



Student/Parent Handbook 2009-2010

Engleside Christian School

8428 Highland Lane • Alexandria, VA 22309 • (703) 780-4332

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Engleside Christian School faculty, I welcome you. We count it a privilege to work with you in discipling your child. Our goal is to develop Christlikeness in our students—your children. As we teach, we hope to model spiritual truth and challenge our students to grow intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially. We desire your prayers as we approach the coming school year.

In Psalm 1, God pronounces a blessing on those who walk not after the counsel of the ungodly, who stand not in the way of sinners, and who sit not in the seat of the scornful. When I read this passage, I immediately think of our current public educational system. I recognize that “academics” may flourish in some public settings, but I see too clearly the affects of leaving God out of the classroom, the dangers of open sin and immorality, and the rejection of clear Bible teaching. I believe that God does provide a special blessing for those who recognize this truth and pay the price for Christian education.

We have written this handbook to outline our philosophy and policies at ECS. This booklet contains many answers to questions you may have during the course of this school year. I encourage you to read it carefully. You may find the appendix to be very helpful in understanding why we do the things we do. We believe this information will promote an open line of communication that will make this coming year profitable and enjoyable for all of us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Paddock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "K".

Keith Paddock
Administrator

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INTRODUCTION

Engleside Christian School was founded in 1970 as a ministry of Engleside Baptist Church. The school exists today allowing the church to fulfill its biblical mandate to make disciples, teaching students in all things while recognizing the ultimate responsibility of the parents in rearing their children to the glory of God.

Engleside Christian School seeks to develop the whole student in a traditional setting by promoting spiritual growth, intellectual and academic progress, and physical and social development.

Engleside Christian School employs faculty members who are born-again, Spirit-filled Christians. ECS seeks academically qualified teachers who have completed at least a bachelor's degree from a recognized college. ECS encourages continuing education for its faculty.

Engleside Christian School provides training at the pre-school, kindergarten, elementary and secondary levels. At each level, ECS promotes conformity to Jesus Christ in addition to high academic standards.

Engleside Christian School is a member of the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools. It is also a member of the American Association of Christian Schools, a nationally recognized organization of hundreds of Christian schools across the country.

This handbook outlines the philosophies and policies of Engleside Christian School.

ECS regularly seeks to improve the clarity and readability of this handbook. As such, this year's edition may read slightly differently in places from last year's handbook. Such clarifications are not highlighted in the text. ECS has highlighted only actual changes for the 2009-10 school year throughout this book.

ADMISSIONS

Engleside Christian School admits students who agree with ECS's doctrinal and philosophical position without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin. Final approval is contingent upon satisfactory results of any required testing, the review of previous educational records, and the grade placement of the student. Parents and students are required to sign a Statement of Cooperation.

Parents who wish to enroll a child at Engleside Christian School must follow the steps listed below:

1. Request a prospective student packet available at the school office. Please review it carefully before continuing with the enrollment process.
2. Complete and return the Prospective Student Interview Form to schedule a formal interview. Both parent(s) and prospective student(s) must be present for this interview. Copies of previous school records are helpful at this time.
3. Submit the completed application form to the ECS office with the non-refundable registration fee, an original birth certificate for ECS staff to photocopy, and a request for official student records from previous school (if applicable). Parents of K4 and K5 students must also submit current medical records for their child at this time.
4. Schedule entrance testing with the school office. Students entering grades 1 through 3 take an informal test that lasts about 30 minutes. Students entering grade 4 or higher take formal testing that lasts about 3 hours.
5. ECS will notify parents of student acceptance and/or grade placement.

GENERAL ACADEMICS

CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Engleside Christian School seeks to provide a classroom environment that promotes learning. Since parents pay for this opportunity, we expect students to cooperate with the faculty in maintaining a classroom conducive to learning.

ECS outlines the following guidelines to establish a proper learning environment:

1. Students must be prepared for each class (textbook, notebook, pencil and pen, paper, etc.).
2. Students must be in their seats when the tardy bell stops ringing.
3. Students must complete all assignments on time.
4. Students must demonstrate respect to the teacher and other students by speaking only when permission has been granted.
5. Students must honor the classroom teacher's established procedures and rules.

GRADE REPORTS: PROGRESS REPORTS

Elementary teachers will send home student papers on a weekly basis for parents to monitor their child's progress. Secondary teachers will send home interim reports in academic subjects to all students midway through each quarter. Interim reports with grades lower than C- must be signed and returned the next day.

GRADE REPORTS: REPORT CARDS

ECS will mail report cards after the end of each nine-week grading period. ECS encourages parents to contact individual teachers if they have questions about their child's evaluations.

GRADING SCALE

A+ 100	B+ 92	C+ 84	D+ 76
A 94-99	B 86-91	C 78-83	D 71-75
A- 93	B- 85	C- 77	D- 70
			F 69 or below

HOMEWORK

The teachers of Engleside Christian School assign homework to complement classroom teaching. ECS encourages parental assistance and supervision of this work, although the parent must not do the actual work.

ECS holds the following expectations for homework:

1. Each student must do his or her own work.
2. Homework assignments must be done neatly, accurately and punctually to receive full credit.
3. Students are required to make up work missed during absences. Individual students are responsible to find out what work has been missed and to

submit it in a timely fashion. Teachers will give special consideration for make-up work during extended absences by individual students.

HONOR ROLL

ECS recognizes students' academic achievement by publishing a quarterly honor roll as follows:

Highest Honors – no report card grade below 92.5

A Average – numeric academic average of 92.5 or above with no academic grade lower than 84.5

B Average – numeric academic average of 84.5 or above with no academic grade lower than 76.5

ECS also recognizes secondary students' cumulative academic achievement in accordance with the American Christian Honor Society.

TEXTBOOKS

ECS issues hardcover books required for class. ECS requires students to use book covers and preserve them carefully. If a hardcover book is lost or damaged, the student will be charged a damage/replacement fine.

SECONDARY ACADEMICS

CLASS RANKING AND GRADUATION HONORS

Class ranking is determined by semester grades earned for all academic classes attempted. The minimum GPA for graduation honors is as follows: salutatorian, 3.65; valedictorian, 3.8. A student must attend ECS for two full years (including the 12th grade year) in order to receive Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors.

DROPPING OR ADDING COURSES

Students must sign up for classes at the time of enrollment. All junior high courses are required. On the high school level, students should carefully consider the options available with elective courses. Students seeking to drop or add courses must consult the administration within the first two weeks of the school semester. After the second week of school, a student dropping a course may receive a grade of "F" in that course.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students desiring to participate in extracurricular activities must maintain an overall academic average of C- with no Fs. ECS will monitor grades each Monday beginning the third week of the season. Students who are found ineligible on Monday will not be allowed to participate in games for the entire week (including the weekend) and they may also forfeit the privilege of practicing with the team for that week.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must be enrolled full time during their final year in order to receive a diploma from ECS. In order to graduate, students must receive high school credit (earning passing grades each semester) for the following courses:

<i>Bible</i>	<i>4 credits</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>4 credits</i>
<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>3 credits (World History, US History, US/VA Government)</i>
<i>Science</i>	<i>3 credits (including Physical World and Biology)</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>2 credits (at or above the level of Algebra I)</i>
<i>Physical Education</i>	<i>2 credits</i>
<i>Fine Arts</i>	<i>1 credit</i>
<i>Electives</i>	<i>5 credits</i> — ECS encourages students to pursue advanced courses in preparation for college studies. Students taking foreign language for elective credit should plan to complete at least 2 years of study.

In addition to the above classes, ECS requires all graduating seniors to complete either the SAT I or the ACT. We encourage all secondary students to take the PSAT before or during their junior year.

Requests for waiving any portion of ECS graduation requirements must be approved in advance by the ECS administration.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer students must earn at least 4.5 credits (including at least one full credit for both Bible and English) at ECS in order to receive a diploma from ECS. Because of scheduling limitations, it may be necessary for a transfer student to take summer school or correspondence courses to meet all graduation requirements. Requests for waiving any portion of ECS graduation requirements must be approved by the ECS administration before the student's initial enrollment process is finalized.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Engleside Christian School promotes basic Biblical principles of honesty, obedience, respect to authority and consideration for others.

The Bible teaches that discipline is an integral part of character development. Biblical discipline demands clear instruction, proper training and consistent enforcement. Teachers may use both positive and negative reinforcement to effect godly character in their students. Teachers may also use punishment to restore an erring student, demonstrating compassion for the child and concern for the offense.

In general, individual teachers will handle most discipline problems in the classroom. When a situation demands correction, the teacher will address the individual student identifying the problem and outlining a resolution. If this step does not correct the problem, the teacher may involve the parents and/or the administration. ECS may require Biblical counseling for students struggling to overcome such problems. If those involved in this process perceive that the student has no desire to change, they will recommend to the school committee that the student be expelled. In extreme cases, where moral principles of God's Word have been violated, the administrator may bypass certain steps outlined above.

ARTICLES PROHIBITED

Any article that ECS determines could be harmful to its students will not be permitted at school. Such articles include (but are not limited to) guns, knives, explosives, cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, narcotics and any medicine not prescribed by a doctor for the specific student.

Articles that are not in keeping with the academic atmosphere at ECS will not be permitted at school. Such articles include (but are not limited to) games, dice, playing cards, pagers, cameras, Ipods, CDs, DVDs and radios. Books, newspapers and magazines not directly related to specific classes should be left at home.

Students may not carry cell phones with them during the school day. Students may not use cell phones on school premises or during school activities without prior approval from the ECS administration.

Gum must not be brought to school for any reason. Prohibited articles may be confiscated by school personnel and disposed of as the administration sees fit.

ELEMENTARY DISCIPLINE

ECS uses a tally system to track problem areas for students in grades 1-6. Any child who receives eight tallies in one day or twelve tallies in one week is sent to the elementary disciplinary supervisor for counsel and/or discipline. Classroom teachers send home weekly updates reporting tally accumulation. Tallies accumulate for the duration of each 9 weeks grading period.

TALLY SYSTEM

<u>Tallies</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Sample Offenses</u>
4 to 8	H armful Acts	Fighting, cheating, lying, stealing
1 or 2	O ut of Order	Throwing things, chewing gum, out of seat
1 or 2	W ork Not In	Assignment late or not complete
4 to 8	I ntentional Disobedience	Teacher's instruction, school policy
4	A ttitude Poor	Disrespect, grumbling, bad language, inappropriate gestures
2	C ourtesy Lacking	Rude or inconsiderate to others, disregarding instructions
1	T alking without permission	Talking, other forms of improper communication

Tally Accumulation Actions:

25 tallies	teacher-parent conference
40 tallies	teacher-parent-disciplinary supervisor conference
50 tallies	student suspension
60 tallies	recommended expulsion

Students receiving consistently high numbers of tallies may also meet with the administrator. Any student who receives 50 or more tallies in two consecutive quarters may not be allowed to return to ECS for the following quarter.

SECONDARY DISCIPLINE

ECS implements a demerit system to document problem areas for secondary students. Demerits will accumulate for the duration of each semester.

The administration may assign demerits for specific offenses not included in the list of general demerit offenses as necessary during the course of the year.

GENERAL DEMERIT OFFENSES

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
Tardy to school	1
Tardy to class*	3
Chewing gum / eating in class or hall*	3
Unprepared for class / chapel*	5
Classroom or hall disturbance*	5-15
Inappropriate dress or behavior	up to 25
Dismissal from class	10-25
Skipping required activity	20-30
Disrespect (toward a fellow student or teacher)	20-50

** Demerit penalties for repeat offenses in the above categories may be doubled with the consent of the administration.*

The following infractions may warrant a suspension** and/or counseling in addition to demerits (from 25 to 75 depending upon the nature of the infraction) and demerit accumulation actions: fighting, direct disobedience, plagiarism, profanity, stealing, vandalism, cheating, or lying.

The following infractions may warrant expulsion (up to 100 demerits for the first offense) whether or not the offense occurs at school or during school hours: alcohol or substance abuse, immorality, possession of weapons, or third suspension of the year.

Demerit Accumulation Actions:

25 demerits	letter from administrator to the parents
50 demerits	student-parents-administrator conference loss of extracurricular activities privileges
70 demerits	student suspension for one to three days**
85 demerits	student suspension for one to three days**
100 demerits	student expulsion from ECS

*** Suspensions will begin the next school day following the date that the parents are notified. Each suspension carries an academic penalty of 4% points off the quarter grade for each subject the student is taking.*

A student who has been expelled may be permitted to re-enroll after sitting out one full semester. A student who has received 70 demerits for two consecutive semesters may not be allowed to re-enroll the following semester. The ECS School Committee must approve the re-enrollment of such students.

DRESS CODE

ECS has established its dress uniform by applying Biblical principles of modesty, neatness, identification and appropriateness. ECS desires conservative dress appropriate for a learning atmosphere. To obtain this objective, ECS has established a mandatory uniform in accordance with Biblical principles of modesty, neatness, identification and appropriateness. Details regarding the elementary and secondary uniforms are available from the school office. Students who fail to comply with the ECS uniform policy will not be allowed into the classroom setting. The administration reserves the right to determine what is acceptable or unacceptable.

ECS expects students to maintain a neat, clean, conservative appearance and avoid dress fads or extreme hair styles. Clothes must be worn according to their design. Shirts must be buttoned and tucked in at all times. Only the top shirt button may be unfastened. If T-shirts are worn under the uniform, they must be white without any pictures or writing. Long sleeved T-shirts may not be worn under short sleeved uniform shirts. Socks and other accessories must coordinate with the uniform and not draw attention away from it. Students may not wear boots at ECS. Students may not wear outer coats in the classroom.

ECS expects students to report to school in compliance with all dress code requirements. School uniform dress is also required at all school functions, regardless of the time or place the event is held. Exceptions to this requirement will be communicated in writing to the parents.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Girls: Elementary jumpers must come to the bottom of the knee.

Elementary girls must wear shorts under their jumpers for modesty's sake.

Secondary skirts may be hemmed no shorter than mid-calf.

Girls must wear black, brown, or navy dress/loafer/oxford style shoes (closed back and toe). *

Girls may wear simple jewelry (for example, a matching set of small earrings).

Secondary girls may wear modest make up.

Boys: Hair must be short, tapered off the ears and collar. Facial hair is not permitted.

Boys must wear a black or brown belt.

Boys must wear black or brown dress/loafer/oxford style shoes. *

Boys may not wear jewelry except for a watch or a class ring.

** Elementary students may wear all black or all white athletic shoes (closed back and toe) to class. Secondary students may not wear athletic footwear at school except for physical education classes.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ATTIRE

For physical education classes, students in the fourth grade or above are required to wear an ECS PE shirt which may be purchased at the school office. Students are expected to wear athletic socks and shoes in PE.

Girls may wear loose athletic pants (windpants for example) or knee-length athletic shorts.

Boys may wear athletic pants or knee-length shorts.

FINANCES

Engleside Christian School releases a financial sheet detailing the tuition costs and various fees each year through the school office. Please direct your specific financial questions to the school office.

REGISTRATION FEE

The annual registration fee for ECS must be paid at the time of application or re-enrollment. The registration fee is non-refundable.

MATERIAL AND ACTIVITIES FEE

The material and activity fee is due annually as announced by the school committee. This fee covers consumable and replacement textbooks, art supplies and ODACS membership dues. Because of its nature, this fee may vary according to grade level. The material and activities fee is non-refundable.

TUITION

ECS bills tuition according to a published 10-month plan. Monthly payments are due on the tenth of each month beginning on August 10 and continuing through May 10. ECS will not allow students whose accounts are 15 days past due to attend classes until the account is current. Any student with an unpaid balance on May 11 will not be permitted to attend school until the balance is paid in full (ECS accepts cash or money orders only in this situation).

EXTENDED CARE FEE

The fee for students registered in extended care is included with the tuition statement. Students not registered for regular extended care will be billed at a daily rate for this service. A late pick-up fee will also be billed for students not picked up on a timely basis.

ADDITIONAL FEES

ECS charges the following fees in addition to tuition:

Late Payment Fee - \$25 for any outstanding balance at the end of business on the 10th of each month

Late Pick-up Fee – for students not picked up during normal dismissal times

Sports Fee – seasonal fee for participants in interscholastic sports due at the beginning of each sport

Returned Check Fee – \$25 per check

Enrollment Termination Fee – \$50 for processing of withdrawal

Instrumental Lessons Fee – for students taking group lessons or band due at the beginning of each semester

OTHER INFORMATION

ECS deposits checks promptly and will not accept post-dated checks.

ECS will not redeposit checks. If a check is returned to ECS for any reason, ECS will notify parents and allow up to 24 hours from the time of that notification for the account to be brought current. If payment is not received by this time, the student will not be permitted to return to the classroom. If more than one check is returned during the school year, all future payments must be made on a cash or money-order basis.

ECS will prorate tuition and extended care fees for students entering school in mid-year. If a student terminates enrollment before the end of the school year, ECS will prorate tuition and extended care fees only if parents provide prior written notification of a job-related relocation of more than 50 miles. A \$50.00 processing fee will be retained in this case. All other fees will not be prorated or returned.

All bills must be paid and all school property must be returned before ECS will release report cards, transcripts, or diplomas.

GENERAL POLICIES & INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

In order for students to gain the most from Engleside Christian School, each student must report to school on time and attend all classes regularly. The ECS administration reserves the right to classify tardies as “unexcused.” Students may not receive full credit for work missed in such cases. ECS will deal with habitual tardiness or excessive absences.

ECS expects parents to notify the school office and classroom teachers well in advance of any planned absence. In such cases, students should complete all make-up work before the absence occurs.

If a student is absent, the parent must notify the school office. When the student returns to school, the parent must send a note to the classroom or home-room teacher explaining the reason for the absence. The ECS administration reserves the right to classify absences as “unexcused.” Students may not receive full credit for work missed in such cases.

ECS appreciates parents’ efforts to schedule student appointments outside the normal school day; however, when a student needs to be released from a class, the parent must send a note to the student’s classroom/homeroom teacher **at the beginning of the day**. This note should state the time and reason for the early dismissal. If ECS is NOT notified in this way, it is unable to guarantee that your child will be released in a timely manner. When it is time for the child to be picked up, parents should come to the office to pick up the child and sign him out. If the student returns later in the same day, he should report to the office and sign in before returning to class.

ECS considers students who miss more than one hour of the school day to be absent for a half day. Students arriving after 11:00 a.m. are considered absent for the entire day and may jeopardize their participation in any extra-curricular activities of the day. All absences and tardies will be recorded on the report card.

Seniors may be dismissed from school early at the request of the parents for documented work conflicts. Students must submit a written request each semester for administrative approval.

ECS may not promote students who miss more than 27 days for any reason.

AUTOMOBILES/STUDENT DRIVERS

A student must receive administrative approval before driving himself or others to school. This approval will not be granted until written permission from each parent has been received by the school office. Students' automobiles are off limits during the school day. Furthermore, students participating in ECS-sponsored athletics must ride school-provided transportation to and from all practices and games. Only written requests submitted to the administration in advance for exceptions to this rule will be considered.

Drivers operating a vehicle in an unsafe manner on the premises of ECS may lose their privilege to drive on ECS property.

EARLY ARRIVAL AND LATE PICK-UP

Students not registered for extended care must arrive between 8:00 and 8:10 a.m. Students arriving early must stay outside the building under parental supervision until regular school supervision begins at 8:00 a.m.

All students must leave the school premises immediately upon dismissal unless they are involved in specific school-related activities. Students should not be in the building after 3:30 p.m. unless directly supervised by a teacher. Any student who has not been picked up by this time will be sent to extended care and charged a late pick-up fee.

EXTENDED CARE

Extended care is provided as a service by ECS for registered students only. Extended care hours begin at 6:30 a.m. for normal school days. Extended care closes at 6:00 p.m. A late fee will be charged for any student remaining at school after this time. Parents who need to use this service for a specific reason on a particular day must notify the school office in writing at least one day in advance.

HEALTH CARE POLICIES

ECS is not permitted by law to dispense over-the-counter drugs or any other medicine without proper authorization. For non-prescription drugs such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen, the parent must submit a completed Non-Prescription Medicine Form to the school office. For prescription drugs, the parent must submit the medication to the school office along with a completed Prescription Medication Form. These forms are available at the school office.

No student will be admitted or allowed to remain at ECS with the following conditions:

- temperature of 101 degrees or higher;
- diarrhea or repeated vomiting; or
- conjunctivitis, head lice or other communicable diseases.

It is best for students sent home from school with a temperature to remain at home for 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal.

Students with an infectious illness should be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school. In case of a medical emergency, ECS will try to notify the parent to pick up the child. Depending on the nature of the situation, ECS may call 911.

All students participating in the ECS sports program must submit a completed Sports Physical Form with a doctor's signature to the school office before the student will be allowed to practice. This form is available at the school office. Students who are unable to participate in physical education must have a note from a parent or a doctor's excuse.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

ECS follows Fairfax County public school inclement weather cancellations and delays as announced by the local news media. Extended care will open ninety minutes before school on days with delayed entry. On days with early dismissal, ECS allows students to be picked up before the dismissal time and encourages parents to come as soon as possible. ECS will not provide after-school extended care under early dismissal conditions.

LOCKERS

At the beginning of the year, ECS will assign lockers/combinations to secondary students for storing books and personal items necessary for school. Each student is responsible for his own locker and possessions. Lockers should be kept clean and neat. Posted items inside the locker should be hung with magnets only – no plastitak, tape, or stickers. Lockers belong to ECS and are subject to inspection by authorized school personnel at any time. ECS will not be responsible for stolen items. Students may not share lockers.

LUNCH

Students may either bring sack lunches from home or purchase lunches in the school cafeteria through their homerooms. The lunchroom staff will publish menus with prices of available items at the beginning of the year. Parents or students may purchase lunch tickets from the school office.

PARENT-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

We ask that all parents go to the office before visiting the classroom. Lunches, books, etc. may be left for the student in the office. Homework and other pertinent articles requested by the parent may be picked up at the office also.

ECS communicates with parents through a monthly update with items of interest, reminders of special events and important announcements. Elementary teachers also send home weekly folders of student papers, tally sheets and other class-related information.

We encourage all parents to attend our regular Open House programs and concerts.

ECS desires to maintain a Biblical, open door of communication. If you have a question or conflict with an individual teacher, seek to resolve it privately with that teacher before involving the administrator. If you have a special need or observation to share directly with the administrator, please schedule a conference through the school office.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students may not use the name of the school on any radio or TV program without prior authorization from the school administration.

SCHOOL RETREAT

In keeping with the purpose and philosophy of ECS, secondary students are expected to attend school retreat. The spiritual values and personal relationships fostered at camp each year are vital to the overall education at ECS.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

ECS will not sponsor parties or social functions without official parental notification from a teacher or the administrator. School regulations, including dress code, will apply to all students and their guests for all official social functions. ECS expects adults who are operating in an official capacity for such events to observe the school's policies.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students who are members of any athletic team or ministry team are required to attend all scheduled activities for these groups. Parents and students should plan their schedules in such a way to minimize conflicts.

TELEPHONE USE

ECS asks that all communication with students during the school day be approved by and conducted through the school office. Students may not use pagers, cell phones or other communication devices on the school premises or during school activities without prior administrative approval.

VISITORS

ECS welcomes visitors to its facilities. All visitors including prospective students and alumni must make arrangements through the school office before entering the classrooms. Visitors should comply with the ECS standards of dress and conduct.

WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

ECS will not release transcripts to another school until the parents formally withdraw the child from ECS. Parents must make sure that all school-owned materials are returned to the appropriate teachers and that all payments are current when withdrawing their child. ECS will not honor requests of records from other schools until this process is complete.

APPENDIX

MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

FOR ENGLSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

REQUIREMENT FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The mandate for Christian education is based upon convictions obtained from commandments and principles found in the Word of God. The Scriptures clearly command two institutions to educate children: the home and the church (*Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:2*).

Engleside Christian School (ECS) exists as one of the ministries of Engleside Baptist Church (EBC) designed to educate children. ECS provides an education that incorporates a Biblical view of God and protects its students from secular teaching and influence. In summary, we firmly believe that parents and the church have the God-given primary responsibility for educating their children, and not the state, secular agencies or public institutions.

RECIPIENTS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education aims to bring each student into conformity with Christ (*Ephesians 4:11-13*) and to accomplish God's objective of equipping them for life (*2 Timothy 3:17*). To truly know and imitate Christ, one must be born again into the family of God (*John 3:3*) and live in fellowship with Christ (*1 John 1:6-7; Philippians 3:10*). Conversely, one who has yet to receive Christ as Savior can neither comprehend the things of God nor conform to His image (*1 Corinthians 2:14*). However, Christian education that occurs before salvation is not pointless because the Scriptures can make a student wise unto salvation (*2 Timothy 3:15*). Since all the children of Christian homes seeking a Christian education at ECS are not yet saved, all children will be presented with the opportunity to accept Christ, and experience has shown that many will get saved while enrolled in ECS. Nevertheless, Christian education presupposes the experience of the new birth in order to accomplish its intended purpose. **In summary, Engleside Christian School will primarily serve as a ministry to educate young people who proclaim salvation by faith in Christ.**

PURPOSE AND GOALS OF ECS

Purpose. ECS seeks to provide continuity between the Christian home and the church in the educational aspects of the child's Christian development. **Our purpose is to develop students into the image of Christ (*Ephesians 4:22-24*) in order to prepare and equip them for a lifetime of service to**

the Lord in whatever vocation God directs their lives (*Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 3:17*).

Goals. ECS endeavors to accomplish its purpose by continually nurturing the young person's spirit, mind and body after the pattern of Christ's development given to us in Luke 2:52. **Thus, our primary goal is to develop the whole child by promoting his:**

- spiritual and moral growth (favor with God);
- intellectual and academic progress (wisdom);
- physical development (stature); and
- social development (favor with man).

Experience has shown that in most cases, post-secondary instruction will be desirable for the majority of our students. **Our secondary goal is to prepare them for further education at a Christian college, university or vocational school.**

CONTENT AND MEANS OF INSTRUCTION

The whole process of Christian education rests upon the recognition that God is absolute truth (*Psalms 31:5; 100:5; John 14:6*) and that He has revealed Himself through the Scriptures. As a result, we wholeheartedly believe that the Bible is to be used as the primary means of conveying the truth to our students. Therefore, Bible-based curricula are chosen to guide the development of our students in all the disciplines of education.

ECS embraces the Biblical philosophy of life which teaches that man was created to serve God and not himself (*Ephesians 2:10*). Students are taught to know Christ and to imitate Him through God-honoring attitudes and actions. They are taught that their bodies are the “temple of the Lord Jesus Christ,” never to be abused or neglected, and constantly to be developed, disciplined and presented to Him for His use (*1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 12:1,2*). ECS encourages students to improve themselves culturally, to develop their God-given abilities and gifts into skills, and then to use them for His glory, fulfilling the command to “approve things that are excellent” (*Philippians 1:10*).

The teacher/student relationship is critical to the development of our students. The teacher is to the student what Christ, the Master Teacher, is to all mankind—a role model. Teachers encourage students to follow their personal example of following Christ, just as Paul did when he said, “Be ye followers of me” (*1 Corinthians 4:16-17*). Likewise, for a student to grow in godliness, much will depend upon the teacher modeling that godliness (*Luke 6:40*). It is for this reason that great emphasis is placed on the recruitment of teachers with Christian character and a heart for students along with academic qualifications.

Education is often the gateway to opportunity in life. Our curricula allow for study in all academic disciplines and are designed mostly by Christian colleges to prepare students for success at the college level. Studies in advanced subjects are encouraged. Finally, Christian education does not emphasize simple mastery of facts, but rather the practical application of knowledge learned (*Proverbs 4:5-7*). Through classroom instruction and extracurricular activities, the teachers strive to help students seek God's wisdom in applying learned principles to situations in life with the mind of Christ (*Philippians 2:5*).

In summary, our Christian education integrates Biblical truth, personal example and academic learning for the purpose of developing a young person into the image of Christ in order to equip him for life.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Believing that the quality of a Christian school is linked to the quality of its people, all teachers employed at ECS will have attained the high spiritual and scholastic standards in their own lives necessary to carry out the purpose, objectives and goals of our school. They will be born-again, spirit-filled Christians whose lives evidence a vital relationship with Christ and testify to the grace of God (*1 Timothy 4:12*).

Furthermore, following the pattern of Christ in Matthew 20:25-28, it is important that all teachers have a servant's heart, as shown by their willingness to give of themselves to minister to others.

ECS seeks to employ teachers who are academically qualified in their field, having completed as a minimum, a bachelor's degree from a recognized college. ECS encourages teachers to seek certification with the American Association of Christian Schools and to maintain their certification in a current status. Financial assistance is offered to teachers interested in pursuing advanced degrees. ECS endeavors to train its faculty to deal with emergency situations that may require medical attention. ECS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the impact that our teachers will have on the lives of their students at ECS, we value and provide for the continual development of our professional staff in the process of educating children. Each school year begins with several days of teacher training. In the fall semester, our teachers usually attend the ODACS Educators' Convention consisting of two days of practical workshops and inspirational general sessions. Furthermore, each teacher re-

ceives *Christian Educators*—a professional magazine published by the American Association of Christian Schools.

Our goal is to observe teachers in the classroom both formally and informally throughout the school year. These evaluations benefit the teachers by identifying weaknesses, reinforcing positive techniques, and maintaining open communication between teachers and the administration. Our objective is to assist our teachers in providing quality instruction so that our students receive the best possible education this institution can provide.

STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY

ECS is designed for the education of children based on the desires of Christian parents who first want their children to be conformed to the image of Christ, while also desiring high academic standards and a structured, disciplined environment (*Romans 12:1-2*). Therefore, if students applying for admission to ECS have yet to make a personal profession of faith in Christ at the time the application is submitted, at least one parent or legal guardian must be saved and in agreement with our Statement of Faith and purpose. Students applying for grades seven through twelve will be asked for a statement of their salvation experience during a personal interview with the administrator prior to their admission to ECS. Secondary students who have not yet trusted Christ as Savior, but whose Christian parent(s) desire their salvation and agree with our school's Statement of Faith and purpose will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be accepted for a trial period of time.

ECS screens prospective students using standardized achievement tests and placement tests before being given favorable consideration for admission. ECS does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color or national origin.

CURRICULUM

At ECS, the Word of God is the foundation of our school program of instruction and is diffused throughout all subjects (*2 Timothy 2:15*). All subject matter is presented in the light of Scripture with a Biblical view of God and guiding principles to equip the student for life (*2 Peter 1:3*). Additionally, our chapel programs are designed to reinforce and supplement the teaching of the Bible through word and song (*Colossians 3:16*).

We normally use the traditional graded approach with course offerings structured for the average to above-average student. The kindergarten and elementary curriculum includes subject matter normally expected for each grade level. Our high school program offers a standard curriculum, including college preparatory courses for the college-bound student. When necessary, ECS uses

technological advances in video and satellite teaching to provide quality instruction by master teachers in subjects that we are not staffed to teach. We emphasize God's creative works as an important part of the curriculum throughout the sciences, mathematics and other related subjects because they provide a knowledge of God's nature and His wonderful works in this world.

Extracurricular activities are designed to supplement the academic and spiritual emphasis of the school and they provide unique opportunities to aid students in the development of leadership, teamwork, self-discipline and school spirit (*1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Timothy 4:7-8*). Among these opportunities are fine arts competition, interscholastic athletic competition, field trips, social events, leadership and service opportunities. These activities also teach students to perform and function under pressure situations in a manner that glorifies God.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

We believe that the Christian School is the best institution to teach the academic material necessary for Christian young people to excel in life. However, academics are studied not as an end to themselves, but as a means of improving the student as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. The expectations ECS has for its students are to see them develop their intellectual capacity and to see them use the talents God has entrusted to them to their fullest extent (*Luke 2:52; 1 Corinthians 10:31*).

We also recognize that students come to our school with differing ability levels. We endeavor to meet each student's needs based on his innate ability and his initiative to make satisfactory progress in school. Likewise, ECS challenges students to reach their potential and experience the satisfaction associated with doing their best (*Colossians 3:23*).

ECS has established graduation requirements based on a core curriculum which exceeds the minimum standards for graduation from Virginia public high schools (*Philippians 2:15*). We are committed to a rigorous academic program that provides the educational foundation necessary to prepare students for effective service to God and prepares them for advanced education at the Christian college or university level.

BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS

The standards of conduct at ECS are designed to direct students to God's best in their lives by instilling in them the value of self-discipline, self-control and orderliness (*2 Peter 1:4-8*). ECS's behavior standards are established on Biblical principles that first appeal to the heart and then teach the students to live so

that they glorify God in their outward actions and in their relationships with others. Each student must accept the role of authority in his quest for Christlikeness. The Administrator and teachers exercise authority over ECS students by divine plan (*Romans 13:1-4*) and are expected to do so with a servant's heart (*Matthew 20:25-28*). Student behavior that is unbiblical (being disrespectful, disruptive or destructive) will be dealt with through communication, correction and counseling for the purpose of restoring the offender to a right relationship with God and with others (*Hebrews 12:6,11*). Parents will be included in the process of correction as soon as the situation is serious enough to warrant their attention or assistance. Students who refuse correction and restoration will be subject to dismissal from school (*Proverbs 22:10*).

Standards and rules, while they are not an end to themselves, are essential to fulfill the purpose of glorifying God through decent and orderly conduct (*1 Corinthians 14:40*) and appearance (*1 Timothy 2:9-10*). All activities must ultimately bring glory to God and not self (*Matthew 5:16*). Behavior that unduly draws attention to oneself is inappropriate, whether this behavior is demonstrated by dress, word or deed (*Philippians 4:5,8*). As Christian educators, we continually train Christian young people to an individual responsibility to God for their actions while challenging them to serve, fear and glorify God in every facet of their life (*1 Corinthians 9:27*).

Undoubtedly, parents will disagree with some disciplinary decisions. Consequently, various means of appealing disciplinary actions are available. However, we require, as a condition of enrollment, that parents agree to support the school in its program of instruction and discipline. Parents who openly refuse to give their support, or who become outwardly critical toward a teacher or the administration, will have their child's privilege of attending ECS revoked.

FINANCES

ECS provides a vital ministry to Christian parents desiring a Christian education for their children. The major portion of the income needed to operate ECS is obtained from tuition and fees paid by parents of children served by our school. Since the church shares educational responsibilities with families, it is appropriate that it also shares in the expense of providing Christian education for Christian young people within our local assembly and church community of "like faith" (*Matthew 28:18-20*). Each school year, EBC includes a substantial sum for ECS in its regular budget in the form of operational and maintenance expenses.

ECS strives to manage its business affairs in a manner that honors God (*Romans 12:11*). Accounts receivable are managed in accordance with an awareness of our stewardship responsibilities to God and our obligations to our employees (*1 Corinthians 9:7-14*). Accounts payable are handled in accordance with Biblical principles on debt in order to help families to remain debt-free. The financial records of ECS are maintained in a manner that will ensure appropriate accountability to those in authority within the ministry, those who are served by the ministry, and those to whom we are responsible outside the ministry (*Romans 12:11; 13:6-10*).

The children of parents who fail to meet their financial obligations to the school are subject to suspension of their education until financial obligations are honored.

Requests for short-term tuition assistance resulting from personal hardship are subject to available benevolence funds and may be made through the School Administrator.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

ECS strives to maintain a quality physical plant as a testimony for the Lord in our community and in recognition of our responsibility to be in subjection to those in authority over us. Safety is emphasized in all facets of our facilities and programs. Furthermore, we believe that the cleanliness of all our facilities is extremely important and brings glory to God as well as providing an attractive environment for our students. Parents and students are expected to share in our care and concern for the facility that God has entrusted to us.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

In many cases, EBC church members elect to home school their children and are encouraged to do so as God leads them. EBC supports church families who home school through our Home School Association. Home school students may take selected school courses and may participate in extracurricular activities on a space available basis at part-time tuition rates. Additionally, some educational experiences in the form of field trips and special chapels may be offered at no cost.

ECS will gladly consider applications for enrollment from home school families. Christian correspondence courses such as A Beka, Bob Jones Press, ACE, etc., are generally accepted. Transcripts will be required.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parents,

What a joy it is for me to discuss Christian education with parents who want God's best for their children. Thank you for taking seriously your God-given responsibility to educate your children in the Lord (*Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4*). We take our church's responsibility to build up the body of believers in Christ just as seriously (*Matthew 28:19-20*). One of the pillars of our church is education, and we provide a Christian school for the purpose of providing a Christian education.

A Christian education and a Christian school are not necessarily the same thing around the country, but we strive to make them synonymous here at Engleside. We are not merely providing a wholesome school environment where learning can occur; we are also directing the process of our children's development through education in order to accomplish God's objective of equipping them for life (*2 Timothy 3:17*). We assume that our goal for the children in this school is the same as your goal for your children in your home. If it is, then we can certainly assist you in the awesome task of raising your children to conform to the image of Christ (*Romans 8:29; 12:1-2*).

Our vision is to build our youth academically, physically, spiritually and socially after the pattern of Christ (*Luke 2:52*) with the power of the Scriptures (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*) using the personalities of godly teachers (*2 Timothy 2:2*). Christlikeness is our goal. The Bible is our guide. Godly teachers are our models.

Here is what you can expect from our Christian education. We intend to:

- encourage a personal relationship with God;
- strive for excellence;
- protect students from negative influences;
- reveal God's relationship to the academic subjects;
- develop Christlike character;
- teach a Biblical philosophy of life; and
- train students to serve God.

I believe that there is no educational alternative to a Christian education for parents who are serious about raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You have made a wise choice that will benefit your child for a lifetime. Thank you for the privilege of letting us help you in this noble endeavor.

His Servant,



Pastor Brad Lapiska

