



GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
High School Student Handbook
2011-2012

Cultivating quality Christian leaders in a distinctively Christian atmosphere while providing a solid spiritual and academic foundation.

Administrative Team

Nick Cook, High School Principal
Wendy Wheeler, Dean of Students
Nancy Gillespie, Guidance Counselor
Lisa Horsley, Athletic Director

Grove City Christian School Board Officers

Dr. Elizabeth Lauron – Chair
J. Allen Jones III – Vice Chair
Jeff Bankey – Treasurer
Kathy Hill – Secretary

Grove City Christian School exceeds the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education, and is chartered by the State of Ohio. Grove City Christian School is also a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.

**Grove City Christian High School
Alma Mater
Words and Music by Kathy Frizzell**

Like a beacon in the night,
Like a path to show the way,
Like a strong and sure foundation
Of a house that's built to stay-
Stands a place that I will honor
As I journey past my youth
And forever I'll remember
As a seeker of the truth.

So let this mind be in us
Which was also in Christ Jesus,
Let this heart beat in us
That for man gave itself to die,
Let these hands serve the world
With the knowledge you have taught us,
May the lives we live
Be the thanks we give you,
Grove City Christian High!

**Grove City Christian School Fight Song
Words by Cathy Snider**

Onward Eagles, onward Eagles
Mighty Black and Blue
We are the best, above all the rest
To the Word of God we're true.
Onward Eagles, onward Eagles
Soar to heights on high
There's no doubt about it, we're gonna shout it
The Eagles battle cry!
Go Eagles!!

Mascot: Eagle

School Colors: Royal Blue, Black, and White

School Verse: Isaiah 40:31

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

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Hello Grove City Christian High School!

It is with great excitement that we begin this new school year. With summer plans ending and the work of a school year ready to begin, I encourage all members of our community to make plans for regularly connecting with the Lord, prioritizing school work, and contributing to our mission of ***Cultivating Quality Christian Leaders***.

As a high school community, I would ask that you join us as we place an intense focus on five primary objectives this school year: *Student Well-Being, Staff Well-Being, School Culture, Academics, and Extra-Curriculars*.

As we work through the details of the 2011-2012 school year and focus together, I am trusting that Jesus will be doing things among us that we might not even dare to dream, ask, or imagine!

Letting Christ,

Nick Cook
High School Principal

GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

History

Grove City Christian School (GCCS) was founded in 1990 as a ministry of the Grove City Church of the Nazarene. The school received its charter from the Ohio Department of Education with 15 kindergarten students. This year begins our 20th year as Grove City Christian School. To God be the Glory!

Purpose

The purpose of GCCS is to provide our students with the best possible education from caring and qualified teachers in a distinctively Christian atmosphere. We are committed to helping reinforce parental efforts and meet educational goals while training children. The school provides curriculum, activities, and materials centered in, and upon, the eternal principles of God's Word and the life and revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ.

GCCS is open to families who desire their children to learn and grow in harmony with the Word of God. We believe that it is our responsibility and calling to give each student the opportunity to accept Christ as his or her personal Savior, and nurture their spiritual and academic growth as part of their educational experience. It is our desire to raise up a generation of leaders ready to contribute in today's world without compromising their values and faith.

“The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” 1 John 2:17 (NIV)

Philosophy

Grove City Christian School is in existence to work with parents in fulfilling the responsibility to train their children as men and women of Godly character with obedient hearts. Our goal is to equip our students in all areas of their lives (spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally) to follow God's will for their lives no matter which direction they may be led.

“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:1-6

Discrimination Policy

The Grove City Christian School Board has adopted the following policy regarding discrimination:

“Grove City Christian School admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, tuition assistance, educational programs, and athletics/extracurricular activities. The Grove City Christian School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.”

Statement of Faith

Grove City Christian School serves students from many denominational backgrounds. We do this by respecting the doctrinal issues of other denominations without compromising the faith and belief of the Nazarene church.

We, the fellowship of the Grove City Church of the Nazarene believe in one God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1; Isaiah 5:16; 6:1-7; 40:18-31; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20)

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living. (Luke 24:44-47; John 10:35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 2 Timothy 3:15-17)

We believe that man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually. (Matthew 22:36-40 (with 1 John 3:4); Romans 3:23)

We believe that the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost. (Ezekiel 18:25-26, John 1:12-13, Acts 5:31, Romans 5:6-8)

We believe that the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin. (Isaiah 53:5-6, Mark 10:45, Luke 24:46-48, John 1:29, John 3:14-17)

We believe that believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Matthew 3:11-12; Romans 6:11-13)

We believe that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers, (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Luke 3:16-17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4; Acts 5:8-9)

We believe that our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place. (Matthew 25:31-46; John 14:1-3, Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7-8, 22:7-20)

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Everyone has the right to come to school in a safe, well equipped, attractive environment. The church, school board, and parents have worked hard to provide us with a beautiful school. We are committed to working together to maintain it.

All of us at Grove City Christian School will be expected to care for and from time to time assist in maintaining our school. Disposing of litter and trash appropriately helps everyone enjoy our surroundings. Defacing property, destroying property, or intentionally vandalizing property will be considered severe acts of misconduct and will result in suspension or expulsion from school. Please display your Christian witness by caring for your school.

Address: 4750 Hoover Road
Grove City, OH 43123

Website: www.gccsk12.org

Phone No.: 614-875-3000

Fax No.: 614-875-8933

School Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Directory Information

On occasion, GCCS receives requests for directory information concerning students. These requests come from colleges and universities, Christian organizations, and academic and sports opportunities.

Unless school related, it is our policy not to release directory information to agencies or individuals for sales promotion purposes. We consider directory information to be names and addresses only. The school will continue to use discretion in any release of directory information concerning students.

Dress Code

Vendors: Educational Outfitters
2759 Martin Road
Dublin, OH 43017
336-2040

Educational Apparel, LLC
3840 Lacon Road
Hilliard, OH 43026
876-3030

There must be no recognizable difference between uniforms worn that were purchased from another vendor and those offered by the Educational Outfitters or Educational Apparel.

- Pants, shorts, and skorts may be khaki or navy blue.
- Shorts may be uniform plaid with cuff.

- Pants, shorts, skorts, and skirts must be worn at the waist.
- Uniform shorts and skorts must be no shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Uniform skirts must touch the top of the knee.
- Skirts must be school plaid, navy, or khaki.
- Oxfords may be light blue, yellow, or white, and must be tucked in and worn with a belt.
- Polo shirts may be white, yellow, navy blue, light blue, green, or maroon and can be untucked. Maroon polo shirts are reserved for high school students.
- Undershirts must have no writing visible through the uniform shirt. Undershirts and camisoles may extend up to 2” below the uniform shirt.
- Long sleeve shirts worn beneath a short sleeve uniform shirt may extend beyond the short sleeve uniform shirts.
- School sweatshirts, zippered black “blazers,” black zip fleece cardigan spirit wear or school cardigan sweaters (navy, blue, or green) may be worn with the uniform and another uniform shirt worn underneath.
- No jackets, coats, or hats, may be worn in the classroom (on non-uniform days as well).
- Shoes must have a fully enclosed toe. No flip flops, sandals, or beach shoes at any time.
- Uniforms must be clean, neat, and unaltered. There should be no slit hems, unhemmed pants or skirts, or holes in sleeves.
- No oversized or undersized clothing permitted.
- Spirit wear is reserved for non-uniform days (except black fleece which can be worn) and after school activities.

Non-Uniform Days and School Related Activities

Participation in all non-uniform days is optional. If a student chooses not to participate, the student must be in school uniform.

The following items are **not** permitted:

- Shower or beach shoes (flip flops), or Heelies

- Non-uniform shorts
- Jeans with holes, tears, drags, or sags
- Any apparel which promotes gangs is prohibited, including, but not limited to, chains, collars with studs or sharp objects, and chains attached to clothing. Shirts must not display secular rock bands, alcohol or tobacco, or inappropriate wording or pictures
- Goth styles
- Tight fitting clothes
- Bare midriff shirts or blouses, halter-tops, or tops with "spaghetti straps"
- Visible cleavage
- Torn or altered clothing
- Pants with writing on the backside

At the discretion of the school administration, a student may be asked to modify his/her appearance. **Students who abuse this privilege may not be permitted to participate in future Non-Uniform Days.**

Formal Dress Guidelines

- Dress must be knee length or longer
- No visible cleavage
- Slits – 3" above the knee when standing is the maximum
- Back – No lower than the waistline as long as it's tight (hugs body)
- Straps – any type of strap and/or strapless is okay

Students who will be attending any formal event and have questions about their dresses may bring them in to be approved by school administration.

Hair Styles, Make-up, and Coloring

Hair coloring must look natural; colored hair spray is prohibited. Make-up should be natural in appearance and in limited quantities. No harsh black eyeliner, bright lipstick, etc.

Hairstyles must conform to the following guidelines:

- Hair must be neat and clean
- Hair may not extend below eyebrows or obstruct vision
- Dreadlocks are unacceptable
- Males cannot wear braids or ponytails
- Males' hair length cannot touch the collar
- Facial hair must be clean and neatly trimmed
- Hair extensions must be natural in color

Piercings and Tattoos

- Boys may not wear any earrings or other piercings. This includes all activities associated with the school.
- Girls may have pierced earlobes (no more than two earrings per lobe) and one cartilage.
- Pierced nose, eyebrows, lips, tongues, etc. are not permitted.
- Temporary tattoos may not be worn. If you already have a tattoo, it may not be exposed.
- Males may not wear nail polish.

Extracurricular Activities

Grove City Christian School asks that all students and their guests attending extracurricular activities dress in a manner that is appropriate and modest. At the discretion of the school faculty, staff, and/or administration, a student may be asked to modify their appearance. Students will be expected to honor the student code of conduct at extracurricular activities. Public displays of affection or disrespect to any adult is unacceptable at school-sponsored events. School faculty, staff, and/or administration may observe, assess, and require modification of behavior. Students failing to comply will be disciplined and asked to leave the premises.

Electronics

All portable music devices, handheld computing tablets, personal computers, e-readers, gaming devices, cameras, pagers, cell phones, laser pens, etc. are prohibited during school hours. These items must be turned off at all times and **may NOT be used dur-**

ing school hours. Students violating this policy will receive a detention and have the device taken. The device may only be retrieved by a parent after school or the next day in the high school office. The school assumes no liability for stolen or lost electronics.

Students are encouraged not to bring valuables to school. Grove City Christian School will not be responsible for lost and/or stolen items.

Food Services

Grove City Christian School utilizes the services of a catering company for all cafeteria needs. *Food for Thought* will manage the cafeteria for the 2011-2012 school year. *Food for Thought* will have information posted through RenWeb, and on our website.

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned to students at the beginning of the school year. Students may not change their locker assignment without approval from the high school office. Anything that is displayed in or on the locker is subject to approval by administration. The display of secular rock groups, alcohol or tobacco ads, scantily dressed men or women, or racial or other offensive material is unacceptable.

Students will be asked to remove items that administration deems inappropriate. No open containers of candy, food, or drink may be stored in lockers. Grove City Christian School will not assume responsibility for items left in school lockers. Students are encouraged to lock lockers. Locker combinations must be submitted to the high school office.

Administering Medication to Students

Students needing medication are encouraged to receive medication at home, if possible. It is the student's responsibility to come to the school nurse/office to receive medication. New authorization forms must be submitted at the beginning of each school year, signed by a parent or guardian and a physician before any medication (prescription and non-prescription) will be administered. Parents or guardians must sign and submit a revised authorization, also signed by a physician, if any of the information originally provided to the school changes.

Medication must be received at school in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or other licensed professional. The medication and dosage listed on the label must be identical to the authorization form. Parents are responsible for keeping record of the amount of medication at school and for sending more when needed.

All medications, prescription and non-prescription, must remain locked in the school clinic with the exception of self-administered emergency medications (*i.e.*, inhalers, EpiPens, insulin).

Students who self-administer (carry on their person) asthma inhalers, EpiPens, etc., must be expressly permitted to do so pursuant to the medication authorization form completed by their physician and parent or guardian. The school nurse must be notified when an inhaler is used. An additional form for self-administered inhalers will be provided, and must be filled out and signed by a physician.

Over the counter medication must be turned in to the school nurse/office with a medical authorization form provided by the school. No students are to have any medication on their persons, in their desks, or lunch boxes. The high school office does keep cough drops for student use.

All students in grades 9-12 who have a medication authorization form on file may receive Ibuprofen or Tylenol from the school nurse/office when medically necessary.

All medication remaining in the building after the last day of school will be discarded.

No person who has been authorized by the school board or administration to administer a drug, and has a copy of the most recent medication authorization form prior to administering the drug, will be liable for administering or failing to administer the drug, unless such person acts in a manner which constitutes gross negligence or wanton or reckless misconduct.

School Visitors

Parents may visit the school at anytime, but must first report to the receptionist's desk for a visitor's pass. School-aged visitors are not permitted to attend school, including lunch, in the company of a student. Prospective students may make arrangements to shadow a high school student by contacting the high school office.

Student Pregnancy Policy

A student who has fathered a child, is pregnant, or has given birth to a child may not be permitted to enroll in GCCS or, if already enrolled, may be dismissed upon confirmation; provided, however, that each pregnancy situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Restricted Areas

For the safety of all, the following rooms are restricted to authorized personnel only: Mechanical areas (*i.e.* HVAC rooms, electrical rooms, storage, and supply rooms), chemical storage rooms, and school workrooms. Students are not to visit the book store, church offices, food court, or church facility without a pass from a school faculty or staff member during school hours.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

Section 3321.04 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that every parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child of compulsory school age must send such child to

a school which conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education for the time the school attended is in session. The statutes governing school attendance are very specific and leave little option for school authorities to excuse children from school. The Ohio Revised Code classifies absence from school as excused or unexcused.

School Day

Grove City Christian School begins at 8:00 a.m. and dismisses at 3:20 p.m. for students in grades 9-11. (Seniors may request early dismissal.) In accordance with Ohio Department of Education Operating Standards, the school day for students in grades nine through twelve shall consist of school supervised activities (excluding interscholastic athletics) or approved education of at least five periods excluding the lunch period.

Reporting an Absence

Please call 614-875-3000 to report an absence. A follow-up note must be sent within two days of the student returning to school. **Without a dated written statement from the parent, doctor, or court officer, the absence will be considered unexcused.**

Absences

It is the student's responsibility to get work from their teachers in the event of an absence from school. Assignments, quizzes, and tests missed due to absence shall be made up within a period of time equal to the length of the student's absence from school.

Students missing less than two (2) periods during the school day will be deemed tardy. Students missing more than two (2) periods, but not less than four (4) periods will accumulate a half-day absence. Students missing five (5) or more periods will be counted absent for the full day. Students must attend a half-day (four (4) periods or more) to participate in after school activities.

Students missing 7 days, excused or unexcused, (or 7 periods of the same class) per semester (14 per year) will require a mandatory parent conference.

Students missing 10 days, excused or unexcused, (or 10 periods of the same class) per semester will result in Academic Probation, and will require the students, and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), to execute an individualized contract with the principal.

Students missing 12 days, excused or unexcused, (or 12 periods of the same class) in the same semester will result in the student receiving failing grades in all courses for the semester.

Administration reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to permit absences in excess of those set forth above, based on extreme circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Tardiness to School and Class

Students that arrive late to school or class during the day will be deemed tardy. Students are considered tardy if they arrive unexcused within the first 10 minutes of class. At all grade levels (9-12), a tardy is a Level One disciplinary offense. Tardies for doctor and dentist visits will not be counted against the student if verified with a written excuse from the doctor or dentist. **Four tardies result in a detention.**

Family Vacations

Grove City Christian School strongly encourages families to schedule vacations and trips around the school calendar. If a family decides to take a vacation during the school year, the vacation form (found in the appendix) must be submitted to the school office prior to the vacation so that teachers will have missed work ready upon the student's return. **Vacations scheduled during exam weeks will result in zeroes for any missed exams.**

Unexcused Absence from School or Class

If a student arrives to his/her scheduled class unexcused and over 10 minutes late, the student will be considered absent for that class. Any student who is absent from school and/or class without a parent or guardian's permission, or is missing, without permission, from an assigned area within the school, is considered absent. Any unexcused absence is, at a minimum, a Level Two offense.

Sickness

Students displaying any of the following symptoms are **not** permitted to attend school:

- A temperature of 100 degrees or more (or one to two degrees above the child's normal temperature with or without symptoms)
- Undiagnosed rash with other symptoms (*i.e.* fever, cough, sore throat, etc.)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Persistent cough
- Known communicable diseases (including, but not limited to, lice, chicken pox, strep throat, measles, mumps, pink eye, fifth disease, ringworm, or scabies)

If your student is diagnosed with a communicable disease, please call the school office so we may alert other parents of potential risks. Students must be without a fever for 24 hours before they return to school. Please encourage your child to practice good-hand washing at school, especially before lunch, to help protect them from the spread of infection and illness.

Illness at School

If a student becomes ill at school, the teacher will send the student to the school nurse/office with a written pass. The school nurse/office team will then assess the student and contact a parent listed on the emergency medical form. No student will be released from school without direct contact with a person listed on the student's medical form.

Early Dismissal (Seniors)

Seniors who are interested in taking advanced coursework or working during the school day may apply for early dismissal subject to the following guidelines:

- Administrative approval is required and will be based on the student's plan for completion of high school graduation requirements
- If applicable, a worker's permit must be on file
- All Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) paperwork and college acceptance letters must be on file with the office
- Students may begin the school day later as the schedule permits provided they are registered and attending 5 classes per day

Early Dismissal

A note must be submitted to the office before a student can sign himself or herself out for early dismissal. The note must include: (1) a signature from the student's parent or guardian, (2) the student's name, date, and time of early dismissal, and (3) a phone number where the student's parent or guardian can be reached for confirmation. Students are not to enter or leave the school building during school hours without reporting to the office. Phone calls or a note from a parent to excuse a student after they have left the building is unacceptable.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The standard for student conduct has been developed to insure that a Christ-centered environment permeates the learning atmosphere of Grove City Christian School. Students at the school should be aware of the principles of Christian living that are found in the Bible. The standard of conduct gives students an opportunity for expression and application of these principles in daily experience. Every member of the school family, students, and staff alike must abide by the following:

- Be doers of the Word and not merely hearers (James 1:22)
- Imitate the conduct of the Lord Jesus (I Peter 2:21)

- Do only those things, which we know, will honor and glorify Christ (I Cor. 10:31)
- See our physical bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:19)
- Dedicate our lives to the service of the Lord (Romans 12:1-2)
- Manage our time wisely (Colossians 4:5)
- Put others first, rather than ourselves (Romans 14:13)
- Involve ourselves in activities of positive influence (I Cor. 6:12)
- Avoid deliberate confrontations with temptation (James 1:14)
- Avoid activities where there is danger of addiction (I Cor. 6:12)

All students are expected to be respectful and courteous to others at all times. This is exhibited by orderliness, cooperation, quietness, polite conversation (including the use of “please” and “thank you”), and proper response to correction. Students will address teachers and staff members as Mr., Mrs., Dr., Miss, or Ms. on all occasions.

In addition to inappropriate behavior at school, student misconduct outside of school hours and off of school property will be addressed, and may result in disciplinary action if it adversely affects the school community.

Student Rewards

Throughout the school year various types of rewards may be given to students who have demonstrated academic excellence and exemplify a Christ-like attitude toward teachers, parents, administration, and other students, including, but not limited to, class parties, non-uniform days, special treats, and time in the Naz Cade.

Expectations for Students

1. Students will sign and follow all rules outlined in the Grove City Christian High School Handbook.
2. Students will cooperate with their parents in achieving excellent school attendance.
3. Students will take all written correspondence, reports, information letters, and disciplinary forms home to their parents.
4. Students will respect all in authority over their education and well-being while on school grounds or on the bus.

5. Students will strive to complete all assignments.
6. Students will learn to deal with conflict in a positive manner while learning respect and love for others.
7. Students will learn godly character and use it on a daily basis while striving to have good citizenship, good study habits, self-motivation, and self-discipline.
8. Students will be good stewards and care for the textbooks as well as school property and equipment.

Expectations for Parents

1. Parents will be responsible for reading and signing the Student Handbook. Parental support of the guidelines in this Student Handbook is essential in order to foster good relationships between parents and teachers.
2. Parents will ensure that students arrive on time to school everyday unless the student will be absent for the day. Parents are responsible for notifying the school of any absences.
3. Parents will complete the emergency medical form provided by the school. If there are any changes throughout the year, please notify the school.
4. Parents will attend parent-teacher conferences at the request of a teacher. If a face-to-face conference is not possible, please make alternate arrangements (*i.e.*, phone conference, meeting outside of school, etc.).
5. Parents are responsible to make timely tuition payments. Lab fees for science, art, etc., must be paid at the time the student's schedule is issued.
6. Parents are responsible to stay updated with their student's grades through the school website.
7. If a concern arises with a teacher, we respectfully request that the following process be adhered to in order to be in accordance with Biblical principles:
 - Contact the involved teacher to resolve issue;
 - If the matter cannot be resolved with the teacher, contact the Principal

Expectations for Faculty and Staff

1. The staff will plan, instruct, and effectively monitor all academic, behavioral, and spiritual progress of the students in their care.
2. The staff will be responsible for the distribution, explanation, and enforcement of the guidelines that have been set forth in the Student Handbook.

3. The staff will model the required behavior that is expected from the students and parents of GCCS.
4. The staff will act in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Staff Handbook.
5. All staff will work with students and parents to promote the godly resolution of conflicts as outlined in Matthew 18.
6. The staff will encourage and guide all students toward their greatest spiritual and academic potential. At times, this may include necessary discipline.
7. The staff will encourage open communication with students and parents by providing opportunities for conferences, phone calls, and progress reports.

Discipline Policy

GCCS is committed to creating an effective, engaging, and loving environment for our students. Actions that violate our code of conduct will result in disciplinary actions. In all disciplinary matters, the goal is to assign an appropriate short-term consequence to produce the desired goal, or a “harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11 NIV)

In all behavioral issues, the faculty and administration will treat students who have made a mistake with fairness, kindness, and grace, encouraging behavior that is pleasing to God and appropriate in our school environment. In every situation, the student must accept responsibility for his/her actions regardless of others involved.

It is important to understand that no two situations are alike. Many factors are involved in every decision made by faculty or administration. Students and parents are encouraged to focus on their own situation and spiritual growth, and not compare or judge other students’ actions or discipline.

Disciplinary actions include, without limitation:

1. Verbal redirection
2. Loss of privileges
3. Notifying parents of behavior (written or verbal notice)
4. Lunch or after school detention
5. Removal from class and sent to the office
6. Conference with parents
7. Restitution (pay for damages)

8. Suspension – In-School or Out-of-School

9. Probation

10. Withdrawal or Expulsion

There are four levels to the Discipline Policy:

Level 1 - Minor Offense: May result in the issuance of a Notice of Correction Form (The Notice of Correction is a written warning)

Level 2 - Intermediate Offense: Detention for first time offenders. Repeated offenses may result in more severe disciplinary action.

Level 3 - Major Offense: In-School or Out-of-School suspension. Repeated infractions may result in more severe disciplinary action.

Level 4 - Zero Tolerance: Students may be expelled

Level 1 Offenses

Level 1 offenses may result in a Notice of Correction and include, without limitation:

1. Dress code violations
2. Classroom disruptions or interference with classroom activity
3. Repeatedly arriving to class unprepared
4. Misusing a hall pass or not having a hall pass when necessary
5. Inappropriate behavior in Chapel
6. Failing to use appropriate school entrances and exits
7. Food or beverage outside of lunchroom
8. Tardiness to school or class

Students accumulating four (4) Notices of Correction must serve an assigned detention. Multiple detentions result in more severe disciplinary action as follows:

- A 6th detention results in a one (1) day In or Out-of-School Suspension
- A 7th detention results in a two (2) day In or Out-of-School Suspension
- An 8th detention may result in expulsion.

Note: Level One Offenses – **4 Notices of Correction result in one detention**

Whether a suspension is in-school or out-of-school shall be determined by school administration on a case by case basis.

All Level One violations not resulting in a detention are “erased” at the end of each quarter, but accumulated disciplinary consequences remain. Progression through the disciplinary system does carry over to the following quarter. In-School suspensions and Out-of-School suspensions are retained in the student’s cumulative file.

Level 2 Offenses

Level 2 offenses will result in a detention and include, without limitation:

1. Public displays of affection
2. Misuse of technology or any equipment in the church/school
3. Inappropriate language, including profanity, racial slurs, sexual innuendo, etc.
4. Lying or false witness
5. Disrespect to others: teachers, staff, coaches, parents, and students
6. Using an electronic device during school hours
7. Absence from school or class

Level 3 Offenses

Level three offenses will result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion. The type of suspension (In-School or Out-of-School) and the number of days will be determined by the administration. Many of these offenses are punishable by the law. If necessary, law enforcement may be contacted.

Level 3 offenses include, without limitation:

1. Sexual contact with another
2. Theft
3. Academic Dishonesty
4. Verbal Threats
5. Possession of tobacco or related products
6. Aggressive acts or gestures directed at others
7. Insubordination (failure to accept discipline or punishment)
8. Fraud or forgery
9. Damage or destruction
10. Any attempt to bully another
11. Inappropriate use of janitorial cleaning or disinfectant supplies

Level 4 Offenses – Zero Tolerance

Level 4 offenses include, without limitation:

1. Acts of arson
2. Possession, use, and/or transmission of dangerous weapons (*i.e.*, guns, knives, mace, pepper spray, etc.)
3. Physical violence/assault
4. Attempt to incite panic (*i.e.* bomb threats, reporting a false emergency, etc.)
5. Possession, use, and/or transmission of any pornographic materials

Suspensions

When a student is assigned a suspension for any reason, resulting absences are unexcused. More than two (2) suspensions, for any reason, may result in expulsion from Grove City Christian School.

Any request for an appeal of an out-of-school suspension or expulsion must be made to the Principal within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the out-of-school suspension or expulsion notice. If further review is necessary, parents may file a grievance request through the Principal for a hearing with the School Board's grievance committee.

When a student is assigned an **in-school suspension**, he/she will be assigned to a specific location within the school to report for the regular school day. Students will receive 50% of the earned grade for homework completed during an in-school suspension. Missed tests and quizzes can be taken for full credit.

A student assigned an **out-of-school suspension** may not be on school grounds during the period of suspension. This precludes participation in after school activities and extra-curricular activities during the suspension. Students are expected to make up any homework and will receive 50% of the grade earned. Missed tests and quizzes will be valued at 60% of the grade earned.

If a student receives two out-of-school suspensions, parents and the student will meet with the Principal to reach agreement on the terms upon which the student can remain at the School. Any material breach of a term of this agreement may result in immediate dismissal of the student from Grove City Christian School.

Internet Access

Students are expected to follow the Internet and computer-use policy, included as an appendix to the Student Handbook.

Bullying Policy

Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation or Anti-Bullying Policy

Pursuant to House Bill 276 this policy was approved by GCCS School Board in November 2007.

The policy is based on the belief that this school must provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and all school personnel. It is the goal of the Board through this policy to enhance/create positive learning and teaching environments. The Board defines a positive climate as one that emphasizes and recognizes positive behaviors, evokes nonviolence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance toward all students and staff in, and in transit to and from, the school environment – recognizing that each person was created in God's image and is a true gift from God.

It is the policy of the Grove City Christian School Board that any form of bullying behavior, whether in the classroom, on recess, at lunch, on church/school property, or at school-sponsored events, is expressly forbidden.

Students who have been determined to have engaged in prohibited behaviors are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The school's commitment to addressing such prohibited behaviors, however, involves a multi-faceted approach which includes education and the promotion of a school atmosphere in which harassment, intimidation or bullying will not be tolerated by students, faculty, parents or school personnel.

It is imperative that harassment, intimidation, or bullying be identified only when the specific elements of the definition are met because the designation of such prohibited incidents carry special statutory obligations. However, misconduct by one student against another student, whether or not appropriately defined or not, will result in appropriate disciplinary consequences for the perpetrator.

Definition of Terms

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibited toward other particular student and the behavior both:

- Causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means electronically transmitted acts, *i.e.*, internet, cell phone, personal digital assistance (PDA) or wireless hand-held device that a student has exhibited toward another particular student and the behavior both:

- Causes mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel; and
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.

In evaluating whether conduct constitutes harassment, intimidation, or bullying, special attention should be paid to the words chosen or the actions taken, whether such conduct occurred in front of others or was communicated to others, how the perpetrator interacted with the victim, and the motivation, either admitted or appropriately inferred.

A school-sponsored activity shall mean any activity conducted on or off school property (including school buses and other school-related vehicles) that is sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the GCCS Board and/or administration.

Types of Conduct

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can include many different behaviors, including overt intent to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate another student or school personnel. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include, without limitation:

- Physical violence and/or attacks;
- Threats, taunts, and intimidation through words and/or gestures;
- Extortion, damage, or stealing of money and/or possessions;
- Exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors;
- Repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other Web-based/online sites (also known as “cyber bullying”), such as posting slurs on websites where students congregate, or on web logs or blogs (personal online journals or diaries) *i.e.* MySpace, Xanga, Facebook, etc. or sending abusive or threatening instant messages;
- Using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students and posting them online;
- Using websites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students; and
- Excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to Internet service providers.

Complaint Processes

Students and/or parents or guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such written reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the Principal for review and action.

Informal Complaints

Students, parents or guardians and school personnel may make informal complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such informal complaints shall be reasonably specific as to the actions giving rise to the suspicion of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of the prohibited behavior(s), and the names of any potential student or staff witness. A school staff member or administrator

who receives an informal complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the above information. This written report by the school staff member and/or administrator shall be promptly forwarded to the building Principal for review and action.

Anonymous Complaints

Students who make informal complaints as set forth above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. The anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action will be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

School Personnel Responsibilities and Intervention Strategies

Teachers and Other School Staff

Teachers and other school staff, who witness acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, as defined above, shall promptly notify the building Principal and/or his/her designee of the event observed, and shall promptly file a written, incident report concerning the events witnessed. Teachers and other school staff who receive student or parent reports of suspected harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall promptly notify the building principal and/or his/her designee of such report(s). If the report is a formal, written complaint, such complaint shall be forwarded promptly (no later than the next school day) to the building Principal or his/her designee. If the report is an informal complaint by a student that is received by a teacher or other professional employee, he or she shall prepare a written report of the informal complaint which shall be promptly forwarded (no later than the next school day) to the building Principal or his/her designee.

In addition to addressing both informal and formal complaints, school personnel are encouraged to address the issue of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in other interactions with students. School personnel may find opportunities to educate students about harassment, intimidation, and bullying and help eliminate such prohibited behaviors through class discussions, counseling, and reinforcement of socially appropriate behavior. School personnel should intervene promptly whenever they observe student conduct that has the purpose or effect of ridiculing, humiliating, or intimidating another student/school personnel, even if such conduct does not meet the formal definition of “harassment, intimidation, or bullying.”

Administrator/Principal Responsibilities

Investigation

The Principal and or his/her designee shall be promptly notified of any formal or informal complaint of suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Under the direction of the building Principal or his/her designee, all such complaints shall be investigated promptly. A written report of the investigation shall be prepared when the investigation is complete. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a student making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint (with or without discussing it with the alleged perpetrator), subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

Remedial Actions

Verified acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall result in an intervention by the building Principal or his/her designee that is intended to ensure that the prohibition against harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior is enforced, with the goal that any such prohibited behavior will cease.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying behavior can take many forms and can vary dramatically in seriousness and impact on the targeted individual and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. While conduct that rises to the level of “harassment, intimidation, or bullying,” as defined above will generally warrant disciplinary action against the perpetrator of such prohibited behaviors, whether and to what extent to impose disciplinary action (detention, in and out-of-school suspension, or expulsion) is a matter for the professional discretion of the building Principal. The following sets forth possible interventions for building Principals to enforce the Board’s prohibition against “harassment, intimidation, or bullying.”

Non-disciplinary Interventions

When verified acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying are identified early, and/or when such verified acts do not reasonably require a disciplinary response, students may be counseled as to the definition of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, its prohibition, and their duty to avoid any conduct that could be considered harassing, intimidating, or bullying. Counsel will also include looking into God’s Word for guidance and a time of prayer.

Disciplinary Interventions

When acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying are verified and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences.

Anonymous complaints that are not otherwise verified, however, shall not be the basis for disciplinary action.

In and out-of-school suspension may be imposed only after informing the accused perpetrator of the reasons for the proposed suspension and giving him/her an opportunity to explain the situation.

Expulsion may be imposed only after a hearing before the GCCS Board Grievance Committee. This consequence shall be reserved for serious incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and/or when past interventions have not been successful in eliminating prohibited behaviors.

Reporting Obligations

Report to the Parent or Guardian of the Perpetrator

If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying by a specific student are verified, the building Principal, or his/her designee, shall notify in writing the parent or guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

Reports to the victim and his/her parent or guardian

If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building Principal, or his/her designee, shall notify the parent or guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification, care must be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of the harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

List of verified acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying

The school's administrators semiannually shall provide the president of the school board a written summary of all reported incidents. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasonable and civil exchange of opinions or debate that is protected by state or federal law such as the nondiscrimination, suspension and expulsion/due process, violent and aggressive behavior, hazing, discipline/punishment, sexual harassment, peer sexual harassment, and equal educational opportunity acts.

Police and Child Protective Services

Allegations of criminal misconduct will be reported to law enforcement, and suspected child abuse must be reported to Child Protective Services, per required timelines. Grove City Christian School must also investigate for the purpose of determining

whether there has been a violation of GCCS Policy or Procedure, even if law enforcement is also investigating. All GCCS personnel must cooperate with investigations by outside agencies.

In addition to, or instead of, filing a bullying/harassment/intimidation complaint through this policy, a complainant may choose to exercise other options, including but not limited to, filing a complaint with outside agencies or filing a private lawsuit. Nothing prohibits a complainant from seeking redress under any other provision of the Revised Code or common law that may apply.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Grove City Christian School students shall not possess, use, sell, give, or otherwise transmit or be under the influence of any drug or alcohol or related paraphernalia on school property or at school sponsored events. All items will be confiscated and immediate suspension will occur. Proper authorities will be notified.

Textbook and Property Damage

At the beginning of each school year, each student will be issued all textbooks and supplemental material needed to complete coursework. All non-consumable textbooks must be covered. Students will be charged for the replacement of any book that is lost or damaged. Any student who chooses to destroy school/church property will be charged for the repair and/or replacement of such property. Destruction of property can lead to expulsion from GCCS. Failure to pay fines will result in transcripts and/or diplomas being held until all fines are paid in full.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Grove City Christian School is an Ohio chartered non-public school and is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International. Grove City Christian School exceeds academic requirements established by the State of Ohio Board of Education.

Honor Code

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. Students are expected to do their own work in and out of class. All assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, and exams are designed to measure students' understanding, and any action that compromises that assessment is a breach of the Honor Code. Examples of academic dishonesty include, without limitation:

- 1) Copying any part of another student's test, quiz, homework, project, worksheet or report;
- 2) Using or turning in another person's work, in whole or in part;

- 3) Using, reviewing, or appearing to access review sheets, notes, or any other information not permitted during tests, quizzes, or exams;
- 4) Not following directions given by the teacher, *e.g.*, using a calculator or other materials instructed not to use;
- 5) Any communication with another student during a test, quiz, or exam, or about a quiz, test, or exam that has already been taken, for purposes of securing, in advance, questions, answers, or subject matter covered on the quiz, test, or exam;
- 6) Plagiarize or use the ideas and/or writing of another without giving credit to the original author. The only information that can be used without documenting the source is information that would be considered common knowledge (for example, that George Washington was the first president of the United States);
- 7) Using an electronic device to store or communicate information to be used while taking a test, quiz, or exam; or
- 8) Using any of the above methods to assist another in being dishonest academically.

Students who violate the Honor Code may receive a zero on the assignment or test and will serve a Saturday School or suspension because it is a Level Three offense. Any further violation during will result in an out-of-school suspension and possible expulsion.

Violations of the Honor Code are determined by the staff member who observes or discovers the infraction, by the student's admission, or by at least two witnesses who observe the incident. The Principal and staff member involved will meet with the student and notify the parents of the violation and consequences.

Homework

Completing homework is helpful for practicing and reinforcing skills or concepts being taught. It is important that each student completes his or her assigned work. It is also important that the work is brought to class the day and time it is due. In an effort to support the teaching of responsibility, students will not be allowed to call home for forgotten homework.

Homework assignments turned in one day late will receive a 50% deduction from the earned grade. Homework turned in more than one day late will receive a zero.

Project Policy

Since projects are completed over an extended period of time, proper planning is essential to success. There is no excuse for projects to be turned in late. If a student is

absent the day a project is due, the project must still be brought to school and turned in on time.

- Projects one day late – 20% grade reduction
- Projects two days late – 40% grade reduction
- Projects three days late – zero score

Test Policy

If a student is absent on the day a test is given, the student is expected to make it up when he/she returns to school. If a student is absent a day of review, and returns to school on the day of the test, the student is expected to take the test unless new information was reviewed in the classroom on the date the student was absent.

Evaluating Student Progress

Grades serve as a written record to inform others of the student's progress in each course. Grades are important and permanent. Records follow the student if he/she transfers to another school.

Teachers use various methods to assess grades, including regular homework, quizzes, tests, attendance, reports, projects, oral presentations, demonstrations, recitations, and classroom participation. All work is converted to percentages. To determine the nine-week grade, the following grading scale will be used:

A+	100 – 97	C+	79 – 77	F	59 - 0
A	96 – 93	C	76 – 73		
A-	92 – 90	C-	72 – 70		
B+	89 – 87	D+	69 – 67		
B	86 – 83	D	66 – 63		
B-	82 – 80	D-	62 - 60		

Grade Cards

Grade Cards will be mailed to parents at the completion of every nine weeks. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their student(s) progress through RenWeb – the on-line system available to each parent. If you have questions about RenWeb access or use, please contact the School office.

Academic Intervention

Students earning an “F” (below 60%) or having a grade point average less than 2.0 (73%) in any class at the mid-point or end of any nine week grading period will qualify for academic intervention. Throughout the intervention period, students will not be able to participate in assisting office staff or teachers, chapel band, media team, student council, sports, or other extracurricular activities. Likewise, they will not be permitted to spend study hall time in the computer lab. These restrictions are intended to encourage students to devote their time to improving their academic progress. Students participat-

ing in academic intervention will also be required to meet weekly with the guidance counselor, and attend study tables and help sessions as needed. The guidance counselor will arrange for an appropriate level of help, and will monitor progress throughout the academic intervention period. Intervention will continue until the student raises and maintains acceptable grades for at least two consecutive weeks.

If a student decides to drop a class after the first 10 days of the semester, the student will receive an F for the year.

Retention Policy

High school students who fail a core class must repeat that class in order to graduate.

Semester Exams

Seniors will be required to take all mid-term exams (for full year courses) but will be excused from final exams at the end of the academic year if they have received a final grade of 90% or better in the course. All other students are required to complete mid-term and final exams. **Vacations scheduled during exam weeks will result in zeroes for any missed exams.** If an emergency occurs, causing a student to miss an exam, the administration will determine if the student will have the option of taking the exam upon return.

High School Weighted Grading Policy

Grove City Christian School's grading policy is based on a 4.0 grading scale. In addition, a weighted grading system for Honors and Advanced Placement courses is provided as an incentive for those students who choose to take more difficult courses.

A weighted grading system will assign a value to the grade point average after the regular four point GPA scale has been computed. Since weighted grades are intended to recognize excellence, no grade of D will be weighted.

The following courses are considered Honors and will receive a .25 “add-on” quality point to the final grade:

- Honors English (9,10 and 11)
- Physics
- Biology II
- Pre-Calculus
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Statistics

Courses that are considered Advanced Placement (AP) will receive a .50 “add-on” quality point to the final grade. To enroll in an AP class students must register and take the AP exam. (Note: there is an \$85.00 exam fee for these classes that must be paid at the time the student’s schedule is picked up).

- Advanced Placement English
- Advanced Placement Calculus
- Advanced Placement Chemistry
- Advanced Placement Biology
- Advanced Placement Psychology

Grade Placement

Grade 9	completion of Grade 8
Grade 10	completion of 4 credits
Grade 11	completion of 10 credits
Grade 12	completion of 16 credits

These are minimum requirements; most students will have earned more credits than those stated above for promotion.

Honor Roll

Each grading period, students earning all A's and B's are recognized on the school Honor Roll.

Incomplete Grade

A student with an excused absence who has not made up work during a nine-week grading period is to receive an Incomplete (I) on his/her grade card. Failure to make up the work in the specified time period could result in a zero being given for all missed work and the nine week grade changed from an Incomplete to the appropriate letter grade earned. A student must comply with all course requirements to receive credit.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is designed to identify students who have excelled in the areas of scholarship, character, service, leadership, and citizenship. Additionally, high school students must be current in annual service hour requirements to be eligible. A committee of faculty members will review submitted applications to determine those students who meet the requirements set forth in our local charter. This committee remains anonymous; questions regarding selection of inductees must be directed to the advisor of the National Honor Society.

Graduation Requirements

The State of Ohio has changed graduation requirements, and these changes affect all students beginning with the Class of 2011. The implementation of these changes occur in two stages. Stage One begins with the Class of 2011, and Stage Two will begin with the Class of 2014 and beyond. In order to align our graduation requirements, changes

were implemented last year. The requirements for Graduation and requirements for an Honor's Diploma are:

Classes graduating through 2013							
Grove City Christian School Graduation Planner							
Students Name						Graduation Year	
Subject Area	Minimum Requirements	*8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total Credits
Bible (1 credit each yr at GCCS)	4 Credits						
English	4 Credits						
Social Studies	3 Credits (Am. History, Government)						
Mathematics	4 Credits (Alg I, Geometry, Alg II)						
**Science	3 Credits						
Health	.5 Credit						
***Physical Education	.5 Credit						
****Electives	6 Credits (2 in a foreign language)						
Foreign Language	(minimum of two in the <u>same</u> language)						
							Total Earned
OGT	Passed all 5 sections	yes	no	Test(s) to retake:			
Community Service	70 Total Hours Required Yearly Requirement						
		10	15	20	25	Total Earned	
Honor's Diploma	Must meet 7 of the 8 Criteria	Criteria Met					
1. English	4 Credits						
2. Social Studies	4 Credits						
3. Math	4 Credits (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II)						
4. Science	4 Credits (Must include Chemistry & Physics)						
5. Foreign Language	3 Credits (or 2 Credits of 2 Languages)						
6. Fine Arts	1 Credit						
7. Minimum 3.5 GPA	8. ACT Composite of 27 or higher	8. SAT Composite of 1210 or higher					
GPA	Score	Score					
* IPS, Algebra I, French 1B and ASL 1B are the only middle school classes that may count for HS credit.							
** Must include one unit of biological sciences and one unit of physical sciences.							
*** Student may complete 2 seasons of HS athletics/cheerleading/marching band in lieu of PE courses- elective credit must be taken in its place							
**** Includes courses such as Technology, Yearbook, Writing in the Media, Fine Arts (can be taken in grades 7-12), Foreign Language, College & Career Planning, etc. <u>Elective credits may also be fulfilled by exceeding the required credit hours in any given subject area.</u>							

Classes Graduating 2014 and Beyond

Grove City Christian School Graduation Planner

Students Name Graduation Year

Subject Area	Minimum Requirement	*7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total Credits
Bible (1 credit each yr at GCCS)	4 Credits							
English	4 Credits							
Social Studies	3 Credits (Am. History, Government)							
Mathematics	4 Credits (Alg I, Geometry, Alg II)							
Science	3 Credits (Bio, Chem, Physics)							
Health	.5 Credit							
**Physical Education	.5 Credit							
***Electives	5 Credits (2 Fine Arts, 2 For. Lang.)							
Foreign Language	(minimum of two in the <u>same</u> language)							
								Total Eamed

OGT	Passed all 5 sections	yes	no	Test(s) to retake:			
Community Service	70 Total Hours Required						
	Yearly Requirement	10	15	20	25	Total Eamed	

Honor's Diploma	Must meet 7 of the 8 Criteria	Criteria Met					
1. English	4 Credits						
2. Social Studies	4 Credits						
3. Math	4 Credits (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II)						
4. Science	4 Credits (Must include Chemistry & Physics)						
5. Foreign Language	3 Credits (or 2 Credits of 2 Languages)						
6. Fine Arts	1 Credit						
7. Minimum 3.5 GPA	8. ACT Composite of 27 or higher	8. SAT Composite of 1210 or higher					
GPA _____	Score _____	Score _____					

* Algebra I, French 1B and ASL 1B, are the only middle school classes that may count for HS credit.

**Student may complete 2 seasons of HS athletics/cheerleading/marching band in lieu of PE courses- elective credit must be taken in its place

*** Includes courses such as Technology, Yearbook, Writing in the Media, Fine Arts (can be taken in grades 7-12), Foreign Language, College & Career Planning, etc. Elective credits may also be fulfilled by exceeding the required credit hours in any given subject area.

Class Rank

The Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Class Marshals, and academic top 10 students are determined by calculating their cumulative grade point average throughout high school (including high school course work taken in eighth grade) through the end of the third nine weeks of the graduation year. A student must attend GCCS four consecutive semesters in High School to be considered a candidate for class Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Academic Varsity Letters

Students in the junior class who have earned a 3.75 cumulative GPA during the previous two years, will be awarded an Academic Varsity Letter. Seniors who have earned a 3.50 cumulative GPA during their freshman, sophomore, junior, and the first semester of their senior year will be awarded their Academic Varsity Letter at the Spring awards ceremony.

Transfer Students

Students wishing to enroll in Grove City Christian School must submit a copy of their current transcript for review.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Option

Grove City Christian School students who meet the entrance requirements of post secondary institutions may participate in the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO). A high school meeting is held during the month of March of each year to introduce the PSEO program to parents and students.

To enroll in the PSEO program the student must:

1. Complete the preliminary application form SF-PS-140NPP by March 31st for the school year in which the student wishes to participate.
2. Apply for admission to the higher education institution of their choice (please note admission dates per institution).
3. Submit a copy of a letter of acceptance from the post secondary institution.

Guidelines for Post Secondary Enrollment Option

Students may not enroll in any specific college course through the program if the student has failed to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. (H.B. 282).

Students may not take PSEO coursework as a substitution for a course taught at Grove City Christian School.

The grade received at the post secondary institution will transfer to Grove City Christian School's transcript and be used to calculate the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA).

NOTE: A single college course at a post secondary institution may not complete yearly high school credit requirements. For example: five semester hours of one subject = 1 high school credit. 7.5 quarter hours of one subject = 1 high school credit.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

There are many opportunities to get involved at Grove City Christian School and the Grove City Church of the Nazarene. The church has programs for pre-school through high school. Active Jr. High and High School Youth Groups meet at the church. Call the church office for more information at 875-2551.

Grove City Christian School Sports Program

Grove City Christian School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and competes in the following leagues; Central Ohio Athletic League (COAL), ACSI, and Mid Ohio Christian Athletic League (MOCAL).

For more information regarding our sports programs and guidelines, please refer to the Athletic Handbook.

All decisions made by the administration will be made in accordance with the Ohio High School Athletic Association with the understanding that the Grove City Christian School Student Handbook supersedes OHSAA requirements.

Community Service Requirements

Each of us at Grove City Christian School is called to be a laborer for the Lord (Matthew 9:35-38). God has given each individual gifts that he/she should be using to serve others (I Peter 4:8-10). As a result, GCCS students are required to participate in community service throughout high school. With the assistance of the faculty and staff, students are expected to determine the volunteer experiences which best benefit the community, nourishes their spiritual, emotional, and social growth, and fulfills individual grade guidelines. Students are expected to be involved in a variety of community service activities to encourage growth and develop their roles as Christian leaders. This service requirement can be met at any time during the year, including summer. Service hours are to be earned as follows:

Freshmen	10 hours
Sophomores	15 hours
Juniors	20 hours
Seniors	25 hours

Total high school hours 70 hours

- Community service does not include activities that you would be paid for, such as working for a business or babysitting.
- Relatives may not sign off on the service form.
- Community service forms can be picked up and returned to the high school office throughout the year. Please have final forms submitted by May 15th of each school year.
- Students may not work ahead in service hours (each year's service may not begin until after the completion of the current grade). For example, if you report more than 20 hours as a freshman, it will not count for your sophomore credit.
- When a student falls two or more years behind in completing their community service requirement, the student is ineligible from all extra-curricular activities, including athletics.
- Participation in activities such as Student Council and National Honor Society require students to be current in their community service hour obligations.

STUDENT TRIPS

In an effort to provide the safest possible environment for the students of GCCS, this policy for student trips will be enforced on any and all trips that require students to be away from the property located at 4750 Hoover Road, Grove City, Ohio.

Any trip taken away from the school is a privilege, not a right, and students are required to represent our school, as well as our Lord, in a responsible and Christ-like manner. This privilege can be revoked as a disciplinary measure if deemed necessary by school administration.

- A representative from the school (teacher, board member, principal, administrator, coach) must accompany the group to represent the school and to be responsible for the students while away from GCCS.
- School administration must approve all trip itineraries before students are allowed to select any desired trip and before any deposits are made. Any trip location requires GCCS Board approval.
- Parents must agree and sign all forms relevant to the cost of trip, chaperone/student rules and expectations, medical release forms, and any other forms deemed necessary by the school before a student will be accepted to attend a trip.

- All chaperones must be approved by the school administration and must follow all written and implied rules of conduct that are expected of an adult accompanying a Christian school student group.
- All rules for conduct and student dress held within the GCCS High School Handbook and the GCCS Athletic Handbook must be adhered to on any school-sponsored trip.
- Students must sign an “expected behavior” form. They will then be held accountable for their behavior on the trip at the risk of being sent home at parent’s expense.
- The school may not fund chaperones’ trips, and chaperones should not expect fundraising efforts to benefit them. They will be fully responsible for their own expenses.
- All fundraising ideas must be approved by school administration.
- Parents are ultimately responsible for all expenses for their child if the fundraising efforts fall short of goals.
- GCCS will not be responsible for any expenses incurred unless prior approval by school administration is obtained.
- For overnight trips, one parent will be required to stay in every hotel room with a reasonable number of students. Women must stay with girls, and men must stay with boys. The chaperone in charge will determine a designated “lights out” time. After that time, no one is to leave the room, and televisions are to remain off.
- Any television or movie watched in the room must be rated PG or G.
- Siblings are discouraged from accompanying student participants during off-campus activities. Those siblings who travel with parents must stay with parents at all times. They will not be included in outing activities.
- Boys are not permitted in girls’ rooms and vice versa. Violation(s) of this rule will not be tolerated and could result in being sent home immediately. Even siblings must adhere to this rule.
- No alcohol/tobacco is to be used by chaperones or students.
- No public displays of affection (*i.e.* holding hands, kissing, hugging, etc.).
- If parents transport any child from GCCS, a school administrator, teacher, or school board member must grant approval. Upon parental agreement to transport GCCS students, the parent expressly agrees to abide by all rules

and regulations stated herein. If a parent wishes to transport a non-custodial child or student, written permission must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian of that child or student.

- Chaperones have the right to confiscate any materials students bring on a trip which they deem inappropriate for a Christian school group.
- GCCS students must ride in transportation provided by the school unless prior written permission has been given to GCCS administration outlining the details of alternate transportation. Only the custodial parent will be allowed to remove his/her child from any trip to his/her own vehicle (e.g. away sporting events.)

RIGHT TO REVISE

Grove City Christian School reserves the right to revise all or any portion of the contents of this handbook at any time with or without prior notice. If revisions are made, a written notice will be given to students enrolled at GCCS.

APPENDICES

GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VACATION POLICY FORM

Many times a family may choose to remove their children from school to participate in family vacations. While time with the family is valued, please consider that it is difficult for some students to catch up following an extended absence outside of the classroom.

Classroom learning cannot be duplicated with worksheets and reading assignments. Hands-on application, question and answer sessions, and oral communication is invaluable when learning new concepts.

As children grow older, the skills that are being taught in the classroom become more complex. Many times, parents are unable to explain some of the concepts, and students miss out on the opportunity of classroom discussions and instruction. Therefore, we ask that you prayerfully consider the consequences prior to removing your student(s) from school for vacations.

If you choose to take a vacation during the school year, please understand that the following policy has been implemented to help manage the time of our teachers and avoid infringing on classroom instruction.

_____ will be leaving school on _____
and returning to school on _____. I understand that my student will not receive any work before vacation, but will have the same number of days missed to make up the work. If additional assistance is needed by the teacher to master a skill, I understand that an appointment can be made after school and a fee per hour will be charged.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

HANDBOOK POLICY AGREEMENT

Family Name _____

My family has read the Grove City Christian School Student Handbook and agrees to abide with the rules and standards of our school as set forth therein.

I agree to partner with the school regarding all aspects of our child’s education at GCCS.

I hereby grant Grove City Christian School permission to use my child’s picture, image, and/or likeness for official school purposes without any further notice.

Parent’s Signature

Date

I, a student at Grove City Christian School, understand that I will be held accountable for my actions. I am responsible for all class assignments and will at all times conduct myself in a way pleasing to God. I have read the Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and standards of our school as set forth therein.

Student’s Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL.

GCCS Academic Departments Statement of Philosophy and Purpose

Department of Literature

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2a*

Purpose Statement

In cultivating quality Christian leaders, the GCCS Department of Literature seeks to teach students to interpret literature in a manner totally different than the world. Our teachers will cover traditionally valued literary works and modern classics which show the need of following Biblical principles; additionally, we will daily model and teach the dire necessity of evaluating all material through the lens of God’s Word. Our desire is that a Christian mindset would permeate every section of our discussions and class time. The ultimate goal is that our students leave GCCS’s Biblically-integrated program as thoroughly prepared leaders who evaluate their entire world (their pleasure reading, the evening news, a politician’s speech) through the light of His Word.

An Example of Criteria Used to Evaluate Books

- Does the book have literary value? Are a variety of literary devices used in the work?
- Does the book teach, through whatever means, what is moral or just or true? Are consequences shown for those who do not follow what is moral or just or true?
- Does the book exemplify warmth, tenderness, courage, humor, and other values and characteristics that we desire for our children to emulate?
- Does the book nourish the intellect and fire the imagination?
- Does the book help teachers to meet the objectives for the course?

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. ~John 17:14-19

The works chosen to be covered in our literature program have been read and prayerfully considered. Our literature program will never mimic the programs of secular high schools. We wish for our students to learn how to read works with which a well-rounded college student is expected to be familiar. And yet, we wish for our students to read the works through different eyes. Our students will be taught to see the fallacy and total hopelessness of living one's life apart from God.

* * *

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ~ James 1:22-24

Students at GCCS typically have a sound grasp of the Bible and its principles; the immense task comes in teaching students to **use** these principles in everyday situations. Every work read in a literature class will be used to further a student's grasp of who God is. Having the freedom to teach in a Christian school allows our teachers to show our students how God's truth illuminates all literature, and it allows our students to learn this in a Christ-centered learning environment. It is crucial that our students realize that merely knowing the truth isn't enough; we must learn how to use this truth in a world that doesn't know Him.

Department of Biblical Studies

Purpose Statement

The Grove City Department of Biblical Studies and Curriculum exists to train disciples of Christ who know and live the truth of God's Word while advancing God's kingdom in the world with love, sensitivity, and conviction.

Explanation of Philosophy & Purpose Statement

"To train" - This verb expresses a coaching relationship between teachers and students, in which teachers guide students, encourage them, instruct them, and model for them the way to become more like Christ. This verb also implies consistent and ongoing effort on the part of both teachers and students while recognizing that students must be active in their own spiritual development (1 Tim. 4:7-8; Heb. 5:14; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 6:4; 1 Cor. 9:25).

"disciples of Christ" - The word "disciple" means literally, "one who follows." Our desire is not just for students to know *about* Christ but to become His willing and obedient followers. Being a disciple implies that one has considered the cost of following Christ and forsakes all other masters except Christ. It also implies a relationship and attitude of obedience, yielding to the Holy Spirit, seeking, listening, and learning. (Luke 14:26-33)

"who know and live the Truth of God's Word" - We affirm that the Bible is God's revealed Word, inspired by God, and absolutely true (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:10-21). Thus, we place prime importance on teaching students (1) what God's Word says, and (2) how to understand and apply it themselves. Convinced that Truth that is learned must affect our lives, we will stress the application of God's Word and urge students to live in accordance with it (Psalm 119).

“while advancing God’s kingdom in the world” - Central to Christianity is the command to spread the gospel and positively influence the world. Advancing God’s kingdom occurs on several levels. On a personal level it means submitting to God’s kingship over our lives (John 3:3). It also means sharing the gospel, both verbally and non-verbally, with others (Matt. 5:13-16; 28:19-20). It means recognizing and responding to Christ’s kingship over the church (Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:6). On a larger scale it involves influencing the world by living and spreading kingdom principles like caring for those in need.

“with love, sensitivity, and conviction” - These three words summarize the character qualities we hope to instill in our students. Love should be the primary motive and manner of the Christian life (Luke 10:27; 1 Cor. 13); it manifests itself in service (Mark 10:44), generosity (Acts 20:35), and selflessness (Phlp. 2:3-5). Sensitivity should characterize all of our dealings with those different than us, whether inside or outside of the Christian community. We seek to equip students to critique and converse with different perspectives and worldviews carefully, honestly, and respectfully (Col. 4:6; 1 Pet. 3:15-16). Conviction means having an unwavering commitment to the Truth. We want to graduate students who know the Truth, believe it, and stand up for what is right regardless of the cost (Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9).

Department of Fine Arts

Each one should use whatever gift he has received, to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Purpose Statement

Our desire and goal is to teach, model and encourage our students in the Fine Arts to study, use, and explore their talents and abilities, and a variety of artistic forms, all evaluated through the Word of God, and to use those talents to reach out in their churches, communities, and schools to share the message of God’s love to all.

THREE AREAS OF EMPHASIS

1. Rationale for Studying the Fine Arts

Why study the Fine Arts?

God is “The Greatest Master of all Time.” Genesis 1:1 says that “God created.” The GCCS Fine Arts Department’s objective is to model this creativity for our students and teach them to become imitators of God as set forth in Ephesians 5:1. This Biblical foundation serves as the basis for studying the Fine Arts.

Exodus 35:31 reads, “And He filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...” God is calling some to be artists and craftspeople. Whether for ministry, career pursuit, or art appreciation, we hope to

provide an opportunity for students to discover the Fine Arts within a historical, cultural, spiritual, and aesthetic context. As students develop artistically, it is our hope that a positive self concept will emerge. At the same time, it is our hope to provide avenues for students to become creative thinkers who are able to apply the knowledge and skills gained in real life situations.

Our key emphasis acknowledges and celebrates that as students learn about the Arts at GCCS, they will learn to explore and develop their artistic gifts and talents in light of the Creator. The Fine Arts Department's desire is to create a learning environment that stimulates creativity while promoting the importance of good stewardship concerning the cultivation of artistic abilities and talents. GCCS's Fine Arts program will foster an atmosphere that encourages students to use their gifts and talents to the glory of God. As we encourage our students to render their gifts and talents back to God, we will assist them in obtaining skills that will aid in using the Arts as an engaging and effective tool that can be used to reach others for Christ.

2. Instructional/Educational Aspects of Fine Arts

Psalm 33:3

God commands us to be skilled in our talent, and to present our best to God! The GCCS Fine Arts Department wants students to come away with not only a well-rounded, biblical based knowledge of fine arts, but to also be skilled at what they do. To accomplish this, GCCS must provide students with the best artistic background possible while training them to integrate it into their products and performances. Students need a well-rounded teaching of the arts to prepare them for college or post secondary school situations. This may include some secular material as well as religious material that will be explored through a spiritual view. However, content will be carefully prayed upon and considered for each area in the Fine Arts program. Students will learn material that will provide a strong foundation on which to build. Students will be taught to strive for excellence in their performance, attitude, and preparation. Although assessments will be made of each student through these areas, improvement will also be considered. The students at GCCS will be pushed in many different directions to ensure their skillfulness in their talents. We will follow National Standards as well as ACSI standards to achieve the best possible product to offer to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

3. Using Fine Arts in Ministry

The messages presented in visual and aural images will be remembered longer than just words. We want to train students to use their talents and abilities in seeing the Fine Arts as an area of ministry opportunity. We want to encourage them, while still in school, to use their talents in school chapels, presentations, and activities; in church ministries such as VBS, Sunday School, worship services, and mission trips; in community activities such as charity events, community

celebrations, and hospitals/nursing homes. The use of these talents and abilities is a witness opportunity for students as well as encouraging a time of fellowship and shared ministry with other believers, in order to help the students grow.

The Fine Arts at GCCS can also help provide personal fulfillment. Through the instruction of art and music, and the development of Fine Arts skills, students are more fully able to appreciate the performances and ministries of others, being aware of the practice that precedes public presentation. Our God is the author of music and beauty, and, therefore, pursuit of the Fine Arts aids the Christian in better understanding God's amazing creativity. As people move into adulthood, they are less likely to take advantage of opportunities to develop these arts. Therefore, it is crucial to introduce young people to the Fine Arts in ministry during the formative years of their life. Music and art instruction are given to every student at GCCS, and students are actively encouraged to begin using these talents in their first ministry - at GCCS.

Eph. 6:7; 5:19-20, Matt. 5:16, Col. 3:23-24; Gal. 5:13b

Department of Business and Technology

Purpose Statement

Our goal is to facilitate the development of students who will become committed and professionally competent Christian business leaders and workers that will impact their chosen organizations, professions, and the society in which they live with their biblical example of work and purpose.

We will accomplish this goal by these Competencies:

1. Teachers as active biblical role models, who exhibit and teach the character traits of responsibility, honesty, integrity, diligence, and loyalty.

Proverbs 15:2 "the tongue of the wise commends knowledge."

2. Integration of these biblical principals in each area of business.

1 Timothy 4:7 "train yourself to be godly"

3. Involvement with leading edge technology and instruction in information technology, use of business programs, ethical use of computer technology and information, accounting, and each business discipline to provide competency for the skills for the student's chosen training and work.

Proverbs 22:29 "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He shall serve before kings, he will not serve before obscure men."

4. Instruction in excellent oral and written communication skills.

5. Development of the students' understanding of the importance of discerning right from wrong in school life, at home, and when faced with challenges in the workplace.

Hebrews 5:14 "..., who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

6. Instruction in the importance of the student's seeking and following God's will for his life so that he may be a positive influence in his workplace and the world.

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

Department of Foreign Language

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they pour forth knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." Psalm 19:1-4

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

Purpose Statement

In cultivating quality Christian leaders, the Grove City Christian School (GCCS) Foreign Language Department seeks to encourage students to enroll in foreign language courses. This will serve to open minds to not only the language but also cultural studies. GCCS Foreign Language classes encourage a Biblical worldview with a global perspective. Our teachers will mold students to use critical thinking skills and shift their focus away from self and onto others. They will introduce and equip students with beginning and advanced cultural and linguistic skills. Our desire is that GCCS students will develop a global mindset realizing that all persons of the world are connected in many ways and should be seen with equal respect and basic rights. The Foreign Language Department seeks to cultivate Christian leaders who follow heartedly the Great Commission set forth in Matthew 28:19-20. As Jesus comes to each of His believers, His followers are also commanded to go and reach out to others. In society today, cultural crossings are seen here in central Ohio in grocery stores, neighborhoods, etc. Our desire is that GCCS foreign language students will reach out to others and know what is culturally appropriate. They will learn to build relationships and spread the Gospel befriending others as Jesus leads. The ultimate goal is that our students can spread the love of Christ through acts, deeds and language while maturing in Christ and developing a Christ like attitude toward all He created.

Definition and Issues of Controversy:

Foreign language includes all non-native languages to the student. This may include recognizing non-traditional languages. While studying different languages does open avenues to new cultures, one may encounter areas of controversy. Cultural differences can arise from societal traditions such as music, oral traditions, holiday celebrations, religious practices, etc. When approaching areas of controversy, the GCCS Foreign Lan-

guage Department does not deny that these issues exist in foreign language studies. The subject area can be taught without supporting and practicing those aspects of different cultural beliefs while still helping students to better grasp the lifestyle of varying cultures.

Additional Scriptural References:

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” Mark 16:15

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” I Corinthians 12:12

“No man is an island.” -John Donne

Department of Mathematics

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. I Corinthians 14:40

So God created man in his own image and in the image of God created he him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

Purpose Statement

In our mission to cultivate quality Christian leaders, the Grove City Christian School Mathematics department seeks to teach students to view Mathematics through a Christ-centered lens. Understanding that God in his very nature possesses order and created the earth with order. Also understanding that God created man in His own image, He desires us to understand the order with which he created the earth and mankind.

Our desire is that a Christian mind set would permeate every section of our discussions and class times. Our ultimate goal in teaching math is that students would leave GCCS with an understanding of how mathematics is truly a part of God’s design of our world, and how that translates into a Christian world view.

Our teachers will cover traditionally valued mathematical subject matter including basic math skills, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. In addition, we will evaluate our course material through God’s Word and integrate it into our daily discussions and studies. We will use the following criteria for evaluating material used in our math content:

- Does the activity or subject matter have mathematical value?
- Does the activity or subject matter support truth?
- Does the activity or subject matter encourage higher level thinking and imaginative skills?
- Does the activity or subject matter help teachers to meet the objectives for the course?

One objective in the math classroom is to enhance students' ability in critical and logical thinking. We believe, here at GCCS, that it is God's desire that we increase in the knowledge of Him. In doing so, we believe this type of thinking is truly part of His nature and He desires it for us.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1:10

Students at GCCS are taught to have a sound grasp of the Bible and its principles. We seek to teach them to use these principles on a daily basis and understand how His truth illuminates all areas of our life. This is especially true in our mathematics classes from kindergarten through the senior year. We desire that students will be able to see math and science from His point of view and take that with them in their hearts.

Department of Science

Purpose Statement

The mission of the Grove City Christian School science department is to integrate the students' faith with their science studies in ways that *cultivate quality Christian leaders in a distinctly Christian atmosphere which provides a critically evaluated Judeo-Christian biblical worldview and promotes a strong academic foundation **for future service in science careers or other science-related endeavors undertaken as responsible citizens in a free Republic.***

Philosophy

The science department faculty of GCCS shares the belief that:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

The science department faculty seeks to guide and train students to not only be Christian leaders in professional science-intensive careers, but also to be knowledgeable citizens in a society where decision-making is governed by the people and for the people, which is where the pervading worldview will affect the societal decision-making process. Wisdom (knowledge) comes from understanding and discerning truth that has been accumulated over the millennia of humanity's existence and in recognizing that there is a greater Wisdom that comes from the active presence of a Creator in all that has ever been designed. Therefore, since all that is created has been designed, there is order to the design and it may be understood through "science as a way of knowing" with the organized gathering of evidence through the scientific process. In this creation of all that there is the design came *ex nihilo* (from nothing) (Psalm 32:6,9). The word in Genesis 1: 1 in the original Hebrew the word is *bara* and means that heaven and earth is "something that came from nothing that had ever existed before." (Scholfield Bible) Therefore,

...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, . . . Proverbs 1:7

It is therefore concomitant that a proper knowledge of the heavens and the earth will come from the Judeo-Christian biblical worldview that acknowledges the presence of design and proposes a Creator that formed His creation. An individual with a Christian worldview must recognize and must hold by faith the following Truth above all else as a person who claims the Lordship of Christ.

For by him were all things created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1: 16, 17

The Grove City Christian School science faculty believe the following global themes are essential for study in the GCCS science curriculum:

1. Time, space, and matter came into existence in an instant from nothing (*ex nihilo*). (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16,17)
2. Of all life created, both plant and animal, man is God's ultimate creation, having been created in His image. (Genesis 2:7)
3. Mankind was designed to be a partner with nature and to function in stewardship over all living things. (Genesis 1:26,27)
4. The world that we live in (earth) is orderly and abides by laws that are designed for the good of mankind and all living things. (Romans 1:20; James 1:17)
5. Life only comes from life in this design of time, space and matter and there is a genetic continuity to life. (Genesis 1:11-12, 1:20-22)
6. The universe as we know it has fallen into decay and, according to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, matter and life are devolving rather than improving and becoming more orderly. But, in due season, all will be made whole again. (Romans 8:22; 2 Peter 3:4-9)
7. Therefore, the earth and its resources are finite. (2 Peter 3:10-11a)
8. The societies instituted by mankind should be engaged in understanding and cooperating with the complexities of design that exist to achieve a balanced standard of living which does not sacrifice long-term environmental health. (Genesis 1:26)

Kirtely F. Mather has written that ***“the goal of science is to describe the universe; the goal of religion is to find the most abundant life which man may possess in such a universe.”*** It is the belief of this science faculty that service to mankind and to the world we live in fulfills God's mandate to be good stewards of all that is and that this may be accomplished in every career available to our students. To that end, we pledge a thorough effort to offer a flexible, interesting, and comprehensive program of science

courses that assist GCCS students in excelling in their results on the Ohio Science Content Standards. Our graduates should develop a scientific attitude to deal objectively with the problems encountered in their daily lives, leave high school with a basic understanding of how science affects their lives, and develop respect for the application of science knowledge in our ever-changing world so that they have the means of more effective service to mankind.

(See http://www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards)

Department of Social Studies

*"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago."
Psalm 77:11*

The purpose and philosophy of the Social Studies Department is to allow students to obtain a conceptual historical framework through the integration of a biblically-based philosophy of history. It is important to be able to relate the present to the past using a Christian perspective. The Social Studies Department will also strive to have students continue to improve the skills of critical thinking, research methods, and interpretation of facts.