

Section 1—Admissions (cont.)

Admissions Criteria / Non-Discrimination Policy

ECS seeks to enroll students with a love for learning and a desire to develop or continue to develop a Godly, moral character. Students are admitted on the basis of academic testing, school review, and prayerful consideration. First preference is always given to returning students if spacing is limited. Currently enrolled students who do not re-enroll by February 1st are not guaranteed acceptance for the upcoming school year. Preference is given to applicants whose siblings attend ECS and satisfy the above criteria. Open spots will be filled during open enrollment. All candidates are carefully and prayerfully considered. No student has the right to enrollment and/or re-enrollment. All applications for enrollment/re-enrollment are approved at the sole discretion of ECS Administration. We strive to make a fair decision based on the services that our school can provide for each child, as well as what the student can contribute to ECS as a whole. However, we also believe in following God's will first.

ECS admits students without regard to sex, race, gender, color, and national or ethnic origin. We set high, but reasonable goals for our students, and we expect them to work hard and strive to reach their potential with the support of their parents.

Remember, however, that we are, above all else, a Christian school. As such, we consider ourselves a ministry as well, with a dedication to urge our students toward salvation through Jesus Christ, and to encourage them to follow His Word in relation to life decisions and their view of sin and personal, moral conduct.

Section 2—Academics

ECS offers an educational program that challenges students to excel while ensuring their individual learning needs are met. This program consists of three, distinct learning tracks that allows parents to choose the structure that best fits their students. Within these tracks, paper-based curriculum (currently Accelerated Christian Education®) is combined with computer-based materials (Alpha and Omega®) to allow ECS to completely tailor each student's learning methods and media. Moreover, ECS practices targeted teaching rather than lecture-based teaching to further enhance the individuality of each student's learning environment. This academic methodology helps our students acquire a solid academic foundation and the critical thinking skills needed to apply knowledge in the real world. Finally, our teachers challenge and encourage each student to reach his or her greatest possible achievement level.

Accreditation

ECS is accredited by dual enrollment through Lighthouse Christian Academy. Lighthouse Christian Academy is an accredited division of A. C. E. Ministries. A. C. E. Ministries is dedicated to advancing excellence in education worldwide.

Affiliation

ECS is affiliated, through its dual enrollment, with A. C. E. Ministries. A. C. E. Ministries is a Christian educational organization whose purpose is to advance excellence in Christian schools by enhancing the professional and personal development of Christian educators and providing vital support functions for Christian schools.

Grading Scale

ECS uses the following grading scale for grades 1-12.

100 = A+

70-79 C

90-99 = A

0-69 = F (ECS limits passing to 70 and above)

80-89 = B

Please note, full numerical grades will be translated to an appropriate (0-4) scale for official High School transcripts.

Section 2—Academics (cont.)

ECS Learning Tracks

ECS offers its students 3 learning tracks to further accommodate individualized learning. Each track is designed to still challenge students academically, but to also allow students to feel a measure of success within themselves. Parents must select and sign-off on the Learning Track Contract attached to this handbook which goes into greater detail in regards to each track.

Homework

Homework is not additional work assigned by the faculty of ECS. Instead, it is the result of a student not completing her or his daily goals. Any daily work not completed will be placed on a homework sheet that must be signed by a parent. In signing, the parent acknowledges that she or he feels the homework was completed satisfactorily. That is not to say that the parent has scored the homework, but has reviewed it to see if the answers appear to make sense.

Academic Awards

ECS challenges students with three academic awards during the school year. The first of these is our Honor Roll. Honor Roll can be earned on a quarterly basis when a student has completed all expected work and has earned an overall average of A (90-99) or A+ (100) in her or his subjects.

The second academic award is the Bluehawks Pride Award which pulls from all aspects of a student's development at ECS. This award is available to those who have earned the Shining Star Award for at least 2 quarters, earned Honor Roll for at least three quarters, carry less than 5% absenteeism, and fulfilled the requirements for learning track 1 or 2.

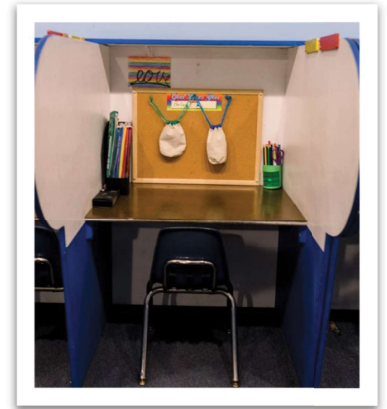
The final academic award is the ECS Excellence Award. This award is only available to those students who have earned the following distinctions:

1. Participation in all academic competitions during the year.
2. Earning a Shining Star award for all 4 quarters (i.e. no demerits for the year).
3. Less than 5% absenteeism and earning a Perfect Attendance award for at least 2 quarters.
4. Earning a Soaring Spirit/Accountability award for at least two quarters
5. Earning Honor Roll for all 4 quarters.
6. Completing the requirements for learning track 1.

Academic Competitions

In each of the four quarters, ECS will challenge its students with a particular academic competition. These can range from creating artwork and poetry to spelling bees to many other forms.

All students, regardless of their learning tracks, must compete in two of the four competitions. Students in Learning Track 2 must compete in 3 of the events, and students in Learning Track 1 must compete in all four events.



Section 2—Academics (cont.)

Retention/Promotion

Students in Learning Tracks 2 and 3 who complete all required coursework and maintain 70 or above averages for the year are promoted to the next grade level. Any student in these tracks who fails to maintain a 70 or above average in any subject area is required to attend a meeting with parents, teacher(s) and a member of the administration to determine the course of action necessary to continue the student's education.

Students in Learning Track 1 who complete all required coursework and maintain 80 or above averages for the year are promoted to the next grade level. Any student in these tracks who fails to maintain a 80 or above average in any subject area is required to attend a meeting with parents, teacher(s) and a member of the administration to determine the course of action necessary to continue the student's education.

Academic Enhancement / Tutoring / Occupational Therapy

Students who need extra assistance may schedule a convenient time with his/her teacher to receive help with a particular subject area. These times may be before or after regular school hours or during lunches or breaks, but will be based upon the teachers' availability.

ECS also strives to offer extra tutoring and, if possible, occupational therapy. However, these services are performed in conjunction with outside county and area agencies. Therefore, not all students may qualify for services from these external agencies.

Report Cards

Report Cards are issued every nine weeks in accordance with the school calendar. All students are issued a Report Card. The last report card of the year is available through the front office in June once all outstanding fees and balances have been rectified. End of the year Report Cards will be available by June 10 each year.

Standardized Testing

ECS uses regular testing and review to measure the academic growth and success of its students from year to year. However, certain scholarships in Florida require us to provide the funding organizations with the results of standardized testing. This testing is performed, traditionally, in the spring, and ECS does not provide "prep" classes or sample tests as we believe our students are fully capable of performing the tests according to their own abilities. During this testing, it is critical that students attend school on their testing day as rescheduling results in fees that may be passed on to the student's family if the absences are not the result of emergency or extreme illness.

Section 2—Academics (cont.)

Academic Accommodations

ECS students who have diagnosed special needs are eligible for consideration for academic accommodations. The purpose of accommodations at ECS is to enable students to minimize the negative effects of a special need on performance. Students who are enrolled must adhere to the following procedure in order to receive accommodations:



1. A full report of a current (within 3 years of initial enrollment) psycho-educational evaluation verifying the need for accommodation must be on file with the school office.
2. Upon request from a counselor or parent, ECS staff will study the report, meet with the student's teachers and prepare an official form requesting appropriate and feasible accommodations.
3. In private conference with the student and parent, the accommodation form will be discussed and finalized.
4. Students who have verification on file at the beginning of the academic year must submit the request for the Accommodations Form to ECS by the end of the first three weeks.
5. ECS must have a minimum of two weeks to prepare the accommodation form after the report of the psycho-educational evaluation is presented for review.
6. The approved accommodations will go into effect within two weeks after the form has been presented to the classroom teacher.

Prior to requesting any accommodation, however, parents should read the accommodations recognized/not recognized below. In many cases, standard accommodations are already part of the individualized learning methodology used at ECS.

Commonly Requested Accommodations:

1. **Note Taking**—In some schools, students with special needs often request assistance with note taking in relation to lectures given by teachers in the learning environment. At ECS, the curriculum chosen minimizes the amount of lecturing required, thereby also limiting the need for taking notes. Instead, all students have access to readable sections in their books and online curriculum. This means that notes are only required if the student wants them or if the student has had difficulty passing a quiz or test. Also, all notes can be taken from the online curriculum or from the books themselves as lecturing is very rare.
2. **Voice Recorders**—Voice recording is often used in high school classrooms when students are unable to keep up with the lecture being given by the teacher. At ECS, as noted above, lecturing is extremely rare. So, voice recording is unnecessary and, in all cases, can only be performed with the express permission of the teacher.
3. **Preferential Classroom Seating**—At ECS, we value individualized education and each student receives instruction, as needed, at either her or his own desk or at the teacher's desk.

Section 2—Academics (cont.)

Academic Accommodations (cont.)

4. Use of Computer for Writing Assignments—ECS offers online curriculum as well as accepts all assignments in a typed fashion if the assignment is clearly identifiable as being written by the student.
5. Use of a Calculator—ECS encourages all students to try math without the use of electronic devices. However, when they reach math of the seventh grade level or higher, students are permitted to use a basic calculator to perform their classwork. Scientific calculators are not permitted without the express permission of the teacher.
6. Extended Time on Quizzes or Tests—All students at ECS are permitted to make the full use of their time to complete, review, and work on all quizzes and tests. Time is only limited by the length of the school day and other scheduled activities.

Accommodations Not Recognized by ECS:

1. Spelling Accommodation—Students will be held accountable for correct spelling where needed. Teachers are available to clarify the exact parameters for spelling and to provide resources to help students cope with this requirement.
2. Readers for Tests—While the students may be granted readers for standardized tests such as the PSAT and SAT, readers are not provided for tests or exams given in elementary, middle or the High School.
3. Private Room for Testing—Teachers are not expected to allow students to leave the classroom for testing. Ballistic headphones can be provided and, due to the design of the desks used by ECS, private testing areas are unnecessary.

Academic and Enrichment Field Trips

It is the desire of ECS to provide safe transportation for students participating in field trips. All students participating in field trips must have a signed permission slip. Some field trips may require parents to attend for supervision purposes. ECS will notify parents in advance of available spots for participating. We ask that you confirm approved parental attendance and let the teacher know at least a week in advance. Please remember that field trips are regular school days and if a student misses a field trip it will count an absence and there could be make-up work assigned.

ECS sponsored academic and enrichment field trips are intended to serve as an extension of the classroom experience. ALL school sponsored field trips require mandatory attendance by students enrolled in grades K-12. In the event that a student is unable to attend the school sponsored academic field trip, administrative approval is required and an educational alternative will be assigned. **Students must be in good standing with ECS to attend field trips.**

Academic Field Trips—A school sponsored academic field trip is defined as a visit to a location beyond school grounds that has a direct relationship to a curricular field. The purpose for these trips is to expand and reinforce concepts learned in the classroom, as well as provide new and unique experiences not available in the classroom.



as