

2023-2024
Elementary School
Handbook



Dear MCS Students and Parents,

Thank you for allowing us to join with you in the training and equipping of your children to become powerful and effective servant leaders who will impact their ever-changing world for Christ. When you choose a Christian school, you choose a distinctive kind of school that not only addresses the academic formation of its students, but their spiritual formation as well. It also tells us that you believe spiritual formation is an essential part of education. You have made a great decision! Spiritual formation is essential.

It is our mission that our students be prepared in every way to transform their world. We will provide our students with the tools needed to excel in academic excellence and gain in wisdom and character.

School is an exciting time in the life of a child. It is our desire to lead our students in becoming lifelong learners. The joy of life and the joy of learning go hand in hand. May it always be said that our students at MCS have teachers and a program that will lead them into creativity, understanding and the knowledge that will help them to enjoy the “abundant life”.

This handbook was designed to help our students and families understand the expectations here at MCS. The guidelines and expectations are based upon what we believe to be the best for our students. We depend on the parents of our students to guide their children to comply in action and in attitude so that our program will run in the smoothest possible way.

Serving Him Together,
Maryville Christian School Board

*Statements in this handbook are subject to amendment with or without notice. Maryville Christian School will attempt to keep you informed of all changes as soon as possible, however, some changes might be made immediately due to unforeseen circumstances.

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MCS HANDBOOK

**MCS reserves the right to make changes to the parent handbook as needed based on updated information/guidelines.*

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. STATE RECOGNITION

MCS is fully recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. MISSION STATEMENT OF MCS

To partner with families through a biblically-based education known for academic excellence to cultivate servant-leaders for Christ.

B. MISSION STATEMENT OF FBCM

To Exalt the Savior, Equip the Saints, and Evangelize the Lost. (Matthew 28: 18-20) It is our desire to be a church of worshippers who are growing in God's Word and winning our world for Christ.

C. CORE VALUES

1. Parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children. (Duet. 6:6-7)
2. The role of the Christian school is to come alongside parents with delegated authority.
3. The Bible is the infallible Word of God and all truth is God's truth. (John 16:13; II Timothy 2:15)
4. The most important goal in life is to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to know Him. (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10).
5. God's truth is to be integrated into all disciplines.
6. The acquisition of wisdom is to be desired over the accumulation of knowledge. (Proverbs 1:7)
7. All children have different gifts that should be addressed in a well-rounded curriculum and program (Psalm 139:13-16)
8. The teacher is the "Living Curriculum" and should be a model for students in speech, conduct, relationships, work habits and devotion to Christ.

9. The educational environment and atmosphere should encourage spiritual, personal, academic and relational growth of students, faculty, and staff.
10. Service to others will be modeled and encouraged. (Galatians 5:13, Romans 2:10)
11. Respect for authority, good citizenship, love of our country and patriotism will be instilled in order to foster responsibility for homes, community, and country. (I Corinthians 10:11)

D. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Maryville Christian School functions as a ministry of First Baptist Church of Maryville. We believe God has given parents the responsibility of educating their children, and thus the school is to function as an extension of the home. Our primary purpose is to support FBCM in nurturing, educating, and equipping children for the service of the Kingdom (Matthew 28:19-20). We will come alongside parents in carrying out their responsibilities as God's stewards over their children's educational and spiritual development (Psalm 78:1-7). We encourage a close partnership between parents and school personnel in every phase of the student's development. Parents and teachers will work in unison to guide the child in developing his/her abilities.

Maryville Christian School believes that all truth is God's truth (Psalm 119:41-47), and God has inherently and infallibly revealed His truth in the Bible. This truth is the foundation for all aspects of the school. God's truth should be integrated into a balanced curriculum in such a way that students will learn to put Christ first in their lives. The development of godly character takes precedence over the accumulation of knowledge. We believe that the most important goal in life is to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to know Him. (Corinthians 12:13).

We believe that content and teaching methods of all subjects taught at MCS should integrate Christ in all areas. Since every child is unique, Maryville Christian School commits to educating the whole child with excellence by focusing on individual needs while laying a strong moral and spiritual foundation. Students should work to understand and apply useful knowledge and skills in order to become better persons and to serve Christ by serving others.

We believe that service to others should be modeled and encouraged by the entire staff with Christ's servant leadership serving as the example. Respect for authority, good citizenship, love of our country, and patriotism should be instilled in our students in order to foster responsibility to their homes, community, and country.

We believe that teachers perform a most honored and vital ministry in the education of our children (Luke 6:40). The teacher should direct the students to submit to the truth and the love of Christ. Teachers and parents should work in harmony in educating the children. The teacher should love to teach, love the children, and desire to continually grow in his or her ability to teach creatively (Colossians 3:23-24). Creative thinking should be fostered toward the truth and love of Christ. The teacher is a role model and should desire the grace and lordship of Christ to be demonstrated in his or her life. Teachers will share the gospel with their students and provide children with the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior throughout the year.

We believe that MCS is to be a place of order and discipline that honors God. The classroom atmosphere is to be orderly, structured, and conducive to learning.

III. POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A. ADMISSIONS and ENROLLMENT

Maryville Christian School admits students of any color, race, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin to all rights and privileges, programs and activities made available to students at the school. MCS does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or any other school administered programs.

We are committed to serving the spiritual, educational, social, and emotional needs of students. If families choose to send their children to Maryville Christian School, they and their children must be committed to the mission, vision, and biblical and moral values that the school holds to. A student's previous educational records and behavioral patterns are all considered in the acceptance process. Any falsified admission will result in immediate dismissal without a refund.

In addition, the following requirements must be met:

1. Families with students new to MCS must complete all application and testing information including a non-refundable application/registration fee. All application forms must be completed entirely, signed, and dated.

*If a student is not admitted by MCS for any reason the registration fee will be refunded.

2. New applicants are considered based on the following criteria:
 - a. Kindergarten students MUST be 5 years old by September 1st of the school year.

- b. Student screenings that help determine academic and social readiness.
 - c. An official record of good behavior, attendance and grades from the student's most recent educational institution.
 - d. A parent interview that establishes like-mindedness between the home and the school in the areas of philosophy of education, discipline, MCS doctrines and beliefs, and other pertinent topics included in the parent handbook.
3. A completed application for admission packet includes:
 - a. Student application for admission completed in full and signed.
 - b. Statement of doctrinal beliefs signed by both parents/guardians.
 - c. Statement of support signed by both parents/guardians.
 - d. A non-refundable Application and Registration fee submitted (Registration fee is refunded if the student is not admitted).
 - e. Copy of most recent report card
 - f. Copy of birth certificate.
 - g. Completed ISBE Race and Ethnicity Data Standards Form.

An invitation or denial for enrollment will be extended based on the above criteria and the availability of openings. Upon acceptance, a non-refundable resource/book fee will be required. In addition, the following forms may be requested depending on the grade and time of year your student is enrolled. Any forms requested MUST be completed entirely, signed and dated to be accepted.

5. A completed enrollment packet includes:
 - a. State of Illinois "Certificate of Child Health Examination and Immunizations".
 - b. State of Illinois "Proof of School Dental Examination".
 - c. State of Illinois "Eye Examination".
 - d. Childhood Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire.
 - e. Registration fee paid in full.
6. Students who have been dismissed or expelled due to disciplinary problems, from MCS or any other school, may not be accepted for enrollment into MCS. All parents and students must agree to the purpose and goals of MCS and abide by all policies in order to be admitted and remain at Maryville Christian School.
7. Maryville Christian School is unable to provide specialized programs for students with academic, physical, or behavioral concerns. Such limitations require special attention, resources, and facilities for the students' maximum development, that of which MCS does not currently provide. If school personnel observe that your child requires additional services that are not provided by MCS, placement in a different educational environment that more adequately meets his or her needs will be required (on behalf of the parents).

Waiting List

Once classes have met their enrollment capacity, waiting lists will be established. If an opening becomes available, parents will be notified and the admissions process will continue.

Enrollment for existing MCS students

Enrollment is open first to returning students; to hold their spot, returning students must re-enroll prior to the open enrollment date listed on the school calendar. Siblings of returning students have the next priority for openings at their grade level.

A non-refundable registration fee per student is due upon enrollment/
re-enrollment. Once a class fills to capacity, a waiting list will be established. While we continue to value small class sizes, classroom capacity is subject to change based on the discretion of the school board and administration. Enrollment is based on the following criteria:

1. Current students may enroll for the following school year as long as financial accounts are up-to-date upon re-enrollment.
2. Students are evaluated at the end of each year for continued enrollment. A student who has re-enrolled, but has not made expected academic progress, or who has had disciplinary concerns, may not be allowed to continue at MCS.

B. STUDENT RECORDS

Academic records will be kept in the office and are property of Maryville Christian School. The records of students who have departed the program will be kept in the office for a minimum of five years after their departure. Any requests for transcripts will require a two-week notice. Medical records will be kept in the office for use in case of emergency and will be retained for a minimum of two years. Student academic records WILL NOT be released until all fees and outstanding balances have been paid in full. Student records will not be released to any party (except those allowed by Federal Law) without the parent's or eligible student's consent.

C. MEDICAL POLICIES

MCS will follow the recommended medical procedures as outlined by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human

Services. First Aid will be administered by the school nurse. Serious injuries will receive first aid via emergency services.

MCS/FBCM is not responsible for financial expenses incurred for injuries resulting from accidents that occur while supervision is provided.

No child with a temperature of 100.4 degrees will be allowed to remain at school. Your child must be **fever free** for 24 hours before returning to school. Rashes or eye infections may require a child to go home where there is a question of contagion. A child may return to school 24 hours after any symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, etc. are gone, or when the family physician notifies the school in writing that it is safe to do so.

Medications will be administered by the school nurse. Proper forms will need to be on file in the MCS office before medications will be administered. Only oral inhalant and emergency medications will be administered at Maryville Christian School by unlicensed personnel.

*Eligibility to return to school may be contingent upon applicable health guidelines.

The school and school personnel incur no liability for injuries occurring when administering asthma medication, an epinephrine auto-injector, or an opioid antagonist.

The school allows the self-administration and/or self-carry of asthma/diabetes/seizure medication and epinephrine injectors upon receipt of the necessary documents

MCS allows a parent or guardian or other designated caregiver to administer medications to their child subject to the restrictions outlined in 105 ILCS 5/22-33.

D. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POLICY

It is the goal of FBCM / MCS to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone present in our facility. All staff members are required to follow the emergency response procedures. Several practice drills will be held each year. Students will be instructed in regards to procedures and behavioral expectations.

E. NOTICE OF ASBESTOS COMPLIANCE

Per IDPH requirements, we are notifying our families that all facilities utilized by Maryville Christian School were designed and constructed excluding the use of asbestos containing materials. Parents and staff may request to review the letters from the architects if so desired.

F. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES – Matthew 18:15-20

Situations of concern may arise during the school year when a parent and teacher need to communicate. MCS has established the following policy for parents to follow if such a situation arises:

1. Contact the teacher(s) involved by email or school phone to set a meeting/conference time at the school.
2. Parents/guardians and teacher(s) should pray together for God's wisdom and guidance in resolving the conflict in a loving, caring manner.
3. If the problem is not resolved, the parents may bring the concern to an administrator.
4. If the conflict is still unresolved, a member of the school advisory board will be notified by the administration for a conference.

*Teachers are restricted from responding to communications regarding school and classroom subjects through social media.

G. LUNCH PROGRAM

MCS offers a daily hot lunch program. Students may bring their own lunch from home. Lunch should be packed to remain fresh without refrigeration.

If a student arrives at school without a lunch, one will be provided for them and the student's account will be charged. If a family's lunch account balance exceeds \$50, parents will be notified and students will be required to bring their lunches until the account is up-to-date.

Students will be expected to obey the lunchroom rules which consist of the following:

1. Students are to sit appropriately in their chairs.
2. Students are to maintain a calm voice while in the lunchroom.
3. Students are to dispose of their trash and be responsible for their area.

H. FIELD TRIPS

Field trips pertinent to instructional objectives will be conducted during the year. Parents will receive information prior to the field trips and must sign a permission slip specific to each field trip for students to participate.

Field Trip Guidelines

1. Parents are encouraged to participate in field trips when needed by assisting and/or supervising the activities. Due to the importance of parental assistance with students, parents are NOT ALLOWED to bring siblings or other children on field trips.
2. Parents must have completed a criminal background check and have it on file in the MCS office before they will be allowed to transport/supervise students other than their own children.
3. There may be times when parent drivers are needed. If so, parents will be required to complete driver related paperwork. This paperwork should be obtained from their child's teacher (see #4 below). Students must wear seat belts or be in car seats as designated by state law. Parent drivers should be aware that their personal automobile insurance coverage is liable for accidents or injuries to persons or property that may occur while voluntarily driving on the field trip.
4. All drivers must sign a transportation agreement prior to each field trip. Driver's license number, license plate number, and insurance information are required.
5. If a parent chooses for his/her child not to participate in a scheduled field trip or fails to return a signed permission slip, parents MUST pick up their child prior to field trip departure.
6. All students should return to school at the conclusion of the field trip to finish the remainder of the school day. Students will be dismissed at the normal 3:05 p.m. dismissal time.

I. FINANCIAL POLICIES

A non-refundable registration fee per student is due upon enrollment. A non-refundable resource fee is due on June 1 of each year for all students who have re-enrolled for the following school year. All monthly tuition payments are due on the date selected in the FACTS payment program. Payments may be made annually, by semester, or monthly over a 10 or 12 month period.

Late fees may be assessed through the FACTS payment program if payments are past due. If unforeseen circumstances arise, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Student accounts must be kept current at all times including tuition and fees, extra-curricular fees, lunch balances, etc. At the end of each semester, all accounts must be up-to-date before a report card or transcript is released.

If the Financial Policies are not complied with, the school has the right to:

- Deny the student the right to participate in any type of extracurricular activity
- Deny the student/family the right to receive official transcripts of academic records
- Refuse to allow the student to attend Maryville Christian School
- Take other actions as deemed necessary

J. CELL PHONES/PERSONAL MEDIA DEVICES

Students must keep communication devices (cell phones, etc.) in their backpacks (turned off) when they arrive on campus each morning. Cell phone use is limited to **after 3:25 p.m. only**. Cell phones are not allowed during before or after school Kid's Club. They must remain powered off and in their backpacks during this time. MCS is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen devices. Any device found in violation of this policy will be confiscated and disciplinary action will result. Parents may be responsible for picking up the device from school administration. Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of Administration.

MCS may not request or require a student and their parents/guardians to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website. MCS may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is sufficient evidence to suggest the student's social network account violates the school's disciplinary policy, and the school may require the student to share content in the course of such an investigation.

Electronic devices or social media sites may not be used to harass, threaten, humiliate or intimidate students, employees or visitors, or be used in a manner that otherwise violates local, state, or federal laws.

K. VISITORS

Parents are welcome on our campus for various events and to volunteer. However, for safety reasons, we require parents and other visitors to sign in at the school office and receive a visitor pass for the duration of their visit. Classroom volunteers will be allowed at the request of the teachers. Parents that will be volunteering at the school must have a criminal background check on file in the MCS office prior to volunteering. Please remember all guests are subject

to the same rules of conduct as students during their visit. Volunteers are expected to adhere to student confidentiality.

L. POSITION STATEMENT ON RELATIONSHIPS

In his all-knowing goodness, God created people in his image and chose to make them male and female (Gen 1:26-27). We affirm that each student's gender identity matches their biological gender and is given to them by God as a part of their creation.

Further, we affirm that God designed the institution of marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman (Ephesians 5:25-32). While we encourage students to pursue friendships with other students of both genders, we want our children to be allowed to be children, and not be pressured to grow up too quickly, the following would be a reflection of our heart and philosophy concerning student relationships:

Public displays of affection pertaining to relationships are not allowed on campus, as it can cause a disruption to the educational process. It is our desire to partner with parents to help our children develop and maintain wholesome, biblical attitudes toward the opposite sex.

As students get older, we believe they should use parental guidance and discernment before entering into dating relationships with students of the opposite gender. Dating relationships with students of the same gender are against God's design and as such are sinful by their nature (Romans 1:26-27, 1 Cor 6:9-11).

It is our desire to partner with parents to help our children develop and maintain wholesome, biblical attitudes toward the opposite sex.

M. BULLYING

Bullying will not be tolerated at MCS. Every student has the right to feel safe and valued in their education. Any reports of bullying will be handled immediately. Parents of the involved students will be notified. Bullying could lead to disciplinary action including suspensions or dismissal from MCS.

MCS uses the definition of bullying provided by Public Act 96-0952: Any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance;
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

N. EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

In order for a student to participate in competitions/performances they must have current passing grades. A student will not be allowed to participate in competitions/performances if they are failing a subject. Eligibility is calculated weekly. If a student is deemed ineligible, they will not be able to participate in competitions/performances until they regain eligibility on a weekly report. It is up to the group sponsor/administration to determine whether or not a student may participate in practices/rehearsals while being ineligible.

Students are expected to uphold the behavioral standards set forth in section VI. Failure to do so may result in removal from extracurricular activities.

All activity/extracurricular fees must be paid in full before a student may participate in games/performances.

Uniforms

Team uniforms are expensive, and we are often unable to replace individual uniforms as “styles” are at times discontinued. As a result, if a uniform is not returned there will be a \$250 fee. In addition, uniforms need to be returned in a timely manner so determinations on future needs can be made. Therefore, if a student does not return the entire uniform within 14 days of the last game they will be billed \$25/week until the uniform is returned, or until the \$250 is met.

Each athlete is responsible for proper care of the uniform and equipment they are issued by the school. Uniforms should be kept clean and have a neat appearance for each game. At the end of the season, the athlete should return the uniform clean and neatly folded to the coach in the same condition it was issued.

The athlete will be charged for any damage to the uniform beyond normal wear.

IV ACADEMIC PROGRAM

A. BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

The non-refundable instructional resource/book fee is utilized to purchase items such as (but not limited to), consumable workbook materials as well as non-consumable texts and other supplies. Textbooks remain property of the school at the conclusion of the school year. A daily student planner will be provided to MCS students at the 2nd grade level and above. In addition, teachers will provide a list of supplies needed on or before the first day of class.

* Students will be assessed a fee for any lost or damaged textbooks, library books, or equipment.

B. GRADING SYSTEM

The following grades will be given for students in K-2nd Grade and all specialist courses. Students in 3rd-5th grade will also receive the following grades in certain skill areas.

4	Proficient skill/exceeds
3	Meets expectations
2	Developing skill
1	Limited progress towards skill

Students in grades 3rd-5th will also receive letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F in certain courses based on the following scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number Equivalent</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

*Grades are available for viewing online through FACTS. Report cards will be sent via email every quarter (please refer to the school calendar for these dates). Parents ***will not*** receive their child's report card if there are outstanding financial obligations.

The online grading system is made available to parents of 3rd-5th graders through FACTS.

C. HOMEWORK

Homework appropriate for the age and grade of the child will be assigned. Homework assignments will be relevant to the curriculum and beneficial to reinforcing and expanding concepts and skills being developed during class.

Makeup work is the student's responsibility. Students must turn in all assignments to receive credit. If a student neglects to turn in assignments by their due date, grades for those assignments are subject to a reduced grade and possible further disciplinary action.

D. DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

If the administration concludes that the needs of a student are not being met by the academic program at MCS (determined by reviewing test scores, report cards, absences and the student's progress), a conference will be held with the parents, classroom teacher(s), and the administration. At that time it will be decided if it is in the best interest of the student to repeat a grade level at MCS or be withdrawn from the school. Students may be dismissed due to behavior problems and/or behavioral needs at the discretion of the administration.

E. CLASSROOM FOLDERS

K-2nd grade teachers will prepare folders of their student's work and school-to-home communications on a regular basis. Parents are asked to cooperate with teacher requests to sign and return packets as requested and in a timely manner.

Folders are the main vehicle of communication between teachers and parents and are designed to help keep parents well-informed.

F. TESTING

MCS administers a standardized test each spring. These tests are administered to grades K-10. It is important that students are present for testing.

G. CHAPEL SERVICE

Elementary

One of the primary goals of MCS is to provide students with opportunities to grow in their knowledge and love for Jesus Christ and others. Chapel services are a time where we come together corporately as a middle and high school to build relationships and fellowship with one another. Chapel is held weekly and all students are required to attend.

V. STUDENT LIFE

A. ATTENDANCE

Quality education requires daily school attendance. A student's level of success in school relates directly to class attendance and quality of work. The Elementary School Day officially begins at 8:25 a.m. and ends at 3:05 p.m. The main entrance doors will open for Elementary students at 8:05 a.m. Please do not enter the building before that time unless prior arrangements have been made.

Tardiness

Tardiness is a disruption to the learning process of the entire classroom. Two important disciplines that are recognized here at MCS are promptness and preparation. Promptness denotes that students are in the proper places on time, and preparation denotes that students are ready for class each day with the necessary materials and completed assignments. A series or pattern of tardiness or lack of preparedness for class will jeopardize a student's success.

Absences

Parents must call the school office at **505-7000, ext. 500, by 8:55 a.m.** to report **each** absence. If an absence is not reported by 9:05 a.m., students are subject to receive an unexcused absence and must bring a written note upon returning to school.

Excused Absence

The following absences are considered excused; however, a call from home explaining the circumstances is required:

1. Personal illness. After the 3rd consecutive day a physician's excuse is required.
2. Death of a family member.
3. Family emergency.
4. A scheduled physician or dentist appointment. However, parents are expected to schedule doctor appointments after school hours, whenever possible.

Unexcused Absence

Unreported absences as well as absences for any reason, other than noted above, will be considered unexcused. Missed assignments for unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade.

After 10 sick days a doctor's note may be required for each subsequent sick day in order for it to be an excused absence. .

In the event of excessive absences (excused or unexcused), a parent conference will be scheduled by the administration.

Short-term absences

Parents must call the school office to report each absence. Students who are absent for two or less days should request missed assignments from their teacher(s) upon return. Students will have 1 day for each missed day to turn in assigned work, unless otherwise noted by their teacher(s). If makeup work is not turned in by the allotted time, the grade for each incomplete assignment may be reduced.

Long-term absences

Parents should notify the school office and classroom teacher if a student will be absent for three or more consecutive days. Assignments can be picked up in the school office before 3:30 p.m. as long as prior arrangements have been made. Students will have 1 day for each missed day to turn in assigned work, unless otherwise noted by their teacher(s).

Extended Absences

We realize some families may choose to allow their student(s) to miss school for family vacations or mission trips. Parents should notify classroom teachers and, when possible, schoolwork may be provided prior to a trip. However, **it is not the teacher's responsibility to provide assignments in advance**. When assignments are received for an extended absence, teachers will provide due dates.

In the event of an extended absence due to illness, surgery or injury, parents and teachers will communicate to achieve a successful outcome for the student as he/she returns to the classroom.

Excessive Absences

Students who miss more than seventeen (17) days (excused and unexcused) in a school year may be retained in the current grade, placed on probation for the following school year, or dismissed from school.

B. MCS INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

At MCS, we consider the safety of our students and families a top priority. Possible reasons for school closures include, but are not limited to, unsafe parking lot conditions, poor road conditions, or severe cold temperatures (wind chill).

Please understand the administration will make the best decision for our students with the information they have readily available to them at that time. Weather can be very hard to predict and we thank you for your support and understanding in whatever decisions are made.

School Closure

In the event that road or weather conditions become dangerous, it may be necessary for Maryville Christian School to cancel school or dismiss early.

If school is canceled, we will give as much advance notice as possible for our families to make accommodations. When appropriate, school will be canceled the night before. In the event a determination cannot be made the night before, school will be canceled by **6:00 a.m.**

School Closure Notification

In the event school is canceled, you will receive an email and it will be posted to the MCS webpage/Facebook page.. We will also notify the following television stations in the event of inclement weather: KTVI – Fox 2 St. Louis, KMOV – Channel 4 CBS St. Louis, ABC 30, and KSDK – Channel 5 NBC St. Louis.

Inclement Weather Make-Up Day Policy

One day of attendance may be ADDED for each snow day taken up to a maximum of 3.

C. PARENT/STUDENT COMMUNICATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

In the case that parents need to contact their child during the school day, we request that they do so by contacting the appropriate office administrator. In the case that parents need to check out their child early during the school day, we request that they do so through the appropriate office administrator.

If students wish to contact a parent during the day, they should refrain from utilizing personal communication devices. They should report to the appropriate office administrator and they will be allowed to contact their parent from a school phone.

D. DROP-OFF/PICK-UP PROCEDURES

***Student safety during drop-off and pick-up is our top priority. Cell phone use by drivers during this time is strictly prohibited.**

Transportation

Parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

Morning Drop-Off

K-5th Grade Student Drop-off: The school day begins at 8:25 a.m. The front door (main entrance) opens at 8:05 a.m. Students must be dropped off early enough for them to stop at their assigned storage location and arrive in their classroom, seated and ready to begin by 8:25 a.m. Students should be dropped off in front of the building in the car line at the main entrance.

Afternoon Pick-up

- Dismissal will begin at 3:10 p.m. Parents/guardians must be at the school and ready to receive their children at that time.

Car Line: Detailed information regarding pick-up procedures will be provided at the beginning of the year.

- Parents are required to display their car signs during pick-up. If you plan to have someone else pick-up your student, please notify the school office and make sure the person picking up your student has the sign displayed and is prepared to show their identification

*Please note, parents are NOT allowed to enter the school to pick up students after school.

- *Students will only be released to their parents unless the office or the student's teacher is notified of other arrangements. Please call the MCS office if your child will be riding home with someone not listed on your pick-up permission form.*
- *Students that are not picked up by 3:25 p.m. will be escorted to Kid's Club (after school program) and a fee will be assessed. Parents must park and enter the building to pick up students from Kid's Club.*

E. DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress in ways that express Christian values. Modest, neat clothing is expected during school hours and at all school functions. Clothing that shows excessive skin (spaghetti straps, short shorts) or is overly revealing, displays inappropriate or disrespectful sayings/words, etc. will not be allowed. Students will not be allowed to wear clothing with holes above the knees. In the event a student arrives at school dressed in a questionable fashion, parents will be asked to return to school with a change of clothes for their child.

*For student safety, students in grades K-5 will not be allowed to wear flip-flops and shoes without a back.

P.E.

Safety is of the utmost importance during P.E. classes. Tennis shoes must be worn during P.E. Because comfort is also desired, we request that during warm weather, students wear shorts and t-shirts; and during cool and cold weather, students wear loose fitting pants and long sleeved shirts as well as jackets and/or coats. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately on the days they are scheduled for P.E. classes. Students who attend P.E. class without the appropriate attire will not be able to participate. Elementary school students do not need to purchase PE uniforms.

In the event that a student cannot participate in PE, they will be allowed to miss one day. After the first day, the student must provide the MCS office with a note from a doctor to excuse them from PE.

F. RECESS

Students will participate in outdoor activities during recess and need to dress accordingly. We will make every attempt to take students outside for recess on a daily basis.

We encourage students to wear tennis shoes during recess. Students will not be allowed to take their shoes off during recess.

Students will be expected to obey gymnasium and playground rules or risk the loss of future recesses and possible further discipline.

VI. CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES INFLUENCING THE DISCIPLINE POLICY

II Timothy 3:16-17

“All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

It is the goal of Maryville Christian School to provide a caring, Christ-centered environment to promote self-confidence and self-control in each child. Discipline should also build up, encourage and train our students in principles, concepts and behaviors that honor God. The Bible instructs us to reprove and correct in love with a measure of grace and compassion. Discipline is ordained by God for the building of character and the training of behavior. Our goal of discipline seeks to encourage and develop the self-discipline in students, which is necessary for growth and maturity.

The discipline process involves God-given responsibilities not only for parents and teachers, but also for students. Students are expected to respond to school faculty and supervisory staff members with a Christ-like attitude of respect and courtesy. Guidelines provide boundaries for security and freedom.

MCS discipline objectives:

1. To train students in behavior patterns that will be helpful to them individually and to the school community in supporting and achieving the commonly held goals of spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social development.
2. To develop and maintain the most conducive environment for learning.
3. To partner with parents to correct behavior that is disruptive or destructive to the individual or the learning environment.
4. To remove, as a last resort, disruptive students so an effective learning environment may be maintained.

Teachers will handle misbehavior by applying Christian principles to address the behavior while meeting the needs of the child and the other students. Positive reinforcement will be used to promote good behavior choices. Consequences will be given for poor behavior choices.

The following steps will be used to guide decisions made by the MCS staff when a student is unable to function within the school's discipline guidelines:

STEP 1

A student who interferes with the learning process and the atmosphere of the classroom/school will be subject to a teacher/student conference. The teacher will notify parents of this conference and a remediation plan will be discussed to help the student correct his/her behavior. Consequences may be given as deemed appropriate by the teacher or administration.

STEP 2

If the remediation plan established in STEP 1 has not successfully changed the student's behavior, the teacher may call for a teacher/student/parent/administrator conference. These individuals will work as a team to help the student meet the required standards of behavior. Any staff members involved with the student will be made aware of the action plan. Consequences may be given as deemed appropriate by the teacher or administration.

STEP 3

If the identified objectives in the remediation plan from STEP 1 and STEP 2 are not met, more drastic action will be needed. The administration will contact the parent and student, review the student's actions, and decide on one of several options, including but not limited to suspension and/or removal from extracurricular activities.

*If a student is suspended from school (in- or out-of-school), they are not allowed to participate in any after school/extracurricular activities.

STEP 4

Student behavior that is consistently inappropriate and unacceptable during school or during any school activity on or off campus will incur a request for withdrawal or dismissal from school.

THE ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BYPASS CERTAIN STEPS BASED ON THE SEVERITY OF THE DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION.

* Corporal punishment will not be used as a disciplinary method.

* Weapons or toys that resemble weapons (knives, guns or any other item that can be used to inflict physical harm) are not permitted and if brought to school may result in dismissal.

Firearms & Drugs

For purposes of A and B only,

The chief school administrator shall immediately notify a local law enforcement agency of firearm incidents on school grounds (school grounds are defined as the real property comprising any school, any conveyance owned, leased, or contracted by a school to transport students to or from school or a school related activity, or on a public way within 1,000 feet of a school).

If a student is in possession of a firearm, then the school administrator shall also immediately notify the student's parent or guardian.

The chief school administrator shall immediately notify a local law enforcement agency of verified incidents involving drugs occurring on school grounds.

The chief school administrator shall notify the Illinois State Police of such incidents through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS) in IWAS.

VII. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and teachers must be living examples of the kind of disciplined lives that we want to see in our children. School and home must constantly work together to achieve this goal. We have outlined the responsibilities and expectations of the parents, teachers, and students who participate in the Maryville Christian School Program to help them promote a team spirit and unity through consistent guidelines. If a staff member of Maryville Christian Christian school recognizes that a student is struggling socially or emotionally due to changes in the student body or stresses within the surrounding community, MCS will communicate with parents and attempt to connect the family with resources to support the family and child in whatever way possible.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are expected to:

- Enjoy the blessings of parenting children through this stage of life!
- Read, understand and adhere to the intent and mission of the school as defined in the handbook and to indicate acceptance through the online registration process.
- Cooperate in your child's educational development by encouraging his or her best effort, monitoring his or her progress, providing study time at home and working with your child when needed.
- Cooperate with teachers and staff to build respect and accountability in your child for his or her effort.

- Monitor your child's behavior by signing and returning weekly and or daily behavior progress reports if used by the teacher.
- Work to achieve a rapport with your child's teacher and maintain open communication.
- Pray for the MCS faculty, staff, and other MCS families.
- Support the school and its programs.
- Pay all financial obligations in a timely manner.
- Sign in at the school office when arriving at the school.
- Participate in regular scheduled conferences. If desired, additional conferences may be scheduled by contacting the teacher.
- Refrain from contacting the teachers or administration at home.
- ***Refrain from using social media to discuss students, teachers, administration, or other MCS families.. All school-related issues should be addressed directly with the individual(s) involved. Examples include Facebook, Twitter, etc.***
- Pick up children promptly at the close of the school day.
- Notify the office when children will not be present due to illness.
- Inform the school in advance of absences unrelated to illnesses.
- Read all school correspondence and communicate when appropriate.
- Address any grievances in a biblical manner.
- Promptly pick up a sick child once phoned by the nurse or the school office.

*If parent(s) demonstrate an uncooperative attitude with the school and/or have a history of disagreement with the philosophy and the mission statement of the school, it may result in their child being dismissed from the school based on the discretion of the administration and school board.

Teacher Responsibilities

Maryville Christian School teachers and staff are expected to:

- Enjoy the blessings of educating children.
- Be an active ministering Christian, with a like faith.
- Be capable of integrating spiritual principles within all curricula.
- Be able to teach from the Statement of Faith.
- Be an enthusiastic supporter of the philosophies and ministries of First Baptist Church Maryville.
- Approach the educational process as a ministry (Ephesians 4:11).
- Possess a thorough grasp of educational principles.
- Utilize creative and varied presentations of material.
- Pursue professional growth through classes and in-service training.
- Maintain a team approach under God's direction to achieve educational objectives.
- Value students and their learning potential.
- Maintain high standards of personal character development in students and staff.

- Maintain high academic standards.
- Continually renew a personal vision for excellence.
- Develop and implement a good, consistent discipline program in keeping with the discipline philosophy stated in the handbook.
- Love and respect each child without favoritism.
- Keep an open line of communication with each child's parents in the form of regular reports, special contact when needed and parent-teacher conferences.
- ***Teachers should utilize school email and phones to communicate with parents/students. (Personal cell phones, social media, etc should not be used for school communication).***

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- Come to school each day with an open heart and mind to grow spiritually and academically.
- Be punctual and prepared for school each day.
- Be attentive and engaged during class and put forth their best effort in accomplishing assigned schoolwork.
- Behave in a manner that is in keeping with Christian principles at all times.
- Show respect to adults, peers, and property at all times. Students may be held responsible for the cost of damages or items needing replacement.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Solve conflict through discussion and adult intervention when needed, rather than physical, verbal assaults, or statements made through technological devices.
- Abide by classroom rules as defined by the school handbook as well as the teachers.
- Dress in ways that express Christian values. Modest, neat clothing is expected during school hours and at all school functions (refer to school dress code).