



High School Fusion Leadership Program 2026-2027 Handbook

Mission Statement:

The Way Christian School exists to glorify God by providing an educational community committed to “training up a child in the way he should go...” (Proverbs 22:6a) So that he/she “will love God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength.” (Mark 12:30)

Preface

Fusion students and their families are expected to follow the Family Handbook. This Fusion handbook is to provide additional guidelines for Fusion leadership students enrolled in TWCS’s Fusion leadership program (and their families). The High School Fusion Leadership Program Handbook seeks to address unique situations anticipated with older students handling more responsibility at TWCS.

Participants in the Fusion program are expected to be exemplary leaders to all other students as well as mature and engaged participants in each of the program’s aspects. As such, Fusion students are held to a high behavioral standard.

If there is an issue not specifically addressed in the family handbook or the Fusion handbook or there is a difference in interpretation, TWCS Board members will render a decision that is fair and considers the best interest of both the student and the school. Their decision will be final.

Please accept this handbook in the spirit in which it is intended.

The following specific policies/documents/guidelines are already outlined in TWCS Family Handbook and are fully applicable to Fusion students/families:

- Faith Statement
- Vision Statement
- Goals for students
- Parent Visitation Procedure
- Grading (including extra credit policy and late homework/assignment policy)
- Required Behavioral Etiquette
- Discipline Policy
- Grievance Policy
- School Dress Etiquette
- Attendance Policy
- Inclement Weather
- Lunch Procedures
- Health Policy
- Medication Policy
- Immunizations
- Reporting Injuries
- Student Likeness
- Playground Safety
- Building and Grounds
- Billing Procedures
- Transfers and Withdrawals
- Sports and eligibility
- Nutrition Policy

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Biblical Faith and Learning in Fusion Program

Fusion students are homeschooled students who participate in leadership and service at TWCS to develop character and leadership abilities. Students are given classroom space, community, printer access, internet access, and mentorship as a part of the program. Fusion students are expected to be responsible, self-starters who can accomplish their work with some guidance but do not require high-level accountability.

Parents are fully responsible for choosing the curriculum that the student will use for the school year. TWCS strongly recommends using solid Christian publishers for curricula because the Christian faith is relevant in every subject.

The parents are the true educators, however, TWCS employs a Christian staff member who generally cultivates accountability within the highschoolers. They mentor and tutor as they are able but are not responsible for grading, checking, or keeping the student on track.

While the parents plan the overall curriculum, the Fusion program does require that the student take two classes offered by TWCS each semester. There is a fee for each of these classes. This is to strengthen the student's faith as well as their community.

1. **Bible.** Each semester a Bible class will be offered focusing on different aspects of Scripture and the Christian faith.
2. **Enrichment courses.** A different subject will be taught each semester to assist Fusion students in obtaining credits that are more difficult to earn when homeschooling or to encourage life skills. These classes are taught on a rotating schedule so that parents can plan accordingly. (See Appendix A)

Application Process

The Way Christian School considers high school students for the Fusion leadership program who:

1. have a personal testimony and relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
2. are growing in their personal Christian walk and are involved in a local Bible-believing church.
3. have academic records that demonstrate proven capabilities to succeed at The Way Christian School. Student records are carefully evaluated during the application process.
4. are willing and able to work and serve independently without constant direct oversight.
5. have recommendations that show a behavioral history that matches the behavioral expectations of TWCS. Students who have had prior discipline problems at TWCS or any another school, who are not eligible to return to their previous school, who are married, or who are parents are not eligible for enrollment or attendance at TWCS. A teenager in the process of emancipation (for example, a student not residing with their parent/legal guardian) are also not eligible for enrollment or attendance.

In harmony with our purpose of assisting Christian families with the education and nurturing of their children, TWCS desires that families carefully consider the mission of the program before seeking enrollment.

The Process:

1. Download and thoroughly read the Family Handbook as well as the Fusion handbook. Understand the mission of TWCS and the Fusion program.
2. Schedule an appointment for an initial informational meeting and tour.
3. The student downloads and fills out an application. (The student needs to demonstrate maturity, leadership, and a personal desire to be in the program.)
4. Parents sign the Fusion forms to demonstrate understanding and grant permissions, including a financial agreement.
5. The student will attend an interview with the TWCS Board.
6. The administrator will either email or call with the admission decision and the next steps.
7. Pay class fees (refer to billing procedures in the family handbook).

8. Parents and student need to meet with an advisor (Fusion mentor, administrator, or other delegated employee) prior to the first day of school to discuss the curriculum plan.

Accreditation

TWCS is an independent, private educational institution and is not accredited by any organization. While TWCS maintains high academic standards, the transferability of credits earned at TWCS are entirely decided by the receiving institution. Parents should be aware that some schools do not accept credits from an unaccredited high school. All credits (including classes offered by TWCS) will be documented as homeschool credits. If a student is transferring to another school or enrolling in college, the parent should contact that organization to determine their requirements.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement and cooperation are essential for TWCS to maintain strength in its mission/vision. Parent attendance/involvement is vital to the overall goals of TWCS and promotes good relationships with the staff, the administration, and parents as they partner together for the good of the students. Fusion parents are required to attend parent orientation, special school functions, and parent-teacher conferences (one in the fall and one in the spring).

Absence from these events may require a meeting with the administration.

Fusion parents must meet at least once with the Fusion Advisor before school begins to review the homeschooling curriculum and plan for the student. Students should also attend and be a part of this meeting.

Required Hours

Part of being a leader in the Fusion program is volunteering and serving others at TWCS. Students should serve no less than 1 hour per day attended. Students will be matched with staff members and given service jobs. If students fail in the commitment to serve others on time and consistently, then a meeting of continuation in the program will take place with the Fusion Advisor.

Graduation Requirements

Each Fusion student falls under the umbrella and authority of a homeschool student. While TWCS will advise parents on graduation requirements and college preparation, parents have ultimate responsibility to ensure that credits and classes meet the Montana state minimum

standard for high school graduation. TWCS will assist with transcripts, choosing curriculum, and advising. Electives and core classes may be offered and taught by staff but are not guaranteed.

Grade Reporting

Parents must send grades to the administrator quarterly via email (waychristianschool@gmail.com). Students who are not passing may not be eligible to continue in the Fusion leadership program.

Rules specific to the Fusion program:

Be above reproach. Be of good character. Being in the Fusion program does not give one the right to go around the normal school rules but instead should be followed with care to set an example worth following to the other students in the school. Fusion students should lead in their talk, respect, and faith.

Purple Policy

Students should only hang out in groups of same gender individuals or in groups of at least 2 boys and 2 girls. As outlined in the Family Handbook:

1. Public displays of affection are not permitted at school or during school activities.
2. Dating relationships are not allowed or discussed in the school environment, including recesses and lunch time.

Open Areas

Fusion students may utilize the Fusion room and the kitchen area for activities. They are expected to yield to other classroom needs as well as not be distracting. With permission they may also utilize the shop ensuring that the purple policy is followed (only one gender or at least 2 of each gender). They should not presume that they may enter a classroom without a staff member present.

Weapons

The Family Handbook rules about weapons should be followed by Fusion students. The only exception allowed are pocketknives that are 6 inches maximum overall length. A student may only carry one pocketknife at a time.

Electronic Devices/Computer Usage

The Family Handbook policy on computer usage fully applies to Fusion students with the following exceptions/additional guidelines.

Cell phones are allowed in the classroom only. Cell phones are not allowed to be out in other areas of the school. If guidelines are not followed, cell phones may be confiscated until the end of the school day.

Personal laptops or tablets are allowed with authorized use from parents. Students should respect their parents' guidelines in regard to all electronic device usage, however, movies, games, or other entertainment on screens are not permitted at TWCS. If the student finds they have additional free time after completing assignments, it should be invested in community or school service. Appropriate board games, or similar, are allowed as are other hands-on projects.

Internet use is only for school assignments. If anything suspicious is suspected, the student's Internet privilege will be revoked and a meeting with the administration will be required.

Social media is not permitted at school. While YouTube and Pinterest may be used as learning tools, shorts of any kind should not be watched while at school. No Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, or any similar apps used for entertainment are allowed. Headphones/ earbuds are allowed but should not be a distraction.

Basic courtesy is required when using the internet. If staff's internet is disrupted, Fusion students may be asked to assess their usage and possibly scale back on non-essential use or time their use at a different block during the day.

Any electronic device used by a student on school premises must have an adequate filter. This filter should be verified by the parent to the Fusion Advisor or administrator. The filter must be set to exclude and filter out any adult content and language.

Student Drug Testing

When deemed appropriate, TWCS reserves the right to require drug testing for any student at the expense of the parent.

Discipline, Suspension, and Expulsion

It is a privilege to be involved with the Fusion program. The school administration has the authority to deny that privilege or take other disciplinary action with any student whose conduct or attitude is not beneficial to the school.

Behavior issues will not be tolerated for students in the Fusion leadership program. Students can be suspended or expelled from the program at the discretion of the administrator and School Board.

Attendance

The regular attendance policy outlined in the Family Handbook applies to scheduled days. If a student needs to leave school early or if more time than errands or lunch is needed away from campus, then an absence form should be filled out.

Fusion students will be required to be on campus M-Th from 08:15a.m. to 12:00 p.m. However, the high school classroom is available to students M-F 0815-3:15. Parents will decide if the student will be required to stay more than the required M-Th mornings. The decided upon schedule should be emailed to the administrator.

Seniors are eligible for a more flexible schedule based on academic standing, specific circumstance, and approval from parents and the administrator.

Fusion students are required to attend the following events even if it is not on their assigned days: Thanksgiving school meal, field day, end of the year program, service project days, high school field trips, and other days that the administrator feels are important to the student and school (sufficient notice will be given).

Student Drivers

Students who drive to school are expected to do so responsibly. Special attention should be paid to students in the parking lot before and after school. Driving to school is a privilege which may be revoked if necessary. Due to insurance policy, students may not drive other students during school hours or functions without parent permission.

Leaving Campus

If a student wants to leave school during school hours for errands, lunch, or coffee, a parent must fill out the appropriate permission form every year. Students should respect and honor their parents' wishes concerning who they should ride with and when they should leave. The school is not responsible for these choices. Students MUST sign out every time they leave. When leaving campus, students should keep errands to less than 20 minutes and lunches to less than 45 minutes. If a student abuses this privilege it will be revoked until trust can be reestablished.

The Purple Policy must be adhered to when students leave campus. Students should NEVER leave campus or ride with a student of the opposite sex without a group of at least 2 boys and 2 girls.

Medications

Highschoolers can bring medications to school, but they must be kept locked in the file cabinet to avoid the risk with younger students in the same building. They cannot be kept in backpacks, purses, or desk areas. This includes both prescription and over the counter medications. Controlled substances are not allowed.

College Days

Fusion program field trips may be taken as a group to visit colleges and career day offerings. For individual family college visits a planned absence should be submitted as outlined in the attendance policy of the Family Handbook.

Appendix A

Four Year Rotation of Enrichment Classes:

Year 1: Fall: Financial Literacy Spring: Computer Literacy

Year 2: Fall: Physical Education Spring: Health

Year 3: Fall: Art Spring: Career Exploration

Year 4: Fall: Music Appreciation Spring: Kitchen Essentials

*All of these credits are eligible for satisfying the Montana State requirements for high school graduation. Each class is a half credit.

Financial Literacy: A class teaching personal and life finance concepts. Practical application and practice constitute the homework.

Computer Literacy: Keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, publication apps, and on-line safety and awareness.

Physical Education: Basics in a variety of sporting events.

Health: Basics of physical health including nutrition, exercise science, and life choices. *Note: Sexual health is briefly mentioned covering only the Biblical principles. Parents are responsible for in-depth conversations.*

Art: Dependent on instructor, this class can be drawing, watercolors, or other media.

Career exploration: Skills assessment, interest assessment, introduction to different areas of study for different career paths. May include field trips for vocational observation.

Music Appreciation: basics of music as well as introduction to global/historical music genres.

Kitchen Essentials: Basics of skills, techniques, and safety needed in kitchen. Basics of ingredients and recipes.