

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK
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SCHOOL OVERVIEW

PROFILE

The Cherokee Classical Christian School (Cherokee Classical Christian) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), ecumenical* Christian school currently offering grades kindergarten through second grade to Christian families in the Canton, Georgia area. Cherokee Classical Christian will begin 2023 adding an Upper School beginning with 9th grade in 2030. Another grade will be added each year until 12th grade completes the Upper School in 2033.

Established in 2022, the school continues in its commitment to assisting parents in the biblical training of their children by offering academic instruction that is distinctly and consistently classical Christian. Our central focus is to extend the work of the Christian family and Church in the task of educating covenant children (children of Christian parents). Utilizing classical tools of learning and a distinctly ecumenical Christian worldview approach to education, we desire to graduate young men and women who, as servants of Christ, are equipped spiritually, intellectually, and artistically to engage and shape the culture with the claims of the Gospel to the glory of God.

Cherokee Classical Christian is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (www.accsedu.org) and the Classical Latin School Association (www.classicallatin.org) with accreditation from the Georgia Accrediting Commission (www.gac.coe.uga.edu) and future plans for accreditation with the Southern Association of Independent Schools (www.sais.org).

* ecumenical means promoting or relating to unity among the world's Christian Churches.

MISSION

The Cherokee Classical Christian School is dedicated to glorifying God by cultivating truth, goodness, and beauty in students and to educate them with a classical Christian curriculum.

SCHOOL VISION

Cherokee Classical Christian strives to be the premier classical Christian school in the north metro Atlanta area with a reputation for Christian virtue and academic excellence grounded in the ecumenical central doctrines of historic Western Christian churches.

Cherokee Classical Christian seeks to:

- Teach all subjects as parts of an integrated whole with the infallible Scripture at the center (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- Provide a clear model of ecumenical Biblical Christian life through its staff and Board (John 17:11, Matthew 22:37-40).
- Encourage every child to begin or continue in a personal relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20).
- Emphasize grammar, logic, and rhetoric – the Trivium of classical education – in all subjects, with appropriate adjustments to grade level.
- Encourage every student to grow in a love for learning and to achieve their academic potential.
- Provide an orderly and well-disciplined atmosphere conducive to the attaining of these goals.

STUDENT VISION

We aim to graduate young men and women who are approaching their highest capacities in the spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical domains of life:

Spiritual

1. Articulate the Biblical story and its culmination in the gospel of Christ in the hope that they may glorify God by building up his church and by witnessing to the lost.
2. Contrast a biblical vision of the good life with those of the culture.
3. Explain and provide reasons for Mere Christianity.
4. Learn to exhibit the natural and theological virtues in all areas of life.

Socially, we aim to graduate students who

1. Conduct themselves politely in all circumstances,
2. And to converse with charisma.
3. Participate in a Christian community in and out of school.
4. Are relationally adept and pursue biblical peacemaking in all relationships.

Intellectually, through the liberal and fine arts, we aim to graduate students who

1. Listen and read carefully.
2. Reason precisely.
3. Articulate persuasively.
4. Possess knowledge, skill, and wisdom.

Physical *

1. Know how to care for their bodies with exercise, sleep, and nutrition.
2. Are capable of the highest level of physical exertion within their reach.

* Socrates says this of care of the body: “Besides, it is a disgrace to grow old through sheer carelessness before seeing what manner of man you may become by developing your bodily strength and beauty to their highest limit. But you cannot see that, if you are careless; for it will not come of its own accord.”

FOUNDATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The foundational commitments of Cherokee Classical Christian distinguish it as an institution and are the standards against which all new ideas and practices are tested. They are the core values to which the Board of Directors (Board), the administration, faculty, staff, volunteers, parents and students shall agree to abide by and to affirm these foundational commitments in all policies and practices of the school.

Christian Worldview: *We believe that every aspect of our children’s education must be intentionally founded upon biblical truth.*

At Cherokee Classical Christian we believe the focal point of all that is, has been, and ever will be is the person of Jesus Christ. We believe that the education of our children begins with this reality. God reveals Himself not only in His Word, but also generally in every facet of His creation. All knowledge is therefore interrelated and teaches us about God’s character, wisdom, and power. Ultimate reality exists only in Him, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and therefore truth can be understood only as it relates to Him, the God of Truth and Sovereign Lord over all. The Scriptures teach that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and

knowledge. We believe therefore that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally grounded in and integrated with biblical truth. An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge (Prov 18:15).

Classical Liberal Arts: *We are committed to the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient and medieval educators.*

At Cherokee Classical Christian we are committed to a classical liberal arts education; the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient (Greek, Roman) and medieval educators. We follow the methodology of the Trivium, seeking to identify appropriate analogies of Grammar, Dialectic (Logic), and Rhetoric in all subjects and to teach all subjects in a manner consistent with the appropriate developmental stage of the child. We understand that the liberal arts of antiquity denoted the education "worthy of a free man" (Latin *liber*, "free") –an education intent upon cultivating wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. We emphasize and seek to preserve and pass on to successive generations the richness of our Western cultural heritage.

Wisdom and Virtue: *We believe that true education culminates in wise and virtuous students who are being conformed to the image of Christ.*

At Cherokee Classical Christian we believe each child is a living and eternal soul to be nourished, not a product to be manufactured. The purpose of education is not instilling knowledge alone, nor is it merely providing vocational skills. The word education is derived from the Latin verb *educare* which means "to lead out". We seek to be used by God in partnership with Christian parents to lead students out of ignorance and sin into knowledge, faith, wisdom, and virtue. The purpose is inculcating wisdom and virtue in the life of each student. We seek true wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord, is rooted in the Scriptures, and encompasses all of human experience. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is insight (Prov 9:10). We aspire to virtue that reflects the moral excellence of Christ, expresses itself in faithful obedience to God, and demonstrates love to others. Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge (2 Pet 1:5). Wise and virtuous students will become understanding, thoughtful, and courageous leaders in our homes, churches, and communities.

God-Honoring Excellence: *We are dedicated to teaching and learning with excellence as unto the Lord.*

At Cherokee Classical Christian we believe that all instruction must encourage students to love and honor God through their academic endeavors. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Students must be challenged at all levels to do quality academic work "heartily, as unto the Lord" because God is worthy of their best. We employ gifted teachers who possess a passion for learning, a passion for teaching, and a passion for Christ. We want our students to possess a love of learning and be well equipped for their future callings. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1).

Appropriate Forms and Habits: *We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not only by ideas and knowledge, but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.*

At Cherokee Classical Christian we seek to deliberately develop a culture in the school in which every idea, truth, and concept has its fitting visible expression. We seek not the artificial formality of the arrogant, nor formality for formality's sake, but rather a wise attention to form that continually favors appropriateness over casual and comfortable complacency.

In Loco Parentis: *We seek to assist parents in their God-given task of educating their children in the Lord.*

At Cherokee Classical Christian we believe God has granted to parents the responsibility and authority for raising their children, including the responsibility of educating them (Deut 6:1-9, Ps 78:5-6, Prov 22:6, Eph 6:4). Cherokee Classical Christian seeks to assist parents in this God-given responsibility. Cherokee Classical Christian purposes to be an extension of the home -- educators who function as agents and servants of the parents. We are committed to fostering a supportive community of like-minded families, who, with our faculty and staff, encourage one another in their calling to bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord".

Engaged and Committed School Community: *We believe parents should actively participate in the life and community of the school.*

We strive to cultivate in our parents a sense of responsibility for the school and to see them well informed about the goals of our classical Christian approach. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the life and community of Cherokee Classical Christian. As we cultivate wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty in the lives of our students, we expect to see our parents grow in the same. We believe our school community should reflect God's Kingdom in its racial, ethnic, and economic make-up. We desire to exemplify unity in the body of Christ through support and cooperation with area churches.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

As a Christian school, we hold to the ecumenical central doctrines of historic Western Christian churches believing in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed adopted by the Second Ecumenical Council in AD 381 as the school's primary doctrine. The Creed is accepted internationally by the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodoxy, the Church of the East, and much of Protestantism. Cherokee Classical Christian's Statement of Faith:

1. We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
2. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.
3. For us men, and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
4. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
5. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
6. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

7. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
8. We believe in one, holy catholic* and apostolic Church.
9. We confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and
10. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

*The word "catholic" in the Statement of Faith refers not to the Roman Catholic Church, but to the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind along with Church Traditions (2 Thess 2:15; John 20:29-31; John 21:23-25). In our community churches the Protestant Bible has 66 books, and the Roman Catholic Bible has 73 books, but both share the same 39 Old Testament books and the 27 New Testament books. The Bible shares 5 Old Testament books with the Jewish Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. For the purposes of Cherokee Classical Christian School's doctrine, faith, practice, behavioral standards, policy, and discipline, our board is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's application. Statement of Faith is to be inclusive of the Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality.

STATEMENT ON SANCTITY OF LIFE, MARRIAGE, AND SEXUALITY

1. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Gen 1:26-27, 5:1; Ps 139:13-16; Ex 20:13; Ps 127:3).
2. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complimentary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is the rejection of the image of God within that person (Ps 139:13). We will at all times interact with members of the school community according to their biological sex. Cherokee Classical Christian School encourages individuals struggling with their sexual identity to seek help from their pastor and other trained professionals who might assist them to clarify their sexual identity in accordance with God's Word.
3. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe that marriage between one man and one woman, for life, uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph 5:21-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4). We believe that God commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman (Lev 20:10).

4. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is contrary to the Bible's teaching, is sinful, and offensive to God (Rom 12:1-2; I Cor 6:9-20; Eph 4:1-11, 5:1-7; I Thess 4:3-8; I Tim 4:12; II Tim 2:19-22; I Pet 1:15-16, 2:15-17; Lev 20:10-17).

5. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) and assist those we love in doing the same (Eph 4:15). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are not allowed, are to be repudiated, and are not in accord with Scripture and the beliefs of Cherokee Classical Christian.

6. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Cherokee Classical Christian as a Christian school under the authority of the Scriptures, and to provide a biblical role model to our students and school community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Cherokee Classical Christian in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers in any capacity, agree to and abide with unreserved acceptance to the Statement of Faith and the Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality (Matt 5:16, Phil 2:14-16, 1 Thess 5:22).

DOCTRINAL IDENTITY

The substance of Cherokee Classical Christian's Statement of Faith/Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality is that which will be considered primary doctrine at the school. Beyond the primary doctrines articulated in the Statement of Faith/Statement on Sanctity of Life, we respect and acknowledge the primacy of local churches and families and refer any secondary doctrinal questions to local churches and parents (for example, sacraments, infant baptism, immersion baptism, transfiguration, etc.). Secondary or potentially divisive doctrines and issues will not be presented as primary doctrine. We embrace the ecumenical historic tenets of the Western Christian churches as articulated in the creeds of the early churches. It is mandatory that all board members, school administrators, school faculty and staff subscribe with unreserved acceptance to the Statement of Faith/Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality and actively serve Christ under the authority of a local Christian church that is in essential agreement with this Statement of Faith/Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality.

ACCREDITATION AND ASSOCIATION

The Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)

The Cherokee Classical Christian School is planning to be an accredited member of SAIS, the premier independent school accreditation agency in the Southeast. Cherokee Classical Christian plan for future accreditation. The mission of SAIS is to strengthen member schools by providing high quality accreditation processes, comprehensive professional growth opportunities, and visionary leadership development programs.

The Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS)

The Cherokee Classical Christian School is a member school of the ACCS. The primary mission of the Association of Classical & Christian Schools (ACCS) is to promote, establish, and equip schools committed to a classical approach to education in the light of a Christian worldview grounded in the Old and New Testament Scriptures.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

The Cherokee Classical Christian School expects at least one parent to be able and willing to clearly articulate a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Both parents should have a clear understanding of the biblical philosophy and functioning of Cherokee Classical Christian. Both parents must read the Statement of Faith/Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality and accept that it constitutes the doctrinal beliefs of the school and agree to have their children taught in accordance with the Statement of Faith/Statement on Sanctity of Life, Marriage, and Sexuality. The parents must be committed to cooperating with the policies of the Board. This is most important in the areas of discipline and school work. The child should understand that his parents have delegated their authority to Cherokee Classical Christian while the child is in school. The child is therefore subject to the instruction and discipline of the teachers and staff while in school.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Cherokee Classical Christian admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all 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 and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, financial assistance and loan programs, athletic programs, and other school administered programs and activities. Cherokee Classical Christian makes no distinction concerning any individual's race or ethnic background, because we believe that all persons are created in God's image, and He makes no such distinctions in His redemptive plan for all mankind.

Cherokee Classical Christian does not discriminate in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, age, sex, or disability.

TRIVIUM APPLICATION CHART

The following material is drawn from the essay *The Lost Tools of Learning*, by Dorothy Sayers. It illustrates the application of the classical Trivium at Cherokee Classical Christian.

BEGINNING GRAMMAR (Pre-Polly)	GRAMMAR (Poll-Parrot)	LOGIC (Pert)	RHETORIC (Poetic)
Grades K-2	Grades 3-6	Grades 7-9	Grades 10-12
Approx. ages 4-8	Approx. ages 9-11	Approx. ages 12-14	Approx. ages 15-18
Student Characteristics	Student Characteristics	Student Characteristics	Student Characteristics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obviously excited about learning 2. Enjoys games, stories, songs, projects 3. Short attention span 4. Wants to touch, taste, feel, smell, see 5. Imaginative, creative 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excited about new, interesting facts 2. Likes to explain, figure out, talk 3. Wants to relate own experiences to topic, or just to tell a story 4. Likes collections, organizing items 5. Likes chants, clever, repetitious word sounds 6. Easily memorizes 7. Can assimilate another language well 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still excitable, but needs challenges 2. Judges, critiques, debates, critical 3. Likes to organize items, others 4. Shows off knowledge 5. Wants to know "behind the scenes" facts 6. Curious about Why? for most things 7. Thinks, acts as though more knowledgeable than adults 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concerned with present events, especially in own life 2. Interested in justice, fairness 3. Moving toward special interests, topics 4. Can take on responsibility, independent work 5. Can do synthesis 6. Desires to express feelings, own ideas 7. Generally idealistic
Teaching Methods	Teaching Methods	Teaching Methods	Teaching Methods
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guide discovering 2. Explore, find things 3. Use lots of tactile items to illustrate point 4. Sing, play games, chant, recite, color, draw, paint, build 5. Use body movements 6. Short, creative projects 7. Show and Tell, drama, hear/read/tell stories 8. Field trips 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lots of hands-on work, projects 2. Field trips, drama 3. Make collections, displays, models 4. Integrate subjects through above means 5. Teach and assign research projects 6. Recitations, memorizations 7. Drills, games 8. Oral/written presentations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time lines, charts, maps (visual materials) 2. Debates, persuasive reports 3. Drama, reenactments, role-playing 4. Evaluate, critique (with guidelines) 5. Formal logic 6. Research projects 7. Oral/written presentations 8. Guest speakers, trips 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drama, oral presentations 2. Guide research in major areas with goal of synthesis of ideas 3. Many papers, speeches, debates 4. Give responsibilities, e.g. working with younger students, organize activities 5. In-depth field trips, even overnight 6. Worldview discussion and written papers

SUGGESTED READINGS IN CLASSICAL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Battle for the American Mind, by Pete Hegseth and David Goodwin

The Case for Classical Christian Education, by Douglas Wilson

Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning, by Douglas Wilson

The Lost Tools of Learning (essay), by Dorothy Sayers

On Secular Education, by R. L. Dabney

The Well-Trained Mind, by Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer

Repairing the Ruins, edited by Douglas Wilson

Classical Education, by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. and Andrew Kern

Education, Christianity and the State, by J. Gresham Machen

Association of Classical and Christian Schools (www.accsedu.org)

TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICY

At Cherokee Classical Christian, we believe that families from all income levels should have the opportunity to enroll at the school. Thus, Cherokee Classical Christian actively seeks donations to fund our financial assistance efforts. The purpose of tuition assistance is to provide financial aid for tuition expenses to families with demonstrated legitimate financial need. We provide tuition assistance to families on a first-come, first-served basis. Levels of financial assistance offered will depend on a number of factors including (but not limited to) total (gross) family income, number of family members, number of children enrolled at Cherokee Classical Christian, etc. An outside consulting service (e.g. FACTS) will be used to assist Cherokee Classical Christian in accurately determining a family's level of financial need for tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance Committee and/or the administration will then review the recommendations made by the consulting service and submit them to the Board.

It is expected that families will pursue every other available means of financial assistance (family, local scholarship funds, etc.) prior to applying for aid directly from Cherokee Classical Christian. If other assistance is available to a family, the school expects the family to utilize it to make more of the school's funds available to other families in need. Those families receiving tuition assistance will be encouraged to gradually reduce their dependence on financial aid from the school. Generally, every family will be expected to pay a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the total tuition, regardless of the amount of assistance for which they qualify.

If a family qualifies for assistance from other scholarship sources or financial aid funds (other than Cherokee Classical Christian), these funds will be used to reduce the amount of assistance taken directly from Cherokee Classical Christian and will not necessarily reduce the family's tuition obligation to the school. Generally, every family must pay the minimum amount determined by the FACTS assessment. To apply for financial assistance, complete the financial aid application and submit it according to the enclosed instruction sheet. Returning families who submit applications for tuition assistance by the established deadline will be given first priority in the distribution of financial aid. New families who submit applications for tuition assistance early in Cherokee Classical Christian admissions process will be given next priority in the distribution of available funds. The Board will have final authority to allocate financial aid.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As a support and extension of the family unit, Cherokee Classical Christian considers the family to be of greater importance to a child. We strive to support the family and respect parental authority and responsibility in all we do. Cherokee Classical Christian believes in the concept of

“in loco parentis” - in the place of the parent. At the core of our philosophy of education is the conviction that parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children. Our authority and our task are delegated to us from the parents. Therefore, we strongly encourage parental involvement in the education of their children and continually seek ways to actively involve the parents, siblings, and grandparents of our students in the programs of the school. Below are just a few of the more common ways we do this. Please feel free to ask if you would like to try additional ideas.

1. Visit the school/class at any time. (Simply call ahead out of courtesy to the teacher.)
2. Assist in the classroom, regularly or infrequently. (Again, please make arrangements with the teacher.)
3. Act as chaperone on field trips and/or library visits.
4. Volunteer your time, energy, and gifts to many functions and events of the school.
5. Attend all formal Parent-Teacher Conferences. Informal conferences may be scheduled at the parent’s or teacher’s request.
6. Closely monitor and praise your child’s progress by reading all teacher notes and student papers sent home.
7. Serve on the various committees as designated by the Board, the Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF), and/or Head of School.
8. Communicate your ideas for school improvement and comments regarding the school program to the administration. We want to hear from you.

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

When the Parents/Guardians sign an enrollment contract with Cherokee Classical Christian, they agree to become familiar with, abide by, and accept the standards, policies, and procedures adopted by Cherokee Classical Christian while the student is enrolled at Cherokee Classical Christian. Parents/Guardians further agree that a positive and cooperative relationship between the Parents/Guardians and Cherokee Classical Christian is an essential element of the program offered, and a condition of this contract. The Parents/Guardians acknowledge that Cherokee Classical Christian reserves the right to suspend, expel, or otherwise dismiss the Student and terminate this contract, if the Head of School determines in his/her sole discretion that the actions of the Parent/Guardian have rendered it impossible for Cherokee Classical Christian to continue a positive working relationship with the Parents/Guardians.

Parents/Guardians further agree to address institutional concerns according to stated guidelines in the handbook and at no time to exhibit behavior deemed detrimental to the well-being and public perception of the school, its students, other parents, faculty, staff, and administration. Behavior by the student’s Parents/Guardians that is not in compliance with Cherokee Classical Christian’s policies or culture will not be tolerated. Inappropriate, aggressive, threatening or harassing behavior towards students, faculty, or staff members is in violation of the school’s mission.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION AND GRIEVANCES GUIDELINES

We consider it a great privilege to serve families in educating their children from a classical and Christian perspective. We are committed to upholding and supporting each family’s authority

in the lives of their children. This kind of relationship requires clear communication. We recognize that in this relationship there lies a great temptation to talk to others (gossip) about a specific issue or person rather than take direct action to resolve conflicts in a manner consistent with Scripture (Matthew 18 and James 3). We believe Scripture teaches that conflicts should be handled respectfully, graciously, discreetly and carefully, while believing and speaking the best about each individual involved. Cherokee Classical Christian's school staff, administration, and Board will abide by these same principles in communicating with parents and students.

Parents/Students to Teacher: If an issue should arise about the classroom, the parents or students (if the student is mature enough, generally in the Upper School) should speak directly to the teacher. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, the parent may bring the concern to the Principal or Head of School. If the student advances the concern to the Principal or Head of School, he/she must have permission from his/her parents to do so.

Parents to Administration: If an issue should arise about a matter related to the general operation of the school (apart from the operation of a classroom) the parents should speak directly to the Head of School, Principal, or other administrator. Parents and students may also present concerns about an individual teacher's classroom, if the matter was not resolved with the specific teacher. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, the matter may be taken before the Board in writing.

Parents to Board: If an issue has not been satisfactorily resolved with the Head of School, the parents may present their concerns in writing to the Board chairman requesting a hearing at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

While clear communications between the school and families can break down with negative issues, they can break down with positive issues as well. Often parents will have an idea on how to improve the school, but are not sure how to share it. In this case the same principles should be applied. If a parent has an idea about how to improve a classroom, he or she should talk to the teacher. If a parent has an idea about how to improve the school in general, he or she should talk to the Head of School. It is always best to communicate directly with the person primarily in authority over the issue at hand. The Board will not serve as the initial contact on school related issues. No individual Board member may speak on behalf of the Board unless specifically authorized by the Board to do so on a specific issue.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY

The staff and parents at Cherokee Classical Christian are Christians and believe that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church (see Matt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 6:1-8). Therefore, the parties agree that any claim or dispute related to enrollment at Cherokee Classical Christian shall be settled by biblically based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation (complete text of the Rules is available at www.iccpeace.com or by contacting ICC PEACE at info@iccpeace.com). Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to jury and their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

CONDUCT GUIDELINES

THE CHEROKEE CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN STUDENT HONOR CODE

During the school year, we will follow a code of honor. The code is rooted in the foundational principle found in Scripture:

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor 10:31
And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:17*

The Honor Code gives the student a practical framework on how to live out the foundational principle: “Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” This Honor Code should be discussed frequently.

Diligence

Give your best effort.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Honesty

Be truthful.

Psalms 119:130

Love

Place others before yourself.

Philippians 2:3-4

Respect

Take care of people and things.

Mark 12:31

Wisdom

Make good choices.

Proverbs 4:7

GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Students will show proper respect to all adults and students. An atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy will be maintained between students and staff.
2. Students will obey Cherokee Classical Christian staff and policies promptly, willingly, completely, and cheerfully.
3. Students will refrain from actions that distract others from their academic pursuits. Disruptive behavior, toys, or other distracting objects are not allowed at school.
4. Students will be prepared and prompt in their arrival to class and school activities.
5. Students will refrain from language and actions which are vulgar, inappropriate, and demeaning to either God or mankind. Such language includes but is not limited to:
 - Teasing, criticizing, put-downs, insults and name-calling
 - Abusive or threatening speech
 - Sexually suggestive or explicit speech
 - Derogatory speech based on race or sex
6. Students will refrain from harmful and rough physical contact with other students such as hitting, punching, tripping, wrestling, fighting, and the like.
7. Personal electronic devices are not permitted for use in the classroom. Phones, tablets, smart watches, etc. must be turned off and put away while on campus. Personal laptops are permitted for academic use only with permission from the teacher. (See Electronic

Device Guidelines)

8. Students are expected to treat all school facilities and materials (e.g. textbooks) with respect and care. Students are expected to be aware of and avoid the off-limits areas of the building and grounds. Students are expected to keep the school's campus neat and clean.

9. Students shall refrain from all forms of inappropriate and immoral sexual behavior. Public displays of affection in the context of romantic relationships (e.g. holding hands, kissing, etc.) are not permitted on school grounds.

10. Student possession and use of drugs, alcohol, nicotine/tobacco/vape pens/e-cigarettes, or weapons of any sort is strictly forbidden on school grounds.

CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS POLICY

The purpose of this guideline is to help Cherokee Classical Christian to respect the convictions of parents and teachers in various academic and/or sensitive subject areas, while at the same time maintaining our goal of teaching all subjects in the light of a comprehensive Christian worldview. A controversial subject is a subject which Christian families and churches commonly consider divisive or very sensitive, whether or not the introduction of the topic was planned by the teacher or brought up by a student. Examples: environmentalism, partisan politics, etc.

A. If in the course of teaching a class, a teacher sees that a subject has arisen which he or she has good reason to believe is controversial or obviously of a sensitive nature, and discussion of that subject will *not* help him or her achieve the goals set for that class in the curriculum guide, then the teacher will not allow class time for the discussion of the topic at all. When appropriate, as it benefits the students, the teacher may explain to the students the reasons for not discussing the topic.

B. If a subject arises which the teacher has reason to believe is controversial and/or of a sensitive nature, and the discussion of that topic *will* help achieve the goals set out in the curriculum guide for that subject, then the teacher will do the following:

1. As necessary, instruct the class on the responsibility of Christians to be charitable in debate.
2. Instruct the class on their responsibility to honor the teaching they have received from their parents on this subject.
3. As appropriate (i.e. pertinent to the stated objectives of the class), direct the students' attention to original writings, historical source documents, and other informed sources on each side of the subject concerned. This may be done in a variety of forms, such as, a research paper, guest speakers, reading differing authors, etc. Strongly encourage the students to become knowledgeable of the most widely held views on the topic.
4. Refrain from pursuing tangents or other unplanned subject matter that will lead to a possible mishandling/poor teaching of controversial subjects.

C. Due to the sensitive and intimate nature of human sexual relations, discussion and instruction on this topic generally will be limited to human reproduction in biology, and biblical principles and references, as they arise in appropriate class contexts. Teachers will always defer to parental authority and responsibility when such matters arise.

D. The teacher is to remember that according to Scripture and the goals of Cherokee Classical Christian, he or she is serving as a role model of a mature Christian adult to the students. As such, teachers are never to enter into an adversarial debate with students on controversial

subjects within a classroom setting. Even though the teacher may hold strong personal convictions regarding the subject, in light of this policy, and sound teaching practices, the teacher is to encourage a gracious and scholarly attitude in the students.

DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Cherokee Classical Christian's desire to see students live faithfully in the light of God's Word shapes our approach to discipline. We want our students to develop prudence, self-control, and concern for others. The Cherokee Classical Christian School Honor Code, General Rules of Conduct, and Disciplinary Procedures aim to train students to live together in biblical community as they learn how to communicate lovingly, handle disagreement, and receive correction. We know that even in Christ, we are prone to wander from what is right, to sin against God and our neighbor. These failings are opportunities to shepherd students to see their need for Christ, to repent, and to resolve to live once again in the light of God's goodness, trusting in His work. It is vital for parents and students to realize that maintaining an orderly atmosphere in the school and the classroom is critical to the learning process; therefore, these policies must be adhered to. Students will not be subject to corporal punishment at Cherokee Classical Christian. As in all other areas of education at Cherokee Classical Christian, love and forgiveness will be an integral part of the discipline of a child. It is because we love that we discipline. The procedures outlined below are meant to protect and build up a Christian community within our school.

Lower School (K-6th Grades) Disciplinary Procedures

Practically, the vast majority of real and potential discipline problems will be dealt with at the classroom level. The kind and amount of discipline (within these stated guidelines) will be determined by the teachers and administration. The specifics and nature of each discipline incident and the individual personality of the student involved will be considered in the administration of discipline.

If a Cherokee Classical Christian staff member deems it necessary for a student to receive discipline from the administration, the following accounting will be observed. Within the entire school year:

1. The first *two* times a student is sent to the administration for discipline the student's parents will be contacted and given the details of the visit. The parents' assistance and support in averting further problems will be expected.
2. The *third* incident will be followed by a meeting with the student, student's parents, administration, and, if necessary, the teacher.
3. Should a *fourth* incident arise, a *suspension* may be imposed on the student. The student will be required to make-up all classroom assignments and tests missed during the suspension period.
4. Should a *fifth* incident arise, the student may be subject to expulsion from the school.
5. *The administration may, at their discretion, demonstrate leniency when appropriate or, in case of serious misconduct, bypass the above discipline procedures and impose an immediate suspension or expulsion.*

Upper School (7th-12th Grades) Disciplinary Procedures

1. Faculty are expected to maintain discipline in the classroom. For minor infractions,

faculty will lovingly correct the student in the moment and have a follow-up conversation after class.

2. Detentions may be issued by teachers or by the Dean of Students. Detentions will be held after school once a week. Parents will be notified of detentions via written communication from the teacher or Dean of Students. Examples of behavior leading to a detention include but are not limited to:

- a. Tardiness (5 times to a single class per quarter)
- b. Classroom disruption
- c. Dress code violations
- d. Minor disrespect
- e. Technology violation
- f. Leaving belongings in common areas or classrooms
- g. Roughhousing inside the building
- h. Being out-of-bounds on property without permission
- i. Unacceptable attitude
- j. Public displays of affection

3. If a student receives three detentions within a quarter, the Dean of Students will coordinate a meeting with parents and determine if any additional action is required. Additional detentions within a quarter will lead to an administrative referral.

4. Administrative referrals will be issued for major breaches of Cherokee Classical Christian's Honor Code by the administration who may administer a suspension. Such discipline problems would include, but are not limited to:

- a. Repeated instances of disrespectful or disruptive behavior in a classroom
- b. Defiance, insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives; disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff
- c. Truancy
- d. Destruction of property
- e. Dishonesty (Lying, Cheating, Plagiarism, etc.)
- f. Stealing
- g. Fighting
- h. Foul, coarse, or suggestive language
- i. Bullying
- j. Harassment
- k. Alcohol-related, drug, and/or smoking/vaping/tobacco-related offenses

5. The first two times a student receives an administrative referral, the administration will communicate the details of the incident and subsequent meeting to the parents in writing. After a third referral, the student will be suspended for one day and will meet with parents and a school administrator.

6. After a fourth referral, a student will be suspended from school for two days and from extra-curricular activities indefinitely. A fifth referral may result in expulsion or a refusal of re-enrollment.

7. Violations of the Honor Code or Rules of Conduct may result in probation from student activities (including but not limited to athletics, Pathfinders, and class trips).

8. Cherokee Classical Christian reserves the right to investigate all potential student disciplinary issues,

regardless of whether the actions occur on campus, off campus, after school hours, through a social networking site, etc. Whenever student wrongdoing is established, the school reserves the right to respond in any/all manners detailed in this handbook, including assigning appropriate disciplinary measures.

9. The administration may, at their discretion, demonstrate leniency when appropriate or, in case of serious misconduct, bypass the above discipline procedures and impose an immediate suspension or expulsion.

Expulsion

Cherokee Classical Christian's Board realizes that expelling a student from school is a very serious matter and should always be carefully dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Forgiveness and restitution are fundamental to our total discipline policy. However, should a student and his/her parents not be able to eliminate the behavioral problems the student is having, the administration is empowered to expel the student. The procedure will be as follows:

1. Parents will be notified immediately after the decision for expulsion.
2. Appeals may be made in writing first to the administration and then to the Board.
3. Should an expelled student desire to be readmitted to Cherokee Classical Christian at a later date, the Board and/or the Head of School will make a decision based on the student's attitude and circumstances at the time of reapplication.

Re-enrollment

At the discretion of school administration, a student may be refused re-enrollment for the following school year. Such refusal to re-enroll is not considered a direct disciplinary act, requiring accumulated office visits in order to be taken. Refusal to re-enroll is not the equivalent of suspension or expulsion.

STUDENT AND STAFF RELATIONS GUIDELINES

To facilitate professional, friendly, and biblical relationships between staff members and students, the following guidelines shall be observed.

- A. Staff members are to remember that they serve as professional, adult role-models before the students (Titus 2:7, 8). Relationships between staff members and students are to be friendly and courteous, not familial or intimate.
- B. Staff members are to be careful that any physical contacts and verbal interchanges with each other and with students avoid even the appearance of impropriety (1 Pet 2:12).
- C. Flirtation, sexual innuendos, casual disrespect toward authority, excessive familiarity, etc. are examples of the kind of unprofessional and inappropriate behavior that will not be tolerated. Necessary and cautionary measures required to limit these kinds of behaviors should be corporately and individually taken.
- D. If it is necessary for a staff member to spend time alone with a student or staff member of the opposite sex, it should be arranged that they are easily visible to the public (e.g. an open door, windowed room, etc.)
- E. Staff members shall not travel alone in a car with one student.
- F. Staff members shall not use text messaging or social media to communicate with a student.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE GUIDELINES

Lower school (K-6th grades)

Students are not allowed to bring electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, headphones, AirPods, laptops, tablets, gaming devices, etc.) onto school grounds without prior approval. The school reserves the right to confiscate all such items if brought on campus. In addition, students may also be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the administration.

Upper school (7th-12th grades)

Cell Phones and Smart Watches

While the school understands a parent's right to give a cell phone and/or smart watch to his or her child, students are not allowed to use their phones or watches during the school day. All cell phones and/or smart watches must be turned off and placed in the classroom's device storage area upon entering the classroom and must remain off and out of view during the entire school day. All student phone calls during school hours must go through the school office. After School Program students who need to use their cell phones and/or smart watches must do so under the supervision of an After School Program staff member.

Personal Computers

Everyday use of personal computers is not allowed in the classroom. Exceptions can be made under the following conditions:

- a. Special permission must be granted by the teacher or administration.
- b. Proof of an approved filter must be given prior to use.
- c. Devices can only be used in designated locations: classrooms, school library, or other areas approved by the classroom teacher.
- d. Devices must be used solely by the owner.
- e. The privilege will be revoked if a student fails to abide by the above rules.

After School Activities

The rules and expectations above apply for all school events (before, during and after school) and activities (Pathfinders, field trips, retreats, etc.).

Right of Inspection

The school reserves the right to inspect at any time the content of all electronic devices including electronic data and usage occurring over the school's network or on school property without prior notice.

Access to Inappropriate Materials

Any student who uses electronic devices to access inappropriate materials in the school building will be subject to immediate suspension or expulsion from the school. The length of the suspension or decision to expel is solely at the discretion of the administration. The same policy also applies to accessing inappropriate materials through print media.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Definition

Social media encompasses a broad array of online activity including social networks/media such as Twitter, Flickr, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, GroupMe, Snapchat, blogs, and other similar online or Internet communications.

Social Media Use at School or a School-Related Event

Cherokee Classical Christian does not permit students to access social media and/or social networking sites while on Cherokee Classical Christian property or at a Cherokee Classical Christian event.

Social Media Use Away from School Property

It is not our goal to regulate a student's personal online activities when not on Cherokee Classical Christian property or at a Cherokee Classical Christian event. However, certain activities might impact Cherokee Classical Christian's community in a way that we do reserve the right to regulate. All students should ensure that they are familiar with Cherokee Classical Christian's General Rules of Conduct to avoid any online communications that might violate those policies. Students should not "follow" or be "friends" with any faculty member on any social networking sites. In addition, postings on social networking or other Internet sites of students engaging in inappropriate behavior (such as drinking, smoking, sexual actions, etc.) is prohibited. Students are not permitted to use Cherokee Classical Christian's name or logo in online activities. In our effort to protect the privacy of our staff, students, and families, students are not permitted to post photographs, videos, or audio recordings of class lessons, school activities, or similar events. Finally, students are not permitted to disclose any confidential information of Cherokee Classical Christian employees, students, parents, or activities online.

LOCKERS AND STORAGE

Lockers are the property of Cherokee Classical Christian and should not be defaced or damaged in any way. Decoration of lockers must be restricted to the interior and must be removed at the end of the school year, therefore, drawing on the locker itself or installing permanent artwork of any kind, including stickers, is not permitted. Removing anything from another person's locker without permission is considered stealing and will be pursued as an Honor Code violation. Lockers should be used on a full time basis in order for a student to keep belongings organized and together. Books and other belongings should not be left lying in corridors, on floors, or elsewhere around campus.

SEARCH AND INSPECTION

Please note that all electronic files, lockers, desks, drawers, and other storage spaces that exist or are maintained on the Cherokee Classical Christian premises are not private but are subject to search and review by Cherokee Classical Christian personnel. All bags, electronic devices, containers, and other items brought on campus or to Cherokee Classical Christian activities are also subject to search and review by Cherokee Classical Christian personnel. Vehicles parked on Cherokee Classical Christian premises are subject to search.

RIDE-SHARING SERVICES

Cherokee Classical Christian does not permit students to take ride-sharing vehicles (like Uber and Lyft) as a form of transportation to/from school. In an effort to protect our children, we will not allow students to enter ride-sharing vehicles.

LICENSED MEDIA

Strict copyright laws protect the rights of owners of copyrighted media used by schools and households. DVDs, CDs, videos, audiocassettes, and other printed or recorded materials used at Cherokee Classical Christian may be used only in the legal manner for which they were licensed.

UNIFORM POLICY

A detailed list of specific clothing items and suppliers/vendors for student uniforms may be found on Cherokee Classical Christian's website (CherokeeClassicalChristianSchool.org → Parents → Parent Resources) or may be obtained from the school office.

General Rationale for a Dress Code

1. Pressures felt by children to compete in areas of dress are destructive to the unity of the school and the body of Christ.
2. Everything in our lives, including our clothing, should reflect the order of the God and the order He has created in the world (1 Cor 14:40).
3. Clothing should be modest and not draw attention to the individual (1 Tim 2:9) and should reflect differences in the sexes (Deut 22:5).
4. Our children are serving as witnesses and ambassadors both for the Lord Jesus Christ and the school. Student appearance is a reflection of both.

Specific Rationale for Uniforms

1. Uniforms are a positive discipline in the school, and Cherokee Classical Christian emphasizes the value of a disciplined learning environment. Just as dressing up, even wearing uniforms, is a part of the workday for parents, wearing a school uniform is a signal to the child that it is a time for hard work and studious activity.
2. Uniforms prevent problems associated with the subjective interpretation of a dress code policy. Uniforms will eliminate any confusion about what is acceptable, modest, and appropriate by the school's standards.
3. Uniforms tend to decrease the cost of student clothing. Our uniform vendors provide economical and durable items. Often parents need only purchase two or three sets of uniforms to last throughout the school year and often these items can be handed down to other children.

Uniform and Dress Code Policy Enforcement

The school faculty and administration will enforce the Uniform and Dress Code Policy. Interpretation and application of the Uniform and Dress Code standards will be the responsibility of the administration. Students not complying with the Uniform and Dress Code Policy will be required to rectify their appearance immediately. Cheerful, consistent compliance is expected. Students who violate the Uniform and Dress Code Policy, either by action or by challenging and rebellious attitudes, will be subject to disciplinary actions.

ATTENDANCE

HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE POLICY

Observances of holidays at Cherokee Classical Christian shall be conducted according to the following guidelines:

- A. Cherokee Classical Christian recognizes the necessity of joy and thankfulness in the Christian life. The school will seek to provide students with opportunities for joyous celebration and thankful recognition of God's providence and blessing in their individual lives (e.g. birthdays and personal accomplishments) and in history (Columbus Day and Memorial Day).
- B. The school will emphasize the scriptural and spiritual elements of holidays such as Easter (the cross and resurrection) and Christmas (the incarnation of Christ), rather than the secular elements (Santa and the Easter Bunny).

- C. The school is not “against” secular images and symbols. These are matters of personal conscience and Christian freedom for each family. The school simply chooses, as a Christian school, to de-emphasize secular elements in its recognition of holidays.
- D. Other holidays (Halloween, President’s Day, Valentine’s Day, etc.) shall be observed when their recognition is deemed spiritually and/or academically beneficial to the students and consistent with the Cherokee Classical Christian philosophy of education.
- E. Interpretation and application of these holiday observance guidelines shall be the responsibility of the administration.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Fees for this service are charged in addition to tuition and must be paid in advance. A current fee schedule may be obtained in the school office. Registration is required. Any child not picked up from Lower School by 3:15 P.M. will be placed in the After School Program and the parents charged the applicable daily fee. Any student not picked up from Upper School by 4:00 P.M. will be transported to the Lower School and placed in the After School Program and the parents charged the applicable daily fee. Parents must come into the Lower School building and sign their children out of the program. Current before- and after-hours program policies and fees are available from the office.

ACADEMIC GUIDELINES

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A student must earn the requisite number of credits for a given diploma. One credit represents one Carnegie unit (120 hours of instructional time) and is typically earned for courses meeting four days per week for a full year. One-half credit is earned for courses that meet two days per week for a full year or four days per week for one semester.

	Associate Diploma*	Classical Diploma	Classical Diploma with Distinction**
Subjects	Credits Required	Credits Required	Credits Required
Literature	2	4	4
Mathematics	2	4	5†
History	2	4	4
Science	2	4	5†
Foreign Language	1	3	5††
Rhetorical Studies	0	2	2
Biblical Studies	1	2	2
Practica	††† 2	2	2
Physical Education	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Credits	12.5	25.5	29.5

* Students in the Associate Diploma program have modified grading. See Academic Support section for details.

** Minimum of 10 credits of Honors/AP courses required for Classical Diploma with Distinction

† Exceptions may be made for transfer students †† May include both Latin and Spanish ††† At least 0.5 credits must be earned in each Manual and Fine Arts Practica

GRADING SCALES AND GUIDELINES

Lower School Grading Scale: K-2nd Grades (Also used for K-12 report card objectives)

E = Excellent/Outstanding – exceeding expectations

S+ = Satisfactory Plus - Meeting expectations, and progressing towards 'E'

S = Satisfactory – meeting expectations

S- = Satisfactory Minus - Meeting expectations, and progressing towards 'N'

N = Needs Improvement, but making progress. Continued time and effort needed.

U = Unsatisfactory – Making little or no progress

/ = Skill not graded at this time

Lower School Grading Scale: 3rd-6th Grades

A 93-100

B 85-92

C 77-84

D 70-76

F <70

I = Incomplete

W = Withdrawn

N/A = Not Applicable

Upper School Grading Scale: 7th-12th Grades

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 65-69

F <65

I = Incomplete

W = Withdrawn

N/A = Not Applicable

Grade Reporting Guidelines

Report Cards shall be distributed via paper or the student information system at the end of each grading period. Progress reports for 1st-12th grades shall be distributed at regular intervals via the paper or the student information system.

PROMOTION POLICY

Kindergarten -2nd Grade

The student must demonstrate behavioral maturity for the next grade as defined by consistent age-appropriate ability to follow classroom routines, obey teacher instructions, handle conflict appropriately, and stay on task during academic work. The student must also demonstrate reading and math readiness for the next grade. Exceptions may be made depending on the circumstances.

3rd-6th Grade

A goal of our school is to minimize the need for retention. Early communication between the home and school combined with vigorous intervention efforts will always be made to reduce the potential for retention. A student who is experiencing academic difficulty, particularly in the critical areas of reading and math, may be required to repeat the year if it is determined that he/she is very likely not to experience success in the next grade. This decision will be made with input from the teacher(s), parent(s) and administration by evaluating the child's academic

performance, work habits, and achievement test scores. Summer school or a tutoring program may be required for students with poor grades. If a student is experiencing significant academic difficulty by the end of the first semester, parents will be notified.

7th-12th Grade

Promotion for Upper School students is dependent upon credits earned toward high school graduation. If a student fails a pre-requisite or required course for graduation, that student will be required to repeat the course. See “Academic Probation Policy” for guidelines related to students whose grade-point average falls below 2.00.

ACADEMIC PROBATION POLICY

Upper School students (7th grade and above) are required to maintain at least a 2.00 grade-point average.

- A. Grade point averages (G.P.A.'s) for each Upper School student will be calculated at the end of each grading period.
- B. If a student's G.P.A. is below 2.00 (i.e. a "C" average), that student will be placed on academic probation during the following grading period. A parent-teacher conference will be arranged at this time.
- C. If the student's G.P.A is below 2.00 at the end of the second consecutive grading period, that student will be subject to unenrollment. Unenrollment will only occur at the end of a semester.
- D. If implementation of this policy would be counter-productive to the student's best interests and/or the school's best interests, the administration may decide to either alter or make an exception to this policy.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All Cherokee Classical Christian students participating in extracurricular activities must maintain a G.P.A. of 2.00 or above. This does not apply to transfer students during their first quarter of enrollment at Cherokee Classical Christian.

For the good of the rest of the participants in any activity, students who are ineligible for the beginning of a season remain ineligible for participation during the entirety of that season, regardless of their grade point average for the following quarter. Similarly, if students are eligible to begin a season, they remain eligible until the end of that season.

If implementation of this policy would be counter-productive to the students' best interests, the administration may decide not to restrict a student's eligibility.

HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDELINES

Philosophy

Cherokee Classical Christian will assign some amount of homework to its students. Below are the primary reasons or causes for homework being assigned:

- A. Students often need some amount of extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts. In certain subjects (e.g. math or languages), there is not enough time in a school day to do as much practice as may be necessary for mastery. Therefore, after reasonable in-class time is spent on the material, the teacher may assign homework to allow for the necessary practice.
- B. Repeated, short periods of practice or study of new information is often a better way to learn than one long period study.

C. Since Cherokee Classical Christian recognizes that parental involvement is critical to a child's education, homework can be used as an opportunity for parents to actively assist their child in his studies. This will also keep the parents informed as to the current topics of study in the class.

Guidelines

A. The emphasis in assigning homework shall be quality, not quantity. Teachers shall make every effort to keep homework at a reasonable level.

B. Students who do not use time wisely in class will have to complete assignments at home in addition to completing regularly assigned homework.

C. The necessity for doing homework will vary from grade to grade and from student to student. It is to be expected that older students will spend more time on homework than younger students. It is also to be expected that the focused, diligent, and/or stronger students will generally spend less time on homework. Students who are significantly challenged by the assignments will most likely spend more time doing homework.

D. Students (with the exception of kindergarten) will receive a planner to record homework assignments each day.

E. Normally, extra homework is not to be assigned over weekends, holidays, and vacation periods. Homework equivalent to a regular weeknight's quantity may be assigned for Friday after school.

HONORS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

As a classical school, Cherokee Classical Christian seeks to train both the mind and the heart. With this in mind, Cherokee Classical Christian will maintain a system of formal honors and awards that recognize the diverse gifts bestowed upon our students by God. These awards include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Academic awards - given at regular intervals for academic achievement (See below for Honor Roll qualifications.)
- Character awards - given at the end of each academic year for outstanding character
- Athletic awards - given to outstanding athletes
- Creative Arts awards - awarded to those displaying exemplary artistic skill
- Special Days Awards - given at the end of each academic year to recognize the winners of various academic competitions

We recognize that the glory for all human achievement goes to God. We therefore aim to teach our students the appropriate way to give glory to God for the accomplishments that He allows them and others in the school to achieve; i.e., with humility and gratitude.

Honor Roll Qualifications

Students in the third grade and above are eligible to be recognized on the Honor Roll. All subjects that are objectively graded (A-B-C-D-F) will be used in Honor Roll determinations. The awards are as follows:

Qualification	Honor Given
All A's in a grading term	Placement on A Honor Roll, acknowledgment at assembly
All A's with no more than 2 B's in a grading term	Placement on A-B Honor Roll, acknowledgment at assembly
All year placement on A Honor Roll	Certificate/Award received at year-end Awards Assembly (mailed separately to 6th-12th grade students after the completion of final exams)
All year placement on A-B Honor Roll	Certificate/Award received at year-end Awards Assembly (mailed separately to 6th-12th grade students after the completion of final exams)

LEARNING DISABILITY POLICY

This policy applies to all students in all the classrooms of Cherokee Classical Christian.

Definitions:

Severe Learning Disability: Any condition in a potential student which would require a separate classroom, special program, or specialized staff in order to provide the educational services desired by the parents.

Learning Disability: Any condition in a potential student which does *NOT* require a separate classroom, special program, or specialized staff in order to provide the education services desired by the parents and meet the regular academic requirements of Cherokee Classical Christian, e.g. hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder, dyslexia, etc.

Policy:

- A. Children with moderate to severe learning disability may not be admitted to Cherokee Classical Christian due to the lack of adequate staff, resources, and facilities.
- B. Children with learning disabilities may be admitted to Cherokee Classical Christian provided they meet all regular admissions requirements and are capable of functioning successfully in a “traditional classroom” setting.
- C. Children with learning disabilities (diagnosed or undiagnosed) will be required to meet the same academic and behavioral standards as all other children in their grade level.
- D. Children with learning disabilities (diagnosed or undiagnosed) will be given as much individual instruction and encouragement as their classmates within the classroom, and may be eligible for the Academic Support program.
- E. Cherokee Classical Christian may make minor classroom accommodations (seating location, extra time on assessments, etc.) to assist students with learning disabilities. Accommodations will be made only for students with learning disabilities that have been clearly diagnosed by a licensed and certified educational diagnostician. A full scale educational psychological evaluation will be required when determining admission acceptance and accommodations. Securing a diagnosis of a learning disability will be the responsibility of the parent(s) of the student. The parent(s) of the student will also be responsible, financially, and otherwise, for providing any and all special equipment, supplies, and tutors needed to accommodate the student.
- F. Cherokee Classical Christian reserves the right to decline any accommodation to a student with a learning disability, if it deems the accommodation to be a hindrance to the learning experience of other students in the school or if it deems that the accommodation may compromise the school’s academic standards.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

Students who are enrolled at Cherokee Classical Christian are eligible for the Academic Support program if a child's teacher, the Academic Support coordinator, and parents collectively agree that the program would benefit the student. Academic Support is not intended to be a "tutoring" program, but is limited to support in study skills, executive functioning strategies, and individualized attention. The Academic Support program requires a fee over and above the standard tuition.

Lower school (K-6th grades)

Students enter the academic support program based on teacher observations, Academic Support coordinator observations, and academic testing. No diagnosis needed. Learning Specialists follow the Response to Intervention (RTI) system for referring students to the Academic Support program.

Upper School

7th-8th grades

One goal of the academic support program should be to identify a student's potential success in high school. If the student is at-risk for failing any classes at the high school level without significant modifications, the parents will be encouraged to receive a Psychological Educational Evaluation for their child.

9th-12th grades

Classical Diploma with accommodations

Students at the high school level must have a diagnosis of a learning disability or recommended accommodations in a Psychological Educational evaluation in order to receive accommodations. Students will receive a support plan and can earn a Classical Diploma if the student can complete the required coursework with *minor* accommodations as outlined in the support plan. These accommodations can include (but are not limited to):

- Preferred seating
- Extended time on assessments
- Deliver assessment in a separate room to limit distractions

Associate Diploma

If a student is not able to fulfill the graduation requirements with accommodations, the student can receive a Cherokee Classical Christian education within the Associate Diploma program.

- Courses are distinguished as modified (MOD) on the report card and transcript.
- Students will receive a support plan with individualized goals.

The Associate Diploma does not meet the admissions standards for most Georgia colleges. Depending upon the admissions requirements of the post-secondary educational institution, the student might have to complete a GED to be eligible for acceptance.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

A student enrolled at Cherokee Classical Christian is expected to be present and on time every day school is in session. Attendance records for the students are reported on the students' report card each grading term.

Types of Absences

- 1) **SHORT-TERM ABSENCES:** If a student needs to be absent from school for one to two

days, for any reason, the parents should contact the school office by note or phone as soon as possible.

2) **LONG-TERM ABSENCES:** If a student needs to be absent for three or more consecutive days, the parents should notify the teacher and school office in writing explaining the circumstances. This will permit the teacher(s) to compile the necessary schoolwork, which the student would otherwise miss. Notification should be made as soon as possible to limit the amount of missed school work.

3) **EXTENDED ABSENCES:** When extended absences are voluntary (versus emergency or illness) we expect all school-work to be completed within the time specified by the teacher.

4) **MAKE-UP WORK:** Students must complete missed work within a period of days equivalent to the number of days or classes absent plus one (1) day (e.g. A student absent two days has three days after he returns to school to complete missed work). It is expected that the student or the parents will discuss these arrangements with the teacher and take the initiative in completing the missed work. Parents are not to give tests to their children at home without prior explicit approval from the teacher.

Student Check-Out Policy

If it is necessary for a student to leave school early, a parent must sign the student out at the school office. The office will communicate with the teacher and give permission for the student to be released. Teachers are not permitted to release a student to anyone before the student has been signed out in the school office. A child is never to be released to anyone other than a parent until the office has been contacted and explicit permission has been received from a parent. For student drivers, parents must email: frontdesk@CherokeeClassicalChristianSchool.org, to give written permission for the student to leave campus. Student drivers must sign out AND confirm parent permission at the front desk before leaving campus early.

VISITORS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

All visitors must sign in and obtain a name tag at the school office for permission to be on campus. Parents wishing to see their child must first contact the school office. Parents wishing to see a teacher should make arrangements with the teacher in advance. Visitors are to stay with their host at all times and are subject to all school rules.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

A. Because Cherokee Classical Christian does not provide transportation service, the responsibility for getting children safely to and from school rests on parents and their designated representatives. Parents are therefore responsible for discerning if road conditions during inclement weather or other emergencies allow for safe travel.

B. In the event of inclement weather, even if Cherokee Classical Christian is officially open for classes, parents who do not believe road conditions in their area permit safe travel should not attempt to get their children to school. They should keep their children at home and notify the school that they are doing so.

C. During times of inclement weather (or other school closing emergencies), Cherokee Classical Christian will use various means of communication (TV news services, website, social media, text services, etc.) regarding starting delays, early dismissals, and cancellations.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

LUNCH

Students are expected to eat lunch at school. When the hot lunch program is available, hot lunches can be purchased in advance from the school or the student can bring lunch from home. If your child forgets his/her lunch, you will be contacted about bringing a lunch to school or be charged for a hot lunch for an additional fee. Parents wanting to eat lunch at school with their child for a special occasion (birthday) should make arrangements with the teacher in advance.

STUDENT HEALTH AND MEDICATION POLICY

Student Health

All students attending Cherokee Classical Christian must have on file with the school office all medical reporting forms required by Georgia state law, including immunization records and birth certificates.

1. We ask parents to use caution and discretion when making decisions regarding whether or not you or your child should come to school. Please keep sick kids at home until they are well and expect to be called if your child is sick at school. It is expected that students are sent to school healthy, well-rested, and ready for class. Students with fevers, diarrhea, contagious viruses, severe colds, and the like will be sent home to avoid infecting others.
 - Anyone with a fever ($>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$) must remain at home until they are fever-free for 24 hours.
 - Anyone experiencing vomiting must remain at home until vomiting has ceased for 24 hours.
2. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 should remain at home until they are fever-free and asymptomatic for 24 hours (Parents wishing to follow a more cautious approach are welcome to follow the more stringent [CDC guidelines](#), but Cherokee Classical Christian does not require this).
 - Cherokee Classical Christian supports voluntary mask wearing and honors parent decisions on this matter (Cherokee Classical Christian does not require this).
3. Students who are lethargic, tired, and unable to do their schoolwork will be sent home for needed rest and recuperation.
4. Parents must provide the school with emergency numbers of friends and/or family who can pick up their child from school if the child becomes ill.
5. Other forms necessary for student health records can be obtained from the school office. They are:
 - a. Emergency Form: Lists the emergency contact names and phone numbers of people who may need notification in a medical emergency.
 - b. Medication Administration Form: see below.

Medication Distribution

1. Prescription and over-the-counter medication will be administered to students only at the written request of the parent. Parents must complete a Medication Administration Form before any medication can be distributed to a student. All medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, must be in the original pharmaceutical container labeled with the student's name and dosage directions.
2. All medication (prescription and over-the-counter) taken by students must be administered by one of the following:

- a. A Cherokee Classical Christian staff person designated by the administration or the parent(s) of the student.
 - b. No student will be permitted to administer any form (prescription or over-the-counter) of medication to himself/herself or any other student except as indicated below.
3. Upper School students may be permitted to carry and self-administer some over-the-counter medications (e.g. Advil or Tylenol) with written parental permission.
4. Students who require medication on an as needed basis through the use of an inhaler or Epi-Pen will be permitted to self-medicate if the following conditions have been met.
 - a. A physician has determined that the student should carry the medical inhaler or Epi-Pen on his or her person and self-administer the medication. Physician's orders need to be on file with the school office.
 - b. Parents must complete the prescription medication administration form and indicate that "the student is able to self-administer and carry the inhaler/Epi-Pen and has been trained in its use."
5. Upper School students may carry and self-administer over-the-counter cough drops and throat lozenges with a hand-written note from their parents or with verbal permission from the parents to the student's teacher. Over-the-counter cough drops and throat lozenges do not require completion of a Medication Administration Form.

Child Abuse

If there is reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred, Cherokee Classical Christian is required by law to report or cause reports of such abuse to be made.

CHEROKEE CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

I, _____, hereby affirm that I have read the Student Parent Handbook and discussed its policies with my student. I certify that I consent to and will submit to all governing policies of Cherokee Classical Christian School, including all applicable policies in the Student Parent Handbook.

I understand the standards of the school do not tolerate profanity, obscenity in word or action, dishonor to the Holy Trinity and the Word of God, disrespect to the personnel of the school, or continued disobedience to the established policies of the school.

I understand the courses, programs, services, and activities of Cherokee Classical Christian School are engaged by mutual consent. I understand that Cherokee Classical Christian School reserves the right to terminate any or all courses, programs, services, and activities at any time. I understand that I have the right to withdraw my student(s) from Cherokee Classical Christian School at any time. I understand that this Student Parent Handbook does not contractually bind Cherokee Classical Christian School and is subject to change without notice by decision of Cherokee Classical Christian School's Board of Directors. Admission to Cherokee Classical Christian School is a privilege, not a right, and admission for one school year does not guarantee automatic admission for future school years.

Parent Signature

Date

Students in Grades 7 – 12, please read the following statement carefully and sign below to indicate your agreement.

I, _____, hereby affirm that I have read the Student Parent Handbook. I certify that I consent to, and will submit to, all governing policies of Cherokee Classical Christian School, including all applicable policies in the Student Parent Handbook.

I understand that this Student Parent Handbook does not contractually bind Cherokee Classical Christian School and is subject to change without notice by decision of Cherokee Classical Christian School's Board of Directors.

Admission to Cherokee Classical Christian School is a privilege, not a right, and that any behavior, either on or off campus, which is not consistent with Cherokee Classical Christian School's standards could result in the loss of that privilege.

Logic or Rhetoric Student Signature

Date