

CCS STUDENT CONTRACT

Grades 7-12

2026-2027

Student Code of Conduct

We have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God, but through the mercy of Christ and his sacrifice on the cross, we can attain forgiveness and a fresh start. Regardless of what has occurred in the past, this year is a new beginning and an opportunity for us all to grow in the knowledge and love of the Father. Going forward, our expectations of our students, our staff, and our parents are that we all live by the CCS Code of Conduct, which is written through the lens of the Bible.

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, harassment, 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.

DEMERITS

Beginning in September 2026, students in grades 7-12 will receive demerits for breaking rules. A list of offenses and their worth will be posted in classrooms and public areas. The list will also be communicated with parents via email. Students will receive conduct grades each quarter, and this grade can impact honor roll status. The accumulation of demerits will be cleared each quarter. Students who reach 25 or more demerits in a quarter will be subject to suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity of the offenses. Demerit points can also be erased through good student behaviors and community service, if it is deemed appropriate.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON DISCIPLINE IN THE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

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 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.

LOCKER POLICY

All high school students, and some elementary students, will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the year. The school will rent a lock to students for \$10 yearly. Locks not rented from the school will be removed with bolt cutters. School locks that are damaged or lost will be replaced for \$25.

The school reserves the right to search any locker at any time for any reason. Items deemed inappropriate will not be allowed 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.

PICK-UP, PARKING, AND HIGH SCHOOL DRIVERS

Between 7:30 and 8:15 and between 2:15 and 3:15, everyone entering campus must enter from the Highway 25 entrance and exit from the Highway 49 exit. Please do not go against the flow of traffic during these times! **Elementary students are to be dropped off in the drive-through; high school students must enter through the cafeteria and report to the sanctuary.**

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.

Students who drive to school will be assigned a parking location and given a hanging tag to display in their vehicles. Each student driver must fill out a driver permission form, providing their vehicle's make, color, and tag #. Proof of insurance is required for all student drivers.

Student drivers should not loiter in or around their vehicles once they arrive at school.

Students must ask permission to go to their vehicles during the school day.

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

Any student who leaves, or takes another student off-campus without permission, will have

their driving privileges on our campus revoked for the duration of the semester and/or year.

ATTENDANCE: Alabama state law requires students aged 7-16 to attend school; beyond age 16, possession of a drivers' license in our state is contingent upon school attendance. Elementary and middle school students are allowed 20 excused absences per school year, and high school students (9-12) are allowed 10 excused absences per semester. Exceptions for the absence policy will not be made unless extenuating circumstances are involved. Students need to be in school every day unless their absence falls into one of the categories of acceptable absences below.

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, the student 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:

4. 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

5. Maintain Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, honesty, morality, and modest attire, always acting in a very orderly and respectful manner.
6. 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.

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 Ed, and Alabama state standards. While Cornerstone is not a public school, we are held to some basic expectations from 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 not handled within 2 days of return to school. We will not grant excused status to any absences not handled after 2 days.**

In grades K5-8 students may have **no more than 20 TOTAL** absences (excused or unexcused) for the year. Any student whose absences exceed the 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 is based on a semester basis. Instead of a yearly total of 20, now attendance is not to exceed 10 absences (excused or unexcused) 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.

EXCUSED ABSENCES / TARDIES

1. Parental note via email to cbenz@cornerstonechargers.com: Reason for absence must be

acceptable to be deemed excused

2. Death in family
3. Educational Opportunity (schedule in advance)
4. Illness or Injury (provide doctor's excuse)
5. Religious Observance (provide documentation)
6. Medical/Dental Appointment (provide excuse from the medical professional's office)
7. 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. **Please note: elementary students only have 20 days per year, and high school students have only 10 days per semester before they fail due to excessive absences.**

NON-EXCUSED ABSENCES / TARDIES

- A. No note or documentation within 2 days after absence
- B. Suspended by school
- C. Traffic/trains (within reason)
- D. Other reasons as determined by office staff

ATHLETES

Athletes who miss more than the allowed days in a semester in a class will not be able to participate in games that cause them to miss classes.

COLLEGE VISITS

Missing school to visit a college campus in person 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 administration at least 4 days prior to the visit, and students who will be missing class should meet with each teacher whose class the student will miss to see what work will be assigned/due during the college visit. A college tour should be a serious visit, not a vacation day. Students should either go with a parent or have a verified scheduled appointment with an admissions officer, and CCS will follow up with the college. College visits cannot be made during 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 and include such events as extended hospitalizations. **Family vacations or travel are not a reason for being exempt from the absence policy.** 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.

TARDY TO SCHOOL OR CLASS

Part of preparing our students for life is teaching them to be on time. A student is considered to be tardy if he is not in his assigned area when the bell rings for that class/day to begin.

MAKE-UP WORK

Teachers will work with students to catch up any missing assignments due to excused absences or excused tardies. **Any work a student was assigned before their absence is due immediately upon their return.** Students have 2 days to make up work missed for a 1-day absence—this does not mean 2 class periods! Since we are on a block schedule, it is best for students to make up the missed work sooner rather than later. Since lessons are posted online for students to access, there is no reason a student should not keep up with work being missed during an absence, unless that student is incapacitated and unable to do any work; therefore, work missed during absences that was due during the absence (or due on the day of return) must be turned in on the day of the student's return to school, even if the student does not have that class on the day of return.

Work missed during the period of unexcused absence and 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. This policy is based on the simple premise that a student who is unable to attend school is also unable to play sports.

CHECKING IN AND OUT

All students checking in or out must go through the office. Drivers who fail to check in or out will face loss of driving privileges. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for any makeup work missed. **Students may not check out to eat lunch off campus unless part of a sanctioned outing. A parental note or email is required for a student to leave school without their guardian present.**

EXAMS

Semester exams will be given in all core courses in grades 7-12. Elective course exams will be given at the teacher's 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 up 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!**

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.

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.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code will be subject to the following:

1. A written warning, which is to be signed by the student, a parent, or a guardian, to acknowledge the infraction
2. A second violation will result in a student having to sit in the office during break or lunch, as determined by the administration
3. A third violation will result in an in-school suspension
4. A fourth violation will result in an out-of-school suspension
5. A fifth violation will result in a 3-day out-of-school suspension
6. Further violations will result in a student’s appearance before the School Board to address the repeated offenses

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 and clean with eyes visible at all times. Students should not have to move hair out of their eyes to achieve this requirement. Longer hair on the 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 un-Christian. 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 legging 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:** Hats/toboggans/hoodie hats 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.
11. Ear gauges are not allowed; if gauges exist, you must use a gauge cover.
12. It is recommended that each student keep an alternative set of clothes in their vehicle/locker so that, in the event of a dress code issue, lost class time can be minimized. It is always better to ask first than to be sent home to change.

I 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 that your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, is of great worth in God's sight."

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 suspension. 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.



PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THIS AGREEMENT UNLESS YOU HAVE READ THE CONTRACT! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADHERING TO THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER YOU READ IT OR NOT, SO IT IS BEST FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO BE HONEST AND READ BEFORE SIGNING.

Agreement

I have read the Cornerstone Student Contract and handbook, and I agree to abide by both the spirit and letter of the guidelines. I understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

If I have any concerns about the rules and how they are being enforced, I agree to bring my concerns to the appropriate members of the administration and not to voice my grievances in public.

Sign and return this page to the student's first-period teacher by August 14, 2026

Student Name Printed: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name Printed: _____

Parent Signature: _____