



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2020/2021 School Year

(updated: December, 2019)

www.EvansvilleChristian.org
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PREFACE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a framework of mutual understanding that will enable us as a school to be of maximum benefit to our parents and students. Experience has taught us that the principles outlined herein are Biblically consistent and workable. We commend them to you as the basis for an excellent year, to the glory of God.

Please read this handbook carefully and call the School Office for any clarification. You need to be knowledgeable of and in agreement with the policies, standards, and expectations published in this handbook before your child(ren) attend Evansville Christian School. Signatures on the enrollment forms indicate that the parent and student will comply with the contents of this handbook.



MISSION

To empower students to embrace a Biblical worldview through spiritual & academic growth, servant leadership, and authentic relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.

VISION

To see individuals and communities transformed for the glory of God through generations of educated and equipped servant-leaders.

CORE VALUES

Trust in Biblical Authority
Aspire to Academic Excellence with a Biblical Worldview
Commit to Partnership

They will soar on wings as eagles.

- Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

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INTRODUCTION AND FOUNDATION

At Evansville Christian School, our purpose is to bridge the relationship between the educational experience and the dynamics of the Christian life including the following:

Academics - A quality academic program integrated with Biblical principles designed to meet the challenges of high school and beyond.

Atmosphere - A disciplined and distinctively Christian environment that teaches respect for authority and Biblical standards of morality.

Action - A challenge to be involved in the activities of the school and the outreach of the local church to develop Christian leaders capable of making a difference in their society for Jesus Christ.

ACCREDITATION

Evansville Christian School is fully accredited by the State of Indiana, the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and Cognia. **ECS is an A-Rated, Four-Star, High Achievement/High Growth school per the Indiana Department of Education.**

ARTICLES OF FAITH

(Adopted from Association of Christian Schools International)

1. 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).
2. 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).
3. 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).
4. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).
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).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founded in 1975, ECS was incorporated in 1990 as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation with an independent board of directors. ECS is governed by a self-perpetuating board of directors, including parents of current students, pastors, and community leaders. The directors serve staggered, three-year terms. In addition, the head of school serves on the board as an ex-officio, non-voting member. The board is responsible for the overall direction of the school and makes policy decisions. Day-to-day operations are the responsibility of the head of school and the administrative leadership team. After meeting with your child's teacher, appropriate principal, and head of school, unresolved concerns should be addressed to the President of the Board and sent through the school office.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

ECS admits students of any race, religion, color, or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, tuition assistance programs, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

PARENT-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

Parent involvement is key to your student's success and a strength of ECS. Further, the cooperative relationship of teachers and parents enhances the learning process for our students. ECS teachers are committed to providing rigorous instruction in a loving academic environment that challenges all learners. We partner with parents and the Christian community to inspire your child(ren) to excel academically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually; and motivate them to achieve their God-given potential.

We are committed to communicating with you, on a regular basis, regarding your child's progress, successes, and struggles. We encourage parents to regularly review their child's status through FACTS, our on-line school management system. Parents are able to review schedules, homework, test/quizzes, grades, attendance, and account balances. We ask that parents support the high academic standards of ECS by encouraging your child and providing a place in your home for the completion of homework and assignments.

ECS welcomes your involvement through the Parent-Teacher Fellowship. The PTF offers many organized ways for you to participate in your child's education. Through PTF, you can volunteer time as a tutor, classroom helper, copy assistant, or library assistant. Parents can also support ECS by participating in events such as Fall Family Fun Night, Grand Prix Race, Variety Show, and other programs sponsored by PTF. The PTF membership drive takes place at the beginning of the school year. While all parents are welcome to be involved in PTF, some roles, including officers, have specific requirements for service. Additional information on PTF may be obtained at the school offices.

Teachers and administrators welcome your comments, ideas, and concerns; and, we look forward to discussing and working together in a positive and proactive partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please approach your child's teacher directly. Parents are requested to schedule appointments with teachers so that instructional time and/or student supervision/safety is not compromised. If you need to speak to a teacher, please contact the school office. A message will be left for the teacher to return your call. Teachers typically return calls during their planning period, after school, or in the evenings. If you are unable to resolve the issue, then please contact the appropriate Principal. We believe this approach adheres to the Biblical principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, preserves confidentiality, minimizes gossip, and glorifies God. Our desire is that we ask that all parties come together in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Parents should not approach another student to question them or discipline them. Refer all concerns to your child's teacher for resolution.

LOCAL CHURCHES

ECS desires to support our students' churches by teaching them support and loyalty, and helping them develop a servant attitude and a heart for missions. Further, training Christian leaders is one of the key goals of ECS. Through character building in Bible class, leadership opportunities in sports and organizations, and through daily classroom activities, we seek to instill in our students the desire to stand up and witness and minister in Christ's name now and in the future.

Typically, students from more than one hundred Tri-State churches attend Evansville Christian School. Our teachers are strong members of several different area churches.

This represents a sacred trust to the entire Body of Christ in this community. We do not take this responsibility lightly. Therefore, we make the following pledge:

1. Evansville Christian School will strongly encourage its students to be faithful to the regular services of their Bible-believing churches.
2. Members of the faculty will be required to be faithful to the regular services of their own Bible-believing churches.
3. The students of ECS will be taught to support their Bible-believing churches and to be deeply loyal to their pastors.
4. Among Bible-believing Christians, the area of mutual Scriptural agreement is vast. By comparison, the area of doctrinal differences is small. Evansville Christian School will respect the doctrinal distinctives of its Bible-believing students and faculty. When such issues arise, the student will be referred to his parent or Bible-believing pastor for Scriptural explanation.

ECS desires to be a Heaven-sent blessing to the pastors, Bible-believing churches, and ministries of the Tri-State. It is our dream to turn out young people who grow up to be loyal members of their churches, the right arm of their pastors, and faithful servants of Jesus Christ.

ADMISSIONS (ROUTINE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE)

ADMISSIONS STANDARDS

Evansville Christian School is an open enrollment school, meaning that families are not required to have a Christian affiliation in order to attend. As believers in Jesus Christ as Lord, ECS believes an open enrollment policy to be intentional and missional to the benefit of the Kingdom. It is very important, however, that families understand that though they may not share a biblical worldview, they may not opt out of the biblical truths of God's Word, and they are not permitted to actively promote a worldview outside of what ECS endorses through its Articles of Faith. The ECS Articles of Faith clearly articulate the authority of the Christian Bible and, as such, we will teach and lead according to its Word.

Evansville Christian School accepts students, with grade point averages and test scores that are average to above average, who agree to abide by our attendance, conduct, academics, and financial requirements provided we can meet the student's needs and the family supports our mission. The admissions process will include an interview with the principal, or designee, for all families who will be new to ECS (including those who have been gone for more than one school year); all new students in 1st grade or higher, and all Preschool/PK/K students with special circumstances. The principal may also contact the student's former school. An interview is NOT required for incoming Preschool, PK, and K siblings of current families unless requested by the parents or the school.

Recent report cards, conduct/behavior history, attendance records, PS/PK questionnaire, and achievement test scores should be submitted with the application and will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee before consideration of an admissions interview. If applicable, copies of IEPs, 504 Plans, allergy/asthma plans, ILPs for English Language Learners, and custodial documents must also be provided. It is essential for parents and students to provide full and honest disclosure of the student's academic needs, conduct/behavior history, attendance, and other past educational history. See section below on policies regarding students with special needs, including students new to ECS and students who are already enrolled.

ECS reserves the right not to accept any student, including those who have been expelled from another school; have a poor attendance record (absences or tardies); have a history of discipline issues, inappropriate, or disruptive behavior; or have a history of involvement with drugs, alcohol, or other illegal activities. Any present student who is found to have had a history of involvement, or is presently involved, with drugs, alcohol, or other illegal activities, on or off campus, will be in danger of immediate expulsion. This policy also applies to those students involved with drug "look-alike" substances, as well as to those students who exhibit behavior consistent with drug use. Also, students evidencing violent or severely disruptive behavior of any kind will be in danger of expulsion.

APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT FOR NEW STUDENTS (for siblings of current ECS families, see Continuous Enrollment below)

The application and enrollment information for the upcoming school year are typically prepared by early January, including enrollment criteria, instructions, link to online forms, and tuition/fee schedule. All enrollment materials, including birth certificate (from county health department) must be submitted for the application to be considered complete. Enrollments are accepted on a rolling basis where grade level space permits and in accord with requirements, such as lottery requirements for new families eligible for the School Choice Voucher. Following an interview with the Principal, the Director of Admissions will consult with members of the Admissions Committee, who will make an enrollment decision within one week. See the New Student Application Instructions for detailed information.

STUDENT INDEPENDENCE IN THE RESTROOM

It is our policy that all students are independent in the restroom. This requires the ability to communicate, have muscle awareness, hand-eye coordination, and gross motor skills. All are readiness skills necessary for learning within the classroom. A child who is independent in the restroom is able to:

1. TELL the adult BEFORE they need to go. They must be able to say the words, "I need to go to the bathroom (potty)."
2. Pull down their clothing and get them back on without assistance.
3. Get on and off the toilet.
4. Wipe themselves after using the toilet.
5. Wash and dry hands.
6. Wait if the restroom is occupied or the class is not near the restroom.

Teachers and staff continually remind children to use the restroom throughout the day and offer frequent restroom breaks; including prior to naptime and if they wake up during naptime (Pre-School). With experience comes confidence and consistency. Accidents will occur with our young learners. A child may be more easily distracted at school by activities and friends. Because of this, parents of students in Pre-School through Kindergarten are to provide a change of clothes and shoes in a zip lock bag for their child. The child's name should be written clearly on the outside of the bag and stored in their backpack. It's advised to choose clothing in which your child can easily dress and undress himself/herself.

In the case of an accident, the restroom door shall remain ajar as a staff member coaches the child in cleaning and changing their clothing. They will offer wet wipes if necessary. Items are to be disposed of properly (refer to universal precautions). Soiled garments will be placed in a sealed bag to go home the same day. If a Pre-School student needs additional assistance, a witness shall be present and gloves worn as the staff member aids in the process. In some cases parents may be called for assistance. Parents will be notified. The incident should be documented in FACTS under Medical Event.

Parents should inform their child's teacher or health coordinator of any new medications being given which may cause an increase in urgency or loose stools. As a reminder, students should not attend school if they have three or more episodes of loose stools in a 24-hour period. For further information regarding medical issues, please refer to the ECS Family Handbook.

If a child has repeated accidents, they are not considered to be independent in the restroom. With respect to ECS's role as an educational ministry and in consideration of other students and staff, the student may be subject to withdrawal from the program.

PRESCHOOL AND PREKINDERGARTEN (PK)

ECS offers a five-days per week, full-day program (8:15 a.m.- 3:15 p.m.) for preschool (age 3 by August 1) and PK (age 4 by August 1) at our Crossroads Campus, as well as before and after school care (6:30 a.m. until school starts and after school until 6:00 p.m.). The campus features small classes, licensed teachers, and facilities designed to meet the developmentally-appropriate needs of young children.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten, at our East campus, offer full-day classes (8 a.m. – 3 p.m.) designed to meet parents' and students' needs. To enroll in kindergarten, the student must be age 5 by August 1. Before and after school care (6:30 a.m. until school starts and after school until 6:00 p.m.) is also available for kindergarten students at our East Campus.

We use a wide variety of age appropriate hands-on activities, thematic units, learning centers, and phonics-based reading to meet the needs of early learners. An excitement for learning is fostered in all that we do, as well as a genuine love for the Lord. We believe that creating an environment that focuses on a love for Jesus will prepare our students to learn, and in return enable them to fully become all that God designed them to be. The Bible concepts and Scripture that are covered are relevant and necessary for these young learners. Biblical truths are practiced and filtered throughout each day. Each May, students in kindergarten celebrate their accomplishments and completion of the year with a program and reception.

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Each student, esp. in middle and high school, is a particularly unique individual going through a particularly unique phase of life and will experience a range of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual changes. Our desire is to partner with you to help your child reach his/her full God-given potential and lay a foundation that will prepare them for success. All students entering 6th grade and all students new to ECS in 7th-12th grade must indicate a desire to be part of the ECS student body and support for ECS policies. See Student Commitment Form.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

When a student with unique needs who requires special interventions interviews for admission to ECS, the principals will review the student's academic records, including their Section 504 Plan, Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), or ILP for English Language Learners to determine if ECS can meet the student's needs with minor adjustments to the educational program.

If a student who is already enrolled at ECS is thought to potentially need educational intervention, the principals will refer the student to the Educational Intervention Team (EIT) to evaluate and plan academic interventions. Those might include testing and referral to a case conference committee in collaboration with the ECS resource staff and the public school corporation. A Section 504 Plan may be developed, or, if the student needs special education services or related services, a Service Plan will be developed.

ECS will collaborate with parents, local public school special education personnel, and local testing agencies to review testing and design a Service Plan. Our resource program strives to assist students who are in the EIT process, who have a Service Plan (IEP in a public school), ILP for English Language Learners, or who qualify for a 504 Plan to meet educational goals by: supporting interventions and accommodations implemented within the classroom, addressing goals outlined in students' plans, collaborating with local public school special education personnel, including instruction with the general education teacher in the classroom, and providing small group pull-out instruction with a resource teacher within specified time constraints. Services may include reading/proctoring tests, remediation, baseline testing, addressing goals of Service Plan, alternate instruction using scientifically-based interventions, and use of alternate curriculum to meet academic content standards. ECS acknowledges it is our responsibility to parents and students to annually determine whether ECS students' needs can continue to be met at ECS, considering the specific needs of the students, facility constraints, personnel constraints, and schedules.

For young children, the rate of development varies significantly. Though a child may not appear to be performing at the level of his/her peers, teachers and parents must consider developmental milestones when gauging progress and identifying concerns. EITs will use developmental checklists as provided by the Local Education Agency (LEA), appropriate benchmarks and assessments, and research-based developmental screening tools when communicating student progress and/or concerns.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

We consider your child's enrollment as the first step in a long-term partnership through the remaining grades at ECS. Through our Continuous Enrollment process, we will automatically secure a place for your student in future years and charge the annual commitment fee to your account unless you completed a withdrawal notification form by an announced date. Information will be distributed each January for the coming school year (e.g., January 2020 for the 20/21 school year). The notification date will be before enrollment opens to the public.

EVALUATION PERIOD

All new students are subject to an evaluation period. If a student is unable to adjust to the academic, attendance, or behavioral requirements of ECS, the principal will notify the parent and request the student to transfer out. Further, if incomplete or misleading information is disclosed at the time of admission or meeting with the principal, ECS reserves the right to request the student to transfer out. Although less likely, the same procedure may be followed at any time during the school year.

TUITION ASSISTANCE & SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

Specific deadlines apply. ECS is a participant in the Indiana School Choice programs including vouchers and special opportunities for kindergarten students. In addition, ECS offers tuition assistance opportunities to supplement the State programs and for families who do not qualify for the State programs. We encourage all families with potential financial needs to inquire about the programs. Contact the school office for current information and applications.

ORIENTATION MEETING

An orientation meeting will be held at Back-to-School Event(s), designated opportunities before the first day of school, for parents and students. If a parent cannot attend the meeting, teachers will prepare an information sheet to be sent home with students.

TEACHER REQUESTS

While parents of students entering K-3rd grade may submit a request for a teacher, placement is not guaranteed due to many considerations required in assembling a class roster including students' needs, input from previous teachers, and gender. To make a request, parents must submit a Teacher Request Form, which outlines a valid educational reason for the request, before the last day of the school year. You may be contacted by the principal. No requests will be accepted after the last day of the school year. Further, parents may not request a teacher in preschool, PK, and beyond 3rd grade. Class lists are posted at Back-to-School event(s).

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

If a student needs to be withdrawn from ECS (school and/or before & after school care), the parent should contact the Business Office as soon as the decision is made. A student is considered withdrawn as of the date specified by the guardian in written/electronic communication with the business office. Your account will continue to be charged until the written/electronic communication has been received. Please be aware of the following items:

Account Balance - Student records will not be released to the new school if there is a balance due on an account (see below).

Transcript Request - All transcript requests must come in writing from the student's new school. Transcripts are faxed, mailed directly, or emailed between schools to preserve their accuracy.

Mid-Year Re-Registration - A student will only be allowed to re-register once during a school year.

WITHHOLDING STUDENT RECORDS

In accord with State law, Evansville Christian School reserves the right to withhold student records, including progress reports, report cards, and achievement test results for any withdrawn or dismissed student if there is a balance due on the account. Accounts with delinquent balances 60 days late will be cause for student dismissal (see later information regarding Delinquent Accounts). Further, report cards, transcripts, and diplomas may be withheld for any graduated student if there is a balance due on the account. We will send actual documents when the account is paid in full.

CONDUCT POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be both prompt to school and regular in attendance. ECS believes that these two areas are character builders and establish good lifetime habits. There are times, however, when parents need to use their discretion and keep their child home when he/she is sick or has a contagious disease. *See the Health Coordinator's Office section for more information.* To participate in any school-related after school or evening activities, a student must attend a full day of school the day of the activity, unless approved by school administration. Parents are not to schedule lessons (e.g., piano, etc.) during the school day. Further, vacations during school time are strongly discouraged.

All absences and tardies, even those excused, count toward total absences and impact student learning. Excessive absences or tardiness may result in a student not being allowed to make up classwork for full credit, and in extreme cases, may result in a student being asked to withdraw or not allowed to re-enroll. Regular attendance and punctuality to class are essential to success in school and later in life. It is important to note that if ECS is in school while other systems are out, students are expected to be at school.

School sponsored field trips and activities are viewed as an important part of the educational process. Students are expected to attend these events. Unless noted under the excused absence policy below, absences on these days will count as unexcused absences.

When the student has accumulated 7 absences for any reason during a semester, the parents will automatically be notified by email from FACTS. When the student accumulates 10 absences during a semester, the principal will contact the parents to discuss the appropriate measures that will be taken. No more than 10 absences (excused or unexcused, for any reason, with the exception of absences verified by a doctor's excuse) per semester will be allowed.

In grades 4 – high school, if the student is tardy by more than ½ of a class period, they will be marked absent instead of tardy and no more than 10 absences in a given class will be allowed. Special consideration may be given by the principal in cases of prolonged personal illness, serious illness, or death in the immediate family. School sponsored activities will not be counted against the student.

Parents have the responsibility to contact the school office by 9:00 each morning that their child is absent (call the school at 812-477-7777 or email to attendance@evansvillechristian.org). Otherwise, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Excused Absences – Excused absences are defined as absences for legitimate reasons including the following:

- Illness verified by the parent (either by phone, email, or note) that lasts no more than 3 consecutive days;
- Illness verified by a note from a physician (required for illnesses lasting more than 3 consecutive days);
- Death or severe illness in the family;
- Family emergencies;
- Medical and dental appointments verified with note from the physician¹; and
- Court appearances.

In accord with Indiana Code 20-33-2, student absences will be exempt and will not count toward the days missed, as long as a written excuse is provided to the school prior to the event, including serving as a page or honoree of the General Assembly; serving on the precinct election board or as a helper to a political candidate or party on the day of a municipal, primary or general election; when subpoenaed to testify in court; serving with the National Guard for no more than 10 days; or serving with the Civil Air Patrol for up to 5 days, the student is approved for an educationally related non-classroom activity; the student or a member of the student's household exhibits or participates in the Indiana State Fair for education purposes.

Physician notes must be dated and received within 7 days of the missed date. If a doctor's excuse or admit is not received, the absences will be counted as unexcused (see unexcused policy below).

Students have one day for each day they are absent to make up work, e.g., if a student is absent two days, he would have two days to turn in the make-up work, along with keeping up with the daily homework. Projects or reports that required one or more weeks work are due on the due date (if a student is absent, it is due to the school office by 10:00 a.m. on the day it is due). See Homework Policy for implications of work not turned in on time. Students will not receive credit for classes in which all work is not satisfactorily completed.

Unexcused Absences – Any absence that does not fall within the excused absence category, even if the parent has written an excuse, will

¹Parents should avoid making appointments during the school day when possible. If appointments outside of the school day are unavoidable, parents should vary the appointment times to avoid missing the same class on multiple occasions.

be considered unexcused. These include family vacations, tardiness, absences due to school suspension (these will not count towards the 10-day absence policy), absence without the knowledge and consent of parents and/or the school (i.e., when the school office is not notified of a student's absence) and lessons (i.e. piano, non-ECS sports, etc.). All unexcused absences will require makeup work to be completed. However, full credit may not be given in all circumstances. Principals will evaluate on a case by case basis if credit will be given.

Planned Unexcused Absences – are strongly discouraged for discretionary events such as vacations. A planned unexcused absence is any absence of 3 or more days and must be approved by the appropriate principal in advance. Class assignments missed due to a planned unexcused absence (e.g., sporting events, vacation, etc.) must be gathered by the student **in advance** and turned **in the same day** the student returns to school. Make up tests must be taken **the same day** or a zero may be given.

Under the Senate Enrolled Act 338, **Chronic absenteeism** is defined as any student that is absent from school for 10% (18 days in a 180-day school year) or more days for a school year for any reason. **Habitual truancy** is defined as ten (10) days or more absent from school within a school year without being excused or without being absent under a parents request that has been filed with the school. According to Indiana Code 20-33-2-25 that relates to Indiana's compulsory attendance law, "The superintendent or an attendance officer having jurisdiction shall report a child who is habitually absent from school in violation of this chapter to an intake officer of the juvenile court of the department of child services."

Tardy Policies – Parents are responsible to see that their children arrive to school on time. Regular attendance and punctuality to class are essential to success in school and later in life. Classroom interruptions are harmful to the flow of classroom instruction. Students should be on time to each class daily. Any student not in their classroom when the tardy bell rings must obtain an admit slip from the school office – the parent MUST accompany the student to the office to sign in and receive the slip. Tardiness will be classified as excused or unexcused and will be tracked on a **per semester** basis. An excused tardy **will not** count against the student.

The following are **unexcused** tardy guidelines for the start of the school day (period 1 only):

- 1 – 2 no consequence
- 3 – 4 lunch detention
- 5 before school detention and conference with parents
- 6 or more will be dealt with on an individual basis

If a tardy is caused by a medical reason (i.e. doctor's visit), the student **must bring an admit slip from the doctor** and present it to the school office for the tardy to be excused. If a doctor's admit is not received, the tardy will be counted against the student and the appropriate action will be taken. Tardiness due to situations beyond parent control (e.g., inclement weather, etc.) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

In middle school and high school, tardy to class is defined as any student who is not in the room when the bell rings (without official ECS excuse). The consequences for excessive classroom tardies will be as follows:

- 5 tardies = lunch detention
- 8 tardies = 2 lunch detentions and parent conference
- 10 tardies = 1 day in-school suspension
- 11+ tardies = treated as case-by-case basis by Administration

Further, the accumulation of tardies is reset at the beginning of each month for students to experience the grace of a truly fresh start.

DRESS CODE

The dress code at ECS is designed to further our mission and philosophy of education, be easy to understand, be easy to enforce, be affordable, minimize rules, and maximize values. Our desire is to instill values of modesty and to train our children to have an overall perspective that will survive the ever-changing fashion cycles.

Our goal at ECS is to dress to honor Christ with a modest and neat appearance. Therefore, clothing should not be a distraction and should fit appropriately. No undersized or oversized clothing is acceptable. Any hair and dress styles that are overly faddish or that draw attention to the student will not be allowed. We seek your cooperation in carrying out these standards so that the Biblical teachings of respect for those in authority might be upheld (Hebrews 13:17). God is interested in changed hearts and lives that demonstrate that change (I Samuel 16:7, I Peter 3:3-4).

If a child comes to school dressed improperly, you will be requested to bring him/her a proper change of clothing. The dress code is in effect for all school days, as well as all school-sponsored events.

Hair/Jewelry

- Boys - Hair cannot be in the eyes.
 - Earrings or other body piercings are not allowed.
- Girls - Pierced ears are acceptable.
 - Body piercing (including nose and brow piercings), excessive jewelry, and excessive make-up are not allowed.

- All - Hair color must be predominantly natural color. Sparse highlights are permissible. When in doubt, please ask the principal (before highlighting!).

Shirts/Tops

- All shirts, including T-shirts, with positive graphics and language are acceptable.
- All shirts and dresses must have sleeves.
- Shirts and tops may not be more than one size larger than a student normally wears.
- Shirts must not reveal the body during normal activity.
- Shirts may not have a plunging neckline.
- All undergarment straps must be covered.

Pants/Shorts

- *Casual wear, including jeans and sweatsuits, are acceptable daily attire. Belts are optional.*
- *Shorts, dresses, and skirts are to be of modest length.*
- *These must be neatly hemmed without frayed edges or holes.*

Shoes

- Shoes and sandals must have a back strap or an enclosed heel.

Modifications for Preschool and Prekindergarten

Additionally, our desire for our youngest students would be that students are dressed in a way that allows for them to play and work freely and comfortably, without distraction, nor hindered by their clothing. Please do not send watches, noise making clothing, or other items that would prevent your child from giving full attention to their activities.

Some young children still struggle with a few of the skills in dressing themselves, particularly working belts, buttons, and snaps. When purchasing clothes and dressing your child for school, please consider whether your child can undress and redress in these items independently. It can be uncomfortable for a child if assistance is needed, or if an accident happens due to inability to undress quickly.

- Girls should wear shorts or leggings under dresses and skirts.
- Shoes should have a closed toe.
- As preschool and prekindergarten spend a lot of time on the floor and learning to use materials that can be messy, such as paints, children should wear clothing that allows them to be comfortable as they learn and explore.
- An extra set of clothes should be kept in the backpack for emergencies.

Modifications for Middle School and High School Students

Pants/Shorts

- Shorts, dresses, and skirts must err toward knee length or longer when the student is sitting down.
- Leggings or form-fitting pants (yoga pants, etc...) are permissible, but require a shirt or dress that covers the student down to the mid-thigh or longer when sitting down (erring toward the knee).
- Holes or frays in jeans are permissible at the knee or below.

Shoes

- Shoes and sandals do not require a back strap or an enclosed heel unless required for a specific experience in a course (i.e. chemistry lab, physical education, etc...)

NOTES: Spirit Days and other special event days will be announced in which changes in the dress code will be acceptable. See our **Summer Camp** brochures for information on dress code for our summer programs.

GYM CLOTHES: Gym uniforms (purchased through the school) are required for boys and girls in grades two through nine, as well as any high school student taking a PE elective course (1st graders do not change for gym). Appropriate gym shoes are required. Only shoes with non-marking soles and laces/velcro are acceptable.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Proverbs 22:6 speaks of training a child in the way he should go. This involves disciplining the child's life so that he can learn to function according to God's way. Love is the main element of discipline. We love our students enough to discipline them and help them understand the consequences of the choices that we make. Further, disciplinary action is an opportunity to share God's story of redemption. Firm boundaries are drawn and enforced with love.

Reminders, corrections, rewards, praise, and punishment are all a part of discipline. Students need to know what the boundaries are in the classroom and in life. They need to experience the consequences of disobedience and the rewards (internal and external) of obedience. "Time-out" from an activity is the punishment used for consistent disobedience. Calendar activities and outings can also be removed from a student's day if there is an obvious refusal to cooperate. A student will not be denied meals for disciplinary reasons. Parents will be notified of consistent disobedience. Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent-the Lord detests them both. (Proverbs 17:15).

ECS teachers will handle behavior problems for the benefit of individual students. When necessary, teachers will refer students to the principal for further action. Chronic discipline situations will be referred to the Intervention Team. Some of the possible actions are:

Possible Steps in the Classroom include: counseling and praying with the student in private; change of seating arrangements; written report; loss of activity time; call to parents; verbal reminder; and behavior referral (given for chronic, discipline or academic issues, or any issue listed under "student conduct").

Possible Additional Steps for Continuing Behavior Problems include: counseling by the principal; time lost in after-school activities; and referral to Intervention Team.

Possible Actions of the Principal include: call to parents; parent conference with teacher or teachers; student, parent, school contract set up by Intervention Team; in-school suspension; and suspension for one or more days.

Behavioral referrals allow the parents to see which actions have been taken up to that point in the discipline process. Any behavior-related contact sent home by a teacher or principal means that there is a problem serious enough for parents and teachers to address immediately and effectively. A behavior referral details the problem and signifies that drastic actions may have to be taken if a change in behavior does not take place very shortly thereafter.

Parents will be asked to come in for a conference when the teacher or administrator believes that their child needs guidance and counsel in relation to his behavior. Of course, the education, which includes discipline at ECS, will not work the way it should without parents and teachers working together. Parent support of school policies and actions is vital. If you have a question about a particular disciplinary action, please feel free to come in and discuss it. Our students need to see us working together in support of one another for their good. There may be times when parents are asked to come to school to discipline their child because of severe or continuing discipline problems. Parents are expected to comply when this request is made. ECS staff administers no corporal punishment. Hebrews 12:11 is extremely important for us to take to heart: *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

STUDENT CONDUCT

These rules apply to the school premises, on school buses, at school related activities, at school functions of any kind, and off school activities which directly affect other students or the school in any way:

ECS promotes a biblical worldview based on our Articles of Faith. While students and families are always encouraged to ask questions about beliefs of biblical faith and other faiths, it is not permitted to actively promote a worldview outside of what ECS endorses through its Articles of Faith.

Engaging in any illegal activity is not permitted.

Behavior which interferes with school purpose or educational function; including classroom interruptions, cheating, unpreparedness, uncooperative attitude is not permitted. Cheating is defined as copying homework, handing in another's work, plagiarism, and unauthorized assistance on tests and assignments. The student will receive a zero on the test or assignment in addition to other possible consequences.

Students must abide by the ECS Acceptable Use Policy for technology.

The use of violence, force, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, cyberbullying, or comparable conduct interfering with school purposes, or urging other students to engage in such conduct is prohibited.

Students are prohibited from carrying a weapon or "look-alike" weapon of any type. Allegations and threats, including "look-alike" weapons, are handled with zero tolerance and may result in suspension or expulsion, as well as involvement of law enforcement.

Students possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any drug, alcohol, intoxicant, or illegal substance of any kind will result in disciplinary action, including possible expulsion. Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician

shall not be a violation of this rule. Students must give any prescription or non-prescription drugs to the school health coordinator upon arrival. See Medication Policy for specific information regarding over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Students shall show respect and not use verbal or physical abuse, sexually harass others, engage in any indecent language, gesture, or acts, or make threats of violence.

ECS prohibits acts of bullying, as student physical, emotional and spiritual health are priorities in educating and equipping students to become future leaders. Bullying is defined as repeated behaviors occurring during or outside of school hours regardless of physical location that are committed by a student toward another student with the intent to cause harm to another student in some manner resulting in an objectively hostile learning environment.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Policy Statement

ECS prohibits acts of bullying, as student physical, emotional and spiritual health are priorities in educating and equipping students to become future leaders. ECS holds the following Biblical principles in the development of this Bullying Prevention Policy:

- Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" 1 Timothy 4:12.
- "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" Matt. 7:12.
- "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" Matthew 22:37-40.

Definitions

- a. As defined by Evansville Christian School, bullying means "repeated behaviors occurring during or outside of school hours regardless of physical location that are committed by a student toward another student with the intent to cause harm to another student in some manner resulting in an objectively hostile learning environment."
- b. As defined by IC 20-33-8-0.2, Bullying means "overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:
 - i. Places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
 - ii. Has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health
 - iii. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
 - iv. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.
- c. This term may not be interpreted to impose any burden or sanction on, or include in the definition of the term, the following
 - i. Participating in a religious event.
 - ii. Acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger.
 - iii. Participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student's rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, or both.
 - iv. Participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults.
 - v. Participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student's parent.
 - vi. Engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana."

Policy Provisions

- a. Evansville Christian School shall adopt discipline rules in compliance with IC 20-33-8-13.5 that prohibit bullying and include provisions concerning education, parental involvement and intervention. These rules shall be made available to students, staff and parents through the Student Handbook (specifically pages 16-17).
- b. Evansville Christian School shall provide Bully Prevention Education in various ways for all students in grades 1-8. Education may be provided through the following: chapels, health curriculum, daily Bible lessons, Truth Talks, classroom procedures, presentations by social worker/counselor, Culture Checks with the Principal, EPD School Liaison, etc. Curriculum for Bully

Prevention Education shall be determined by each grade level as developmentally appropriate. Curriculum shall include research-based information as required by IC 5-2-10.1-12

- c. All school employees, volunteers, and contracted service providers who have contact with students are required to verbally report alleged violations of this policy to the principal (or the principal's designee) on the same day that an incident was witnessed or reliable information regarding the occurrence of an incident was received. Reports may also be submitted anonymously and in writing. If a report requires law enforcement involvement, that report shall also be made on the same day that an incident was witnessed or reliable information regarding the occurrence of an incident was received.
- d. The principal or designee shall conduct an investigation for each report of an alleged incident of bullying received. Following an investigation, parents of the students involved shall be contacted in an expedited manner.
- e. If the report of bullying is substantiated, the incident shall be recorded in the student's record and appropriate consequences and remedial responses shall be implemented. Each bullying event recorded shall include the following:
 - i. Category of the bullying behavior as defined by the Indiana Department of Education (Physical, Verbal, Social/Relational, Electronic or Written Communication, Combination of Categories)
 - ii. Record of the investigation
 - iii. Disciplinary action
- f. The principal shall implement procedures that ensure the appropriate consequences and remedial responses for students who commit one or more acts of bullying, consistent with the Student Handbook.
- g. Remedial responses and support services may include but are not limited to the following: referral to counseling, additional education through research-based bullying curriculum, behavioral contracts, parental cooperation/involvement as appropriate, etc.
- h. Failure to report or the false reporting an incident of bullying may result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate following an investigation.
- i. Teachers shall complete training annually for bullying prevention and intervention as required by IC 20-26-5-34.2.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES RELATED TO STUDENT THREATS

A threat of physical harm made against someone verbally, technologically, psychologically, written, drawn, gestured or communicated in any other manner is not welcome as a part of the ECS Culture. ECS employs a zero tolerance stance towards these types of actions, and it is considered to be in effect whether school is in or out of session. Should it be confirmed that such actions took place, the student will be immediately suspended pending further investigation by our administrative team. Additional disciplinary action may apply given the results of the investigation, up to and including removal of the student from Evansville Christian School.

PERSONAL ITEMS

(including electronic devices, use of photography, pets, etc...)

Unauthorized electronic devices, trading cards, toys, etc., are not permitted on school grounds or on buses. If seen, they will be confiscated. Consequences will be based on the number of offenses (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) and other factors. ECS reserves the right to examine the contents of confiscated electronic devices, etc. Cell phone use, including texting, is not permitted while driving on school grounds. Further, videos or photographs taken at school or any school related event should not include students' names.

Any technology that does not serve the learning experience should be kept at home. Many items can create learning experiences, but students should understand that teachers will direct students on when it may be appropriate to use them (i.e. cell phones, cameras, etc...)

ECS understands that circumstances arise that warrant the use of cell phones when the office is closed, e.g., after school practice. Thus, cell phones are allowed at school for middle school and high school students and only for the expressed purposes of parent communication (with permission from the authority in charge). Students in preschool through fifth grade may not bring/use a cell phone at school.

Students in Preschool-5th grade are not to chew gum during regular school hours, including lunch time. Bicycles, motorized bikes, skateboards, and roller blades are not allowed on ECS property. Unless approved by administration, pets are not permitted on school grounds, including dismissal areas.

STUDENT LOCKERS

Student lockers are the property of ECS and are provided as a service for students. Any locker may be opened and searched at any time by school authorities.

SUSPENSION

Students can be suspended for one or more days because of severe behavior problems such as fighting, direct disobedience, blatant disrespect, bullying, and threatening another student. Students can also be suspended for continuing disobedience problems. A grade of zero may be given for each suspension day, but classwork is still required to be done. Suspension days do not count toward the 10-day absence policy.

EXPULSION

Along with possession of or use of weapons or “look-alike” weapons, drugs or drug “look-alike” substances, alcohol, or other illegal activities, students can be expelled from school for evidencing violent, threatening, bullying, or severely disruptive behavior of any kind.

SCHOOL & OFFICE POLICIES

Please notify the School Office and your child's teacher immediately of any change of address, telephone number, family physician, authorized pick-up list, or other important information. The office locations and hours for each campus are as follows:

- **East** – Located at the west entrance to the building, the school office is open from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. daily, excluding observed holidays. The office is also open during the summer, but may operate on modified hours.
- **Cullen** – The school office is located on the 1st floor of the Christian Life Center Building (behind the church's main sanctuary entrance). It is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. school days.
- **Epworth** – The school office is located at the main entrance on the east side of the building. It is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. school days.
- **Crossroads** – The school office is located in the hallway inside the Family Entrance on the south side of the church. It is open from 6:15 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. school days.

ABSENCE REPORTING

1. The parent or guardian must call the appropriate campus, attendance line at 812-477-7777, or send an email to attendance@evansvillechristian.org before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence and give the reason as well as the anticipated number of days the student may be absent. This procedure is a safety precaution for the welfare of the child.
2. It is the student's responsibility to find out what make-up assignments are due. Assignments left undone will be reflected in the grade average. Make-up work must be completed for unexcused absences. Parents may pick up work for K-5th grade students outside the School Office after 3:30 p.m. Make-up work for middle school and high school students will either be emailed home or be available by 3:45 p.m. for parent pick-up.
3. See the *Attendance Policy section* for more information.

CAMPUS AND BELL SCHEDULE

	Crossroads Preschool/PK	East K-3 rd Grade	East 4 th & 5 th Grade	Cullen 6 th & 7 th Grade	Epworth 8 th – 12 th Grade
Drop-Off Begins*	7:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
Entrance Bell	8:00 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:10 a.m.
Tardy Bell	8:15 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:10 a.m.	8:20 a.m.
Afternoon Dismissal	3:15 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	3:20 p.m.
Pick-Up Ends	3:30 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	3:45 p.m.

*Drop off begins at 7:25 a.m. at our Epworth Campuses if the family is also putting a student on the morning bus (which leaves the campus at 7:30 a.m.).

In the morning, students may be dropped off beginning at 7:30 a.m. to wait in designated areas; however, they may not go to their classes until the campus' designated time or with permission. The school is not responsible for students who come to school before 7:30 a.m. and a drop-in charge may be applied. Any student not in their classroom when the tardy bell rings must obtain an admit slip from the school office – the parent MUST accompany the student to the office to sign in and receive the slip. See the Attendance section for more information.

Students must leave school at dismissal unless they are attending a school activity immediately after school. Students will be taken to after school care (with a fee) if not picked-up by the appropriate time. Further, older students who are attending an after-school activity (i.e., help class, sports team practice, etc.) cannot be responsible for younger brothers or sisters at these times.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

ECS offers Before and After School Care programs at its Crossroads Campus (for preschool and PK students at that campus) and at its East Campus (for East Campus students and well as 6th-8th grade students). Parents are able to select a plan to meet their needs. The options and details are listed on the Tuition & Fee Schedule. Also, see the Bus Transportation Form for options to get students to and from other Campuses to the East Campus for BASC. If a student from another campus rides the bus to/from BASC, the family will be charged for BASC but not the bus transportation (A Bus Transportation Form must be submitted by June 1 each year).

Check the appropriate box on the registration form to secure a place in any of the BASC programs. The after school program is arranged to give each child a snack (cost is included in the After School Care fee) and time for relaxation, small group activities, and homework time for older students. In addition, ECS offers drop-in care for enrolled students. Drop-in charges will be applied to your account.

BASC Arrival and Pick-Up Procedures - As students arrive, parents will walk their child to the instructor on duty to be signed in on the attendance sheet. When a student is picked up, the adult taking the child must sign his initials and the time on the attendance sheet. This is a safety precaution to ensure that only authorized people pick up the student. On the Enrollment Form and in FACTS, there is an area to list the people authorized to pick up the child; no one else will be allowed to pick up a student. See the Traffic/Parking Lot Regulations for specific information regarding student drop-off and pick-up.

BIRTHDAYS

In accord with our Wellness Policy, Preschool-5th grade students' birthdays will be recognized at school over the morning announcements and with a small gift from the office, e.g., birthday pencil. Food treats for birthdays are not permitted at any campus.

BUS TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY RULES

Typically, ECS offers bus transportation (shuttle) among its campuses. Specific information including routes, times, and rates are published on the Bus Transportation Form. Priority will be given to families with siblings at different campuses, and then based on the date that the Bus Transportation Form is received (it is due by June 1). If your child(ren) will be riding the bus, you must turn in a completed Form each year (including continuous enrollment). Further, families are only allowed to change bus service one time per semester.

Our chief concern on the school bus is to insure the safety of each rider. School bus drivers are to have control of all school children riding the bus. Students may be dismissed from bus services if behavior is a danger to student safety. **ECS' bus safety rules are:**

1. Each student should observe the same conduct on the bus as in the classroom.
2. All riders are to cooperate with instructions and respect the bus driver.
3. Each student should enter the bus slowly and be seated immediately after entering the bus in the place assigned by the driver.
4. Each student should remain in his/her assigned seat, facing forward, unless moved by the driver after the bus is stopped.
5. Loud, boisterous, or profane language or indecent conduct are unacceptable behavior.
6. Bullying, teasing, scuffling, tripping, holding, hitting, or objectionable actions are also unacceptable.
7. Eating, drinking, and smoking are not permitted on the bus.
8. No radios, CD/mp3 players, IPODS, video games, cell phones, or sharp objects may be used on the bus.
9. Windows and doors must be opened and closed only by permission of the bus driver.
10. Hands, feet, and heads are to be kept inside the bus at all times.
11. Students are to help keep the bus clean and remove their own trash (or put in trash can).
12. To give instructions or to discipline, the bus driver will turn the dome lights on and all of the students should then become silent and should remain silent until the lights are turned off.
13. Students should stand to leave the bus only when it has come to a complete stop and the door has been opened by the bus driver.
14. Upon recommendation of the bus driver, school administration may deny the privilege of riding the school bus to any student who refuses to behave in accord with these rules.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

After enrollment, changes to addresses, parents' email addresses, phone numbers, and permanent student pick-up authorization lists must be made online through FACTS's Webforms or in person at the school offices by completing a Change of Information Form. To request a one-time authorization for student pick-up, an authorized person (parent/guardian) may call the school office or send a signed note with the student. Office staff will ask the caller to confirm information in the parent's FACTS parent file. Updates should not be sent to school with the student.

CLASS PARTIES

Students celebrate various class parties throughout the year, such as Grandparents' Day, Harvest of Books (National Book Week), Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Food served at class parties should comply with the school's Wellness Policy, encouraging healthy snacks. Contact the student's teacher if you would like to donate time or supplies for any parties.

CLASS TRIPS

6th and 7th grade classes typically take a class trip during the school year which support the Indiana academics standards and count toward attendance. All students are expected to participate in their class trip. The cost of the class trips are not included in the Commitment & Registration Fees or tuition payments. See next section for information on 8th grade class trip.

EIGHTH GRADE ACTIVITIES

Year End Celebration – A culminating celebration is held each spring to honor the eighth grade students. This is a family event and specific information will be shared with students and families during the school year.

Optional Trip – We offer an optional, 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. during the week of fall break. Students have multiple opportunities to participate in fundraisers to offset the cost of the trip. Information is distributed to students and parents at the start of the school year. Some of the tours included on the trip may be Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Smithsonian Museum, White House, Congress, Supreme Court, Mt. Vernon, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Gettysburg Battlefield, Holocaust Museum, and The Museum of the Bible.

HEALTH COORDINATOR (ILL/INJURED CHILD)

A Health Coordinator (or staff member at each campus), trained in first aid and CPR, provides first aid for injuries occurring at school and screens students who declare themselves to be ill. Students who wish to see the Health Coordinator must obtain permission from the classroom teacher or instructor, except in cases of emergency.

The Health Coordinator will excuse from school any student that displays the following: symptoms of a communicable disease, a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, an unexplained rash (until the rash is gone or a physician's statement is received that the child is not contagious), symptoms of an illness which causes inability to function in the classroom, evidence of an infestation of any parasite, and injuries that have occurred at school that require a physician's attention. If a child becomes ill or injured during the day, parents will be contacted. If a parent cannot be reached, the emergency contacts will be called until someone is reached to pick up the child. Please be sure that the emergency information for your child is current. Immediate medical treatment will be obtained when necessary.

Students should not attend school if any of the following have occurred in the past 24-hour period:

1. Student has had a fever (100 degrees or higher without medicine);
2. Student has had 2 or more episodes of vomiting (unrelated to a noninfectious digestive disorder); or
3. Student has had 3 or more episodes of loose stools.

See the *Medication Policy section* for guidelines concerning medications to be given at school, including before and after school care. If an antibiotic has been prescribed, the student should be on the antibiotic for a full 24 hours before returning to school. In the case of an infestation of any parasite, including but not limited to lice, scabies, and pinworms, the Health Coordinator must be notified. Proof of treatment must be submitted to the office. Regarding lice, the student must first report to the campus Health Coordinator who will follow our lice policy before admitting the student back to class. This will be verified by the Health Coordinator or other qualified staff member.

The Health Coordinator will conduct hearing and vision screenings during the year. Parents will be notified if a student fails any of these screenings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When ECS operates on a delay or closes, we will make an announcement on local TV stations and WIKY (104.1 FM) radio station. Please do not call the school offices. All campuses will follow the same decisions unless noted otherwise. We also try to send updates through FACTS and post on Facebook, which are dependent on the Internet and electricity.

In accord with input from local law enforcement, if a county is under a warning (tornado or storm), campuses in that county will NOT typically release students. Parents will be allowed to enter the building and wait in a designated location until the warning has expired.

In the event of a school cancellation, all ECS campuses will close, including before and after school care. If ECS is on a morning delay,

before school care (BSC) at our East and Crossroads campuses will be on a delay as well, opening at 8:30 a.m. If the delay turns into a cancellation, your child must be picked up by 10:00 a.m. Further, once an announcement has been made to close, you will not be able to drop off your child.

Policy for Evening Activities, including Athletics – If school is closed for the day due to bad weather, any evening activities scheduled for that day, including practices, games, rehearsals, etc. will be cancelled. If school is closed early, the same policy is in effect. For any exceptions to this policy, the people involved will be contacted personally by the coach, coordinator, or administration.

MEAL PROGRAM

All students have the option of bringing a healthy lunch from home. Any student bringing his/her lunch may purchase milk (a variety of choices are offered) or bring a healthy drink from home. Water is also available at lunch. If a student does not have lunch by their lunch period, a lunch will be charged so the student is able to eat. Occasionally, a parent will request to take a child out for lunch, eat lunch with the student in the cafeteria, or bring in lunch to his/her child. Except in emergencies, we request that our parents refrain from doing so. Fast food lunches do not comply with the school lunch program nutritional standards, and so, are discouraged. ECS participates in the National School Lunch Program operated by the Department of Education. Applications for free and reduced meals are emailed to all families prior to the first day of school. They are also available on-line and in the school offices.

In the early education grades, snack times are provided (especially when a student may go up to 3 hours without a meal). Parents are encouraged to bring healthy and appropriate snacks for these times:

- Low in sugar
- Bite size
- Low choking risk

Because statements are generated around the 15th of the month, cafeteria fees reflected on the statement includes charges from the previous mid-month to the statement day. For example, lunch charges on statements due October 1 are for mid-August to mid-September. Breakfast and lunch menus are available on-line and in the school offices. Additional details regarding meal programs at our various campuses will be distributed at Back-to-School events and available in the school offices.

MEDICATION POLICY

In accord with regulatory requirements and guidelines of the State of Indiana Board of Health, we follow these procedures below concerning medications given at school, including Before and After School Care. Medications will be kept in a locked cabinet. Medications requiring refrigeration will be stored in a lidded, plastic container marked "Medication." ECS reserves the right to inspect and verify any student medications.

All medications must be FDA approved, including over-the-counter medications, essential oils, herbal supplements, etc. All medications must be delivered to school office personnel or Health Coordinator/designee by a parent or guardian (except as noted below). If medicine is needed to be taken home at the end of the day, the parent or guardian should see school personnel, e.g., Health Coordinator/designee or office staff. NO student is permitted to deliver or possess medication on their person, in lockers, or backpacks; during school hours, including Before and After School Care.

For all medications given at school, parents must fill out a Medication Authorization Form that will be kept on file in the Health Coordinator's office. Blank forms are available in the Health Coordinator and school offices. Further requirements are as follows:

1. NO prescription medication will be used by a child unless it is sent in the original container with the original label showing the following: prescription number, date filled, physician's name, child's name, and directions for use (frequency and dosage). Medication must be turned in to the Health Coordinator/designee or School Office.
2. Over-the-counter medications must be brought in the original container (including aspirin, cough drops, and lip balm). This medication must be turned in to the Health Coordinator/designee or School Office. Cullen and Epworth campuses stock over-the-counter medication (pain reliever/antacids/cough drops). A completed over-the-counter medication authorization form must be on file in order to be administered.

Cough Drops/Lip Balm - Preschool – 3rd grade students are not allowed to possess cough/throat drops of any kind, are not allowed to possess lip balm labeled "keep out of reach of children", and they must be delivered to school personnel by the parent/guardian.

PS through K students are not allowed to possess lip balm of any kind. Vaseline will be stored in each classroom for use during the day. Middle school 4th thru 7th grade students may self-carry with parent permission (form) and Epworth Campus will be allowed to self-carry non-prescription cough drops/lip balm daily. All 1st through 7th-grade students may possess small tubes of lip balm which do not say “keep out of reach of children” (example: Vaseline Lip Therapy) for use during the day.

Inhalers – Students in middle school and high school are permitted to carry their inhaler with them throughout the day. To carry an inhaler, ECS must have a physician statement, parental consent, and an updated Asthma Plan of Care on file. This documentation must be updated at the beginning of each school year. The Asthma Plan of Care may be picked up at the Health Coordinator’s office and must be returned as soon as possible. If the parent directs, a student’s inhaler may be kept (locked) in the Health Coordinator’s office.

Allergies - In meeting the needs of students with severe allergies, our primary objective is to provide a safe learning environment that is reasonable and balances the needs of the individual student with the class as a whole. Given our shared facilities (property not owned by ECS), multi-use rooms (including organizations other than ECS and evenings activities), and facility limitations, ECS must meet with each family, on a case-by-case-basis, where the student has a life-threatening allergy that requires an allergy plan to determine our ability to accept the student’s enrollment/re-registration. Parents must contact the Principal or Health Coordinator prior to enrollment or as soon as they become aware of a potential risk.

Epinephrine – When a licensed medical professional believes that epinephrine is necessary to treat an allergic reaction during school hours (including before and after school care), the parent or guardian and licensed medical professional must complete an Epi-pen authorization form. For students with food allergies, a Food Allergy Action Plan must also be completed by a physician. New forms must be completed each year. Both forms, including detailed parent information about epinephrine procedures, are available from the Health Coordinator.

Sunscreen - In 2018, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation SEA 24 allowing students to possess and use a topical, non-aerosol sunscreen product while on school property, or at a school sponsored event or activity. A physician’s prescription or note is not required, nor does the sunscreen need to be stored in a specific location. School personnel may, but are not required, to assist a student with applying sunscreen if the school has received a signed medical authorization form. ECS will not supply sunscreen at the campus. It is the responsibility and choice of parents to send a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher broad spectrum water-resistant product. Sunscreens containing zinc oxide and/or titanium dioxide are good choices for children. The sunscreen must come in the original container, with instruction for use and expiration date. A signed medical authorization form must be completed. Protective clothing, such as a hat or sleeves, is also recommended. Sunscreen will be applied to exposed skin at least 15 minutes prior to outdoor play, between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on any sunny day from April 1-September 30, when provided accordingly. Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

RECESS POLICY

Recess is a part of a student’s daily activity and provides opportunities for students to release energy and refreshment. In general, when temperature is between 33 (wind chill) and 97 (heat index) degrees, students may participate in outdoor recess with appropriate clothing. It is the parent’s responsibility to insure that children have proper clothing. Students will stay inside for recess if wind chill is 32 degrees or below, heat index is 98 degrees or above, or ozone level is red. Outdoor time is shortened if the temperature is below 40 degrees, heat index above 90 degrees, or ozone level is orange. If a student cannot participate in outdoor recess, a physician’s note is required.

REVIEW OF RECORDS (Notification of Rights under FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights with respect to the student's education records. ECS provides copies of midterms, report cards, CTBS or ISTEP achievement test scores, and transcripts (on request) to parents and/or legal guardians. The Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation or Warrick County School Corporation maintains responsibility for transferring special education files to parents and requesting schools. EVSC or WCSC personnel assigned to ECS to provide special education services may review student files in the school office by permission of the principal. Under FERPA, a parent’s rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are Family Policy Compliance Office; U.S. Department of Education; 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20202-5901

Disclosure of Directory Information

Under FERPA, ECS may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the school to the contrary in accordance with the school's procedure. ECS provides, annually, an opportunity for parents to document that they do not want ECS to disclose specific directory information. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow ECS to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include the school directory; a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; and sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that publish yearbooks.

ECS has designated the following information as directory information: student's name; parents' names; address; telephone listing; email address; grade level; teacher's name; date of birth; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; photograph; degrees, honors; and awards received; dates of attendance; the most recent educational agency or institution attended; and future educational agencies or institutions planned to attend.

STUDENT RELEASE

Before a child may be picked up during school hours, the student must be signed out in the school office. When the student returns during the day, he/she must check in with the school office and obtain an admit slip to class.

STUDENT SAFETY/LIABILITY

Once a student arrives on the premises, he will not be permitted to leave until the close of the school day. Exceptions to this rule would be illness, a doctor's appointment, or a death in the immediate family. No student is to be taken from school before the close of the school day without first checking with the office. Students leaving or returning during the school day must sign in and out at the office. No student is allowed to leave campus for lunch. Also, after school, students are not to leave campus and return later. If they must remain at school for an after-school activity, they must be supervised. Unsupervised students will be placed in before and after school care, and appropriate charges will apply. These rules are for the safety and protection of your child. Disciplinary action will be taken if the rules are violated.

By signing the registration form, you also give permission for your child to take part in all school activities, including sports and school-sponsored trips away from the school premises, and you absolve the school from liability to you or your child because of any injury to your child at school or during any school activity.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

ECS operates a summer day camp, at its East Campus, from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The camp is open to any students in Pre-Kindergarten (entering in the fall) through 8th grade. It is open to the public (however, re-registration priority is given to current ECS students as well as students who attended camp in the previous summer). Attendance is flexible, even daily, to meet the needs of families. The summer day camp is an age-appropriate, activity-based program with many field trips, including swimming, skating, soccer, bowling, zoo, parks, gymnastics, and library. Brochures for the summer camp are typically available in the school offices in early January. Re-registration opens around Feb. 1 with enrollment opening to the public around March 1.

TRAFFIC/PARKING LOT REGULATIONS

Student safety is paramount. Parents whose driving endangers others may be asked to leave ECS. There is a short time in the morning and after school when the parking lot is congested. We ask parents to be patient and use caution. Have your student ready to exit your vehicle when approaching the drop-off point. If you need to open your trunk or liftgate, please park. Further, cell phone use, including texting, is not permitted while driving on school grounds. Details by campus will be distributed at Back-to-School events and are available in the school offices.

VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

Parents, volunteers, visitors, and guests must present their driver's license, register at the school office upon arrival, and receive a volunteer/visitor identification badge. Individuals also need to sign out upon departure and return their identification badge.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

TUITION PAYMENTS

As part of the enrollment process, parents select their desired enrollment options, including desired payment plan. See the *Tuition & Fee Schedule* for more information. Tuition may be paid annually, semi-annually, or 10 monthly payments. Further, if the 10-month payment plan is selected, families are encouraged to use the ACH option (automatic monthly bank transfer initiated by ECS). Payments may also be made via PayNow, an on-line payment option available through FACTS, with a bank transfer initiated by the parent. In future years, as part of our continuous enrollment process, we will renew your options. If you would like to change any of your options, including BASC or payment plan, you must contact our Business office. We encourage you to contact us as soon as possible regarding any changes and any changes made after the first day of school will incur a change-over fee.

As our official business office, the East Campus School Office can accept cash, check (payable to Evansville Christian School or ECS), or money order as forms of payment for all financial transactions (tuition/fees/lunch charges and incidentals). Crossroads, Cullen, and Epworth Campuses can accept exact cash/checks/money orders for all financial transactions. Payments should not be given to a teacher or staff member and should not be sent to school with students.

The non-refundable Commitment and Registration Fees are required for each enrollment. Tuition and fees are subject to necessary adjustments upon prior notification. Prior semester and summer balances must be paid in full before any student can be admitted for the next school year, the next semester, or into the summer program.

Book & Supply and Technology Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable fees consisting of two payments - due by June 1 and July 1 (the summer before the start of the school year). Both payments may be paid in June. If an ACH option is established, the fees will be paid in June and July. If the June 1st book payment, July 1st book payment, or August 1st Tuition are not paid by the due date, ECS reserves the right to withdraw the student and fill the spot with a student from the wait list.

Tuition payments, including charges for Before & After School Care and meal charges, are due on or before the first day of each month. Tuition does NOT include athletic fees, BASC charges, food service, class trips, extracurricular fees, participation fees, bus fees, replacement book/agenda fees, late fees, NSF/payment failure fees, or miscellaneous charges.

CHANGE-OVER FEE

There is a change-over fee to change registration options once the school year has begun, e.g., to change payment plans or add/drop before and after school care. See *Tuition & Fee Schedule* for fee.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Accounts with delinquent balances may result in suspension of parent's access to on-line information, through FACTS, and may result in the following actions (see earlier information on Withholding Student Records):

10 days late	Late fee charged per month. See <i>Tuition & Fee Schedule</i> .
30 days late	Parents must contact the Business Office
60 days late	Cause for student dismissal
90 days late	Formal collection proceedings *

*Costs incurred in formal collection or credit counseling are the responsibility of the parent and will be added to the balance due ECS.

LATE PICK-UP FEE

Any student not picked up at their appropriate time, including after school, practice, etc., will be placed in after school care and fee will apply. For any student not picked up when the After School Care program closes, there will be a charge due. See *Tuition & Fee Schedule* for fee. After school care privileges may be revoked if late pick-up is misused.

RETURNED CHECKS

There is a charge for returned checks, e.g., non-sufficient funds (NSF) and PayNow payment failures. See *Tuition & Fee Schedule* for fee. Further, repayment, and any future payments, may be required in cash, by the school office, to cover the returned check.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to ECS may be made at any time and are tax deductible as permitted by law. A donation may also be made as part of your enrollment and would be spread over your payment plan. Further, your employer may match your donation - thereby doubling your contribution. Be sure to check with your employer regarding its matching gift program.

As described in the following sections, ECS offers several other ways for parents and friends to support our school, including an Annual Campaign for Excellence, Worthy Servants Fund, and annual fundraiser.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

The Annual Campaign for Excellence (ACE) is an annual effort, typically in November/December, to raise funds toward the advancement of Christian education at ECS. We realize that parents often make great financial sacrifices for their child(ren) to attend ECS and that many families are unable to make a donation. Regardless of your ability to give, we ask for your prayers for our campaign and that God will raise up people with the resources to help us reach more students and families. We are confident that God will provide the resources for His plans.

WORTHY SERVANT'S FUND

The Worthy Servant's Fund is an annual effort to recognize the faculty and staff, who help make ECS a special school. These men and women have dedicated years of their lives to minister to our children. This program is designed to honor ECS Worthy Servant's in a very specific, tangible way. Tax deductible donations may be made to the Worthy Servant's Fund at any time, with special emphasis in November and December, or through our Annual Campaign for Excellence. All gifts received will be distributed to the faculty and staff for a special bonus paid prior to the scheduled Christmas break.

FUNDRAISERS

ECS attempts to minimize fundraisers, especially ones that require students to sell items. Our PTF typically holds an auction each year and 6th-8th grade students raise funds to help offset the cost of their optional 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.

SCHOOL-WIDE ACADEMIC POLICIES

ACADEMIC STANDARD

At ECS, we know that you as a parent want the best for your child. This is why we have high standards of dress, conduct, and academics. Our goal is for each of our students to be prepared for life, and college is normally now a part of life. Therefore, our standards are designed to prepare the majority of our students for college and to spur all of them on to meet minimum standards and to do their best.

The standard for ECS students is to maintain a 2.0 G.P.A., or better, and to avoid any F's. Falling below this standard will result in a student being placed on Academic Probation. This is designed to help individual students stay on track academically by getting teachers, administration and parents involved. See grade-level promotion requirements in the specific Academic & Athletic Sections of the handbook.

A. Academic Probation after a four and a half week period-first instance:

1. The homeroom teacher notifies the parents of the low G.P.A. or any F's.
2. The homeroom teacher notifies the administrator who reviews the student's situation.
3. Help classes, tutoring, etc., are set up, as needed, for the benefit of the student.
4. The administrator and the sponsors of activities meet to determine if suspension from activities or adjustment of activities is needed.

B. Academic Probation continued after nine weeks:

1. An administrator/parent/teacher meeting is held to enable all concerned to work together. This, as well as all of the steps involved in Academic Probation, should be seen as positive responses to a need in the life of a student. The goal is not to beat the student down, but to lift him up.
2. Activities involvement continues to be reviewed and acted upon.

C. Academic Probation continued after thirteen and a half weeks:

1. The administrator and teacher review the student's attitude, cooperation, and attendance to help them continue to determine the cause of the low grades.
2. Activities involvement continues to be reviewed and acted upon.
3. If the student continues to do poorly, the Intervention Team is notified and a warning of the student's being asked to transfer out at the end of the grading period is issued. A student being asked to transfer out is done for the good of the student. Continuing to be frustrated by poor performance is not beneficial to the student's self-esteem and often causes behavioral problems.

D. Academic Probation continued after eighteen weeks:

1. A final decision by the administration is made for a transfer out, or
2. If the student's G.P.A. is at least 1.5, and improving, with no F's and the student has a good attitude and no behavior difficulties, Academic Probation is continued with a lifting of any suspension of activities.

E. If a student continues to be on Academic Probation all year, at the end of the year the administration would review his re-registration for the next school year.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

ECS evaluates all students through yearly achievement testing, including NWEA assessments and the Indiana State adopted achievement test (e.g. ILEARN exam). In addition, 3rd grade students take the State's IREAD standardized test. High school students will take appropriate achievement tests such as ISTEP+ (e.g., Grade 10 Math and English/LA), PSAT, ACT, SAT, and AP Exams.

CURRICULUM

Evansville Christian School maintains an academically-sound approach to education with a Biblically-based worldview. Textbooks are periodically reviewed to insure that the best curriculum available is utilized by ECS. We use a combination of Christian and secular curriculum approved by the school board based on recommendations from administration, teachers, and parents.

Bible study is recognized here as of fundamental importance and is a required subject. It augments the work in science, English, social studies, and math; without it a student cannot be considered educated in the true sense. The Bible gives the best light for this life and the only hope for the life to come. There is no other book that can so enrich the minds and hearts of students as “The Book of Books.” A knowledge of the Bible is one of the greatest educational assets anyone can have-in addition to the moral and spiritual values resulting from its study. No other course offered in the school affords so great an opportunity for laying the foundation for a good, sound character. The Bible workbooks and devotionals are based on the New International Version of the Bible PS – 8th, New Living Translation for High School, and New King James for 5th grade.

In addition to traditional courses, ECS' curriculum includes phonics-based reading, project-based learning, Accelerated Reading program, inquiry-based science, technology/computer, art, music, band, physical education, media services/library, and Spanish.

CURRICULUM ADOPTION POLICY

ECS' ultimate objective in choosing curriculum is to provide each student with the highest academic standard necessary to fulfill God's calling of seeking excellence as a Christian in a contemporary society.

In choosing curriculum, ECS utilizes a committee of teachers and parents who review textbooks on a regular basis. Coupling the standards of academic excellence and Christian perspective, ECS uses a combination of secular and Christian curriculum. Each textbook adoption is open for parent input.

The adoption schedule follows a six-year calendar as follows (cycle repeats every six years):

2020	Language Arts, Spanish, Reading (if not adopted the previous year)
2021	Social Studies
2022	Math
2023	Science, Health
2024	Bible, Art, Music
2025	Reading

The adoption process follows these steps:

1. A teacher committee is chosen to represent ECS at area curriculum meetings.
2. All textbooks being considered for evaluation are sent to our building from several publishers, including Christian publishers.
3. Teachers read and evaluate the textbook samples as they arrive through the month of March, using a standard evaluation form given to them by the committee chairman.
4. Interested ECS parents, announced in school newsletter, are also invited to review the textbooks using the standard evaluation form.
5. The adoption committee will make a recommendation based on teacher and parent findings, and textbook review information from a reputable Christian review and research organization. The final curriculum will be approved by the school board.

The school board will make decisions concerning issues where parents or teachers have serious concerns involving content in currently used curriculum. Teachers will provide formal supplements to any texts adopted to maintain consistency with our distinctive Christian philosophy, which will include Christian resource texts, Scripture, and teaching notes.

FACULTY

ECS employs teachers who are thoroughly qualified academically and spiritually. ECS teachers are well-trained and knowledgeable in their area of teaching and are dedicated, born-again Christians. High standards are set for their personal and professional lives, and training and periodic review are established to continue their growth. They are degreed, licensed by the State of Indiana and ACSI, and continue to advance in their professional education. Further, teachers from all campuses meet and plan in teams by grade level or content area.

GUIDANCE

The school principal and/or guidance counselor will provide support to students and families by:

- Providing referrals for additional resources and supports.
- Implementing evidence-based practices to support students' social, emotional, and spiritual needs.
- Providing staff training and support to meet student needs.
- Providing information to educate parents and students on social, emotional, spiritual, and academic supports.
- Providing guidance to support students in achieving their social, emotional, spiritual, and academic goals.

REPORT CARDS

Parents of students in 1st grade and beyond are able to review their student's grades, at anytime, through our online school management system. Every nine weeks, all students PS – 12th grade will receive a report card. See school calendar for dates. K report cards are due back within two days bearing the parent's signature. Beginning in 1st grade, report cards do not need to be returned as a new card is issued each nine weeks.

HOMEWORK

We believe that homework is an integral part of the school program. A sincere effort will be made to insure that homework is not excessive, so as not to intrude on your vital family time. Each teacher will give homework to aid the students to advance in their studies. Therefore, **EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE HIS HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.** Homework assignments, class newsletters, and test/quiz schedules are available online through FACTS, and/or grade level specific Google Sites, and/or Google Classroom. See the *Attendance Policy section* for information regarding absences and make up work.

All 1st-8th grade students will be responsible to keep a homework agenda in which to write down their daily assignments. The teacher may use this notebook as one means of communicating with the parent and may require the parent's signature.

Homework is given for these reasons:

1. DRILL: Students require solid drilling to master material essential to their educational progress.
2. PRACTICE: Following classroom explanation, illustration, and drill; homework is given so that the material will be mastered.
3. REMEDIAL ACTIVITY: As instruction progresses, various weak points in a student's grasp of a subject may become evident. Homework following instruction is given to overcome such difficulties.
4. SPECIAL PROJECTS: Book reports, compositions, special research assignments, and projects are some of the activities that are frequently the subject of homework. Projects or reports that required one or more weeks work are due on the due date (if a student is absent, it is due to the school office by 10:00 a.m. on the day it is due). For middle school and high school students, projects or assignments that fall into this category will not be granted additional days or partial credit and if not turned in on the due date, a zero will be given.

Late Homework - Homework is to be turned in the day and the class period it is due. Homework not turned in on time will be lowered 10% from the grade earned and is due the next day. Students will have an additional four days, a total of five days, to turn in the work for half credit from the grade earned. Any homework turned in more than five days late will still be required to be turned in while receiving a zero for the grade. Repeated delinquent homework could result in a student being asked to withdraw from ECS. For policies regarding Special Projects, see above.

PS-5th Grade Balanced Approach Homework Policy - ECS desires to be a blessing to families by offering a rigorous academic experience that provides students and families the learning supports they need, while valuing the importance of family time. We want to partner with parents to:

- Support academic growth and the development of study skills at home, inform parents about what students are learning, and encourage parents and students to review graded work together.
- Only assign homework with clear instructional and learning purposes, no busy work or repetitive tasks, in order to encourage students to love learning.
- Empower parents to "take back family time": time for family devotions, family dinners, family game nights; time to play together; time to read together; time to be outside; time to explore other interests; and, to encourage earlier bedtimes.

Teachers will:

- Require students to complete their agendas to remind them about tests and what should be completed at home. Parents will continue to sign agendas. ECS wants to empower students at every age to “own” their learning and give their best effort.
- Use class time to actively engage students with academic content, provide guided practice to ensure students understand, and allow students to complete most classwork at school (students will be encouraged to use their class time well, so they don’t need to bring a lot of unfinished work home).
- Assign no more than ONE PROJECT PER GRADE PER QUARTER, and complete most/all of the research/project at school. If part of the project is completed at home, parents will receive advance notice and a rubric with exact directions and timeline, so all of the work is the student’s own work.
- Provide links on class website and/or send home additional practice work, study guides completed in class, and ideas for studying for families who want these additional resources (these are study resources not for a grade).

Preschool - 5th grade “balanced approach to homework” policy will include:

- Preschool-Kindergarten
 - Complete weekly activity sheet for parents to sign and return
 - Read with a parent (as assigned)
- 1st- 5th Grades
 - Study Bible verse, spelling words, math facts (this may be included in a weekly sheet format in lower elementary for parents to sign and return)
 - Read for AR (Accelerated Reader goal varies per student)
 - Study for tests (as assigned)
 - 4th/5th grades: some math work for mastery of concepts and for assessment
- All grades PS-5th
 - No more than ONE project per quarter per grade, with comprehensive directions/timeline (rubric) and advance notice, related to clear academic outcomes - no busywork!

HELP CLASSES

Various Help Classes may be offered at no extra cost. The student remains after school on dates designated by the teacher. This extra instruction is provided to ensure that your child receives as much individualized attention as necessary. Parents should be prompt in picking their child up at the end of the class or they will be placed in After School Care (fees apply).

TUTORING

In addition to Help Classes, teachers may, at their discretion or at a parent’s request, administer special tutoring for any student after school hours or during summer months at an hourly fee agreed upon by the administration, teacher, and parent.

CHAPEL

All students meet to worship together in chapel. God’s Word is studied through class-sponsored programs, outside speakers, films, and presentations. This time focuses on/develops Christian character traits, encourages praise and worship, and builds unity among the students. Following chapels, students may meet in small groups, led by teachers, staff, or volunteers to apply what they learned to their lives, build relationships, and heighten the personal and spiritual accountability of the students.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As part of our support to the community, ECS is consistently involved in efforts to get involved with community organizations and projects. Service is a directly related to our mission of living out biblical truths and making an impact in our community for Christ. See the High School section for service requirements for graduation.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students at ECS have numerous and varied opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities, depending on grade level, such as Art Club, Chess Club, STEM Club, Spell Bowl, Spanish Club, Archery Club, and Student Council. Some activities carry a modest fee, based on participation, which is not included in the Tuition & Fee Schedule.

TECHNOLOGY / COMPUTER DEPARTMENT

Technology is not just an add-on to the training we give to students at ECS, it is vital to the curriculum across all grade levels. We dedicate instructional time for students to learn appropriate use of technology so they can utilize those skills to learn through the integration of technology.

Students in grades one through eight receive standards-based computer and technology instruction, either through a formal technology class or integrated into other subject areas such as science. Keyboarding is introduced to first grade and reinforced gradually through grade five. All students receive instruction in age-appropriate word processing and presentation tools. Technology is a fundamental piece of the program that prepares the student for this rapidly changing technological world. Technology is a required class for grades one through five. In 3rd-5th grades, students routinely use Google Apps for Education to dive into communication and collaboration within their work. Students also get hands-on experience with coding and robotics through exploration with the Edison Robots in grades three through five.

Technology and Google Apps for Education are also interwoven into all classrooms through our School Managed 1:1 device program beginning at the 6th grade level. In addition to computer labs and mobile Chromebook carts, fourth and fifth grade classrooms each have a class set of Chromebooks for student use. Grades two and three utilize mobile device carts, classroom desktops, and iPads as teachers integrate technology into their curriculum.

Below is our "Acceptable Use Policy."



School Managed Chromebooks Acceptable Use Policy

Evansville Christian School is pleased to be able to provide each student entering grades 6-12 a device to enhance, enrich, and facilitate learning and communication. Students are issued a Chromebook that is managed and filtered by the school. This device will be used in every content area to access curriculum, create student products, and communicate for educational purposes, therefore it is essential to have their assigned device **every day** at school. Students, in partnership with parents and guardians, must adhere to the ECS Acceptable Use Policy as stated in the Student Handbook and take responsibility for maintaining a properly working device.

GUIDELINES FOR USE:

Care and Maintenance

1. Students are responsible for the proper care of their issued device, including any costs of repair or replacement not covered by the Accidental Damage Protection Warranty.
2. Students should keep Chromebooks in their possession at all times or store them safely in their locker. Devices should be taken home nightly and not left in lockers.
3. Students must keep the protective shell on their devices at all times. Removal of the protective shell voids the Accidental Damage Protection Warranty. Broken shells should be reported following the same procedure as broken devices.
4. Devices shall be charged nightly and should come to school fully charged each day.
5. Students should report damage, loss, or malfunction of the device within 24 hours of the incident following the established procedures.

Usage

1. Students will use their device for educational purposes and school-approved sites and programs.

2. Electronic communication with those inside the school building should be directly related to classroom instruction.
3. Electronic communication (text, email, phone, etc...) with those outside the school building is only permitted at the directive of the school staff for school purposes.
4. Students are not permitted to use social networking applications. (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, chatrooms, etc.)
5. Earbuds may be permitted at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Over-ear headphones or wireless earbuds are not permitted. No more than one earbud in.
6. Technology from home that interrupts the academic process is not permitted. (smartwatches, tablets, etc.)
7. ECS reserves the right to inspect a student's device at any time if there is a reason to believe that the student has violated ECS policies or has engaged in other misconduct while using their device.
8. Students must comply with the teacher request to shut down the computer, close the screen, or otherwise cease using the device at any given time.
9. Recording, posting, or transmitting images or video shall be limited to that which is related to school assignments and projects, and shall only be done in accordance with the ECS Acceptable Use Policy and with expressed permission of all involved parties.
10. The use or possession of an electronic communication device or any recording device in locker rooms and restrooms is prohibited.
11. Students' access to the Internet will be filtered on and off school property. Use of 3G and 4G wireless connections for accessing the Internet or creating a wireless tether during school hours is not allowed. Users are bound by the same acceptable use policies when using school devices off the school network.
12. Users are expected to respect that the web filter is a safety precaution and should not try to circumvent it when browsing the web. If a site is blocked and a user believes it shouldn't be, please inform technology support.
13. Copying or sharing of student work for the purpose of submission (homework, tests, projects, etc.) is cheating. This is a violation of ECS policy per the Family Handbook.

Security and Privacy

1. Students should only use their issued device and not a device belonging to another student.
2. Students should report any unsolicited communication to a school administrator or teacher immediately.
3. Students should not share password(s) with anyone and should change passwords if they suspect an account has been compromised.
4. If at any point, users see a message, content, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety, it should be brought to the attention of a teacher or administrator immediately.
5. Sending, sharing, possessing, or viewing pictures, text messages, or e-mails that contain a sexual message, image, or sexually suggestive content is a violation of this policy. Such a violation will result in school discipline and may include expulsion, and the notification of local law enforcement.

I agree to abide by the above policy and guidelines. It is understood that any violation may result in disciplinary or legal action.

PK-8th GRADE SECTION

2020/2021 School Year

IMPORTANT

This section of the Family Handbook contains policies, standards, and expectations specific to PS - 8th grade students at ECS. We look forward to working with our students, parents, and staff as we move forward together.

It is important to note that this is one section of the Family Handbook and it is not meant to stand alone. School-wide policies and standards are contained in previous sections.

We expect that all students and parents have reviewed the handbook, are in agreement with, and will comply with the information contained herein. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.

PK-8th GRADE POLICIES

GRADING (Grading Scale)

A+	(99-100)	B+	(92-93)	C+	(83-84)	D+	(75)
A	(96-98)	B	(87-91)	C	(78-82)	D	(71-74)
A-	(94-95)	B-	(85-86)	C-	(76-77)	D-	(70)
						F	(0-69)

The grading scale for middle school classes that apply toward high school credit/graduation requirements (Algebra I and Spanish I/II) will use an adjusted grading scale that matches the high school scales.

HONOR ROLL

ECS has three honor rolls which apply to all departments. The scale used to calculate G.P.A.'s is as follows:

- Highest Honor Roll - Report card G.P.A. of 3.76 - 4.0
- High Honor Roll - Report card G.P.A. of 3.50 - 3.75
- Honor Roll - Report card G.P.A. of 3.25 - 3.49 with no D's or F's

	A+	4.0	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3
G.P.A. (Grade Point Average Scale)	A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
	A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	D-	0.7
							F	0.0

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

In PS-3rd grade, a minimum standard is and should be expected in order to move to the next grade. At ECS we actively pursue dialogue with parents throughout the school year, and particularly in the second semester, to evaluate student academic and developmental progress for readiness to move on to the next grade level. Teachers discuss assessments and benchmarks with parents, provide resources and updates, and clarify the minimum expectations required to be promoted to the next grade for the following school year.

Daily teacher observation and experience with students' necessary developmental and academic progress, data related evidence of student progress, and individual student needs related to grade level expectations are all considered in determining the readiness of a student to be promoted to the next grade. Aside from a compelling reason beyond the gathered observations, there should be agreement between school and home. For grades PK/K, the school's decision to retain a student who plans to re-enroll at ECS will take precedence. For grades 1st-3rd, the student must pass all literacy-based subjects (phonics, spelling, reading, language) to be promoted to the next grade.

Students in 3rd grade also take the IREAD-3 assessment each spring. Students must pass the IREAD-3 in order to be promoted to 4th grade. The exception includes students with an IEP that indicates "good cause exemption" as part of the plan.

For 4th and 5th grades, our core classes are Language, Literature, Science, Math, Social Studies, and Bible, totaling six (6). To be promoted to the next grade, students are expected to pass five (5) out of their six (6) core classes based on year-end grades.

For 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, our core classes are English/Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, and Bible, totaling five (5). To be promoted to the next grade, students are expected to pass four (4) out of their five (5) core classes based on year-end grades.

ART DEPARTMENT

ECS' art curriculum is designed to introduce the basic elements of art to the students. This enables the student to better appreciate, create and understand art in their world. The student's creativity and artistic skills are encouraged and developed through imaginative lessons, projects, and contests.

ACCELERATED READING

At ECS, we utilize the Accelerated Reading Program through Renaissance Learning. Students in 1st through 7th grade participate in the Accelerated Reading (AR) Program. The AR Program is designed to focus attention on careful reading of books, which improves students' thinking skills and builds an intrinsic love of reading. It also provides the data educators need to match instruction and practice to each student's reading level—a level that is challenging, but not frustrating to reach optimal growth. The goal of the program is to improve reading comprehension through the classifications of emergent, transitional, probable and finally, independent readers. Students choose appropriate level books, read the books, and take computerized reading comprehension tests. This program allows ECS to collect, store, and report information—giving students more time to learn and enabling teachers to target instruction. This program provides immediate, accurate formative and diagnostic feedback to all stakeholders—students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

ATHLETICS

ECS offers a wide range of sports. 1st through 4th grade students may participate in soccer, basketball, and wrestling (boys). 5th through 8th grade athletics include soccer (boys & girls), basketball (boys & girls), volleyball (girls), wrestling (boys), track (boys & girls), baseball (boys), cheerleading (girls), tennis (boys & girls), and cross-country (boys & girls). See the *Incident Weather* section below for policy regarding evening events if school is cancelled or closes early. The cost of participation is not included in the Tuition & Fee Schedule.

ATHLETIC POLICY – the following is an excerpt from our Athletic Policy. A complete copy is available from the Athletic Director.

1. At ECS, athletics are an integral part of a well-rounded education and a valuable component to help prepare students to make an impact for Christ. Athletics provide opportunities for students to explore their gifts/talents, develop character, build leadership skills, and learn life-long lessons. The purpose of the program at ECS is to foster physical development and athletic skills while teaching the values of self-discipline, teamwork, servant leadership, commitment, Christ-like humility, hard work, and a desire to do one's best.
2. We recognize that some students can be reached through sports, making athletics a unique ministry opportunity. A Biblical perspective, Christ-like qualities, and appropriate responses may be taught to student athletes through the challenges and situations found in competition. Further, we hold our students to a higher standard. We expect them to achieve on the field/court, as well as in the classroom. Our coaches are devoted to developing the total person.
3. Our athletic teams will participate in such a way that honors God and conveys a positive witness to those around us. Further, athletics are a form of worship and all participants are accountable to God for their attitude and actions.
4. Students must submit the appropriate athletic participation forms. Further, applicable fees must be paid before the student participates in any games.
5. In accord with state law, ECS prohibits retaining a student in a grade level for the sole purpose of improving the student's ability to participate in extracurricular athletic programs.

Philosophy of Winning

At ECS, we strive for excellence in all we do, including athletic endeavors; but, the win-loss record is not the primary measure of excellence. Winning means more than outscoring the opponent. It means doing everything in a way that honors the Lord and doing everything heartily, as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23). With the humility that comes through putting Christ first, we strive to win without arrogance, greed, or malice. We can be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. We can carry high our banner with dignity and honor.

ATHLETIC PROBATION

1. Students must be passing all courses and may not have more than one grade below a C- to be eligible to play for any interscholastic athletic team. If a student is failing a course or has two grades below a C-, the administrator and coach will meet to determine if suspension from or adjustment of the sport is necessary.
2. The mid-term and report card grades will determine whether or not a student is eligible to participate or is able to continue to participate in a particular sport.
3. All students are eligible to participate in any interscholastic sport that begins before the first mid-term of the new school year.
4. All students who become ineligible while the season is in process will not be allowed to play in any games unless reinstated by an administrator.

5. All students who become ineligible to participate during the season will still be expected to attend all practices.

MEDIA SERVICES & LIBRARY

1. The library at our East Campus is open from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday & Friday.
2. Books may be checked out for a period of two weeks and may be renewed for an additional two-week period upon request.
3. Books are arranged on the shelves by the Dewey Decimal Classification System.
4. Monitored access to Internet for research is available during library hours.
5. Food and drinks are not allowed in the library.
6. Students should have a library pass to come to the library. Passes should be presented to the front desk or librarian upon arrival. It is the student's responsibility to retrieve his signed pass before returning to his classroom.
7. Notices will be sent to students who fail to return library materials by the due date. Students are expected to assume the responsibility for timely return of library materials. Parent accounts will be charged for lost, damaged, or significantly past due books.
8. The librarian and the library assistants are available to aid students and faculty in locating resources and in offering assistance.
9. Students are expected to abide by library rules. Those who fail to do so will be denied library privileges.
10. Students are responsible for the proper care of library materials. Continued abuse of library materials may result in the student being required to pay for replacement of damaged or lost books.

At our Cullen and Epworth campuses, students have access to books at that campus as well as a significant number of online books through a partnership with the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL). Further, all teachers are able to access the library at our East Campus for resources.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK - Each fall during National Book Week students participate in coloring and essay contests, talking book reports/Living Wax Museum, a character parade, and a Harvest of Books Party to encourage excellence in reading. Prizes are awarded at an assembly that concludes the week's activities.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The music department of ECS offers a variety of learning situations and activities. General music is taught in preschool through eighth grade. Each year the music department presents an elementary Christmas musical, a spring music night, and a fine arts night. 5th – 8th grade students participate in competitions sponsored by the Indiana State Schools' Music Association (ISSMA). Instrumental instruction begins with recorders in third and fourth grade. Band instruction begins in 5th grade. Band instruments may be rented or purchased.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT POLICY

1. We believe that music is a gift which God has provided to be used for worship and for our enjoyment. While we recognize that not every student is musically inclined, we strive to provide a general music education which will give every student a solid music background and enjoyment and appreciation of music. We strive to develop in each student his/her fullest musical potential.
2. We offer many performance opportunities for all students. We believe that performance develops confidence, poise and leadership skills. Every performance is dedicated to the glory of God.
3. We believe that music impacts our lives in many ways. The music skills taught at ECS include not only fundamentals such as reading of notes, music history and the development of vocal skills, but also life skills such as poise, public performance skills and responsibility. It is our goal to provide a program which will allow students to grow musically and intellectually while developing cooperative and leadership skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Physical education is a requirement for all students in grades one through eight. Further, all students in grades 1-8 are required to take the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Exam twice each year. Health is taught in grades one through eight.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICY

1. Students must bring a written note from a parent to be excused from P.E. In order for a student to be excused for more than two consecutive days of P.E., the student must have a written physician's excuse. A parent's note needs to include specific activities the student can and cannot do. Students excused from P.E. class will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular athletic event

that day or recess.

2. Students in grades 2-8 are required to wear their P.E. uniform for class. First grade students do not change for gym but must wear appropriate clothes and gym shoes. See dress code section for specific information on gym uniforms. Gym/tennis shoes, with non-marking soles, are required. Only shoes with laces or velcro are acceptable. Students earn three points per day for clothing (shorts, shirt, and shoes). For each article of clothing that is missing, one point will be deducted off their grade for that day. If a student has lost or misplaced his uniform, he will need to bring other clothes of similar style.
3. Students are not to borrow other students' P.E. clothes or gym shoes.
4. Students are not to wear additional clothing under the P.E. uniform. A light jacket or sweatshirt may be worn when outside.
5. Grades for students in 1st through 4th grade will be based on participation in exercises, running, game/activity, and proper dress.
6. Grades for students in 5th through 8th grade will be based on participation, written tests, skill tests, student's physical activity chart, and proper dress.

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

Spanish is taught in grades one through seven and an elective for 8th grade. Students who take Spanish in 8th grade may be able to receive credit for high school Spanish I.

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION

2020/2021 School Year

IMPORTANT

This section of the Family Handbook contains policies, standards, and expectations specific to ECHS. We look forward to working with our students, parents, and staff as we move forward together.

It is important to note that this is one section of the Family Handbook and it is not meant to stand alone. School-wide policies and standards are contained in previous sections.

We expect that all students and parents have reviewed the handbook, are in agreement with, and will comply with the information contained herein. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC POLICIES

CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT

Teachers administer a variety of assessments to evaluate student progress and facilitate learning. These may take the form of papers, projects, presentations, quizzes, and oral or written tests.

FINAL SEMESTER EXAMS

An exam week is scheduled at the end of each semester for final exams. Most full credit academic classes require this final exam. There are no more than two final exams each day. Each exam will normally count 20% of the total semester grade for that class. The testing time is 90 minutes per exam. Second semester seniors may not take final exams.

GRADING (Grading Scale)

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

See below for information on weighted grades for Honors and AP courses.

HONOR ROLL

ECS has three honor rolls which apply to all departments. The scale used to calculate G.P.A.'s is as follows:

Highest Honor Roll - Report card G.P.A. of 3.76 - 4.0

High Honor Roll - Report card G.P.A. of 3.50 - 3.75

G.P.A. (Grade Point Average Scale)	A+	4.0	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3
	A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
	A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	D-	0.7
						F	0.0	

Note: Honors and AP courses are moderately weighted to honor difficulty level of courses.

ONLINE GRADE INFORMATION

ECS provides parents with access to their student's grades online through our school management system, FACTS. This allows parents and students to keep track of ongoing progress. FACTS Family Portal can be accessed at www.EvansvilleChristian.org by clicking on the FACTS icon.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

All quarter/semester incomplete grades must be made up and submitted to the high school office within the first two (2) weeks after the quarter's end, unless specific medical or educational circumstances, approved through proper channels, indicates otherwise. Students not finishing the make-up work on time receive zeroes for the undone work and the grade is then computed. Athletes will be ineligible until incomplete grade(s) are resolved (per IHSA).

GRADE REPLACEMENT

Students who receive a grade of D+ or lower may retake a class at ECHS if desired. By repeating a course a student will not earn additional credit toward graduation. The grade received in the retake class will become the grade of record and will be calculated into the cumulative GPA provided that the retake grade is higher than the original. Any replaced grades will be excluded from the

cumulative GPA and will appear as “NC” no credit on the academic record. Once a grade replacement has been put on a record it cannot be reversed.

WITHDRAWING FROM A HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

A course may be dropped after consultation with the guidance department. Withdrawal from a course after the first five weeks of a semester will result in a grade of “Withdrawal Passing” (WP) or “Withdrawal Failing” (WF).

1. A withdrawal form (available in the guidance office) must be signed by the parent/guardian, teacher, and counselor before the course is officially dropped. The student must remain in attendance in the class until he/she turns the signed withdrawal form into the guidance office. A required course may not be dropped unless it is immediately replaced with an equivalent course.
2. A student with the minimum course load must immediately replace the dropped course with a full credit course.
3. After the 5th week of the grading period (1st or 3rd quarter) a dropped class will appear on the transcript as WP or WF depending on the grade at the time. However, if a student drops a class during the 2nd or 4th quarter, they will automatically receive a WF unless administration approves an exception due to extenuating circumstances.

AUDITING COURSES

The purpose of an audit is to allow students the opportunity to help build capacity of fundamental skills. A student may audit a course with guidance counselor or principal approval.

OUT OF SEQUENCE COURSES

ECHS offers sequentially based coursework. Students may take courses out of sequence with guidance counselor or principal approval.

GRADUATION IN LESS THAN EIGHT SEMESTERS

It is the belief of ECHS that all students benefit by completing eight semesters of high school. However, a student may graduate in less than eight semesters with approval of the principal or their designee. Students seeking early graduation must have a well structured and solidified plan that addresses graduation requirements as well as a transition plan that addresses further education or employment.

WEIGHTED GRADES

Honors and AP courses will be moderately weighted to honor a higher level of course difficulty. The intent of weighted grades is to reward students for choosing more challenging coursework. However, students and parents should be careful to choose such courses, not simply because they are weighted, but because they are appropriate for the individual student's ability. Some prior performance requirements must be met in order to enroll in Honors or AP courses.

SCHEDULING COURSE LOADS

HOMEWORK POLICY

Home study is a vital part of each student's educational program. Conflict between homework and other activities does not lessen the student's responsibility for completing assignments on time. In grades 9-12, one-and-a-half to three hours is an estimate of the amount of time required per night for the average student to complete his assignments.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

All students enrolled in AP classes are encouraged to take the AP exams, which may be a requirement as part of the Core 40 with Honors Diploma Track.

DUAL CREDIT COLLEGE COURSES

Dual credit will be available for specific courses as communicated by administration.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS

ECS will accept the credit and grades from other recognized (accredited) schools and home school(s). New students may need to take a competency exam in order to receive credit for past coursework. Students leaving Evansville Christian School may have a transcript of their grades sent to the new school if accounts are current.

GRADUATION

Course and Credit Requirements		
	ECS Core 40 Diploma	ECS Core 40 w/ Academic Honors Diploma
English/ Language Arts	8 credits	8 credits
	Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.	Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.
Mathematics	6 credits (in grades 9-12)	8 credits to 10 credits
	2 credits: Algebra 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II <i>Or complete Integrated Math I, II, and III for 6 credits. Students must take a math or quantitative reasoning course each year in high school.</i>	Combination of the following (see note): 2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II 2 credits: Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus 2 credits: Calculus <i>Note: Students must take a math or quantitative reasoning course each year in high school. Example: Students who take Algebra 1 as an 8th grader would take Calculus as a senior (totaling 10 math credits).</i>
Science	6 credits	6 credits
	2 credits: Biology I 4 credits: Integrated Chemistry and Physics (ICP), Physics, or Chemistry	2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Physics 2 credits: Chemistry
Social Studies	6 credits	6 credits
	2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History	2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History
Directed Electives	5 credits	9 credits
	4 credits: Combination of Spanish, Fine Arts (i.e. Band, Art, etc.)	6 credits: Spanish 2 credits: Fine Arts (i.e. Band, Art, etc.)
Physical Education	2 credits	2 credits
	2 credits: Physical Education	2 credits: Physical Education
Health & Wellness	1 credit	1 credit
	1 credit: Health and Wellness	1 credit: Health and Wellness
General Electives	6 credits	6 credits
	<i>Elective options may come from any of the above noted categories; however, the total required elective count must still be met.</i>	<i>Elective options may come from any of the above noted categories; however, the total required elective count must still be met.</i>
Bible*	Max. 8 Credits (1 Credit for each semester enrolled at ECHS)	Max. 8 Credits (1 Credit for each semester enrolled at ECHS)

*Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students.

One credit is awarded per semester course completed with a passing score.

ECHS course offerings will vary by school year depending on student needs, staffing available, IDOE requirements, and other factors.

For the **Core 40 with Academic Honors** diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits
(6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages).
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of a “C” or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a “B” or better.
- Complete one of the following:
 - A. Earn 4 credits in 2 or more AP courses and take corresponding AP exams
 - B. Earn 6 verifiable transcribed college credits in dual credit courses from priority course list
 - C. Earn two of the following:
 1. A minimum of 3 verifiable transcribed college credits from the priority course list,
 2. 2 credits in AP courses and corresponding AP exams,
 3. 2 credits in IB standard level courses and corresponding IB exams.
 - D. Earn a composite score of 1250 or higher on the SAT and a minimum of 560 on math and 590 on the evidence based reading and writing section. Earn an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and complete written section.
 - E. Earn 4 credits in IB courses and take corresponding IB exams.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (including Service Hours)

To graduate from Evansville Christian High School, a student must earn a minimum of 48 credits, including 8 Bible credits, which aligns with and exceeds the Indiana requirements for a CORE 40 diploma. To be eligible for the CORE 40 with Academic Honors Diploma, a student must earn a minimum of 55 credits (which includes 8 Bible credits). Students must also meet additional graduation requirements, including a minimum of 20 hours of service to school and community (in any combination) each year. A student also must not have any unresolved disciplinary issues pending and all financial obligations must be fulfilled. If the student fails to meet the expectation of 20 hours of service each year by their graduation year, his/her diploma may not be issued.

CLASS RANK

ECHS has a GPA class rank on student transcripts.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The first and second ranking students (in terms of cumulative grade point averages) are honored as Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively. This ranking will be finalized at the conclusion of 3rd quarter of the senior year. These students must be enrolled in the Academic Honors course of study and must be enrolled at ECHS for their entire Junior and Senior years.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

ECS will maintain a chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Entrance into the ECHS chapter of the NHS will be determined by the NHS faculty advisory council and is based on character, leadership, service, and scholarship (cumulative GPA of 3.25 or above).

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

ECHS offers a wide range of sports at the high school level, which have included co-ed track & field, cross country, and swimming, men's basketball, women's soccer, and others. Athletic opportunities are available based on student interest and numbers. See the *Incident Weather* section below for policy regarding evening events if school is cancelled or closes early. The cost of participation is not included in the Tuition & Fee Schedule. As an IHSA school, Evansville Christian High School must comply with all requirements from the IHSA in order to remain in good standing.

ATHLETIC POLICY – the following is an excerpt from our Athletic Policy. A complete copy is available from the Athletic Director.

1. At ECHS, athletics are an integral part of a well-rounded education and a valuable component to help prepare students to make an impact for Christ. Athletics provide opportunities for students to explore their gifts/talents, develop character, build leadership skills, and learn life-long lessons. The purpose of the program at ECHS is to foster physical development and athletic skills while teaching the values of self-discipline, teamwork, servant leadership, commitment, Christ-like humility, hard work, and a desire to do one's best.
2. We recognize that some students can be reached through sports, making athletics a unique ministry opportunity. A Biblical perspective, Christ-like qualities, and appropriate responses may be taught to student athletes through the challenges and situations found in competition. Further, we hold our students to a higher standard. We expect them to achieve on the field/court, as well as in the classroom. Our coaches are devoted to developing the total person.
3. Our athletic teams will participate in such a way that honors God and conveys a positive witness to those around us. Further, athletics are a form of worship and all participants are accountable to God for their attitude and actions.
4. Students must submit the appropriate athletic participation forms. Further, applicable fees must be paid before the student participates in any games.
5. In accord with state law, ECS prohibits retaining a student in a grade level for the sole purpose of improving the student's ability to participate in extracurricular athletic programs.

Philosophy of Winning

At ECHS, we strive for excellence in all we do, including athletic endeavors; but, the win-loss record is not the primary measure of excellence. Winning means more than outscoring the opponent. It means doing everything in a way that honors the Lord and doing everything heartily, as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23). With the humility that comes through putting Christ first, we strive to win without arrogance, greed, or malice. We can be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. We can carry high our banner with dignity and honor.

ATHLETIC PROBATION

1. Students must be passing all courses and may not have more than one grade below a C- to be eligible to play for any interscholastic athletic team. If a student is failing a course or has 2 grades below a C-, the administrator and coach will meet to determine if suspension from or adjustment of the sport is necessary.
2. The mid-term and report card grades will determine whether or not a student is eligible to participate or is able to continue to participate in a particular sport.
3. All students are eligible to participate in any interscholastic sport that begins before the first mid-term of the new school year.
4. All students who become ineligible while the season is in process will not be allowed to play in any games.
5. All students who become ineligible to participate during the season will still be expected to attend all practices.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Evansville Christian School promotes a biblical worldview based on our Articles of Faith. While students and families are always encouraged to ask questions about beliefs of biblical faith and other faiths, it is not permitted to actively promote a worldview outside of what ECS endorses through its Articles of Faith. As an expression of Evansville Christian School's mission, the high school discipline policy is intended to support the discipleship process for students, and to serve as a reflection of Jesus Christ and as an extension of the home. As such, the primary purpose of the discipline process is to produce growth in students while maintaining an environment of learning and order, providing a support to parents, and reflecting Scriptural principles of conduct and influence. In keeping with this purpose, the Scriptural principles that provide the foundation for the discipline policy are as follows:

- The responsibility of parents for the education of their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
- Submission to authority (I Peter 2:13-17)
- The principle of reaping and sowing (Galatians 6:7-8)
- Confrontation, restoration, and separation (Matthew 18:15- 17)

Under the guidelines of these Scriptural principles, the goal of Evansville Christian High School through the disciplinary process is to:

- Work alongside of parents within the process of discipline
- When possible, involve the spiritual authority and influence of a family's Bible-believing church affiliation
- Provide an environment of order and respect that promotes an atmosphere conducive to learning
- Apply necessary and appropriate consequences for choices
- Guide in the restoration of relationships with Jesus Christ and with Evansville Christian School, its employees, and its students
- Use relational influence to produce spiritual growth, correction, and right choices
- Do so in a context that seeks the best interest of both the involved parties and the student body as a whole

CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to best fulfill the goals of the discipline process, Evansville Christian High School has established a Code of Conduct that defines expected student behavior, and establishes the procedure and process for addressing disciplinary matters. Please be aware that student conduct and behavior outside of ECHS can affect a student's standing at ECHS as well as the reputation of ECHS, therefore it is the expectation of the administration that students adhere to the code of conduct at all times. It is therefore also understood that violations of the code of conduct both inside and outside of school, including breaks from school, may be addressed as a disciplinary concern by the administration. Students are specifically considered to be under school jurisdiction at any time at which they are under the direct supervision of Evansville Christian High School and its employees, including when riding a school bus or attending a school function or activity.

Students are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Integrity in the keeping of one's word, speaking the truth, doing one's own work, carrying out responsibility (doing assignments adequately and on time) and respecting authority
- Respect for self, Evansville Christian School and its employees and students, and the property of others
- Courtesy extended in all relationships – student to student or student to teacher/staff
- Stewardship of the property, supplies, and equipment of ECS, as well as wise stewardship of personal items
- Preparation for class and readiness to learn
- Reconciliation through Biblical and appropriate repentance & forgiveness when offenses have been committed or received

Students are expected to refrain from the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Tardiness to class
- Failure to conform to the expected dress code
- Careless and/or reckless behavior (i.e., throwing objects, running in halls, driving recklessly, etc.)
- Disruptive behavior that impedes the educational process
- The *unapproved* use of cellular phones and other electronic devices during school hours
- Inappropriate public displays of romantic affection (i.e. holding hands, kissing, excessive hugging)
- Profanity and vulgar or offensive speech and/or gestures

- Dishonesty in any form, including lying, theft, cheating
- Plagiarism (Note: indication of cheating on any assignment will result in zero for the assignment; this guideline applies to the person copying as well as to the person knowingly supplying the material to be copied)
- Gambling
- Rebellious or disrespectful attitude
- Disrespect and disobedience
- Skipping class, leaving campus without permission, or truancy
- Vandalism, including that which would be directed toward the personal property of school employees and other students
- The possession and/or distribution of pornographic materials and information, including the distribution of sexually suggestive material via cell phones and computers, or “sexting.” The Evansville Christian School definition of sexting is the act of sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit or suggestive messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer, or other digital or electronic device.
- Harassment in any form, both physical and/or sexual in nature. Sexual harassment includes all acts of a sexual nature, whether verbal or physical, which are unsolicited, unwelcome, inappropriate, and/or demeaning, which interfere with an individual’s performance, or which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive atmosphere. Physical harassment includes threats or intimidation of any nature, or inappropriate verbal or physical conduct which creates a hostile, offensive, or fearful environment. Examples of threats or intimidation include, but are not limited to, provoking a fight, fighting, bullying, acts that inflict injury or damage, and/or acts intended to control by fear and/or intimidation. Please see the anti-bullying section for more information.
- The use and/or possession of illegal or recreational drugs. This includes, but is not limited to tobacco, nicotine, and marijuana in any form. It also includes the use or possession of e-cigs, hookah/vapor pipes, unauthorized use or distribution of prescription drugs and huffing or ingesting materials inappropriately.
- The use and/or possession of alcohol
- Immoral sexual conduct
- Use or possession of weapons and/or dangerous items on school premises or at any school function (i.e., guns, knives, explosive devices, etc.)

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Most disciplinary issues are managed by the teacher in the classroom, and the process can involve any of the following, separately or in combination as appropriate:

- Personal conference with the teacher
- Notification of behavior problems to parents
- Lunch Detentions
- Student conference with the principal
- A parent-teacher-student or parent-teacher-principal conference

Teachers need to honor any student who wishes to appeal to the teacher regarding a disciplinary action, when the student exercises the three (3) steps of appealing to spiritual authority...Right Time, Right Place, Right Spirit! More extreme or persistent cases of misconduct will be managed by the administration and treated with one or more of the following measures:

- Conference with the principal and/or teacher
- Probation, combined with appropriate application of consequences relevant to the offense
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Withdrawal, temporary, until restitution and restoration can be confirmed via visible student behavior and pastoral counsel and recommendation; reinstatement on probation
- Withdrawal, permanent
- Expulsion

The following violations of the Code of Conduct will result in an automatic suspension from school, pending a more thorough investigation of the matter, and may result in withdrawal or expulsion. In addition, any code of conduct violation that also potentially involves a criminal offense or a violation of state laws (i.e. use of illegal substances, distribution of stolen goods or pornographic materials, sexting, possession of weapons on school premises, vandalism, truancy, etc.) may require Evansville Christian School to involve law enforcement officials.

- The use and/or possession of illegal or recreational drugs. This includes, but is not limited to tobacco, nicotine, and marijuana in any form. It also includes the use or possession of e-cigs, hookah/vapor pipes, unauthorized use or distribution of prescription drugs and huffing or ingesting materials inappropriately.
- The use and/or possession of alcohol
- Immoral sexual conduct
- Possession of weapons &/or dangerous items on school premises
- Leaving campus without permission
- The possession and/or distribution of pornographic materials and information, including sexting
- Continued harassment in any form, including bullying
- Vandalism
- Continued willful disobedience, misconduct, disrespect (chronic behavioral problems)

A student may be suspended for a period of one to ten days at the discretion of the principal. All assignments or tests missed during the period of suspension must be completed and acceptance of grades will be determined by the school principal. Students may not practice or participate in athletic events for the duration of the suspension, nor may they be involved in extracurricular activities or class office during that time. In addition, students may not attend school activities on the day(s) of suspension. Students may be expelled from school after other disciplinary procedures have failed or when major moral or social offenses have been committed. Expulsion decisions will be made in conjunction with the principal and the Head of School.

OTHER HIGH SCHOOL POLICIES

COLLEGE VISITS

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, will have up to five days of college visits per year. Students must provide notice to the attendance line (attendance@evansvillechristian.org) via email five days prior to the visit. A form from the university verifying the student's visit must be dated and received by the Epworth Campus within three days after the student returns to school.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD STUDENT POLICY

Although the State of Indiana grants certain education rights to a student when they turn 18 years of age, ECHS will continue to treat the student as a minor. This means parents will continue to be communicated with by the school and ECHS will require parent permission for all areas as a student under the age of 18. Requiring a parent signature on a field trip form for a student over the age of 18 is one example.

STUDENT PARKING

The number of spaces at our Epworth Campus is limited; therefore, parking is reserved for 10th-12th grade students who have valid parking passes. If parking privileges are granted, students will be assigned a designated space and are not to use other spaces. The privilege of parking on the school lot may be immediately revoked if the student parks in an unauthorized space, speeds, drives dangerously, fails to follow proper traffic patterns and laws, or causes any type of disturbance (such as squealing tires or excessive noise). See the Tuition and Fee Schedule for associated cost of a parking pass.