

Section One – General Information

Discipline Policy

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline administered with love, firmness and consistency is essential to any learning process. Discipline and its application at Bethlehem Christian School is grounded in Scripture (see particularly Proverbs 12:1, 13:18 and 24, 22:15; Ephesians 5:1-4; Hebrews 12; I Corinthians 13 and Revelation 3:19). Just as discipline and disciple come from the same root word, so it is, we believe, that the full meaning and intent of discipline should be not only to correct behavior, but also to build up, encourage and train an individual in concepts as well as behavior that is pleasing to God. God admonishes us that reproof and correction are to be administered in love and with a measure of grace and compassion. The school seeks to work within a Christian framework of discipline. Teachers and Administrators have authority from the parents to administer discipline within the limits and guidelines of the Discipline and Probation Policy. Unacceptable behavior often differs in its severity and, therefore, disciplinary responses may vary. Behavior offenses and misconduct will be acted upon by the individual teachers and/or administrators according to the severity or persistence of the offense(s).

Less serious offense: Warning to students - explanation of offense - head on desk - isolation from other students - miss recess - call to parents - conference with teacher.

More serious offense: Isolation from other students - dismissal from class - miss recess, gym and other activities, such as field trips and special events - suspension - conference with parents - probation - expulsion.

A student may be suspended and/or placed on probation, or expelled upon the recommendation of the faculty and the Administrator(s), depending on the severity of the offense.

Suspension: A student may be suspended by the Principal for unacceptable behavior and accumulated offenses. Suspension will be no more than three (3) days. Parents are notified of suspension and are responsible for securing assignments from the teacher(s). Suspension may also be of the in-school variety. In this situation, the student will be given a list of assignments to be completed on that given school day. The student will be placed in a separate room for the entire school day in order to complete this work.

Probation: A student may be placed on probation up to sixty (60) days by the Principal. Such action will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Probation exceeding sixty days requires approval by the Board of Trustees. A conference is held with the parents, teachers, student and Principal to explain probation. This is followed by a letter which reviews the results of the conference. At the end of the probation period, the faculty/administration decides whether there is sufficient improvement to remove the student from probation. During probation, students are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.

Reasons for probation are:

- Continued deliberate disobedience.

- A rebellious spirit which is unchanged after much effort by a teacher.
- A negative attitude and bad influence upon others.
- Insufficient academic progress because of failure to work to capacity.
- Committing a serious breach of conduct inside or outside of school, which has an adverse effect upon the testimony of the school.
- Failure of the parents to comply with the disciplinary procedure of the school.
- Failure of the parents to get recommended professional help for a student when needed.

Probation gives a student an opportunity to correct the problem area which, if not accomplished to a satisfactory degree, will result in the parents being asked to withdraw their child from the school.

Expulsion. Expulsion is by action of the Board of Trustees after review and recommendation by the Executive Committee and Principal. A meeting involving the Executive Committee and Principal, together with the student, parents and teacher(s), will be held prior to making this recommendation.

Abraham Lincoln stated it this way, *The philosophy of the classroom is the philosophy of the government in the next generation.*

The true purpose of Christian school education is to hand the torch of a Bible-centered, Christ-honoring philosophy of education to the next generation.