



SYSTEMS HANDBOOK

2025-2026

MAIN CAMPUS

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7:25AM – 2:15PM

ELEMENTARY

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vcsohio.org

System-wide Philosophy and Policy Handbook

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1.0 FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

1.1 Statement of Faith

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

4. 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).
5. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that 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 12:12–13, 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).
8. 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 (Genesis 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 (1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2–5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God's command is that there be no sexual intimacy outside of or apart from marriage between a man and a woman.
9. We believe that God wonderfully foreordained and immutably created each person as either male or female in conformity with their biological sex. These two distinct yet complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26–27).

Our Statement of Faith is not exhaustive of all of our beliefs. The Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with absolute authority about the proper conduct of mankind and is the unchanging foundation for all beliefs and behavior. The ACSI Board of Directors holds final interpretive authority on biblical meaning and application about faith, doctrine, policy, practice, and discipline.

1.2 Mission Statement

Valley Christian School exists as a flourishing, Christ-centered education system to transform lives by loving more, expecting more, and being more.

1.3 Vision Statement

Valley Christian School will be the premier provider of education in Mahoning Valley.

1.4 Core Values

Love More through Christ-centered relationships.

Expect More through accountability and personal growth.

Be More through life transformation and service to others.

1.5 Philosophy of Christian Education Statement

Home & School Relationship

Valley Christian Schools believe a child's education is the primary responsibility of parents; parents choose Christian schooling to help meet that responsibility and entrust their children to our care for their spiritual, academic, and personal growth. We believe the foundation of a successful educational experience is a healthy, proactive relationship between the parent and school. The relationship is one of covenants built on mutual trust, respect, and accountability.

Who We Serve

Valley Christian Schools serves all who are willing in and around the Mahoning Valley. We embrace diversity: socio-economic, racial, ability-level, and denominational.

How We Teach

Valley Christian Schools teaches students holistically through Christ-centered relationships and a faith-integrated curriculum to foster spiritual, academic, and personal growth. We offer differentiated instruction to honor and uphold the personhood of each student who is uniquely created in God's image.

School Culture

Valley Christian Schools fosters a healthy school culture and climate with engaged stakeholders, professionally satisfied and developing employees, and students who are equipped for the next stages in their academic and life journeys. A growth mindset culture is present in all subjects and areas of the school including athletics and extracurricular activities.

What We Teach

Valley Christian Schools values the needs of each student and is careful to foster community and collaboration as we personalize and individualize education. Each child is created as a unique individual who will grow spiritually, academically, and personally. Refer to the VCS Curriculum Guide for an overview of our Philosophy of Christian Worldview in each of these areas.

1.6 Expected Student Outcomes

At VCS students will demonstrate the following Expected Student Outcomes:

Spiritual Growth

At Valley Christian Schools students will LOVE MORE by utilizing their VCS experience with God's transformational love to exert positive spiritual influence with others in their peer groups, families, churches, and communities.

- Students will know Jesus as their Lord and Savior by having clear opportunities to receive Christ annually.
- Students will grow spiritually through bible classes, chapels, and at least one spiritual development event annually.
- Students will demonstrate service to others by participating in school-wide service learning projects annually.

Academic Growth

At Valley Christian Schools, students will EXPECT MORE from themselves by successfully navigating a rigorous, high-quality, standards-aligned, faith-integrated academic curriculum focused on achievement and readiness for college, career, and life calling.

- Students will graduate at a 4-year rate of 100% (excluding students exempt from meeting graduation requirements because of an IEP).
- Students will show a minimum of one-year annual growth in core subject areas through formative assessments, summative assessments, standardized assessments, and individual student goals.
- Students will be equipped to make wise, life-defining choices regarding their individual college, career, and life calling.

Personal Growth

At Valley Christian Schools students will BE MORE by demonstrating respect for God, others, and themselves, demonstrating empathy for the needs of others, and demonstrating social-emotional skills necessary to mature into men and women conformed to Christ's image.

- Students will grow socially and emotionally by participating in social-emotional growth activities annually.
- Students will appreciate and thrive in culturally and racially diverse environments.
- Students will be considerate of others with different viewpoints and perspectives on life.

1.7 Conflict Resolution

It is inevitable that conflicts will arise from time to time among employees, students, parents, and any combination of the above. While each case is unique, and not all cases can be handled the exact same way, listed below are some general guidelines for handling conflict in a way that is constructive and satisfying to the parties involved.

Matthew 18

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'[b] 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Matthew 5

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Student-Parent/Teacher Conflicts

Students or parents who have a concern over what they believe a teacher has said or done should always contact the teacher directly for an appointment at a time when sufficient time is available to adequately discuss the matter. The time at the beginning of the school day or between classes is not the right time for such discussions as the teacher will be required to attend to his/her teaching responsibilities and will not be able to take the time to resolve the matter. In most cases speaking directly with the teacher will solve most misunderstandings or conflicts as the teacher has the opportunity to explain the reasons for their decisions or actions.

Should a one-on-one conference with the teacher fail to resolve an issue, a parent or student may request that the building Principal become involved. The building Principal will, based upon the merits of the grievance, hold a meeting with the parties concerned to determine the best solution to the problem. Please refer to the VCS Family Covenant for guidance.

Parent/Administrator Conflicts

All efforts to resolve conflicts should be handled first at the teacher level or if needed at the principal level. Should a parent not be satisfied with the outcome of a meeting with the building principal, the building principal will arrange a meeting for the President to meet with the parent and building principal.

1.8 Non-Discrimination Policy

Non-Discrimination Policy

Valley Christian School does not exclude, deny services to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sex, color, disability, age or ancestry in admission to, participation in, or receipt of the services and benefits under any of its programs and activities, whether carried out by Valley Christian School directly or through a contractor or any other entity with which Valley Christian School arranges to carry out its programs and activities.

Racial Non-Discrimination Policy

The governing board of Valley Christian School located at 3919 Southern Blvd. in Youngstown, Ohio 44512 has adopted the following racial nondiscriminatory policies. Valley Christian School recruits and admits students of any race, color or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Valley Christian School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.

1.9 Philosophy of Spiritual Life

Valley Christian Schools is a community of parents, guardians, students, faculty, and staff. At the heart of this community are Christian educators who believe that actions speak louder than words and believe that both are a reflection of the heart. (Col 3:17, Luke 6:45)

At Valley Christian Schools, we believe that the spiritual life of a student is nurtured and developed through relationships in an environment created by faculty and staff who model a Christian journey in their daily words and actions. In addition, students will also engage in multiple, intentional opportunities for spiritual growth and development. Examples may include prayer, Bible class, chapel, service projects, and spiritual emphasis days. Through these daily interactions and intentional opportunities, our students will demonstrate personal spiritual growth, peer and community influence, consideration of others above themselves, and the ability to seek their life calling. (Prov. 22:6, Gal. 5:22- 23, John 13:35)

1.10 VCS Spiritual Values

The Spiritual Values of Valley Christian Schools emphasizes a Biblical roadmap that moves from salvation and personal growth to the inward work of the Holy Spirit and showing love and service to others. Areas of focus include the knowledge of who God is and His plan for our lives [Truth], understanding who we are in Him [Identity], and producing outward growth in conduct and sharing God's heart with the world [Character & Honor].

Clearly, the school alone cannot accomplish its mission without the backing and assistance of families, regular church attendance, daily prayer, devotions, and much more. The patterns we establish both in our families/home life in partnership with Valley Christian Schools will make a statement for or against the productive spiritual formation of all students.

The Spiritual Values of Valley Christian Schools serve as pillars of our Christian community and, through God's grace, help define the culture in which we love, grow, teach, and learn.

TRUTH Leads

Our roadmap to abundant life is found in God's Word.

Biblical truth explains the past and present and guides future decisions.

By learning and applying God's Word to their lives, students develop a Christian worldview that helps them confidently share their faith and guide future decisions.

To instill and model TRUTH, VCS focuses on these truths:

- The Bible is the living Word of God. [Hebrews 4:12]
- A true life of faith is based on the foundation of the Bible. [Matthew 4:4]
- The Bible is our basis for teaching. [2 Timothy 3:16]
- The Bible trains us for good works. [2 Timothy 3:17]
- Humanity was created by God to reflect His image yet because of our sin, we are separated from God and in need of a Savior. [Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23]
- The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ restores what was broken by sin and allows us to walk in relationship with God. [Romans 5:17-19]

We celebrate growth in TRUTH when:

- Students look to the Bible for answers and direction.
- Students display value for the Bible through memorization.
- Students learn Bible-based teaching as God's word for their lives.
- Students display an understanding of the Gospel.
- Student's beliefs are rooted in biblical understanding

IDENTITY in Christ

Through the grace of God we are blessed, chosen, forgiven, and loved by Him.

Christ-Centered Identity is based on how God sees us and not external circumstances.

By finding their value and worth in Jesus Christ, students develop a relationship with God that leads to a Biblically based, purpose-filled life.

To instill and model IDENTITY, VCS focuses on these truths:

- By God's grace, salvation is received and not achieved. [Ephesians 2:8-9]
- Our relationship with God is rooted in love. [Ephesians 3:17]
- Our relationship with Christ causes us to live for Him and not ourselves. [Romans 12:2]
- Our worth in Christ gives us no need to judge or compare to others. [Matthew 10:31]

We celebrate growth in IDENTITY when:

- Students make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Student action after repentance demonstrates a change in heart.
- Students display personal security and confidence rooted in God's love.
- Students express desire to follow God over the pressure or example of others.
- Students exhibit giving their best in all areas of life as worship to God.

CHARACTER Matters

God's grace changes our motives, attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions to reveal His heart.

Godly Character displays Jesus Christ in our lives.

By displaying Jesus Christ in their actions, students exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit in the discipleship process.

To instill and model CHARACTER, VCS focuses on these truths:

- Christians should learn right from wrong and develop Godly behavior. [Hebrews 9:14]
- Believers in Jesus Christ are called to be a Light in a dark world. [Matthew 5:14-16]
- Christian conduct begins in the heart. [Proverbs 4:23]
- Integrity is what we do when no one is watching. [Proverbs 10:9]

We celebrate growth in IDENTITY when:

- Students live cheerful, holy, and blameless lives, fleeing from sin and rejoicing in the truth.
- The fruits of the Spirit are manifested in student motives, attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions.
- Students demonstrate an attitude of gratitude for the Grace of God in their lives.
- Students know that obedience is a reflection of our love and respect for God and each other.

HONOR lifts

Our relationship with others is connected to God's grace for others, not our feelings.

Honoring others reflects God's value of people.

By learning to value and respect others through God's grace, students demonstrate the love of Christ for all people in all areas.

To instill and model HONOR, VCS focuses on these truths:

- God loves all people to the extent that Jesus died for them. [John 3:16]
- God calls us to love people. [John 13:34-35]
- God calls us to show grace and forgive others. [Ephesians 4:32]
- God and those placed in authority give us rules that we should obey. [Romans 13:1]

We celebrate growth in HONOR when:

- Students extend mercy and grace to one another.
- Students submit to authority and follow rules put in place by leadership.
- Students maintain kindness towards one another even when it's not easy
- Students demonstrate a heart to serve others

1.11 VCS School and Family Covenant

By enrolling your child in Valley Christian School you are choosing to enter into a Covenant Relationship with the school and its administration in fulfilling our mission to "Love More, Expect More, and Be More". This covenant between you and the school is built on trust and open communication to ensure your child is getting the full educational and discipleship experience

offered by Valley Christian School. A covenant requires a full understanding and commitment by both the school and the family (parent, guardian and student) of and to the following:

Valley Christian School Promises to:

- Provide an environment of Christ-centered unconditional love, healthy and biblically based expectations, and setting ambitious goals academically and personally that are consistent with our school mission.
- Disciple students to:
 - Apply a Christian worldview that helps them confidently share their faith and guide future decisions through the application of God's truth.
 - Develop a relationship with God through Jesus Christ that leads to a Biblically based, purpose filled life that is rooted in their identity in Christ.
 - Exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit in the discipleship process by emphasizing the value of Godly character.
 - Demonstrate the love of Christ for all people in all areas through biblical honor.
- Provide the highest quality academic experience possible by employing cutting edge technology, rigorous curriculum and qualified, caring educators.
- Communicate as effectively as possible in matters related to your child and the school.

Parent/Guardian Promises to:

- Partner with VCS in the mission of "Love More, Expect More, Be More" through love, healthy expectations, and goals in home life.
- Value the;
 - Foundation of God's Word (the Bible) in the education and growth of my child.
 - Essential decision for my child to find their identity in Christ and grow as a Christian.
 - Importance of Godly character as a result of our faith in God and the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Consistent demonstration of love for others in all areas in accordance with God's command to "honor all people".
- Read, support and adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook.
- Support your child's growth through supporting your child's teachers, attending appropriate conferences and extra/co-curricular activities, and consistently praying for your child and VCS.
- Keep open lines of communication with your child's teacher and school administration.
- Meet all financial obligations with the school.
- Support the premise that your child will be taught from the perspective provided in our statements of belief. (See the Statement of Faith located in Section 1.0)

Student Promises to:

- Learn and apply God's Word to my life. ("Truth leads")

- Be open to a relationship with God through His grace that defines my value and worth and results in salvation and eternal identity. ("Identity in Christ")
- Recognize that Godly character as defined by the Bible is a result of imitating Christ and should result in giving my best in every area. ("Character Matters")
- Respect others based on God's Word in loving my peers, friends, family, and authority and should result in showing mercy and grace to one another. ("Honor lifts")

This covenant does not list all of the policies, procedures and expectations of Valley Christian School, therefore Parents, Guardians and Students are expected to review the Student/Parent Handbook on an annual basis.

Valley Christian School is a Chartered (Ohio Department of Education) Non Public (private school) accredited with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Enrollment is not a right but a choice by your family and the school to enter into relationship. By enrolling your child in Valley Christian School you expressly waive your right to FAPE (Free Access to Public Education). Valley Christian School agrees to maintain compliance with the Operating Standards for Ohio Department of Education and the accreditation standards of ACSI.

Trust is an essential element of any relationship and although all parties may strive to meet their expectations and obligations (as outlined in this covenant and the Parent/Student Handbook) even the best human efforts fail. Therefore, we must strive always to trust each other and assume good intentions when dealing with missed expectations.

2.0 ARRIVAL AND PICKUP

The school day begins at 7:24 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. Each building has its own arrival and dismissal procedures.

Students should be picked up on time after school, or after extracurricular activities. Students may not remain in the school building outside of school hours unless they are participating in a school related activity immediately following the school day (i.e., sports or ACDEC). Students are not permitted to stay after school if they have a practice or game that will be happening later that evening. Valley Christian will not be held responsible for supervising students in the building outside of the previously mentioned situations.

3.0 ATTENDANCE POLICY

At Valley Christian, we believe that attendance and learning are directly related. Therefore, we emphasize student attendance to foster success in their educational endeavors. We believe student attendance is the parent's/guardian's responsibility, and student absences should be minimal. It is the student's responsibility to contact teachers for missing assignments, tests, and other

information when they are absent. Valley Christian Schools may utilize the Mahoning County Juvenile Court's Early Warning System for attendance referrals.

The following interventions will occur as students accumulate excused and unexcused absence hours.

- After 32.5 hours (5 Days) of absences, the Dean of Students or other administrator will contact the parent
- After 65 hours (10 Days) of absences, the parent must meet with building administrators.
- If the school's efforts do not result in improved attendance, a student may be required to withdraw from school after 65 hours (10 days) of absences in a semester or 130 hours (20 days) of absences in a school year

The administration reserves the right to request a meeting about attendance at thresholds not listed above. If a parent does not attend an attendance intervention meeting, the student will be withdrawn from VCS.

A student's excessive absence may warrant loss of privileges to make up work for full credit, denial of promotion, loss of academic credit, intervention plans, restricted privilege, and/or court action

Students are not permitted to attend after school extracurricular activities if they were absent during the day.

Progressive consequences are applied for tardies. A detailed description of these consequences can be found in section 7.6 of the handbook (6-8 and High School Only).

3.1 Reporting an Absence or Tardy

If a student is absent or tardy it is expected that the parent/guardian of the student will contact the school office and inform them of the reason for the absence or tardy by 8:00am. If there is no contact made from the parent/guardian, the school office will call the custodial phone number to notify the parent/guardian that the student did not report to school.

If you leave a message, please clearly state the following:

- Parent/Guardian Name
- Child's name and grade
- Date of the absence or tardy
- Reason for the absence or tardy
- Approximate time of return to school

3.2 Excused Absences

Students must provide a note to the office from a parent or guardian within 24 hours of returning to school after an absence. Doctors' excuses are required to excuse three or more consecutive absences.

The following situations are examples of excused absences as identified by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE):

- Illness with a doctor's note (must include the physician's name, phone number, and specific dates of illness to be excused from school)
- Illness inside the immediate family with limitations (i.e., stomach flu)
- Family death (3-day period, in certain cases, an extended period of time may be approved).
- Medical appointment with a medical excuse
- College visitation with proper verification
- An emergency or set of circumstances deemed as sufficient cause by the Principal

For all other absences, parents/guardians will be able to write excuses for their child's absence in situations related to those mentioned above. The parent or guardian must provide an explanation for the absence by email, written note, or phone call to the school office and shall include the date and time of the absence. All must turn in written notifications (both medical and familial) for absences into the attendance office **within 1 day of the absence.**

3.3 Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is any absence not defined as excused in section 3.2.

3.4 Makeup Work Policy

Excused Absences: Students with excused absences are allowed one day for each day absent to make up missed assignments. Students who have missed quizzes and tests during excused absences should schedule a makeup exam with their teacher on the day they return. **Students with an excused absence must report to the office to receive a makeup work pass upon their return**

Unexcused Absences: Students with unexcused absences are not permitted to make up general classwork or homework from their absence. They are permitted to make up tests, quizzes, and exams for a maximum score of 65%.

3.5 Planned Absences

When a student's absence is known ahead of time, it is the responsibility of the parent and student to complete a "Planned Absence Application Form". Forms must be picked up in the school office and returned at least one week in advance of the planned absence. Any major assignments such as special projects or term papers must be submitted to the teacher before the absence. Tests or examinations due during the period of absence will be administered immediately after the absence.

Planned absences must not exceed five days per school year, except when approved by the Principal. **Students who are designated as Excessively Absent or more will not be approved.** Students must take the initiative in making the necessary arrangements to complete missed assignments or assessments. Teachers are not required to give additional aid or to notify students of assignments or assessments they will miss.

3.6 Tardiness

Students are expected to be in their classroom at this time at the start of the school day. Arriving late to school not only deprives the student of classroom instruction, it is a disruption to the class that is already in progress. Students must be sitting in their seat in their homeroom class when the bell rings or they will be considered tardy and must sign in at the appropriate office. Students arriving at the start of 5th period or later will be counted ½ day absent.

The school administration will make the final decision whether a tardy is excused or unexcused. The following situations are examples of excused tardiness:

- Medical appointment accompanied by documentation from the doctor's office
- Inclement weather
- An emergency or set of circumstances, which in the judgment of the principal, constitutes a sufficient cause for tardiness.
- Any situations denoted on the excused absence list

Consequences for Unexcused Tardies:

- **Fourth Unexcused Tardy:** Parent or guardian of the student will be notified of the student's tardy status. The importance of school attendance and timely arrival will be communicated.
- **Five or More Unexcused Tardies :** The parent or guardian of the student will be contacted by building administration. Building tardy consequences will be initiated.
- **Ten or More Unexcused Tardies:** The parent or guardian will be required to meet with the building principal. The student will be placed on attendance probation which may affect the student's ability to participate in after-school activities, affect re-enrollment for the following school year, or result in dismissal from the school.

3.7 Early Release

VCS strongly discourages early dismissal of students from class. If at all possible, doctor's appointments should be made before or after school hours to minimize disruptions in the student's school day. Parents who permit students to leave school prior to the end of the school day must send a note to the appropriate school office before the start of school. The note should indicate the date, time of departure, time of expected return (if applicable), destination, and the reason for leaving school. Students must sign out at the appropriate office, and students will only be released to individuals listed as an emergency contact.

If a parent or guardian calls to have a student released early, the student will not be released from class until the parent or guardian arrives at school. Early dismissals will be tracked and building administrators may initiate student consequences for frequent incidences of early dismissal.

Elementary and Intermediate Schools:

Students will not be released during the 30 minutes preceding dismissal. If students need early dismissal, they must be picked up at least 30 minutes prior to dismissal

High School:

Students will be marked as early out if they leave the building less than an hour before school ends. These hours absent will accumulate according to the general attendance policy.

3.8 EdChoice Scholarship Attendance Requirements

If a student exceeds more than 20 days (130 hours) of unexcused absences, they will forfeit their EdChoice Scholarship.

4.0 SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY

VCS employs adequate nursing staff to meet the needs of each campus. Their primary responsibility is to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff. They do not serve as a replacement for a family physician, but are available to you as a resource for direction involving medical issues affecting a student.

By Ohio State Law: any person suspecting abuse of a child (physical and/or mental) MUST report such incidents to the Mahoning County Children's Services Board.

4.1 Clinic

Students who become ill at school are sent to the clinic with a pass. If an emergency medical authorization form with signed permission to treat is not completed, VCS is not permitted to offer treatment to the student. The student can rest in the clinic for only a brief period. If the student

cannot return to class, the school nurse or the office will be requested to call the parent or emergency number so the student can go home. **A student may not make arrangements to go home.** The office will dismiss the student and they must sign out of the office before leaving.

No student shall knowingly be sent to school suffering from a communicable disease. Any infectious student shall be immediately removed from class, and arrangements shall be made for his return home. The student must be fever and vomit-free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medications) before coming back to school.

4.2 Immunizations and Exemptions

By Ohio Department of Health and Title XXXIII [33] Education Chapter 3313.367 and 3701.13 Boards of Education, all children entering school are required to have up-to date immunizations.

Kindergarten entrance requires a hearing and vision screen. A physician's certificate or school health record, with actual dates of immunization, is the only acceptable document of identification.

According to Section 3313.671, all students must be up to date prior to beginning school. If a student does not meet the requirements, they may not attend school until they do.

However, a student may be exempt from the immunization requirement if:

- A physician or parent verifies in writing that the child has had natural rubella and/or mumps
- A child's physician has certified in writing that a particular immunization is medically unadvised
- A written statement from a parent or legal guardian that objects to immunization for good cause.
- When immunization updates are made, you must send the school a copy from your healthcare provider.

When immunization updates are made, it is necessary to send the school a copy from your healthcare provider. **Students who are not current with their immunizations will not be allowed to begin classes on the first day of the new school year until this document is provided or a waiver is obtained.**

4.3 Policies

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school nurse of any changes in their child's health status, especially allergic reactions, medication, asthma, etc.

Medications

Students needing medication are encouraged to receive the medication at home whenever possible. If under exceptional circumstances, a child is required to take oral medication during school hours,

and the parent cannot be at school to administer the medication, only the nurse or medical assistant will be permitted to administer the medication.

Over-the-Counter

If a student has over-the-counter medication, arrangements must be made with the school nurse or medical assistant for dispensing. The parent or guardian will be required to fill out the over-the-counter medications form (located on the [VCS Website](#)) specifying the dosage and conditions under which the student is to have the medicine. The nurse and/or medical assistant must receive a signed Request for the Administration of Over the-Counter Medications by school personnel.

Prescription Medications

The nurse or medical assistant must receive a physician and parent request for the Administration of Medication Form signed by the doctor prescribing the drug. Forms for this purpose will be available through the nurse's office. The written statement should contain all the following information:

The parent/guardian, or person having charge of the student must agree to submit a revised Doctor's statement, if any, if the information required changes

The employee authorized to administer the drug must receive a copy of the statements required as stated above.

All medications must be in the original labeled container; in which it was dispensed by the doctor or pharmacist.

No teacher, staff member or administrator can supervise or administer medications (including over-the-counter medications) to any student.

Occasionally, students are treated with medication at home. It is important for the nurse to be notified so that appropriate personnel can be made aware of any possible problematic reactions during the school day.

Excuse from Participation in School Activities

If a student must be excluded from activities, such as physical education classes, for more than three days, a written excuse from a physician stating the diagnosis and dates of exclusion is necessary. If the date to resume activity is not specified in an original excuse, a follow-up release of when to resume activity is required by the physician.

Food Allergies

VCS is committed to the safety and health of all students with food allergies. We abide by the Ohio State Rules and Regulations pertaining to food allergies. It is the parent or

guardian's responsibility to notify the school of severe food allergies. Please contact the Kitchen Manager directly for dietary substitutions in the cafeteria menu.

Student Screenings

The school nurse will conduct hearing and vision screenings. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be screened for scoliosis. BMI will also be calculated for students in various grades, in accordance with Ohio Health Department regulations. Screening, by its very nature, is a quick process and will only identify problems that are obvious. It does not replace parental responsibility to monitor the child's development in conjunction with the family dentist and pediatrician. There will be notification regarding all screenings. If for some reason a parent or guardian chooses not to have their student participate in a screening, written notification must be given to the school nurse.

4.4 Contagious Conditions

Chickenpox/ Shingles

Students will be excluded from school until all vesicles and scabs are dry. This usually takes about one week from the onset of a rash. Chickenpox is a reportable disease, and a parent or guardian must notify the school if a student contracts chickenpox. The school nurse will check the student prior to readmission to the school.

Cold/Cough Symptoms

If a student is experiencing discomfort that would interfere with his/her school performance, it is requested that the student be kept at home until he/she is able to resume normal activity. If there is a prolonged cough with or without a fever a physician should be consulted. A student also may be sent home or asked to remain at home if there is a purulent or discolored nasal discharge. The student is permitted to return after the nasal discharge becomes clear.

Conjunctivitis (Pink-Eye)

This condition is easily spread by direct contact with discharge from the affected eye(s). Students should be kept home when eyes are inflamed and draining. Prescribed treatment is normally antibiotics. A physician will indicate when it is appropriate for the student to return to school. A physician's note is required for readmission as proof of treatment.

Fever

If a student's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, it is Valley Christian School's policy the student remains at home until he/she is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. The student must be accompanied with a signed note from the parent/guardian stating that the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. If the student's temperature is 100 degrees or higher while at school, it is school policy that someone MUST come to pick up the student. This is a safety measure for the student with the fever and the other students as well. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of the utmost importance that no child is sent to school with a fever.

Head Lice (Pediculosis)

Head lice continues to be one of the most prevalent communicable childhood conditions among school age children. Once detected the student may not return to school until after treatment and the nit removal. It is recommended that the school nurse be contacted for advice on treatment. The student must be checked by the school nurse prior to readmission.

Bed Bugs

If a student is found to have bed bugs on their person, they will discretely be removed from class and taken to the school clinic. The school nurse will follow the protocol listed below with complete discretion:

- Check student's clothing and belongings
- Non-essential items should be stored in a sealed plastic container for the day and overnight if possible.
- Contact the student's parents
- Ask the parents to send a clean set of clothes in a sealed plastic bag for the school to keep in case another bug is found on them.
- Send bed bug information home
- Student will not be excluded from school
- School custodian will clean and sanitize the classroom and locker

MRSA

MRSA is a bacterial infection usually involving the skin that can be resistant to treatment with some of the more common antibiotics. It can be treated with stronger antibiotics. If a student is diagnosed with MRSA, the school must be notified immediately. All information is kept confidential. A physician's note is required for admission to the school.

Rashes

A suspicious rash with or without a fever should be evaluated by the student's physician.

Ringworm

Ringworm is not caused by a worm, but by various types of fungi. Ringworm begins as a small red patch or bump that spreads outward, so that each affected area takes on the appearance of a red scaly outer ring with a clear center area. Itching often accompanies the infection. The nurse will notify parents/guardians of possible lesions. If the lesion can be covered, and the child is cooperative with leaving it covered the student is permitted to attend school. However, if the lesion is large and cannot be completely covered the student may not return to school until treatment has been started. If confirmed cases of ringworm are identified, a letter will go home to all students in the affected child's classroom.

Sore Throat/ Strep Throat

A sore throat in conjunction with swollen glands may indicate strep throat. A fever is not always present with strep throat. Other symptoms may include a headache and/or upset stomach. A

student with strep throat must be under the care of a physician and may return to school after twenty-four hours of antibiotic therapy.

Vomiting/ Diarrhea

A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have subsided, and the child is able to keep down food or liquid. If the child throws up during the night or in the morning prior to school, the student should NOT come to school.

4.5 Missing School for Illness

If a student is sent home from school due to fever, vomiting/diarrhea, they MAY NOT be in school the next day. Please contact the school office the day after the student was sent home to record his/her absence.

4.6 Student Illness while in School

The nurse will determine if a student is too ill to remain at school. If this happens, a parent or guardian will be contacted and arrangements to pick up his/her child should occur within one hour. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached the nurse will begin to contact persons listed on the emergency contact form until arrangements can be made for the student to be picked up. If the student is not picked up within a reasonable amount of time or the parent fails to make arrangements with the nurse, the student will not be able to return to school until the parent has a meeting with the Principal to discuss the situation.

4.7 Returning to School after Illness

A note must accompany the student when returning to school after an illness. Please contact the office if there are any questions concerning illness days.

5.0 ACADEMICS

5.1 Grading Scales and Systems of Quality Points

High School

Letter Grade	Percentage	Non-Core Classes Quality Points	Core Classes Quality Points	Honors Quality Point	CCP/Advanced Placement Quality Points	Ranking
A+	99-100	4.0	4.5	4.8	5.3	Superior
A	92-98	4.0	4.3	4.5	5.3	

A-	90-91	3.7	3.9	4.2	5.3	
B+	88-89	3.3	3.3	3.7	4.1	Above Average
B	82-87	3.0	3.0	3.35	4.1	
B-	80-81	2.7	2.7	3.0	4.1	
C+	78-79	2.3	2.3	2.55	2.8	Average
C	74-77	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.8	
C-	72-73	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.8	
D+	70-71	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	Below Average
D	67-69	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	
D-	65-66	0.7	0.7	.7	1.3	
F	00-64	0	0	0	0	Failing

High School Core Classes

- English 9, 10, 11, 12
- World History
- Government
- American History
- Economics and Financial Literacy
- Geometry
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra 1 and 2
- College Algebra
- Chemistry
- Physical Science
- Biology 1, 2
- Bible Courses

High School Honors Classes

- Calculus
- Advanced Math
- Physics
- Anatomy/Physiology
- Honors English 9,10,11,12
- Honors World History
- Honors American History
- Honors Algebra 1, 2
- Honors Geometry
- Honors Physical Science
- Honors Chemistry
- Honors Biology 1
- Chinese 1, 2, 3

Any course that is not listed as a core class or an honors class is considered a non-core class. Advanced Placement (AP) and College Credit Plus (CCP) courses earn the highest level GPA points and are a separate category for GPA calculation.

Intermediate Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Ranking
A+	99-100	Superior
A	92-98	
A-	90-91	
B+	88-89	Above Average
B	82-87	
B-	80-81	
C+	78-79	Average
C	74-77	
C-	72-73	
D+	70-71	Below Average
D	67-69	

D-	65-66	
F	00-64	Failing

Elementary Grading Scale

Grading Scale Key

- **4 = Exceeding Grade Level Standard:** Demonstrates advanced level of knowledge and understanding.
- **3 = Meeting Standard:** Demonstrates solid knowledge and understanding,
- **2 = Approaching Standard:** Demonstrates progress toward grade level standard, but not yet at standard. Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding.
- **1 = Well Below Standard:** Not meeting grade level Standard
- **Blank** = Not Yet Introduced

5.2 President's List, Principal's List, Honor Roll, Honorable Mention

Students are recognized at the end of each grading period utilizing the following criteria for the average of their core classes.

President's List = 95% - 100%

Principal's List = 90% - 94.99%

Honor Roll = 85% - 89.99%

Honorable Mention = 80% - 84.99%

A grade of Unsatisfactory (U), D, or F, disqualifies a student from receiving an award.

5.3 Student of the Quarter

Student of the Quarter is a distinction given to students who strive for excellence academically, behaviorally, and socially. These students demonstrate respect towards teachers, peers, and staff. They strive for academic excellence and serve the school community. Students are selected on a quarterly basis by their teachers. Students will be recognized at the quarterly academic celebration.

5.4 Conferences

Parent/teacher conference days are arranged twice per year. Appointments must be made with the teacher for appointments held outside of the two scheduled days. Parents may also communicate with their child's teacher via email.

Questions regarding discipline, homework, other assignments, grades, and other student/teacher activities should first be shared with the teacher. If the issue is not resolved, the teacher, parent, or student may request a meeting with the building Principal.

5.5 Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade ("I") is a temporary grade given at the discretion of the course instructor, with approval of the Director of Academic Success and Strategy and/or building Principal. Incomplete grades are usually assigned for situations such as extended documented illness, extended excused absence, or other extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing the required coursework by the end of a grade reporting period. Incomplete grades may not be requested by students or family members.

To earn a grade adjustment, students who receive a grade of incomplete must complete the required coursework within three weeks of the start of the next grade reporting period. Grades of students who do not complete the required coursework within the three-week time period will be adjusted to reflect the course grade earned prior to the assignment of the incomplete grade.

5.6 Notification of Unsatisfactory Progress

Teachers may notify families at any time regarding unsatisfactory progress in the areas of academics, behavior, and attendance.

5.7 Academic Probation (Grades 3-12)

Qualifications for Academic Probation

- A grade of F in any subject on the quarterly report card
- Two or more D grades in any subject on the quarterly report card
- Two consecutive D grades in the same subject

Procedures of Academic Probation

Each probation lasts for the following grading period and will be reviewed at the end of that grading period.

High School:

- **First quarter of probation:** the student is required to arrange and attend a conference with high school administration to discuss implementation of interventions. The family will be notified by mail.
- **Second consecutive quarter of probation:** the student is required to attend a conference with high school administration and other staff to determine whether continued interventions or withdrawal from the school is the best course of action for the student. The family will be notified by mail and must call to schedule an appointment to meet with an administrator within the next seven days.
- **Third quarter of probation:** the student may be refused re enrollment to the school for the following year. The family will be required to attend a meeting with administration and will be notified by mail.

Intermediate School:

- **First quarter of probation:** the family is notified by mail and is asked to arrange a conference with the administration where a Student Teacher Plan (STP) for remediation will be created by the building principal
- **Second consecutive quarter of probation:** the student will be required to attend a conference with the building Principal and other staff as needed to review and revise the STP for further remediation or determine if withdrawal from the school is the best course of action for the student. The family will be notified by mail.
- **Third quarter of probation:** the student may be considered for immediate withdrawal from the school. Such students may be refused re enrollment to the school for the following school year. The family will be notified by mail.

5.8 Philosophy of Retention

Intermediate and High School

The only students who are considered for retention are those who have not had access to the curriculum because of:

- Excessive absence (more than 10% of the required attendance days)
- Failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade level unless the building principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

Elementary School

The only students who are considered for retention are those who have not had access to the curriculum because of:

- Excessive absence (more than 10% of the required attendance days)
- Achievement well below grade level expectations in the majority of the assessed standards in reading and math unless the building principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level
- Performance that is consistently well below grade level expectations on systemwide standardized assessments in reading and math.

5.9 High School Class Standing

- Freshman must have passed 8th grade.
- Sophomore must have completed 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ units of credit.
- Junior must have completed 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ units of credit.
- Senior must have completed 17 units of credit.

5.10 Graduation

Students who successfully complete the course of study and meet all graduation requirements prescribed by the State of Ohio and the Board of Valley Christian School shall receive a diploma. A graduation fee is paid by all seniors to include the cost of the cap and gown. Diplomas are held until all indebtedness to the school is paid.

5.11 Graduation Requirements

To graduate from Valley Christian High school, a student must meet the standards adopted by the State of Ohio and the school board.

Students must earn the following credits:

- Health ½ unit
- Mathematics 4 units
- Physical Ed ½ unit = whole year of instruction
- Science 3 units
- English 4 units
- Bible 4 units
- Social Studies total of 3 units:
 - Government ½ unit
 - American History ½ unit
 - World History ½ unit
- Financial Literacy ½ unit
- Economics ½ unit
- Fine Arts 1 unit
- Electives 5 units

Minimum Requirements: 20 units + 4 Bible units + 1 Fine Art

Students must demonstrate competency in 1 of 4 areas:

- Earn a competency score on the Algebra I and ELA II End of Course Test
- Complete CCP Classes or obtain a remediation free score in the math or English subject areas on the ACT or SAT
- Demonstrate career experience or technical skills as outlined by ODEW
- Enlist in the military

Students must earn two of the following diploma seals with at least one Ohio designed seal:

- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal (Ohio)
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (Ohio)
- College-Ready Seal (Ohio)
- Military Enlistment Seal (Ohio)
- Citizenship Seal (Ohio)
- Science Seal (Ohio)

- Honors Diploma Seal (Ohio)
- Seal of Biliteracy (Ohio)
- Technology Seal (Ohio)
- Community Service Seal (Local)
- Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Local)
- Student Engagement Seal (Local)

5.12 Early Graduation

Valley Christian Schools will adhere to local requirements and requirements established by the Ohio Department of Education in regard to acceleration and early graduation. A formal, written request for evaluation for early graduation must be received from a student no later than the end of the first semester of the student's freshman year. A student must have at least a 3.25 GPA to be eligible for consideration for early graduation. Please contact the high school office for more information.

5.13 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

Valley Christian High School values excellence and encourages students to hold high expectations for all areas of their lives. In an effort to recognize academic excellence, a valedictorian and salutatorian will be chosen. Valedictorian and salutatorian status will be based on the 7th semester GPA; however, seniors must earn a B or higher in all courses during the third grading period and on the fourth quarter progress report to be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian. The senior class valedictorian and salutatorian meet the requirements outlined below.

First Requirement: Candidates must complete the Academic Course requirements for the Ohio Academic Honors Diploma. The math requirement must be fulfilled by either advanced math or calculus. Students must take the required courses and pass with at least a final grade of B or higher.

Second Requirement: Candidates must earn an ACT super score of 25 or higher (or equivalent); if no student earned this score, students will be ranked in order by ACT score.

Third Requirement: Students eligible according to the above-two categories will be ranked by GPA. If GPAs are identical, there may be multiple students awarded the designation of valedictorians/salutatorians.

Additional Requirements:

- A student being considered for valedictorian or salutatorian must have good attendance and be in compliance with Ohio House Bill 410. Attendance during the senior year will be considered.
- A student being considered for valedictorian or salutatorian must enter Valley Christian High School by their junior year and attend four consecutive semesters at Valley Christian.

- The class valedictorian and salutatorian are expected to write an original speech to be delivered at graduation. A written copy of that speech must be submitted to the high school office one week prior to graduation.

5.14 High School Guidance Counselor

The Department of Counseling and Transition Services works collaboratively with the student, parent, educational staff, and administrative staff to assist students in achieving the following objectives:

- Develop an understanding of themselves and the value of the unique role that each individual plays in society and the church
- Develop satisfying relationships with others
- Acquire the necessary academic skills to succeed in post-secondary education opportunities
- Progress toward productive and rewarding careers
- Achieve the skills required to effectively transition into post-secondary life
- Connect students to their calling for college and career

5.15 High School Minimum Credit Requirements

All students, including seniors, must carry a minimum of 5 units of high school credit each semester. A combination of high school courses and CCP courses must be approved through the school counselor's office. Any student wishing to hold a high school leadership position must be enrolled in at least four for credit courses at the high school.

5.16 High School Selection of Courses

Selection of courses will be made through individual counseling with staff. Problems with scheduling will be handled by the administration. Courses are offered and made available to students within their class standing. When a student requests an honors class, he/she must have the recommendation from his/her current teacher of the class in question. A recommendation for one content area (i.e., History) does not validate for the honors track in all content areas (e.g., Math, Science, and English). Scheduling of courses outside of the student's grade, however, may not always be possible.

5.17 High School Class Change

In the spring of each school year, students are given the opportunity to submit course preferences for the upcoming year to the high school guidance counselor. Therefore, the only schedule changes that will be considered are those necessitated by: 1.a missing prerequisite class or grade. 2.a failed class 3. being erroneously scheduled into a class previously passed. 4. a gap in schedule 5. administrative discretion. Students with schedule adjustment requests meeting the previously stated criteria may add or drop scheduled courses within the first two weeks (ten school days) of the

beginning of the class without academic penalty regardless of the grade. Students may add courses within the first week of the beginning of classes.

An add/drop form is required and is available on the Valley Christian School website. No add/drop requests will be considered until this form has been completed and submitted. Students are obligated to continue in the original course schedule until the request has been submitted to and processed by the office.

5.18 High School Partial Credit Policy

In regard to full credit courses required for graduation, Valley Christian School will extend one-half of a full credit (.50) to a student who has successfully completed a semester of credit in a given course. Failure of a semester will result in the necessity to repeat the semester of credit the following school year. This policy does not apply to elective courses, or courses that do not carry a full credit for the entire school year.

The repeating of a semester the following school year shall not interfere with the normal scheduling of required classes to be taken by any student; nor shall the repeating of a semester of a required course involve any unique scheduling arrangements to be made by the administration on behalf of the student.

5.19 High School Transcripts

The first three transcripts are issued by the school (including 7th semester reports) and sent at no charge to the student or family. Requests for transcripts will be processed within three business days. In cases of financial indebtedness or where school-owned materials or equipment have not been returned to the school, transcripts will be released only when all debts are paid in full.

5.20 High School Credit for Eighth Grade

Eighth grade students who are recommended for the accelerated track may take a HS course during their eighth grade year which counts toward HS credit and their GPA. Students who earn a B or lower may request a recommendation from the building principal to retake the course their freshman year.

5.21 Accelerated Courses for Grades 6-8

Accelerated english language arts and math will be made through individual counseling with staff. When a student requests an accelerated class, he/she must have the recommendation from his/her current teacher of the class in question. Teachers may also initiate a recommendation for students who qualify for the accelerated classes.

5.22 Standardized Testing

All students entering Valley Christian School are tested prior to acceptance at Valley Christian School. Students will be tested in the basic areas of reading, math, and spelling.

Students will also engage in the Ohio state tests for grades 3-12. Please see the chart below.

Grades 3-8

	English language arts	Mathematics	Science
Grade 3	✓	✓	
Grade 4	✓	✓	
Grade 5	✓	✓	✓
Grade 6	✓	✓	
Grade 7	✓	✓	
Grade 8	✓	✓	✓

High School Courses

Classes of 2023 and beyond - End-of-course tests in English language arts II, algebra I, geometry (or integrated mathematics I and II), biology, American history, and American government.

5.23 Experimental Programs

It is the position of VCS not to engage in experimental or research programs which require deviation from the prescribed courses of study, the usual operation of the school, or which tend to deviate from the purpose, philosophy, and objectives of the school.

5.24 Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is any type of cheating that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise. It can include plagiarism, fabrication, deception, cheating, or sabotage. Using a person's work or ideas without giving credit is academically dishonest. Lying, cheating, or using unauthorized materials to prepare or use during a test also constitute academic dishonesty.

Teachers at Valley Christian Schools set and maintain high expectations for Academic Honesty in the classroom. The classroom teacher is also responsible for using his/her professional judgment to determine whether a student has acted Academically Dishonest. Academic Dishonesty (See 9.2 Progressive Discipline Policy)

5.25 Homework

Student learning is at the heart of the mission of every Valley Christian School campus. VCS teachers provide homework opportunities as a way to ensure students are learning the necessary concepts

and skills. Since research emphasizes that only homework that is actually completed is associated with higher achievement, VCS is committed to ensuring students complete all assigned homework.

Valley Christian adheres to the 10 minutes per grade level guideline when assigning homework for grade bands. For example, students in grade 3 may be assigned up to 30 minutes of homework. Students at the high school campus can expect three to four days per week, not to exceed 90 total minutes a day. Students who fail to submit homework assignments will be required to complete the assignment during a designated time during the school day. This could include completing assignments during a working lunch period.

5.26 Books and Supplies

The school provides textbooks and workbooks. Students are required to return these items in good condition. A list of school supplies is provided and is available on the VCS website, at both school offices, and in various stores throughout the valley.

6.0 SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION

6.1 Special and Gifted Education Philosophy

Valley Christian School believes that all children deserve a Christian education and that children with exceptionalities are not only recipients of ministry, but also minister to others through their uniqueness and individuality reflecting the image of God in humanity. VCS is committed to providing high quality programming for students with exceptionalities in accordance with their individualized needs.

A significant percentage of VCS students receive Special Education services for an identified disability. These professional services are based on and are consistent with the school's Christian worldview that God loves all of creation, including individuals with disabilities. Having a disability does not preclude an individual from having a meaningful life and furthering God's purpose.

Special Education services at VCS include K-12 intervention services in both self-contained and inclusion settings, related services, and transition services. VCS is committed to educating each student in their least restrictive environment. As students in self-contained settings age, they are provided with increasing opportunities to meaningfully build relationships and engage in learning with their same-aged peers. Students in self-contained settings receive small group, evidenced-based instruction through high quality curriculum by an intervention specialist in a group of no more than eight students. Students in inclusion settings receive large and small group, evidence-based instruction through high quality curriculum by both the general education teacher and intervention specialist. VCS maintains a commitment to keeping inclusion intervention specialist to student ratios far below the ratios outlined in the Ohio Administrative Code at no more than ten children during any one instructional period.

A percentage of VCS students receive Gifted and Gifted Potential services. These professional services are based on and are consistent with the school's Christian worldview that giftedness is just that: a gift from God given to individuals for the purpose of serving others and bringing glory to God. All gifts, creativity, and even developed talents are not for the benefit of oneself but for the benefit of others. Christian educators must help facilitate spiritual growth and moral activation in cognitive, academic, and faith development of gifted children.

Gifted and Gifted Potential services at VCS include individual, small-group, and large group instruction by a teacher trained in gifted education. Instruction will occur through a standards-based curriculum designed to ensure students develop advanced academic skills in all content areas while also encouraging them to develop and enrich their personal strengths and interests. Teachers intentionally create classroom environments where students feel safe, supported, and comfortable in their expression of unique, innovative, and creative ideas. Community partnerships function as an extended classroom with students participating frequently in intentional community-based experience designed to support and enhance classroom learning. Teachers regularly utilize student choice as a strategy to motivate students to explore topics of interest on a deeper level.

6.2 Eligibility for Services

Valley Christian School offers Special Education services to students who qualify for such services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act), have a current IEP (Individualized Education Program) written by their public-school district, and have been awarded either the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship or Autism Scholarship. Valley Christian School may also consider for admission students with a 504 Plan or a Speech-only IEP who do not qualify for a state-funded scholarship program.

Valley Christian School offers gifted and gifted potential services to students who qualify for such services utilizing state and school guidelines. Gifted screening occurs once a year between January and March. Students in the 2nd grade complete a cognitive screening assessment in the spring. The following chart is used to identify students as gifted and gifted potential.

	Gifted Potential Benchmarks (VCS Requirements)	Gifted Identification Benchmarks (State Requirements)
Reading (NWEA)	90th Percentile	95th Percentile
Math (NWEA)	90th Percentile	95th Percentile
Cognitive (CogAT)	Superior Cognitive: 120 (90th Percentile) Creative Thinking Ability: 110 (72nd Percentile)?	Superior Cognitive: 127-128 (96th Percentile) Creative Thinking Ability: 112 (77th Percentile)

	Gifted Potential Benchmarks (VCS Requirements)	Gifted Identification Benchmarks (State Requirements)
Gifted Rating Scale (Creativity Scales)	T-Score 60-65	T-Score 66

6.3 Special Education Referral Process

Valley Christian School is committed to continuous monitoring of each student to ensure his or her academic and social success. The Special Education Director in collaboration with other campus staff will work with the student's teachers to monitor student response to interventions developed through the multi-tiered system of support for academic or behavior concerns. VCS will follow the referral process as required by YCSD to refer students for evaluation. Parents who suspect a disability may also directly contact the Special Education Director to discuss the process for referral. The Special Education Director will provide the public-school district with all relevant information about the student including but not limited to:

- academic records
- disciplinary records
- results of interventions implemented

The Principal and/or Special Education Director will also serve as an advocate on behalf of the family with the public-school district throughout the referral process. Although Valley Christian School's status as a non-public school precludes us from directly identifying students as having a disability or developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP), we are committed to collaborating with public school districts to facilitate the special education process.

6.4 FAPE and Due Process

Parents who utilize a state-funded scholarship at a non-public school such as Valley Christian School waive their right to FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education). As such, parents waive their right to due process hearings with regards to services provided. However, Valley Christian School abides by all laws, policies, and procedures related to state scholarship programs and submits progress reports and cost statements for approval by the Ohio Department of Education. Valley Christian School also provides quarterly progress reports.

Moreover, Valley Christian School works in cooperation with the student's district of residence throughout the IEP and with Youngstown City Schools throughout the ETR (Evaluation Team Report) processes. Valley Christian School seeks to resolve conflict in a relational rather than a procedural manner and seeks to develop strong, enduring partnerships with families through regular interaction and providing quarterly progress reports.

6.5 Services Provided

Valley Christian Schools provides the following direct special education services:

- Intervention Services in reading, writing, and mathematics
- Intervention Services for minor behaviors
- Transition Services

Valley Christian Schools also subcontracts with various service providers to facilitate the following school-based special education therapies/services:

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech screening, consultation, and therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Orientation and Mobility Services
- Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Valley Christian Schools provides the following direct gifted and gifted potential education services:

- Pull out and push in gifted intervention services in english language arts and math (grades K-8)
- Accelerated classes (grades 6-8)
- Honors, CCP, and AP classes (grades 9-12)

6.6 Evaluation Team Report (ETR)

Valley Christian School will work collaboratively with the district of service, Youngstown City Schools, to conduct evaluations of students with suspected disabilities, and students with disabilities who require re-evaluation. This collaboration will include:

- Scheduling testing completed by the district and ensuring that the student is available for assessment.
- Completing evaluations and reports for areas including but not limited to:
 - Rating scales for adaptive behavior
 - Rating scales for social/emotional functioning
 - Academic reports addressing present levels of academic achievement in reading, math, and related subjects.
- Scheduling meetings with the public district, parents and Valley Christian School staff.

The Special Education Director will serve as an advocate on behalf of the family with the public-school district throughout the evaluation process.

6.7 Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Valley Christian School will work collaboratively with the district of residency to develop Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities determined through an ETR. This collaboration will include:

- Academic reports addressing present levels of academic achievement in academic areas of weakness
- Suggesting IEP goals for consideration of the district of residency.
- Collaborating with parents to develop suggested transition statements and plans for consideration of the district of residency.
- Suggesting appropriate accommodations and services for consideration of the district of residency.
- Scheduling meetings with the district of residency, parents and Valley Christian School staff.

The Special Education Director will serve as an advocate on behalf of the family with the district of residency throughout the IEP process.

6.8 Jon Peterson Special Needs (JPSN) and Autism Scholarships

Valley Christian School is an approved provider for the Ohio Jon Peterson Special Needs (JPSN) and Autism Scholarships. Although parents waive FAPE as a condition of participation in the scholarship program, Valley Christian School is committed to providing high quality services to serve the goals Identified on the IEP, and goals not on the IEP that have been requested by parents and authorized by the scholarship programs.

6.9 Termination of Services

VCS will terminate a student's services under the following two circumstances.

Inability of VCS to Provide Appropriate Services

While it is the goal of VCS to collaborate to provide all necessary services, if the special education team does not believe that VCS has the resources to serve a student, the team will recommend placement to meet the student needs. The decision of VCS in these matters is final. VCS will work collaboratively with the student's parent or guardian to facilitate a successful transition to the school or provider chosen by the parent.

Non-Compliance with VCS Discipline Expectations

A student's services may be terminated if they fail to comply with the VCS expectations for appropriate behavior as indicated in the School Wide Discipline system. While VCS makes every effort to take a student's disability into consideration when applying disciplinary measures, the school reserves the right to determine whether a student's disability impacts their behavior. Note that parents and guardians voluntarily waive FAPE by participating in the Jon Peterson scholarship and enrolling in a non-public school.

6.10 504 Plans

504 plans can be put into place for students with documented disabilities that require accommodations in the classroom in order to succeed. These students do not require specially designed instruction in order to succeed in the classroom. In order for a student to qualify for a 504 plan, the school must conduct a 504 evaluation to determine if the student's impairment substantially limits at least one area of life.

In order to complete the evaluation, the Director of Special Education must have copies of the medical diagnoses on file. Teachers will be asked to complete an individual evaluation form to determine the extent the disability impacts access to the general curriculum. This information is then reviewed by the Director of Special Education and the Building Principal to determine the impact of the disability. If the student qualifies for a 504 plan, a meeting will be scheduled with the parent to develop the 504 plan.

7.0 SCHOOL-WIDE DISCIPLINE & DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

7.1 Student Code of Conduct

The Kingdom culture of VCS aims to create an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. We accomplish this through two of our four Spiritual Values: "Character Matters" and "Honor Lifts". The Staff will seek to teach and reinforce these values through behavior expectations individually and as a school community.

Character Matters

- Be responsible and ready to learn
- Be prepared and arrive to class on time
- Give your best effort and work hard
- Grow in the "Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23)

Honor Lifts

- Respect teachers and other adults
- Respect fellow classmates
- Follow rules with a good attitude
- Speak with kind words

7.2 School-Wide Discipline

School-wide discipline seeks to ensure that the school culture and environment are safe and conducive to learning for all students. An effective school-wide discipline plan guides students

toward Godly character as they honor their teachers and peers through words and actions. School-wide discipline will be applied consistently to all students.

At Valley Christian Schools, discipline communicates the love of Christ through consistent, fair, and restorative consequences. Administration, teachers, and support staff will carefully monitor individual student behavior and collaborate to determine the need for corrective action. Behavior issues requiring discipline will be evidenced through the student's behavior ladder or demerit count. Some students may present behavioral, emotional and/or social issues which span both discipline and development. Students with moderate to severe behavior concerns will be developed and supported with consistent interventions through a tiered system of support and are expected to demonstrate behavior management progress.

Those students who do not demonstrate progress after a sustained period of intervention may be asked to withdraw from Valley Christian Schools.

7.3 Progressive Discipline Policy

Student misbehaviors are categorized into levels that progress from minor to severe. Each level increases the consequence and support provided. School wide discipline ensures that the school culture and environment is safe and conducive to learning for all students. This rests on the principle: "Teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn". Consequences and interventions are administered when misbehaviors occur. School-wide discipline will be applied consistently to all students.

Consequences will be confidential and only discussed with appropriate VCS staff, the custodial parent/guardian, and student. Additionally, VCS cannot disclose or discuss consequences for other students. Administrators have the right to exercise appropriate consequences on a case-by-case basis according to their discretion.

Attending VCS is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, matters that come to the attention of VCS from outside of school may be dealt with at the discretion of the administration and impact a student's enrollment status at VCS. Students not adhering to the Student Code of Conduct may be asked to leave if progress is not made through development and support.

7.4 VCS Disciplinary Levels and Consequences

Grades 3-12

<p>Level 1</p> <p>These minor behaviors are when a student fails to meet classroom expectations and/or the school's cultural expectations. These behaviors do not cause a significant disruption to themselves or others yet are still a distraction or an act of defiance in some fashion.</p> <p>Examples may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress code violation• Horseplay• Disrupting class• Failure to disagree appropriately• Failure to work with others well	<p>Level 2</p> <p>These are moderately severe or minor chronic behaviors that persist despite receiving warnings or appropriate consequences.</p> <p>Examples may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disrespectful behavior• Cheating/plagiarism• Skipping Class• Cursing or foul language• Public Displays of Affection• Repeated Level 1 behaviors
<p>Level 3</p> <p>These are behaviors that may result in a greater level of defiance or threat of safety to the student body or staff in a way that disrupts the learning environment.</p> <p>Examples may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recordings of any kind - audio, video, etc.• Verbal altercation• Inappropriate use of social media (content and/or posting)• Severe disruption• Defiant behavior	<p>Level 4</p> <p>These are severe or extreme behaviors that threaten the student body or staff.</p> <p>Examples may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threat• Harassment• Bullying• Tobacco; e-cigarette; vaping use• Fighting• Inciting others to any type of violence• Damaging school property• Sexual misconduct• Unlawful or severe behaviors (in or outside of school)

Grades K-2

<p>Level 1</p> <p>These minor behaviors are when a student fails to meet classroom expectations and/or the school's cultural expectations. These behaviors do not cause significant disruption to themselves or others yet are still a distraction or an act of defiance in some fashion.</p> <p>Examples may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress code violation• Classroom rules violation
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- Misuse of cell phone
- Horseplay, minor shoving/pushing
- Minor disruptive behavior
- Inappropriate cursing or foul language
- Lying/cheating
- Inappropriate use of school property or material
- Non-compliance

Level 2

These are moderately severe or minor chronic behaviors that persist despite receiving warnings or appropriate consequences.

Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Major pushing/shoving (physical injury)
- Disrespect/insubordination
- Theft
- Major classroom disruption

Level 3

These are behaviors that may result in a greater level of defiance or threat of safety to the student body or staff in a way that disrupts the learning environment.

Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Threat
- Harassment
- Bullying
- Fighting
- Damaging school property
- Immoral conduct
- Weapons on school property
- Other severe/destructive behaviors

Consequences for behaviors may include demerits, lunch detention, Saturday school, in-school suspension, out of school suspension, and expulsion.

7.5 Possible Behavior Consequences and Definitions

Demerits

Students receive demerit points for misbehaviors in levels 2, 3, and 4. Classroom level warnings, or consequences will be exercised to intervene for level 1 behaviors. Excessive demerits may impact the student's ability to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics. In determining eligibility, school administration may consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to, previous disciplinary action, the nature of the misbehavior, and the student's academic performance.

Detention

Lunch detention – students must report immediately to the assigned room after getting their lunch.

After school detention – students must report to the assigned area immediately after school is dismissed. It is the responsibility of the parent/student to provide transportation promptly at the conclusion of detention to pick up the student if they are not old enough to drive themselves or walk home.

Saturday School – will be held on a designated Saturday. Students will be assigned menial chores to complete or assigned community service. No sleeping or visitors will be permitted at Saturday School. Assigned students will attend a continuous three (3) hour period. Students must arrive on time to the designated location. Students must provide their own transportation to and from Saturday School. Failure to report to Saturday School will result in “out of school” suspension.

Suspension

In-School suspensions – will be assigned to students for disciplinary offenses. Students must report for in-school suspension at the time provided by the administrator with all textbooks, materials, and supplies. Students must turn their cell phone over to administration during their time in ISS. During In-School suspension, students are expected to follow VCS Code of Conduct, Rules, and Policies. Failure to do so will result in Out-of-School suspension.

Out-of-School Suspension – Out-of-school suspension bans the student from being on school grounds. Student's parents/guardians will be notified of the reason for suspension and the duration of time for it.

Students in kindergarten through grade eight who are serving out-of-school suspension will be permitted to make-up any assignments missed during the suspension period. Principals may use discretion in regard to student work in suspensions involving severe behavior issues.

High School students serving out-of-school suspensions will not be permitted to make-up assignments during the suspension period unless an alternative plan for assignments during suspension is approved and communicated by the High School Principal and Director of Academic Success and Strategy.

High School:

Prior to being readmitted to class, students serving out-of school suspension must complete a one-page paper outlining the character of a VCS student. This paper must be submitted to the office the morning the student returns to campus.

Any student placed on suspension, whether in-school or out, relinquishes his/her right to participate in or be a spectator at any school event for the duration of the suspension.

Coaches and school administration reserve the right to impose further disciplinary consequences beyond the period of suspension.

Expulsion

A student whose behavior is determined to be a disruption to the learning of others or hazardous to the health and safety of others may be recommended for expulsion at any time during the school year. The administration reserves the right to recommend expulsion of any student for reasonable cause. In making such a recommendation the administration will take into consideration the student's attitude, behavior, and level of agreement with VCS's core values and other school policies. Parents will be asked to withdraw a student if all forms of remediation have been exhausted, and the parents are no longer in covenant with the values of VCS. If parents refuse to withdraw, the student will be expelled.

Students who are no longer eligible for enrollment at VCS may be restricted from attending VCS events for a period of time.

7.6 Tardy Discipline

High School and 6-8:

When a pattern of tardiness and/ or early dismissals develops, the following will be in effect:

- Beginning with the 5th unexcused tardy or early out to school per semester:
 - 5th offense: 1 lunch detention
 - 6th offense: 1 lunch detention
 - 7th offense: 1 after school detention, phone call home
 - 8th offense: 1 after school detention, phone call home
 - 9th offense: 2 after school detentions, phone call home
 - 10th offense: 2 after school detentions, phone call home
 - 11th offense and all subsequent tardies: ISS

7.7 VCS School-wide Development Supports

VCS school administration, support personnel, and faculty will use the tiered support system to work with students, both in small groups and one-on-one, to increase positive behaviors and attitudes toward school and learning and to help students develop positive relationships with peers, teachers, and staff.



<p>Tier 1 – Universal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive and preventative in nature. School-wide systems of support for all students. • Delivered in classroom and school initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active supervision • Safe & positive school climate • Social skills instruction • Positive, proactive classroom level discipline • Teaching school behavior expectations • Progress monitoring on classroom assignments and universal screeners
<p>Tier 2 – Selected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term, evidence-based interventions designed to provide rapid response for students not improving. • Each campus will determine when a student is placed in Tier 2 support according to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Behavior (20-30 demerits) ◦ Academic ◦ Attendance • Delivered by the School Administrators, Support Staff, and Faculty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior Intervention Plans created and/or supported through Branching Minds • MTSS Tier 2 interventions • Parent/guardian meeting required <p>Examples May Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community supports • Specialized group interventions • Behavior report cards • Self-monitoring tracking system • Explicit instruction on a deficit skill
<p>Tier 3 – Targeted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term, intensive interventions for students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSS Tier 3 interventions • Parent/guardian meeting required • Possible recommendation for withdrawal or expulsion <p>Examples May Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one instruction in SEL or behavior areas of concern • Last chance behavior contract • Remediation in deficit academic skills

7.8 Anti-Bullying Policy

Valley Christian Schools is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. This policy aims to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) behavior, ensuring the well-being and academic success of our students. The school environment will be created through the spiritual life of students, which is nurtured and developed through relationships in the school environment rooted in personal and spiritual growth.

Definition:

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, in accordance with ORC 3313.666, means any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical acts, including electronically transmitted acts (i.e., Internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device), either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward another student(s) with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule or humiliate. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include the following:

- An imbalance of Power: those who bully use their power; such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically, attacking someone verbally, and excluding someone on purpose with intent to harm emotions.

There are three types of bullying:

1. Verbal Bullying: saying or writing harmful things. This includes but not limited to:
 - Teasing
 - Name Calling
 - Inappropriate sexual comments
 - Taunting
 - Threatening to cause harm
2. Social/Cyber Bullying: Sometimes referred to as relational bullying, social bullying involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships on campus and off. This includes but not limited to:
 - Leaving someone out on purpose
 - Telling other peers false statements regarding a person or persons
 - Spreading rumors
 - Using social media platforms to attack, spread rumors, induce fear or panic, and or intent to cause someone to self-harm via peer pressure. Social media platforms are

not limited to the following: SnapChat, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, Messenger, WeChat, QQ, telegram, Douyin, Reddit, Discord, LINE, Stack Exchange, Twitch, Likee, Picsart, and Tieba.

3. Physical Bullying: Involved hurting a person's body or possessions. This includes but not limited to:
 - Hitting/Kicking/Pinching
 - Spitting
 - Tripping/Pushing
 - Taking or breaking someone's personal belongings
 - Making mean or rude hand gestures
 - Intimidating someone by purposefully following them around and or making someone feel fearful.

Bullying can occur during or after school hours. While most reported bullying happens in the school building, all outside threats will be handled in the appropriate fashion as laid out below.

Valley Christian Schools will not tolerate bullying and is committed to working toward a safe place for all people physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and socially.

Anti-HIB Procedures

School personnel must report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the school principal or other administrator designated by the principal. Custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student involved in a prohibited incident must be notified in accordance with the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," and have access to any written reports pertaining to the incident.

Procedures for Reporting:

1. Any suspicions and/or evidence of bullying of any kind should be immediately brought to the attention of the administration or the school counselor.
2. Valley Christian Schools promotes two options to anonymously report information. a. Local Tip Line - Youngstown Police Department Non Emergency Number 330-747-7911 b. State Tip Line - Ohio State Tip Line Number 844-723-3764
3. School personnel must promptly report any prohibited incidents they become aware of to the school principal or another administrator designated by the principal.

Documentation, Response, and Investigation:

1. All reported incidents will be documented by the teacher or staff member in FACTS, including details of the incident, involved parties, witnesses, and any supporting evidence.
2. Upon receiving a report, the school administration will initiate a thorough investigation, respecting the privacy and confidentiality of all parties involved. VCS staff are considered mandated reporters and will notify law enforcement and child protective services if

suspected abuse, harm, or danger is found. VCS must cooperate with investigations by outside agencies if notified by authority.

3. The school administration will respond promptly and take appropriate actions to address the reported incident, ensuring the safety and well-being of the affected student(s).

Prevention of Retaliation:

Valley Christian Schools is committed to our embedded VCS Spiritual Values of Character and Honor and using opportunities to educate students on the power of their words and actions to prevent new or recurring incidents of HIB. The school will provide educational programs and initiatives that promote understanding, respect, empathy, and positive communication skills. Retaliation against individuals who report HIB incidents in good faith is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Procedures:

Any student or school personnel found guilty of harassing, intimidating, or bullying others will face disciplinary action, which may include but is not limited to counseling, detention, suspension, or expulsion, in accordance with the VCS disciplinary policies. Disciplinary procedures will be fair and consistent, taking into account the severity and frequency of the behavior, the age and maturity of the student(s) involved, and any applicable legal requirements.

False Reports:

Making deliberately false reports of HIB incidents is a serious offense. Valley Christian Schools will respond promptly to such incidents and take appropriate disciplinary action.

VCS Training:

VCS Teachers receive training which is compliant with the Ohio ORC. VCS school-wide emphasis is to develop a culture of caring and sense of belonging by acknowledging one another's unique qualities and worth in Jesus Christ. Intentional instruction on caring for one another is done from a Biblical worldview in Bible small groups, chapels, and counselor-led guidance lessons throughout the year. In addition, faculty and staff model care and respect for all students and adults on campus.

Valley Christian Schools is dedicated to creating a safe and respectful environment where all students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally as we seek to Love More, Expect More, Be More. We encourage open communication and collaboration among students, staff, parents, and the community to foster a positive school culture and prevent bullying behavior

7.9 Confiscation of Possessions

Students who bring inappropriate materials or items to school which tend to deviate from the normal course of study may have them confiscated. The parent or guardian will be contacted.

7.10 Drugs, Alcohol, and Steroids

Valley Christian School promotes healthy lifestyle choices by its students. Valley Christian students who possess, use, or appear under the influence are in contradiction to God's Word, and interfere with the school's responsibility of providing a safe and healthy environment for all students. The use of such substances impairs the student's ability to learn therefore limiting the ability of the school to educate the student and accomplish our mission.

Possession, use and distribution of drugs, alcohol, or steroids on or off campus are strictly prohibited. The administration of VCS reserves the right to require a student to take a drug test if there is "reasonable suspicion" that they are or have been under the influence of a controlled substance on or off campus. VCS administration reserves the right to determine if there is reasonable cause to require a drug test including, but not limited to, behavior, smell of a controlled substance, or verified information from a credible source that use of a controlled substance is happening including social media. A student's failure to cooperate in the testing will result in expulsion.

If there is reasonable suspicion, the following immediate actions will be taken:

- Parent contact
- Suspension pending drug test results

Potential Consequences of a Positive Drug Test

Consequences are not in sequential order but may include:

- The student, parents, and administration will meet to implement an intervention program which must include an assessment done by a drug counselor and ongoing counseling.
- Behavior Intervention
- Behavior Probation
- Community Service
- Administrative Withdrawal
- Out of school suspension
- Expulsion
- Other interventions administration deems necessary.
- The student would undergo random school drug testing at the family expense each time the school conducts a drug testing for the remainder of the school year and the following year. Any subsequent positive drug test or policy violation would result in expulsion.

If a student or parent voluntarily discloses to a staff member that the student has a drug, alcohol or steroid problem, a restoration plan may be implemented if the student or parent seeks assistance.

- The student, parents/guardians, and administration must meet to implement a drug counselor's intervention and prevention program and receive ongoing counseling.

- The student must undergo school drug testing at the family expense each time the school conducts a drug testing for the remainder of the school year.
- Suspension or expulsion may be determined unnecessary depending on the individual circumstances.
- Any subsequent positive drug test or policy violation would result in expulsion.

7.11 Weapons Policy

Valley Christian School considers student possession of, use of, or threats of use of weapons as a serious offense and will not tolerate such by anyone enrolled as a student on school property or at school events. Statements made by a student claiming or boasting of a weapon at school or at school events will be dealt with in the same manner as a “threat”.

Students who possess a weapon or who carry, exhibit, display, draw or threaten the use of any of these items apparently capable of producing bodily harm in a manner which manifests intent to intimidate another or warrants alarm for the safety of others shall be subject to discipline up to and, including expulsion. At any point, VCS administration may contact local law enforcement authorities.

A ‘weapon’ includes, but is not limited to: A firearm, which is a weapon or device from which a projectile may be fired by an explosive; An air gun, which includes any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB or pellet; Any knife, cutting, or stabbing instrument with a sharp blade set in a handle; Stun gun; Slingshot; Any explosive device including fireworks/poppers. These items may not be kept on school property, including but not limited to, lockers, backpacks, bags, and vehicles, etc.

Any suspicions and/or evidence of threats of any kind should be immediately brought to the attention of administration or the school counselor.

7.12 Threat Assessment Policy

The VCS Threat Assessment Policy outlines protocol to maintain the safety of the school community in the event a threat of harm is communicated toward the school, member(s) of the VCS staff, or member(s) of the VCS student body.

****If there is a perceived threat of immediate danger, law enforcement should be contacted immediately.**

Any staff member or student who receives communication from an individual that is perceived to be a threat of harm toward the school, staff, or students should contact the building Principal. For the purpose of this policy, communication is defined as face-to face communication, communication that occurs on a social media platform, telephone communication (verbal or text), and communication in the form of handwritten notes that is not perceived as immediate danger. If the

communication is perceived as an immediate threat, law enforcement should be contacted immediately.

The individual communicating the perceived threat should not be left unattended while the staff member or student communicates the perceived threat to the building Principal or his/her designee. If necessary, the building Principal or his/her designee will come to the location of the student or staff member desiring to communicate the perceived threat.

Upon receiving communication in regard to a perceived threat, building Principal or his/her designee are responsible for ensuring the assessment of the credibility of the threat using the checklist established in this policy. Based on the results of the credibility assessment, building Principal or his/her designee will determine any actions needed to maintain the safety of the school, staff, and students.

If a VCS student is responsible for the perceived threat, building Principal or his/her designee will continue to attempt to contact the parent or guardians of the student until direct contact has been made. The school counselor (if available) will also provide necessary resources to the building Principal and assist with any needed referrals for the student. The building Principal will determine in collaboration with the President when a situation may warrant calling the local police department for school regarding mandatory reporting. Due to confidentiality issues, any outcomes involving a student and a perceived threat will be shared on an as-needed basis.

Documentation of the threat or perceived threat and any actions resulting from the threat or perceived threat will be generated and maintained in the counselor's office. Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.

The building Principal and counselor (if available) will determine what further action is necessary for the individual who was the perceived target of the threat if applicable.

7.13 Threat Protocol

****** If there is a concern a weapon is involved; law enforcement should be contacted immediately.

1. An individual verbally communicates a perceived threat of harm or exhibits behavior that communicates a perceived threat of harm to a staff member or to another student. Communication may occur face-to-face, on a social media platform, through telephone communication (verbal or text), or through handwritten notes.
2. If the individual is present on a VCS campus, they should be located immediately and not be left unattended.
3. The school counselor, dean of students, or building Principal is contacted. The appropriate communication pathway is dictated by the age of the individual communicating the threat and whether or not the threat is being communicated during regular school hours. If the

perceived threat is communicated by a student during the school day, please contact the Principal.

4. School counselors and the building Principal (or their designee) will meet with the individual communicating a perceived threat.

Steps five through nine will be implemented if the individual communicating the perceived threat is a student. If the individual communicating the perceived threat is an adult, the building Principal will assess the credibility of the perceived threat using the threat checklist and determine needed actions based on the results of the threat assessment.

5. If the individual is a student, school counselors will contact the building Principal.
6. School counselors and the building Principal will determine the credibility of the threat using the threat checklist established in this policy.
7. The school counselor will continue to attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the student until direct contact has been made.
8. School counselors will assist the building Principal in providing resources, referrals, and any follow up interventions that may be needed for the student who communicated the perceived threat up to and including when a student may return to school if applicable.
9. School counselors will generate proper documentation of the threat and maintain confidentiality.

7.14 Threat Credibility Checklist for Administration

- Does the individual have a detailed plan to threaten harm to the school, member of the staff, or member of the student body?
- Is there a specific target?
- Are there details outlining a specific act?
- Does the individual have access to weapons?
- Are there other people involved in the plan?
- Is this a manifestation of a disability? If the student has an IEP, contact the Director of Special Education immediately.
- Has any physical evidence been found to show a present threat (i.e., drawings, written plans, social media communications, text messages, emails)?
- Has the individual made any known comments or hints to teachers or friends?
- Has the individual shown any noticeable changes in personality, behavior, or academic performance?
- Are there any known family problems or difficult situations occurring in the life of the individual?
- Does the individual have a history of behavior problems or physically aggressive behavior?
- If the individual is a student, has he or she been having stressful interactions with peers?

7.15 Protocol For A Credible Threat

- The individual who made the threat should be supervised at all times by the VCS faculty or staff member who is present during the threat. If an individual becomes aware of a threat they will locate the individual and contact administration. The building Principal (his/her designee) shall determine who will supervise the individual.
- President is contacted and told there is a credible threat.
- President in collaboration with the building Principal will contact local police authorities and Child Protective Services for school on next steps.
- President, building Principal (his/her designee), or school counselor will put school on lockdown or evacuate students and staff, if needed
- The building Principal (his/her designee) or school counselor will locate targeted individual(s)
- The building Principal (his/her designee) or school counselor will contact targeted individual(s) parents
- The building Principal (his/her designee) or school counselor will contact the parents or family member of the individual who made the credible threat.
- After the incident is resolved, the building Principal (his/her designee) or school counselor will work with the individual who made the credible threat and targets of the threat to process information and create a safety plan or check in on well-being.
- The school counselor will provide support, resources, and/or outside counseling referrals.
- The building Principal and school counselor will create a plan for the individual with specific information and steps for the individual to return to VCS.

8.0 SCHOOL DRESS CODE

All uniform shirts are purchased by visiting the VCS website at vcsohio.org > Parent Resources Tab > School Uniforms Order.

8.1 General Guidelines for All Students

The following guidelines describe a set of standards governing general appearance, including grooming, and the uniform dress code. We consider modesty to be a guiding principle for student appearance both during the school day and at all VCS events on or off campus.

Students deemed to be out of compliance with the dress code that cannot be corrected (i.e., removal of hoodie) will be sent to the office to call home. Non-compliance will result in a loss of privileges.

All clothing items must be size appropriate. The administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of specific clothing, hairstyles, jewelry, etc.

Grades K-2 School Uniform	
Type	Dress Code Stipulations

Personal Grooming	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair should be neat, clean and out of the student's eyes. • Fingernails must be of appropriate length (no artificial nails) <p>Not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairstyle may not be offensive, radical (i.e., unnatural hair color, mohawks, etc.), designed to be distracting, or draw attention. • Body piercings (boys and girls) • Vulgar or offensive visible tattoos
Tops	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students must wear VCS polo shirts • Polo shirts must not be longer than 3" past the beltline. • Layering of shirts is permitted if all layers are school permitted colors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Plain dress sweaters that are solid blue, black, white or gray with no designs or patterns. ◦ VCS Track jackets worn over top of VCS polo shirt • Undershirts or turtlenecks may be worn if solid gray, black, blue, yellow, or white • Undergarments must not be visible through the uniform shirt <p>Not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweatshirts of any type • Hoodies • Other athletic wear (crew neck sweater, warm-ups, hooded jacket, etc.)
Bottoms	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid colored, traditional uniform style slacks are required and must be black, navy blue or khaki beige. • Uniform style jumpers, skirts or skorts are permitted (girls only) no higher than 2 inches above the knee <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweats are not permitted. • Cargo pants are not permitted. • Jeans or denim material <p>Uniform shorts may be worn any day that the outside temperature reaches over 70 degrees.</p>
Shoes	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress shoes must be black, tan, gray, or brown. • Solid colored boots that are mid-calf or below may be worn (black, gray, blue, white, or brown) • Snow boots may be worn to and from school (student must change into dress code appropriate shoes for the entire school day) • Any athletic shoes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heels should not exceed 1 inch • Shoes must cover all toes • Socks or stockings must be worn with shoes at all times. <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heely shoes • Boots above the mid-calf • Moccasins, open sandals, slippers, Uggs, shower shoes, • Crocs, or flip-flops. • Shoes without backs.
Accessories	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys must wear black, navy blue or brown belts if pants are not elastic. • Cloth belts are permitted. • Boys may wear clear or small stud earrings only • Backpacks must be kept on hooks in the classroom or hallways. <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All facial piercings (i.e., nose, tongue, cheek, etc.), gauges, hoops, and makeup for boys • Backpack or large purses • Facial (i.e., nose, tongue, cheek, etc.) piercings for girls • Bandanas
Grades 3-8 School Uniform	
Type	Dress Code Stipulations
Personal Grooming	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair should be neat, clean, and out of the student's eyes. • Fingernails must be appropriate length. • Neatly trimmed facial hair. <p>Not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairstyle may not be offensive, radical (i.e., unnatural hair color, mohawks, etc.) • Hairstyles designed to be distracted or draw attention. • Body piercings • Vulgar or offensive visible tattoos
Tops	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately sized VCS polo shirts, VCS Crew Neck, or VCS lightweight $\frac{3}{4}$ zip. • Layering of shirts is permitted if all layers are school colors (i.e., gray, black, yellow, blue, or white). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ VCS track jackets or $\frac{3}{4}$ zip pullovers may be worn over the VCS polos.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VCS quarter zip athletic warmup with no hood. ○ Blue, Black, or White Cardigan Sweaters ● Undergarments must not be visible through the uniform shirt. <p>Not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sweatshirts of any type ● Hoodies ● Coats ● Other athletic wear (crew neck sweater, hooded jacket, etc.)
Bottoms	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid colored, traditional uniform style slacks are required and must be black, navy blue, or khaki beige. ● Due to lack of air conditioning, uniform shorts may be worn any day that the outside temperature reaches over 70 degrees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shorts must be loose fitting and length must be no higher than 2 inches above the knee. ● Uniform style skirts or skorts are permitted no higher than 2 inches above the knee for students in grades 3-5 only. <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sweats are not permitted. ● Cargo pants are not permitted. ● Jeans or denim material
Shoes	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dress shoes must be black, tan, gray, or brown. ● Solid colored boots that are mid-calf or below may be worn (black, gray, blue, white, brown) ● Snow boots may be worn to and from school but students must change into code appropriate shoes for the entire school day. ● Any athletic shoes (must be worn for physical education class) ● Heels should not exceed 1 inch ● Shoes must cover all toes <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Light up, glitter, and Heely shoes ● Boots above mid-calf ● Moccasins, open sandals, slippers, slipper-type shoes, shoes without soles, shower shoes, Crocs, or flip-flops ● Shoes without backs
Accessories	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Backpacks must be kept in lockers and are not permitted in classrooms or common areas. ● Only girls may carry a small crossbody or wristlet purse.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys may wear clear small stud earrings ONLY. No other earrings will be permitted. <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hats, wave caps, accessorized headbands, and coats Large purses Fanny packs Facial piercings (i.e., nose, tongue, cheek, etc.) Excessive bracelets and neck jewelry Bandanas
Grades 9-12 School Uniform	
Type	Dress Code Stipulations
Personal Grooming	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair should be clean, neat and out of the student's eyes. Hair is NOT permitted to be in a student's eyes OR covering their eyes. Fingernails must be appropriate length. Facial hair is allowed, but should be trimmed and groomed Students are allowed to have natural hair colors (i.e., blonde, natural red, brown, or black) <p>Not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulgar/offensive tattoos Distracting hairstyles
Tops	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VCS Polo shirt VCS Quarter zip jacket (Must wear a VCS polo underneath) VCS Quarter zip pullover VCS Hoodie or Crew Neck Sweater Undershirts must be school colors Undergarments should not be seen through shirts <p>*Note: Students wearing a VCS hoodie must have the hood down</p> <p>Not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirts, sweaters or hoodies that are not VCS apparel T-Shirts of any kind
Bottoms	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid colored casual dress pants (must be black, navy blue, khaki beige, or gray) <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeans or denim material Sweats, yoga pants or leggings

Shoes	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress shoes • Solid colored boots mid-calf or lower • Athletic shoes • Crocs <p>*Note: shoes should cover the entire foot (including heels and toes)</p> <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moccasins/slippers • Boots above mid-calf • Sandals • Shoes without backs
Accessories	<p>Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belts • Earrings within appropriate size • Small purse for girls <p>Note: Backpacks should be kept in lockers unless given special permission from administration</p> <p>Not Permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hats, wave caps • Head wraps (unless given permission from administration) • Coats • Large earrings, gages, • Makeup and fingernail polish for boys • Facial piercings (lip, nose ring, septum piercing, tongue, eyebrow, etc.) • Body piercings • Excessive jewelry • Bandanas

8.2 Theme Wear Days

Theme wear days are specifically assigned days throughout the school year when students are permitted to wear theme related clothing. Each theme wear day will be approved by administration. It is our goal to have spirit days each week during athletic seasons to support our athletic teams. This will be a designated day during the school week determined by the administration to support an athletic team's function. See theme wear guidelines for a list of appropriate attire.

Permitted:

- Jeans (without cuts, or holes)
- Any VCS apparel sold in our team store or given by an athletic department

Not permitted:

- Leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, sweatpants, flip-flops

8.3 Attire for Special Events

Formal wear is required for specific events, banquets, and dances on and off campus. The following are examples of appropriate attire for banquets and formals.

Banquet attire (i.e. athletic or academic banquets, concerts)

- Male students can wear dress shirts, collared shirts, dress sweaters, dress pants or uniform pants
- Female students can wear dress shirts/blouses, sweaters, dress pants or dresses. All dresses must be no shorter than 2 inches from the knee.

Formal (i.e. homecoming and prom)

- Male students should wear a suit or tuxedo
- Female students should wear formal dresses. Modesty is the guiding principle. Please see the section below.

The following will not be permitted at school or for school-related functions.

- Clothing with explicit content on it
- Revealing clothing
 - Low cut dresses, cleavage showing
 - Back more than half uncovered.
 - Hemline or slit more than two inches higher than top of kneecap.
 - Inappropriately tight dresses.
 - Midriff showing.

9.0 PERSONAL ELECTRONICS POLICY

In order for students to exhibit evidence of spiritual growth, healthy personal relationships, and to continually improve their daily academic performance, phones or other personal electronics are not to be used during school. We believe student mobile electronic devices of all kinds significantly prevent progress toward our goals for VCS students by interfering with classroom instruction, providing a false sense of identity through social media platforms, and causing undue stress on students' social emotional health. Therefore, VCS will strictly enforce the following electronic device policies.

If a parent needs to reach a student while school is in session, they must call the main office. We ask that parents only call students in emergency situations. The school assumes no responsibility or liability if personal electronic devices are broken, lost or stolen, whether in the possession of students or if confiscated by school personnel.

Examples of personal electronic devices include cell phones, tablets, smart watches, bluetooth headphones/earbuds, and other smart devices.

9.1 Procedures

High School

Every student will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

As students arrive at school, they will:

1. Turn their phone on airplane mode or power it off.
2. Place their phone, airpods, and smart watches inside their pouch and secure it in the presence of school staff. Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the high school office.
3. At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouch, remove their phone and put their pouch in their backpack. Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day.

Violations

Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using Phone During School

If a student damages their pouch or is caught using their phone, Administration will collect the student's pouch/phone and call home. Repercussions for damaged pouches or unauthorized phone use will include:

- First offense confiscate device with parent pickup
- Second offense will result in an in school suspension
- \$30 Replacement fee

Examples of pouch damage include:

- Bent pin
- Ripped fabric
- Deep scratches on the lock exterior + green ring
- Intentional pen marks on the inside of the pouch
- Pin and button not fully recessing due to pin damage

Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, their phone will be collected, and Administration will call home to remind the Parent of the policy. The phone will be returned to the student at dismissal.

If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost. Refer to the Lost Pouch policy above.

Intermediate School:

Cell phones must be turned off and put away before entering the building. Students will turn their devices into the appropriate area of their homeroom class.

Violations:

- **First Offense:** Dean of Students or principal confiscates the device until the end of the school day. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the day. The student also receives a level 2 disciplinary event and must serve an administrative lunch detention
- **Second Offense:** The Dean of Students or principal confiscates the device. The student's parent/guardian will be called and the device will only be returned to the parent/guardian. The student also receives a level 3 disciplinary event and must serve a before or after school detention.
- **Third Offense:** Dean of Students or principal confiscates the device. The student's parent/guardian will be called and the device will only be returned to the parent/guardian. The student also receives a level 4 disciplinary event and must serve one Saturday school.

Any infractions after the third will be directly handled by the Principal. A parent meeting will be scheduled, and the student will be required to turn their device into the Principal every morning for the remainder of the school year. The Principal will issue a disciplinary consequence.

Elementary School:

Devices must be turned off and kept in the student's backpack. The school assumes no responsibility or liability if personal electronic devices are broken, lost or stolen, whether in the possession of students or if confiscated by school personnel.

9.2 Refusal to Turn Over Devices When Requested

Students are required to turn electronic communication devices over to school personnel when requested. Students who refuse to do so shall be subject to disciplinary action for a Level Three offense.

9.3 Exclusions

This policy does not apply to medically-required electronic communication devices such as hearing aids and augmentative speech aids or to any electronic device which is mandated in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

9.4 Nuisance and/or Hazardous Items

Items that disrupt or interfere with learning are prohibited during school. These include but are not limited to lasers, digital recorders, and media players. Students who bring inappropriate materials or items to school may have them confiscated. The parent or guardian will be contacted.

10.0 TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND AGREEMENT

The Administration of Valley Christian School recognizes that an effective education system develops students who are globally aware, civically engaged, and capable of managing their lives and careers. The Administration also believes that students need to be proficient users of information, media, and technology to succeed in an ever-changing digital world. All terms and conditions in the VCS Technology Policy and Agreement are applicable to any campus within the VCS School System. As a prerequisite, students and their parents must sign and submit the signature page of the Valley Christian Parent-Student Handbook each year. Valley Christian Schools provide students, faculty, and staff access to desktops, laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, iMacs, printers, and any other network connected device. As used herein computer(s) refers to any of the above-named devices connected to the VCS network. A computer network is defined as computers sharing resources and using common communication protocols for information sharing on or provided by network nodes. The school reserves the right to prioritize using and accessing the network. The use of technology is a privilege and not a right. Technology, when used responsibly, is a means to make life easier. Any use of the VCS Network or any of its property may not be used for discriminatory or unlawful purposes by students or staff.

VCS will not be responsible for any damages suffered by any individual, or other users. All VCS students, faculty, and staff are responsible for his or her actions regarding the use of computers, computer services, network access, passwords, files, and user accounts.

10.1 Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

In this diverse and challenging technological climate, advances in telecommunications and other technologies have made educational institutions need to rethink the strategy for providing digital resources to students. To support appropriate and adequate access to these resources students, faculty, and staff have access to the secure VCS Network. A Network is defined as all of the interconnected devices that share data and resources with each other. All use of the VCS network must support at least one or more student courses of study, and be consistent with the mission of VCS (Section 1.0).

The Internet is a gateway that gives access to any publicly available file server in the world. As such, it may be impossible to limit all access to only educational and research material when considering the varied learning styles, teaching styles, and varied instructional strategies utilized by teachers and staff. VCS in conjunction with its IT networking company has implemented various monitoring, filtering, and blocking strategies to ensure the safety and security of each student while utilizing the network, pursuant to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Activities that are permitted and encouraged include but are not limited to the following:

- Investigation of topics and content assigned in school to provide educational enrichment

- Investigation of topics and opportunities outside of school related to employment, community resources, or further education
- Idea sharing with other VCS students, faculty, and staff.
- File sharing related to class activities and/or assignments (not including cheating or plagiarizing electronic content)

10.2 Prohibited Uses

Any attempt to log onto the Internet or the school's network/system as a systems administrator may result in a loss of user privileges at the school. Any user identified as a security risk by the school administration or teacher due to a history of actual or suspected unauthorized access to other computer(s), network(s), or system(s), may be denied access to school's computers, networks, and/or systems.

Activities that are not permitted include but are not limited to the following:

- Going live on social media on any school-issued computer at any time
- Sharing accounts, passwords, or assigned Chromebook with anyone
 - Students will change their passwords at the beginning of each school year and passwords are shared with the teacher
- Sharing of personal information (address, phone number) about family, friends, yourself, or anyone else
- Unauthorized access to other school computers, networks, and information systems
- Downloading, installation, and use of games, audio files, video files, or other applications (including shareware or freeware) without permission or approval of the Building Principal
- Personal gain, commercial solicitation and compensation of any kind
- Hacking, cracking, vandalizing, the introduction of viruses, worms, Trojan horses, time bombs and changes to hardware, software, and monitoring tools
- Support or opposition for ballot measures, candidates or any other political activity
- Cyberbullying, hate mail, defamation, harassment of any kind, discriminatory jokes and remarks which include all social media account
- Any use that violates or encourages others to violate the law
- Information posted, sent, or stored online that could endanger others (e.g. bomb construction, drug manufacture)
- Accessing, uploading, downloading, storage and distribution of obscene, pornographic or sexually explicit material
- Interacting with any student or anyone else in any sexually explicit manner while on the VCS network
- Linking the VCS web page to a student's personal home page
- Attaching unauthorized equipment to the school network. Any such equipment will be confiscated and destroyed

Students are not permitted to use their own devices on the network. The contracted technology company will install any applications or provide VPN on any personal devices. Visitors to any campus may use the VCS guest Wi-Fi when applicable (Wireless@VCS!). Guests on the network are subject to all policies contained herein.

10.3 Remote/Home Device Usage

Any VCS device used at home should still be used for academic purposes. This expectation also applies to approved high school students permitted to use their own device for the purpose of the College Credit Plus (CCP) or enrolled in district occupational programs (i.e. Choffin Career Center or Mahoning County Career and Technical Center) (MCCTC) accessing the VCS Network. Parents are encouraged to monitor the use of their child's device. Student devices are still monitored even when they are not on any VCS Campus.

10.4 Printing

Students in high school have printing privileges from their VCS issued Chromebook. This does not apply to students enrolled in the above mentioned CCP and occupational programs using their own devices. Printing is a privilege and not a right. Printing of any material that violates any condition explicit or implied within this Policy may be subject to the VCS School-Wide Discipline System. This is not limited to and includes expulsion.

The following policies apply when printing at any VCS school location:

- Printing is for school projects, assignments, or any other school/teacher approved material only
- Students in the high school (grades 9-12) may print in the main office only

Students should ask permission from the teacher before printing an excessive number of pages as well as excessive color pages. The default printing color must be black and white. Excessive is described as anything over 20 pages.

10.5 Device Care, Student/Parent Responsibility, and Damage Assessment Information

VCS students are responsible for the Chromebooks they are assigned each school year. Students are to immediately surrender Chromebooks whenever a teacher or administrator asks. Chromebooks are also to be surrendered when a student withdraws, is expelled, and at the end of each school year. Teachers and administrators will decide if a student will retain their Chromebook if suspended. Students should make every effort to keep the device from damage. If damage of any kind is sustained to the Chromebook, charger, or case students and parents are responsible for any costs incurred. Damage can be defined as but is not limited to physical damage, water damage, heat damage, cracked screens, damaged keyboards, damaged chargers, and ripped cases.

Whenever there is damage to a device (at any campus), the student or parent should notify the Technology Department within 24 hours of the damage. If a device is damaged in school, the Technology Department will notify parents within 24 hours or after the damage is accessed. Once the device comes back from repair, the Technology Department will inform parents Chromebooks, cases, and chargers that are damaged or are not returned in any mentioned scenario, will incur cost(s) based on the fees listed below:

Item	Fee/Repair Schedule
Total Chromebook Replacement (device is unable to be repaired) Newly Purchased Devices Older Devices	\$270.00 \$150.00
Cracked/Broken screen	\$85.00
Chromebook Keyboard Replacement (this does not include regular wear and tear)	\$45.00
Misc. Chromebook Repairs such as chipped devices, missing hinges, popped keys, and damaged ports	can range anywhere from \$20.00-\$50.00
Chromebook Charger Replacement (All device models)	\$20.00
Chromebook Case Replacement	\$10.00

10.6 No Expectation of Privacy

Valley Christian School provides the network system, e-mail and Internet access as a tool for education and research in support of the school's mission. The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store, without prior notice, information about the content and usage of:

- The network
- User files and disk space utilization
- User applications and bandwidth utilization
- User document files, folders, and electronic communications
- E-mail
- Internet access
- Any and all information transmitted or received in connection with network and e mail use

VCS utilizes Go Guardian class management and monitoring software as a means for faculty, administration, and staff to keep students safe while online. This software can and will be used to monitor the student's online activity while in school as well as outside of school.

No student, faculty, or staff user should have any expectation of privacy when using the school's network. Valley Christian School reserves the right to disclose any electronic message to law enforcement officials or third parties as appropriate. All documents are subject to public records disclosure laws.

10.7 Technology Acknowledgement and Agreement

Parents are responsible for reviewing the entire VCS Technology Policy with his/her child(ren). Parents understand that Valley Christian School has made all reasonable attempts to provide a safe computing environment for students within the school's network. Parents are encouraged to set a positive standard for their child(ren) when using any computer or accessing the VCS network.

Students and parents are responsible and accountable for the appropriate use of the Internet regardless of where they are, or when Internet access occurs.

The above policies and procedures are a general guideline of the responsibilities and expectations of all VCS students, faculty, and staff regarding the use of computers, computer services, network access, passwords, files, and user accounts and do not include all possible incidents that could arise. VCS reserves the right to change or modify any content contained within this Policy at any time. By signing the signature page of the Valley Christian Parent-Student Handbook, both student(s) and parent(s) and/or guardian(s) are agreeing to follow the rules in the Technology Policy. You are also agreeing to report misuse of any computer or the network to any teacher or administrator. Misuse is described as any violation of this Policy or any other use not included in this Policy, but has the effect of harming another of his or her property.

11.0 ADDITIONAL SERVICES

11.1 Title I Services

This statement is in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued pursuant to these statutes at Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 80, 84, and 91.

Valley Christian School provides tutoring and remedial services via the Federal Title I program. Students whose public-school district provides Title I services will receive appropriate services at Valley Christian School. Students are identified based on academic risk, which may include any of the following factors:

- Classroom grades
- Parent or teacher recommendation
- Standardized test scores

- Need to remediate tests or exams

Title I services may be provided in the following forms:

- Remedial reading and mathematics instruction as a push-in or pull-out program
- After school tutoring and support
- Summer School

According to the Parent Right-to-Know (NCLB/ESEA, 1111(h) Act), parents of Title I students may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's Title I teachers.

11.2 School Counseling Services

Valley Christian School employs a school counselor. The school counselor implements a pro-active, Christ centered social emotional program in grades K-8. The school counselor may meet with students for a limited number of times and provide referrals to outside counseling services. The school counselor also consults during the threat assessment process.

12.0 STUDENT LIFE

12.1 VCS Student Council

Valley Christian School Student Council is a vital and necessary organization in which 7-12th grade students are involved. The student body elects individuals to the Student Council to represent them in student activities, and act as the "voice of the student body." A Student Council member should, at all times, display the objectives of the school and the Student Council by setting an example for other students.

Students in grades 9-12 who wish to seek a leadership position in student council, NHS, class officer, or any other co-curricular activity must meet the Minimum Credit Requirement Policy. Furthermore, students may only hold the office of president for one co-curricular activity. Students who have been suspended or have accumulated 15 or more demerits will be removed from Student Council for the remainder of the year

12.2 VCS National Honor Society

Annually, students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 are selected by a faculty council. Students chosen must have a 3.3 grade point average. Also, they must display high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. National Honor Society members are expected to continue their exemplary contributions not only within the school, but also in the community. The society has a reputation for excellence and ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students.

Students in grades 9-12 who wish to seek a leadership position in student council, NHS, class officer, or any other co-curricular activity must meet the Minimum Credit Requirement Policy. Furthermore, students may only hold the office of president for one co-curricular activity.

12.3 Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are events not directly related to the classroom curriculum. These activities are generally associated with athletic activities, and usually involve competition with students from other schools. Participation in these activities may require an annual physical, as well as meeting attendance and academic grade requirements. If a parent or guardian refuses to permit a pre-participation physical evaluation, a form certifying this objection shall be signed by the parent or guardian and attached to the required parental consent forms. Details about these programs and events will be sent home to the parents throughout the year, or can be viewed at www.vcsohio.org.

12.4 Extracurricular Fundraising Policy

All coordinators or VCS stakeholders wishing to conduct fundraising activities must receive prior approval for their project/event from the building Principal by completing a Fundraising Planning & Goals Form.

- Fundraising Solicitation Forms can be obtained from either the office or faculty website. This form must be submitted to the building Principal by all coordinators.
- The extra-curricular coordinators will work with the Principal on all planned fundraising activities for each school year ensuring that several groups are not fundraising at the same time. This calendar will include the event name, date(s), and responsible party.
- Fundraising may not proceed until the Fundraising Planning & Goals Form has been approved and returned to the sponsor of the group conducting the fundraiser.
- The Principal must approve all solicitation materials and fliers. Approved fliers may be distributed to the VCS community through take home fliers, email, audio calls, website, social media, and promotional TV's located in the school.
- Fundraising groups are encouraged to take photographs during their fundraiser to be used in conjunction with publication of results. Results and pictures are to be sent to the Principal for distribution to school stakeholders.
- Upon the completion of the fundraiser, gross totals, expenses, and net totals must be submitted.

*Any fundraiser conducted without following this approval process will be terminated immediately and any funds raised will be returned to the donors. Those responsible may be asked to relinquish their position.

Recognized Purposes for School-Related Fundraising

- Supporting activities of school organizations and clubs that benefit the student body.
- Providing supplemental funds that help defray the costs of optional activities that support school programs.
- Providing supplemental materials or equipment that enhance the extra curricular programs.

Consideration for Approval

- The fundraiser does not detract from or conflict with the greater fundraising efforts of the school (Annual Fund, Golf Outing, Fish Fry, Bowl-a-thon, etc.)
- The fundraiser promotes activity or school community.
- The fundraiser provides students with a positive philanthropic experience.
- The planned project does not take too much student, parent, faculty or administrative time.
- The project cannot be covered through the school's annual operational budget. Fundraisers that benefit individual students will not be considered.

12.5 Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities are events related to classroom subjects that normally occur outside of the classroom and may be related to competition with students from other schools, such as the Academic Decathlon. Participation requires meeting attendance and academic grade requirements. Students who qualify are encouraged to take part in co curricular activities.

Students in grades 9-12 who wish to seek a leadership position in student council, NHS, class officer, or any other co-curricular activity must meet the Minimum Credit Requirement Policy requirements. Furthermore, students may only hold the office of president for one co-curricular activity.

12.6 Sports

Valley Christian School participates in a planned program of sports with other schools through membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The sports program may include football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading, swimming, track, bowling, golf, wrestling, tennis and others as student interest dictates.

Eligibility for sports is determined by academic and behavioral standards. Students must meet the academic standards listed in Addendum A to participate, and exhibit conduct that exemplifies the Christian teachings of our school.

Refer to the Athletics Handbook for more information.

12.7 Field Trips

Field trips at Valley Christian School extend classroom learning and also reward students' classroom performance. All field trips are a privilege and have criteria students must meet to participate in the field trip.

Field Trip	Criteria that Prohibit Student Attendance
Extension of Classroom Learning	Attendance: 15 days absent Behavior: 20 demerits (10 for K-2) or a level 4 (level 3 for K-2) offense during the quarter of the field trip

Reward	Attendance: 15 days absent Academics: 2 or more F's in the previous quarter Behavior: 20 demerits (10 for K-2) or a level 4 (level 3 for K-2) offense during the quarter of the field trip,
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13.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

13.1 Birthday Treats

Elementary:

Parents/Guardians that wish to celebrate their child's birthday at school with a special treat must first seek permission from the building principal. Parents/Guardians must contact the principal, 24 hours ahead of time, via email or in writing, of the date that they would like to bring in the treat and what treat that they would like to bring. A treat can be a cupcake, cookie, or a non-food item. Treats must be approved, by the principal, due to student allergies and dietary restrictions. No other food items are accepted. Party decor, such as balloons and tableware is not permitted.

Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the principal once approval is given and provided with a time to drop off the birthday treat. Parents/Guardians are not able to stay for the celebration. Students will celebrate with their class at a time designated by the classroom teacher.

Intermediate:

Parents/Guardians that wish to celebrate their child's birthday at school with a special treat may drop off the treat prior to noon. Treats must be store-bought with a list of ingredients. Party decor, such as balloons and tableware is not permitted.

Parents/Guardians are not able to stay for the celebration. Students will celebrate with their class during the last period of the day.

13.2 Confidentiality of Student Records

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, Valley Christian School must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. Simultaneously, Valley Christian School recognizes the need to safeguard students' privacy and restrict access to students' personally identifiable information.

Valley Christian School is responsible for the records of all students who attend or have attended the school. Only records mandated by the State or Federal government and/or necessary and

relevant to the function of the school or specifically permitted by the school will be compiled by employees.

In all cases, permitted, narrative information in student records shall be objectively based on the personal observation or knowledge of the originator.

Student records shall be available only to students and their parents, eligible students, designated school officials, and designated school personnel, who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law.

The term "parents" includes legal guardians or other persons standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child). The term "eligible student" refers to a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or a student of any age who is enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

Both parents shall have equal access to student records unless stipulated otherwise by court order or law. In the case of eligible students, parents may be allowed access to the records without the student's consent, provided the student is considered a dependent under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code.

A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, teacher/instructor (including substitutes), or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving as a school administrator; 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/her tasks (including volunteers).

"Legitimate educational interest" is defined as a "direct or delegated responsibility for helping the student achieve one (1) or more of the educational goals of the school" or if the record is necessary in order for the school official to perform an administrative, supervisory, or instructional task or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family.

The School authorizes the administration to:

- Forward student records, including disciplinary records with respect to any current suspension and expulsion, upon request to a private or public school or school district in which a student of the school is enrolled, seeks or intends to enroll, or is instructed to enroll, on a full-time or part-time basis, upon condition that a reasonable attempt is made to notify the student's parents of the transfer, of their right to receive a copy of the record if desired, and of their right to have a hearing to challenge the content of the record;

- Provide "personally-identifiable" information to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if such knowledge is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals;
- Report a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities and to transmit copies of the student's special education and disciplinary records to the authorities for their consideration;
- Request each person or party requesting access to a student's record to abide by Federal regulations and State laws concerning the disclosure of information.

The school will comply with a legitimate request for access to a student's records within a reasonable period of time but not more than 45 days after receiving the request. Upon the request of the viewer, a record shall be reproduced, unless said record is copyrighted, or otherwise restricted, and the viewer may be charged a fee equivalent to the cost of handling and reproduction. Based upon reasonable requests, viewers of educational records will receive explanation and interpretation of the records.

Only "directory information" regarding a student may be released to any person or party, other than the student or his/her parent, without the written consent of the parent, or, if the student is an eligible student, without the written consent of the student, except to those persons or parties stipulated by the school's policy and administrative guidelines and/or those specified in the law. No directory information shall be released for a profit-making plan or activity, or if the parent/guardian completes and returns the "Directory Information Opt Out Form" by August 31st of the current school year located in Appendix D.

No liability shall attach to any member, officer, or employee of this School as a consequence of permitting access or furnishing student records in accordance with this policy and regulations.

13.3 Eligibility for Work Release

Only seniors in good academic standing may request permission for early release from school to work. Students granted permission can be released one or two periods early to work at a regularly scheduled job. When it is necessary for a student to leave school early on a daily basis for employment, a Work Release Form must be completed and signed by the appropriate individuals, namely the: student, student's parents, employer, school counselor, and school administrator. The student will agree to abide by the guidelines set forth on the work release form.

13.4 Emergency Closings

If for any reason it becomes necessary to close VCS on short notice, the details will be sent by automated phone message, as well as the local television stations – WFMJ

channel 21, WKBN, channel 27, and WYTV channel 33. Announcements will be made as early as possible during inclement weather. Please do not call the school to see if classes have been cancelled.

If a particular school district in which a student resides is closed for inclement weather conditions on a day when VCS remains open, and the student relies on provided bus transportation from that district, it is the parent's responsibility to make every effort, within reason, to assure that their child arrives at VCS safely. Bus students residing in districts that implement a two-hour delay, will be granted an excused tardy should the situation arise.

13.5 FACTS-SIS

FACTS School Management Software gives parents the ability to get more involved in his/her child's academic progress and future success.

FACTS - SIS's Parents Web is a private and secure parents' portal available through the internet or mobile app that will allow parents to view academic information specific to their child, while protecting their child's information from others. Parents can see your child's grades, attendance, homework, and conduct, as well as other useful school information. Parents can also communicate with teachers and other school staff online whenever necessary.

To access FACTS - SIS Parent's Web verify with the school office that VCS has your current email address, go to www.factsmgt.com and select the ParentsWeb Login then follow instructions listed on the VCS Website

13.6 Field Trips

Activities away from the normal classroom make up a vital part of the instructional program. Field trips, which tend to develop growth spiritually or academically, will be scheduled from time to time. Students must submit the required permission forms from parents or guardians and have an Emergency Medical Authorization form on file to participate in these experiences. Related expenses, dates, times, and appropriate dress information will be given to parents for each activity. Parents may be asked to help with activities, furnish transportation, and serve as chaperones.

13.7 Fire and Safety Drills

During the school year, fire, severe weather, environmental danger, and intruder evacuation drills will be held as required by law or as recommended by local agencies. The goal is for students and staff to be trained with the correct procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

13.8 Food Service Program Policy

Purpose

The Valley Christian Schools Food Services Department provides nourishing meals to our students and helps fuel their learning in the classroom. The department operates as a self-funded entity, like any other business, and unpaid meal charges place a large financial burden on the school. The intent of this policy is:

- To be transparent with our families on the school procedures for handling unpaid meal charges
- To establish policies that are age-appropriate for our students
- To encourage parent/guardian responsibility of meal payments and charges
- To outline the actions the school will take to implement and enforce the policy and collect outstanding debts

Purchasing and Payments

Every student has a meal account created during the enrollment process. Students use their Student ID number to access their account and make purchases in the cafeteria. Purchase restrictions must be arranged with the Food Services Dept. directly at 330-788-8088 ext. 1113. Money can be applied to a student's account electronically through the school website under student services. Cash or check may be sent in an envelope, marked with the student's name and ID number, to your student's cafeteria. Payments are applied to negative meal debt first, if applicable, and any additional funds will remain as a positive balance for future purchases.

Charging Meals (Negative Account Balances)

Meal charges in the cafeteria are to be made in emergency situations when a student has forgotten their lunch or money. Only complete meals can be charged; extras cannot be charged. Extra purchases are prohibited when an account has a negative balance. Charging meals is like using a credit card. Meals can be charged to a meal account with payment made at a later time. Charging occurs when a student does not have enough money in their meal account to cover a purchase, causing a negative account balance (or meal debt). Parents are responsible for paying all meal debt on their student's meal account. Keep in mind that a student's meal account balance can fluctuate multiple times each day due to payments made and/or meal and a la carte purchases.

Notification and Collection of Meal Debt

Parents are responsible for their student's meal account. The Food Service department frequently attempts to notify families of negative meal account balances. Parents and/or guardians are notified by email or text of their child's lunch account on a monthly basis and are able to check online through the school website.

Free Status Students

Eligibility for free meal benefits starts the day an application is approved in our system. Until that time, parents are responsible for providing lunch money or a packed lunch and for paying back any

meal debt accumulated prior to approval. The debt will remain on the account until the parent pays it off in full. New applications must be filled out each September even if one is already on file.

Charge Limits

Students who have a negative balance of more than \$30.00 will be given an alternative meal that consists of a cereal bowl, fruit, two cheese sticks, a grain product, and milk. In addition, students who owe more than \$30.00, which is the equivalent of 2 weeks of charged breakfasts and lunches, will not be allowed to purchase any extra items such as snacks, drinks, or WAMs (extra entrée' purchased with a meal) or be able to order Eagle Eats. Meal debt is a school fee that remains and accumulates with the student throughout their enrollment at Valley Christian Schools. Meal debt must be paid before withdrawing or graduating. As the school continues to make debt collection efforts, certain privileges may be revoked at the district and building principal's discretion, such as:

- Report cards and transcripts held
- Non-academic field trip privileges held
- Fun day privileges held
- Admission into Homecoming/Prom prohibited
- Limiting participation in seasonal sports

This policy is exclusive to meal debt in the cafeteria and does not include academic school fees

General Food Service Information

- All students will eat in the cafeteria or assigned area
- The menu is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances
- Students may purchase a school lunch or bring a packed lunch from home upon arrival
- Lunch consists of an entree (2 meat, 2 grain), fruit, vegetable, and milk. Students are offered 5 components to a meal. Only three are required, one must be a fruit or vegetable. The other two components are optional.
- Bottled water, 100% fruit juice, milk, and a-la-carte items are available from the cafeteria for all students to purchase
- Meals from outside establishments may not be purchased for delivery by or for students. (No KFC, Subway, etc. deliveries). Please note that VCS is a closed campus, which means that students may not leave the school grounds to purchase lunch elsewhere. No deliveries of lunches to the school during lunchtime from parents or establishments. This is a time and temperature concern with food-borne illness.
- Extras, snacks, ice cream, and drinks will be available to purchase. There will be no charging of these items. Students must have money on their account or cash in hand to purchase extras.
- WAM's are offered at all campuses. This is a program that if a child receives a meal then they may buy an extra entree for \$1.00 (With A Meal). Otherwise an entree is \$1.75.
- No microwave use for packed lunches due to temperature cooking guidelines and allergy concerns.

- No child may purchase extras or order Eagle Eats (Grades 6-12) if their account is in the negative.

Applications for free or reduced price meals are in the school office, on the web page, or by calling the food service department at 330-788-8088 ext 1113. Some students may be eligible for participation in the free and reduced lunch program. Eligibility forms require updates yearly and are submitted by October. Otherwise, parents are responsible for any lunch cost that occurs until forms are turned in and processed. Food service department will notify you of your status.

Valley Christian Schools participate in NSLP, CACFP, SSO, AND FFV Federal programs.

- Breakfast price is \$1.50 (\$0.30 reduced) and lunch price is \$3.00 (\$0.40 reduced)
- Dinner is free at central right after school for 30 minutes for all VCS students who stay after school for any reason.
- Menus are located on our school web page and in the cafeterias.
(www.valleychristianschools.net) Alternate meal options are offered daily. Menus may change due to availability of product.

All allergies must be submitted with proper documentation from a doctor for the food service department to comply with the request. Paperwork is also required for any food intolerances.

Eagle Eats

Eagle Eats is offered for students in grades 6-12. A student who does not want the menu meal scheduled on a given day may fill out a form on our food service web page by 7:40 Am (Middle school) and 9:30 am. (High School)The meal will be grab and go from the staff service window in the cafeteria. This meal still falls under the free, reduced, and paid status. Failure to pick up a meal will result as a charge to the student's account in the category in which they fall. Purchase of all extras still requires a trip to a line cashier.

13.9 Homeschool Enrollment and Athletic Participation

Homeschooled children in high school may take from one to three full year core classes (math, science, language arts, and social studies) at Valley Christian School. All school policies apply to these part-time students. Home school students may participate in all extra-curricular activities and field trips that are associated with classes that they are enrolled in.

13.10 Intermediate Pop-Up Visits

Pop-up Visits allow the student to know that they are loved, valued, and appreciated through their educational experience. Pop-up visits help motivate students receiving a Christian Education. Parents or Guardians can come to the Intermediate office at any time and request to see the Principal or Dean of Students for a pop-up visit. The Principal or Dean of Students will escort the parent/guardian to observe what their child is doing in the classroom.

13.11 Locks and Lockers

At the beginning of the school year, students are assigned lockers. Personally, owned locks are permitted if the student provides the combination or a copy of the key to the high school office. If they are not provided, VCS reserves the right to cut the lock off. VCS is not responsible for the loss of any items that are kept in a non-secure locker.

All items should be kept inside of the lockers. Magnets, not tape, must be used for attaching anything to a locker. Students are not permitted to change lockers or locker partners without permission from the Office.

All student belongings need to be secured in the student's locker. Any backpacks or other items left on the floor or the tops of lockers will be removed and may be reclaimed after school. Book bags/backpacks are not to be used during the school day.

Decorating Lockers

Permitted:

- Use painter's tape, paper, and magnets
- Hang pictures as long as those in the photograph are wearing clothing in the picture that would be appropriate to wear to school or school functions.

Not permitted:

- clear tape, masking tape, duct tape, contact paper, or anything that will leave a residue or damage the paint

*VCS administration reserves the right to search lockers, backpacks, other personal items, and determine what is and is not appropriate for locker decorations.

13.12 Lost and Found

Lost and found items are sent to the designated lost-and-found area outside the Nurse's office. Items not identified with a name, and not claimed within a reasonable period of time may be donated to a local charity.

13.13 Office Hours

School offices are open from 7:00am - 3:15pm during the regular school year. The offices are open in the summer from 9:00am - 2:00pm.

13.14 Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The Valley Christian Schools Parent Advisory Council's primary purpose is to serve as a liaison among the administration and families to promote and maintain communication, understanding and a Christian community within the school family. The PAC meets quarterly. Meetings are announced and placed on the school calendar in FACTS - SIS.

13.15 Parental Communication

We make every effort to keep parents informed of upcoming events and schedule changes by use of e-mail, our website <http://www.vcsohio.org/>, automated telephone messages, text messages, and hard copy information. Please inform the school office immediately of any changes to your telephone number, street and/or email address, marital status, custody arrangements, or emergency contact.

All questions, concerns, complaints, or suggestions that you may have should be directed to the teacher or staff member involved. If a question is not answered satisfactorily, or if the situation is not resolved, please feel free to speak to the building Principal. We encourage parents to call, email, or visit when questions arise.

13.16 Pregnancy Policy

At Valley Christian Schools, 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 (Genesis 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 (1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God's command is that there be NO sexual intimacy outside of or apart from marriage between a man and a woman. We also understand that man's nature is fallible and sinful, and we all fall short of God's best plan for our life (Romans 3:23).

As such, Valley Christian Schools believes life is sacred and will support students in making moral choices aligned with biblical values regarding sexual abstinence, premarital sex, abortion, and marriage.

The Principal, Spiritual Life Director, Head of Schools, President, and VCS Governing Board shall make every effort to assist and support the pregnant student and the student known to have fathered the child and their parents/guardians in continuing the students' education program and spiritual development under the school's policies and procedures outlined below.

Administrative Regulation for Pregnancy - Female Students

1. Pregnancy is not a condition that constitutes a reason for exclusion or expulsion.
2. When school personnel are informed that a student is pregnant, designated personnel shall meet with the pregnant student and her family to review the particular circumstances and school policy.
3. School personnel will review the student's schedule and discuss what adjustments need to be made to enable the student to continue her education.
4. School personnel will discuss with the family the need for a wellness plan which equips the student for success beyond her school experience.

5. Pregnant students are expected to exercise appropriate discretion regarding the pregnancy with members of the student body. Appropriate discretion will be defined by school administration.
6. Out of concern for the health of the pregnant student and her child, pregnant students are not eligible to participate in any drama, athletic, cheerleading, or other activities sponsored by the school that the administration deems a health concern.
7. Children born of female students are not to be brought to the campus during the school day. Permission must be obtained from the school principal for the child to attend other school-sponsored events.

Administrative Regulation for Pregnancy Male - Students

1. Fathering a child is not a condition that constitutes a reason for exclusion or expulsion.
2. When school personnel are informed that a student has fathered a child, designated personnel shall meet with the young man and his family to review the particular circumstances and school policy.
3. School personnel will discuss with the family the need for a wellness plan which equips the student for success beyond his school experience.
4. The student fathering a child is expected to exercise appropriate discretion regarding the pregnancy with members of the student body. Appropriate discretion will be defined by school administration.
5. Children born to a male student are not to be brought to the campus during the school day. Permission must be obtained from the school principal for the child to attend other school-sponsored events.

13.17 Recess

VCS believes it is important for children to get exercise and fresh air whenever possible. For this reason, all students in grades Kindergarten – 5 will be assigned to go outside during recess unless:

- The temperature is less than 32 F
- There is rain, mist, or wet snow falling
- The student does not have adequate protection to keep them warm and dry (boots, hats, gloves, warm coats, etc.). Parents should send adequate clothing for the students to wear outside.
- There is a note or phone call from the parent requesting that the student remain inside (this should be done each day that the parent wants the student to remain inside).
- Medical documentation

13.18 Restrictions on Identified Sex Offenders

This policy is to apply to the following individuals:

- Registered sex offenders.
- Individuals who have been convicted of an offense against a Minor.

- Individuals who have admitted to conduct which would be a criminal offense against minors.

The intent of this policy is primarily to provide appropriate protection for students enrolled at VCS. This policy attempts to balance the offender's ability to participate meaningfully in their own child's educational experience and spiritual life while providing reasonable accountability and protection to all of the children entrusted to the care of VCS.

- VCS will not employ nor continue to employ any person who has admitted to or been convicted of criminal sexual misconduct.
- Offenders are not permitted on School grounds during School hours except for occasions arranged in advance with a building principal and requires an escort at all times by the principal, a teacher, or an adult designated by a principal or principal's designee.
- All public services and activities of the School are open for attendance. However, if contact with Minors is possible during any of these times, then there must be an adult escort approved by the building principal. This includes the use of public restrooms. Examples of such activities would include but are not limited to: athletic events, graduation ceremonies, concerts, and drama productions.
- Individuals who are parents or guardians of a student may pick up or drop off their own children but may not enter the school building without making arrangements with the building principal ahead of time that are subject to item 2 listed above.
- Each offender will be asked to meet with the building principal to review the restrictions. They will sign an agreement that (a) outlines the restrictions, (b) includes an acknowledgment that they have been made aware of these restrictions, (c) specifies that school administrators may notify any and all persons that they deem necessary to be informed of the person's background and (d) affirms the individual's willingness to abide by these restrictions.
- Failure to abide by the agreed-upon restrictions may result in restricting the individual from all school-sponsored activities.
- Specific questions on this policy and its interpretation are to be directed to the building principal.

13.19 School Calendar

A calendar listing all major events, athletics, vacation times, etc., may be viewed on the school webpage at www.vcsohio.org

13.20 School Pictures

The date for school pictures is noted on the school calendar. Information and packet prices will be sent home prior to the designated date. Payment for school pictures must be made in advance. Notification of a new date will be provided via the FACTS SIS calendar.

13.21 Telephone Calls

Students are not permitted to use the school phones except in cases of an emergency, and with permission from a faculty or staff member.

13.22 Transportation

Transportation to and from VCS is the responsibility of the parents. All Youngstown City residents are eligible for busing provided by Youngstown City Schools, in accordance with the rules established by YCSD. VCS provides the names of eligible students to the local bus garage. If you do not hear from Youngstown City Bus, please call them prior to the start of school at (330) 744-9505. If bus transportation is not provided to eligible students, you may qualify for reimbursement. VCS will provide transportation to students who are not eligible for busing through YCSD and who are within the two-mile radius of VCS.

Students who qualify to ride the school bus (provided by the students' local school district) to and from school must realize that they are under the authority of the bus driver. Failure to cooperate can lead to denial of bus transportation. Good bus conduct is expected, and a student must follow the rules established by the bus driver. Student behavior on the bus reflects the values of VCS. Any misbehavior will be addressed by the Principal.

DRIVING AND PARKING POLICY

Driving to school is a privilege given to students by Valley Christian Schools. Serious and continuous violations of the student conduct code, including the driving and parking lot policies, will result in the loss of driving privileges.

General Rules

- All vehicles must display a valid Valley Christian High School parking permit. • Annual cost is \$20.00. Fee may be waived if the student purchased a YSU parking permit for CCP classes.
- Parking permits are non-transferable.
- Students must present a valid driver's license and insurance copies will be kept

13.23 Visitors

For the safety of children and staff, and in compliance with Section 2917.211 of the Ohio Revised Code, all visitors entering the school building must first sign in at the appropriate school office to receive a visitor's badge and must present a valid driver's license or state identification card. The visitor's badge must be worn at all times by the visitor.

If there is an alert by the VCS Screening System of a felony criminal background or other potential risk for that particular visitor to enter the building, that visitor will be denied entry. The Principal or building administrator will be notified immediately.

Students who wish to bring guests to school must receive the permission of the building Principal at least one day in advance. Acceptable reasons for requesting permission is to acquaint a potential candidate for enrollment to the school, or in the event that a student has an out-of-town guest.

Alumni who wish to visit may do so at the discretion of the building principal or other administrator. They must be compliant with the rules and regulations stated above.

13.24 Volunteer Service

Valley Christian School provides both students and parents many opportunities to volunteer and are encouraged to do so. Various events, athletics, and classroom assistance are just some of the areas of involvement. Depending on the type of volunteer work, a background check may be required.

13.25 Withdrawals

All withdrawals must be made through the appropriate school office. A parent must fill out a "Withdrawal Form" when withdrawing his/her child from VCS. All pupil records and reports will be sent to the receiving school upon request and after obtaining a signed release of information from the parent.

In cases of financial indebtedness, or where school-owned materials or equipment have not been returned to the school, transfers will be made and records released only when all debts are paid in full. If a parent has questions regarding their financial indebtedness, he/she is to speak with the Business Office.