

An Introduction to the Student Parent Handbook

The Student Parent Handbook of Evangelical Christian Academy is designed to be a helpful document which is intended to make clear the policies and procedures of the school that impact parents and students. Each parent is expected to read this document, abide by it, and promote adherence to it by each parent and student in the family. We ask that you pay special attention to the Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality and the Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct found under Beliefs and Principles on page 4.

The Handbook is now accessible as an online document. For understanding and ease of access, the Handbook is organized in major categories (General, Elementary, and Secondary) for convenient access to smaller sections which address specific issues.

A set of rules is necessary in a school like ours to maintain order and clarity. Willing cooperation with the guidelines of this Handbook is expected and appreciated.

While the majority of the Handbook has been around for years, updates are made to it periodically. If a topic is addressed that might have serious implications for a families enrollment at ECA, we attempt to provide clarity to those sensitive subjects prior to the enrollment cycle for the upcoming year. The school reserves the right to add, subtract or modify portions of this Handbook at any time.

If you find that you have a question about any policies, guidelines or their interpretation, please contact the administrator, faculty or staff member closest to the issue. Our hope is that concerns can be quickly and efficiently addressed in this way. The Handbook also addresses other ways to address specific concerns that might arise.

We hope and pray that every student, parent and family can find their special place within the ECA school system. We represent a rare place in society that promotes a Bible-based Christian culture of people committed to "training up children to pursue their purpose in Christ."

"Train up a child..."

As modern psychological theories penetrate more deeply into popular consciousness, there is growing recognition of the crucial character of early childhood experiences. It has long been an established fact that a child's diet determines to a large extent his physical wellbeing in later life. More recently, it has been recognized that unpleasant emotional experiences in childhood often reappear at a later time in the form of both physical and mental illness.

All of this has resulted in a tremendous emphasis on childcare and child psychology. Parents have at their disposal a vast amount of literature to tell them what are the best foods for their children at every age. They are confronted with numerous warnings of the disastrous consequences of the wrong kind of experiences to which they may subject their children. It is a foolish parent, indeed, who completely ignores the advice of those who are recognized as the experts in childcare and training.

Impressed as men are by the new theories of nurture, they are often singularly heedless of the precepts of Scripture concerning child training. Long before modern psychology began to teach the importance of early childhood experiences, the Word of God had this advice to offer:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Or again,

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children;
instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4

To neglect the instruction of children in the Word of God is just as disastrous as to fail to give them a proper diet. The lack of the one may deform the body, but the lack of the other will destroy the soul. Nothing can substitute for the fear of the Lord from the earliest years of life. Without the firm direction of the Law of God, the child is left to wander through a maze of conflicting experiences that can only end in bewilderment and frustration. Without the promises of God's covenant of salvation, a child is bereft of the sense of security and belonging so important to his stability and maturity.

Teaching the Word of God in the church and in the home occupies a place of importance in child training which is second to none. How are you discharging your responsibility to the children who will be tomorrow's men and women?

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Beliefs and Principles

Organization

Evangelical Christian Academy is a Colorado non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. The Board of Directors consists of between 8 and 13 members, with specific classes of board representation including elders and members of Village Seven Presbyterian Church, as well as some at-large members who come from other churches with children enrolled at ECA. All members of the ECA Board are first approved by the Session of Village Seven Presbyterian Church as afforded them in the ECA Bylaws. The church office is located at the following address:

Village Seven Presbyterian Church
4055 Nonchalant Circle South
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

The Superintendent of ECA serves as an ex-officio member of the ECA Board. The Superintendent is the primary conduit between the ECA Board and the school administrators, faculty and staff. The Superintendent oversees the Principals of the each school and the business office manager.

The faculty members work under annual contracts which are approved by the Board and administration.

Mission Statement

Evangelical Christian Academy exists to partner with parents and their church to educate, equip, and empower its students to pursue their purpose in Christ.

Vision Statement

Evangelical Christian Academy seeks to affect the Kingdom of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through students who are mature in their Christian faith and effective in their church, family, work, and world for the glory of God.

Statement of Faith

- We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God's truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.
- We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God's displeasure, except by His mercy.
- We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.
- We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God's people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.

- We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.
- We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; 1Cor. 6:9-10)
- We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Evangelical Christian Academy as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to all students and parents of the ECA community, it is imperative that all person employed by ECA in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement of Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1Thess. 5:22)
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1Cor. 6:9-11)
- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Evangelical Christian Academy.

Final Authority for Matter of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible 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. For purposes of Evangelical Christian Academy's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our board of directors is ECA's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Partnership of the Home, Church, and School

The Bible is filled with examples and guidelines for parents. The Scriptures clearly establish parents as having the responsibility to teach and train (educate) their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Deuteronomy 31:13, Psalms 78:5-8, Proverbs 22:6, Isaiah 28:9, Isaiah 38:19, Ephesians 6:4). There are numerous options available to achieve educational goals, and ECA exists to assist parents in this endeavor. The home, church, and school should complement each other, integrating the student's spiritual, academic, social, and physical development. The home, church, and school are in a partnership. Evangelical Christian Academy strives to provide its students with a Christ-centered education of high academic

quality so that they may be prepared to take an active, vital place in the home, church, state, and in their future vocation by applying Christian principles in a Biblical manner that is glorifying to God.

By enrolling their student at ECA, parents and/or guardians have agreed to support the school in the education of their child and to participate in the life of the school. Enrollment at any educational institution represents a transfer of authority from the parents to the school for the period of time the child is under the care and nurture of the school. All ECA parents/guardians are required to read and agree to adhere to ECA rules and policies, including but not limited to the policies concerning: academic and graduation requirements, dress code, discipline, academic and behavioral probation, and requirements for athletics and co-curricular eligibility. ECA reserves the right to dismiss a student from enrollment when there is refusal to adhere to this Handbook on the part of the student and/or their parent, guardian, or host. Parents should discuss any questions or disagreements concerning school policy with the administration prior to enrollment.

Accreditation, Associations and Memberships

ECA (K – 12) is accredited by the following organizations:

- **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)**
- **National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE)**
- **Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS) – 2016 Accreditation Candidate**

Evangelical Christian Academy is a member of the following associations:

- **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)**
- **Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS)**
- **Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSSA)**
ECA must comply with all bylaws and directives set by CHASSA
- **Black Forest League (BFL)**
For High School sports including: girls' volleyball, basketball, boys' baseball, track, Junior High girls' volleyball, basketball, and track and field.
- **Christian School Athletic League (CSAL)**
Elementary and Junior High soccer, Elementary basketball, Elementary girls' volleyball, Elementary boys' wrestling, and track and field.
- **Tri-Peaks League**
High School soccer and cross-country