graduation. Valedictorian and salutatorian honors will be calculated at the close of the fall semester; results will be announced during the 3rd quarter.

VALEDICTORIAN and SALUTATORIAN: Only students receiving an **Advanced Honors** Diploma and who have exhibited godly character and responsibility are eligible to receive these honors. The valedictorian is determined by GPA. In the event of a tie, the ACT score may be figured in. Numerical averages will be carried out to the thousandths place. The highest GPA will be recognized as the valedictorian, and the second highest will be the salutatorian. Each student will give an address at graduation. Students who do not want to give a speech will not be recognized, and the recognition will go to the next GPA in line.

EXAMS

Semester exams will be given in all core courses in grades 7-12. Elective exams will be given at the teacher's/administration discretion.

Exams will count as 20% of the semester average. Exam exemption is available to seniors with an "A" average and no more than 4 excused absences or a "B" average and no more than 3 excused absences during the current semester. Any accumulation of 3 unexcused tardies in a quarter is equal to an unexcused absence. **REMEMBER: Absences and tardies must be followed with approved excuses within 2 days of the absence or tardy. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETROACTIVELY CORRECT ABSENCES/TARDIES THAT PREVENT THEM FROM BEING EXEMPT!**

HOMEWORK

School is a student's full-time job. Our teachers strive to avoid assigning excessive homework, but at times homework is necessary. Major projects may require more work at home, but these are typically scheduled much further in advance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE is a part of every elementary student's day. All high school students must pass one year of PE in order to graduate. PE uniform expectations will be outlined by the individual PE coach. Students who fail to participate in or dress out for PE should expect to see their grades dropped accordingly.

For their own safety, elementary students must have proper shoes to participate in P.E. or recess.

INTERNET USE

We live in a world of exploding technology, and our students are digital natives. CCS has computers, Chromebooks, laptops, and iPads available for students to use during instructional time, as students are not allowed to use their own devices during the school day. CCS strives to teach students to use technology responsibly. High students and parents must sign the **Acceptable Use Policy** to be allowed to use our devices/network. Misuse of computers/devices will result in discipline or loss of privileges. Students can consider their use of the internet to be “misuse” if they would be embarrassed before God, their teacher, and/or their parents to see what they are viewing or doing online at a given moment.

GRADUATION

Graduation is an honor reserved for students who have successfully completed a CCS course of study. Students without the necessary credits for graduation will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Students will be assessed a graduation fee to cover the cost of the ceremonies. Senior pranks or acts of vandalism may result in expulsion or barring from graduation exercises at the discretion of the administration. Fines to cover damages may also be assessed prior to release of any transcripts.

STANDARD DIPLOMA

Graduation Requirements Standard and Advanced Diploma Options

English/Language Arts	Credits required
English 9	1 credit
English 10	1 credit
*English 11	1 credit
*English 12	1 credit
**Mathematics	Credits Required
Algebra I	1 credit
Geometry	1 credit
Algebra II	1 credit

Financial Algebra	1 credit
Science	Credits Required
Biology	1 credit
A physical science	1 credit
*Science 11	1 credit
*Science 12	1 credit
Social Studies	Credits Required
World History: Modern Age	1 credit
U.S. History I	1 credit
U.S. History II	1 credit
Economics	½ credit
Government	½ credit
Additional Courses Required	Credits Required
Physical Education	1 credit
Bible	4 credits
Health	½ credit
Fine Art	½ credit
Career Preparedness**	½ credit
Foreign Language	1 credit for standard diploma 2 credits for advanced diploma
Electives	As many as needed to complete the 24 required credits for graduation for classes graduating in 2027 or 2028. Beginning with the class of 2029, students will need 26 credits to graduate.
*Dual Enrollment	*The only courses that can be replaced with a dual enrollment class equivalent are core classes of equal content. All other classes must be taken at the high school level at Cornerstone. Dual enrollment classes are

	given 1 credit, even though they are only one-term courses. Additionally, dual enrollment classes are given a +1 on the GPA scale.
Service Hours	75 hours of service at school or outside of school (with proper documentation) is required. Most students attain the required hours by serving as a teacher's aide for one semester.
**Advanced Diploma	Students must have 2 years of a foreign language, at least two dual enrollment courses, and an ACT score of 20 or above, in addition to the other requirements for graduation.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

In order to be promoted into the next year of high school, students need to have acquired the following number of credits per year.

Freshman:	7 credits	
Sophomore:	14 credits	
Junior:	21 credits	
Senior:	24 credits	(Beginning with Class of 2029, students will need to have 26 credits to graduate, which will include 1 credit of career preparedness.**)

ALUMNI

CCS is extremely proud of all our alumni. The list below represents *some* of the colleges and universities that have granted our alumni degrees. In addition to these colleges, we also have representation in every branch of the Armed Forces.

<i>New York University</i>	<i>Samford University</i>
<i>Beeson Divinity School</i>	<i>McWhorter School of Pharmacy</i>
<i>Harrison School of Pharmacy</i>	<i>University of Alabama</i>
<i>Auburn University</i>	<i>Brown University</i>
<i>Mississippi State University</i>	<i>Belmont University</i>

University of Montevallo

Harding University

Lee University

Huntingdon College

Troy University

University of North Alabama

University of South Alabama

Southwest Baptist University

Mississippi College

Faulkner University

DISCIPLINE

CCS trains its students to strive to **live above reproach**, showing respect for God, country, family, faculty, and fellow students. Discipline is necessary in the school environment to promote academic success and safety. Students who fail to cooperate spiritually, morally, or scholastically will jeopardize their privilege to attend CCS.

STUDENT STANDARD OF CONDUCT

Cornerstone will strive to create a culture conducive to the spiritual growth and development of its students. Conduct based on the following biblical imperatives is necessary to provide such a culture. CCS, therefore, requests that each student:

1. Refrain from cheating, stealing, swearing, indecent language, smoking, vaping, drinking alcoholic beverages, selling and/or using narcotics, pornography, premarital sex, negative peer pressure, bullying, recording in any manner (audio or visual) without permission at school, and
2. Maintain Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, honesty, morality, and modest attire, always acting in a very orderly and respectful manner.
3. Follow the Matthew Principles for Conflict Resolution: **“If someone offends you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If that person listens to you, you have regained that one.”** Gossiping, complaining, or talking about the issue with someone other than the offender is unbiblical. Students need to advocate for themselves with faculty and staff in an attempt to solve the problem. If a student is reluctant to go alone, then he/she should ask another faculty or staff member for help. If the problem cannot be resolved at that point, the student should appeal to an administrator. Parents should encourage their teenagers to learn to handle issues on their own. It is biblical to do so and will greatly improve the child’s ability to handle conflict as an adult.

Students are expected to abide by the above standards throughout their enrollment, whether at home, school, or elsewhere. Students found to be out of harmony with these CCS ideals may be invited to withdraw whenever the general welfare demands it, even though there may be no special breach of conduct.

ELEMENTARY POLICIES

Classroom Discipline

Teachers discuss classroom rules and expectations at the beginning of the year. Conduct grades will reflect a student's behavior during the school day, and the conduct grade will begin at 100 again at the end of a 9-week period.

Additional Consequence

Minor infractions of individual classroom rules will be dealt with by the teacher in each classroom. More serious behaviors, such as the following violations, however, are subject to documented discipline procedures and may be referred to the administration:

1. Teasing, harassing, or making fun of others
2. Inappropriate touching, hitting, biting, pinching, throwing rocks...
3. Vulgar or unwholesome language.
4. Showing disrespect for anyone in authority.
5. Fighting, stealing, cheating, and lying.
6. Refusal to follow instructions.

These and other serious offenses may result in suspensions. Repeated offenses could lead to expulsion.

HIGH SCHOOL POLICIES

Teachers will go over specific discipline procedures at the start of the school year.

Based on the nature of the infraction, disciplinary action can be placed in one of the following categories:

- Mild—generally administered by the teacher—demerits will be given as necessary. Each quarter, demerits will start over at zero. Students will incur consequences that are appropriate for the number of demerit points as laid out in the demerit plan.
 - Moderate—administered by the teacher and/or Dean of Students. These punishments may involve demerits, or they may go above and beyond the demerit system, as determined by the administrator.
 - Serious—administered by the Dean of Students and/or Director
 - Very Serious—administered by the director with the possible advice and approval of the school board.
1. Mild disciplinary cases will be handled by the teacher. Mild discipline could range from reprimands to demerits. Mild infractions could include, but are not limited to: unexcused tardy, food/drink in class, failure to return unprepared for class, disruptive behavior, etc.
 2. Moderate discipline may be handled by the teacher or administration. Moderate discipline could range from an in-school suspension to having to go home for the rest of

the day. Moderate infractions include, but are not limited to, repeated misbehavior, disrespect, cheating (which will also result in a zero on the test or assignment), offensive language, or offensive behavior.

3. *Serious* discipline involves the administration. At this level, a suspension for one or multiple days may be given. Suspensions generally will occur on the day following parent notification of the matter. Suspensions are considered unexcused absences and therefore will result in academic consequences. Serious infractions include, but are not limited to, fighting; lying; flagrantly abusive language or bullying; harassment; cheating; plagiarism or the use of AI; going to a vehicle without permission; skipping class, lunch, or chapel; leaving school without permission or following proper procedures for checking out; possession or use of tobacco products or alcohol; possession of drugs or pornography; ***failure of a drug test;** misuse of computers/internet; repeated misbehavior; misuse/abuse of school property (including lockers) or vandalism; and a disrespectful attitude. ***Students who fail a drug test will be put on probation, and a meeting with parents, administration, and student will be required to determine a probationary agreement for continued enrollment.**
4. *Very serious* discipline is expulsion, which is permanent dismissal from school. The Board may be involved in the decision to expel a student. Once the parents are notified of such a decision, they may appeal the decision in writing to the board within three days. A student may not attend classes during the appeals process. A student who has lost the privilege to attend CCS may not be permitted to attend school-related events. *A student who has been expelled may be required to wait one year following the one-year anniversary of the expulsion to apply for readmission. Readmission will be taken under consideration by the administration and the school board.*

Expulsion may occur for the following actions:

- Possession or use of any unprescribed drugs, or the misuse of any prescribed drugs, on or off school property, or multiple failed drug tests. Selling or supplying prescribed or illegal drugs.
- Pregnancy
- Repeated violations of discipline that have resulted in suspensions.
- Failure of parents to cooperate with the school in the discipline of their children.
- Leaving campus without permission.
- Harassment or threats.
- Inappropriate online behavior that seriously violates the student code of conduct
- Hazing
- Assault or battery of a teacher
- Moral misconduct
- Dishonesty
- Stealing
- Possession of a weapon of any kind.

- Pornographic materials
- Repeated misuse of technology
- Intentional plagiarism or use of AI
- *Other extreme actions deemed to be very serious by the Administration/School Board*

***AT ANY TIME, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY REPORT INCIDENTS TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT IF THE VIOLATION FALLS INTO A CATEGORY THAT WOULD REQUIRE MORE DRASTIC MEASURES BE TAKEN. SUCH MEASURES MAY INCLUDE FIGHTING, POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OR OBJECTS THAT ARE USED AS WEAPONS, ASSAULT, THREATS, ETC.**

Beginning fall of 2026, students in grades 7-12 will be under a demerit system. If a student accrues 25 points worth of demerits during a quarter, the student may face expulsion. If a student has excessive demerits for multiple quarters, the student and his/her may have to meet with the school board to discuss a behavior plan. Parents will be notified of any demerits given via text or email, so parents should be certain that their personal information is correct in their RenWeb/Facts account.

LOCKER ROOM BEHAVIOR

Behavior in the locker room areas is to follow all of the rules laid out in this handbook. Normally, a locker room is a more laid-back atmosphere, but that does not excuse the breaking of any rules.

Any witnessed misbehavior must be reported to the athletic director or appropriate coach.

BATHROOM BEHAVIOR

Cornerstone expects students to behave in a godly manner at all times, including when they are in the bathrooms. We ask that students consider the cost of maintaining our school facilities and be gracious in keeping the bathrooms clean and orderly. We share this facility with Bethel Baptist Church. Their desire to have a Christian school enables us to have a nice facility in which to play and learn.

If students are engaging in activities that damage or vandalize the facility in any way, they will be given an in-school suspension for the first offense. Should any additional violations occur, the students will be given out-of-school suspensions. Students may also be liable for any cost incurred to repair or replace any equipment or supplies.

SELLING OUTSIDE ITEMS

Students are not permitted to sell anything for personal gain at school. This includes selling outside food at lunch, homemade products, or anything else that is not related to a school

fundraiser. If students are selling items for a church fundraiser, parents need to make a request to administration.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

CCS administration prefers to avoid corporal punishment as a consequence; however, we know that some parents utilize this consequence and their children respond to it. As a result, corporal punishment is an option for parents who check “YES” on the corporate punishment section of the application. We will use it only as a last resort. We prefer to use behavioral modification techniques and leave any corporal punishment to the parents. We will not administer corporal punishment without speaking to a parent first, even if the parents have checked “YES” on the application.

SUSPENSIONS

Out-of-school suspensions are not given lightly. They are counted as an unexcused absence, which means that they automatically negate any possibility of exempting semester exams, and any assignments or tests given during the suspension period will be counted as a zero. In-school suspension does not carry the same academic consequences.

BEHAVIORAL PROBATION

A student who has exhibited discipline problems may be placed on behavioral probation. The administration determines the behavioral probation with input from the faculty. During the period of probation, the student must demonstrate significant conduct improvement. Failure to show marked improvement may result in the student’s forfeiture of the privilege to attend CCS. The purpose of such probation is to motivate the student to demonstrate self-discipline and to function within the school community in a cooperative manner. The administration will assess whether CCS can be successful in helping a student to achieve success.

CCS reserves the right to deny admission or readmission to any student whose actions demonstrate that it is not in the school’s best interest to admit that student.

SEARCHES/DRUG TESTING

CCS strives to provide our students with a godly and safe environment in which to learn. In an effort to achieve this environment, CCS reserves the right to inspect a student’s locker, car, book bag, purse, or any other item that is thought to possibly contain items that are illegal or against school policy or the law. We further reserve the right to ask any student in grades 7-12 to submit to a drug or alcohol test with or without advanced notice. This information may be used to make decisions regarding admission or continued enrollment. This policy is intended to maintain a safe, drug-free/tobacco-free/weapons-free environment for our students and to identify students who need help in ending the use of illicit substances. Whenever possible, we will work with parents to help students who want to stop using such substances; however, if it is determined that students do not wish to stop their substance use, or if their activity is

deemed dangerous to others, the student will be expelled, and law enforcement may be notified.

CONDUCT ON SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

The same standard of conduct required of students at school is also required of them on school-sponsored activities. Conduct that disrupts or tends to embarrass the school, its reputation, witnesses, or overall goals will not be tolerated. Suspension or expulsion can occur for such infractions. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON SCHOOL TRIPS.**

TEACHERS/CHAPERONES WILL HAVE PHONES WITH WHICH THEY CAN CONTACT THE SCHOOL OR A PARENT IF NECESSARY.

HIGH SCHOOL DRIVING

In order to maintain a secure and safe campus, all automobiles driven to school by students MUST fill out a driving form. No student vehicle can remain on campus without filling out this form. Information to be supplied to the school would include driver's license #, car tag #, insurance information, and make and color of the vehicle. These records will be maintained in the front office. **Students will need to display the CCS decals/stickers on/in their cars.**

Driving privileges will be suspended for a length of time determined by the administration for reckless driving, going to cars during the school day without permission, or parking in inappropriate places. A student's driving privilege will be revoked permanently for repeated offenses.

DRIVING POLICY

Students will be allowed to drive vehicles to school as long as they:

- Observe necessary precautions of safe driving both on and off campus (**10 MPH speed limit; enter from Hwy. 25 during drop-off and pick-up—exit via Hwy. 49**)
- Park their cars in the designated student parking areas
- Observe the correct traffic flow pattern

Students who drive motorcycles are also expected to conform to regulations pertaining to motor vehicles. Motorbikes and vehicles are NOT to be ridden across the ground of CCS.

Students are not allowed to sit in vehicles upon arrival at school.

Violators of driving regulations will be subject to disciplinary action, including loss of driving privilege. This includes students parking in areas to which they are not assigned.

Students must receive permission to drive to school-sponsored events from both their parents and the school.

DRESS CODE

One of the primary reasons we have a dress code is to minimize distraction and allow students to focus on principles of primary importance.

The dress code of CCS is designed to reflect 3 principles:

1. No student has the right to dress in a way that will distract other students from learning.
2. Learning to dress appropriately to fit the life situation is an essential component of maturity.
3. Our school dress code should reflect Biblical principles of modesty and Christian maturity.

CONSEQUENCE

Students who arrive at school out of code will not attend class until the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of the classroom teacher and/or administrator. We suggest that students keep extra clothes in their lockers so that they have a change of clothes should anything—dress code issues, spills, accidental tears, etc.—occur during the day. If a student is not allowed to attend class due to a dress code violation, any missed work will be given a grade of zero, as our dress code is clearly laid out, and therefore deviations from it are unexcused. In the middle/high school, students will be given a demerit for being out of dress code.

There will be no credence given to arguments that “other students got away with this.” The fact that one dress code violation went unnoticed does not excuse future violations, any more than one unsolved robbery excuses all future robberies.

IN ONE SENTENCE

Students of Cornerstone are expected to arrive and remain neat, modest, and respectful in attire appropriate to a mixed-gender, K-12 environment.

GENTLEMEN

1. Shirts: T-shirts, polos, button-ups, sweatshirts, or sweaters. Note that tank tops and sleeveless shirts are not permitted.
2. Pants: Khakis, dress pants, blue jeans, dress shorts, or denim shorts. Shorts must be modest—no shorter than the length of a credit card above the knee front and back. Pants/shorts should not be too bulky or oversized, nor should they be tight. Students should look modest and neat. No pajamas or house shoes.
3. Hair: Neatly groomed with eyes visible at all times. Students should not have to move hair out of their eyes to achieve this requirement. Longer hair on sides and back may be worn but must not distract from the learning environment. Extreme or outlandish hairstyles are not permitted; it’s advisable to seek permission before spending money on one. Dye must be a natural human hair color. Gentlemen may have facial hair, but it

must be kept trimmed and neat. NOTE: Male athletes who participate in playoffs cannot have facial hair per AISA rules.

4. General Principles: All clothes must fit appropriately. No clothes may contain offensive or inappropriate material (and remember we have 3-year-olds in our halls). No shirts with references to secular bands, alcoholic beverages, or drugs; pictures of ungodly symbols or questionable slogans. All attire must be modest. Gentlemen may not wear earrings on campus or to school events.

LADIES

1. Shirts: Blouses, T-shirts, polos, button-ups, sweatshirts, or sweaters. Note that tank tops are not permitted. Sleeveless shirts are allowed, but the shirt sleeve opening must come to the edge of the shoulder and must fit snugly enough under the arms that underclothes are not visible. Necklines should not fall below the “armpit to armpit” rule; that is, if a line were drawn across the chest from armpit to armpit, then the neckline should be above that line.
2. Pants: Khakis, dress pants, blue jeans, dress shorts, or denim shorts. Shorts and skirts should be modest: no shorter than the length of a credit card above the knee, both front and back. No pajamas or house shoes.
3. Hair should be neatly groomed with eyes visible. Extreme or outlandish styles are not permitted. It’s advisable to seek permission before spending money on one. Any dye must be a natural human hair color.
4. General Principles: All attire must be modest – no exposed back, belly, cleavage, or undergarments. Ladies are allowed 2 earrings per ear while on campus.
5. LEGGINGS: May be worn if the top comes below the buttocks in back and the pelvic area in front by several inches.

ALL-INCLUSIVE DRESS CODE PRINCIPLES

1. No earbuds/Airpods/headphones are allowed to be worn in the classrooms unless a teacher has specifically requested that students wear these devices to listen to something related to the lesson.
2. Clothing from other high schools should not be worn at CCS. We are Chargers and should be proud of that fact!
3. Clothing should not have images or graphics that are considered unChristian. Also, no words written across the buttocks are allowed.
4. Rips and frays in clothes must be covered. Holes in jeans must not be too extreme, and any holes above the knees should be worn with shorts or leggings or some other clothing that will cover the skin under the hole, thus eliminating the exposure of skin above the knee through the holes.
5. NO PAJAMAS OR HOUSE SHOES ARE ALLOWED. Modesty should be observed at all times.
6. Team uniforms/warm-ups may be worn with permission from the team coach.

7. Shoes must be worn at all times in the buildings.
8. Athletic shoes must be worn for PE and recess when playing active games.
9. **CLARIFICATION:** Head coverings such as hats and hoodies cannot be worn unless it is Friday. Since 2017, we have had the understood and spoken rule that if it isn't Friday, then hats are not allowed. **At this time Fridays are reserved as "Hat Day," a privilege that will continue unless hats become an issue. HOWEVER, even on Fridays, HOODS ON HOODIES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**
10. **Tattoos may not be visible.** If a student has a tattoo, then clothing or camouflage makeup must render the tattoo invisible.
11. Ear gauges are not allowed; if gauges exist, you must use a gauge cover.

1 Peter 3:2-5

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

One of the primary reasons we have a dress code is to minimize distraction and allow students to focus on principles of primary importance. The dress code can be amended at any time during the year; if so, parents and students will be notified.

ATHLETICS

We believe that athletic involvement and physical activity are an important part of learning.

We also believe in our sedentary culture; it is vital that our students learn to enjoy physical activity. However, it is important to note that our school exists for the purposes of academic learning; sports are always a secondary consideration for our administration, faculty, and students.

Please refer specific athletic questions to the **Athletic Handbook** and/or the **Athletic Director**. CCS offers a wide variety of athletic opportunities for our students. These include:

Boys' Football: Varsity, JV, Pee Wee

Girls' Volleyball: Varsity, JV

Girls' Basketball: Varsity, JV

Boys' Basketball: Varsity, JV

Golf: Boys and Girls

Girls' Cross Country: Varsity, JV, Elementary

Boys' Cross Country: Varsity, JV, Elementary

Track—Boys and Girls

Girls' Softball—Varsity, JV

Boys' Baseball- Varsity, JV

Fishing—Girls and Boys

Girls' Cheerleading