

Lighthouse Christian Academy



LIGHTHOUSE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Parent/Student
Handbook
2024-2025

2390 Mount Calvary Road
Hoboken, GA 31542

912-722-1167

LCAWaycross.com

School Director: Mrs. Monica Youngblood
Financial Administrator: Mr. Caleb Lyons

Hours of Operation

Main Office: 7:30 A. M. – 3:30 P. M.

Early Drop-off (K5-12): 7:00 A. M. – 7:30 A. M.

Half Day Preschool (K3-K4) 8:00 A. M. – 12:00 A. M.

Elementary School (K to grade 6) 8:00 A. M. – 3:00 P. M.

Secondary School (grades 7 – 12) 8:00 A. M. – 3:10 P. M.

Colors: Black, Gold, White

Mascot: Patriot

Accredited through Georgia Accrediting Commission.

In-process of accreditation through the Georgia Association of Christian Schools.

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History of Lighthouse Christian Academy

Lighthouse Christian Academy was created after the closing of Southside Christian School, a local school that had served as a lighthouse to the community for 42 years. After seeking a location for several months, the generous people of Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Hoboken, GA reached out and offered to share their facility. LCA moved in on June 11, 2024 and we will begin our first school year on August 8, 2024. We are excited to be the LIGHT!

Statement of Faith of Lighthouse Christian Academy

- ❖ Lighthouse Christian Academy considers the Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and the sole authority in matters of faith and practice.
- ❖ We believe that the Bible is God's Word, that it was written by men divinely inspired and that it is the supreme, infallible authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- ❖ We believe in God the Father, perfect in Holiness, infinite in Wisdom, measureless in Power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, of Virgin Birth, sinless in life, making atonement for the sins of the world by His death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension and visible, premillennial return to the world, according to His promise.
- ❖ We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life;" (John 3:16) we believe, therefore, that those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Savior will be forever separated from God.
- ❖ We believe in the church - a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head, and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a local church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, immersed in a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that to these local churches were committed, for perpetual observance, the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that God has laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior, and the enthroning of Him as Lord and Master. We believe that all human betterment and social improvements are the inevitable by-products of such a Gospel.

School Policy Statement

Lighthouse Christian Academy is governed by an Executive Board consisting of parents, community members, and members of our church host, Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, who have been selected to serve. Parents are required to cooperate fully with the school policies as set forth in this handbook.

FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

(Mission, Vision, and Belief Statements)

MISSION STATEMENT:

Lighthouse Christian Academy's mission is to glorify God by providing Christian education, while spiritually grounding students with a worldview drawn from the truth of scripture.

VISION STATEMENT:

The vision of Lighthouse Christian Academy is to academically prepare graduates to become servant leaders who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Students will be instructed to demonstrate Godly character and Biblical stewardship.

BELIEF STATEMENT

The purpose of Lighthouse Christian Academy is to excel in the following areas:

SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE - Bible

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Lighthouse Christian Academy will:

- Endeavor to lead students into a personal, saving relationship with Christ as Lord and Savior and to develop in them a desire to know and do the will of God.
- Govern itself according to Biblical principles and will integrate the Bible into every aspect of the school's life.
- Use a Bible curriculum that teaches sound doctrine and equips students to defend their faith.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2

Lighthouse Christian Academy will:

- Train and encourage students to apply the qualities of Christ in their own lives.
- Equip students to communicate their faith to others.
- Apply discipline and behavior standards based on Biblical principles that lead to Christ-likeness in students' lives.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding." Proverbs 4:7

Lighthouse Christian Academy will:

- Develop an entire educational program that is based on the truths of God's Word and the preeminence of Jesus Christ.

- Use curriculum and methods in the classroom that reflect God's truth and prepare students for a life of service for Christ.
- Challenge students to develop a Biblical worldview so that they will be able to intellectually engage the culture for Christ.
- Provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where students are actively engaged and challenged in their learning.
- Provide a curriculum that is defined by clear goals and high expectations so that students can achieve success that is measurable and clearly communicated.
- Cultivate a deeper appreciation for fine arts.
- Encourage students into college and career pathways.

SOCIAL EXCELLENCE

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Lighthouse Christian Academy will:

- Encourage students to demonstrate through thought, word, and action God's call to love one another.
- Challenge students to cultivate healthy relationships and enduring friendships in an enjoyable and Spirit-filled environment.
- Support students as they cultivate healthy relationships with others.
- Inspire students to develop authentic and infectious love for their school.
- Provide an opportunity for students to voice their opinions and ideas in the context of a Biblical worldview.

PHYSICAL EXCELLENCE

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Lighthouse Christian Academy will:

- Stimulate students to practice and value the benefits of regular exercise.
- Provide students with a variety of physical activities including competitive sports.
- Motivate students to participate in athletics and other physical activities to their highest potential while demonstrating Christ-like character and sportsmanship.

Why the Christian School?

Parents are mandated by God to educate their children. Children are gifts from God (Psalm 127: 3-5). Parents are responsible to "train up" their children in the way of the Lord and not in the way of the world (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4). God's people are told "Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain" (Jeremiah 10:2-3). Proverbs 19:27 states: "Cease my son to hear the instruction that (causes one) to err from the words of knowledge." It is obvious that God has been very careful to instruct and warn parents as to the type of education a child is to receive.

In God's economy of things, He has ordained three basic instructions: the family, the church, and the state. In fulfilling parental responsibility for the education of children, the family usually seeks help and support from one of those institutions outside the home. Since there is no Biblical authority for the state being involved in education, the creation of a Christian school under the direction of a church serves as an extension of the home in assisting the parents in fulfilling their Christian responsibility to "train up" their children.

Our Philosophy of Christian Education

Lighthouse Christian Academy starts with the premise that only Christian education is complete education. This premise is based on the fact that only Christian education deals with all the dimensions of life as viewed from a Biblical perspective.

Reality - God is the personal and purposeful Creator. Reality in life involves the understanding that God is real and is active in the lives of men and women today.

Truth - All truth is God's truth. Truth is consistent throughout the universe. Truth exists and is an absolute. God has shown Himself through His Scripture, and man's understanding of truth comes through a study of the inspired Word of God and an understanding of His creation.

Knowledge - All knowledge must be put in the context of Bible truth. Any knowledge or personal conviction which serves as a guiding principle in an individual's life must be based on truth as revealed in God's inspired Word.

Man - Man was created in the spiritual and moral image and likeness of God. Man's essential nature is his freedom to choose or decide for himself what his behavior will be, what he will think, become, and do. Man's nature and his environment do both good and evil; therefore, he shows his need of special help to choose good and find fulfillment in a reconciled life made possible by Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God.

Christian Education - In order for an educational program to be academically sound and instructionally effective, it must be founded upon Christian principles that recognize the true nature of God, of truth, of knowledge, and of man. Implicit in Christian education are these basic truths:

- ❖ Man does possess a spiritual dimension. (Genesis 1:26, 27)
- ❖ Education involves the total being: spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social. (Proverbs 9:9)
- ❖ Each person possesses unique individual potential, traits, and needs. (Romans 12:3-8)
- ❖ The educational experience must involve, as a primary emphasis, the development of Christian beliefs, attitudes, and skills toward zealous application.
- ❖ An integration of Bible truth will be an inseparable and primary part of the total educational process. Christian concepts will be unified with, inseparable from, and central to the academic offerings.
- ❖ Youth need steady influence while preparing to live in a complex society. Only the Bible has the answers to man's needs and longings, and therefore, will

serve as our final authority on all questions.

General Purpose

It has always been a part of God's plan that parents are ultimately responsible for the education and development of their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children...; and Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers,...bring them (your children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.").

The general purpose of the Lighthouse Christian Academy is to assist parents with this God-given responsibility, and to assist the student in discovering and developing his individual uniqueness and talents. The Lighthouse Christian Academy will guide and establish learning experiences that will assist each student to become a mature Christian person, as well as a responsible and productive member of society.

Parental Support

Our school does not serve young people only, but rather we focus on the product of the family. For this purpose, we desire to stay in close contact with the home. The parents and school must both be guiding the child in the same direction to get the desired results. We are here only to assist the family in the education of children, NOT to take the place of the family responsibility.

We ask that you understand our objectives fully. If our school has certain objectives, and parents have others, conflicts will arise which will result in frustration in the child and criticism of the school and its staff. Our Christian faith must extend to every area of our lives, and your children will be taught this by the testimony of our staff. We ask that you do not criticize the school for its policies and procedures. The teachers, staff, and administrators are ordinary human beings with extraordinary responsibilities. Their service in the Christian school is motivated by a deep desire to communicate those spiritual, academic, and other lessons of life which will be most beneficial to your child.

If it appears that we have been arbitrary or wrong in dealing with your child, we would urge that your first effort be to determine the total situation and the reasoning that directed our decision. When we are at fault, we try to accept your counsel and correct the mistake. Where our evaluation of the total situation compels us to stand firm, we will try to do so graciously. Parental criticism and downgrading the school administration or faculty in the hearing of your children may destroy their respect for the school. When respect for authority is diminished by careless parental words or actions, the school can contribute little more to the development and education of the child.

A dynamic work such as education has inherent problems involved with it. These problems must be approached and solved in an orderly manner. This brings parents and teachers to the application of Christian ethics. One of the strengths of Christian schools is the way parents and teachers cooperate in working and praying through problems. Problems are solved on a spiritual and practical level.

Follow these suggested guidelines:

- ❖ Have a spirit of cooperation and understanding.
- ❖ Do not entertain gossip or hearsay about teachers, students, or problems having to do with the school.
- ❖ Encourage your child to do his best, but don't expect more than he is able to achieve.
- ❖ Take an interest in the activities of the school.
- ❖ Criticize only to the appropriate personnel of the school, and then only in a constructive manner.
- ❖ Pray for the staff, teachers, and administrators of the school.
- ❖ Pray for wisdom in rearing your child.
- ❖ If it should happen that you do have a complaint, please express it only to the person who is directly responsible. (Please follow Matthew 18.)
- ❖ If you hear a complaint, take it to the person directly responsible.

General Information

Accreditation

Lighthouse Christian Academy is in the process of accreditation through the Georgia Accrediting Commission and the Georgia Association of Christian Schools.

Once approved, Lighthouse Christian Academy's accreditation will be recognized by the following:

Georgia Board of Education:

All schools provisionally or fully accredited by GACS are entitled to benefits, including transfer of grades and credits to public schools, on the same basis as students from public schools. No additional tests over and above those required by public school students will have to be taken by students from GACS accredited schools.

Georgia Board of Regents:

The Georgia Board of Regents has approved graduates from GACS provisionally or fully accredited schools for entrance to colleges of the University System of Georgia.

Georgia Student Finance Commission (HOPE Scholarship):

Students taking the required credits as provided by Georgia law and maintaining the required GPA may be eligible for the HOPE scholarship. Students must take the required level of rigorous courses to qualify.

Admissions/Transfer

1. The student's parents or legal guardians who are responsible for the student's behavior and tuition must complete the application for the student. All students are required to live with their parents or legal guardians.

2. Lighthouse will consider students transferring from other Christian schools, public schools, and home schools who have not been expelled or facing long-term suspension.
3. Acceptance of the student is based in part on a personal interview with parents and students (sixth grade and up) and recommendations from either an official at another school or church concerning character, attitude, and aptitude. In addition, acceptance is not final until the administrator or his/her designee has received written documentation from the school in which the student has most recently attended.
4. The administrator will examine the transcript to ensure the student is on track for the grade for which the student is applying. The administrator, based on evaluation of the transcript and parent request, may determine the most appropriate grade level.
5. If the administrator determines not to allow a student to be admitted, a faculty committee consisting of the lead teachers and one or more board members will listen to any appeals from the parents (or guardians) of such a decision.
6. The following items are needed BEFORE admission is completed:
 - Transcript from previous school that includes immunization, EED form and birth certificate
 - Copy of student's most recent report card, behavior record, attendance record, and any IEP or 504 plans.
 - Available standardized test results
 - Copy of social security card
7. Upon notification of tentative acceptance, enrollment is secured only when the school office receives the following:
 - Completed and signed admissions contract
 - Enrollment fee due upon acceptance
8. Updated health records must be on file by the first day of school of each subsequent year (immunization and birth certificate).
9. Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions procedures, or other school-administered programs.
10. A non-refundable enrollment fee is due at acceptance. All accounts are due on the 1st day of the month. After the 1st of each month, a late fee of \$25 will be charged. Students may be dismissed from LCA if the account is a full month in delinquency.
11. Financial information including tuition and enrollment fees is shared in the application and re-enrollments documents. Any questions should be directed to the financial administrator.
12. When students transfer to other schools, the school will assist the receiving school in making the transition to the new school. Such assistance will include, but not be limited to, evaluation of work completed, credits earned, tests complete, attendance, records transfer and other pertinent information. However, the school has the right to withhold records until all obligations, such as financial, have been met.
13. Preschool students should have reached 3 or 4 years old by September 1st of that year to enroll in a class.
14. Lighthouse Christian Academy will not consider a preschool student who is not fully toilet trained, out of diapers and relatively accident free. This also runs in conjunction with Lighthouse Christian Academy's policy on Student Health.

After-school Care

After-school care is offered for students in K5-6 grades during the hours of 3:15-6:00 PM. Students beyond the sixth grade should be picked up by 3:15 or be under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Attendance

Absences – The State of Georgia has established the criteria concerning attendance. Students are to miss no more than twenty days a year or ten days in a semester in order to receive credit for coursework completed. Any exemptions must be reviewed by the administrative team consisting of the school administrator, lead teacher/counselor, and one other teacher.

An absence is considered excused if a physician's note of explanation is given; or in case of death in the family, personal emergency, or court order. Students who refuse to give a reason or give reasons other than those above are said to be unexcused. Attendance is taken and monitored by day in grades K-5 and in grades 6-12 it is taken by class period. Check outs are considered absences in the classes missed. Parents should avoid waiting until the end of a grading period, semester, or academic year to turn in excuses.

Planned absences should be discussed with the administrator or guidance counselor in advance. Efforts will be made to get assignments to the students before the planned absence, if possible. The student will be responsible for make-up work. A Pre-Excused Absence Form is available, but will excuse no more than 10 days per year.

Parents should call the school office as early as possible if you would like the teacher to give missed assignments. Efforts will be made to list the assignments from that day and the student should work on these as much as possible and submit to the teacher as early as possible.

Students missing more than half of the school day may not participate in practices or games of extracurricular activities.

Tardies - It is important that students always be on time to school and to classes. By being prompt, the student demonstrates self-discipline and responsibility. Self-discipline in this area is not only important for proper academic achievement, but it is essential for the development of personal habits which are characteristics of success and good citizenship in every walk of life. Excused tardiness will be considered by the administration, if there is a legitimate reason, and will not penalize the student. Unexcused tardiness will result in disciplinary action taken against the student. We need parents of students who are not driving to make every effort to have students on campus by 7:55. Students should check-in at the school office before reporting promptly to the correct teacher. Tardiness by students who drive may result in a loss of driving privileges.

Each student is to be seated at the time for the class period. A student is considered tardy if he is late to class or not seated.

Tardy Policy

For K5-5th Grade-Late arrival (tardy) refers to a student who is not in his or her classroom by 8:00 am. If a student's total number of tardies reaches 15, the administration will review the situation and collaborate with parents to outline a strategy to avoid future tardies for the remainder of the school year.

For 6th-12th Grade-The tardy policy for our middle and high school students is found below. There is no additional academic penalty. Excused tardies (ET) do not warrant a demerit. ET's require a note from a teacher, parent, doctor, etc. The penalties will reset each 9 weeks.

Per 9 weeks:

<u>Unexcused Tardies</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
3 tardies	Parent phone call
5 tardies	Parent phone Call/1 day of ISS/Before or After School Detention
10 tardies	Parent phone Call/2 days of ISS/ Before or After School Detention
Over 10 tardies	1 Day of OSS per each additional 5 tardies/1 demerit per day/If a student driver, loss of driving privileges for the rest of the 9 weeks.

Traffic is NOT an excused reason unless the administration decides to make an exception. Students who accumulate tardies will be addressed by the administration according to the usual discipline system including letters home, detention, behavior contracts, suspension, etc. Students who miss more than one third of a class period will be counted as absent for that class period.

Skipping Class - Skipping class is defined as an absence without the knowledge and consent of parents and/or the school staff. This includes leaving without permission before the end of the school day or staying out of any scheduled class without permission. Such action will be seriously dealt with by the school administration; and may include, but not be limited to, suspension or dismissal. Any class absences due to skipping will be considered unexcused.

Checking Out Early - *Checking out of school early is strongly discouraged.* All appointments should be scheduled after school hours if possible. However, if it is necessary for a child to be taken from school, one of the following procedures should be followed:

- If it is known ahead of time, make the request in writing and send it with your child.
- Call the school receptionist to inform her of your plans.
- Come to the school office and directly request permission to check out your child.

Any student leaving without signing out will be considered skipping school. This includes students who leave for an extracurricular activity before the time established by the coach and approved by the administrator.

Students who check out from school (other than for medical/dental appointments) may not return to campus. This prohibition means that they may not return for after-school functions, including sports, fine arts, and/or academic practice, competitions, or performances.

Withdrawal from School - All withdrawals must go through the school office. Students who withdraw from school in any month will be responsible for the tuition for that month. No grades or credits for courses will be forwarded if there is an outstanding balance. Parents/guardians must come in and fill out a withdrawal form.

Cell Phone

Students who possess and/or use a cell phone at school must follow the guidelines listed below. Any violation of these guidelines may result in the phone being taken from the student, loss of the privilege to have a cell phone at school, loss of the cell phone until a parent can pick it up, detention, and possible suspension. The punishment will be based on the number of offenses per semester.

The following rules must be observed in connection to any cell phone possession or use at school or any school related event:

- Students should put phones in the location designated by the classroom teacher (basket, table, bag, locker, etc).
- Cell phones are not to be used in any location during the school day (restroom, locker rooms, or hallways) without permission.

The illegal use of a cell phone is likely to be referred to law enforcement. Illegal use includes but is not limited to sexting, cyberbullying, and harassment.

Chapel

Chapel will be scheduled throughout the year. This is a time of singing songs with an evangelistic message or presentation. Speakers may include the pastor, staff members, or invited guests. These guests must agree with the doctrinal beliefs of Lighthouse Christian Academy. Chapel attendance is required of all full-time students. Students are required to bring their Bible with them.

Class Parties

Class parties or student gatherings may be scheduled throughout the year to celebrate holidays or special events. Parents will be notified of these by the teacher or school administration.

Curriculum Resources

Lighthouse Christian Academy uses a variety of curriculum resources. The Abeka Preschool curriculum is used in our half-day K3 and K4 programs. The primary textbooks for K5-12 include Apologia, A Beka, BJU Press, Institute for Excellence in Writing, Positive Action, and Summit Ministries. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback on the curriculum resources that are used.

Discipline

Learning without discipline is impossible. Disciplinary measures will be enforced in order to maintain decency, order, and the proper environment for Christian character and academic training. Forms of discipline will include loss of privileges, extra assignments, custodial duties, lunch detention, suspension (in or out of school), and expulsion.

Every measure will be taken to ensure that the disciplinary measure used will correspond to the nature of the offense.

Below is a list of possible offenses and consequent steps taken in addition to demerits..

Level 1 & 2 Offenses = Verbal Warning(s) & Redirection

Level 3 Offenses = Student Conference

Level 4 Offenses = Parent Conference

Level 5 Offenses = Administrator Involvement

Level 6 Offenses = Administrator or Board Involvement

Level 1 Offenses (1 or 2 demerits)

- 1 Demerit
 - Littering
 - Unprepared for class
 - Gum, candy, or drinks
- 2 Demerits
 - Not paying attention or talking without permission in class
 - In hall without a teacher's pass
 - Wearing hats in the main building or classrooms
 - Inappropriate classroom behavior
 - Dress Code violation (modesty issue held out of class until corrected)

Level 2 Offenses (3 demerits)

- Electronic devices including phones, games, and music
- Failure to follow directions
- Class disruptions
- Horseplay (pushing, shoving, running, etc)
- Going to the parking lot without permission
- Writing on school property (desks, lockers, etc)
- More than 5 minutes late to class
- Sleeping in class
- Leaving class without permission

Level 3 Offenses (5 demerits)

- Cell Phone (confiscated)
- Loud music in student parking lot
- Inappropriate books, magazines, or computer games (confiscated)
- Using or writing inappropriate language

- Leaving for lunch without teacher permission
- Lying to staff member
- Self-medication
- Excessive horseplay
- Poor judgment

Level 4 Offenses (10 demerits)

- Physical altercation
- Profanity toward others (spoken or written)
- Speeding or reckless driving on campus (2nd offense results in loss of privileges)
- Sneaking into events without paying admission
- Tampering or damaging property of others
- Arguing with a staff member/disrespect (5-10 demerits)
- Willful disobedience
- Skipping class
- Copying homework
- Leaving school at lunch without permission

Level 5 Offenses (15 demerits)

- First offense of cheating "0" on work
- Public display of affection (5-15 demerits)
- Physical contact (hitting a student)
- Harassment/Bullying (5-15 demerits)
- Carry or use of tobacco products *on or off campus*
- Skipping School (Leaving or not reporting to school)
- Forging parent or teacher signature or shielding communication from teacher to parent
- Gambling
- Pretending to use illegal drugs or alcohol
- Fighting on Campus (first offense) 15 demerits & 3 days OSS

Level 6 Offenses (Consequence can depend on the severity of the incident)

- Conspiring to cheat "0" on work
- Multiple/Subsequent acts of cheating - punishment up to expulsion
- Stealing/multiple acts of stealing - punishment up to expulsion
- Breaking in or vandalizing the campus or property on campus - punishment up to expulsion
- Possession of pornographic or lewd materials on campus, including accessed via the internet - punishment up to expulsion
- Threats of physical abuse to teacher, staff, students, or property - punishment up to expulsion
- Second offense of fighting on campus - **Expulsion**
- Bringing a gun or any personal item considered to be a weapon - **Expulsion**
- Bring or using alcoholic beverages on or off campus - **Expulsion**

- Vaping or having vaping paraphernalia - **Expulsion**
- Acts of immorality on or off campus - **Expulsion**
- Arrest or referral to the juvenile justice system - **Expulsion**
- Felony Arrest - **Expulsion**
- Misdemeanor arrest or juvenile court charges - Reviewed by administration team

**In School Suspension: Students will receive a one-letter grade penalty on all assignments, homework, tests, or projects.*

***Out of School Suspension: Students will receive a zero on assigned work and homework while out of school. Major tests and projects will be permitted but will receive a one-letter grade penalty.*

Accumulations of Demerits:

- 5 demerits = 1 day of lunch detention per every 3 demerits
- 15 demerits = 1 day of ISS
- 30 demerits = 2 days of ISS, Behavioral probation for next semester
- 40 demerits = 1 day of OSS, conference with family required to return
- 50 demerits = Student will be expelled.

Note: In all areas of discipline, the Administration reserves the right to decide the penalty, suspension, or expulsion for any offense not listed, depending on the severity of the offense. Tiered consequences listed in the discipline code are listed as the *minimum* penalties.

Items listed in bold above will result in expulsion from Lighthouse Christian Academy without refund of any fees. The student will not be allowed to reapply without permission from the Executive Board.

Enrollment in the school implies full agreement with the discipline policy and its application to students. Please understand a student makes a behavioral choice when a school rule or policy is violated. Suspensions are viewed as a result of such choices. Character training, accountability, and fairness to all students demand a quick, non-negotiable consequence by the school.

Lighthouse Christian Academy has a “Zero Drug Tolerance” program in place for the protection of our students. Illegal drug use or possession on campus is a serious offense and requires immediate expulsion. The school reserves the right, with or without parent consent, to search any student’s locker, desk, or any vehicle driven to school by a student. The school also reserves the right, with or without consent, to have the contents of any student’s personal effects examined, including but not limited to backpacks, purses, and pockets.

Immoral Conduct

In recognition of Biblical commands, no immoral conduct will be tolerated in any form and will constitute grounds for expulsion. This includes any actions that might be viewed as fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, or pornography. (Genesis 2:24, Genesis 19:5, Genesis 19:13, Genesis 26: 8-9, Leviticus 18: 1-30, Romans 1: 26-29, 1 Corinthians 5: 1)

Definition of “immoral conduct” - Bodily contact, actively undertaken or passively permitted, between members of the opposite sex or members of the same sex for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires and any bodily contact that a reasonable person would understand to demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in an immoral or homosexual act.

Preschool Discipline Plan

For students in preschool (PK 3, and PK 4), each teacher will develop a classroom behavior plan consistent with the general policies of the school. This policy shall be communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year or as the student enrolls during a school year. The discipline plan shall include time out, parent contact, parent conference, detention, suspension, and expulsion.

Elementary Discipline Plan

For students in elementary school (K-5 to 6th grade), each teacher will develop their classroom behavior plan consistent with the general policies of the school. This policy shall be communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year or as the student enrolls during a school year. The discipline plan shall include time out, parent contact, parent conference, detention, suspension, and expulsion.

Students who have shown a tendency to misbehave may not be allowed to attend field trips or athletic events if determined by the appropriate level teachers or school administrator.

Secondary Discipline Plan

For students in the secondary grades (7th – 12th), each teacher develops a classroom behavior plan consistent with the general policies of the school. This policy shall be communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year or as the student enrolls. The secondary lead teacher and/or school administrator will have final authority on matters of discipline at level 3 or higher.

Students who have shown a tendency to misbehave may not be allowed to attend field trips or athletic events if determined by the appropriate level teachers or school administrator. Patterns of repeated misbehavior may result in probation or expulsion from Lighthouse Christian Academy.

Dress Code

A student’s appearance should reflect the impression that formal learning is important enough to call for neatness in dress. Style in clothing should indicate a serious academic purpose on the part of the student. Our standards for dress and grooming are in keeping with the high Christian ideals which we seek to establish in those who attend Southside. The Bible says our dress should be modest (1 Timothy 2:9), not to be too elaborate (1 Peter 3:3-4), and that we should do everything in our lives for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). In other words, our clothing and the way we wear it should reflect our effort to please God.

The following guidelines do not attempt to embrace every conceivable situation in the realm of dress. The school reserves the right to make final decisions regarding any areas not covered in the dress code. Direct any questions about the intent or provisions of the dress code to the School Administration. Improper dress will result in the student being given a garment to wear over the improper dress. Continual dress violations will result in suspension

or expulsion. If changes are made throughout the school year, these will be communicated to the parents.

Dress Code 2024-2025

Shirts	<p>Students may wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collared oxford or polo shirts ● Shirts are to be buttoned. Only the top button may be unbuttoned. ● Name brand logos should be no larger than the size of a fist. ● Sheer material or styles too form-fitting are not appropriate. ● Female students may wear blouses. ● Friday: Lighthouse, Christian, or solid t-shirts may be worn.
Outerwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may wear all zip-up and button type jacket styles, including hoodies. Shirts fitting the dress code must be worn underneath coats, jackets, and sweaters. ● Use of jackets and hoodies in the classroom will be determined by the classroom teacher.
Shorts/Pants	<p>Students may wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pants and shorts which are neat, hemmed, and free of holes or frayed edges. ● Shorts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee. ● Fridays: Jeans and denim fabrics are allowed. <p>Students may not wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sweatpants, pajama bottoms, spandex, jogging pants, cut-offs, short shorts, or athletic shorts during the academic school day. ● Leggings as pants. Leggings can only be worn with a dress or skirt no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
Dresses/Skirts	<p>Female students may wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dresses with attached sleeves and jumpers with appropriate shirts ● Dresses and skirts should be no more than 2 inches from the top of the knee.
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shoes must be worn at all times. ● Tennis shoes are required for P.E.
Hairstyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hair must be clean, neatly groomed, and out of the eyes. Male students' hair should be trimmed to the nape of the neck. Neatly groomed facial hair is acceptable. ● Wild or extreme hairstyles or unusual hair colors are not allowed.

<p>Accessories/ General Rules</p>	<p>Students may not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have piercings (except girls' ears), gauging, or tattoos. ● Wear hats, caps, blankets, sunglasses, or bandanas while in the building during the school day. ● Wear clothing from or representing other local schools. <i>However, clothing representing other local churches is acceptable on Fridays.</i> ● Wear clothing that doesn't conform to the student's physique by being too tight or excessively baggy. Undergarments should not be visible at any time.
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Preschool students should wear appropriate play clothes and shoes safe for running, jumping, or climbing. Parents should leave rings, bracelets, money, and toys at home. Parents need to bring an extra set of proper seasonal clothes in case of accidents.

Consequences of Dress Code violations:

- First Offense: Warning and change
- Second Offense: Consequences, change, and phone parents
- Third and thereafter: Consequences. Students will dress by dress code or face suspension.
- Above guidelines are subject to change at the faculty and administration's discretion.

Emergency Drills

On a regular basis, the administration performs drills to prepare students for emergency situations such as fire, tornado, and campus or local crisis. Students should follow the directives of all staff members during such drills.

Emergency School Closing

Emergency situations may warrant closing school. In most cases, this will be due to heavy rains or storms which make roads unsafe or impassable. In case of such closing, information will be shared with the local radio stations by 7:30 the day of school. These closures will also be spread through the school Facebook page and Remind messages or alerts. In the event cancellation is decided the day before, parents will be notified by the homeroom teacher.

Grading and Report Cards

Pre-school students will not receive a traditional progress report or report card. Four year olds will be assessed at the beginning and at the end of the year by A Beka guidelines.

Progress Reports – Current assignments will be available to parents through the My School Worx program. All students will receive a progress report at the halfway point of the quarter.

Report Cards – The purpose of our reporting system is to give parents an accurate indication of the progress achieved by their child(ren). Each child's scholarship, attitude, and work ethic are considered in the report card grades. Report cards will be issued at the end of each quarter.

Grading Scale – The following scale will be used on progress reports and report cards:

A 90% - 100%

B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
F	69% and below

Conduct Scale—The following Scale will be used on progress reports and report cards to evaluate conduct in the classroom:

E	Excellent
G	Good
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
U	Unsatisfactory

Teachers use a weighted grading Scale when calculating a student's grade for all academic reports (progress reports/report cards) issued to the students. Teacher assessments include but are not limited to: exams, tests, quizzes, projects, book reports, and other daily assignments.

Weighting System:

Tests-40%
Quizzes-30%
Daily Grades-30%

Extra credit is given at the discretion of the teacher; however, it can only be used to raise a grade before the end of the grading period. Extra credit will not be given to students that have a low grade as a result of not turning in homework, projects, etc.

6-12 *grade* Syllabus – Teachers will provide a syllabus at the beginning of the school year that explains the types and weights of grades in the course. Students who enter after the beginning of the year will receive a copy of the syllabus shortly after they enter.

Achievement Testing-

Lighthouse Christian Academy utilizes the IOWA (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) Standardized Tests to measure the student's abilities and progress through the year. The results of this test are used by the teachers and administration to help improve the curriculum where needed. All students, K5-12 (12th graders are exempt if they have signed up to take the SAT or ACT College Entrance Tests) are given the IOWA tests in the spring to measure students academic achievement.

Honor Roll – An honor roll is compiled at the end of each quarter and the academic year. All academic subjects, including Bible, are considered in determining the honor roll. Honor roll statuses include All A's, A/B, and A/B Average. Any student with a "C" or incomplete will be ineligible for All A's and A/B honor roll. Any student with a "C" is eligible for the A/B average award.

Honor Graduates – The student with the highest grade point average maintained during the four years of high school will be designated Valedictorian. The student with the second highest grade point average maintained through four years of high school will be designated as Salutatorian. These students must have been in high school attendance at Lighthouse

Christian Academy for at least two full years. In the event no student has a 90 or above average, the administrator may determine against naming a Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian.

Graduation Requirements

Lighthouse Christian Academy provides two diplomas. The Regular Education Diploma is for students who are interested in attending a college or university and are attempting to earn a college prep diploma. The career diploma is for students who plan to enter the workforce or military upon graduation. Parents of these students will sign a statement of understanding that the student may not be HOPE eligible.

The requirements for a college prep diploma include:

English/Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics (at or above Algebra 1)	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Bible/Biblical Worldview	4 credits
Foreign Language (same language)	2 credits
Health/Physical Education	1 credit
<u>Computer Apps/Fine Arts/Elective</u>	<u>2 credits</u>
Total Number of Credits	24 credits

The requirements for a career diploma include:

English/Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Bible/Biblical Worldview	4 credits
Health/Physical Education	1 credit
Computer Apps/Fine Arts/Elective	2 credits
<u>Foreign Language (same language)</u>	<u>2 credits</u>
Total Number of Credits	24 credits

Promotion/Retention

The final grading period ends on the last full day of class. Report cards will be released through the PraxiSchool system. You may pick up a physical copy of your child’s report card up to six working days after the final day of school. If you wish to have a physical copy mailed to your address, please leave a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your child’s teacher prior to the last day of school. The report card will notify the parent as to whether the student has been promoted or retained. The school strives to in most cases to have already been in contact with parents if retention was a possibility for the student.

To enter grade:	Must have earned:
10	6 credits
11	12 credits

12
Graduate

18 credits
23 credits

Financial Requirements: All financial obligations must be met before a student may participate in graduation.

Dual Enrollment: Students are encouraged to take classes through Coastal Pines Technical College or South Georgia State College in their junior and/or senior years. Students must receive permission from the administrator or guidance counselor prior to enrolling in these courses and be in good academic standing, passing all classes. Students will receive TEN extra bonus points for each academic course successfully completed under dual enrollment. *If you are taking a dual enrollment class, please schedule for after 12:00 pm.*

Independent Study: These courses must be needed for graduation and are not offered at any time the student can take it. No credit will be given for independent study without prior approval of the administrator and/or guidance counselor.

Harassment and Bullying

Lighthouse Christian Academy is committed to a safe educational environment for all students, employees and volunteers free from harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation or bullying. "Harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
- Is severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Counseling, corrective discipline, and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator and provide support to the victim. This includes appropriate intervention(s), restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the violation. False reports or retaliation for harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation or bullying also constitutes violations of this policy.

Homework

Believing that homework is an integral part of the school program, each teacher determines the appropriate amount of student homework. Reasons for homework include: finishing assignments, drill and review, remediation, enrichment, and preparing for a quiz or exam. Parents are encouraged to support the teachers and students in ensuring that this work is completed.

Internet Use Policy

The use of the school's internet system is considered a privilege and not a right. Students who inappropriately use the internet in any way are subject to penalties ranging from restriction of use of the internet to expulsion from school based on the severity of the infraction. Inappropriate use would include, but not be limited to, inappropriate websites,

web-based chat, instant messaging, or blog programs. If there are any questions about what is considered appropriate use, please contact the administrator for more information. This also includes cell phone usage.

Lost and Found

Misplaced student articles will be placed in the school's Lost and Found. Parents or students may check for lost items by checking with the office. Items will also be on display several times throughout the year to provide opportunity for students or parents to claim personal property. Unclaimed articles will be disposed of by donation to charity at the end of each semester.

Lunch

Lighthouse Christian Academy does not offer a lunch program for its students. Parents may send a lunch or bring a lunch and it will be delivered to the child at the appropriate time. *Items that need to be warmed up in a microwave should be limited to 1-2 minutes.*

Media Center

Lighthouse Christian Academy Media Center.

- Secondary students may come to the media center provided they have a valid note from a teacher. Elementary students will come as a class under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher. Preschool students will come as a class under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher.
- Check-outs will be for two weeks at a time. Fines will be imposed for late return or lost books. The fine for a lost book will be an estimate of the retail price of the book.
- Encyclopedias and reference books may not be checked out of the library.
- Students who come to the library are to have a specific purpose, remain as quiet as possible at all times, and remain on task. Any student not following the guidelines will be asked to leave. Failure to leave as directed will result in disciplinary action.
- The media center will also include a limited number of computers for Internet research, videos, and other types of media for student and staff use. Any student using a computer in the media center must have an Internet Usage Form on file.
- Selection of books and media is a continuous process responsive to the needs of a challenging curriculum and the needs of students and staff members. Critical reviews by teachers, media committee, and/or administrator will provide the basis for selection. Not all donations will be accepted.
- The school media committee will include the administrator, media specialist, board member, parent, and high school student.
- Students, parents, and other interested parties may issue challenges to books or videos located in the media center. The process for challenges include:
 - a. Challenge form is completed by student, parent, or interested party. They must state the title of the book, the author's name (if available), and the reasons for the challenge.
 - b. Reasons for challenge may include violation of biblical worldview, inappropriate content or language, graphic violence, or adult situations. Other reasons may also be presented.

c. The media specialist will call for a meeting of the media committee and address the complaint. Copies will be rotated among the committee and after all members have an opportunity to read the book in question, a meeting will be held to determine whether the resource is accepted or rejected. The parent who issued the challenge may or may not be asked to meet with the committee.

d. The media committee will make the final decision on whether or not the book or resource remains.

Medication and Student Health

Students taking oral or prescription medication may bring the medication to school; however, a medical treatment form must be on file in the office or student's classroom. If a student takes daily medication, the medication will be stored and administered in the office or locked in a teacher's cabinet. Students should not share medicine of any type to another student. If so, disciplinary action will be taken.

Parents should inform the teacher of any safety or communicable diseases. Do NOT bring your child to Lighthouse Christian Academy if any of the following:

- Fever of 100°F within the past 24 hours (Students may return when they have been fever free *without* medicine for 24 hours.)
- Vomiting or diarrhea (*may not return for 24 hours after conditions cease*)
- Symptoms of any childhood disease
- Sore throat or persistent cough
- Unexplained rash, skin infection, boils, ringworm, or impetigo
- Pink eye or other contagious eye infections
- Head lice (*proof of treatment must be presented to teacher upon return*)

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The school desires to serve families through the availability of instructors for personal conferences. Please schedule these in advance with the teacher between 3:15 and 3:30 P. M. Conferences should not take place in the car line.

Special Deliveries

Special items (flowers, balloons, etc.) delivered to students during the school day will generally remain in the office and given to students at the end of the school day.

Special Programs

From time to time, Lighthouse Christian Academy offers special programs as opportunities for parents and teachers to become better acquainted. These include programs such as Open Forum, Homecoming, Alumni Night, and Athletic Banquet. Such programs will be announced in advance and all parents and guardians will be invited.

Student Arrival

Early drop-off for students in grades K5-12 is between 7:00 and 7:30 AM at the gym entrance. After 7:30, students will go to their classroom.

Preschool students should arrive no earlier than 8:00 AM through the office door and go directly to their classroom. A parent or guardian must sign the student in on the log provided. An older sibling is not permitted to sign the child in or out.

Student Departure

Pre-school dismisses at 12:00 PM. Parents may pick up Preschool students by parking and entering the main office entrance. A written notice should be sent with any student who will be riding home with anyone other than those listed on the information sheet. Please give the office or teacher written notice of any changes to a student's normal departure procedure.

Also, parents are asked to follow the signs as to entrance and exit.

K5-12 grades dismiss at 3:00 PM. Kindergarten - 6th grade students should be picked at the gym entrance. A written notice should be sent with any student who will be riding home with anyone other than those listed on the information sheet. Please give the office or teacher written notice of any changes to a student's normal departure procedure. It is requested that parents DO NOT line up prior to 2:45 in the afternoon. Also, parents are asked to follow the signs as to entrance and exit.

Student Drivers

Students who drive to school must remember that a campus-parking permit is granted through the administration and that on-campus driving permission is a privilege. Student drivers must have a copy of their driver's license on file by October 1 of the current school year. Safe driving guidelines must be followed at all times. The school is not responsible for damage to vehicles. Students will be issued a permit and parking place. The permit must be placed on the student's vehicle. The cost to replace the student's parking permit is \$10.

Student Records

School records of former students are kept on campus for five years. Transcripts are kept for seven years for regular education students and ten years for special education students. In the event that Lighthouse Christian Academy would close, the student records will be turned over to the appropriate boards of education.

Telephone

Students have access to the telephone in the main office for emergency use only. *Parents should not call or text students on their personal cell phones during the school day (8:00 – 3:05)*. They may leave messages with the front office.

Transportation

Transportation to and from Lighthouse Christian Academy is the responsibility of the parents. LCA provides transportation for a limited number of students to and from Woodard Chapel in Waycross. Students must have a completed waiver to ride.

Field trip permission forms are required for ALL trips at levels of the school. All children under the age of four require a car seat or booster seat.

Students traveling on the bus for a field trip or athletic event are to follow the directions given by the teacher and/or bus driver. Any student failing to follow such directives will be subject to disciplinary action which may include missing additional ballgames or trips.

Tuition Payments

Tuition is due by the first of each month, with a \$25 late fee charged after the 1st. Accounts delinquent beyond the 25th of the month may result in a child being withdrawn.

Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit Lighthouse Christian Academy and its classrooms; however, parents are required to check in through the school office. To allow students and teachers ample classroom instructional time, please try to keep these visits minimal and schedule them prior to the day of the visit, if possible. Visits from friends, family, former students, or graduates may be limited to lunch time or scheduled events to ensure the normal class day is not disrupted.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION: The PK 3 and PK 4 programs are not licensed by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and are licensed through the Georgia Association of Christian Schools. Bright from the Start does not regularly or routinely inspect these programs. (Effective July 10, 2015)

Student Extracurricular Activities

Lighthouse Christian Academy offers several opportunities for students to become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities including Academic Team, Athletics, Fine Arts, Student Council, and 4-H. Student involvement in these activities is encouraged and desired.

Fine Arts

Lighthouse Christian Academy provides music, literary, quiz bowl teams, and student council as Fine Arts opportunities. Any student of Lighthouse Christian Academy or local home schools are encouraged to participate in these fine arts programs.

Athletics

Lighthouse Christian Academy provides many championship sports programs. The Patriot teams will consist of students from Lighthouse Christian Academy or home school students in fifth grade and up. There are fees to participate in Patriot programs.

Work Study

Seniors who are ahead on their academic credits and have a part time job may enroll in a work study program with the permission of the school administrator. Parent, school, and employer permission is required and the student does not earn any credit for the class period. The student must maintain passing grades in all courses required for graduation or lose the privilege.

Extracurricular Activities - Objectives

Lighthouse Christian Academy provides students with a variety of activities to discover and develop their unique God-given talents. Additionally, extracurricular activities provide students with an opportunity to grow intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually beyond the classroom setting. The coaches and club leaders at LCA promote critical thinking, problem solving, and self discipline strategies our students will carry with them beyond graduation. Additionally, the extracurricular programs at LCA promote Christian character and excellence in education, teamwork, and leadership skills to bring honor to God.

Extracurricular Activities - Rules and Conduct for Participants, Directors/Coaches, Parents, & Spectators

It can be difficult to define the expectations for such subjective terms as “proper conduct” and “good sportsmanship.” Yet, there is no more important task than to set standards which are fair, honorable, and consistent with God’s expectations for us. When anyone is involved with LCA extracurricular activities, the following list acts as a guideline for Lighthouse’s standard of excellence:

- ❖ Spectators-whether students, staff, family, friends, or visitors—bear an important responsibility to facilitate an atmosphere at competitions and programs which is conducive to good sportsmanship and honoring to God.
- ❖ Any action that distracts the participants, leadership, coaches, or officials from doing their best is not acceptable.
- ❖ Any spectator, representing Lighthouse Christian Academy, who violates this standard of behavior, may not be allowed to attend extracurricular activities. Parents who violate this standard of behavior may forfeit the privilege of their child’s participation in LCA programs.
- ❖ Parents will be expected to pick up their students on time after each practice and competition. Each student will have a copy of the practice times and schedules.
- ❖ Parents should not make students miss practices and competitions as a form of household punishment.
- ❖ Parents will be responsible for making sure their child returns to school on time the day after a program or competition.
- ❖ Parents should not use missing practices and/or games/competitions as a form of punishment for the student but are encouraged to work with the coaches and leaders if issues arise.
- ❖ Be gracious in victory and defeat.
- ❖ Be as cooperative as you are competitive.

Extra Curricular - Guidelines for Student Participants

- ❖ Students should represent God, their family, their school, and themselves with honor, proper conduct, good sportsmanship, and a Christian spirit.
- ❖ Students must remember that representing Lighthouse Christian Academy is both an honor and a responsibility. The school has established an expectation of high standards both on and off campus.
- ❖ Students must demonstrate respect for all other participants, athletes, coaches, staff, officials, judges, and spectators.
- ❖ Students must comply fully with the ruling of any judge or official. In no way should a participant demonstrate by voice, action or gesture, his or her dissatisfaction with an official’s decision. Foul language at any time is unacceptable.
- ❖ Students are expected to exhibit exemplary behavior in the classroom and in other non-athletic activities.
- ❖ Students must maintain a balance between extracurricular activities and academics, remembering that academics is top priority.
- ❖ Students are expected to demonstrate a commitment to their peers and leaders by attending all required team practices, games, and meetings.
- ❖ Students must understand that competitive rivalries are encouraged, but that

disrespect for opponents is unacceptable.

- ❖ Students are expected to be neatly dressed for both home and away contests.
- ❖ Students are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with their group/team in school-provided transportation unless leadership has made other arrangements. Permission to return home with parent(s) may be granted. A note from the parent must be received before the trip, and the parent must see the coach or teacher at the contest.
- ❖ Participants should avoid using cellphones during practices or competitions

Extracurricular Activities - Attendance Expectation for Student Participants

Attendance is important in extracurricular activities, as in life. It is imperative that students, teachers, fine arts coordinators and coaches be present for all practices, meetings, programs, and competitions. When someone chooses to participate in an activity, he is making a commitment. It is important to follow through on commitments. It is understood that special situations arise where it is necessary to be absent. The key to this type of situation is open communication. If a coordinator or coach needs to be absent, he is to communicate with and receive approval from the Administrator. If for any reason, a student must miss a practice, program, or competition, he must give notice to his coach, teacher, or director. Participants should not rely on other students to communicate their absence for them. Remember, God honors us when we honor our commitments.

Extracurricular Activities - Discipline Policy

It is essential for each student, teacher, coach, and director to remember that he represents not only Lighthouse Christian Academy, but also Christ. As mentioned earlier, there are a number of rules and guidelines that must be followed to participate in extracurricular activities at Lighthouse Christian Academy. Let it be known that it is at the discretion of the coach, director, Fine Arts Coordinator, and/or Administrator to issue discipline to a student who violates these rules. A student can and should be disciplined for, but not limited to, the following: tardiness to practice or competitions, conduct or grades in the classroom, missing practices or competition due to ineligibility, lunch detentions in school, lack of effort in practices or programs and competitions, fighting with another student, disrespect to a judge, coach, or teacher, etc. Discipline can take place in the following ways: temporary or permanent probation from programs or competition, loss of leadership privileges, etc.

Extracurricular Activities - Participation Policy

The philosophy and directives concerning the level each student will participate in game, play or other activity are an essential component of all of LCA extracurricular activities. One of the purposes of our program is to develop fundamental skills. All practices activities including rehearsals, scrimmages, batting practices, meeting, etc are major factors in building these skills. Desire alone to be on a team or program and to participate actively is not always sufficient. A student's role, position, and/playing time is exclusively the coaching staff/director's decision based upon the following factors:

- ❖ Grade level-If a play is for a certain grade level those students will be chosen first to participate; however, if additional parts are needed, students from other grade levels will be considered.
- ❖ The skill/talent the student possesses.

- ❖ The growth and development of skills as the year progresses.
- ❖ The ability to function effectively as part of the group or team.
- ❖ The effort, attitude, and seriousness devoted to practice sessions, programs, and competitions at all times.
- ❖ The ability to follow the game plan, learn script, and/or put team first

Extracurricular Activities - Academic Eligibility Policy

All students who participate in extracurricular athletics must maintain a passing grade (70 percent or above) in all courses including elective classes. Students will be evaluated academically using progress reports, reports cards, and teacher evaluations. Any student who is failing will not be allowed to participate in activities nor travel to away competitions with their group. One exemption to this rule is the first four weeks of each semester. During these time periods (August and January), we find that not enough grades are accumulated to fairly assess their eligibility. If a student has a failing grade during this time period, they will be put on probation and given the opportunity to raise these grades to passing before being placed on the ineligible list. They will still be able to participate and travel with their group,, but they must seek out extra help or tutoring. This exception only applies to academic grades. It does not apply to conduct/behavior. If a student becomes ineligible, they will be allowed to continue to participate in practice activities at the director/coach's discretion. He/she may rejoin the team (if there is a spot) when his/her grades are found acceptable at the next grade check.

All students must remember that there are a limited number of spots available for participation.. Therefore, grades and conduct play an important role in the decision of who will or will not be chosen for those spots. It is at the discretion of the director, coach, Athletic Director, and Administrator as to whether or not a student will be able to return after having been found ineligible.

FINE ARTS

(available through the Georgia Association of Christian Schools)

Lighthouse Christian Academy offers many different areas in which to participate in Fine Arts. These include writing contests, plays, GACS Fine Arts Competitions, quiz bowls, and more. In keeping with the guidelines for GACS, the elementary level fine arts is considered 4th through 6th grade; middle school is considered 7th through 9th grade, and high school is considered 10th through 12th grade.

Objectives of Fine Arts Program

- ❖ To provide age-appropriate instruction to all students in elementary school and make further study available to interested students in secondary schools.
- ❖ To offer a variety of experiences in each artistic discipline that will include traditional and ministry opportunities
- ❖ To develop an appreciation of the arts throughout all grade levels
- ❖ To assist students in the discovery and development of their unique God-given talents
- ❖ To develop self-discipline, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in each student

Communication

The Fine Arts Coordinator, teachers, directors, and coaches must clearly communicate with parents and teachers about practice, competition, and program times.

- ❖ Directors must communicate to a student if he has a diminished role due to poor attitude, attendance, or participation. If a problem persists with a student, the director will contact the parents to inform them of the problem.
- ❖ Students and/or parents must clearly communicate with the teachers, directors, or coordinator about any absences or illnesses.

Dress Code

Lighthouse Christian Academy students who participate in the Fine Arts Competitions will be required to follow the dress code set by the school and competition.

Guidelines for Fine Arts Leadership

- ❖ Use the Fine Arts School criteria and GACS manuals for the selections of all materials used in class and performances.
- ❖ Be fully prepared for every class and rehearsal.
- ❖ Help design and implement a curriculum that provides an excellent arts education.
- ❖ Demand effort, cooperation, and excellence from each student.
- ❖ Make general decisions for the overall good of the program, while being equitable to students in a spirit of cooperation.
- ❖ Develop an assessment tool that adequately reflects the performance and progress of each student.
- ❖ Provide general leadership and vision for the class.
- ❖ Encourage the students to use their gifts in their local church ministry.

Parent Participation in Fine Arts

The Fine Arts department is dependent upon parent volunteers. Parents have several opportunities to be involved with their students. This may include working on sets, and costumes, practicing with students, bus/van drivers, and clean-up crew. Of course, being their student's cheerleader is of utmost importance.

LCA ATHLETICS

Lighthouse Christian Academy sports program consists of: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, flag football, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Golf is offered based on interest for that year and available coaches. The cost for a student to play any one of these sports will be determined at the beginning of each year. These fees will cover incurred costs such as conference, uniforms, officials, travel, equipment, and awards. This fee should be paid before the first game of the season.

The following sports will be offered in the 2024-2025 school year.

- Cross Country (Boys and Girls)
- Flag Football (Boys)
- Volleyball (Girls)

Basketball (Boys and Girls)
Softball (Girls)
Baseball (Boys)
Soccer (Boys and Girls)
Noncompetitive Cheerleading (Girls)

Guidelines for Participation in Athletics

- ❖ Students are required to pay an athletic fee that is determined at the beginning of each year. These fees will cover incurred costs such as conference, uniforms, officials, travel, equipment, and awards.
- ❖ This fee should be paid by the first game of the season..
- ❖ Student-athletes must wear practice shorts that have a 7-inch inseam. If shorts are shorter than this, the athlete will be asked to change and/or leave practice.
- ❖ *If a student athlete chooses to quit the team after the first game, he/she will not be allowed to participate in sports the remainder of the school year.* The athletic fee will not be returned. Exceptions include: personal illness, death in immediate family, or injury. The athletic director is able to make other exceptions if deemed necessary.
- ❖ Student athletes must have a physical performed by a doctor before participating.
- ❖ Student athletes will not arrive late for school without proper notification. Following game days, students will arrive at school on time the next day or will not participate in the next game.
- ❖ Parents must understand that “playing time” is at the discretion of the coach.
- ❖ Athletes may be subject to random drug testing
- ❖ In keeping with good sportsmanship and fair play, varsity level players are not allowed to play at the junior varsity level.

Communication

- ❖ The Athletic Director and coaches will clearly communicate with parents, teachers, and players about practice and game times.
- ❖ Coaches will communicate to a student if they have diminished play time due to poor attitude, attendance, or participation. If a problem persists with a student, the coach will also contact the parents to inform them of the problem.
- ❖ Students and/or parents must clearly communicate with the coach about any absences or illnesses.
- ❖ If you have a conflict or concern, please follow the appropriate chain of command.

Coach – Athletic Director – Administrator – Executive Board

Rules and Conference

LCA follows the National Federation of State High School Association rulebooks. Furthermore, all students and coaches will follow the guidelines established by the sports conference to which the school belongs. LCA is a part of the Southeastern Christian Conference (SECC).

Uniforms

Lighthouse Christian Academy provides athletic uniforms for each team. New uniforms are a privilege. The standard rule applying to athletic uniforms is that the uniforms are on a four-year rotation system. This means that each sport wears their uniform for four years and then, at the discretion of the Athletic Director and approval of the Administrator, new uniforms may be purchased. Students will be given a uniform at the beginning of each season.

Proper care of uniforms is expected. The uniforms are to be returned at the end of the season with only reasonable "wear and tear." The cost of the uniform will be charged to students who lose their uniforms or whose uniform is damaged in any way (including stains). Student-athletes are to be in proper uniform for every game.

Lettering

Anyone (player or manager) participating in the complete Varsity season will be awarded a Varsity Letter. Varsity Letters may be worn on the official letterman jackets or sweaters. All Varsity Letters will be awarded at the annual Athletic Banquet.

Student-Athletes will have the opportunity to order a letter jacket during the year. Jacket sizing and orders will be taken at the beginning of the year. To place an order, a deposit must be made. This is determined by the company. The balance of the jacket is due upon delivery. The cost will vary depending on what the student chooses to place on their jacket.

Athletic Requirements to Purchase a Letter Jacket

LCA athletes may purchase a letter jacket after successfully completing one season in a school sponsored sport and be enrolled as a freshman. The head coach for each school-sponsored sport will provide a list to the Athletic Director of all athletes who finish the current season in good standing and have earned their varsity jacket.

Athletes qualify for their letter by participating in varsity sport for four years. They can purchase an additional block "L" for each subsequent letter earned.

Please note: In all cases, the head coach has the discretion to consider an athlete who has an exception to the requirements and can determine if he/she has qualified for a letter. Athletes must complete their season in good standing with each team and LCA athletic policies.

Athletic Banquet

To celebrate the hard work and dedication of all athletes, Lighthouse Christian Academy hosts an annual athletic banquet or program. The goal is to recognize and honor the spiritual, emotional, social, and athletic achievements of the individual athlete, each team, the coaches, and parents. This will take place in May after the year's athletic season has been completed.

The AD will meet with each coach of each team and together decide who has earned each of the following awards:

- *Most Improved Player:* This award is given to one player on each team who demonstrated a spirit to learn and whose performance exhibited the highest level of improvement of athletic skill and knowledge of the sport.
- *Best Offense/Defense Player:* These two awards are given to two players on each team who exhibit the highest level of skill in each area of playing.
- *Most Valuable Player:* This award is given to one player on each team whose performance exhibited the highest level of athletic skill and knowledge, sportsmanship, perseverance, and
- *Marley Evans Award:* This award is given to one player who demonstrated qualities of outstanding Christian leadership on the field or court, in the classroom, etc.

Parent Participation

Each sport team is dependent upon parent volunteers. Parents have many opportunities to be involved with their student-athlete's sport's team.

Lighthouse Booster Club

Parent participation is mandatory. There are no fees to participate in Booster Club, however, parents are required to volunteer at least 10 hours per year or pay \$100 in lieu of the hours.

Team Parent/Team Coordinator

Each team will have one volunteer to work closely with the coach to coordinate in areas such as team travel, clean up after home games, snacks and/or water for the team.

Concession Workers

During each season, LCA may sell food and drink at each home game to help raise money for the Athletic Department. Workers will be in help with setting up, selling, and cleaning up.

Post-Game Clean-up Crew

After each home game, parents and players will need to help clean up the gym and lunch area so that they are ready for the next school or church day. This could include setting up chairs and tables, sweeping, picking up trash, etc.

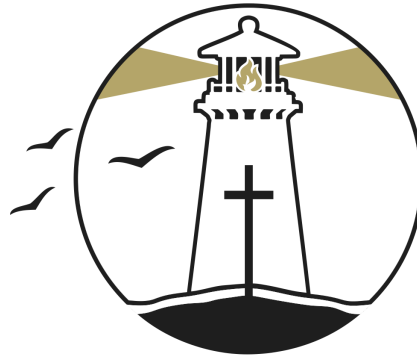
Clock Workers/Bookkeepers

During the home games, each team will need trained adults to run the clock, record states, keep the scorebook, or serve as a line judge in volleyball.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Lighthouse Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial assistance programs, athletic, or other school administered programs.

Lighthouse Christian Academy is a mission school committed to the advancement of the kingdom of God through obedience and adherence to Biblical principles. Accordingly, Lighthouse Christian Academy expects its students and families to agree with, and support our mission, vision, and belief statements. Lighthouse Christian Academy reserves the right to discriminate, and refuse admittance or employment, based on issues involving sexual orientation or gender identity.



LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Handbook Cooperation Agreement

Name of Student_____

Current Grade_____

I have read this student/parent handbook and agree to follow the guidelines expressed therein. I support the mission, vision, and philosophy of Lighthouse Christian Academy and its effort to instruct my child(ren) to the admonition of the Lord.

Student signature

Date

Parent (or guardian) signature

Date

Lighthouse Christian Academy
Student-Athlete Handbook Agreement

ALL athletes must have signed and returned this agreement to the office before participating in any sports related activities.

I have read the 2022-2023 Lighthouse Christian Academy Athletic Handbook. I commit to cooperation and philosophical support of its content as well as to adhere to the policies, standards, and guidelines as detailed in this Handbook.

Student's Name (Please Print)

Grade

Student's Signature

Date

Parental Handbook Agreement

I have read the 2022-2023 Lighthouse Christian Academy Athletic Handbook. I agree to partner with the faculty and administration in upholding the rules and procedures outlined. I understand that these rules will be enforced in order to "train up a child in the way he should go."

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date