



Parent & Student Handbook

West Side Christian School

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2023-2024

NOTE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents of West Side Christian School,

Welcome to West Side Christian School! For 140 years, WSCS has sought to fulfill our calling to provide quality Christ-centered education for all students. The story of WSCS is a story of parents and teachers working together to raise our children to love and follow Jesus Christ.

The information given in this handbook is not all encompassing, but it covers many of the important areas that will help in making West Side Christian School the safest and best learning community possible. Guidelines are necessary for the proper management of the school. We ask for your cooperation in following the guidelines outlined in this directory.

I'm excited for your child to be forever changed by their interaction with students in their class and across multiple grade levels. We ask you to pray for WSCS as we work in God's Kingdom, equipping students to serve Christ in God's world.

Thank you for your investment in West Side Christian School,

An Kurosu

Head of School



WHO WE ARE

Mission & Vision

OUR MISSION

Growing Students' Minds.
Guiding Servant Hearts.
Glorifying Jesus Christ.



VISION

Partnering with families to provide whole child Christian education that integrates God's Word and creation into all areas of learning.

Portrait of a Graduate



A West Side Christian School graduate . . .



Core Values



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At WSCS, students experience the joy and wonder of learning within a safe and nurturing classroom environment. We encourage students to embrace curiosity, try new things, and grow in confidence as they discover God's world and their place in it.



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Our staff invests in our students as children of God, models how to lead with care, and encourages them to use their God-given gifts in service to each other and the school community. Our students lead chapels, help with school wide service projects, harvest produce from the school garden, and participate in student organizations.



CHRIST-CENTERED

WSCS is founded on the Reformed perspective of Christian education. All aspects of teaching and learning are rooted in our belief that the Bible is the Word of God and that each child belongs to Him. We believe that God is sovereign over all creation, and we want our children to know Him, enjoy Him, and serve Him.



COMMUNITY

Meaningful relationships developed within a Christian context help students mature in their faith. At WSCS, we foster a spirit of belonging and intentionally care for one another. Families, staff, and our extended faith community unite around our shared purpose: to bring honor and glory to God.



STEWARDSHIP

God is sovereign over all creation. As His children, we have the privilege and responsibility to care for our world. Every square inch of our campus -- our school garden, nature preserve, classrooms, hallways -- belongs to Him. Our community's commitment to sustaining Christian education here at WSCS also includes wisely investing our time, money, and talents.

ENROLLMENT STANDARDS

Upon admission to West Side Christian School, each family acknowledges the Statement of Beliefs and affirms their desire to have their children educated in a Christ-centered academic setting. For WSCS to be the most successful in fulfilling our mission, we are dependent on the partnership of school, church, and home. Our school is thus open to all families desiring a comprehensive Christian education regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, family structure, or denominational affiliation. West Side Christian School will always teach historical Christian doctrine. A parent's or guardian's signature on the enrollment agreement represents not only their understanding of this condition, but also their consent to have their child immersed in an educational environment steeped in Reformed tradition and a Christian worldview, including the beliefs on marriage and sexual intimacy outlined in WSCS's Position Statement of Human

Sexuality. Because human beings are created in the image of God their Creator, we also affirm that all humans have inestimable value and must be treated with dignity and respect.

WSCS STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

THE STORY - West Side Christian School's **STORY** begins in 1883. But that story is only a small part of a greater story - God's story. To understand God's story, one must know of God's character: the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is eternal, all-powerful, unchanging, loving, just, and Holy. He is our maker, defender, redeemer, friend, and judge. God is sovereign over all things, even using adversity for the good of our salvation and the glory of His name.

THE BIBLE. The foundation of WSCS is the Bible, the infallible and authoritative Word of God. God reveals Himself and His will to us through the Bible. We believe that the Bible is most accurately *interpreted* in the historic confessions: The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, and The Canons of Dort. God's story can be summarized in four chapters – Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration:

CREATION. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing and it was very good. The world belongs to God - He sustains the existence of all things and upholds the gift of life itself by His word. He is imminently and intimately connected to and operates throughout creation. Many attributes of God's character are revealed in creation, namely His infinite power, wisdom, glory, and majesty.

Image Bearers. God created humankind in His image, male and female, set apart from the rest of creation, to be in a covenant relationship with Him. As the author of life and creator of the universe, God knew each of us before time began. The essence of God is love; therefore, God commands us to love all people as we love ourselves. God's deep love for each image bearer bestows immeasurable value on every person from conception. Through the Biblical narrative, we learn that God created people to live in relationships - work, worship, marriage, family, and friendship - just as our Triune God exists in relationship with us.

FALL. The Fall is the second major event in God's story, beginning with the disobedience of Adam and Eve, who God created sinless. When tempted by Satan, they chose to disobey God, fracturing our relationship with God, and plunging humanity into sin and death. We all carry that original sin and ongoing rebellion against God's law. Sin distorts our view of God's meaning and purpose for life, and puts us all under His judgment condemning us to hell.

REDEMPTION. But God did not allow sin to have the last word in His story. God, by His choice, enables us to receive His offer of forgiveness by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Jesus Christ is our Savior. He willingly left his heavenly dwelling, came down as a man to live a perfect life and seek the lost, sacrificed himself on the cross as the only one who could satisfy the wrath of God, and atoned for our sin. Believing that His life – teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension – is undeniably true is the only way by which we are saved from our sin and set free from the tyranny of the devil. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

Our response to this rescue from death into life is an increasing desire to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love and serve our neighbor for the honor of God's name. Our love for God compels us to obey his commands, not as a set of rules that we enforce to achieve salvation, but as an offering of gratitude for the saving work that He has already accomplished for us in Jesus Christ.

RESTORATION. The Bible teaches that the culmination of the story is God will restore Creation. Despite the hardships in life, we rejoice even now in the risen and ascended Savior. We look forward to His kingdom being made complete at His return. In the new heaven and the new earth, evil will be eradicated and our relationship with God will be fully restored.

Image Bearers: Ex. 20:4-5, Eph. 2:10;
Fall: Gen. 1:26-27; Ps. 51:5, 143:2; Matt. 15:19-20; Rom. 3:10-23; 5:18-19; 7:18-23; 8:7
Redemption: Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31-35; John 1:1-3, 14-18; Rom. 5:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:15-20; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-3; 1 John 4:2-4, Matt. 1:21;
Rom 3:25; 1 Cor. 1:23-25; 2:2; 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Gal. 3:13; 6:14; Eph. 1:19-23; Heb. 9:11-12; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 2:2
Restoration: Mark 10:45; John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:22-26; 5:1; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9
Ps. 139:16; John 15:5, 8, 16; Eph. 1:4-7, 11-13; 2 Tim. 1:9

POSITION STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

Human sexuality is a God-given gift intended for good. At creation God gave us the gift of sexuality as a tool for intimacy, procreation and delight (Genesis 2:18-25, Song of Songs, Proverbs 5:16-20).

Because sin has distorted all of human life, we are each guilty of sexual sin. We all struggle to understand human sexuality in general and to live faithfully with our individual sexuality. There are many examples of the challenge: upper elementary and middle school students dealing with bodily changes, young people figuring out their first kiss, and friends navigating appropriate boundaries with one another. People in our community wrestle with the brokenness of lust, pornography, and adultery.

Because issues surrounding sexuality can be perplexing and polarizing, West Side Christian School commits to engage these issues with courage, humility, prayerfulness, and convicted civility. West Side Christian School seeks in grace and truth to be a place where biblical truth is upheld and all persons are treated with respect, grace, and understanding in the Spirit of Christ. We commit to being a caring community for students in the area of sexuality just as we do in all areas of life in order to protect and preserve the dignity of students.

West Side Christian School affirms that God instituted marriage as biblically defined and historically interpreted in the reformed tradition to be between a man and a woman and that the creator's intent for human sexuality finds its fulfillment between a man and a woman within the bond of a marriage covenant (Genesis 2:22-24; Proverbs 5:18-19). However, we understand that differing opinions may exist within our broader constituencies. With this in mind, West Side Christian asks that its "members" – namely board members, staff and volunteers with student mentorship roles – communicate and uphold God's standards for sexuality with grace, mercy, and fairness in order to advance the school's mission within the community (Philippians 2:1-5; Ephesians 5:1,2).

PARENT OR GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

- I am enrolling my child in WSCS, a school in which the primary desire is to give God-centered academic training.
- I understand my child will be educated in a manner consistent with the above-stated beliefs of West Side Christian School.
- I agree that, as a parent, I will support the school in its efforts to provide education that is distinctively Christian as constituted in the Statement of Beliefs listed above.
- I will seek to uphold and maintain the fundamental unity of the school and the home.
- I understand that the personal conduct of all students must conform to the standards of the school. If disagreement exists, I will have the opportunity to discuss such matters with the faculty and administration.
- I understand that enrollment is subject to the governing authorities of West Side Christian School who reserve the right to accept or reject any student.
- I understand that West Side Christian School admits students of any race, color, or national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. I further understand that West Side Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of education policies and admission.

STAFF AND BOARD DIRECTORY

PHONE 616.453.3925 FAX 616.453.4150 WEBSITE WWW.WSCSGR.ORG EMAIL SCHOOL@WSCCHRISTIAN.ORG

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Head of School: An Kurosu
Dean of Instruction and Students: Kristyn Kamps
Business Manager: Mark Wabeke
Communications and Marketing: Matt Cooke and Gabrielle Eisma

Administrative Assistant: Marlene Alvarez
Office Assistant: Pam Mersman
Development Director: Dale Burghgraef
School Counselor: Monica VanWienen

TEACHING STAFF

Early Childhood: Kelly Zeck
(Dir. of Early Childhood, 3s teacher)
Kristi Elliott (3s teacher)
Amalia Mulder (4s teacher)
Rebecca Essenburg(4s aide)
Teresa Kooyer (NB teacher)
Patti Heyboer (NB aide)
Alisha Myers (Y5s teacher)
Lisa DeVries (Y5s teacher/aide)
Judy Goote Y5s aide)

Kindergarten: Peyton Mars (teacher)
Ruth Hop (aide)
Hannah Litwiller (teacher)
TBD (aide)

1st Grade: Lauren Correll
Alison Groenboom

2nd Grade: Delia Roberts
Lori Pott

3rd Grade: Anna Ray
Brianna White

4th Grade: Aubrey Bour
Kim Kryger

5th Grade: Mallory Hohn
Amira Selvius

6th Grade: Meikea Herrera
Lauren Sturrus

7th Grade: Rachel Becher
Aaron Elzinga

8th Grade: Zach Klomp
Lisa Hyma (Long Term Sub)

Art: Rachael Miller
Library: Wendy Kuzma
Music/Choir/Band: Brenda Oosterhouse
Orchestra: Kristen Schoup
Physical: Drew Vander Wal (Grades 1-5)
Education: Mary Jo Nanninga (Grades Y5-K)
Spanish: Ryan Koopmans
Technology: Jane Elzinga
Ron Warner (Grades K-4)
Outdoor Education: Janet Staal (Director)

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Dir. of Educational Support Services
and Grades K-4 Resource Room: Mikaela Geers
Grade 5-8 Resource Room: Emily Steenwyk
Inclusion: Tracy Tiemeyer
Paraeducator: Barb Baumann
Rachel Hendriks
Taylor Klomp
Mary Jo Nanninga
Jordan Peless
Julie Rodenhouse
Amara Thompson
Karen VandenAkker

SUPPORT STAFF

Facilities Manager &
Athletic Director: Brandon Klomp
Technology Administrator: Tim Kamps
Hot Lunch: Kristy Arsulowicz
Nancy DeBruin
Lisa DeMaat
Barb Groenendyk
Denise Nassiff-Hernandez
Toni Houtstra
Jill Verbeek

TRANSPORTATION

Dir. of Transportation: Sue Folkerts
Bus Drivers: Ken Folkerts
Matt Gatjka
Sharon McNeely
Case VanKempen

LITTLE SPROUTS CHILDCARE

Director of LS Chelsea VanVels
Lead Teacher Cana Augustyn
Hayley Dean
Hannah Kamps
Kaylee Rodenhouse
Bradley VanWienen
Aides Rae Brummel
Erin Hernandez
Kathryn Johnson
Jessica Mast
Katie Smit
Anna Staal
Lauren Staal
Emma VanUffelen

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Occ. Therapist Susan Loucks
Speech Path. Marcia Bour
Title I Tutor Bev Wilcox
Social Worker Dawn Heartwell

SCHOOL BOARD

President Mike Hollebeek (2025)
Vice-President Matt Bloem (2024)
Secretary Megan Deaton (2026)
Treasurer Derek Broene (2025)
Members Matt Byma(2024)
Craig VanderHyde (2024)
Jaclyn Alcumbrack (2025)
Craig VanDriel (2025)
Bryton Mansfield (2026)
Brandon Visser (2026)

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) MEMBERS

President Jill Verbeek
Vice-President Betsy Herrington
Secretary Staci Carroll
Treasurer Bethany McCarthy
Members Wendy Burghraef
Jennifer Garbarino
Amber Ginop
Molly Glass
Jill Graybill
Abby Sturuss
Alli Visser

July 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July
4 Independence day

January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January (17 days)
8 School Resumes
12 End of Second Quarter
15 MLK Day - No School (Staff Inservice)
18 Preschool and Kindergarten Preview Night
24 Report Cards Go Home
26 Pastor's Day

August 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August (8 days)
14 New Staff Orientation
15-17 Staff Orientation
17, 21, 22 K-2 Assessments
21 All School Open House & K-8 New Family Dinner
22 First Day of School for K-8 Grade (Dismiss at 11:30am)
29 First Day of Young 5s

February 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February (19 days)
5-9 National School Counseling Week
13, 14 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences
15 Early Release for K-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am; No EC)
16-19 No School - Winter Break
22 Annual Society Meeting
TBD WSCS Annual Auction

September 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September (19 days)
1-4 Labor Day Weekend (No School)
5 Preschool begins (3s, 4s and NB)
8 Middle School Retreat
22 Early Release for K-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am; No EC)
TBD PTA Sponsored Event: 5K Run

March 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March (20 days)
2 PTA Sponsored Event: SportsCard Show
15 End of Third Quarter / Early Release for K-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am; Report Cards Go Home)
27-29-Apr 5 No School - Spring Break

October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October (20 days)
16-20 National Bus Safety Week
18 End of First Quarter / Early Release for K-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am; No EC)
19-20 No School - CEFA Convention in South Bend, IN

April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April (17 days)
8 School Resumes
15 No School - Teacher Inservice
18-20 MIAEYC Conference (No early childhood classes)
24-28 Fine Arts Week, Fine Arts Night (25th)

November 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November (19 days)
1 Report Cards Go Home
8,9 Fall Parent Teacher Conferences
10 Early Release for K-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am; No EC)
16-18 8th Grade Play
22-24 No School - Thanksgiving Break

May 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May (22 days)
10 Grandparents' Day & Early Release for K-8 (11:30am) - No EC
22-24 Preschool Ends (3s, 4s, NB, Y5s)
22 MS Honors Assembly
23 8th Grade Graduation
27 No School - Memorial Day
30 Kindergarten's Last Day
31 End of Fourth Quarter / Last Day for Grades 1-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am)
June (0 days)
31 WSCS Educational Foundation Golf Outing

December 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December (16 days)
2 PTA Sponsored Event: Christmas Marketplace
5-7 CSI Accreditation Site Visit
22 Early Release for K-8 (Dismiss at 11:30am; No EC)
25-Jan 5 Christmas Break

June 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

June (0 days)
3-6 WSCS Summer Camps
TBD Report Cards Go Home



ACADEMICS

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The foundation for Christian education is the Bible, the only complete standard of truth. Since true knowledge comes from God, it is only through His Word that we can understand the nature of man as created in God's image and the whole of His creation. WSCS is committed to the values of the Christian church and home and extends these Christian values to the academic areas of life. Our Lord's mandate to us is to subdue the earth. That requires knowledge and understanding of His creation. This mandate to subdue the earth also implies the need to study, to understand, and to act. Christian education promotes spirituality as well as knowledge. It encourages a life of praise to our Lord and a commitment to live for Him. This understanding of God's world leads us to commit ourselves to His service. WSCS is committed to academic excellence. Our teachers are highly qualified in their given fields. They are dedicated Christians who bring enthusiasm, creativity, and a love of learning to the classroom. All our teachers meet the certification requirements of the State of Michigan. By integrating faith and learning, our teachers prepare students spiritually and academically to live as Christ's servants. We provide a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum.

CORE SUBJECT AREAS

Students K-8 will study the following content areas: Bible, English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies.

ENRICHMENT AREAS

Students in K-8 will also experience areas of enrichment through their studies at WSCS: Art, Music (Band, Orchestra, Choir, Music Theory), Spanish, Physical Education (PE), and Technology.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We believe that hands-on experiences in nature help build stronger, smarter, happier and healthier children; and we believe that quality education includes regular opportunities to connect children to God's classroom, the outdoors. We educate the whole child through the use of God's creation as a powerful teaching tool, growing students that impact the world for Jesus Christ as they care for others as equipped stewards for today and the future. Our outdoor education program aligns with the Michigan State Standards.

CURRICULUM

West Side Christian School strives to promote and provide quality, Christ-centered education. We are committed to best practices in instruction to further our students' knowledge and understanding of the world God has created. Therefore, WSCS is aligned to Michigan State Standards including Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Next Generation Standards for Science (NGSS), and Michigan State Standards for all other subject areas, including our fine arts and physical education programs.

Procedure for Reconsideration of Educational Resources

Concerns about resources shall be addressed to the staff involved, who will initiate a discussion of the complaint; explain the goals and philosophy of the library, classroom, or technology selection process; and work to resolve the issues together informally. If the complaint is not resolved between these parties, the head of school or designee may be contacted and a request for reconsideration may be filed.

Ordinarily, resources will not be restricted from use during this re-evaluation process. A formal request for consideration must be returned to the head of school within two weeks for the reconsideration process to continue or the case shall be closed. Upon receiving the request forms, the head of school will convene a committee to consider the concern.

This committee will include the librarian and/or technology integration specialist, at least one classroom teacher, and other representative(s) as deemed appropriate. The committee members should receive copies of the challenged material and professional reviews, and the request for reconsideration.

The committee shall meet and make its decision after taking time to:

- Examine the entire contents of the challenged resource
- Determine professional acceptance by reviewing professional reviews and other pertinent opinions
- Evaluate the values and faults based on the material as a whole rather than passages or sections taken out of their context
- Discussed the challenged materials within the context of a Christian worldview, the educational program and the age-appropriateness of the reader/audience
- Discuss the challenged material with the parent when appropriate.

The committee shall prepare a confidential written report for the head of school to review with the parents. The decision of the review committee is binding.

The concerned parent may appeal the decision of the Reconsideration Committee to the Executive Committee as the final binding agreement.

GRADING SCALE

One of the primary goals of a grading system is to produce grades that more accurately reflect a student's learning progress and achievement, including situations in which students struggled early on in a semester or school year, but then put in the effort and hard work needed to meet expected standards.

FOR GRADES K-3

These terms are used to describe your child's Academic Growth:

Emerging (E): A beginning understanding of the concepts and is starting to apply the concepts in everyday activities

Developing (D): Making more consistent attempts to use concepts in everyday activities

Secure (S): Able to consistently use concepts in all everyday activities.

These terms are used to describe your child's Effort in various settings: Consistent (C), Progressing (P), Inconsistent (I)

FOR GRADES 4-8 (Updated Fall 2022)

A = 97-100	B+ = 89-92	C+ = 78-81	D+ = 66-70	E = 0-59
A- = 93-96	B = 86-88	C = 75-77	D = 63-65	
	B- = 82-85	C- = 71-74	D- = 60-62	

POWERSCHOOL AND SCHOOLOGY (Updated Fall 2022)

PowerSchool and Schoology are platforms used to share student progress and student work. Parents have access to both of these in order to support their students and their learning and development.

AimsWeb and MAP GROWTH

AimWeb is a universal screening tool used for students in grades K-2.

MAP stands for Measure of Academic Performance and is developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). Each 3rd-8th grade child takes a MAP growth assessment in early fall and late spring (mid-winter for grades 3-5). These reports are available to families at the end of the year.

REPORT CARDS & DIPLOMA

After each quarter (typically every nine weeks), parent(s) and guardian(s) will receive a report. Parents of middle school students may access grades on PowerSchool at anytime to check assignments, tests, projects, and progress.

To receive your diploma, end of the year report card, or transfer your cumulative file to another school all invoices for tuition, library books, technology devices and accessories, 8th grade play, athletic uniform, etc. must be returned or paid.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Middle School students (Grades 6-8) are put on the honor roll based on their GPA not based on a percentage. Each letter grade is assigned a numerical value on a 4 point scale (A =4.0, A- = 3.667, B+ = 3.333, B = 3.0, B- = 2.667, C+ = 2.333, C = 2.0, C- = 1.667, D+ = 1.333, D=1.0, D- = 0.667). To be on Gold Honor Roll a student needs to be at a 3.667 or higher GPA. To be on Silver Honor Roll a student needs to be at a 3.0 or higher GPA.

HOMEWORK

Expectations: The amount of homework varies according to the academic level of the student and his/her grade level. Most of the academic requirements for students take place during the 6 hours that are part of the school day. It may not always be possible to complete all the work in school so some may have to be finished at home, including items like test preparation, Bible memory, assignments, projects, spelling words, etc. As students move from the primary grades (K-3) into the upper grades (4-8), more is expected of them. The homework rule of thumb says to take the grade level, multiply that number by 10, and that will give a guideline for the time spent on homework. If there is a big difference in homework time, please contact the classroom teacher. Each school year is building and preparing for the next. The higher the grade level, the higher the expectations for students. Parents can help by supporting students (setting aside time and a place to study and giving encouragement and help as needed). Teachers will do their best to make student expectations clear, time expectations reasonable, due dates fair, and give

reminders and help to students. Students are responsible for recording assignments and completing those assignments on time.

SMARTMOVES (GRADES 4-8) (Updated Fall 2022)

SmartMoves is an organizational system designed for 4th through 8th graders. The ultimate goal of SmartMoves is to help students take ownership of managing their assignments and materials in an effective way, so that they feel confident in their organizational skills upon graduation from West Side Christian School.

As students enter **fourth grade**, they work closely with the teacher and their classmates to track and check daily and long-term assignments using a binder, organizational tabs, and a classroom chart. At this level, parents are expected to check the SmartMoves daily at first to assure the system is utilized and working for the student. As the year progresses, parents allow their child to take on this responsibility independently. **Fifth grade** teachers follow this same progression.

As students move into **middle school**, responsibility begins to shift from teacher to student for recording assignments. While 6th graders begin the year using the same system they have practiced in 4th and 5th grades, by second quarter teachers model using technology tools to record and track assignments. They continue to display upcoming assignments for all classes on a classroom chart. Students needing assistance with tracking assignments will continue to receive it. Throughout 7th and 8th grades, teachers model and provide students with a few additional options for tracking assignments (i.e. digitally), so that students can find a system that best suits their organizational style. At regular intervals, 7th and 8th grade teachers will check in with students to determine how students are managing their assignments. By the end of 8th grade, all students should have determined a system that allows them to be successful in high school.

EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

Properly supervised and planned educational field trips are an important part of our instructional program. A signed permission form from a parent or guardian with emergency information is required before the first field trip. Teachers and staff will notify parents and guardians when chaperones are needed. Transportation is typically provided by school buses.

EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

West Side Christian School seeks to support and celebrate the gifts and abilities of all of God's children. Because of our commitment to providing quality, Christ-centered education, West Side Christian School offers educational support services for those learners who may benefit from additional support in meeting their individual goals. WSCS acknowledges learning differences and provides a variety of programs to meet the learning needs and challenges of God's children. Our programs include inclusion services, services for students with academic talents, and small group or 1:1 interventions and academic support. If you have questions/concerns about the services we provide, please contact Mikaela Geers, Director of Educational Support Services, mgeers@wschristian.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each student is expected to provide his/her own basic school supplies. A yearly supply list is sent home at the beginning of summer and in early August. Please check with your child occasionally to see if they need to replenish their supplies.



STUDENT LIFE

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. each day. Students should NOT arrive earlier than 8:15 a.m. or remain on campus later than 3:30p.m. unless they are participating in a supervised school activity. Supervision WILL NOT be provided for students who arrive before 8:15 am. or remain later than 3:30 p.m. These procedures are designed for the safety and well-being of the students.

Half days begin at the same time, 8:30 a.m., and end at 11:30 a.m.

Two-hour delays begin at 10:30 a.m., and end at 3:15 p.m.

BEFORE SCHOOL

- Supervision of students will be provided beginning at 8:15 am.
- If you need to enter the building at drop-off, please come through the main office to sign in.
- All students are to enter school via their designated doors
 - Elementary students will go to the playground
 - Middle school students are to remain outside, unless inclement weather rules are in effect.
- When arriving at school, bicycles should be parked and remain parked until dismissal time. Please remember to lock your bikes.

AFTER SCHOOL

- Please make “play dates” for your children from home so your children are clear as to what their plans are at the end of the school day before they come to school. Students are not allowed to make play plans from school using the classroom or office phones. If they ask, they are told that they must go home as their parents have expected, and to make their plans from home.
- The playground is used for Little Sprouts Childcare after school.
- Students staying after school for sports events or extracurricular activities must be attended by an adult. Students may not participate in any after school activity (ie. field trips, science olympiad, lego robotics, stem program, athletic practice, 8th grade play, etc.) if they are not at school by 12:00pm (noon).
- Students are all expected to be off grounds by 3:30pm unless participating in or watching an athletic competition. Younger students are not allowed to stay at school when a sibling has practice since there is no supervision available except for the students involved in the “practice”.

DURING ATHLETIC EVENTS

- Students below grade five (5) should be supervised by a parent or another adult.

- Students should make advance arrangements to attend an athletic event. Students are not to use the phone to obtain the parent's permission to stay for after school activities.
- Students attending an event in the gym are to remain in the gym.

LITTLE SPROUTS CHILDCARE

Childcare is available before, during, and after school, as well as during schedule breaks and weather closures. This is offered to children 2.5-12 years of age. Childcare hours are available between 7:00am-6:00pm. Please reach out to Chelsea Spiegel, Director of LS, at littlesprouts@wschristian.org.

PERSONAL DIGNITY

Harassment or abuse of students or staff violates Christian and legal principles. Students should report such harassment so that the matter can be dealt with in a timely manner. Harassment, including verbal abuse, will result in corrective discipline and possible suspension. THREATS against the welfare of students or staff or against the school are taken seriously and may be grounds for expulsion. Staff members follow state guidelines for reporting suspected abuse to the authorities.

CHAPEL AND GATHERING TIMES

1. All school chapels are held five times per school year – at the beginning of the year, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and the end of the school year. Information on these dates is sent home in the Parent Bulletin.
2. Students in K-5 join for praise and worship weekly.
3. Elementary chapels are typically held every other month and are led by our students.
4. Middle school chapels are held every Wednesday from 11:50a-12:20p.

HOT LUNCH

WSCS has partnered with Grand Rapids Christian Schools. Hot lunch is available daily. Students must raise their hand daily to be a part of the lunch count in the morning. To learn more about the program and for the menu, please see the school website.

PHONE USE

Students will not be able to carry or use cellphones during the school day. Phones are available in the classroom and office should a student need to contact their parent(s).

1. Phone calls for forgotten lunches, instruments, uniforms, homework, etc. are to be made from the classroom, at teacher's discretion.
2. Play dates will not be made on any school phone. This should have been done at home or previously scheduled prior to the school day.
3. Calls regarding staying for tryouts or change in practice or game schedule can be made from the office (with teacher permission or during break).
4. Sick phone calls can be made from the office- Teacher will let the office know they are sending the student down. The office will call the parents/emergency contact and will follow up with the teacher, as needed.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in school each day that school is in session unless illness, accident, or some other family situation occurs. Students are not permitted to leave the school property during the school day unless verbal or written permission is given by a parent, the student is accompanied by the parent, or some other emergency situation has occurred.

Excused tardies/absences: Missing school disrupts the learning of your child. Please consider taking vacation and trips during the scheduled school breaks. The office and teacher(s) should be notified about pre-planned family vacations, trips, or shadow days (for high school visits) *at least 5 school days* before the scheduled trip. Parent Requested Absence (PRA) Forms are obtainable from the office or the school's website.

Absences that are excused include the following: illness, family vacations, funerals, necessary medical or dental appointments, or any type of family emergency. The office must be notified of a student's absence by 9 a.m. so that all students can be accounted for. All non-reported absences will be recorded as unexcused.

Arrangements for change of transportation for end-of-the-day must be given to the office by 2:00 p.m. Requests made after this time may not be guaranteed.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (K-5): Parents must notify the classroom teacher and office if the student(s) will be absent from the classroom for an appointment or other event that is scheduled during school hours. The parent/designated adult will meet the student at the office and sign him/her out. Students may NOT exit through other doors. When returning back to school, the student(s) must sign in at the main office.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (6-8): Parents must notify the homeroom teacher and office if the student(s) will be absent from the classroom for an appointment or other event that is scheduled during school hours. The student(s) must sign in (if arriving late) and sign out (if leaving for any reason) at the main office.

PENALTIES FOR TARDINESS (PER QUARTER)

ELEMENTARY LEVEL (K-5):

- Three tardies lead to a phone call from the teacher reminding the parent of the student's obligation to be at school on time.
- Three additional tardies (6) lead to a phone call to parents from the head of school or dean. An after school detention will be served from 3:20-3:50pm.
- Two additional tardies (8) will lead to a meeting with the parents, head of school, and teachers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL (6-8):

Four (4) tardies in a given class leads to a noon hour.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES

Excused: The student has the number of days absent plus 1 (for illness, funeral, or family emergency) to make up the work missed. The teacher will do what they can to help the student make up the work. For a family vacation of at least 3 days, the student has 5 school days to make work up after returning from the vacation. Students will be responsible (with parents) for work missed. Teachers are not obligated to spend time with the student or prepare work for the student prior to the student leaving for vacation. The student and the parent have the responsibility to find out what the missed work is and turn it into the teacher in the time allowed.

Unexcused: The teacher may use judgment in this matter but is under no obligation to have the student make up a missed assignment, test/quiz, or some other activity due to the student's unexcused absence. There could be a zero credit given in the student's record for work missed during an unexcused absence.

BUILDING SECURITY

Doors are open at the beginning of the school day only. During school hours all doors will be locked. To enter school you will need to come through the main entrance and be buzzed into the office. If you have permission to enter the building, you will need to sign in through our system and wear a badge identifying who you are.

If you are dropping off forgotten lunch, books, instruments, etc., the office staff will make sure your student receives the item. If you are picking up a child for an appointment, the office staff will call down to the child's room to have them meet you in the office.

GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Students must remain on school property during the school day unless the parent provides a written excuse to leave the school grounds (ie. signed permission slip for exploratories and field trips) or the student is picked up by the parent.
2. Students are expected to keep desks and lockers clean. Stickers are not permitted on desks or lockers. Student lockers are used to store books and any school related clothing. Magnets may be used to hang mirrors, notepads, schedules or anything else related to reminders for school. Tape should not be used on lockers. Locks should not be placed on any lockers.
3. Students are expected to keep the hallways, classrooms, and the playground clean by putting trash in the wastebaskets.
4. Bathrooms are to be kept clean. Students should not spend an unnecessary amount of time in the bathrooms.
5. Unisex, single stall restrooms are available for use for students who would benefit from using alternative accommodations. Parents/guardians and/or students who would like to take advantage of this must have a conversation with a trusted staff member.
6. Middle school students will have access to locker rooms for the purpose of changing clothes for gym class or after school sports. The locker rooms will NOT be used as clothing storage areas. Articles of clothing left in the locker room will be disposed. Please be aware that students from many other schools use the locker rooms during athletic events. Students should do their part to keep the locker rooms clean.

7. Students are expected to take care of school loaned textbooks. Any books that are misused or lost will be paid for by the student. Students are responsible to pay for any property damage that they cause.
8. Students may use an office phone only in an emergency situation and with adult permission. School phones should not be used to make personal calls (i.e. stay after school to watch a game, go to a friend's house, etc.).
9. Sidewalks should be used whenever possible when walking to and from the school building.
10. Elementary students (K-5) are not permitted to chew gum while at school. Middle school students (6-8) are permitted to chew gum while at school during specific courses and classrooms.
11. Students should WALK (not run) through the hallways and use the appropriate hallways when walking through the building. Students will use the correct door entrances when entering and leaving the building.
12. Students should not be in any classroom without permission and proper adult supervision.
13. Roller blades, skateboards, and wheeled shoes are not permitted at school. If it is necessary to bring one of these items to school for use after school (outside the school setting), they must be kept in a locker or given to the student's homeroom teacher during school hours.
14. Electronic devices – cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devices – are not allowed to be carried or used during the school day or on school transportation. If your student needs to take any of these items to school, s/he must turn it off and keep it in a locker. If a student is using any of these items without permission from a staff member, a staff member will take the item(s) in use and bring them to the office. The first time this happens, the student will be allowed to pick the device up at the end of the school day and the offense will be documented. The second time this happens, the device will remain in the office until the parent comes to pick it up from the head of school.
15. Knives or any other objects that have a potential threat to the health and welfare of others are not to be taken to school (e.g. glass bottles, fireworks, or any other incendiary or explosive devices).

PLAYGROUND / RECESS / BREAK

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (K-2, 3-5)

- Elementary school students have a break in the morning, lunch, and in the afternoon.
- Elementary recess flags (located near 4th grade classrooms): Green Flag = Outdoor Recess, Red Flag = Indoor Recess, White Flag = Sledding

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT (6-8)

- Middle school students have a break in the morning and at lunch.

GENERAL RULES

1. Students must stay on the school grounds during recess breaks.
2. Students should use common courtesy and respect for other students and school property at all times. Bullying will not be tolerated. No pushing/shoving, tackling, holding, grabbing, fighting, or hitting will be allowed.
3. Students will use all playground equipment in a safe manner.
4. Hard balls (baseballs, 12" softballs, rubber coated hard balls, golf balls, etc.) and metal bats are not permitted on the playground.

5. Students must inform a staff person about misbehavior on the playground, injury, or any other item that requires adult assistance. Staff members, parent volunteers, and 5th grade safeties will assist in the supervision of the playground.

CODE OF CONDUCT (Updated Fall 2022)

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The mission of West Side Christian School is Growing Students Minds. Guiding Servant Hearts. Glorifying Jesus Christ. WSCS equips students to live for God in all aspects of life. It is very important that the environment at WSCS is positive, safe, and nurturing. We desire to reflect a commitment to Christ in all we do, including behavioral expectations and discipline.

We Desire To Reflect A Commitment To Christ

Matthew 5:16 - "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support provides academic and behavioral interventions that are matched to students' needs. It is based on the belief that all students can learn. Early intervention is essential, data must be used to make decisions and interventions must be evidence based. MTSS includes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Restorative Practices, and social emotional learning lessons to address behavioral needs and a variety of other interventions to address the academic needs of students.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (PBIS)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is a proactive, team-based framework for creating and sustaining safe and effective schools. Emphasis is placed on prevention of problem behaviors, development of social skills, and the use of data-based problem-solving for addressing existing behavior concerns. Schoolwide PBIS increases the capacity of WSCS to educate all students utilizing research-based school-wide, classroom, and individualized interventions. Research shows that when positive behaviors are explicitly taught and practiced, disruptive behaviors are reduced. PBIS uses a tiered approach, reflecting the need for universal supports for ALL students (Tier 1), targeted support for SOME students (Tier 2), and intensive supports for a FEW students (Tier 3).

School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) sets out clear behavioral expectations for both students and staff. Each grade band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) chooses three to five expectations (areas of focus) around which they determine what positive behavior looks like for each expectation. PBIS is grounded in the following:

1. **Defining Behavior:** This promotes the creation of rules, routines, and physical arrangements that are developed and taught by school staff to prevent initial occurrences of behavior the school would like to target for change. School staff have built a matrix listing the behavioral expectation in a horizontal row. There are labels above the behavioral expectations listing all the areas in the school where this behavior could be: 1) taught, 2) modeled, 3) practiced, and 4) observed. For example, in middle school the labels might include: 1) classrooms, 2) outdoor areas, 3) gymnasium, 4) bus, 5) hallway, 6) restroom, and 7) sidewalks.

2. **Teaching Appropriate Behavioral Actions:** During the first weeks of school, adults discuss and model appropriate behaviors and provide feedback to students as students practice appropriate behaviors in the various settings. Expectations will be re-taught, remodeled, and practiced as necessary.
3. **Noting Appropriate Behavioral Actions:** Teachers and staff acknowledge students who demonstrate appropriate behaviors, such as, “I notice [student] has gotten [his/her] binder out right away. Thank you for following directions.”
4. **Consequences/Follow-through:** Research shows that PBIS works for 80% of all students in a given school (based on a criterion of the number of students who have one [1] or fewer office discipline referrals per month). Obviously, no intervention works for all students; therefore, consequences aligned with school policy may be used, but they will also be aligned with the expectation the student failed to exhibit.
5. **Data Collection:** School-wide behavior data is readily available to the Child Study Team. Data is used to determine what is working across grade levels and what needs to be revisited and revised.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

At West Side Christian School, we believe that all people have been placed on this earth to serve God and others. At times, all students lose sight of this and can make mistakes such as causing injury to themselves, others, or property. In those events we believe students, with God’s help, can bring restoration to restore Shalom—God’s peace. We believe sin or disobedience is choosing ourselves over serving God and others. Because of this belief, we use restorative practices, which couple discipline and discipleship. Through this approach, students learn to:

1. **Own It** - acknowledge their role in the incident and how it impacted others
2. **Fix It** - take steps to “make it right” for all involved
3. **Learn From It** - reflect on what growth can happen as a result of their actions
4. **Move On** - when ready, all affected parties agree to leave the past in the past

Restorative Practices utilize a spectrum of processes, exercises and interactions that proactively build healthy relationships and a sense of community to prevent conflict, as well as addressing conflict and wrongdoing to repair relationships and harm caused.

Restorative Practices teach and allow students to practice many social-emotional skills, including but not limited to: communication, self-awareness, social awareness, empathy, naming and regulating emotions. Restorative Practices can be utilized to improve relationships between students, between students and educators, and even between educators, whose behavior often serves as a role model for students.

Restorative practices allow individuals who may have committed harm to take full responsibility for their behavior by addressing the individual(s) affected by the behavior.

Traditional Disciplinary Practices	Restorative Disciplinary Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools/rules are violated ● Justice focuses on the guilty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People and relationships are violated ● Accountability is understanding the effects of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accountability is punishment ● Justice is focused on the guilty; the victim is ignored ● Rules and intent outweigh the outcome ● No opportunity for the offender to express remorse or make amends 	<p>the offense and repairing harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offender, victim, and school have a role in the justice process ● Offenders are held responsible for their behavior, repairing any harm, working towards a positive outcome ● Opportunities are offered for offenders to express remorse and make amends
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RESTORATIVE PRACTICE CONFERENCE: A facilitated conference may be offered by West Side Christian School as an alternative to traditional discipline following certain incidents of student misconduct. Conference participants include: a restorative practice facilitator, offending student, his/her caregiver(s) and possible support persons, individual(s) who were harmed, his/her caregiver(s) and possible support persons and school administrators. The group comes together to talk through the incident, express feelings and develop conditions in which the offender is then held accountable. An opportunity is provided for students and staff to reconcile and repair the harm caused by the incident.

RESTORATIVE QUESTIONS	
When Challenging Behavior	To Help Those Affected
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What happened? 2. What were you thinking at the time? 3. What have you thought about since? 4. Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way? 5. What do you think needs to happen to make things right? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did you think when you realized what had happened? 2. What impact has this incident had on you and others? 3. What has been the hardest thing for you? 4. What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

CODE OF CONDUCT, ACTS OF MISCONDUCT & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

West Side Christian School is dedicated to creating and maintaining a positive learning environment for all students. All members of our learning community—including students, educators (including teachers, secretaries, custodians, aides, paraprofessionals, and other school personnel), parents, and engaged service providers—must assume a responsible role in promoting behavior that enhances academic and social success. Courteous, respectful, and responsible behavior fosters a positive climate for the learning community. Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Take responsibility for their learning and recognize that it is a process.
2. Attend school regularly, arrive on time, and be prepared to learn.

- a. When elementary students are absent, their teacher provides the work that has been missed.
 - b. Starting in 6th grade, responsibility for work shifts to the student. When middle school students are absent, they take responsibility for contacting their teachers for missed work.
3. Respect themselves and others in class, on school grounds, on buses, and at any school-related activity.
 4. Respect the rights and feelings of fellow students, parents, educators (including teachers, administrative assistants, custodians, aides, paraprofessionals, and other school personnel), visitors, and guests.
 5. Work within the existing structure of the school to address concerns.
 6. Know and follow school rules and policies.
 7. Participate in classes appropriately, and foster a culture of respect for learning and for others.

Parents have the responsibility to:

1. Take responsibility for your child(ren)'s development as learners by providing a home environment suited for learning and developing good study habits.
2. See that your child(ren) attends school regularly and on time.
3. Provide for your child(ren)'s general health and welfare.
4. Teach and model respect for yourself, your child(ren), and all members of the school community.
5. Support the school's efforts to provide a safe and orderly learning environment.
6. Know and support the school rules and policies and work within the existing structure of the school to address concerns.
7. Advocate for your child(ren) and take an active role in the school community.
8. Attend your child(ren)'s parent/teacher conferences.

Educators have the responsibility to:

1. Take responsibility for students' development as learners, including their academic success and positive social-emotional development, recognizing that children should be subject to behavior management and discipline policies appropriate to their ages and levels of understanding.
2. Model and provide a mutually respectful and accountable atmosphere for learning that includes all members of the school community.
3. Cooperate and schedule conferences with students, parents, and other school personnel in an effort to understand and resolve academic and behavioral problems. Make every effort to accommodate families whose work schedules, access to transportation, or distance from school limits their ability to meet or participate.
4. Keep parents informed of their students' challenges, effort, and success.
5. Encourage students to participate in classroom, extracurricular, and other school-related activities.

6. Know and enforce the rules and policies consistently, fairly, and equitably.
7. Participate in formulating rules and procedures and other learning and developmental opportunities in the school.

The student code of conduct outlined in this handbook applies when students are:

- In school building or are on any school premises and there is scheduled staff supervision (8:15-3:15p)
- At any school-sponsored activity, regardless of location
- Walking to or from a school-sponsored, staff supervised activity
- Traveling on school buses to and from school or other vehicle used to transport students for a school-sponsored activity
- Using school devices

Behavior Expectations - Statement of Principles

It is the intent of the School Board, administrators, faculty and staff to maintain an atmosphere where exemplary Christian behavior and quality academic studies are developed. Students at West Side Christian School are encouraged and expected to exhibit those behaviors that contribute to the growth of such an atmosphere. General behavior expectations are listed on the West Side Christian School Behavior Matrix. Acts of misconduct are listed on the pages that follow and are categorized as described.

We are **ROOTED** in Christ
Resilient - Open to Others - Thoughtful - Engaged - Dedicated



	CLASSROOMS/LIBRARY	HALLWAYS	BATHROOM/LOCKER ROOM	CHAPEL/ASSEMBLIES	DIGITAL WORLD	RECESS/BREAKS
READY	Get enough sleep. Arrive at school and in class on time. Bring needed materials to school. Be prepared to learn. Complete homework on time.	Limit your time at your locker. Cell phones stay in lockers and are not used during school hours.	Bring only what you need into these areas.	Enter and sit quietly. Sit with your class or homeroom. Be willing to try or learn something new.	Be sure you understand the assignment and teacher directions before starting. Be sure devices are charged at the start of each school day.	Wear outerwear for the weather. Know and follow playground/break rules.
RESPONSIBLE	Follow directions when they are given. Behave in a way that helps everyone learn. Give your best effort always. Be honest. Cooperate with others. Manage your own messes. Use problem-solving strategies to work through differences of opinion.	Keep belongings and materials in lockers. Move through hallways quickly and quietly without distracting others. Bring uneaten food home at the end of the day. Have a pass when traveling alone in the hallways (MS students only).	Limit your time in the bathroom. Flush the toilet and wash your hands. Place trash in the trash can. Report problems to the office.	Enter and exit in an orderly and timely manner. Keep hands and feet to yourself and quiet before, during, and after chapel. Manage your own behavior—do not distract others.	Handle devices with care. Stay on task and encourage others to do so as well. Use only when given permission. Keep passwords private. Go only to approved sites.	Stay in designated areas. Use problem solving strategies during conflicts. Use equipment properly. Line up/come in when the bell rings. Report issues to the playground monitor.
RESPECTFUL	Respect one another's personal space. Use indoor voices. Speak kindly about and to others. Use "please" and "thank you" when asking for help. Honor differences of opinions, backgrounds, and experiences. Use school appropriate language.	Keep hallways neat. Say, "excuse me," when appropriate. Respect one another's personal space. Close lockers without slamming them. Obey the speed limit: WALK! Join at the end of the lunch line.	Keep the bathroom and locker rooms neat. Respect the privacy of others. Keep conversations positive.	Look and listen to the speaker. Ignore distractions. Participate appropriately.	Use appropriate and kind language online. T.H.I.N.K. before you post. Is it... • True? • Helpful? • Inspiring? • Necessary? • Kind?	Respect other's personal space. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Take turns and play fairly. Include those who want to play and invite others to join.

Disciplinary Action

Discipline procedures at West Side Christian are followed with love for the students and with the goal of helping the student develop into a responsible and self-disciplined follower of Jesus Christ. When students exhibit inappropriate behavior, the staff will admonish with respect and care for the student, and with the ultimate goal of helping the student face consequences, modify behavior, and restore relationships.

Misbehaviors are categorized and leveled based on the intent, impact, and outcome of the action. Classroom and co-curricular teachers monitor and address Level 1 and Level 2 behaviors, while the Head of School and/or the Dean monitor and address Level 3 and Level 4 behaviors in coordination with the K-5th grade teacher or the middle school homeroom teacher. Consequences are determined by either the Code of Conduct or a student's Collaborative Support Plan (CSP). Consequences for students who fall under the umbrella of ESS will be determined by the student's CSP or Behavior Plan and in coordination with the ESS and/or Inclusion Director.

- **Level 1:** A pattern of behavior that is mildly disruptive and committed without intent to harm others.
- **Level 2:** Behavior that disregards basic rules/behavior expectations, demonstrates a deliberate attempt to disrupt others and/or could offend/hurt the feelings of others.
- **Level 3:** Behavior that could hurt, injure or damage self, others and/or property.
- **Level 4:** Behavior that could seriously hurt, endanger or damage self, others, or property.

In each situation, students involved will be interviewed to determine what happened and how the actions impacted each student. A determination of the level of misbehavior will then be decided as a result.

Note: West Side Christian reserves the right to recommend more or less severe discipline based on the nature of the violation, the age of the student, and/or the student's level of understanding of the incident.

BUILDING RENTAL POLICIES

Please check the school website or office to sign up for gym rentals, get a copy of the rental policy and guidelines, and information about rental rates. The band/music room is NOT available for rental.

BUS SAFETY

In order to ensure that riding the bus is a safe and positive experience for each student, it is necessary that rules and regulations be adopted and enforced. No student should conduct himself/herself in any manner that jeopardizes the safe operation of the bus. Any distraction or disturbance which draws the driver's attention away from the road could result in an accident causing injury and possible death to other persons. The driver's authority on the bus is absolute. As Christians, we expect our behavior to be exemplary so others may see and hear Christ in us. It is for this reason that the students have the following responsibilities:

1. All students must remain seated after the bus is in route. All students will have assigned seats.
No changing seats!
2. Obey the bus driver at all times.
3. Be respectful to the bus driver and other students/adults on the bus.
4. Be at the designated pick up point at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time to insure that you will not miss the bus.
5. Stay off the traveled roadway at all times while waiting for the bus.

6. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to get on or off the bus.
7. Enter or leave the bus only at the front door after the bus has come to a complete stop, except in the case of an emergency.
8. Front cross stops, if necessary, must be handled in the following manner:
 - a. Make certain the bus is completely stopped.
 - b. Get off the bus, proceed to a proper distance in front of the bus, within sight of the driver, and wait for the proper signal for crossing.
 - c. Upon the signal by the driver, look both to the right and the left and proceed across the street in front of the bus if there is no traffic coming from either direction.
 - d. **Never go behind the school bus.**
9. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
10. Inform the driver when absence is expected from school (parents).
11. Eating and drinking, including gum chewing is not permitted on the bus.
12. Technology use on the bus is prohibited.

BUS DISCIPLINE

All behavior which destroys property, jeopardizes the safety of students, drivers, other persons or vehicles, or is not in accordance with appropriate Christian behavior will result in the termination of bus service for that ride or the next subsequent ride will be forfeited. All infractions will be reported to the bus supervisor or dean who will enforce that policy as stated. The bus supervisor or dean also reserves the authority to suspend a student's bus privileges for a longer period of time if the misbehavior requires such action.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a vital part of any organization, but it is especially important in a school system that is dealing with the most precious thing in the world, our children. Communication between parents and the school is vital. As a Christian school, we have a wonderful model that is presented to us in Matthew 18:15-20. Basically, what this model says is that if you have a concern about something or with someone, go to the person that you have the concern with first, sit down with him/her in Christian love, and discuss the concern. From our experience here at WSCS, most problems are solved in this way. If that does not work, then you bring a witness and try to solve the problem with that person. In the case of our school system, that person would be the school administrator. Good communication helps us work together in Christian love.

POLICY ON TOBACCO, DRUGS, and ALCOHOL:

A student apprehended in possession of an illicit or controlled substance(s) or alcohol during the school day or at school functions shall normally be subject to discipline as follows:

1. The student will immediately be placed in the custody of the head of school or her appointed representative.
2. The head of school will immediately contact the student's parent(s).
3. Following this there will be a conference attended by the student, the parent, and the head of school which will include discussion of the discipline to be taken for the offense. The discipline may include suspension from school, action plan by the family to help correct the problem, and/or expulsion from the school. The student will be placed on probation in accordance with the terms set by the head of school and the school board.

4. The distribution or sale of either alcohol or illicit or controlled substance at school functions will result in immediate expulsion and notification of the police.

ALLERGEN POLICIES

FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

If a student has a *severe* allergy to a food item, we request that parents of other students in that classroom follow the guidelines for allowable foods in that room or area.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION POLICY

1. For students taking oral medication in school, the following steps need to be taken.
 1. The parents/guardian needs to complete a written request of their desire to have medications administered at school in compliance with label instructions, and:
 - i. Bring medication directly to the school office in a properly labeled container; or,
 - ii. Give the medication to an adult staff person in a properly labeled container; or,
 - iii. The pharmacy from which the medication was purchased may deliver the medication directly to the school office.
2. Procedures for administering medication:
 1. The administrator will designate one or more persons to administer all medication in the building.
 2. The person administering medication will do so in the presence of another adult.
 3. Medication is administered in an appropriate time and place so as to preserve the dignity of the student.
 4. Permanent written record is kept of all medication administered, using the prescribed form.
 5. Medication is kept in a locked container, drawer or cabinet.
 6. The student's physician must have prescribed the medication and submitted written instructions for its administration. Administration of medication must cease at the written request of the parent/guardian or at the end of the time period of the prescription.
 7. Changes in the medication dosage may only be made according to the written instructions of the student's physician.
3. Noncompliance of policy and rules will lead to discontinuation of administration of medication at school.
 1. Parent/Guardian will be notified of students observed with or taking medication apart from the policy and rules.
 2. Where conditions are not followed, staff may refuse to continue the administration of medication.
4. Students taking inhaled and injection type prescribed medications will follow procedures established on an individual basis.

DRESS CODE

We love God and promote His Kingdom in all areas of life, including the clothes we wear. Our clothing is not our identity because we find our identity in Christ. However, we understand that our clothing is one way that allows us to express our individuality and personality. While fashion changes, the reason for being in school does not. ***School clothing should be modest, functional, and God-honoring.*** Clothing that inhibits a learning environment and is a distraction to other students is prohibited. We rely on teacher

and parental cooperation in maintaining a positive and respectful learning environment, which is supported by dressing appropriately to school. The administration and staff reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress.

1. Shirts, shorts, and skirts must be modest (of appropriate length and coverage) regardless of movement.
2. Yoga pants/leggings are allowed for students.
3. Clothing must cover all undergarments at all times—sitting as well as standing.
4. Sleeveless shirts are permitted as long as straps are at least one inch wide.
5. Hats, caps, and hoods may not be worn in the school building during the school day (exception: special class or “spirit” days).
6. Clothing that advertises tobacco, alcoholic, or drug products, gang related symbols, offensive or inappropriate slogans, sayings or symbols, or political affiliations are not allowed at school at any time.

Special Events and Field Trips

The dress code applies to students during school hours and in all school-sponsored events and extracurricular activities—including field trips, athletic events, skating parties, etc.

For any field trips or school events involving swimming, girls and boys must wear modest swimwear.

Enforcement

The goal of the dress code is to promote Christian propriety and healthy self image. The WSCS staff reserves the right to decide what is appropriate in the school setting. Students in elementary and middle school may be asked to change their clothing. Refusal to change/modify attire may lead to a noon hour (or similar consequence) for violating these rules.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY AND PROCEDURES

TWO HOUR DELAY AND SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS (SNOW/FOG/ICE DAYS)

When the weather requires the administration to delay the start of school by two (2) hours because of fog, snow, ice or other conditions, it is important that parents, students and staff understand what a “2-hour delay” means. The decision to delay the opening of school or ultimately cancel is based upon the safety and well-being of our students, the conditions of roads and highways used by parents and staff, and the weather forecast. We will try to make a decision as early as possible to allow parents and staff time to make alternate arrangements.

In the event of a two-hour delay, there will be no morning preschool. Buses will pick students up at their regular bus stop two (2) hours after their normal scheduled time. For example, if a child normally catches the bus at 6:45 a.m., pick-up will be at 8:45 a.m. on days when a two-hour delay is called. Likewise, school will start two (2) hours after the normal start time, 10:30 a.m. Dismissal time will remain the same.

Safety remains the primary focus when the determination is made to close school or delay the start of school by two (2) hours. From time to time it may be predicted that a 2-hour delay will allow morning fog to lift or roads to be cleared. If the weather has not cleared after the 2-hour delay, school will be cancelled for the day and that decision will be broadcasted via local media. Please remember that

parents always have the right to make the final decision if they feel it is not safe to send children during inclement weather.

Afternoon and evening event cancellations will be an administrative decision and will depend on the circumstances.

NOON HOUR / RECESS

Elementary students are expected to go outdoors at break times. Parents should make sure that students wear appropriate clothing for forecasted weather conditions. Middle school students must spend their noon hours outdoors, in the gym (intramurals), or classroom (study) with permission and supervision. Temperature, wind chill, etc. could prevent students from being outdoors. Elementary and middle school students are notified to come in the building if weather deems it necessary. There is a flag system in elementary that indicates if they are to stay in at recess and noon hour.

TORNADO WATCH/WARNING PROCEDURES

1. During the school day, all students will be kept at school during a Tornado WATCH or Tornado WARNING. Parents may NOT pick up students during a Tornado WARNING. Parents may come to school to be with their children, however, this sort of travel is not encouraged during a WARNING. Although it is not encouraged, parents may pick up their children during a WATCH. Only a parent may pick up a student. The parent must sign out the child in writing in the main office.
2. In the event of a WATCH at dismissal time, the students will be dismissed as usual. All after school activities would be canceled.
3. In the event of a WARNING, students will take cover in the safest places in the school building as recommended for our school under such weather conditions. This would mean that if there is a warning at dismissal time, all students and staff would be kept in the school building.
4. In case of either a WATCH or WARNING, all evening activities scheduled at school would be canceled. The activity would take place only if the WATCH or WARNING is lifted two hours prior to the time that the activity is scheduled to begin.
5. If a tornado watch or warning occurs before school hours, school would be canceled. If school is in session and a watch or warning occurs prior to 12:00 pm, the afternoon preschool classes would be canceled.

Note: West Side Christian is required by state law to have at least 6 fire drills and 2 tornado drills per school year.

TECHNOLOGY: WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Each family must acknowledge the following technology use agreement prior to the beginning of the school year.

GRADES K-2

Our world belongs to God and here at West Side Christian School we have the privilege to live and learn from a Bible-based education. Technology is a powerful tool and with the help from skilled teachers, we

can learn how to use computers and other devices in a safe and appropriate manner. WSCS uses technology to enhance learning and create opportunities for differentiation and creativity.

I understand my school's policy on using technology devices and the Internet. I promise to follow all the rules below:

- If I see anything that makes me uncomfortable, or that I don't understand, I will tell my teacher immediately.
- I will not bother others while they work and learn on their technology device(s).
- I will treat the computer with kindness and not bang the keyboard or hurt the machine in any way.
- I know my password is secret and that I should not share it with my friends.
- I will not print anything from the computer unless I have permission from the teacher.
- I will only use the technology device(s), programs, and websites when the teacher gives me permission.
- If I cause any damage to the computer, I understand that my family is financially responsible for the repair or replacement cost.

GRADES 3-8

INTRODUCTION

Our world belongs to God. Technology resources are powerful tools, and teamed with skillful teachers, can be used to effectively prepare students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society. The use of school provided technology is a privilege, not a right, and staff and students at West Side Christian School (WSCS) are expected to use the technology to support and enhance education and communication. In order to facilitate a safe and functional Christian educational environment, members of the WSCS community are expected to adhere to the policy as outlined below.

SCOPE

Individuals ("users") covered by this policy include all authorized users including but not limited to staff, teachers, students, subcontractors and visitors. It includes all WSCS technology resources such as servers, desktops, laptops, tablets, printers, projectors, cameras, software, apps and Internet access. As responsible caretakers of all that God has entrusted to us, we expect users to apply this policy to the use of WSCS technology resources both while on WSCS property and off-site, including the use of personal devices when at WSCS, on the bus or at off-site events where the individual is representing WSCS.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All users are expected to engage with WSCS technology resources in ways that are God-honoring, responsible, ethical, and legal. Use of technology resources must be in compliance with federal and state laws.
2. As children of God created in His image, all users are expected to avoid unethical Internet usage and inappropriate use of social media such as cyberbullying. Users should report such behaviors to WSCS staff.
3. All users are required to use technology resources in accordance with the WSCS code of conduct in addition to any other relevant WSCS guidelines. Violations include but are not limited to harassment, defamation, threatening or discriminatory behavior, and accessing obscene material.
4. Plagiarism and copyright infringement through technology resources are strictly prohibited.
5. Attempted or actual modification of restrictions or protections without authorization from technology staff is strictly prohibited.

6. Users are permitted to download and install relevant and appropriately licensed programs provided they have received approval from technology staff.
7. Unsolicited mailings (e.g. spam, forwards) are prohibited.
8. Business activities, such as advertising or buying and selling of goods and services using technology resources are prohibited.
9. Users agree to take reasonable precautions, to maintain and to protect WSCS technology resources. Users agree to abide by care instructions as outlined in any guides, manuals or verbal instructions that come with technology resources given by technology staff.
10. Users agree never to attempt to damage, destroy or otherwise physically abuse WSCS technology resources.
11. Users agree to manage their individual use of technology resources in ways that do not detrimentally affect other users (e.g. not streaming music, not monopolizing printers, etc).
12. Users agree never to connect unapproved devices to the WSCS network.
13. Users agree not to hold WSCS liable for losses or damages incurred by failure or malfunction of technology resources.
14. Any damage to or malfunction of technology resources, whether accidental or not is to be reported promptly and with full disclosure to technology staff.

SAFETY AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

1. The use of personal technology devices by students will not be allowed while on school property without explicit permission from a WSCS staff member.
2. During the school day, personal technology devices must be off and stored in the student's locker.
3. Use of personal technology devices by a student while on the bus, without explicit permission from a WSCS staff member, is prohibited.
4. Users agree to use only approved logins to access accounts and to keep their own login information secure.
5. Users agree not to share any WSCS login/account data with any person or organization unless approved or requested by administration or technology staff.
6. Users agree to protect and maintain their accounts by logging out or locking the computer. Users will monitor and report unusual activity on their technology resources.
7. Users agree not to access, modify, or destroy other users' information.
8. Users agree not to allow use of WSCS technology resources by unauthorized persons such as family and friends.
9. WSCS will provide education and training to students on (1) safe and appropriate online behavior, such as interacting with other individuals on social networking sites, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and responses.
10. Users agree that all electronic files stored on school resources, including e-mail messages, are property of WSCS.
11. Users agree that WSCS administration and technology staff reserve the right to monitor and inspect files stored on school resources for conformity with policies, licensing standards and state or federal law. Users understand and agree that any files accessed, created, or stored on school resources are not private.
12. Users understand and agree that WSCS has implemented technology measures that block/filter Internet access to visual images that are obscene, illegal or otherwise harmful to minors. Users (and their parents/guardians) are nevertheless advised that users may gain access to unauthorized websites, and WSCS cannot guarantee that users will not access websites that they (or their parents/guardians) would find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Users (and their parents/guardians) agree not to hold WSCS liable for any such material that they may find as a result of using WSCS technology resources.

13. To promote student safety and ensure compliance with this policy, internet, network and other technology-related activities will be monitored or restricted using filtering, passive supervision technologies and periodic checks by technology staff.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Violation of any part of the above policy may result in restriction or suspension of access to technology resources, notification of law enforcement, financial restitution, or other disciplinary measures as determined by WSCS administration. of law enforcement, financial restitution, or other disciplinary measures as determined by WSCS administration.



PARENT RESOURCES

HEALTH SERVICES

- Vision screening is given annually to pupils in preschool and grades 1, 3, 5, and 7.
- Audio screening is given annually to pupils in preschool, Kindergarten, and grades 2, 4, and 6.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The goals of the Parent Teacher Association PTA are to

1. create opportunities that encourage the involvement of WSCS parents through participation in school related activities
2. to raise funds to provide programs and materials to support the WSCS family
3. to assist and support the WSCS administration and faculty to ensure our common goal of a quality Christian education for our children.

Membership is open to all parents/guardians of WSCS children. WSCS organizes several fundraisers throughout the year to help offset the cost of tuition. We use a point system to distribute the workload and refer to it as “parent points.” Families are required to work 20 points throughout the year or donate \$200 to WSCS. Sign ups can be found at www.wscsgr.org/pta.

COMMUNICATION FROM SCHOOL

1. The school **Parent Bulletin** is sent through email each **Tuesday**. This contains information about school happening (important dates and times of events).
2. Staff members will send home periodic **teacher classroom newsletters**.
3. Staff members will make other written or phone communications whenever necessary.
4. Look for student work to come home.
5. West Side Christian School mails out a school newsletter called “**The Echo**” about two times per school year that highlights information about various West Side School events, alum, activities, and programs. There is also an e-newsletter sent quarterly called “**Beyond Belief Bulletin**”.
6. Report cards are sent home at each quarter. Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year.

NOTE: As a Christian community, we observe the sabbath day on Sunday. Please be respectful of this time. We ask that you do not send emails to staff on this day unless it is an emergency. Thank you.

CONTACTING YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER(S) (Updated Fall 2022)

All teachers and other staff at WSCS have voicemail. During school hours, calls to teachers are routed through the main switchboard or go directly to voicemail if a teacher/staff member is in a meeting or teaching.

Email is an easy and efficient way to contact staff members. These addresses are based on the basic format of first initial and last name @wschristian.org. For example: An Kurosu, akurosu@wschristian.org. Staff are not expected to check their email after 7:30pm or before 8:00am Monday-Friday. They are encouraged to spend time with family, attend church, and be an active member of their community. Staff will typically respond to your emails within 24-48 hours.

Staff and teachers' main priority are the students. During the day, staff members are heavily involved in preparing, planning, and teaching. Parents and caregivers are asked to set up an appointment to share a concern so that staff can give full attention to the matter.

CONTACTING THE HEAD OF SCHOOL OR DEAN (Updated Fall 2022)

Our Head of School, An Kurosu, and the Dean of Instruction and Students, Kristyn Kamps, would be glad to schedule time to talk with you. Please contact the office (616.453.3925) or email them directly to make an appointment.

TUITION REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)

TRIP is a program that provides current and future families of West Side Christian School an opportunity to reduce their tuition. Through the TRIP program, gift/merchandise certificates/cards are purchased from participating businesses at a discount. These certificates are sold at face value to families who participate in the program. The discount, or credit, that is earned by TRIP is passed on to the families registered to participate in the program in the form of tuition credit. Find more information on our school's website at www.wscsgr.org/trip.

PAPERGATOR, TERRACYCLE, PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

The papergator is in the south parking lot. Supporters are welcome to place newspapers, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, phone books, and office paper in the container. Please, no plastic, metal, trash, glass, or corrugated cardboard.

Terracycle offers a way to recycle non-traditional materials, such as toothpaste, lotion, squeezable snack plastic pouches, makeup, and many other products. Drop off the items in the designated bin in the atrium.

Through Trex, WSCS recycles plastic bags and film. Drop off the items in the designated bin in the atrium.



MIDDLE SCHOOL AT WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Statement of Principles. It is the intent of the school board, administrator, faculty and staff to maintain an atmosphere where exemplary Christian behavior and quality academic studies are developed. Students at West Side Christian School are encouraged and expected to exhibit those behaviors that contribute to the growth of such an atmosphere.

School Representation. A significant portion of the influence of West Side Christian School depends on the conduct of the students. Student conduct reflects on the school both on and off the campus. As a result, a student must be aware of his or her representation of West Side Christian School as long as he or she is enrolled.

STUDENT COUNCIL

West Side Christian School encourages middle school students to become involved in decisions that affect student life. In order to help the faculty in this regard, our Student Council plays an active role in student life. Student Council is composed of representatives from each grade level. Students may apply to be on one of three committees: 1) social committee (plans and organizes special middle school events), 2) communications committee (researches and presents Student News episodes), or 3) student leadership committee (meets regularly with school administrators to discuss issues and promote positive changes in the middle school). Students are encouraged to apply in early September to join one of these committees.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

Since 1985, WSCS has offered exploratory classes covering a variety of art and cultural studies, movement, academic areas, and careers. The purpose of these classes is to create community, challenge students to try something new, and discover areas of interest.

CAREER EXPLORATION

At WSCS, we seek to introduce and expose our students to different career paths. God has given each child with gifts and interests to use to further His Kingdom. In middle school, we help students establish

a sense of self and how to share their gifts/talents with the world. Each grade level focuses on a different aspect of career exploration:

- 6th grade focuses on PASSION: “Who am I? What am I good at? What is my identity in Christ? How is God working in my life?” 6th graders take a whole class tour of an area business to learn more about the variety of jobs and skills utilized there.
- 7th grade focuses on VOCATION: “What do I bring to the world? What does the world need? What can I be paid to do? How can I serve the world using my gifts and talents?” 7th graders take small group tours of local businesses that align with results from professional interest surveys.
- 8th grade focuses on MISSION: “How can I use my knowledge, gifts, and passions to impact the world for Christ?” 8th graders take part in a job shadowing experience in an area business that aligns with results from professional interest surveys.

FLEX

FLEX provides intentional and additional time during the school day for staff to support our learners.

1. Devote time during the school day for teachers and students to meet about academics (top priority)
2. Provide time for students to engage in activities they choose (student council, creation care, chapel team, art studio, tech-based experiences)
3. Provide time for extra reading (30 minutes a day of choice-based reading is the recommended amount of reading time at the middle school level)
4. Give students a time for their brains to settle and take a break from regular academics



ATHLETICS

We feel that athletics are an integral part of the teaching/learning process at WSCS. It is our goal to graduate students who are thinking, feeling, and believing young people and who have learned what it means to live, work, and play with Christian integrity. Because this is how we hope to see our students develop, we encourage maximum participation in our athletic program. In addition, being a member of a team is a privilege and with that privilege comes added responsibility and accountability. Behavior infractions will lead to consequences that may result in loss of playing time and possible missed games. We offer two levels of involvement, intramural and interscholastic sports. Interscholastic sports (competition with other area Christian Schools) includes 7th and 8th grade. Announcements regarding tryouts for teams will be posted on the bulletin board near the gym. Student athletes must be at school by 12:00pm to participate in athletics events (practices and games).

We honor a “no cut” policy in 7th grade. There are tryouts and cuts in 8th grade if the numbers warrant it. At times, the number of participants may determine a combined 7th/8th combined team and this will be decided by the athletic director and coach(es).

AOK INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE SPORTS

AOK League Fall Season (Sept-Oct.)

- Boys Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys & Girls Golf (one-day tournament)

AOK League Winter 1 Season (Nov-Dec)

- Boys Basketball

AOK League Winter 2 Season (Jan-Feb)

- Girls Basketball

AOK League Winter 3 Season (Feb-Mar)

- Boys Volleyball

AOK League Spring 1 Season (April-first week of May)

- Swimming (6th, 7th, & 8th graders)
- Boys Baseball
- Girls Softball
- Girls Soccer

AOK League Spring 2 Season (May)

- Boys & Girls Track (6th, 7th, & 8th graders)
- Boys & Girls Tennis (6th, 7 th, & 8 th graders) (one-day tournament)

INTRAMURALS

Various sports are offered during the noon hour on certain days to students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Although students are not required to participate, they are strongly encouraged to do so.

RUN CLUB

Students in grades 3-6 may participate in a boys or girls run club. This is separate than Mileage Club which is offered to elementary students.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Students in grades 4-8 may participate in ultimate frisbee.