



STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Revised 7/26

THE SCHOOL

Faith Christian School of Kearney is a non-denominational Christian school for students in grades Pre K - 8. We operate according to the current guidelines and regulations of the Nebraska Department of Education.

MISSION STATEMENT

Faith Christian School exists to glorify God by equipping students for spiritual, academic, physical, and social excellence and by training them to be Christ-like leaders.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The educational philosophy of Faith Christian School is based on a God-centered view of truth and man as presented in God's inspired manual for life, the Bible. Since God created and sustains all things through His Son, Jesus Christ, the universe and all life are directly related to God, have the purpose of glorifying Him, and must be viewed with regard to His central position in all of life and truth. This is especially true of man, who was made in God's image, different in kind from all other creation, with the unique capacity to know and respond to God personally. Because man is a sinner both by nature and choice, he cannot in this condition know or honor God in his life. He can do this only by being born again as he receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and thus, through His Spirit, be enabled to do God's will, which is the ultimate purpose of his life.

The entire process of Christian education is a means used by the Holy Spirit to bring the student to Christian maturity, to develop a Christ-centered mind in him, and to train him in Godly living so that he can fulfill God's total purpose for bringing him into this world. This fulfillment is true success. He must be taught the Bible, because it is the source of wisdom and truth. Its principles give meaning to truth and knowledge. Without learning Biblical principles, the student cannot gain a true education that prepares him personally and vocationally for his life on this earth. He must learn to see all truth as God's truth, to integrate it with, and interpret it by, God's Word. He must be developed and related to God as a whole person - spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially. These areas are inseparable and through them run the insistent thread of the spiritual. Therefore, it must be our aim to shun the tendency to teach the Bible compartmentally or on the intellectual level alone. The scarlet thread must be woven throughout the total curriculum.

Teachers and staff at Faith Christian School must be born-again and have God's perspective on life as they strive to provide a God-centered, academically challenging education.

The authority for such an education comes both from God's command that children be taught to love God and to please Him first in their lives, and from the fact that parents are primarily responsible for the total education and training of their children. At the parents'/guardians' request, the Christian school, along with the church, becomes a partner in giving this education.

If such an education is to be realized, there must be continual dependence on God's grace. This means that prayer by students, parents/guardians, faculty, staff, school board members, and churches represented must be the foundation of all educational efforts. We can do more than pray after we have prayed, but we can do no more than pray until we have prayed.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).
2. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30).
3. We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33), His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35), His sinless life (Hebrews 4: 15, 7:26), His miracles (John 2:11), His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), His Resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:4), His Ascension to the right hand of God (Mark 16:19), His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11).
4. We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature and that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace and through faith alone are we saved (John 3:16–19, 5:24; Romans 3:23, 5:8–9; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:5).
5. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; that they are saved unto the resurrection of life, and that they are lost unto the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28–29).
6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 2:12–13, Galatians 3:26–28).
7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:13–14; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19–20; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Our parents/guardians play a vital part in the total program of Faith Christian School. Our parents/guardians recognize educating children is a process that involves a partnership between parents, the school community and their home church. Emphasis, again and again, has been placed upon the importance of parents/guardians cooperating with schools for the education of the child. The purpose of this code is to provide a reminder to all parents and visitors to our school about the expected conduct and policies while on school grounds or attending school events.

Guidance:

We expect parents, guardians, caregivers and visitors to:

- Pray regularly for the teachers, staff, and administration of Faith Christian School.
- Cooperate fully in the educational functions of Faith Christian School, doing their best to make Christian education effective in the life of their children, that he/she may love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ all of his/her life.
- Pay all financial obligations to the school on or before the date they are due.

- Understanding the policies and regulations described in this handbook have been written and approved by the school board and should be considered binding. Parents should encourage children to abide by these guidelines and support the school's actions.
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behavior.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- **Seek to resolve any conflicts according to the Biblical instructions found in Matthew 18:15, "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother".**

Romans 13:1-7

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, guardians, caregivers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behavior which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including special events.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper outside of Christian character.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent or pupil regardless of whether or not the behavior constitutes a criminal offense.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication to any Faith Christian School employee.
- Gossiping with other parents, teachers, staff or guests regarding the school, teachers, processes, policies or otherwise.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on any social media websites, forums or online venue. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Principal/head teacher or the School Board President, so the matter can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Use of tobacco (whether smoking, vaping or chewing), consumption of alcohol, or use of any illicit drug while on school property or at school events.

Should **any** of the above behaviors occur, the school may feel it is necessary to remove the offending family from Faith Christian School and contact the appropriate authorities. The list above is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all behaviors that could result in removal from FCS. If any behaviors detrimental to the school occur, the Board of Directors will determine the appropriate action.

If problems occur, it is important to go to the right person about the problem first, as outlined in Matthew 18.

1. If there is a problem in the classroom, go to the teacher. If that is unsuccessful, a meeting will be scheduled with the parents, teacher, and administration.
2. If there is a problem with the administration, talk with the administrator first. If it is unresolved, talk with a member of the school board. If unsuccessful, a meeting with the parents/guardians, administrator, and school board will be scheduled.

Proverbs 19:20

*Listen to advice and accept **discipline**, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.*

Enrollment, Admissions Policies

Faith Christian School (FCS) admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin and does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, admission practices, scholarship programs, or other school-administered programs.

Enrollment at FCS is considered both a privilege and a partnership. Our admissions process ensures alignment between family values, student needs, and the school's mission and resources.

Age Requirements

- Pre-Kindergarten students must be at least **4 years old on or before July 31st**.
- Kindergarten students must be at least **5 years old on or before July 31st**.
- First-grade students must be at least **6 years old on or before July 31st**.

One-Year Preschool Enrollment Option

Families who intend to enroll their child in **one year of preschool only** may choose to sign a **One-Year Enrollment Contract** instead of the Continuous Enrollment Contract. This option is designed for families who do not plan for a second year of preschool or continued enrollment into kindergarten.

- One-year preschool contracts are valid only for the designated school year.
- Students enrolled under a one-year contract are **not guaranteed placement** for future years, including kindergarten or a second year of preschool.
- Families who wish to continue at FCS beyond the one-year preschool term must complete the standard admissions review and be accepted into the following year's enrollment pool.
- Because kindergarten capacity is limited, the number of **Continuous Enrollment Contracts** offered in preschool each year will be **equal to the number of kindergarten spots available**. Once those contracts are filled, all remaining preschool students will be offered **one-year enrollment contracts** only.

Admissions Criteria

At this time, FCS is unable to provide appropriate services for students who:

- Demonstrate persistent violent or severely disruptive behaviors,
Require medical interventions such as feeding tubes or ongoing specialized medical care,
- Require individualized staff for behavioral or medical support,
- Consistently perform well below grade level on academic achievement testing,
Have failed the most recent grade level prior to application,
- Display significant emotional or disciplinary problems,
- Have a police, court, or criminal record, or
- Have a diagnosed learning disability beyond the scope of our current staff and resources.

Admissions Process

Step 1: Educational Consultation

The admissions process begins with an **Educational Consultation** with parents/guardians. This meeting allows families to:

- Share their child's history, strengths, and challenges,
- Discuss specific academic, social, and spiritual goals,
- Learn about the school's mission, philosophy, and community,
- Begin the process of determining if FCS is the right fit for their family.

Step 2: Application

Families who wish to move forward are invited to submit an **Application** and non-refundable application fee,

Step 3: Application Review

- All applications are considered together at published decision dates.
- Families are notified in writing of one of three outcomes:
 - **Acceptance** – the student is offered enrollment, pending completion of the Continuous Enrollment Contract.
 - **Deferral** – application is reconsidered in a future admissions pool if space or readiness concerns remain.
 - **Non-Acceptance** – FCS determines placement is not in the best interest of the student or school community.

Step 4: Enrollment

Families of accepted students finalize enrollment by signing the **Continuous Enrollment Contract**, which includes:

- A **one-time enrollment deposit of \$250**,
- Agreement to the school's tuition policies, withdrawal policies, and handbooks,

Upon enrollment, families will be expected to provide the following documents for the student's files:

- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Immunization records or Affidavit of Religious or Medical Exemption
- Student Transcripts and Records from Prior Schools
- Student Physical Exam

Student forms (emergency contacts, medical permissions, etc.) will be collected each year separately to ensure compliance with state regulations.

Probationary Period

All new students are enrolled on a **one-quarter probationary period**. During this time, teachers and administrators evaluate academic, behavioral, and social adjustment to confirm the student is thriving at FCS.

Tuition & Financial Policies

1. Annual Approval of Tuition and Fees

All tuition rates, registration fees, and related charges (including afterschool care, part-time enrollment, and lab/course fees) are determined annually and approved by the School Board. The official **Tuition & Fee Schedule** is published each spring.

2. Continuous Enrollment and Financial Commitment

By signing the Continuous Enrollment Contract, parents/guardians agree to the financial terms for the entire academic year. Enrollment renews automatically each year unless written notice of withdrawal is submitted to the Admissions Office according to the withdrawal schedule in the contract.

3. Payment Plans

Families may select from board-approved payment options each year (e.g., annual, semester, or monthly). All monthly payments must be made through the school's designated tuition management system.

4. **Delinquent Accounts**

- Accounts not kept current may result in the suspension of enrollment and/or loss of attendance privileges.
- The school reserves the right to withhold report cards, transcripts, and records until all financial obligations are met.
- Accounts that remain delinquent may be turned over to collections, with families responsible for any associated costs or legal fees.

5. **Refunds and Withdrawals**

- **Registration and enrollment deposits are non-refundable.**
- The withdrawal fee schedule in the Continuous Enrollment Contract determines tuition refunds or obligations.
- After the first day of school, families are financially responsible according to the proration and withdrawal terms outlined in the contract.

Financial Aid Policy

At Faith Christian School, we believe that finances should never be the sole barrier preventing a child from receiving a Christ-centered education. Our mission is to partner with families in raising children who are rooted in faith, strong in character, and equipped for excellence. Because of this, we are committed to offering financial assistance to families who demonstrate need.

Financial aid is made possible through the generosity of donors, careful stewardship of school resources, and the conviction that every child should have the opportunity to learn and grow in a nurturing, faith-filled community. While funds are limited and awards cannot cover all tuition in every circumstance, our desire is to come alongside families so that money is not the deciding factor in whether their child can attend Faith Christian School.

1. **Application Process**

- Families must submit a financial aid application annually through the school's designated aid platform.
- All applications must include supporting documentation as requested (e.g., income verification, tax forms).
- Applications are due by the published deadline each spring. Late applications may be considered if funds remain available.

2. Award Decisions

- Awards are determined by demonstrated need, availability of funds, and approval of the School Board or its delegated finance committee.
- Awards are made on an annual basis and do not automatically renew. Families must reapply each year.
- The amount of assistance awarded may vary from year to year.

3. Conditions of Aid

- Families receiving aid must remain current on all agreed tuition payments.
- Failure to maintain a current account may result in withdrawal of aid and/or suspension of enrollment.
- Financial aid is contingent upon continued enrollment under the Continuous Enrollment Contract.

4. Confidentiality

All financial aid applications and awards are kept strictly confidential. Only authorized staff and committee members may review applications.

Continuous Enrollment

Students are continuously enrolled until graduation or written notice of withdrawal is received. The withdrawal schedule outlined in the Continuous Enrollment Contract applies.

PART-TIME/HOMESCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Home School students may be admitted to Faith Christian School on a part-time basis if space is available in the class or classes desired. Parents and students must agree to abide by FCS rules and regulations, including the dress code policy and all aspects of the student handbook found herein.

Application Process:

- Completion of Application
- Statement of Faith
- Medical Consent Form
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Student Immunization Record
- Parent/guardian Interview with Administration.
- Registration Fee due with Application by April 15th. Tuition is due July 15th.

Returning Part-time Students:

- Update Registration Information due by April 15th.
- Registration Fee is due with Application. Tuition is due July 15th.

PART-TIME/HOMESCHOOLER TUITION AND FEES-(REVISED YEARLY)

Registration Fee	\$50 per student (TOTAL)	
Core Courses K - 8 th	\$1,700/Per Class Per Year	\$850/Semester

Specials:	Music	\$600/year	\$300/Semester
	Band	\$650/year	\$325/Semester
	P.E.	\$400/year	\$200/Semester
	Electives (6th-8th)	\$800/year	\$400/Semester
	Art	\$400/year	\$200/Semester

*Other courses that include labs will also be assessed a \$50 lab fee. All tuition and fees are prepaid. Special arrangements may be made for families who enroll several students in multiple classes.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Offered for everyone pre-k thru 8th grade, drop-ins welcome, no set commitment, invoiced monthly, late fees, \$14/student

The afterschool program is offered to all students currently attending Faith Christian School and is offered Monday-Friday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM when school is in session. Use of the afterschool program will be billed monthly at a rate of \$14 per student per day. Parents may contact the school office or Afterschool Program Director as late as 3:00 PM on days they would like their students to attend.

- Students not currently attending Faith Christian School will be allowed to use the afterschool program.
- No additional commitment is needed to attend the afterschool program.
- Students must be picked up by 5:30 PM or incur a late fee of \$1 per minute for every minute after 5:30 PM.

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

Please make note of regulations that refer to the use of Electronic Devices and Cell Phones in this Handbook.

- Food and drinks are permitted only in assigned lunchroom areas and outdoor areas. No open food or drink is allowed in other portions of the building unless approved by the teacher. Water bottles are permitted in areas where computers are not in use.
- No gum chewing is permitted in the building unless approved by a staff member.
- Students must not eat candy at school except on special occasions such as birthday treats or party treats.
- Speech and conduct should always be courteous and respectful.
- No smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of illegal drugs, cheating, swearing, or use of suggestive or indecent language.
- No throwing rocks, sticks, snowballs, etc.
- No public display of affection.
- If an electronic voice recorder is needed for academic purposes (e.g. recording a lecture), the student must obtain permission from the teacher.
- Be on time and prepared for class.
- Show respect and courtesy for everyone at all times, in the classroom, on the playground, in the halls, etc.
- Use the restroom only at appointed times unless absolutely necessary.

- Receive permission before leaving the classroom at any time.
- Request permission to speak in the classroom. Visit with others at break time only.
- Walk quietly and orderly inside the building at all times.
- Return all things to their proper places after using them.
- Keep the desk and work area clean and free of clutter.
- Unless the weather is inclement, recess will be outside. Wear appropriate clothing.
- Refrain from all rough-housing (wrestling, tackling, pushing, shoving, etc.) while on school property and the playground, including before and after school.
- According to Federal Law, no weapons or dangerous objects are permitted on the school grounds or at school functions.
- Each teacher will communicate individual classroom rules that pertain to his/her grade.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

Students at Faith Christian School are representatives of their school, their parents, and their Lord at all times. Therefore, certain guidelines go beyond the school setting. The following constitute serious breaches of discipline and make a student subject to disciplinary review and possible action, even if they occurred away from school:

- Stealing or shoplifting
- Drunkenness
- Smoking or possession of cigarettes
- Use or possession of illegal drugs
- Vandalism
- Malicious pranks against a school representative
- Involvement in a felony crime
- Shameful behavior/immorality
- Involvement in the occult
- Involvement in online bullying

In addition to these obvious infractions of the "Christian Code of Conduct", other activities are inappropriate for students who desire to be "salt and light" in our world. It is difficult to legislate all the activities Christians should avoid; however, we expect our students to be examples to the world and the church in word, in conduct, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Sending children to Faith Christian School is a privilege and not a right. The goals of the school are not to reform, but to train Christian youth in the highest principles of Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity and good citizenship. Discipline is necessary for the welfare of each student, as well as for the entire school.

Proverbs 15:32

*Those who disregard **discipline** despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.*

Goals of Discipline:

“Respect, responsibility, and righteousness reflect a student’s love for their Savior.”

- Discipline should have clearly defined expectations that are rooted in the truth of Scripture and the love of Christ.
- Discipline should reflect Biblical principles of authority - training students to understand how God designed all persons to live in submission to Him and the authority He established.
- Discipline should be grounded in love for the good of the child and those around them through the planting of God’s word, then trusting God with the change of heart. This allows school authorities to deal with an action or attitude in such a way as to love the person while hating the sin.
- Discipline should contribute towards a student’s growth in Christ while taking into consideration a student’s maturity, equipping their mind and heart to work towards peace and righteousness.
- Discipline should train and equip students to work towards repentance, reconciliation, and restitution.
- Discipline must be consistent, administered fairly, and, whenever possible, exercised promptly in order to avoid exasperating the child in question or other children.
- Discipline should enact consequences for deliberate misdemeanors, defiance, or rebellion, not for mistakes. Note: We all forget things from time to time, but regular forgetfulness may reflect a sinful attitude.
- Discipline should help students gain an understanding of how actions have consequences and that those consequences may include positive and negative elements - acknowledging, confirming, commending, encouraging, helping, correcting, and reprimanding.

The discipline procedure will be as follows for Faith Christian School.

Expectations:

All school expectations and rules come back to the Warrior Way: Respect, Responsibility, and Righteousness. All members of Faith Christian School, including parents and staff, are expected to aspire to these three qualities. These expectations will be taught, posted, and reinforced throughout the school year.

Discipline Flow Chart: When students break these expectations, the following flow chart will be used to respond in a timely, consistent, and constructive manner.

Reflection and Consequence Sheets:

Level 2 on the flow chart references a reflection and consequence sheet that students will be required to fill out, have signed, and return to the teacher who gave them the consequence. The primary purpose of this form is to aid in communication with parents about disciplinary actions. As a part of receiving one of these forms, students will receive a logical consequence that is commensurate with the behavior.

Detention:

When appropriate, detention may be used as a consequence. Detention will take place from 3:30-4:00 every Tuesday and Thursday in the conference room or classroom of the teacher giving the consequence. You will be notified as quickly as possible if your student receives detention. Students will be expected to complete their consequences at the next available session of detention.

Faith Christian School Discipline Flow Chart

Office Managed Behaviors

Disrespectful

- Intentional foul language
- Racial Slur
- Verbal threats of aggression against another person
- Significant classroom disruption
- Repeated lying or cheating

Irresponsible

- Destruction of school property
- Leaving school grounds without permission

Unrighteous

- Major theft
- Physical aggression with intent to harm*
- Absenteeism
- Sexual or verbal harassment or inappropriate touch*
- Severe bullying (see student/parent handbook)*

*Indicates an automatic office Level C Intervention

Problem Behavior Observed

Level 1 Intervention

Teachers will use one or a combination of the following Level 1 Interventions

- Redirect – Reminder of the expected behavior
- Reteach – Explanation of the expected behavior and its purpose to ensure understanding
- Redo – Practice the expected behavior (practice procedures)
- Ask questions to understand the root of the behavior
- Collect data using Sycamore
- Communicate with parents/guardians (communication will done through email)
 - Dress code violations and repeated disruptive behavior

Level 2 Intervention

Teachers will use one or a combination of the following Level 2 Interventions

For repeated/deliberate behaviors:

- Reteach – Explanation of the expected behavior and its purpose to ensure understanding
- Reflection and Consequence Sheet
- Help students understand the cause-and-effect relationship between their actions and consequences
- Communication with parents/guardians (communication will done through phone call)
- Collect data using Sycamore

Level 3 Intervention

Office Managed Behaviors

Level A	Level B	Level C
• Office will communicate with parents by phone call • Office Reflection and Consequence Sheet	• Set meeting with student, parents, teacher, and principal • Consequences will be determined in meeting • Bring in a professional (counselor, pastor, etc) to be determined in meeting if applicable	• Automatic suspension • Additional consequences to be determined between parents and school board

Classroom Managed Behaviors

Disrespectful

- Talking back
- Blurting/Interrupting
- Side Conversations
- Name Calling
- Disregard for authority

Irresponsible

- Defiance
- Running in the Hallway
- Incompletion of class work
- Invasion of privacy
- Not taking ownership for actions
- Miss use of equipment
- Dress Code

Unrighteous

- Petty theft
- Repeated disobedience
- Exclusion
- Impatience
- Ignoring directions
- Dishonesty
- Physical aggression

RESPECTFUL - RESPONSIBLE - RIGHTEOUS

Suspension:

Please note that certain behaviors will warrant more immediate attention and will be referred directly to the office, and some will result in immediate suspension, such as

- Racial Slurs
- Physical aggression with intent to harm
- Harassment or Inappropriate Touch
- Bullying (Bullying is defined as, "*an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm.*")

Expulsion:

A student may be expelled from school for a serious breach of conduct and/or repeated problems with behavior or academic progress.

- In the case of such an offense, the matter will be referred to the school board.
- The school board will make a decision on the recommendation of the teacher and administrator concerning expulsion.
- The school board has the authority to expel any student for non-compliance with the rules and regulations of Faith Christian School.
- Any student who is expelled must apply for reinstatement. This application must be unanimously approved by the school board in order for reinstatement to take effect.

We will make every effort to work with each child placed in Faith Christian School. However, should these efforts fail, it may become necessary to ask a student to leave in order to maintain an atmosphere of safety and learning for others.

School Year

In accordance with Nebraska Rule 14, each year Faith Christian School will provide a minimum of 1,032 hours of scheduled instruction. A normal school day counts as 6.8 instructional hours. During a normal school year, we plan to exceed the minimum required instructional time to allow for unexpected school closures, such as snow days.

SCHOOL DAY

Pre-K: 8:20 - 11:20 AM **Pre-K Afternoon Electives:** 11:20 AM - 3:20 PM **K – 8th:** 8:20 AM - 3:30 PM

School grounds will be supervised beginning at 8:00 AM. Please do not bring your children before that time. Students will not be allowed in the building before 8:00 AM without prior permission from teachers. Classes are dismissed at 3:30 PM. All students should be picked up by 3:45 PM. Any students who are not picked up by 3:45 PM will be waiting with a staff member. No student will be allowed to “hang out” in classrooms or hallways **before or after** school. Any student who is not picked up by 4:00 PM will be sent to the after-school program and charged for the day.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Parents are advised to monitor **Sycamore, FCS Parents Facebook Group, KGFW Radio** (1340 AM) or **NTV** (Channel 13) for school closing information.

ATTENDANCE

Parents are asked to call the school by 8:45 AM (or as soon as possible) on the day of an absence in the event of illness or other absence unless prior written notice has been given.

If a child is absent from school and no notification is registered in the school office, the school will call the student's home or the parents'/guardians' place of work to determine the reason for the absence.

Excused Absences

Absences are excused for the following:

- **Sickness** (temperature of 100.4 or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, or doctor's note upon return to school).
- **Doctor or dentist appointment** (must bring doctor's note upon return)
- **Emergencies** such as life-threatening illness, injury, or death in the immediate family

Pre-arranged Absences

If your student must miss school for a non-excused reason, please notify both the office and their classroom teacher as soon as possible to allow teachers to prepare schoolwork or help a student work ahead. It is critically important that students complete any late work as soon as possible to ensure that they do not fall behind.

Situations may arise within families when a student must be kept at home for personal family reasons; however, they should be kept to a minimum and will **NOT** be excused. Any student missing more than ten unexcused days per semester may be in jeopardy concerning promotion or credit or have specific stipulations mandated for continuance at Faith Christian School. Any family who has a student who surpasses 10 absences for a semester will receive written notice from the school of their absences. Parents and students must realize that absences directly affect learning, progress, and grades. Therefore, great emphasis is placed upon a student's attendance.

Leaving School

Students are restricted to school property at all times during the school day, including lunch period. For reasons other than emergencies, parents/guardians wishing to have their child dismissed for any portion of a school day must communicate with the teacher or office staff, either in writing or through a phone call, stating the reason and time for dismissal so that proper arrangements can be made. If a student becomes ill at school and is unable to finish the day, parents or relatives will be notified.

Tardiness

Students are admitted into the building at 8:00 AM and must hang up their bags and coats before going into their classrooms. They are considered tardy if they report to opening exercises after 8:20. Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared at 8:20 AM. Late students must check in at the office. Excessive tardiness may result in disciplinary action.

MEDICATIONS AND ILLNESS

Medical consent forms are required to be signed by parents/guardians. Students should leave all prescription and non-prescription medication in the office. The office staff will oversee dispensing and document the required dosage and the time it is given, but students must administer the medicines themselves. A student may carry an inhaler if a doctor sends a written prescription requiring an inhaler to be carried at all times. No medication will be given without documentation of time, dosage, and the reason given. All medication and documentation will be kept in a locked cabinet.

Parents should use common sense in deciding whether their child is healthy enough to attend school. Please do not send your children to school within 24 hours of having a fever, vomiting or other symptoms of illness.

Technology Agreement

The Technology guidelines should be read carefully and discussed with your child. Faith Christian School uses Chromebooks as its main student device. The purpose of these devices are to be used as tools to enhance student learning and prepare students for professions and learning environments that require 21st-century skills. Students will be granted different levels of access to these devices determined by their maturity, skill level, and need.

Grade	Level of Access	Goal/Purpose
All	All student devices are managed by the school administration and have safeguards to help prevent students from seeing graphic materials. All students will operate devices under supervision.	• The purpose of technology at Faith Christian is to prepare students both spiritually, academically, and socially to use technology in an excellent and God-honoring way.
Pre-K - K	Little to no access - Students may have guided access on special occasions.	• Students will learn basic concepts of how to safely and responsibly use a school device.
1st - 3rd	Limited Access - Students will use shared devices in their classroom or in the library with direct supervision or guidance from a teacher.	• Students will learn basic computer skills such as typing, basic research concepts, and digital citizenship/safety.
4th - 8th	Classroom Access - Students will be responsible for a classroom device assigned to them for use at school. Devices will be stored in their classroom and remain at school.	• Students will apply basic computer skills such as typing, basic research concepts and digital citizenship/safety. • <u>Students will practice responsible use of school devices or will lose the privilege.</u>

Students' accounts are based on school-managed Google accounts that will follow this format: "firstname.lastname@fcskearney.org". No other accounts should be used on school devices other than school-managed accounts. These accounts are managed by the school, and alerts will be sent to school administrators if concerns arise.

Students are expected to follow these guidelines and rules:

- All students must use devices at appropriate times.
- No unauthorized emailing, use of social media, or playing online games is allowed.
- You may save files only under your name, deleting them when completely finished with them.
- Students must not interfere with any other students' devices or accounts.
- Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to use the office computer.
- If you accidentally access an inappropriate website (anything containing violence, nudity, sexual content, or foul language), exit it immediately and report it to your teacher.
- Students may not install software of any kind or download software updates.
- Students may not reconfigure the computers or the desktop settings.
- Students must handle devices responsibly.
- Infractions of these rules may cause loss of computer lab privileges.

USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

The use of individual electronic devices hinders valuable communication between students, dampens creativity, and can cause concern among parents as to the suitability of material being seen or heard.

Therefore, the individual use of iPods, MP3 players, handheld gaming devices, videos, DVDs, headphones, and other such electronic devices shall be prohibited during school hours **and** on school property. Such devices shall also be prohibited during school functions and when traveling on school field trips unless previously approved by school personnel.

CELLULAR PHONES

Cellular phones shall remain off and stored in a student's backpack or locker during school hours. Students are required to use the Office telephone to communicate with their parents during school hours. The use of cell phones for texting, talking, and other activities is also prohibited during school functions and while traveling for school-sponsored field trips unless permission is granted by school personnel.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Faith Christian School encourages its parents/guardians to be in contact with their child's teacher/administrator when questions arise. Parents/guardians should make appointments to see teachers/administration so as not to conflict with classroom time and other responsibilities.

Parents/guardians may leave messages with the school office; teachers will respond as quickly as their schedules permit. Teachers may also contact parents/guardians when situations in need of parental attention arise in the classroom. All administrative matters relating to school business are to be directed to the Principal.

We have four key means of communication:

1. **Sycamore:** Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Sycamore system. This system will allow parents and students to have access to assignments, grades, classroom schedules, classroom rosters, lunch invoices, and registration information.

2. **Parents & Guardians of Faith Facebook Group:** This is a closed Facebook group where regular updates are posted about upcoming events and things happening at FCS. If you have not been added to the group and would like to be added, please submit a request on the Facebook Page, and an admin will review your request.
3. **Tuesday Communication:** Communication will be sent out to parents/guardians on Tuesdays from the school office. Please open and read all communications sent out from the school.
4. **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Parent/Teacher conferences may be scheduled any time you have a concern about your child or an issue you wish to discuss with their teacher. Regular Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled each semester, and parental participation is strongly encouraged.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be issued quarterly. Parents are encouraged to discuss the progress of their children with the teacher at a time mutually convenient.

100-97%	A+
96-90%	A
89-87%	B+
86-80%	B
79-77%	C+
76-70%	C
69-67%	D+
66-60%	D
Below 60%	F

Kindergarten: S =Satisfactory U= Unsatisfactory

**Elementary
Handwriting
and Art:** S= Satisfactory U=Unsatisfactory

HONOR ROLL

The Faith Christian School Honor Roll for Middle School will be posted and presented to students at the end of each semester. Any student whose average is 80% or above will have his/her name placed on this list. Any student attaining a grade average of 90% or better will have his/her name placed on the "A" Honor Roll. A student is not eligible for the honor roll if they receive a grade of "D" in **any** subject.

LATE WORK

Completion of assignments at Faith Christian School includes having them turned in to the teacher on time. In the interest of promoting both academic education and Godly character, late work (which is not a result of student absence) will be given a consequence following the Discipline Flow Chart listed above, and will be completed and turned in for a grade.

If there is a legitimate reason (illness or family emergency) why a student is unable to finish an assignment, please send a note to the teacher on the date the homework is due stating the reason it was not completed. A parent/guardian must sign the note. In regard to turning in make-up work, teachers will work with students to come up with an appropriate due date. The teacher will ensure that the parents are notified of the due date in advance. Excessive late work may result in a contract with the school, parents, and student that will outline specific consequences.

FAILURE POLICY

Any student in 1st – 8th grade who fails a semester in a core subject must either:

1. Retake that class and pass by paying tuition for an approved Faith Christian School tutor.
2. Retake the grade the following year.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Achievement testing is done in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. The school uses NWEA MAP tests for 1st-8th grades.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Students have the option of ordering hot lunch. Families may place their order online through their Sycamore account by 4:00 pm Tuesday for the upcoming week. Menus and prices will vary and will be available for viewing on Sycamore.

Students also have the option of bringing a cold lunch from home. Chocolate and white milk are available to purchase.

Families are expected to keep a positive balance in their students' lunch accounts. When an account goes below \$10, you will receive a notification in your Tuesday folder that it is time to put money in the student's account.

CURRICULUM

With our Mission Statement in mind, our curriculum expectations are to provide:

- High-quality academic instruction with a Christian perspective.
- Biblical truths are integrated throughout the curriculum.
- A solid foundation on which to build further education.
- Cultivation of parental involvement.
- A challenge to all students to achieve their best.
- Curriculum that is known nationwide for its outstanding training and traditional approach.
- Support for an easy transition from other schools to Faith Christian School.

Students are responsible for all textbooks issued to them and will be fined for loss or damage.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Faith Christian School does not provide health or accident insurance for students. They should be covered under a family policy.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports: In order to be eligible to participate on a school-affiliated or co-op team, an average grade of 75% or above must be maintained in every subject, and students must be current in their work. Grades will be averaged on a weekly basis. Additional activity fees will be charged if needed. These activities may be monitored by volunteers. At this time, we have a co-op agreement with Kearney Catholic. This co-op agreement is on a year-to-year basis.

Special Events: Students must be current in their classroom work to participate.

Visiting the School

Please note that when visiting Faith Christian School for any reason, you are expected to first sign in at the office. To do so, please ring the doorbell and wait to be let in. Once in the building, you will be required to sign in using the sign-in kiosk located at the front desk.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

Various committees composed of parents/guardians and friends of Faith Christian School operate under the direction of the administrator with the approval of the school board. A chairperson works closely with the school administration to oversee the committee and reports to the school board monthly, either in person or through the administrator. All families are encouraged to volunteer in at least one area.

Committees include, but are not limited to, the Maintenance Committee, the Development Committee, the Strategic Committee, the Finance Committee, and other various ad hoc committees as determined necessary by the school board. If any of these committees or the following volunteer opportunities interest you, please contact the office:

Box Tops for Education
Classroom Volunteers
Chapel Speakers
Homeroom Mothers
Hot Lunch Servers

Gingerbread Houses
Fundraising
Library
Minor Maintenance
Music for Opening

Raise Right (Formerly SCRIP)
Publicity
School Programs (staging/costumes)
Volunteer
Drivers for Field Trips, etc

SCHOOL LIBRARY

We will utilize our own school library and the bookmobile from Kearney Public Library again this year. Our teachers will assist students in checking out books from our library. Please remember that it is the responsibility of parents and students to bring library books back when they are due.

CLASSROOM VISITATION

Parents are encouraged to visit classrooms; however, scheduling with the teacher in advance is appreciated.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures will be taken in the Fall (date to be announced) and will be received before Christmas.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers are a necessary part of supporting the income of a small private school. Families are expected and encouraged to participate in fundraising.

Student Transportation Policy – School Activities

Faith Christian School may provide transportation for students to and from **school-sponsored activities** when approved by school administration. The school does not provide regular home-to-school transportation.

All transportation provided under this policy is considered a school activity and subject to school supervision and expectations.

Personal Vehicles

Parents, guardians, and school employees may transport students in **personal vehicles** for approved school activities with **prior administrative approval**.

The following documentation must be on file with the school:

- A current, valid driver's license
- Proof of current personal automobile insurance

Drivers using personal vehicles must:

- Transport students only to and from approved school activity locations
Comply with all applicable traffic laws and seat belt requirements
- Transport only authorized students
- Follow all school conduct and supervision expectations

Personal vehicles are **not considered pupil transportation vehicles** and are **not subject to Nebraska Rule 91 training requirements**.

School-Owned Vehicles

Individuals operating **school-owned vehicles** must:

- Hold an appropriate and valid license for the vehicle operated, with a copy on file at the school
- Be at least **21 years of age**
- Complete required insurance authorization or approval forms
- Complete **annual pupil transportation training** as required under **Nebraska Rule 91**

School-owned vehicles used to transport students must be operated in compliance with Nebraska safety standards and applicable inspection requirements.

Compliance

All drivers transporting students must comply with applicable federal, state, and local driving laws and regulations. Drivers of school-owned vehicles must comply with **Nebraska Rule 91** and related pupil transportation safety requirements.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in loss of driving privileges or other administrative action

CHRISTIANS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christians for Christian Education is the corporation that governs Faith Christian School. The corporation meets each spring to conduct the business of the corporation, including but not limited to, approving the budget for the following year and electing the school board members.

Parents are encouraged to join Christians for Christian Education by volunteering ten hours of service to the school or by donating \$250 per person. Applications are on file in the school office.

EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

All repairs and/or modifications of equipment or property belonging to Faith Christian School must have the approval of the administrator or the school board

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Faith Christian School's dress code is intended to promote a positive and respectful educational environment.

While clothing styles vary across families and cultures, the guidelines focus on attire that is **safe, modest, neat, and appropriate for school**. This ensures that students can participate safely in all activities and maintain a respectful, distraction-free environment.

Safety involves wearing items like closed-toed shoes for physical activities, while neatness and modesty reflect respect for God, authority, others, and yourself (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Appropriateness refers to how well clothing is suited to the environment. If you are unsure whether a clothing item meets these standards, please contact the office for clarification **before** allowing your child to wear that item to school.

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The Administration reserves the right to make final decisions on dress code matters, including hair, makeup, or other items not explicitly stated. Parents are encouraged to support their children's understanding of Christian modesty, as personal appearance reflects both the individual and the school's values. Neat, clean, modest, and appropriate clothing that allows students to participate in all school activities is expected from all students.

Top Options:

Allowed	Not Allowed
Any FCS-Issued shirt: Spirit wear of any kind, athletic or club apparel, including t-shirts, long sleeves, hoodies, jackets, or crewnecks	Alterations such as cutting off sleeves
Any polo, including FCS-issued logo polos	- Polo's must not contain any inappropriate images or messages - Eccentric patterns

Bottom Options:

Allowed	Not Allowed
Dress shorts or pants	- Holes and rips - Eccentric patterns
Jeans or jean shorts	- Holes and rips - Eccentric patterns
Polo dresses, uniform dresses, and jumpers are allowed as long as they meet all length requirements	- Dresses that would prohibit students from participating in physical activities such as princess dresses - Eccentric patterns - Boys are not allowed to wear dresses

Allowed	Not Allowed
Uniform skirts or skorts are allowed as long as they meet all length requirements. Please see examples in Table A.	Boys are not allowed to wear skirts

Table A. The following uniform skirts are approved in any available colors:



Footwear:

Allowed	Not Allowed
- Shoes must be worn at all times while on campus - Tennis shoes are ideal, but not required - Students must wear closed-toed, closed-heeled shoes	- Light-up shoes are not allowed - Shoes with wheels are not allowed

Coats and Jackets:

Allowed	Not Allowed
- Students may wear any FCS-issued hoodies, crewnecks, or jackets during the school day as stated above - Students may wear plain sweaters or cardigans over approved tops	Coats in class

Hair:

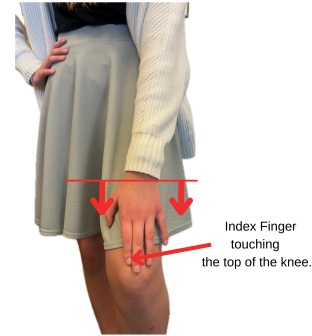
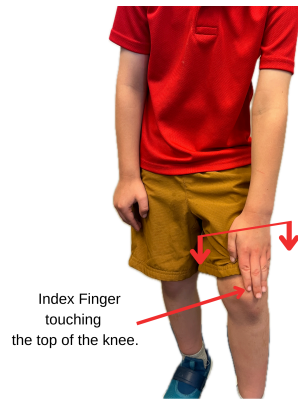
- No unnatural hair colors or highlights of unnatural colors
- Hairstyles should not distract from the learning environment or impede students' ability to participate in all school activities
 - *e.g. a six-inch tall mohawk would be distracting and would impede a student's ability to participate in school activities*
- Hair must be kept neat and out of the face

Jewelry and Makeup:

- No jewelry with secular messages regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs, immorality, or philosophy contrary to a Christian message
- Small earrings are acceptable for girls as long as they don't impede students' ability to participate in all school activities safely
 - e.g. large dangling or hoop earrings may get caught or pulled during recess or P.E. and not be safe.
- No facial piercings or gauges on any student of either gender (this includes nose, cheek, eyebrow, and tongue piercings).
- Make-up, nail polish, and ear piercings are to be worn by female students only.
- Make-up, if worn, should be natural and modest

General Dress Code Rules:

- Not only clothing but all school items (notebooks, folders, backpacks, etc.), should display appropriate slogans/images (NO foul language, sexual innuendo, alcohol or drug references, etc.)
- Underwear, bra straps, boxer shorts, etc. may not be showing.
- Shorts and pants must have a hem. Rips, patches, frays, and holes are not allowed.
- No yoga pants, biker shorts, leggings, or tights unless they are worn under a skirt.
- Shorts or leggings are required under dresses and skirts
- While standing, the student must be able to place their palm so that their index finger touches their knee and their wrist touches their shorts or skirts.



- Hats, bandanas, or hoods cannot be worn in the school building.
- Spikes, sharp metal objects, and large chains hanging on clothing are not permitted.

Special Days: On special “dress up” days, we require that students wear neat, clean, and modest costumes and attire.

Physical Education:

- **PreK-4th Students** should come to school each day in clothes that will allow them to participate in physical activities, including PE and recess.
- **5th-8th Grade Students** will be required to change into gym clothes and tennis shoes for PE. Students must wear gym clothes purchased through the school store. Any dress code-approved tennis shoes are acceptable.

Consequences of Dress Code Violations:

- All dress code violations will be reported to the office, and parents will be notified. We encourage personal responsibility in all students; however, given the age of our students, the ultimate responsibility to follow the dress code falls on parents or guardians.
- If a student is out of the dress code, we will work with the student to address the issue, either by having them change clothes or making a plan if their violation is more permanent, such as dying their hair an unnatural color.
- Additional violations may result in a parent conference with the principal and additional age-appropriate consequences at the discretion of the FCS administration.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do students need to tuck in their shirts?

A. No, students don't typically need to tuck their shirts. Students might be asked to tuck their shirts in on special occasions such as field trips or concerts.

Q. Can polo shirts have patterns and logos?

A. Yes, any polos are allowed as long as they do not have inappropriate messages, images, or distracting patterns.

Q. Can students wear shorts all year round?

A. Yes, students may wear shorts all year round, but we do advise students to dress appropriately for the weather each day.

Designation Of Law Enforcement Units

Faith Christian School Board designates the Kearney Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, and Buffalo County Sheriff's Department as the District's law enforcement units for purposes of:

- A. Enforcing any and all federal, state or local law.
- B. Maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District.
- C. Maintaining safe and drug free schools.
- D. Contracting for specific services to be conducted for educational and safety purposes.

The District designates its building principals collectively as the District's "law enforcement unit." Each building principal is a law enforcement unit officer who is: (1) authorized to refer possible violations of any local, state, or federal law to the Kearney Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, and Buffalo County Sheriff's Department; and (2) charged with maintaining the physical security and safety of the District.

Recordings Made by the District

Faith Christian School Board of Education authorizes the use of video recording devices for monitoring interior and exterior public areas, as well as in district owned or contracted student transportation vehicles, for the purposes of ensuring the health, welfare and safety of staff, students and visitors, safeguarding district facilities and equipment and maintaining student discipline and an appropriate educational and work environment. The devices shall not be placed or operational in locations in which individuals have a high expectation of privacy, such as restrooms and locker rooms.

Procedure District Video Recording

- A. Placement. Video recording devices are authorized to be placed in public areas in school facilities and on school grounds, as well as in district owned or contracted student transportation vehicles. The video recording devices shall not be placed in locations in which individuals have a high expectation of privacy, such as restrooms and locker rooms.
- B. Notice. Notice that video recording cameras are being utilized shall be given through appropriate mechanisms, such as by posting signs in the building entry and other locations and by including a notice in the student-parent and staff handbooks.
- C. Use of Video Recordings. Video records may be used as a basis for student or employee disciplinary action and for making reports to law enforcement.
- D. Interference with the Video Recording System. Students or staff who vandalize, damage, disable, render inoperable, or otherwise interfere with video recording equipment or recordings, or use the video recording system in a manner that is not consistent with the purposes set forth in this procedure, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (up to and including expulsion for a student and termination for a staff member) and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities



*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue,
to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance,
to perseverance godliness, to godliness, brotherly kindness, and
to brotherly kindness love."
II Peter 1:5-7*