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# Fayette Christian School

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*“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2:52*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Students,

We are pleased that you have chosen Fayette Christian School, a ministry of Fayette Bible Church, for the coming school year. We thank the Lord for His provision of a well-trained, caring staff that is able to educate from a Biblical perspective. We consider it a privilege to have a part in the training of young people who come from Washington Court House and the surrounding area.

It is not only our goal to assist parents who desire a good academic education for their children and students who want to learn, but to also provide an environment where growth in all areas can be directed in a manner that is honoring to God. In Luke 2:40, we read these words about Jesus, “And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. “

The purpose of the Parent/Student Handbook is to help you better understand the operation of the school, its philosophy, and requirements. If questions arise as you read the handbook, please make a note of them and bring them to our attention for clarification.

We are looking forward to the 2023-2024 year with great anticipation.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Rick Melvin  
School Pastor & Principal

## MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Friends,

Fayette Bible Church established Fayette Christian School to provide quality education within a Christian framework and atmosphere. It exists as an extension of the Christian home.

It is our purpose:

- To provide young people with the opportunity to receive a Bible-centered education that is conducive to spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional growth.
- To provide a curriculum and programs of high academic excellence within a Christ-centered learning environment.
- To build character by stressing the importance of a godly life, love for our country, self-control, and a desire for excellency in every pursuit.
- To teach respect for God, parents, others, the church, and the government.
- To strive to produce mature Christians who will be examples of Christ to the world.

Believing that God's desire is that we might "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10), we encourage our students and their parents to evaluate all areas of life from God's viewpoint. Philippians 4:8 sets the standard for our lives, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there be anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things."

You may contact the school board by email at [fcsschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:fcsschoolboard@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Morrison, Mr. Joe Hanusik and Ms. Jeanie Stewart  
2023-2024 Fayette Christian School Board

## **PHILOSOPHY OF A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Fayette Christian School is a uniquely religious, educational institution that seeks to provide a quality education in a distinct Christian environment. One of the goals of Fayette Christian School is to work with parents and guardians to train Christian young people to be salt and light in their communities. Fayette Christian School believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and sets forth absolute truth by which Christians are to live. Fayette Christian School expects and requires that both students and parents will support the school in its distinct mission and in its Biblical beliefs. In relying on the teachings of Scripture, Fayette Christian School believes that the Bible prohibits sexual immorality of any type, including but not limited to pornography, homosexuality, or any other sexual activity outside the marriage of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:18-25; I Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). On those occasions in which a particular home or student is acting counter to or in opposition to the Biblical beliefs and lifestyle that the school teaches, the school reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to refuse admission to an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a current student. This includes, but is not limited to, living in, condoning, or supporting any form of sexual immorality; practicing or promoting a homosexual lifestyle or alternative gender identity; or otherwise having the inability to support the moral principles of the school as stated throughout this handbook.

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe and teach these principles:

- The Bible is the verbally inspired, infallible Word of God.
- In one eternal God, manifested in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- In the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless, and substitutionary death – that He is both God and Man.
- In the direct creation of the universe and man by God apart from any process of evolution.
- That Satan exists as a person. He is not to be considered simply mythical, figurative, or symbolic of evil.
- That all human beings are born sinful.
- That salvation is provided through the atoning work of Christ on the cross and His burial and resurrection—that salvation is all by grace through faith.
- In the eternal salvation of all true believers who put their faith in Christ.
- In the practice of separation, both personal and church related, resulting from sin and compromise.
- In the resurrection of all the dead, the saved to life of eternal glory, and the unsaved to eternal judgment in Hell.
- In the regathering (rapture) of the church before the tribulation and the literal return of Christ at the close of the tribulation.
- In the local church made up of regenerate and immersed believers, self-governing, based upon the Word of God.

## **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

In order for FCS to provide quality Christian education, it is necessary that the home and the school complement each other. Parents choose to send their children to Fayette Christian School because the school seeks to strengthen principles taught in the home. Parents must understand that to criticize the school in their child's presence undermines not only the school's authority as

an extension of the home, but also their own authority as a parent who decided that FCS was the proper school for their child. Parents are certainly encouraged to communicate with the school for any situation or policy that they do not understand. If a parent is having difficulty with a teacher, please go to that teacher first. Most likely, your problem will be solved there. If satisfaction cannot be reached, then contact the principal. This agrees with the Matthew 18:15-17 principle of handling conflict.

We encourage all parents to:

- Teach your children respect for authority, beginning with God as supreme.
- Teach them courtesy and good manners toward others.
- Have a regular time of prayer and Bible reading in the home.
- Make going to school a pleasurable and important experience.
- Be interested in their schoolwork and see that they complete whatever they bring home.
- Accept their limitations gracefully, but challenge them to do their best.
- Refrain from discussing the school or staff negatively in your child's presence.
- Have confidence in the teacher, the staff, and the policies.
- Make sure that your children get plenty of rest and have good eating habits.
- Be on time to school. Don't allow your children to miss much school.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

## **FACULTY STANDARDS**

Fayette Christian School is a ministry of Fayette Bible Church. The faculty of Fayette Christian School is selected for their spiritual and academic qualities. All faculty members are born-again Christians, dedicated to serving the Lord through the ministry of teaching young people.

### ***I. Enrollment Information***

Fayette Christian School admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, athletic programs, or other school-administered programs. However, we are not able to provide for special needs students.

Fayette Christian School reserves the privilege of setting and maintaining standards of conduct, dress, cleanliness, and scholarship. The school reserves the privilege of refusing admittance to anyone it so chooses without defining reasons or to suspend or expel anyone who violates the standards or spirit of the school or is uncooperative with the overall purpose and program of the school. The administration shall determine when and how to discipline offenders of both written rules and the general spirit and/or direction of the institution.

#### **A. ADMISSION**

Membership in the student body of Fayette Christian School is a privilege, not a right. If at any time, in the opinion of the administration (pastor, principal, and/or school board), it be

determined that a student is not in harmony with the goals and ideals of the school, he/she may be dismissed or not be accepted as a student the following year.

## **B. ADMISSION STANDARDS**

A prospective student is admitted to Fayette Christian School on the basis of his age, former records, interview, and placement testing (if determined necessary by the administration). A probationary period of 9 weeks will be observed for all new enrollments in school. Parents will be notified if a child does not meet probation standards.

## **C. ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES**

The administration will establish enrollment policy and procedure. Enrollment steps include:

1. A completed application, obtained from the school office or online, must be submitted to the office with the required non-refundable registration fee.
2. An entrance test (cost \$40) may be required for all new students. A test date will be established by the school.
3. The following items will need to be completed/provided:
  - Birth certificate (please bring in the birth certificate so we can make a copy and return it to you)
  - Proof of immunizations (must be on file in the school office within 14 days of the start of school)
  - Custody papers or any other legal documents needed to enroll the child in school
  - Transfer of Records Request form (from previous school or home school records)
  - Parent/Student Handbook Agreement

## **D. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

The Ohio Department of Health has established requirements for health records, which schools must maintain for all students. Students entering school in Ohio must be immunized according to the requirements of the Department of Health before they can begin classes. An immunization record from a physician or the health department is necessary stating that the child has received immunization in accordance with the Department of Health with the month and year of each immunization received.

## ***II. Financial Policy***

### **A. TUITION**

Tuition fees are reviewed annually. It is expected that parents who enroll their children meet their financial obligations to FCS by paying tuition in a timely manner. Tuition charges may be paid in a lump sum amount or on a 10-month installment plan, which runs from August through May. Payments are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Book fees are due by July 31<sup>st</sup> for the coming school year. If a student withdraws after enrollment period of the next school year, they will be required to pay the balance of the book fee.

## **B. TUITION COLLECTION POLICY**

- Accounts not current by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month will incur a \$30 late fee.
- Accounts must be current to receive report cards.
- When two (2) payments are due and not paid, the child(ren) will not be allowed to attend classes or any school related activity. Access to Gradelink will be locked until payments come within one month.
- A student who withdraws will owe tuition for the month in which he/she withdraws.
- No permanent records, transcripts, or diplomas will be issued without all owed fees and tuition being paid.
- All tuition and fees must be paid in full for any kindergarten student to receive a diploma, to participate in the graduation ceremony, or the end of the year program.
- No child may re-enroll the following year without the previous school year's fees and tuition being paid.
- Any returned check will be charged a penalty of \$30.

## **C. POLICIES PERTAINING TO HOME SCHOOLED CHILDREN**

- Homeschool students may be approved to participate in academic classes, electives and/or extra-curricular activities at FCS. Families must apply for this privilege and meet with the Principal before beginning any program at FCS.
- Home schooled children not enrolled but attending FCS to take specific academic classes will pay book and enrollment fees, plus 20% of the tuition fee of the grade level of each class taken.
- The fee for multiple non-academic classes taken (e.g. P.E., art, music, etc.) is \$50 per month (per activity)
- Participation in Elementary (1st-6th) and Secondary (7th-12th) sports is also open to home schooled students. Activity fees must be paid in full before any student may begin participation. Sports physicals are required for the 7th-12th before students may participate in practices and games.
- Home schooled students will be expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for FCS (clothing similar to the FCS uniform) and guided by the principle of modesty.
- Participation may be ended by either party (FCS or participating family) at any time.

### ***III. General Information***

#### **A. PARTICIPATION**

Fayette Christian School is a member of the Buckeye Christian School Organization, which is affiliated with the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS.) As a member of AACCS, Fayette Christian School participates in various academic and fine arts competitions.



## **B. INCOMING MESSAGES**

If it is necessary to contact a teacher during school hours, please contact the school office to leave a message. The teacher will return your call in a timely manner during a break or after school hours. Please do not text or call teachers during school hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Messages and deliveries will be made to teachers and students at an appropriate time so as not to disturb a class in session.

## **C. STUDENT EMERGENCIES**

In the event a parent must contact a student, the parent may call the school office at 740-335-7262. A student will be called out of class only in an emergency. In the event of an emergency, students may use the phone in the school office after receiving permission from their classroom teacher and office personnel.

## **D. ILLNESS**

You will be called to pick your child up from school if he/she has a fever of 100° or more, or if he/she vomits during the school day. For the safety of your child and others in his/her class, please keep your child at home if he/she is ill, have had a fever of 100° or more, or has vomited within the past 24 hours.

## **E. LUNCH**

Your child may bring a sack lunch from home or order from a school lunch menu. We are able to refrigerate lunches if necessary. Please mark the container to be refrigerated with the child's name and grade. For items that need to be heated, please use containers that are made for a microwave oven. We are not responsible for damaged containers. Due to time restrictions, frozen dinners must be able to be microwaved within 3 minutes. Lunches that need to be cooked on a stovetop will not be accepted. In the morning, all students will place lunches that need to be refrigerated/heated, or lunch order forms, in lunch bins located in the high school hallway.

## **F. MEDICATION**

A parent must complete and sign a medication form, located in the office, before any medication (over the counter or prescribed) may be given to any student. Any student needing medication to be dispensed at a certain time must take the medication to the school office. No medication, of any kind, may be kept by the student or in lockers, purses, book bags, etc.

## **G. WEATHER EMERGENCIES**

From time to time inclement weather, poor road conditions, or other emergencies may cause FCS to deviate from its school calendar. In the interest of the safety of all students and staff, we will follow Miami Trace School District's decisions regarding weather-related cancellations and delays. This does not pertain to other early dismissals or non-scheduled days that MTSD might have on its calendar.

We will contact all families through GradeLink when there is a cancellation or delay. We will also post an announcement on our Facebook page.

In the event of a delay, do not bring your children early to school. Students should not arrive at school any earlier than 30 minutes before the start of school.

In the event of an early dismissal due to inclement weather or poor road conditions, the school will notify you.

## **H. SOLICITATIONS**

Solicitation, at Fayette Christian School, will be allowed only with the permission of the principal. This includes the selling of tickets, candy, distribution of political materials, circulation of petitions, handing out event flyers, etc.

## **I. SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Parents are encouraged to consult the school calendar and note the regularly scheduled school events.

All students are expected to attend school programs and activities in which they are scheduled to participate. Failure to attend the program will result in their music grade being dropped one letter grade. The principal must approve a student's release from participation. Failure to attend without prior approval may also result in disciplinary measures.

Any FCS student attending a special program or activity must be in appropriate attire that meets the school standards. Children that have gone home sick during the day of the program will not be permitted to participate in that evening's program. Special program parts will be given to those students who meet academic and behavior guidelines as laid out in the FCS handbook.

## **J. STUDENT DRIVERS**

Licensed high school drivers may drive their cars to school and must be registered in the school office. (Students are to park behind the school facing the field. They are not to return to, move, or occupy their cars during the school day without approval from the school office or principal. The speed limit is 10 mph. Parents will be notified immediately of any infraction involving their child's vehicle and the consequences thereof.

Any student that will be riding to or from school with another student driver must have a note on file from their parent/guardian giving permission to ride with the student driver.

## **K. USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Because the use of cell phones and other electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process, cell phones and all other personal electronic devices may not be used during school hours (from time of arrival until dismissal).

Cell phones and other PEDs (such as head phones) are not to be on the student's person during school hours. All such devices must be turned off and placed in either the student's locker, car, or book bag upon arrival to school.

The following penalties will be given for infractions of this rule:

**First offense:** The student will receive 5 demerits.

**Second offense:** The student will receive 5 demerits and an after-school detention.

**Third offense (and following):** The student will receive 10 demerits and an after-school detention.

#### **L. WITHDRAWALS**

All students withdrawing from Fayette Christian School must give written notice to the school office signed by a custodial parent or guardian. All textbooks and library books must be returned and any outstanding fees paid. No grades, diplomas, credits, or transfer records will be released until all outstanding tuition and fees are paid in full.

Those withdrawing will owe tuition for the month in which he/she withdraws. If a student withdraws after enrollment period of the next school year, they will be required to pay the balance of the book fee.

Fayette Christian School will send the withdrawing student's records to the new school after a signed Request for Records Form has been received. Parents cannot personally transfer records. After a student has withdrawn for the second time, re-enrollment will not be accepted without a meeting with the principal/administration and approval of the school board.

#### **M. VISITING SCHOOL**

Parents are welcome at FCS at any time. Non-custodial parents have the same rights of access to the school unless limited by visitation or custody decree. Those wishing to visit are welcome, but we ask if possible they call in advance and sign-in at the school office so the teacher and FCS staff can be made aware of their presence.

Classroom visits by parents are welcome. A call requesting a visit is appropriate. We do request that any parent-teacher conference be scheduled at a convenient after-school hour. Student visitors should be either a student's out-of-town relative, a student from another Christian school or one who is potentially interested in enrollment at FCS. All visitors must come to the office to secure permission. All visits should be scheduled in advance.

#### **N. FIELD TRIPS**

All classes periodically take field trips. Field trips are an important part of the total curriculum at FCS designed to reinforce classroom instruction. A signed permission slip is required each time a field trip is taken. On other occasions, parents may be asked to drive and/or chaperone. If you choose to drive and/or chaperone a field trip, we ask that you please uphold school policy in all areas. Parents are encouraged to participate in field trips so as to provide adequate supervision. Parents should dress appropriately and modestly. If parents choose for their child not to attend field trips, the student is still required to attend school.

#### **O. ANNUAL COMPETITIONS AND TOURNAMENTS**

Fayette Christian School junior and senior high students actively participate in competitions sponsored by the American Association of Christian Schools and the Buckeye Christian School Organization (BCSO). The areas of competition include academic, fine arts (music and speech,) Bible knowledge, general knowledge, home economics, science projects, photography, and various other art categories. BCSO also organizes tournaments for soccer, volleyball, and basketball.

## **P. OVERNIGHT POLICY AT COMPETITIONS AND TOURNAMENTS**

Students staying overnight are required to room with an FCS faculty/staff; unless the student's parents/guardians are staying overnight, then the student is to room with them. While at the hotel, all students must meet in the lobby for fellowship, not in rooms or hallways. Students of the opposite gender, may not meet in rooms to fellowship. If the hotel has a pool, swim times will be designated for boys and girls. All students must be in their assigned rooms by 11:00 p.m.

### *IV. Academic Requirements*

Because God is the source of all knowledge, all academic material is taught with the Bible as the final authority of truth. Every attempt is made to integrate all learning in each subject with the Bible. In addition, the Bible is taught as a regular subject throughout the school. Each student is required to have his/her own Bible, the New King James Version, in school daily. One version is required so that all memorization will be uniform. Each school day begins with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to the Christian flag and the Pledge to the Holy Bible. Chapel services are scheduled on a regular basis during the week.

Because God is the source of all knowledge, all academic material is taught with the Bible as the final authority of truth. Every attempt is made to integrate all learning in each subject with the Bible. In addition, the Bible is taught as a regular subject throughout the school. Each student is required to have his/her own Bible, the New King James Version, in school daily. One version is required so that all memorization will be uniform.

Each school day begins with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to the Christian flag, and Pledge to the Holy Bible. Chapel services are scheduled on a regular basis during the week.

## **A. HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENTS**

Homework is an integral part of Fayette Christian School's academic and character training. The purposes of homework are:

- To teach habits of independent study.
- To reinforce the instruction given in the classroom.
- To provide practice in the application of acquired skills.
- To acquaint parents with the child's work.
- To promote participation in activities that further challenges the abilities of the pupil.

Teachers will try to keep homework to a minimum on Wednesdays and other nights with special church or school events.

## **B. TESTING**

In addition to regular course tests, Fayette Christian School annually administers the Iowa and CogAT Assessments. These are nationally normed tests that meet the state's testing requirement.

## **C. ABSENCE & TARDY MAKE-UP WORK**

Students who miss school are given a period of time in which to make up work. Missed work, because of an excused absence, must be made up by the time the teacher determines. The rule of thumb is that a student has the same number of days to make up work as they were absent plus

one (excused absences and tardies only). It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check with the classroom teacher to schedule make-up work. Long-term assignments will be due on time. All missed work due to unexcused absences or tardies will be required to be made up; however, the student will receive no higher than a 59 percent (F). A student will receive a zero for any work that is not made up and turned in to the teacher within the allotted time.

#### **D. HONOR ROLLS**

- “Principal’s List” - All grades must be A’s with no incomplete marks
- “Honor Roll” - All A’s and B’s

#### **E. GRADING SYSTEM**

Fayette Christian School uses Gradelink, a student information system for all grades and attendance. Parents are given a password that will allow them access to their child’s school profile. This system allows the parents to keep updated on their child’s progress on a day to day basis.

Report cards will be distributed each nine weeks.

Mid-term progress reports are given to all students in grades 7-12. The mid-term will list the percent made for each class during the current period. These reports serve to keep the parent informed of the student’s progress and allow for quick correction for weak areas before reaching the end of a reporting period. These mid-term reports are given to the student to take home.

#### **Grading Scale**

A+	98-100	C	72-77
A	92-97	C-	70-71
A-	90-91	D+	68-69
B+	88-89	D	62-67
B	82-87	D-	60-61
B-	80-81	F	0-59
C+	78-79	I	incomplete

Students must pass each subject with a grade of 60% (D-) or higher in order to receive credit for the class.

#### **F. ACADEMIC PROBATION**

Students are placed on academic probation when in a grading period they have one failing grade, two (2) or more grades of “D”, or have an excessive amount of incomplete homework assignments. Parents are notified of probationary status and are given a full explanation of its impact. Academic probation will continue for a period of nine weeks. If at the end of the 9-week probation, improvement has not reached a satisfactory level the student will continue on academic probation.

The administration will review students who continue on academic probation. This review may result in a recommendation for academic dismissal. Students who, for whatever reasons, have low grades but whose efforts and attitudes are positive are permitted to remain as long as the

school can serve their academic needs. Students on academic probation are urged to seek extra help from teachers, and parents are encouraged to help improve their child's study habits by taking appropriate action at home.

Students who are dismissed due to academic probation will not be able to re-enroll for a period of one semester and will be on academic probation when re-enrolled.

### **G. GRADE CLASSIFICATION (7 -8)**

Junior high (grades 7-8) is on a yearly average. Successful completion of a class requires a final average of 60 or above be attained for the year. A student will be promoted to the next grade if he/she passes all of his/her core academic subjects (English, history, math, science). If a student fails **one (1) academic subject**, he/she will be promoted on probation unless he/she takes and passes the subject with a passing or higher grade during summer school. If a student fails **two (2) academic subjects**, he/she will not be promoted to the next grade unless he/she takes and passes at least one of the two subjects with a passing or higher grade during summer school. He/she would then be promoted on probation. If the student takes and passes both subjects with a passing or higher grade during summer school, he/she would then be promoted without probation. If a student fails **three (3) academic subjects**, he/she will not be promoted.

**All students on probation are admitted conditionally on a nine-weeks trial period.** If during this time the child fails to make passing grades or does not adjust to the program of the school, the parents will be expected to give additional help at home. The school then reserves the right to place the child in a lower grade if it is deemed necessary. Additional probation may be set for not completing homework or meeting any other set academic requirements of the various subjects.

### **H. GRADE CLASSIFICATION (9-12)**

In grades 9 through 12 a minimum of 5-1/2 credits per year must be passed in order for graduation to occur in a 4-year time frame. Credit is assigned on a semester basis. If a student does not pass a semester of a class, he/she will be required to take summer school classes to earn credit for that semester. Also, if a student fails both semesters, he/she will have to repeat the class or take another class for that credit during the subsequent years.

### **I. SUMMER SCHOOL/CREDIT RECOVERY**

Summer School is required for any student who fails either a semester (9-12) or the whole year (7-8) of a class. In order to pass summer school, junior high students need to get a C- or higher while senior high students will need a B- or higher to receive credit. When a student successfully finishes summer school, a final grade of 60/D- will be entered on the permanent record. In addition to grade requirements during summer school, there are also time criteria. Junior high students will need to attend 20 hours of summer school for each subject failed, while senior high students will attend 10 hours of summer school for each quarter they failed that contributed to the failing grade for the semester (a maximum of 20 hours per class). Since the needs of the different students having to attend summer school will vary, the responsibility for developing a feasible schedule for all involved will lie with the teacher supervising summer school for that year.

## **J. POST SECONDARY**

Students may enroll in the College Credit Plus Program approved by the administration. Registration for this program must be completed and on file at the Ohio Department of Education by April 1. Students who are enrolled in the College Credit Plus Program will have their grades sent to FCS and will be weighted on a 5-point scale.

## **K. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

During their senior year students are expected to take a full load of courses offered to the senior class. In addition, all seniors must have successfully completed (60% or higher) a minimum of 4 years of senior high school English, math, history, Bible, and choir; 3 years of science; 2 years of foreign language; 1 year of speech, and 2 additional electives. Seniors must have received 1 credit during high school for health/P.E. All seniors must earn a total of 22 credits in order to graduate.

Each year a senior trip is planned. The trip is a requirement for graduation. The only exception will be a valid medical reason. In the event a student does not attend the senior trip for a valid medical reason, that student will be required to attend school during the trip and will have additional assignments.

When possible, a graduating senior will be chosen to be valedictorian. This student delivers the valedictory address at the graduation ceremony. In general, the senior with the highest academic average is chosen as valedictorian. Valedictorian and Salutatorian determinations will be made primarily by a student's cumulative, weighted GPA. If there is a tie for one of these honors in GPA status, a secondary determination will be made using student's cumulative percentage grades from all High School credit courses (including CCP).

Furthermore, the following criteria, must apply:

The student must attend FCS for his/her junior and senior years.

The student must have taken the more challenging academic schedule including the following courses: chemistry and another upper-level science such as physics or anatomy/physiology; in addition to an upper level math class (pre-calculus).

The student must have an overall G.P.A. of 3.70 or above. The runner-up for valedictorian will be chosen as salutatorian.

The same criteria will also apply to the salutatorian.

For accuracy and accountability, Valedictorian and Salutatorian status will be calculated and determined by FCS Administration, with the verification of FCS office staff and FCS School Board. Valedictorian and Salutatorian honorees will be confirmed in person and via email with the students and families no later than the week before Graduation.

The runner-up for valedictorian will be chosen as salutatorian. The same criteria will also apply to the salutatorian.

We encourage students to strive for these honors. Many colleges give scholarships to students who attain these positions.

- Seniors will **not** be permitted to march in the commencement exercises if they have fewer than 22 credits. FCS cannot be held responsible for the inconvenience caused by a **senior's failing courses during the last semester of school.**
- Any student receiving a failing grade can receive credit toward graduation by successfully repeating that subject the following year if the schedule permits. A student can also receive credit by passing the course in summer school.
- Seniors may be exempt from final exams if they have an "A" in the class. The grade will be determined by averaging the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with the current 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade.
- Students may also receive honor cords for the graduation ceremony by achieving the following GPA:
  - Summa cum laude 3.90 and above- Gold cord
  - Magna cum laude 3.70-3.89- Hunter green and white cord
  - Cum laude 3.50-3.69- Hunter green cord or white cord

## **L. HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS**

Students in grades 10-12 will be considered for nomination into the American Christian Honor Society if they have attended FCS for two consecutive semesters and if their cumulative average is a 90% or better in the core subjects. Nominees will then be evaluated by the high school faculty in the areas of character, service, and leadership. This final phase of the nomination process will take place after first semester. After induction, members of the ACHS will be expected to maintain the same standards in academics, character, service, and leadership throughout their high school career.

## ***V. Attendance Requirements***

### **A. ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES**

Students (grades 7-12) are to arrive no earlier than 7:30 a.m. (except faculty and staff children) and no later than 8:00 a.m. Students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. At 3:15 p.m., those students not participating in school-sponsored or approved activities should be under the supervision of a staff member. All students should be picked up by 3:45 p.m. unless arrangements have been made through the office.

### **B. EXCUSED ABSENCES AND EXCUSED TARDINESS**

Either a note or a phone call from the parent or guardian will excuse the absence for one of the reasons listed below. Excused absences and excused tardiness include:

- Short-term personal illness (Absence due to sickness beyond 60 hours, will require a doctor's excuse.)



- Death in the family
- Medical appointment which cannot be scheduled for non-school hours
- Other (This may include, but is not limited to special family occasions, such as weddings or other family celebrations; college visits; military tests; job shadowing or interviews.) The principal must approve, at his discretion, the excusal of absences not otherwise covered in this section.

A student in grades 7-8 may have 20 absences a year (125 hrs.). If more than 20 absences occur in one year, promotion or retention will be at the discretion of the administration. Students in grades 9-12 may have up to 10 absences (62 ½ hrs.) per semester. If a student in grades 9-12, accumulates more than ten absences, he/she will not receive credit for the class unless the administration deems otherwise.

Any student absent from school on the day of an activity is not permitted to take part in that activity on that day or evening. An exception would be if the student was attending an approved activity. To qualify as an exception, the involvement must be pre-approved by the principal.

It is recommended that the office be notified by 9:00 a.m. about a student's absence. If requested, an attempt will be made to have make-up work ready for after-school pick up. However, notification after 11:00 a.m., in most cases, will not allow adequate time for the teacher to have the work by the end of the day.

### **C. PLANNED ABSENCES**

Under extraordinary circumstances, the parents may believe it highly advantageous to take their child out of town because of business, church activity, or similar reasons. Special prearranged permission must be granted by the principal to classify the absence as an "extraordinary absence." Each request for a planned absence must be made at least three (3) days prior to the time the absence occurs. The student must obtain a Planned Absence form, from the office, have their teacher(s) sign the form and write the assignments on the form. **Work assignments, quizzes, tests, should be completed upon returning to school.** Exceptions must be approved by the principal.

### **D. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND UNEXCUSED TARDINESS**

Absence from school with or without the knowledge of the parent, but without having made arrangements with the school in advance of the absence, and for reasons unacceptable to the school will be classified as unexcused. Junior high and high school students will be considered tardy if they are not in their classroom at the appropriate time. Five unexcused tardies will result in detention.

FCS holds their students to a higher expectation. FCS does not condone any activity that would relate to or involve activities such as pranks and skip days. Consequence for any of the above activities or any activity that does not meet in alignment with Christian character or conduct would be reviewed by the principal and if necessary by the school board and consequences would be determined at that time. (Skip days will result in a zero for the day.)

## **E. MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

Medical and dental appointments are acceptable reasons for a late arrival or early dismissal. Non-school days should be used for such appointments when possible. When it becomes necessary for a parent to take a student out of class for doctor appointments or other reasons during the day, release of the student must be made through the office. A note from the parent or guardian is required. It is to be given to the office upon arrival to school so teachers may be properly notified with an early dismissal slip. Before the student (7-12) leaves the school property he/she must sign-out in the office.

## ***VI. Extracurricular Sports***

Refer to Athletic Handbook for detailed information.

## ***VII. Conduct Information***

### **A. PHILOSOPHY OF CONDUCT**

Christian conduct is the goal for all FCS students. An orderly and disciplined environment, with opportunity for self-development, is fundamental to learning and enables the student to be happy and content. Teachers will handle the need for correction of their students in a Christ-like manner. Corrective measures will be taken as each need warrants. If these measures do not result in changed behavior, the parents will be asked to deal with the student. Suspension or expulsion may be necessary in extreme situations.

It is impossible to make rules to cover every type of need. Good behavior must ultimately come from within, by a change of heart, and not from mere conformity to man-made regulations.

Courtesy to teachers, school employees, other students, and visitors is expected. Each student should strive to be considerate of others despite differences.

### **B. GENERAL BEHAVIOR**

Students at FCS are expected to refrain from cheating, swearing, sexual immorality of any type, smoking or other tobacco use, vaping, gambling, drinking alcoholic beverages, and using or talking about drugs in any form. FCS reserves the right to check lockers and cars (on school premises) if any suspicion arises of possession of material that is not within FCS standards and guidelines.

Students are to act in an orderly and respectful manner, maintaining Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, language, morality (including homosexual behavior), and honesty. Students must agree to strive toward unquestionable character in dress, conduct, and attitude.

Students are expected to respect the property of the school and of others. Damaged property is to be replaced at the offending student's expense.

Students should not bring certain items to school. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, but should provide adequate guidelines. Occasionally, the administration may permit students to bring a prohibited item if the administration deems it appropriate for either an educational or

recreational purpose. Students should not bring the following items: weapons or items typically considered to be weapons such as guns and knives (whether real or play); matches; lighters; reading material that is inappropriate (either in content or purpose); electronic devices used solely for recording or playing music or for entertainment (games); videos, CDs and DVDs. Because a believer's speech should glorify God and edify fellow Christians, students are to refrain from discussing any music, movies, videos, or TV shows that are inappropriate.

### **C. BULLYING POLICY**

Furthermore, the school has additional policies and procedures regarding Bullying and Harassment.

Providing a safe school environment for our students is of utmost importance for Fayette Christian School. Harassment is a violation of the law as well as a contradiction to Christ-like behavior. FCS will not tolerate aggressive behavior that includes harassing or intimidating another student or staff member based on gender, race, ethnic group, physical appearance or disability. Any such harassment should be reported to a teacher, principal, or any staff member immediately. An investigation and appropriate consequences will follow. Documentation of the event and investigation must be submitted to the principal or administrative secretary who will maintain an ongoing record.

Bullying is one particular form of harassment that endangers school safety and can take many forms. A simple definition of bullying is "unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance." There are three ways that bullying may occur: verbal bullying, physical bullying, or cyberbullying.

FCS will not tolerate aggressive behavior of one student or a group of students aimed at harming another student. Students who bully are deliberately violating their contracts and will be subject to those consequences.

### **D. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

FCS desires that its students develop biblically wholesome friendships during their school years. There should not be any physical contact between students during school hours or at any school activity, function or program. This includes, but is not limited to, slapping, punching, as well as displays of affection such as handholding, hugging, and kissing. The intent of this policy is to promote respect of personal space, to protect students and their reputations, and to avoid the appearance of evil.

## ***VII. Disciplinary Procedures***

### **A. Demerit System**

The demerit system developed for grades 7-12 is a tool to help students clearly identify areas where they need to be more consistent. The system presents specific behavioral expectations and determines consistent consequences for offences. FCS desires to see godly character developed in the life of each student; although these guidelines may appear strict to some, a desire to understand the purpose for each will encourage a student to have a good attitude toward them.

Any student or parent should feel free to ask about the purpose or reason behind any guideline established by the school. The demerit system is designed to be fair and to give students the opportunity to develop the highest of personal standards in life.

If a student violates one of the guidelines for appropriate behavior, the faculty or staff member may submit a demerit report to the principal. A copy of this report will be sent home with the student and must be returned the next school day with the parent/guardian signature. If a major infraction occurs, the principal will contact the parents immediately.

A 30-minute detention will be served for each multiple of ten demerits that accumulate throughout the school year. Detentions will be held after school from 3:15 until 3:45 p.m. usually on the day after the detention is issued. A notice will be sent home when detentions have been scheduled for a student and must be returned the next school day with parent/guardian signature.

Absences from detention must be excused in written form with parent/guardian signature **in advance** by the principal – no exceptions will be made. With permission from the principal, students who have a direct conflict with a school-sponsored activity may serve the detention the next day. Practices for school activities **do not** excuse students from detention. **Unexcused absences will result in an additional 30-minute detention. Students who arrive late to detention will also receive an additional 30-minute detention.**

Demerits for behavior offences **may double** whenever a substitute is teaching or supervising, during the last week of each semester, the week before spring break, and on school field trips.

For major offences of 25 or 50 demerits, one and two day suspensions will be given respectively. Students who reach the 75-demerit mark at any time during the school year will be placed on probation. They will be ineligible for participation in all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. For offences worthy of 100 demerits or at such a time that the student's total demerits reach or exceed 100, immediate expulsion will occur. An expelled student may not return to the school property or attend any school-related activities (home or away) for the remainder of the school year. Once a student has been expelled he/she may not be reinstated for two full semesters. All expelled students wishing to re-enroll must have an interview with the school board before they will be reinstated. Demerits are cumulative throughout the entire year.

Any questionable activity will be reviewed by the administration and proper disciplinary procedures will be discussed and dealt with at that time.

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
**DEMERIT SYSTEM**

Every 5 unexcused tardies is a detention	5 tardies - 30 min. detention will be issued 10 tardies - (2) 30 min. detentions will be issued 15 tardies - (3) 30 min. detentions will be issued (And will continue to follow consecutively in order)  10 tardies in a 9-week period will result in 5 demerits
Every 10 demerits	30 minute detention
25 demerits (cumm.)	1 day suspension All class work and homework for that day will receive zeros. (Work must be completed)
50 demerits (cumm.)	2 days suspension All class work and homework for the two days will receive zeros. (Work must be completed)
75 demerits (cumm.)	Placed on probation 3 days suspension Same academic consequences as stated above. Ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the year.
100 demerits (cumm.)	<b>Expulsion</b> Once a student has been expelled, he/she may not be reinstated for two full semesters. All expelled students wishing to re-enroll must have an interview with the school board before they will be considered for reinstatement.

**Any student reaching expulsion level will be reviewed by the board.**

*IX. Dress Code*

Fayette Christian School believes that conservative, modest dress is not only pleasing to the Lord, but also conducive to better learning habits and conduct. Philippians 1:10 states, "that you

may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.”

Even though Christians differ in what is considered modest, FCS has carefully chosen garments that we feel would best suit the needs of the school.

No offensive logos or wording will be permitted on the garments. The administration has the final word on what is deemed offensive.

A student may be asked to change or remove anything the administration and faculty feel is distracting to the classroom environment.

## **A. GENERAL DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Junior and Senior High Students**

In the event you have navy or khaki pants, or the school plaid skirts/jumpers from previous years you may continue to wear them as long as they fit properly. Otherwise, all pants, skirts and jumpers must be purchased from Educational Apparel uniform store or another comparable uniform clothing line.

Dress for any school program or function should meet FCS standards. If the attire is not in accordance with the school standards, demerits will be given.

If you are in doubt as to what is acceptable as uniform dress, please contact the school office before wearing it to school. Any student out of uniform will be required to change before he/she is allowed in class. Any class time missed due to changing uniforms will be unexcused.

NOTE: A dress code check will be performed daily and demerits given as needed.

### **Gentlemen:**

- Navy or Khaki slacks purchased from Educational Apparel Uniform Store or comparable uniform line.
- Polo uniform shirt (long or short sleeve) in approved colors (navy, hunter green, light blue, or white).
- Blue or white oxford shirt (long or short sleeve).
- Dress Shoes (required for programs).
- Casual or tennis shoes or sandals for other school days.
- Students may not wear flip flops or athletic-style slides.
- P.E. Uniform: the wind pants and shorts must be hunter green, navy, or black in color. The shorts must come to the top of the knee. Any FCS t-shirt may be worn for P.E.
- Athletic shorts must have at least a 7-inch inseam and be loose-fitting. Longer shorts (knee length), or leggings underneath shorts may need to be worn when playing BCSO schools or in the BCSO tournament.
- Belt.
- Shirts must be tucked in.

- Male students are not permitted to have facial hair. Sideburns may be no longer than the bottom of the ear opening. Male students must wear their hair off the ears, collar, and eyebrows. Mohawks or crazy coloring of the hair is not permitted, unless approved for school spirit days. Male students may wear hand or wrist jewelry of good taste. No visible body piercing or tattoos either permanent or temporary are permitted on male students.

**Ladies:**

- Navy, Khaki, or school plaid uniform skirt purchased from Educational Apparel Uniform Store or comparable uniform line.
- Polo uniform shirt with approved colors (long or short sleeved) - navy, hunter green, light blue, or white.
- Blue or white oxford shirt (long or short sleeve).
- Dress shoes (required for programs).
- P.E. Uniform; the wind pants and shorts must be hunter green, navy, or black in color. The shorts must come to the top of the knee. Any FCS t-shirt may be worn for P.E.
- Athletic shorts must have at least a 7-inch inseam and be loose-fitting. Longer shorts (knee length), or leggings underneath shorts may need to be worn when playing BCSO schools or in the BCSO tournament.
- Belt (must be worn with uniform slacks).
- Tennis shoes, loafers, sandals, and dress shoes are all acceptable footwear during the school day. Tennis shoes are not permitted for school programs. As a safety precautions, students may not wear flip flops or athletic-style slides.
- Heels no higher than one inch are acceptable.
- Extreme hair styles (such as Mohawks) or crazy coloring of the hair is not permitted, unless approved for school spirit days.
- Cami's must be the color of the shirt or white.
- The skirts must be no more than 2 inches from the floor front and back when kneeling.
- Female students may wear jewelry that is neither excessive nor distracting. Girls may have their ear lobes pierced; however, no other visible body piercings or tattoos, either permanent or temporary are permitted.
- Girls may wear tights or leggings under their skirts and jumpers. Leggings and tights must be either white, navy, black, gray, or hunter green. Leggings and tights may not be worn alone in place of pants.
- (Optional) Navy or Khaki uniform pants purchased from Education Apparel or comparable uniform line.

The following items are **optional** for all students and must be worn over a school uniform shirt:

- FCS-branded sweatshirts, sweaters, or jackets.
- Uniform sweaters (V-neck, crew neck, cardigan, or vest) in the following school uniform colors: navy, light blue, yellow, white, gray, black, or hunter green. These must be purchased from Educational Apparel or comparable line.
- Plain jackets (non-denim) in solid, school-uniform colors (black, navy, light blue, yellow, white, gray, or hunter green). Any logo must be inconspicuous and located only on the front shoulder area of the jacket.

## **B. SPECIAL DRESS**

The following guidelines pertain to events where students are allowed to wear something other than their school uniforms. This includes, but is not limited to, events such as school programs, game days (student athletics), banquets, and field trips. These guidelines do not attempt to address every possible situation regarding dress. The school administration and/or its representatives shall be the final authority on the acceptability of any outfit.

### **Formal/Semi-formal Events**

**BOYS:** Boys may wear casual (khaki) or dress pants (not jeans) with a dress shirt and tie. Certain occasions may also dictate that boys wear a sports jacket or a suit. Dress shoes are required for performance events.

**GIRLS:** Girls may wear either a dress or a skirt and top. Skirt and dress lengths must be the same as is permitted for uniforms. Necklines are to be modest. Banquet dresses must be checked and approved prior to the event. Shoulder straps must be at least 2” wide (must have two straps). The back of the dress may be no lower than the middle of the back. Dress shoes are required for performance events.

### **Field Trips**

Depending on the nature of the field trip, students may be permitted to wear casual wear instead of their uniforms. In general, boys and girls may wear knee-length or regular length jeans. Jeans should not be shredded, ripped, or holey either through wear or by design. Students may wear T-shirts. A teacher may give more specific guidelines.

### **Spirit Days**

Throughout the year, we will have FCS spirit days. On these days, students may wear jeans and the current year’s FCS spirit shirt. Jeans must be in good condition and free from rips, tears, holes, etc. whether through wear or by design. (Students may wear uniform pants or skirts with the spirit shirt.) Students who choose not to participate are expected to wear their school uniform.

## **C. MISCELLANEOUS: All Students**

P.E. uniforms are to be brought to school on P.E. days. You will be given time to change into them prior to P.E. class.

Athletic shorts must have at least a 7-inch inseam and be loose-fitting. Longer shorts (knee length), or leggings underneath shorts may need to be worn when playing BCSO schools or in the BCSO tournament.

- The administration will have the final authority as to the length and proper fit of all uniforms.
- No colored t-shirts or t-shirts with printing that is visible through the collared shirt are permitted for ladies or men.
- Outerwear (coats, jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) that doesn’t meet the guidelines may not be worn in class or taken with students throughout the school day.



**FAYETTE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Parent/Student Handbook Agreement 2023-2024

We, the undersigned, signify that we have read the “Parent/Student Handbook” and agree to support the school by requiring our child/ren to obey all school policies and requirements. We also acknowledge that failure to maintain the agreed upon payment schedule places the privilege of attendance in jeopardy, and that all academic records will be retained at Fayette Christian School until all financial obligations are met.

The student understands that his/her attendance at Fayette Christian School signifies that he/she pledges to agreeably abide by all policies and rules set forth by the school and summarized in the handbook.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Each student in grades 7–12 must return this form to the school office by the second Friday of school signed by both the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s).