

STUDENT CONTRACT
Cornerstone Christian School
Grades 7-12
2021-2022

Student Code of Conduct

We have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God, but through the mercy of Christ and his sacrifice on the cross, we can attain forgiveness and a fresh start. Regardless of what has occurred in the past, this year is a new beginning and an opportunity for us all to grow in the knowledge and love of the Father. Going forward, our expectations of our students, our staff, and our parents are that we all live by the CCS Code of Conduct, which is written through the lens of the Bible.

Cornerstone will strive to create a culture conducive to the spiritual growth and development of its students. Conduct based on the following Biblical imperatives is necessary to provide such a culture. CCS, therefore, requests that each student:

1. Refrain from cheating, stealing, swearing, indecent language, smoking, vaping, drinking alcoholic beverages, selling and/or using narcotics, pornography, premarital sex, negative peer pressure, bullying, and
2. Maintain Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, honesty, morality, modest attire; always acting in a very orderly and respectful manner.
3. Follow the Matthew Principles for Conflict Resolution: **“If someone offends you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If that person listens to you, you have regained that one.”** Gossiping, complaining, or talking about the issue with someone other than the offender is unbiblical. Students need to advocate for themselves with faculty and staff in an attempt to solve the problem. If a student is reluctant to go alone, then he/she should ask another faculty or staff member for help. If the problem cannot be resolved at that point, the student should appeal to an administrator. Parents should encourage their teenagers to learn to handle issues on their own. It is biblical to do so, and will greatly improve the child’s ability to handle conflict as an adult.

Students are expected to abide by the above standards throughout their enrollment, whether at home, school, or elsewhere. Students found to be out of harmony with these CCS ideals may be invited to withdraw whenever the general welfare demands it, even though there may be no special breach of conduct.

COVID-19 POLICIES

Until we see an end to a rise in Covid cases, Cornerstone will continue to ask students and staff to implement wise behaviors to protect themselves and others. We expect weekly testing by an outside group, appointed by the ADPH and in conjunction with UAB, to help screen students and staff who opt for this free testing on our campus. Unless required by ADPH and state officials, we will not require masks to be worn; however, sometimes, masks should be worn, as outlined below.



The safest way to avoid contracting Covid is to follow these guidelines:

1. Wear a mask whenever feasible. Teachers will frequently remind students to wear masks during times when they are most vulnerable, such as but not limited to changing classes, working in small groups, open classroom discussion, one-on-one help, and movement in large

groups (changing classes, for example).

- a. Some faculty/staff members are more vulnerable due to health concerns. Some teachers may ask that students wear masks more often or for longer periods of time. If asked, we would hope that students will comply because they understand that by wearing masks, they are protecting other people.
 - b. If students are wearing cloth masks, they should wash these masks daily and dry on high heat setting to disinfect. Paper/medical masks should not be worn for more than a single day. (N-95 masks could be disinfected and worn for more than 1 day, but should not be worn for more than 2 or 3 days.)
2. Wash hands frequently, and use hand sanitizer between hand washings.
 3. Watch distance from others. While separation of 6 feet or more is best, students are asked to stay as far from others as space/situation allow.

Should anyone at CCS contract CoViD-19, CCS will work with the health department to determine who needs to isolate and for how long. We ask that all members of the Charger family will avoid making negative comments about anyone who has contracted the illness. Instead, let us pray for and support anyone who may be experiencing illness or being asked to isolate/quarantine.

DRUG TESTING

CCS reserves the right to host drug dogs on campus and to drug test any student in grades 7-12 at any time; this information may be used to make decisions regarding admission or continued enrollment. This policy is intended to maintain a safe, drug-free environment for our students.

LOCKER POLICY

All high school students, and some elementary students, will be assigned a locker in the beginning of the year. The school will rent a lock to students for \$10 yearly. Locks not rented from the school will be removed with bolt cutters. School locks that are damaged or lost will be replaced for \$25.

The school reserves the right to search any locker at any time for any reason. Items deemed inappropriate will not be allowed in lockers, and may be confiscated by the school and not returned. Students may not swap locks or lockers, or claim lockers not assigned to them.

PICK-UP, PARKING, AND HIGH SCHOOL DRIVERS

Between 7:30 and 8:15 and between 2:15 and 3:15, everyone entering campus must enter from the Highway 25 entrance and exit from the Highway 49 exit. Please do not go against the flow of traffic during these times! **Elementary students are to be dropped off in the drive-through; high school students must enter through the cafeteria and report to the sanctuary.**

Please maintain a speed of less than 10 mph in our parking lot. Drivers who fail to observe this safety request may be denied permission to bring their vehicle on our campus.

Students who drive to school will be assigned a parking location and given a hanging tag to display in their vehicles. Each student driver must fill out a driver permission form, providing their vehicle's make, color, and tag #. Proof of insurance is required for all student drivers. Student drivers should not loiter in or around their vehicles once they arrive at school. Students must ask permission to go to their vehicles during the school day.

Students must receive permission to drive to school-sponsored events from both their parents and the school.

Any student who leaves, or takes another student off-campus without permission, will have their driving privileges on our campus revoked for the duration of the semester and/or year.

CELL PHONES / TABLETS / DIGITAL DEVICES

Our school has adequate phone lines to allow students to reach parents (and vice versa) under most circumstances. Although CCS does not prohibit students from carrying phones or digital devices, these devices are not to be used in class without the teacher's permission. Devices will be confiscated if they are being used inappropriately during class. This includes using a phone for non-educational purposes while class is in session.

Cell phones will be silenced and placed in a designated spot in the classroom. Phones will stay there until class is dismissed or until a teacher has asked students to use their phones/technology in the classroom. Failure to comply will result in phones being confiscated until the end of the day.

Under no circumstances should a CCS teacher, student, or guest be photographed or videotaped without their knowledge and consent. Additionally, recordings or photographs should NEVER be taken in private areas, such as locker rooms and bathrooms. Students who capture such images, especially if they are posted online or shared with others, are subject to severe disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

When a device is confiscated by a teacher, the school may return it to the student, require a parent to pick it up, or mail it to the student's home COD. The school assumes no responsibility for the safety of confiscated devices once they're taken up.

ATTENDANCE: Alabama state law requires students aged 7-16 to attend school; beyond age 16, possession of a drivers' license in our state is contingent upon school attendance. Elementary students are allowed 20 excused absences per school year, and high school students (7-12) are allowed 10 excused absences per semester.

ABSENCE / TARDY VERIFICATION

Attendance is a must; a student who is not in the classroom simply cannot learn as effectively as a student under the instruction of a teacher. In addition, Cornerstone is obligated to our accrediting agencies to verify that our grades are given in alignment with AISA, Advanced Ed and Alabama state standards. While Cornerstone is not a public school; we are held to some basic expectations from the state guidelines.

It is the responsibility of the parent and child to ensure that excuses are provided upon the

return to school. **Any absences not cleared up by an excuse will be classified as unexcused if not handled within 2 days of return to school. We will not grant excused status to any absences not handled after 2 days.**

COLLEGE VISITS

Missing school to visit a college campus in person is a privilege reserved for junior and seniors. Juniors and seniors are allowed two 1-day college visits per year. A written request must be made to administration at least 4 days prior to visit, and students who will be missing class should meet with each teacher whose class the student will miss to see what work will be assigned/due during the college visit. A college tour should be a serious visit, not a vacation day. Students should either go with a parent or have a verified scheduled appointment with an admissions officer, and CCS will follow up with the college. College visits cannot be made during December or May.

EXEMPTION FROM ABSENCE POLICY

In some cases, students may violate the school's attendance policy through no fault of their own, and should therefore be excused from consequences. It should be clearly stated that CCS believes these cases are exceedingly rare. Nonetheless, students who feel they fit this category may apply for exemption in writing and know this will go before the school board for approval.

EXCUSED ABSENCES / TARDIES

1. Parental note via email to cbenz@cornerstonechargers.com: Reason for absence must be acceptable to be deemed excused
2. Death in family
3. Educational Opportunity (schedule in advance)
4. Illness or Injury (provide doctor's excuse)
5. Religious Observance (provide documentation)
6. Medical /Dental Appointment (provide excuse)
7. Pre-approved absence—must be requested in writing to administration at least 4 days in advance. These requests may be denied if student is close to exceeding state allowable days or request is simply unacceptable.

NON-EXCUSED ABSENCES / TARDIES

- A. No note or documentation within 2 days after absence
- B. Suspended by school
- C. Traffic/trains (within reason)
- D. Other reasons as determined by office staff

TARDY TO SCHOOL OR CLASS

Part of preparing our students for life is teaching them to be on time. A student is considered to be tardy if he is not in his assigned area when the bell rings for that class/day to begin.

MAKE UP WORK

Teachers will work with students to catch up any missing assignments due to excused absences or excused tardies. Students have 2 days to make up work missed for a 1-day absence—this does not mean 2 class periods! Since we are on a block schedule, it is best for students to make up the missed work sooner rather than later. Since lessons are posted online for students to access, there is no reason a student should not keep up with work being missed during an absence, unless that student is incapacitated and unable to do any work; therefore, work missed during absences that was due during the absence (or due on the day of return) must be turned in on the day of the student's return to school, even if the student does not have that class on the day of return.

Work missed during the period of unexcused absence and tardies will not be allowed to make up.

CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

In most situations, students who do not attend at least half of the school day will be barred from participating in school events that evening. This policy is based on the simple premise that a student who is too sick to attend school is also too sick to play sports.

CHECKING IN AND OUT

All students checking in or out must go through the office. Drivers who fail to check in or out will face loss of driving privileges. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for any makeup work missed. **Students may not check out to eat lunch off campus unless part of a sanctioned outing. A parental note or email is required for a student to leave school without their guardian present.**

EXAMS

Semester exams will be given in all core courses in grades 7-12. Elective course exams will be given at the teacher's discretion. Exams will count as 20% of the semester average.

DRESS CODE

The dress code of CCS is designed to reflect 3 principles:

1. No student has the right to dress in a way that will distract other students from learning.
2. Learning to dress appropriately to fit the life situation is an essential component of maturity.
3. A school dress code should reflect Biblical principles of modesty and Christian maturity.

CONSEQUENCE

Students who arrive at school out of code will not attend class until the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of the classroom teacher and/or administrator. Any missed work will be given a grade of zero, as our dress code is clearly laid out in this handbook and therefore deviations from it are unexcused.

There will be no credence given to arguments that “other students got away with this.” The fact that one dress code violation went unnoticed does not excuse future violations, any more than one unsolved robbery excuses all future robberies.

IN ONE SENTENCE

Students of Cornerstone are expected to arrive and remain neat, modest, and respectful in attire appropriate to a mixed-gender, K-12 environment.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code will be subject to the following:

1. a written warning which is to be signed by the student a parent or guardian to acknowledge the infraction
2. a second violation during the year will result in a detention
3. a third violation will result in an in-school suspension
4. a fourth violation will result in an out-of-school suspension
5. a fifth violation will result in a 3-day out-of-school suspension
6. further violations will result in a student’s appearance before the School Board to address the repeated offenses

GENTLEMEN

1. Shirts: T-shirts, polos, button-ups, sweatshirts or sweaters. Note that tank tops are not permitted.
2. Pants: Khakis, dress pants, blue jeans, dress shorts, or denim shorts. Shorts must be modest--no shorter than the length of a credit card above the knee. Note that sweatpants are not permitted during the school day, but may be worn after school for participating in/attending athletic events.
3. Hair: Neatly groomed with eyes visible. Longer hair may be worn but must not distract from the learning environment. Extreme or outlandish hairstyles are not permitted; it’s advisable to seek permission before spending money on one. Dye must be a natural human hair color. Gentlemen may have facial hair, but it must be kept trimmed and neat.
4. General Principles: All clothes must fit appropriately. No clothes may contain offensive or inappropriate material (and remember we have 3-year olds in our halls). All attire must be modest. Gentlemen may not wear earrings on campus or to school events.

LADIES

1. Shirts: Blouses, T-shirts, polos, button-ups, sweatshirts, or sweaters. Note that tank tops are not permitted. Sleeveless shirts are allowed, but the shirt sleeve opening must come to the edge of the shoulder.
2. Pants: Khakis, dress pants, blue jeans, dress shorts, or denim shorts. Sweatpants are not allowed. Shorts and skirts should be modest: no shorter than the length of a credit card above the knee.

3. Hair should be neatly groomed with eyes visible. Extreme or outlandish styles are not permitted. It's advisable to seek permission before spending money on one. Any dye must be a natural human hair color.
4. General Principles: All attire must be modest – no exposed back, belly, cleavage or undergarments. Ladies are allowed 2 earrings per ear while on campus.
5. **CONDITIONAL EXCEPTION FOR FALL 2021: IF GIRLS IN GRADES 7-12 CAN WEAR LEGGINGS WITH TUNIC-TYPE TOPS (no oversized t shirts or sweatshirts) THAT ARE FINGER-TIP LENGTH, THEY WILL BE PERMITTED. HOWEVER, IF GIRLS FAIL TO MEET THE GUIDELINES FOR TOPS WITH LEGGINS, THIS EXCEPTION WILL BE DISCONTINUED!**

ALL-INCLUSIVE DRESS CODE PRINCIPLES

1. Clothing from other high schools should not be worn at CCS. We are Chargers and should be proud of that fact!
2. Rips and frays in clothes must be covered. Holes in jeans must not be too extreme, and any holes above the knees should be worn with shorts or legging or some other clothing that will cover the skin under the hole, thus eliminating the exposure of skin above the knee through the holes.
3. Modesty should be observed at all times.
4. Sweatpants/athletic pants or shorts may not be worn (see #5 for exception)
5. Team uniforms/warm-ups may be worn with permission from the team coach.
6. Shoes must be worn at all times in the buildings.
7. Athletic shoes must be worn for PE.
8. Hats/toboggans are not allowed in the building. They will be confiscated and not returned. At this time Friday's are reserved as "Hat Day " where hats can be worn, **HOWEVER, for 2021-2022, IF students cannot keep their hat wearing confined to Friday and are in violation of this exception on other days, hat days will be eliminated completely.**
9. Tattoos may not be visible.
10. Ear gauges are not allowed; if gauges exist you must use a gauge cover.
11. It is recommended that each student keep an alternative set of clothes in their vehicle/locker so that, in the event of dress code issue, lost class time can be minimized. It is always better to ask first than to be sent home to change.

I PETER 3: 2-5

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.”

One of the primary reasons we have a dress code is to minimize distraction and allow students to focus on principles of primary importance.

There will be no credence given to arguments that “other students got away with this.” The fact that one dress code violation went unnoticed does not excuse future violations, any more than one unsolved robbery excuses all future robberies.

1. It is always better to ask first than to be sent home to change. It is also a good idea to have an acceptable change of clothes at school at all times, just in case.

Agreement

I have read the Cornerstone Student Contract and handbook, and I agree to abide by both the spirit and letter of the guidelines. I understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

If I have any concerns about the rules and how they are being enforced, I agree to bring my concerns to the appropriate members of the administration and not to voice my grievances in public.

Sign and return this page to the student's first period teacher by August 15, 2021.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____