

Section 2—Academics (cont.)

Academic and Enrichment Field Trips (cont.)

Enrichment Field Trips—An enrichment field trip is defined as attendance at contests, regional events, or other trips beyond the school grounds that are not a part of the academic curriculum, but count toward meeting the time and learning requirements for extracurricular activities.

Educational Alternatives—Students who cannot participate in field trips or are absent the day of a field trip are required to complete an alternative assignment and submit to their teacher. All students shall receive educational alternatives that correlate with the curriculum standards and have related academic and intellectual value.

ECS will arrange academic/enrichment field trips for students only when trips meet the following criteria:

1. **Time and Learning** - The activities associated with the field trip align with curriculum frameworks and satisfy time and learning requirements.
2. **Equal Opportunity/Accessibility** - The right of a student to participate in any school-sponsored program is not infringed upon or impaired because of gender, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, or any other reason not related to his/her individual capabilities. However, students must be in good standing with the school to participate.
3. **Affordability** - Field trips should be affordable and accessible to all qualified and interested students. Students may be allowed but not required to participate in reasonable group fundraising efforts to defray the cost of field trips.
4. **Health and Safety** - The health and safety of students and staff are given utmost consideration in the planning and conduct of all school-sponsored trips. Staff involved in planning a field trip will include the Administrator and/or the teacher in the planning process in accordance with health and safety protocols to determine specific health/medical needs of students. **Students who are medically excused from gym/PE may not, for their own safety, be allowed to attend or participate in academic/enrichment trips.**

Section 3—Academic Calendar

Holidays

The school year calendar is provided online at www.ecschool.org or is available in the front office. Every effort will be made to adhere to the calendar; however, in the event that a schedule change is necessary, memos will be sent home and changes will be notated on our website.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or emergency situations (such as hurricanes), please check the school's website (listed above) and our Facebook page for information.

Notification of school closings, delayed openings and/or early dismissals, are decided by the school administration and will be posted to the website and Facebook page.

Field Trips / Special Activity Days / Half Days

Field trips, special activity days (like the Pinewood Derby and Field Day), and all half days are still considered part of the active school year. Students who miss these days will receive an unexcused absence.

**Please note, ECS may contact parents directly via phone or text
in the case of an emergency closing.**

Section 4—Special Activities

Birthday Parties

ECS encourages parents to recognize their students' birthdays by sending in treats for the student's classmates. However, we also recognize that some parents are unable to do so. Parents will receive a birthday form to authorize volunteers from Crosspoint Church to supply a cake for the students' birthdays or to take responsibility for supplying treats themselves.

Baptism Day

ECS is not simply a school. We also consider ourselves a ministry. As such, we not only encourage our students to seek salvation, but also to participate in water baptism. During our last week of school, parents can authorize their students to participate in a water baptism service during the school day.

Halloween / Valentine's Day

ECS does not typically celebrate these two days with special activities during the school day. Instead, we plan field trips to avoid the confusion/debate surrounding the morality of participating in these days. Please note, we are not condoning or condemning these days. We have simply elected, as a school, to replace participation with other activities.

Section 5—Godly Character

Character Goals

The goal of ECS is to develop students into mature, Christian individuals who will:

- Live according to the traits demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ in His Word
- Know the difference between right and wrong and make the choice to do what is right
- Be a positive role model for others
- Sacrifice egotism in order to put others first
- Choose actions and interactions that reflect well on God, themselves, their family, and ECS
- Respect peers and adults, practice manners, and treat others with dignity
- Be gentle in criticizing others and open to constructive criticism of their own actions and attitudes
- Be committed to constantly learn and improve as a Christian leader and to encourage others to do the same



Chapel

ECS strives to develop a child's spiritual growth and character development. Chapel will focus on building self-assurance, morals, character, and relating stories of principles that will enhance the rest of our academic program. Bible study is taught in an enthusiastic manner and is designed to be a joyful, upbeat experience. Chapel is held weekly. Students are required to attend this important activity. Parents may also be invited to attend with school permission.

Section 6—Merits/Awards/Kindness Coins

In order to help students make positive choices and to create a positive climate for learning, ECS will use a merit and demerit system to address behavior. Please note, ECS believes that all behavior receives awards, some positive and some negative. This section will describe how our Merit, Non-Academic Awards, and Kindness Coin systems will operate and reward students for positive behavior, while the DISCIPLINE section below will provide rewards the rewards for negative behaviors.

Overall, our system is intended to assist students in making good choices thus producing well-behaved students. Our ultimate goal is to develop students who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are self-disciplined, and are good citizens.

The merit/demerit system is a school-wide plan that is focused on behavior and is not connected to academics. Any staff member can issue merits and demerits.

Merits

Students who participate in the following manner can earn MERITS:

- Passing Tests—Students who pass tests with grades of 80 or above will receive merits. A grade of 100, receives 100 merits. Grades from 90 to 99 receive 50 merits. Grades from 80 to 89 receive 25 merits.
- Academic/Intarmural Competitions—Students who participate in school-based contests, activities, team-building activities, etc. may receive merits based upon performance, winning, and/or other factors as determined by the activity director.
- School-Related Volunteer Work—Students who volunteer in various capacities may be rewarded merits for their efforts.

Kindness Coins

Kindness coins are the way in which ECS rewards students for demonstrating Christian morals/values in their behavior and interaction with others. Kindness coins are given out for the following positive behaviors.

- Demonstrating Trustworthiness (honesty, returning lost items, etc.)
- Demonstrating Respect (value other's opinions & property, listen to peers & superiors alike)
- Demonstrating Responsibility (returning important documents, reporting incidents in a constructive manner)
- Demonstrating Fairness (be accountable, cooperate, be willing to do what is best for everyone)
- Demonstrating Citizenship (pride in school, attending church activities as documented by a youth leader/pastor)
- Demonstrating Caring (holding the door, saying please and thank you, assisting a classmate)
- Demonstrating Initiative (Helping in other classes, Assisting the faculty and staff)

Kindness coins are valued at 25 merits each where allowed.

Non-Academic Awards

Each quarter, and at year end, ECS rewards two non-academic awards.

- Perfect Attendance—Students who do not miss any school days in a given quarter will receive the Perfect Attendance for the quarter. These students will receive a special reward for their dependability. Students who receive Perfect Attendance for the year will receive a yearly award for their outstanding achievement. Rules for attendance will be discussed at our Parent/Student Orientation.
- Soaring Spirit—The Soaring Spirit award is given quarterly to students who demonstrate such qualities in their school day that they inspire their teachers. This award is truly based upon the teacher's perception of the student.
- Shining Star—The Shining Star award is given quarterly and yearly to those students who have earned no demerits in a given quarter or, in the case of the annual award, a whole academic year.

Section 7—Discipline

Children need certain rules and limitations established for them, but good discipline is more than strict control. It is based on mutual respect and high expectations for responsible behavior. Good discipline can best be developed through cooperation between parents and the school. It is ECS policy not to use corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure. However, if a student commits an act of disobedience or misconduct, that student's right to an education at ECS may be forfeited. A student, whose presence poses a continuing threat to persons or property or disrupts the academic progress of others, may be immediately removed from the school on a temporary or permanent basis. Each disciplinary occurrence will cause escalating consequences up to the fifth infraction, resulting in immediate suspension at the discretion of the Administrator. If, however, any infraction is considered severe enough, ECS reserves the right to bypass its own escalation procedures and take immediate action up to and including expulsion.

Students involved in any of the behaviors listed below will be subject to disciplinary action which may include expulsion based on the seriousness of the offense as determined by the Administrator. These behaviors include:

- Creating an unsafe environment for other students through teasing, intimidation, or bullying.
- Vandalizing school or personal property
- Inappropriate use of Technology and/or Social Media
- Using profanity / Speaking or acting in a lascivious manner
- Hitting, biting, or fighting with malicious intent to inflict injury
- Cheating

Bullying

Student bullying is a crisis facing students, parents, and educators. Student bullying can be harmful to the student and is disruptive to the learning environment. Therefore, ECS will not tolerate bullying on or off campus. Bullying can be defined as:

- Physical—hitting, kicking, pushing
- Relational—gossip, rumors, exclusion, destructive or negative comments that defame another's character
- Cyber bullying through email, text messaging, internet
- Sexting—cyber bullying sexually suggestive materials



Prohibited Articles

These items are not permitted on school grounds or at any school activities:

- Magazines, books, toys, or games which are not for academics and have not received teacher approval
- Knives, firearms, or any type of weapon
- Drugs or any drug paraphernalia, or alcohol products of any kind
- Lighters, matches, or tobacco products of any kind

Students found in possession of a weapon will be suspended for two (2) weeks. Investigation will ensue, which may include local law enforcement, if deemed necessary by the Administrator. At the conclusion of the investigation, a decision concerning continued attendance at ECS will be made by the Administrative team. If information gathered during the investigation supports a shortened suspension, the decision of the Administrative team will override the original suspension.

Searches and Seizures

ECS maintains the right to search any student at any time, or to search a student's technology device(s), book bag, desk, bag, clothing, etc. or any item brought on the school premises. Any item that is deemed threatening or inappropriate will be dealt with at the discretion of the Administrator. Electronic devices of any kind, including cell phones, if used at a time deemed inappropriate by staff, will be confiscated for parents to retrieve from the ECS office.

Section 7—Discipline (cont.)

Suspension

Suspension is used as a last resort while still aiming to return the student to classes, but it will be considered an unexcused absence. An incomplete or a grade of zero will be given to the student during suspension for any graded activities, and he/she will be excluded from after school programs and activities. Under certain extenuating circumstances, students may be allowed to make up work missed during the suspension and receive one letter grade below the earned grade. (This includes class work, tests, and quizzes). These circumstances will be determined by the Administrator.

Expulsion

It is never the goal of ECS to permanently remove a student from her or his classroom or the school in general. However, should a student refuse or fail to respond to repeated discipline and/or behave in such a manner that is deemed immediately dangerous or damaging to people or property, or should the student become involved or be discovered to be involved in anything illegal, ECS reserves the right to expel the student permanently. Any fees due to the school will still be paid by the parent after the expulsion.

Public Displays of Affection

In order to maintain a safe, pleasant, and wholesome environment for all, public displays of affection (PDA) will not be allowed on school property, at school sponsored events, or during travel to school sponsored events. Public displays of affection include, but are not limited to, hand holding, kissing, hugging, etc.

Illegal and Immoral Behavior

ECS is committed to the development of young people who exemplify Christian values and positively represent the school on campus and in the community. Administration reserves the right to investigate complaints of student behaviors which do not embody Christian principles, to include participating in illegal or immoral activities and/or demonstrating these behaviors either in real-life events or as postings on social media. Students found guilty of questionable conduct of an illegal or immoral nature may be expelled.

Electronic Devices

ECS allows students to bring cellular phones and other electronic devices, such as tablets and iPods, on campus, but the device will remain in the “off” position and in the designated location until consent is given by teacher or Administrator. The first time a student is caught using a device without permission, the student will be warned. The second time a student is caught using a device without permission the student will receive demerits and the device will be confiscated by the teacher and returned by the end of the day. If there is a third incident, the device will be confiscated for parent retrieval and a referral will be issued for “failure to follow directions and inappropriate use of technology.”

- Parents should not text or call their student directly. Communication between parents and students will need to come through the school office.
- Students are not allowed to use a device to take pictures, video, or record unless authorized by a teacher or during a permitted usage time as noted above.
- ECS reserves the right to examine any and all contents of a confiscated phone, tablet or other electronic device.

