



**GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
***Middle School Student Handbook***  
**2011 - 2012**

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

**Administrative Team**

Debbie Edwards , Middle School Principal  
Jan Brock, Intervention Specialist  
Shelia Jordan, K – 8 Secretary  
Becki Bohlen, Lead Teacher  
Lisa Keating, Student Activities Director  
Nancy Gillespie, Guidance Counselor  
Lisa Horsley, Athletic Director

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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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## *Welcome to Grove City Christian Middle School!*

*I count it a privilege to partner with you in the important task of educating your child. Become familiar with this handbook as it outlines the guidelines that have been established for our school as we seek to “cultivate quality Christian leaders.” If you have any questions or concerns to discuss, I am always available for you. I look forward to a great year as we work together to guide your child in growing just as Jesus did “in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man.” Matthew 2:52.*

*Debbie Edwards  
Intermediate/Middle 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 20<sup>th</sup> year as Grove City Christian School. To God by 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 throughout their schooling 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 to be men and women of Godly character with obedient hearts. Our goal is to equip our students in all areas of their life (spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally), to follow God's will for their life no matter what 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

### Non-Discriminatory Policy

The Grove City Christian School Board has adopted the following racial non-discriminatory policy.

"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 athlet-

ics/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)

### **Grove City Christian School Board Officers:**

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

## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Everyone has the right to come to school in a safe, well equipped, attractive environment. The church, our school board, and our parents have worked hard to provide all of 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](http://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, as well as, academic and sports opportunities.

It is our policy not to release directory information to agencies or individuals for sales promotion purposes, unless school related. 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 differences 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, or green and can be untucked. The maroon polo shirt is 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, 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 and after school activities

### **Non-Uniform Days and School Related Activities**

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

The following items are ***not acceptable***:

- Leggings may not be worn as slacks
- 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. This includes, 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
- 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 who have questions about their dresses may bring them in to be approved by the school administration.

### **Hair Styles, Make-up and Coloring**

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

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

### **Piercing and Tattoos**

- Boys may not wear any pierced jewelry or any kind of earrings. 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 display of affection or disrespect to any adult is not acceptable 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 during 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 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 cannot be responsible for lost and/or stolen items.

## **Food Services**

Grove City Christian School contracts with a food service for all cafeteria needs. *Food for Thought* will manage the cafeteria for the 2011-2012 school year. They will have information posted through RenWeb and on our website.

## **Lockers**

Lockers will be assigned to students at the beginning of the school year. No student is to change this assignment without approval from the office. Anything that is displayed in or on the locker is subject to approval from the administration. The display of secular rock groups, alcohol or tobacco ads, scantily dressed men or women is unacceptable. Additionally, any racial or other offensive material is unacceptable.

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

## **Administering Medication to Students**

Students needing medication are encouraged to receive the medication at home, if possible. It is the student's responsibility to come to the school nurse / office to receive his/her medication. New authorization forms must be submitted at the beginning of each school year, signed by the parent and physician before any medication (prescription and non-prescription) can be administered.

The parent/guardian agrees to submit a revised statement signed by the parent/guardian and physician if any of the information originally provided to the school changes.

1. The 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.
2. All medications, both prescription and nonprescription must remain locked in the school clinic with the exception of emergency medications that are self-administered (inhalers, Epi pens, insulin).
3. Students who self-administer (carry on their person) asthma inhalers, Epi pens, etc. must have the medication authorization form completed by their physician and parent stating they may do this. The school nurse must be notified when an inhaler is used. A special form for self-administered inhalers will be provided and must be filled out and signed by a physician.
4. 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 person, in their desk or lunch box. The high school office does keep cough drops for student usage.
5. All students grades 6-12 who have a medication authorization form on file may receive Ibuprofen or Tylenol from the school nurse / office when needed.
6. All medication remaining in the building after the last day of school will be discarded.
7. No person who has been authorized by the school board or administration to administer a drug and has a copy of the most recent statement which was given to him/her 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 will need class visits pre-arranged with the teacher. Please 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 middle school student by contacting the school office.

### **Student Pregnancy Policy**

It is the purpose of GCCS to maintain and present an atmosphere of morality and modesty in the lives of students, both male and female, in light of God's Word. Therefore, to both protect the privacy of the students involved and to hold true to the standards of morality and prudence desired in the lives of our students, the following policy has been adopted:

- 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.

### **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), and school workrooms. Students are not to visit the bookstore, 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 5 - 12. In accordance with Ohio Department of Education Operating Standards the school day for students in grades seven through twelve shall consist of school supervised activities (excluding interscholastic athletics) or approved education of at least five and one-half hours 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 truant.**

### **Absences**

- It is the student's responsibility to get work from the teachers. Assignments and quizzes/tests missed because of absences shall be made up within a period of time equal to the same amount of school time missed.
- Students missing less than 2 periods will be counted tardy. Students missing more than two periods and up to four periods will accumulate a half-day absence. Students missing five or more periods will be counted as a full day absence. Students must attend half- day (four periods) 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 result in 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 (individualized contract made with each student with parents and principal.)
- **Students missing 12 days, excused or unexcused (or 12 periods of the same class) in the same semester will result in the student failing the semester.**

Administration reserves the right to extend the absence count based on extreme circumstances.

### **Tardiness to School and Class**

Students that arrive late to school or classes throughout the day will be counted tardy. The student may only be counted tardy if they arrive unexcused within the first 10 minutes of class. At all grade levels (7-12), a tardy is a level one disciplinary offense. Tardies for doctor and dentist visits will not be counted against the student if it is verified by a written excuse from the physician or dentist. Unexcused tardies are a Level One offense. If the student arrives to his/her scheduled class unexcused and over 10 minutes late, then the student will be considered truant for that class. Truancy is at minimum a Level Two offense.

### **Truancy**

Any student who is absent from school/class without his/her parent / legal guardian's permission or is absent from an assigned area within the school is considered truant. Truancy is at minimum a Level Two offense.

## **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 the missed work ready upon the student's return. **Vacations scheduled during exam weeks will result in zeroes for any missed exams.**

## **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.

## **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**

All Middle School students must have a parent or guardian sign him/her out in the school office before leaving the building.

## **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 will be given to students who have good grades and exemplify a Christ-like attitude toward teachers, parents, administration, and other students. This will include (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 Middle 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. Support of the guidelines is imperative for 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. The parent is 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 per teacher request. If a face-to-face conference is not possible, please make alternate arrangements (phone conference).
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.
  - Parents contact the involved teacher to resolve issue
  - If no resolution, parents contact the school 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 create godly resolution of conflicts 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 detract from this type of environment violate our code of conduct and will result in disciplinary actions. In all disciplinary matters the goal is to redirect the individual toward a better way and closer to God. Often this means assigning a short-term consequence to produce the desired goal which might best be summarized as 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 in hopes that it will lead to ways that are acceptable in our school environment and pleasing to God. In every situation the student must accept responsibility for their actions regardless of others involved.

It is important to understand that no two situations are alike. Many factors enter into every decision made by faculty or administration. The goal we will have in mind is to produce the desired outcome and for the student to understand his/her wrongdoing and want to change. Students and parents are encouraged to only focus on their own situation and spiritual growth, not compare or judge other students' actions or discipline.

Disciplinary actions that may be used include, but are not limited to:

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

Minor violations will be recorded on a Notice of Correction Form. Students accumulating 4 Notices of Correction Forms must serve a detention on the date it is assigned. As detentions accumulate consequences are increased:

- 4<sup>th</sup> detention equals a one day In or Out-of-School Suspension
- 5<sup>th</sup> detention equals a two day In or Out-of-School Suspension

- If a student receives two Out-of-School Suspensions, parents and students will meet with the school principal to enter into a contractual agreement concerning the terms of their ability to remain at the school. Breaking this contract will result in immediate dismissal.
- 6<sup>th</sup> detention will result in school expulsion

The level of suspension (in or out of school) is determined by the school administration based upon the individual situation.

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 kept in the student’s cumulative file.

There are four levels to the discipline policy. Disciplinary measures will be as follows:

**Level 1 - Minor Offense:** Notice of Correction Form (The Notice of Correction is a written documentation of a warning)

**Level 2 - Intermediate Offense:** Detention for first time offenders. Repeated offenses will graduate the student to the next level in the discipline policy

**Level 3 - Major Offense:** In-School or Out-of-School suspension. Repeated infractions will graduate the student to the next level of punishment.

**Level 4 - Zero Tolerance:** Students may be expelled

### Level 1 Offenses

Level 1 offenses may result in a write-up and include, but are not limited to:

1. Dress code violations
2. Classroom disruptions or interference with classroom activity
3. Repeatedly coming unprepared to class
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

**Note: Level One Offenses \*\*4 write-ups result in one detention \*\***

## **Level 2 Offenses**

Level 2 offenses will result in a detention.

Level two offenses include, but are not limited to:

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.

## **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 will be brought in to determine if charges need to be filed.

Level 3 offenses include, but are not limited to:

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
12. Truancy

## **Level 4 Offenses – Zero Tolerance**

Level 4 offenses include, but are not limited to:

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 they will be given an unexcused absence for the number of days suspended. After two suspensions for any reason, expulsion from Grove City Christian School may occur.

Any request for an appeal of an outof-school suspension or expulsion must be made to the school principal within twentyfour hours after receipt of the out of school suspension/expulsion notice. If further appeal 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 his/her participation in after school activities during the period of suspension, and the student is not permitted to participate in extra-curricular school activities during the suspension period. Students are expected to make up all 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 outof-school suspensions, parents and students will meet with the school principal to enter into a contractual agreement concerning the terms of their ability to remain at the school. Breaking this contract will result in immediate dismissal.

## **Internet Access**

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

## **Bullying Policy**

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

**Per House Bill 276 this policy was approved by the GCCS School Board on 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;
- 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
- 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 but not limited to:

- 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 the following:
  - Posting slurs on Web sites where students congregate or on Web logs (personal online journals or diaries) i.e. MySpace, Xanga, Facebook, etc.;
  - Sending abusive or threatening instant messages;
- Using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students and posting them online,
- Using Web sites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students;
- 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 ha-

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 such notification.

## **Reports to the victim and his/her parent of 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 such harassment, intimidation and bullying.

## **List of verified acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying**

A requirement that the school's administrators semiannually 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 his or her 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 for such fines will result in transcripts and/or diplomas being held until all fines are paid in full.

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

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.

The academic program is designed to help the students achieve a solid foundation in all subject areas. Along with the acquisition of facts and concepts in the areas studied, emphasis is placed upon development and exercise of the powers of reasoning. Methods of teaching proven to be effective are utilized, along with a constant influx of new material. Since children differ in innate ability, we encourage and expect each student to do his or her best. We believe the traditional system of education develops the mind and builds character.

### **Honor Code**

In keeping with an environment that promotes honesty and integrity, 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, but are not limited to:

- 1) Copying any part of another's test, quiz, homework, project, worksheet or report

- 2) Using or turning in another person's work in part or in entirety
- 3) Using or appearing to look at review sheets, notes, or any other information not permitted during tests, quizzes or exams
- 4) Not following directions given by the teacher such as 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 they have already taken
- 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.
- 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 suspension because it is a level three offense. Any further violation during middle /high school 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 the staff member involved will then 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 on 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 on 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:

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

## 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.

## Academic Intervention

Students earning an “F”(below 60%) or having a grade point average less than 2.0 (73%) in any class at time of interims or report cards 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 will hopefully encourage students to devote their time to improving their grades quickly. Students participating 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 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**

Middle school students who fail a class in a core subject (math, literature, language arts, Bible, social studies and science) must repeat the grade level.

### **Semester Exams**

All students are required to complete midterm 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.

### **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 Junior Honor Society**

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is designed to spotlight students who have excelled in the areas of scholarship, character, service, leadership and citizenship. A committee of faculty members will review submitted applications from eligible students to determine those 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 NJHS.

## 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 align our graduation requirements, changes were implemented last year. The next page outlines the requirements for graduation and the requirements for an Honor's Diploma.

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 Earned

<b>OGT</b>	<b>Passed all 5 sections</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	Test(s) to retake:			
<b>Community Service</b>	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 _____					

\* 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.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

There are many opportunities to get involved at Grove City Christian School and at 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 Participation**

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 encouraged to participate in community service opportunities offered by the school and local churches. While there is no requirement for individual hours, when there is a school wide or grade level initiative during the school day, students are required to participate.

## **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 appropriateness of all decisions concerning the students while away from GCCS.

- School administration must approve all trip destinations and 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 student will be accepted to attend 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 Middle/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 the parent’s expense if they ignore the expectations.
- 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 the goal.
- GCCS will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of or by the trip unless prior approval by school administration has been 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. This will not be tolerated and could result in a student/students 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 are going to be required to transport any child from GCCS, a school administrator, teacher, or school board member must grant approval. Upon parental agreement to transport GCCS students, that parent has therein given his/her express approval to abide by all rules herein stated. Written permission must be obtained from the parent if a non-custodial person wishes to take another child in their vehicle.

- Chaperones have the right to confiscate any materials students bring on the trip that they deem inappropriate for a Christian school group.
- GCCS students must ride in the 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.

**GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
VACATION POLICY FORM**

Many times a family may choose to remove their children from school to participate in family vacations. Time with the family is valued; please consider that some students are unable to recuperate from an extended absence outside of the classroom.

Classroom learning cannot be duplicated with worksheets and reading assignments. The hands-on application, question and answer sessions, and the oral communication are 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. Therefore, we ask that you prayerfully consider all of the consequences before pulling your student out of 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 not infringe 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 re-teach a skill, I understand that an appointment can be made after school and a fee per hour will be charged.

---

Parent's Signature

---

Date

**HANDBOOK POLICY AGREEMENT**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Our family has read the Grove City Christian School Student Handbook and agrees to abide with these established rules and standards of our school.**

**We agree to partner with the school regarding all aspects of our child's experiences at GCCS.**

**We 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 established rules and standards of our school.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature** **Date**

***PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER BY SEPTEMBER 6.***

# 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 English department 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 ones life apart from God.

\* \* \*

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in*

*a mirror<sup>24</sup> 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 Bible Department 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 (Phil. 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 unswerving 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. I 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 church, community and school 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 with in 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 cultivating artistic abilities and talents. GCCS' 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 talent 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 carry over to the years to follow providing a strong foundation to build on. 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 factored in. 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 up students to use their talents and abilities in seeing the Fine Arts as an area of ministry opportunities. 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, mission trips; in community activities such as charity events, community celebrations, 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, 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 Language 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 senior year. We desire that they 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](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.