

**Middle School
Parent-Student Handbook
2025-2026**



TIPTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**2107 Highway 59 South
Covington, TN 38019
901-808-0021
Fax 901-313-9546
www.tiptonchristianacademy.com**

INTRODUCTION

Our TCA Student Handbook provides comprehensive information ranging from academic policies and procedures to disciplinary expectations. Please take time to review this handbook. Depending on perspective, some rules may seem a bit picky; however, they provide structure and direction conducive to our mission in the Christian school. It is our hope that this handbook conveys clear expectations. May we work together to provide your children and our students the affirmation and accountability they need to ensure success in concert with our mission:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Tipton Christian Academy strives to provide our students with a Christ-centered Bible-based education to promote academic excellence, which builds character and empowers service-oriented leaders who impact God's Kingdom.

VALUES

1. Worshipping God and Loving Jesus Passionately.
2. The Word of God is Final Authority.
3. Academic Excellence and Achievement.
4. Christ-like Behavior.
5. Impacting Community in the Present and the Future.
6. Christ-centered Education and Discipleship.
7. Fiscal Stewardship.

KEY RESULTS

1. Life Application.
2. Academic Excellence.
3. Equipping (Defenders of the Faith).
4. Leadership.
5. Range of Learners.

SLOGAN:

Inspire. Educate. Disciple.

STATEMENT OF FAITH:

The following Statement of Faith is aligned with the beliefs and values that we hold as true at Tipton Christian Academy. Please read and review the below statements.

WE BELIEVE that there is one sovereign God who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God, was born of a virgin, was wholly God and wholly man, lived a sinless life, died in our place as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, was buried, arose bodily from the grave, and ascended into Heaven.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ will literally return to earth, personally, visibly, and unexpectedly, in power and great glory, to gather His elect, to raise the dead, to judge the nations, and bring His Kingdom to fulfillment.

WE BELIEVE that God the Holy Spirit is active in convincing unbelievers of their need for salvation, and is the Comforter and Guide who lives in every believer.

WE BELIEVE that the Bible is the infallible Word of God without any error, the sole authority for life and faith.

WE BELIEVE that man is a special creation of God, made in His image, but that through the sin of the first man, Adam, mankind fell so that all men are sinners and need salvation.

WE BELIEVE that salvation is a gift received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE that each believer, through prayer, has direct access to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE that God has established marriage as an exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin. We believe that God created human race as male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin.

WE BELIEVE that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human Life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells and gives life to believers, enables them to understand the Scriptures, empowers them for godly living and equips them for service and witness.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Bible, triumphing over all evil; and that all who believe in Him are justified by His shed blood and forgiven of all their sins.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. Tipton Christian Academy requires that all families, in order to be accepted and enrolled, to read and agree to the statement of faith. These beliefs will be taught within the curriculum and by other means of spiritual teachings to our students as we believe that teaching at TCA is viewed as a calling to the ministry of the Gospel.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATION

Leann Mashburn	Member/Finance Chair
Derek Kissell	Member/Chairman/FBC Deacon
Marla Phillips	Member/Secretary
John Glass	Member/School Safety Chair/FBC Deacon
Shayne Jones	Member/Facilities Chair
Joey Benard	Member/FBC Deacon
Paul Rose	Member/FBC Deacon
Casey Anderson	Member
Robert Palmer	Member/Personnel Chair/FBC Deacon
Cliff Marion	Non-Voting Member/FBC Pastor
Peggy Murdock	Non-Voting Member/Head of School

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students entering school must submit the following documents: For specific enrollment requirements please refer to the enrollment packet on the website.

- ✓ Copy of birth certificate
- ✓ Evidence of state immunizations on the proper form
- ✓ Completed student application
- ✓ Enrollment in FACTS
- ✓ Enrollment in REN-WEB
- ✓ Transcripts /records from previous schools

TUITION

Tuition is due on the 5th of each month and is payable through FACTS. For further details on tuition, please refer to the current enrollment packet available on the website.

INCIDENTAL FEES

Incidental fees will be due 10 days from the time it is posted. You will receive emails every time an incidental fee is posted. Incidental fees will include all fees other than tuition such as field trips, after school care, supply fees, and registration fees.

LATE FEES

A 6% late fee charge will be added to all fees 10 days after the due date.

DISENROLLMENT POLICY

Tipton Christian Academy (TCA) reserves the right to terminate the Enrollment Contract with a family for any reason, including, but not limited to the following:

- Non-payment of tuition and fees.
- Failure to adhere to policies outlined in the Student Handbook
- Needs of a child and/or parent that cannot be adequately met by our program.
- Physical and/or verbal abuse of staff or student by parent or child.
- Chronic disruptive behavior that interferes with the provision of a quality Christian education and care for the other children in the school or classroom.

The Responsible Party shall be obliged to pay tuition for the entire school year. In the event of a student's withdrawal or dismissal from the school, any tuition balance shall not be cancelled or refunded if paid in full.

CONTACTING FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS:

Faculty and administrators are more than willing to assist students and parents with their needs and concerns and will make time in their schedule to accommodate them. Classroom-related discussions should first be addressed with the classroom teacher prior to speaking with an administrator. Every effort should be made to do this during normal school hours. After or before school hours, a message can be to the teacher's e-mail. Every effort will be made to respond within 48 hours of the message. Only in cases of emergencies should faculty or administrators be called at home.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

For specific dates and information concerning the school calendar, please visit our website at www.tiptonchristianacademy.com

2025-2026 Calendar

First Semester

Students' First DayAugust 6
Abbreviated Day Students - 11:15 Dismissal
Student's First Full Day.....August 7
School Out/Labor Day.....September 1
Parent/Teacher Conference.....2:45 to 5:45 pm
Upper School.....September 23
Elementary School.....September 25
End of Quarter One.....October 3
Abbreviated Day Students - 11:15 Dismissal
Fall BreakOctober 6-10
Abbreviated Day November 21
Students - 11:15 Dismissal
Thanksgiving HolidaysNovember 24-28
Last Day of First Semester.....December 19
Abbreviated Day Students - 11:15 Dismissal
Christmas Break.....Dec. 22 - Jan. 5

Second Semester

Students Return.....January 6
Abbreviated Day/Students January 16
Students - 11:15 Dismissal
School Out/MLK Day.....January 19
Abbreviated Day/Students February 13
Students - 11:15 Dismissal
School Out/Presidents' Day.....February 16
Parent/Teacher Conferences.....2:45 to 5:45 pm
Upper School.....February 24
Elementary School.....February 26
End of Quarter 3.....March 13
Abbreviated day/Students Dismiss at 11:15.....March 13
Spring Break.....March 16-20
Easter Break.....April 3-6
Last Day for Students..... May 20

(Ending date could be extended in the event of an extended school closure due to weather.)

Progress Reports

September 4
November 13
February 12
April 16

Report Cards

October 16
January 8
March 26
May 20

**Upper School daily class time: 7:45 to 2:45

TRANSPORTATION – DROP-OFF AND DISMISSAL

ALL transportation of students is parent/student driver's responsibility.

UPPER SCHOOL

Students may be dropped off beginning at 7:15 A.M. until 7:45 A.M. each day at the front doors of the school. Students need to enter the building upon arrival. School begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. and will dismiss at 2:45 P.M.

Students arriving on campus after 7:45 are tardy and must be signed in at the front desk of the school.

TRAFFIC FLOW

Morning drop-off traffic should flow up the hill to the right (west), pass the front doors going east and back down the hill to exit on HASTINGS WAY. For afternoon pick-up, wait in the front area and exit moving down the hill to exit on Hastings Way.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event that Tipton Christian Academy is impacted by inclement weather or an act of God, the school will make decisions that we believe serve the best interest of our school and students.

Our first consideration will always be the safety of our students and their families.

Therefore, TCA will stand on its own decision, regardless of other local school systems. Our plans are to utilize several media outlets to notify you of a change in schedule due to inclement weather or other emergencies. We will first send a text/email via Parent Alert. Second, an announcement will be posted on TCA Social Media sites. Third, local TV and radio stations will be notified. We will notify you via these methods no later than 6:00 a.m. for any decision relating to school closures or delayed opening. Updates will be provided during the day/week via the mentioned media resources regarding school events that may be impacted. Nonetheless, parents should always exercise their own personal judgment based on individual family needs and/or conditions.

ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES

Regular attendance is a MUST if students are to progress in their education. The first day a child returns to school after an absence, he/she must bring to the office a dated, written note or email from the parent indicating the reason for the absence. If a student must miss school due to a dentist or doctor appointment, a dentist or doctor note is required upon return to school. An excuse for absence must be made in writing by the parent(s) or guardians(s) and should include the name of the student, the date(s) he/she was absent, the reason for the absence and parent's or guardian's signature. For a student to be excused by a parent/guardian note, the note must be turned in no later than two (2) days starting the day the student returns to school following his/her absence. Students with excused absences shall take the responsibility to obtain missed assignments from their teachers that are to be made up and are allowed one day for each absence to complete assignments. Absences other than those listed as excused/pre-approved are considered unexcused. Students may not be allowed to make-up their missed assignments if an absence is unexcused. Students will not be allowed to leave campus for lunch.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

1. Illness
2. Death in the Family
3. Medical or Dental Appointment
4. Family emergency
5. Pre-approved Absences

PRE-APPROVED ABSENCES

If you know in advance your child will be absent for any reason other than the excused absences listed above, you must submit a preapproved absence form to the office at a minimum of five (5) days in advance of the absence. A copy of the form is available on the TCA website under the Parent tab. Please note that you must send a note to the office before the absence. Requesting for absences to be approved for a vacation for students in grade 9th - 12th is highly discouraged due to the missed content presented in class. Only one pre-excused absence will be approved each semester.

ALLOTTED DAYS ABSENCES

Students with more than fifteen (15) unexcused absences during the year may be reported for truancy. Students with more than 25 days absence may not receive full academic course credit. Credit recovery may be required.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

To receive perfect attendance, the student must be present every day with no tardies or checkouts.

TARDIES

A student is tardy if he/she arrives on campus after 7:45 A.M. If a student arrives after 7:45 A.M., he/she will be noted as tardy. Every five unexcused tardies in a grading term will result in an unexcused absence. Each tardy to school will result in a silent lunch. Unexcused absences as a result of an accumulation of unexcused tardies will be recorded as an absence on the report card. Checkouts prior to 2:15 P.M. will be considered as an unexcused tardy unless they meet the **EXCUSED ABSENCE** criteria.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATTENDANCE

Students in co-curricular activities (choir, clubs, YIG/MUN, athletics, etc.) must attend a cumulative 3.5 hours the day of the event in order to be eligible to participate in after-school or evening activities. Students not in attendance the day of any co-curricular event may not participate the day/evening of the event unless you have a doctor's excuse for the hours missed. Participation in co-curricular activities require an overall C average in middle school with no F in a class at the end of a progress or report card grading period.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

DISCIPLINE

Tipton Christian Academy, like any community or organization, must have a basic set of rules for behavior that promote self-control, character and an environment where learning can take place. Students are expected to behave in a manner which demonstrates a respect for self, others, and recognition of the responsibilities of being part of a Christian educational community. Please see the additional TCA school behavior and cell phone plan for specific and detailed procedures.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR -

It is imperative that the classroom environment be conducive to learning. We have compiled a discipline system to ensure everyone is able to learn in a Christian environment. The following examples in each tier are general, not all-inclusive, categories of conduct violations.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BEHAVIOR PLAN

Students exhibiting negative behavior will receive a behavior mark for infractions below.

Examples of Minor Infractions Warranting a Behavior Mark - This list is not limited to the following examples:

- Talking out of turn
- All dress code violations
- Being unprepared for class (technology or materials, homework)
- Roughhousing
- Continuing to talk during lessons despite previous warnings
- Tardy to class
- Leaving class without permission
- Skipping a class
- Disrespectful speech or tone toward teachers or staff (e.g., sarcasm, eye-rolling, or rude responses)
- Disrupting the learning environment intentionally (e.g., joking loudly, throwing objects, refusing to comply with instructions)
- Playing games, watching videos, or accessing inappropriate websites (non-explicit) during school hours
- Texting on device during class
- Gossip or rumor-spreading that causes emotional harm
- Minor verbal conflicts with peers
- Excluding or mocking classmates in subtle but persistent ways
- Cheating on classwork, homework, or other assignments
- Lying (e.g., blaming another student, making excuses)
- Cell Phone/Apple Watch Possession, Dummy Phone, etc...
- Other violations as deemed appropriate

Serious Infractions Warranting Immediate Write Up

This list is not limited to the following examples:

- Cheating on tests, quizzes, or major assignments
- Plagiarism (copying text from online sources or other students without proper citation)
 - Using unauthorized resources (phones, websites, AI tools) during assessments
- Verbal bullying, including mocking, name-calling, or persistent teasing
- Cyberbullying via social media, group texts, or school devices
- Targeted exclusion or manipulation of social dynamics to hurt others
- Inappropriate or suggestive jokes/comments made toward a peer
- Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene language, whether spoken, written, or online
- Possessing or sharing inappropriate content (e.g., memes, images, or videos with sexual, violent, or crude content—even if not illegal)
- Accessing or attempting to access blocked websites or media during school hours
- Refusing to comply with a staff member's directions (e.g., walking out of class, talking back persistently)
- Public displays of anger or rebellion, including slamming doors, yelling, or making a scene
- Damaging school property intentionally or carelessly (e.g., drawing on desks, breaking equipment)
- Tampering with another student's belongings, locker, or digital file
- All Types of physical aggression
- Threats, hate speech, or possession of explicit content
- Illegal contraband on campus
- Other major violations as deemed appropriate

Tiered Consequences for Repetitive Negative Behaviors

A strong Christian middle school discipline plan balances structure with grace, fostering an environment where students learn accountability, respect, and growth.

1. Silent Lunch (Initial Intervention) 5 Marks in one week= 1st write up+silent lunch+ parent contact

- Applied for minor infractions listed in examples below.
 - Students eat separately from peers, using the time to reflect on their actions.
 - Reflection sheets or a Bible verse meditation may accompany this time (e.g., Ephesians 4:29 on uplifting speech).
 - Opportunity for discussion with a mentor or teacher afterward to identify better behavioral choices.

2. Detention 10 Marks Total = 2nd Write up+ detention+ parent contact

- Reserved for more persistent or serious infractions as listed below.
 - Students complete assigned coursework after school.
 - Reflection assignments required, such as writing about a biblical principle tied to their behavior (e.g., Colossians 3:23 on responsibility)
 - If students do not attend detention they will be assigned a second detention in addition to the first and parent meeting.

3. 2nd Detention 15 Marks Total = 3rd write up+detention+parent meeting

- Reserved for more persistent or serious infractions as listed below.
 - Students complete assigned coursework after school.
 - Reflection assignments required, such as writing about a biblical principle tied to their behavior (e.g., Colossians 3:23 on responsibility).
 - Guided discussions with a mentor about corrective steps.

4. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) 20 total marks or serious infractions as deemed appropriate by administration.

- Used for major offenses or continuous misbehavior (bullying, repeated defiance, fighting, serious misconduct).
- Student, parent, and school leadership meet to discuss the incident and next steps.
- Structured plan for re-entry includes:
 - A written apology (if applicable).
 - A mentoring program (temporary or ongoing).
 - Community service or acts of restitution within the school.
 - Commitment to behavior change, possibly with a signed contract.
- Biblical reflection component (e.g., James 1:19 on listening and responding wisely).

4. Expulsion (Final Resort) Our aim is to prevent this entirely, with the hope that restorative actions will influence and encourage lasting, positive behavioral change.

- Only considered when all previously listed interventions fail or when student actions severely disrupt the learning environment.
- Clear documentation of previous steps taken and conversations with parents.
- Biblical principles of repentance and reconciliation are emphasized, with resources offered for continued spiritual growth.
- Opportunity for restorative action before departure, if appropriate (final mentoring session, apology, service-based restitution).

CONFERENCES - Student and parent conferences are often not only necessary, but important in communicating the defined behaviors that are being sought to bring a student into compliance with school guidelines. These may involve the student, the parent, the teacher, or administrators.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

We at Tipton Christian Academy believe that students should have an educational environment that is free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. Every person who is a part of Tipton Christian Academy has the responsibility to support and care for each other and to behave in a pleasant and non-threatening fashion. We believe, without exception, that bullying should not be tolerated. In accordance with the Tipton Christian Academy mission statement and core values, the administration is committed to providing all students with a safe school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect.

DEFINITION

Bullying is any persistent, repetitive, willful and deliberate actions done by an individual or a group to hurt, distress, upset, frighten or threaten another person or persons. It is not an isolated incident of argument or aggression between students. Bullying can be physical, verbal, emotional or sexual in nature.

Bullying means any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

1. Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property
2. Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health
3. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance
4. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school

As a school community, we expect all incidences of bullying to be reported.

This requires all students to:

- take some form of preventative action if present when bullying occurs.
- report the incident or suspected incident to a teacher to help break down the code of secrecy.

The faculty and staff will:

- be role models at all times.
- watch vigilantly for any incidences of bullying.
- minimize opportunities for bullying by closely supervising areas where such behavior is likely to occur.
- act on suspected incidents promptly and in the appropriate manner.
- teach students appropriate ways to respond when they are witnesses to incidences of bullying

VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE:

If TCA determines that a threat of violence is credible and specific, the student making such a threat may be expelled from the school. For purposes of this policy, credible means a reasonable

belief or suspicion, determined by the discretion of the school administration, that the threat was or might be genuine, or that the student was or might be capable of carrying out the threat. In those circumstances in which the school determines the threat is likely not credible, the school may suspend the student pending a parent meeting. These include cases in which the student was “just joking.” (Proverbs 26:18-19) The school may request students in these circumstances to obtain counseling at the family’s expense from a Christian counselor or other professional agreeable to the school. Students will likely not be permitted to continue enrollment in the school until the counselor advises the school that the student, in the counselor’s opinion, does not present a threat of danger to himself or to others.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Of particular concern are lewd or sexually suggestive comments, behavior, and uninvited physical contact.

SEXUALITY:

TCA strives to enhance and strengthen a biblical sexual identity in its students. We endorse positive interaction and friendship between males and females. However, conduct with persons of the opposite sex should reflect respect for oneself, for the other person, and for the rest of the community. There should be no public display of affection at school or any school sponsored activity. The Bible is clear on its limitations of sexual activity outside the bounds of marriage. As a result, students are to use extreme discretion in their physical relationships. TCA believes that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin. We believe that God created human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one’s birth gender is immoral and therefore sin.

MARRIAGE AND PREGNANCY:

Students who are married will not be accepted for enrollment. Students who marry during the school term may be dismissed upon knowledge of such marriage. Parents, either the mother or father of a child, will not be accepted for enrollment. Upon knowledge of a pregnancy of an enrolled student, the prospective mother and/or father may be dismissed from Tipton Christian Academy.

TOBACCO/ALCOHOL/DRUGS:

In an effort to maintain and nurture a Drug Free atmosphere at TCA, the use or possession of tobacco, vapes, nicotine in any form is not allowed. If the administration deems it necessary, we have the right to inspect lockers, vehicles, and/or personal effects. Should illegal substances be discovered during these administrative searches, the law enforcement authorities (Student Resource Officer) will be notified. The possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any intoxicating, mind-altering, or controlled substance is strictly prohibited on school property, during school-sponsored events, or while representing the school in any capacity. TCA reserves the right to conduct random searches or drug testing with appropriate authorities at any time.

VANDALISM:

A destructive act against the school facility or equipment is an act against all of our students, faculty, parents, and friends who strive diligently to provide a clean, decent environment that honors God. At minimum, you will be required to pay for all damages.

EXPULSION:

Sometimes, in extreme cases, it becomes apparent that it would be best for the school and the student that he/she leaves the TCA campus. If a student who has been expelled wishes to rejoin the TCA community, the student must reapply through the Admissions Office and complete the admissions process. The TCA administration reserves the right to refuse re-admission.

TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY USE -

The school's computers/iPads provide opportunities to explore and use a varied and an exciting set of resources including computer programs, and the Internet. The use of the computers/iPads must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the academic expectations of Tipton Christian Academy.

The policy is simple yet broad:

- Do not cause damage to or change any settings on the computer.
- Use the computer for school related work only.
- Do not seek to access any areas that would embarrass the school or dishonor the Lord.

Network storage areas will be treated like school lockers. Network and/or school administrators and teachers may review files, bookmarks, and communications under the same standards set for school lockers to ensure the integrity of the electronic media. Privacy is not guaranteed for files stored on school computers. Files will not be maintained indefinitely. The use of the electronic networks and Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of privileges and possible disciplinary action according to the stated discipline system. Access entails responsibility. School administrators will determine what inappropriate use is, and their decision is final. Abuse of these procedures will most likely result in the revocation of student access or use of school computers.

INTERNET POSTINGS AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION -

Content in the following social networking outlets may constitute a substantial disruption to the educational environment at TCA: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, SnapChat, BeReal, blog sites, media sites such as YouTube and elsewhere. Communications by students via instant messaging, text messaging and other electronic means during school hours is prohibited. Student use of email is only allowed solely for educational purposes, otherwise use of email is prohibited.

Students who post or communicate disruptive content or contribute to the same may be subject to school discipline for reasons that include but are not limited to:

1. A threat towards a student, teacher, coach, administrator, or other school employee.
2. A false statement or rumor about a student that could damage his reputation or defame

his character.

3. Ridicule of faculty, administrators, or staff or disrespect for their authority, their position, or their reputation as an employee in the TCA school community.
4. A use as an instrument of any crime, including but not limited to stalking, distributing pornography, or threatening injury, loss of life or property.
5. Harassing language or images that might cause a student or staff member emotional or psychological distress, thereby disrupting a class, a school sponsored event, or otherwise disrupting the school environment.

Cell Phone/Smart Watch Policy

Students are able to use the office phone in case of an emergency.

At Tipton Christian Academy, we believe discipline is a tool for spiritual growth, not merely punishment. Rooted in Hebrews 12:6, "The Lord disciplines the one he loves," our goal is to help students mature in Christ, learn responsibility, and restore relationships. Our system ensures accountability while providing pathways for repentance, restoration, and reconciliation.

In Tennessee, a new law restricts cell phone use in schools. The law requires schools to adopt policies prohibiting students from using wireless communication devices during instructional time, with exceptions for educational purposes, emergencies, or health needs. Additionally, students with IEPs or 504 plans can also use devices as outlined in their plans.

Each day as students enter their homeroom, attendance will be taken and cell phones, smart watches and air pods collected. Any student who does not have a phone in the lock box will be required to produce a signed parent note stating that they do not have a device at school. Please note that students may not leave personal devices in their vehicles for the day. These devices will be kept by the homeroom teacher throughout the day. Students who arrive late to school will leave phones at the front desk to be stored in the office for that day. When the afternoon dismissal bell rings students will retrieve their devices before leaving for the day.

Technology included in this policy are phones, smart watches, bluetooth headphones, and any other paired devices.

Examples of Infractions:

- Use of Dummy Phones
- Having a device in your possession at any time between the tardy bell and dismissal bell

Response Options:

Tier 1 - Verbal/Written Warning and Redirection

Tier 2 - Disciplinary Write-Up and Parent phone call; Phone is kept overnight

Tier 3 - Disciplinary Write-Up and Parent phone call; Phone is kept overnight; Parent must retrieve phone IN PERSON

Tier 4 - Disciplinary Write-Up and Parent phone call; Phone is kept for five days (5); Parent meeting required at pickup

Tier 5 - Disciplinary Write-Up and Suspension from one full day of school; Zero's for missed work

Infractions above Tier 5 may result in loss of re-enrollment privilege.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES -

Personal electronic devices (any device that electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces or displays voice and/or text communication or data) are not to be brought to school. These include, but are not limited to music and media players, gaming devices, tablets, computers, Apple/Smart watches and Bluetooth headphones or devices.

DRESS CODE POLICY/ UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

The TCA Board of Directors, administration, faculty and staff feel strongly that a uniform dress code contributes to the disciplined environment of the school. Recognizing that each person is created in the image of God and their body is a temple, we also recognize that not all body structures are suited to every style of clothing. We endeavor to teach students to make clothing choices that reflect who God created them to be. Students are expected to dress neatly and in a manner that will reflect credit to themselves, their families, and the school.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Basic TCA dress code standards will apply at all times.
- Land's End is the school uniform vendor. All available school options can be accessed/ordered at Landsend.com.
- Polo colors are white, navy, yellow and light blue.
- Chapel shirts are white/light blue Oxford style
- Pants, skirt/skort, shorts, jumper colors are khaki or navy (chapel plaid for girls). Leggings should only be worn as undergarments and should be black or navy.
- Clothing must be -
 - Without holes and stains
 - Free from slogans and artwork, with the exception of the school brand logos
 - Fitted to student's body type, as to cover the waist while stretching, neither excessively baggy nor form-fitting
 - Casual shoes, dress shoes, and athletic shoes are permitted - no flip flops
- **NO** hats may be worn except on dress down days. We will collect all hats at the door if they are worn into the building. They will be returned at the end of the day.
- All clothing must be worn in a modest fashion as to not expose any under garments, bare shoulders, back or midriff areas, or cleavage.

SCHOOL-DAY STANDARD (Every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)

- GIRLS
 - TCA monogrammed Polo (short or long sleeve)
 - Khaki/navy pant/shorts/skirt/skort or plaid skirt
 - Skirts, skorts, and dresses conservative in length – **touch the fingertips when standing with arms down.**
 - Outerwear worn throughout the day **must** be TCA jackets, hoodies, sweaters, etc.
- BOYS
 - TCA monogrammed Polo (short or long sleeve)
 - Khaki/navy pants or shorts
 - Sweaters/sweater vests
 - Outerwear worn throughout the day **must** be TCA (jackets, hoodies sweaters, etc.)

CHAPEL DAY – SCHOOL DAY PROFESSIONAL (Tuesday)

- GIRLS - Chapel clothing will be worn all day Tuesday, no exceptions.
 - White or Blue button-down Oxford style shirt: no gape.
 - Plaid skirt from Land's End required.
 - **NO** hoodies, jackets, vests, or sweatshirts **during** chapel
- BOYS – Chapel clothing will be worn all day Tuesday, no exceptions.
 - Boys must wear khaki or navy pants/shorts
 - Short sleeve or long sleeve white or light blue oxford style shirt.
 - Boys are required to wear the navy/gold stripe tie from Land's End. (6th – 12th)
 - **NO** hoodies, jackets, vests, or sweatshirts **during** chapel

SPIRIT DAY, SCHOOL-DAY CASUAL (Friday)

- GIRLS
 - Pants or shorts (khaki or navy)
 - T-shirts, jerseys, and sweatshirts supporting TCA
- BOYS
 - Pants or shorts (khaki or navy)
 - T-shirts, jerseys, and sweatshirts supporting TCA

PE/GYM

- Students in grades 6th – 9th will dress out with shorts conservative in length – touch the fingertips when standing with arms down, TCA t-shirt, and **tennis shoes. Tennis shoes are mandatory in order to be on the gym floor.**
- Students should be in regular uniform dress on PE days.
- Students will have time to change prior to PE.
- Students not wearing the required attire will receive a reduction in grade.

DRESS DOWN WEDNESDAYS

One dress down day is scheduled for the last attended Wednesday of each month. The following general guidelines should be followed:

- Jeans are allowed – No holes, rips or shreds allowed above the knee. The placement of the rip/shred should be at the knee or below. We realize many styles of jeans have the “worn” look. Please use conservative judgment in your choices.
- Athletic shorts are allowed – must be knee length and loose-fitting. This goes for boys and girls.
- Athletic pants are allowed – must be loose-fitting; NO yoga pants or leggings worn as pants. Leggings may be worn underneath tunic/dresses that are conservative in length – touch the fingertips when standing with arms down.
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts MUST comply with the length requirement of conservative in length – touch the fingertips when standing with arms down.
- No tank tops are allowed and no midriff can show.
- T-shirt message/content should be school appropriate and consistent with our Christian mission and message.
- Hats are permissible.

GAME DAY ATTIRE FOR ATHLETES:

All student-athletes should follow these guidelines:

On **games days**, student-athletes may wear their sport jersey with regular uniform bottoms. If the jersey is a tank-style, a shirt must be worn underneath and must coordinate in color with the uniform. If games are on Tuesdays, chapel attire must be worn the entire day.

OUTERWEAR:

Only items approved as part of the uniform may be worn in the halls and classrooms. Non-uniform outerwear may be worn to and from school and should be kept in locker during the school day. Hoods cannot be worn over the head in hallways or classrooms.

FOOTWEAR: (Vendor of choice)

Students should wear safe and comfortable shoes. Open toe shoes are permitted. Flip-flops are not acceptable.

HEADWEAR:

Caps, hats, toboggans, bandanas, scarves, etc. are not to be worn in the building. Hair accessories may be worn by female students and may be purchased from any vendor, but must be yellow, white, black, navy or compliment the school uniform. Non-prescription glasses, sunglasses, and novelty contacts are not permitted.

JEWELRY / BODY PIERCINGS / BODY ART:

On campus or any off-campus school functions, female students must have no body piercings other than conventional pierced earrings, on the lower lobe of the ear. No earrings or body piercings are permissible for male students. Jewelry must not be distracting or present a safety issue. Tattoos, or body art of any kind, are unacceptable.

HAIR STYLES

GIRLS: Hairstyles shall reflect a neat, well-groomed appearance at all times. Extreme make-up, hairstyles and unnatural hair colors are prohibited.

BOYS: Hairstyles shall reflect a neat, well-groomed appearance at all times. Extreme hairstyles and unnatural hair colors are prohibited. Boys' hair length should not exceed the shirt collar and must be above eyebrows. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed. Mohawks are not permitted. Male students are not permitted to have ponytails, man buns or pins or hairbands in their hair. Male students will be neatly shaven. Ungroomed, long facial hair is not permitted.

If students are not sure whether or not a style is appropriate for TCA, they should ask an administrator.

SECURITY:

VISITORS

- All visitors must immediately check in at the office before going elsewhere on campus. All school visitors must obtain and wear a visitor's badge and check out when leaving campus.
- Parents, tutors, or other concerned adults may not visit or observe a teacher's classroom without prior permission from the principal.
- Non-TCA students who have an interest in attending TCA at a future date should first contact the Admissions Office to request a visit to the campus.

CHILD EMERGENCY INFORMATION -

We will not release any child to anyone other than the parent or guardian unless there is written permission by the parent/guardian. We cannot stop biological parents from picking up their children, unless we have an order from the court.

At the beginning of each school year, parents will complete emergency information forms on each student. These forms will be kept on file and will contain lists of emergency phone numbers, allergies, and medical situation. It is the family's responsibility to make sure this information is accurate and current throughout the school year. **This includes phone numbers and email addresses.**

LUNCHES AND SNACKS

HOT LUNCHES -

TCA will have hot lunches provided daily through School Eatery.

LADYBUG CAFÉ

Students also have the option to purchase food items from the Ladybug Café.

OTHER INFORMATION

SICK POLICY

If a child becomes sick at school the school nurse will be contacted and his/her guardians will be contacted if needed. For the protection of all of the children, no child who appears to be ill will be allowed to stay at school.

Prior to returning to school, after any illness or incident, a note from parents is required for an absence to be excused. A doctor's release may be requested.

The following will ALWAYS require a doctor's release:

- All childhood diseases. Example—chicken pox, measles
- All surgical procedures, including same day surgeries.
- All hospitalizations.

FEVER— Please keep child at home if he/she has a temperature of 100.4° or higher. Your child may return to school after he/she is fever free for at least 24 hours. Your child cannot return to school the next day if sent home from school because of fever. *Please do not give anti-fever medicine and send your child to school.*

MEDICATIONS -

Medications will **NOT** be administered to any student by the school staff without written consent. Please do not send any medications to school with your child. Medication forms must be completed in order for medication to be administered to the students, which can be obtained through the front desk. Emergency medications, such as EpiPens, Inhalers, etc., can be kept with the student. If such medicines are prescribed, they must be sent to school in the original container with administering instructions and must have the child's name on the package. The only medicines to be administered by school staff will be those that are used in emergency situations or after notifying parent/guardian.

LICE POLICY -

If a student is found to have lice, he/she will be sent home for treatment. Upon return to school, the student will be rechecked by the nurse. If live lice and/or untreated nits are found, the student will be sent home for retreatment.

EMERGENCY DISASTER PLAN

FIRE -

Staff members will take the children out the closest exit and go to their designated places away from the building. We will remain there until we have an "all clear" from appropriate authorities. Fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis at school.

SEVERE WEATHER, TORNADO -

Staff members will take all students to the areas designated as “shelter in place” and have the children to sit against the walls. We will remain there until the bad weather has passed. If our area is under a tornado watch, parents may use their discretion to pick up their child. However, if the area is under a tornado warning, we recommend no one leaves the building. Tornado drills are conducted on a regular basis at school.

EARTHQUAKE -

Staff members will assist all children in getting under any available furniture.

BOMB THREAT -

Staff members will follow the evacuation plan outlined in the event of a fire.

VIOLENCE OR THREAT OF VIOLENCE -

Staff member that is able to will notify the police of the situation. The school will then go into a lockdown mode.

ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

Progress Reports and Report Cards will be emailed to the Upper School families approximately one week after the period ends. If a printed copy of the report is needed, we will print it for you. The last three days of each semester are exam days. The following legend will be used for all academic evaluations:

Grade	Numerical
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	65 - 69
F	0 - 64

CONDUCT GRADES are designated by using “E”, “G”, “S”, or “N”. Conduct grades are represented by the prior letters as Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, or Needs Improvement. The grades are determined by taking into consideration the following: actual behavior in class; respect shown to the teacher and fellow classmates; respect shown to other teachers and staff: prompt compliance to directions; attitude expressed in class; respect shown for property; and reporting to class on time.

Retention will be evaluated based on progress in any major subject.

ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL EXPECTATIONS

All A Honor Roll: All As in every subject for the entire year.

A/B Honor Roll: All As and Bs in every subject for every quarter the entire year.