Modesto Christian Elementary School 2023-2024 Student Handbook



Welcome to MCES

We are praying you have a blessed and successful school year. While a handbook may not be the most exciting book to read, certain policies and guidelines are necessary to create a safe and orderly environment for your learning and growth. We have revised the entire handbook this year with a philosophy of focusing on guidelines for right behavior. Please familiarize yourself with these guidelines, as it is your responsibility to live within them. By attending Modesto Christian Elementary School, you are committing to follow these guidelines.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the policies in this handbook, please bring those questions to the school administration. We would be happy to hear your concerns and discuss them with you.

Ultimately, our desire is to see you make wise choices in every aspect of your life. Our hope is that you will see the freedom that comes from following appropriate guidelines, as that is exactly the message that God has for us. His rules are not about restricting our behavior, but

rather they are about freeing us to live abundantly (John 10:10). May this year be a year of living abundantly for you!

The Modesto Christian Elementary School Handbook for 2023-2024 supersedes all preceding handbooks. While we will make every reasonable effort to keep policies consistent throughout the year, the policies and guidelines in this handbook are subject to change with or without notice. In the event of a disagreement about the proper interpretation of a policy or guideline, the school administration's interpretation will be used in evaluating any disciplinary consequences. Should a situation arise that is not covered in this handbook, the administration will act fairly and promptly to make a decision based upon all applicable MCS policies and the interests of the students, parents, and the school community.

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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT US

ACCREDITATION

Modesto Christian School is accredited jointly by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRs)

ESLR's are created for all students at Modesto Christian Elementary. ESLR's are designed to help students identify the foundations of learning, set meaningful graduation goals, understand relationships between content and values, And achievement in school leads to later success.

The Modesto Christian ESLR's follow the acronym of STRONG:

- > Spiritually Minded MC students recognize the deity of God and understand a Biblical Worldview as it applies to daily living.
- ➤ Thinkers MC students express critical thinking skills through rigorous academic standards.
- > Responsible MC students demonstrate responsible behavior through exemplary citizenship.
- Outstanding Communicators MC students modify verbal, written, and technological skills necessary for effective communication.
- > Nurturing Servant Leaders MC students support/serve others by volunteering their time and talents.
- ➤ **G**rowing MC students become Christ-centered Leaders as they strive to improve academically, physically, socially, and spiritually.

HISTORY

The Preschool, Elementary School, Middle School and High School make up the educational program of Modesto Christian School (MCS). Modesto Christian School functions as a traditional school within a nondenominational evangelical Christian environment.

The school was founded in 1962 by the Reverend Roy Blakeley and was one of the 30 charter member schools of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Rev. Blakeley's vision was to have a school that would assist and support Christian parents in their responsibility for teaching, training, and preparing their children for life. This could only be accomplished through an excellent, Christ-centered education in which God and His Word serve as the foundation for all learning and living.

In 2015, after 53 years as a ministry of Neighborhood Church (NC), NC announced it would be selling the property and closing MCS at the end of the school year. A group of parents and other supporters of the school came together, and through prayer, sensed that God was not finished with MCS yet, and that He had a plan for even better days ahead for the school. This group formed Modesto Christian School, Inc. (MCSI), a 501(c)(3) religious non-profit organization, and through God's grace, was able to develop a funding plan for the purchase of 32 acres of the property. MCS transitioned to an independent, non-denominational evangelical Christian School, under the leadership of MCSI in June 2016, and is now positioned to impact many more generations of students in the years to come.

MISSION AND VISION

DEVELOPING CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, AND THE ARTS.

Mission.

Modesto Christian is a mission-driven school with decisions made first and foremost with our mission in mind. We are not market-driven, chasing after notoriety or short-term success, instead we chase after God, His will and His way.

Christ Centered.

Jesus is the center of all we do. We want every student to be a life-long, fully devoted follower of Jesus; our school is a community where students find Jesus and grow in a relationship with Him and others. All teachers, faculty, and administration are called to a Christ-centered lifestyle, as well as Christ-centered work and service.

Leaders.

Leadership is influence. Everyone has influence. Everyone is a leader. This generation needs leaders who bring hope and transformation to their sphere of influence. Modesto Christian develops these Christian leaders of today and of tomorrow.

Excellence.

Excellence honors God and inspires people. Excellence is not perfection or a destination, nor is it solely defined by awards, test scores, or wins and losses. Excellence is a process, and continually being about the process. It is a steady pursuit of getting "better" each day.

Academics, Athletics, & the Arts.

These are three key disciplines that provide an environment for growth and godliness, a platform for career and college, and an outlet for creativity and recreation. We offer a safe and healthy environment for vibrant spiritual growth; for the pursuit of excellence and exploration in academics, athletics, and the arts; and for forging lifelong relationships.

MASCOT AND SCHOOL COLORS

The "Crusader" is our mascot and our colors are red, white and navy blue.

MODESTO CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Modesto Christian Elementary School is a private, comprehensive elementary school including Kindergarten through 6th Grade, which offers a range of developmental, Bible-centered, academic and enrichment courses designed to prepare students for success in middle school in a nondenominational evangelical environment. The school is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and Associated Christian Schools International (ACSI). MCES offers a broad program of additional student activities.

MCES endeavors to ensure that all students will continue on to middle school with the critical thinking, academic and social skills needed to become self-reliant, positive, and productive Christian citizens and life-long learners of Biblical truth and the world around us.

QUALITY EDUCATION

As a student at Modesto Christian School, you are entitled to a quality education.

A quality education:

- Provides a safe and comfortable environment;
- Is student centered and one in which the whole student is nurtured;
- Discovers and celebrates each student's intellectual, creative, and social abilities;
- Develops every student's passion for being a life-long learner;
- Trusts the teacher as fully prepared professionals who utilize curriculum as educational best practices;
- Recognizes that the continuous student and teacher relationship is essential.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The school views itself as an indispensable part of the three major forces in the life of each child: the home, the church, and the school. Modesto Christian School was founded and functions upon the basic fundamental principles of the Word of God, and it espouses the historic Christian view of life as presented in the Bible. The following statements of faith and practice are held by MCS.

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (II Timothy 3:15; II Peter 1:21).
- We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons –Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).
- We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians

- 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (John 11:25; I Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11).
- We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, and that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and
 - that only by God's grace and through faith alone we are saved (John 3:16-19, 5:24; Romans 3:23, 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:12-14; I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).
- We believe that God wonderfully foreordained and immutably created each person as either male or female in conformity with their biological sex. These two distinct yet complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26–27).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

Standardized Tests are administered in the Spring of each year. Due to the importance of these tests, please avoid scheduling any activities that would remove your student during this time (e.g. dental appointments, vacations, etc.). The school cannot guarantee a student will be able to make up tests due to excused, unexcused, or pre-arranged absences.

ACCEPTABLE USE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Informational technology and its use is ubiquitous in our society, and it is expected that students will use the Internet, personal mobile devices, and school-provided computing equipment and software regularly. To promote the safety of our students and to ensure effective use of school technology, students are expected to abide by the following acceptable use policies.

General use of electronic devices: Students in preschool, elementary and middle school are only permitted to use electronic devices during school hours when given permission by school staff. All other use during school hours is prohibited. During class periods or official school activities such as chapels and rallies, electronic devices may only be used with permission from staff. Use of electronic devices during class time is subject to monitoring by school personnel, including the use of monitoring software.

Internet usage: Use of the school-provided Internet is intended for school-related activities.

Use in violation of school discipline policies or expected behavior standards is strictly prohibited. Examples of prohibited use of the Internet include, but are not limited to:

- Cyber-bullying
- Accessing or transmitting pornography or other sexually explicit materials or illegal activities
- Harassment of any kind
- Threats of harm to people or property

Students may not use the school-provided Internet or school-provided devices to sell or purchase materials or to conduct any type of business activities not directly related to approved school activities.

The school-provided Internet will have filtering and other restrictions intended to prohibit unacceptable use of the Internet. Disabling or bypassing Internet restrictions is strictly prohibited.

Incidental use of school-provided Internet for personal purposes not restricted elsewhere in this policy is acceptable, as long as the use does not violate restrictions on time of use.

Given the rapidly changing nature of use of the Internet, it is not possible to adequately anticipate all Internet usage situations that may emerge. As such, MCS reserves the right to prohibit, either permanently, or temporarily any particular use of the school-provided Internet at any time.

Downloading software or applications: No software or applications may be downloaded on school-provided equipment without prior permission from staff.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as your own. Using information found on the Internet and copying it or paraphrasing it without citation is unethical and a violation of school discipline policies.

Social Media: Social media is an important and integral part of our culture. While it is recognized that social media platforms serve many good and helpful purposes, they also unfortunately create opportunity for dangerous online behaviors. The opportunities for both beneficial and harmful uses of social media abound, and they change rapidly and continuously. It is understood that no policy can anticipate every potential use of social media. It is also understood that other behavioral policies for students apply to social media behavior, even if those other policies are not explicitly stated as applying to social media. Here are general guidelines for social media use, but in all things related to social media behavior, no policy is a substitute for wise and common sense behavior to maintain personal safety in an online environment.

- Students who are not legally authorized to use social media platforms (typically those under the age of 13) may not ever use school-provided equipment or the school-provided Internet for access to social media.
- MCS strongly recommends that parents/guardians actively monitor any social media activity by their children.
- Behavior that is represented in social media that violates school policies will be subject to normal school discipline.
- Since cell phones or other electronic recording devices may not be used in class without specific permission from staff, any social media postings of photos or videos taken during class are not permitted, and the postings themselves are evidence of inappropriate cell phone use and are subject to corresponding school discipline.
 Harassing or bullying behavior on social media will be treated as equivalent to harassing or bullying behavior in any setting.
- Unfortunately, cyberbullying is sometimes viewed as an acceptable form of behavior or less severe than in-person
 bullying or harassment. It simply is not. Bullying or harassing online behavior will not be tolerated, and it will be
 treated for what it is bullying and harassment.
- While some social media platforms specialize in creating seemingly temporary communications (for example, Snapchat), students need to assume that all forms of social media communication (including texting and emails) are permanent and will be shared. Even images and text on temporary platforms can be permanently captured and shared. MCS strongly advises students and parents/guardians to exercise caution and good judgment about content and images that are shared through social media.
- In particular, "sexting" or other forms of sharing pornography or other sexually explicit material is always inappropriate. Such behavior is a violation of school rules (and subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences, including if appropriate involving law enforcement), but it is also extremely dangerous. Such behavior can result in significant emotional and psychological harm, and it can lead to physical endangerment as well.
- Any posts that threaten harm to others or their property is inappropriate and subject to school disciplinary action, and if appropriate, will be shared with law enforcement. Students who make threatening statements must establish that they are not a threat to themselves, to others or to the school community before being allowed to return to school.
- Given the wide variety and changing use patterns of social media platforms, it is understood that situations will arise
 which are not explicitly addressed by this policy. In those cases, the administration reserves the right to make
 decisions based on the nature of the incident, up to and including removing a student from enrollment at the school.

In compliance with AB 500 (effective 1/1/2018), the following MCS policies governing staff interactions with students are included here:

- In general, staff and students should not engage in social media interactions with each other.
- Social media settings that are specifically about school-related activities or events, such as a social media page for
 a school group or a group text, and are visible to any member of the group, may have staff and student interactions.
- Staff and students who have legitimate reason for social interaction apart from school are permitted to have an appropriate level of social media interaction. For example, staff members whose children attend MCS are expected

- to interact on social media with their own children, and may have some social media interaction with their children's friends as a result.
- Staff should treat social media interactions with students, including texts, similarly to in-person interactions. Secret
 social media conversations between staff and students, beyond the legitimate reasons mentioned above, should
 not be happening.

ATHLETICS (5th & 6th Grade Only)

MCMS athletes compete against other schools from the greater Modesto area. The school offers athletics for both male and female students in grades 7th & 8th. **Possibly, 5th & 6th grade students may participate as needed**.

ATHLETIC AGREEMENT (5th & 6th Grade Only)

All student athletes must have a signed Athletic Release Form (with parent(s)/guardian and student signatures) on file and any necessary fees paid prior to participating. This agreement is updated per sport, per season. All uniforms must be returned to the coach within one week after the end of the season.

ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE (5th & 6th Grade Only)

School attendance is compulsory. Student athletes must attend a minimum of 3.5 hours of the school day in order to participate in athletic games. If a student does not attend at least 3.5 hours during a school day and participates in a game, then he/she will be suspended from the next game. Exceptions are made only for those student athletes who were absent due to a previously scheduled appointment (e.g. doctor or dentist appointment, funeral attendance).

Absences (excused or truant) in any class period are still accumulated into the total number of absences allowed per semester.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

MCS believes in treating opponents, officials and visitors with due respect. This includes refraining from all booing, "razzing," name-calling, throwing of objects, etc. – any of those types of behaviors that are detrimental to the game and the school. MCS also believes in maintaining the highest level of conduct and sportsmanship whether in victory or defeat. Parents, students, and staff are asked to cooperate and be a "good testimony" to MCS.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS (5th & 6th Grade Only)

Students who are suspended with recommendation for expulsion due to violation of the MCES Student Discipline Policy will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for up to two weeks in addition to any suspension served. Students may attend practices during the activity suspension. (Please note: during the initial disciplinary suspension, students may not participate in any school activities.)

- 1.**Students** (including all incoming students) **must maintain quarter grades of 2.0 (or above)** on a scale of 4.0 and no "F" grades to be eligible for competition (games/scrimmages/etc.) with other schools.
- 2. **Academic eligibility/ineligibility for extracurricular activities** will be determined by the quarter grades and posted two weeks after the end of the quarter or as otherwise notified.
- 3. **No late work** will be accepted in altering these determinations.
- 4. Any **student who becomes ineligible for any sport** may continue to practice with the team. The athlete may continue to travel with the team, with the head coach's permission.
- 5. Student is expected to remain in a sport throughout the entire season and is encouraged not to "drop out," resulting in an adverse effect on the remainder of the team. A student who drops out of the team may jeopardize his/her eligibility to play another sport.
- 6. Coaches may require and enforce a more stringent dress code policy, including hair.
- 7. **MCS music policy** requires all music played on campus, including athletic and school sponsored events, to be preapproved prior to use.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Consistent school attendance is necessary for good scholarship and is required by California State Law. It is understood that faithful and regular attendance in school is related to a student's academic progress and achievement. The instructional program is designed to be a progressive and sequential experience for students. Therefore, the failure of a student to attend

class for other than an excused reason is discouraged. Each student is expected to attend class and to be on time unless properly excused. A pattern of irregular attendance or unexcused absences may jeopardize a student's academics.

ATTENDANCE - Excessive Absences

Excessive absences have an impact upon daily schoolwork and the completion of homework. This in turn can affect a student's academic grades due to missing, late, or incomplete work.

If a student accumulates ten (10) absences (excused or unexcused) during one school semester, the school Administrator may place the student on *Attendance Contract* which imposes a requirement that additional absences be verified by a licensed medical practitioner. Excessive absences in a semester or school year may also jeopardize a student's promotion to the next grade level. In the case of a lengthy illness or other "unique" circumstance, the Administration may modify the excessive absence policy.

ATTENDANCE - Excused ABSENCES and Unexcused Absences

The school reserves the right to determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused and also has the right to refuse requests or excuses not included in this section.

- The failure of a student to attend school is considered an absence;
- An excused absence is one that is due to personal illness, quarantine, death in the immediate family, medical, dental, mental health counseling, eye appointments, court, pre-approved absences, inclement weather, and suspensions (disciplinary reasons).
- Removing a student from school for non-essential reasons is considered an unexcused absence.

ATTENDANCE - Leaving School During the Day

Modesto Christian School operates under a "closed campus" policy. Upon arriving to school, each student is to remain at school until the appropriate dismissal time. A student who needs to leave school during the school day must follow these guidelines:

Parents must sign out in the office before leaving school with student. Upon return the same day, the student must go to the office and parents will sign the student back into school. When returning from a medical appointment, the student will need to provide verification from the doctor's office. A student who does not return the same day will need to follow the absence and re-admit guidelines. A student may not leave campus unless accompanied by a parent and/or guardian or by an adult who is approved in writing by the parent and/or guardian.

If a student becomes ill during the day, he/she must check with the front office and must be signed out by parents before leaving. The student must turn in all homework due that day for the classes missed and make up any missed schoolwork upon return. Failure to do so could result in a grade penalty or no credit on the assignment.

ATTENDANCE - PRE-APPROVED ABSENCES

Parents are encouraged to plan vacations and other trips and/or activities during school vacation days. It is advisable for parents to discuss their student's academic standing before planning time away from school. For a student who must be gone during the school year, the following guidelines apply for securing a pre-approved absence:

- A note from the parent must be brought to the office at least five (5) days in advance of the student's date(s) of absence. Failure to notify the school five (5) school days in advance may not guarantee a student receiving prearranged work from a teacher;
- Pre-approved Absence Form must be completed by the student and each teacher must sign for clearance. This
 form must be completed and returned to the school office prior to student's date of anticipated absence. At the
 Administration's discretion this advanced time frame requirement may be modified;
- Permission for an excused absence is at the discretion of the school Administration;
- All pre-assigned work must be turned in at the beginning of the day, on the day of return. This includes all
 long-term assignments such as book reports, projects, reports, etc. All tests must be taken either the day
 of return or the following day (unless pre-arranged otherwise with the teacher) in order to receive credit. All

additional work assigned while the student was absent is due (as scheduled with the teacher) otherwise it is considered late:

- The student, not office staff, is responsible to talk with his/her teachers and get all assignments to be completed;
- Pre-approved absences will not be granted if a student exceeds nine (9) days absent per semester.

ATTENDANCE - Re-Admission to School After Absence

When a student is going to be absent from school, a parent or guardian should contact the Elementary School office before 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence. Check **RenWeb** or class weekly schedule for all assignments, or request homework from the office.

- To clear an absence, student must bring a written or verbal excuse by a parent or guardian. The note must include the name of the student, reason for the absence, and the date(s) absent from school. The note must be brought to the office on the first day the student returns to school from the absence;
- Within 5 days (starting with the day the student returns), a parent or guardian must give the school a note for re-admission or the absence will be considered unexcused;
- A physician's note may be necessary to re-admit a student to school for extended absences after three (3) days or for unusual communicable illnesses.

ATTENDANCE - School-Related Absences

A student who is absent from class for school-related sports, field trips, ACSI competitions, tours, concerts, etc. is still responsible to complete all tests, quizzes, projects, and assignments as directed by the teacher.

- Student is responsible to get all his/her homework assignments;
- If a student misses class, due to a school activity, homework is due the following day after the student returns, otherwise it is considered late.
- Teachers may modify this school-related absence requirement based upon circumstances and the type of school activity.

ATTENDANCE - School Work When Absent

A student with an **excused** absence has the opportunity and responsibility to make up missed work (class work, homework, etc.).

- Student must make up all missed assignments and tests for the days absent;
- Student will be given full credit for all work that is submitted within the required time allotment;
- Student is given two days for every one day of absence to turn in his/her missing school work;
- All tests must be made up within two days of return, and/or at the discretion of the teacher.

Unexcused absences may affect a student's grades for the quarter. No credit will be given for missed homework, assignments, tests, or quizzes beyond the late deadline.

ATTENDANCE - TARDY GUIDELINES

The school day begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. It is imperative for the student to be on time to school. Chronic tardiness affects student's overall academic performance. A student who shows a pattern of tardiness faces academic penalties as well as disciplinary action.

The following guidelines apply to tardies:

- A student late to class without an excused Tardy Slip will receive an unexcused tardy. Tardies resulting from sleeping in, putting gas in the car, alarm clock not going off, running late, errands, phone calls, etc. will not be excused;
- The school reserves the right to determine excused or unexcused tardiness.

AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

According to the California Education Code, a student is under the authority of school officials and is responsible for obeying school rules during school, school activities, and going to and from school or a school activity.

AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

To enhance the education of our students, the Elementary School provides multiple auxiliary programs. These programs (such as Music, PE, STEM, Library) are considered part of our regular instructional program, and participation is mandatory for all students. These activities periodically will have expectations that fall outside the normal school day, such as the Christmas production, and students are required to attend and participate in those extra events.

Students who are well enough to attend school are expected to fully participate in PE, unless they have a note from their doctor excusing them from participation that day. If a student was absent the previous day, parents may excuse them from PE for the current day only without a doctor's note.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GUIDELINES

Each teacher has his/her own policy regarding birthdays and bringing of treats for students' birthdays. Please contact your student's teacher several days in advance to make arrangements.

Birthday Party Invitations:

In an attempt to be understanding of each student's feelings, and to be sensitive to the financial needs of all involved, MCS has established the following guidelines: birthday party invitations may only be distributed at MCS if,

- In the event of an all-boy party, all boys in the classroom are invited;
- In the event of an all-girl party, all girls in the classroom are invited;
- In the event of a mixed party, all children in the classroom are invited.

When a parent wishes to limit the number of students to be invited to a birthday party, the invitations should be mailed or distributed off-campus.

BUS SERVICE

When riding the school bus and/or other school-supplied transportation, students must follow all instructions given by the driver. MCS School Rules still apply while using school-supplied transportation.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

Please notify the office immediately for any changes in your mailing address, home/work/cell telephone number(s), email address(es), emergency number(s) or other contact information.

CHAPEL

Chapel is scheduled once a week and is a privilege for all students to attend. Students should bring their Bibles to chapel, attend with their class, and sit in an assigned section. The chapel program includes worship, sharing, drama skits, videos, special speakers and a time of challenge from God's Word. Students should come to chapel with an attitude of respect while preparing their hearts to fellowship with the entire student body and learn more about God's Word.

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Students or parent(s) are entitled to appeal a decision or action made by members of the school faculty/staff by following the appropriate procedures. Modesto Christian School endeavors to follow Biblical principles for conflict resolution. To ensure successful resolution, proper protocol must be followed as indicated within this section.

The appropriate procedure, if one feels the need to make a complaint, is to first request to meet with the person in private. Most complaints are the result of a misunderstanding and can usually be resolved by the persons meeting in private to discuss the problem. If such a meeting fails to resolve the problem, the student or parent(s) may wish to bring it to the attention of the dean or principal. If this step fails to resolve the circumstance, then the student or parent may provide a letter to the Superintendent.

While every effort will be made to resolve conflicts to everyone's satisfaction, if disagreements remain at the conclusion of the conflict resolution process, parents and students agree to cooperate with and support the final decision of the school. Fomenting dissent in the school community without following these procedures or after the conflict resolution process has

been completed is divisive and detrimental to the students, the staff, and the community and may jeopardize continued enrollment.

CONDUCT AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

The essential elements of character building and ethics in CIF sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

Trustworthiness — Be worthy of trust in all you do.

Respect — Treat all people with respect at all times and require the same of your student-athletes.

Importance of Education — Support the concept of "being a student first." Commit your child to earning a diploma and getting the best possible education. Be honest with your child about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level. Reinforce the notion that many universities will not recruit student-athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education. Be the lead contact for college and university coaches in the recruiting process.

Fairness and Openness — Live up to high standards of fair play. Be open-minded, always willing to listen and learn.

Caring Environment — Consistently demonstrate concern for student-athletes as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team.

Spirit of the Rules — Honor the spirit and the letter of rules. Teach your children to avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship. Adult behavior affects student behavior. All spectators are encouraged to observe the CIF LEAGUE'S CODE OF ETHICS. Adults who repeatedly engage in inappropriate behavior will be reported to the proper authorities and removed from the activity or event.

CONDUCT OF STUDENT - ON AND OFF CAMPUS

An enrolled MCS student's behavior and conduct is a 24/7 representation of Modesto Christian School. For that reason, any misconduct or behavior that is brought to the attention of MCS administration that occurred off campus and outside of school hours will be dealt with as a disciplinary issue. If a student is not yet enrolled, enrollment may be denied based upon the behavioral issue that occurs. Misconduct is defined as inappropriate activity that is harmful physically or emotionally to another individual or themselves, or causes harm to the reputation and integrity of Modesto Christian School. MCS administration reserves the right to determine what behavior and conduct is a violation of MCS regulations and standards. This is in compliance with the Parent Commitment form on file for your student: "We realize the school reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not respect its spiritual standards or cooperate in the educational process of MCS".

CUSTODY RIGHTS

Legal opinion states that each parent has equal rights to their children unless a "court issued legal document" is issued and filed in the child's cumulative folder. In the event that a parent states that they have such a document, it is imperative that the document be brought to school to be included in the student's school record.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Students whose financial accounts that are two months past due may not be permitted to attend school until the account is brought current. It is understood that life circumstances may arise unexpectedly, so it is imperative that families contact the business office to schedule a payment plan to bring the account current to avoid disruption to your student's education.

DIGNITY AND RESPECT

Each individual is entitled to be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect as a student at Modesto Christian School. Such treatment from both members of the staff and fellow students should be expected.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

To ensure student safety, please adhere to the following:

- Follow the traffic pattern as established by MCS;
- Follow the instructions given by staff members;
- Move vehicle all the way forward before stopping to allow student to enter or exit the car;
- > AM/PM please never leave your car unattended in the drive-thru during the drop-off or pick-up times:
- In the morning, please have your student ready to exit the car as you enter the parking lot;

If you would like to park and walk in to pick up your student, you must park in the designated parking areas.

At the end of the school day, each student is to do one of the following: report to the EDC, report to the bus, or wait in the designated supervised area for a parent to pick him/her up. A student who remains on campus after 3:00pm will be sent to EDC so that he/she may be properly supervised until the arrival of a parent.

ELEMENTARY SCHEDULE

*Please note that schedules are subject to change



Modesto Christian School DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

K-6th Grade

Opening/Dismissal Bells

6:00 PM	Extended Day Care Closes
2:45 PM	Dismissal K – 6 th grade/EDC Opens
8:20 AM	Elementary School Begins
8:15 AM	Elementary School First Bell
8:00 AM	Elementary Gate Opens
7:00 AM	Extended Day Care Opens

Bell Schedule - Friday early dismissal time is 12:00 p.m.

	K-1	2-3	4-6
Recess AM	10:10-10:25	9:50-10:05	9:30-9:45
Lunch	12:20-12:40	11:40-12:00	11:00-11:20
Lunch Recess EMERGENCY PREPARE	12:40-1:05 EDNESS	12:00-12:25	11:20-11:45

MCS has implemented emergency preparedness drills in the event of potential disaster. All students are expected to obey the instructions of MCS Personnel. MCS will communicate with families as rapidly and as effectively as we can, in a developing situation. In the event of an emergency situation, parents should not come to campus until instructed to do so by school personnel or emergency personnel.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENT BEHAVIOR

The school recognizes that each parent is an example of behavior to students. It is expected that each parent will demonstrate polite and respectful behavior at all times. This includes the following:

- polite and common courtesies;
- · respect for privacy and not speaking about sensitive matters in public areas;
- check in with the elementary school office before visiting any classroom;
- obey traffic patrols, use common safe driving courtesy and demonstrate;
- patience and compliance while dropping off and picking up students.

A parent/student who uses obscenities or who speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting, or demeaning manner to a faculty/staff member, other student's parents, or students, or treats a staff member, other student's parents, or students disrespectfully, may be asked to leave the campus. This behavior may jeopardize the student's continued enrollment. If necessary, the Sheriff's Department will be called for assistance.

EXTENDED DAY CARE

All Elementary students who are on campus before 8:00 a.m. or remain after school beyond 3:00 p.m. will be <u>required</u> to attend the Extended Day Care Program (EDC). Elementary students must be picked up by 3:00 p.m. <u>Students ARE NOT permitted to wait in high school classrooms or on the high school campus until being picked up</u>. Please check with the K-6 office for information about the payment of fees for EDC.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents will receive a Field Trip Notification form whenever a field trip is scheduled. A permission slip must be signed and returned to the teacher before going on the trip. Failure to bring a permission slip or failure of a student to dress in the appropriate dress code for that particular trip, may result in the student remaining in school, or being sent home while the class is on the trip. Only students from the participating class may attend the field trip (friends, siblings, or other relatives are not permitted to attend the field trip due to supervision, liability, missed school work, etc.). **Drivers:** Students' parent(s) are permitted to drive on field trips and transport only their own student. If a parent wishes to drive a student who isn't his/her own child, he/she must go through a background check with MCS, provide a copy of his/her current driver's license, registration, and proof of auto insurance (verification card) to be kept on file in the Elementary School Office. School rules apply on all field trips and on all school sponsored events.

School rules apply on all field trips and all school-sponsored events whether on or off the school campus.

FOOD FOR BREAK AND LUNCH

Each student is encouraged to bring healthy snacks during break and lunch, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, cheese and crackers, etc.

A hot lunch program is available for elementary students. Each month a schedule is sent home to parents with lunch dates, menu choices and the cost for each item. Please be aware the school is unable to offer a refund for a lunch a student forgot to pick up or missed due to absence, vacation, etc.

Lunches delivered to the school should be brought to the office, labeled with the student's name. Lunches may not be brought directly to classrooms.

Professional individual food delivery services may not be used to bring food to campus for students. Group deliveries - for example, pizza for a lunchtime club meeting - must be ordered by a staff member involved in the meeting. Parents who bring lunch for their student must bring the food to the office, as students are not permitted to go to the parking lot to pick food up.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the school year, students are given opportunities to fundraise for classroom accounts and school improvement projects.

Additionally, students in grades 5-8 are given opportunities to fundraise in an effort to off-set expenses associated with the Outdoor Education/Science Camp for 6th graders and Washington, DC trip for 8th graders. In the event a student chooses not to participate in either of these events, all monies fundraised are non-refundable.

GRADING POLICY

The academic year is divided into four (4) quarters. A grade is given at the end of each quarter for each academic subject. The GPA is calculated based upon the grades received by the student.

The grading system is as follows for Grades K thru 6

The following notations will be used to report progress in work habits, and non-academic areas (i.e. character development, citizenship,etc.)

- E: Excellent Consistently and independently achieves the content evidence of exceeding grade level standards
- S: Satisfactory- Consistently and independently achieves the grade level standard
- NI: Needs improvement Progressing toward achievement of the grade level standard
- U: Unsatisfactory- Limited/minimum progress toward achievement of grade level standard

The grading system below will be used to report academic progress:

97-100 A+	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	Below 60 F
93-96 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D	
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	

HAZING/HARASSMENT/UNWANTED ACTIONS

The school maintains a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment, which is free from hazing, harassment and bullying, and based on sound instructional and classroom management practices and clear discipline policies that are consistently and effectively enforced.

Purpose and Philosophy

Harassment, hazing and initiation activities that involve hazing/harassment, are abusive and illegal behaviors that harm victims and negatively impact the school environment by creating an atmosphere of fear, distrust and mean-spiritedness.

Hazing means any action taken or situation created that causes, or is reasonably likely to cause, harassment, bodily danger or physical harm, serious mental or emotional harm, extreme embarrassment or ridicule, or personal degradation or loss of dignity to any student or other person associated with the school.

Harassment of other students or staff, including bullying, intimidation, hazing, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering, threatens the student with ostracism, or discourages the student from remaining in school or continuing the school activity is prohibited.

The following are several examples of hazing/harassment, which are listed to educate students, parents, coaches, club advisors, and educators about specific misconduct that may be defined as hazing/harassment.

- Any act that involves physical brutality or physical aggression that causes or is reasonably likely to cause bodily
 danger or physical harm to an individual, such as whipping, beating, paddling, taping or otherwise restraining
 students against their will;
- Activities that unreasonably interfere with a student's academic efforts by causing exhaustion, prolonged loss of sleep or loss of study time;
- Degrading or humiliating games, pranks, stunts, practical jokes or other activities that make a student the object of amusement, ridicule, intimidation, or ostracism;
- Coercing or permitting students to drink alcohol or consume illicit drugs or controlled substances
- Forcing, coercing or permitting students to eat or drink foreign or unusual substances or foods, or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual;
- · Applying whipped cream, shaving cream, toothpaste or other substances to an individual's body;
- · Requiring personal servitude;
- Requiring students to wear uncomfortable, ridiculous or embarrassing clothing;
- Requiring students to participate in vandalism, theft, assault, sexual acts or other criminal activity;
- Causing indecent exposure or any other gross or lewd behavior involving nudity;
- Subjecting an individual to cruel or unusual psychological conditions for any reason;
- Compelling an individual to participate in any activity that is illegal, perverse, publicly indecent, contrary to the individual's genuine moral or religious beliefs or contrary to the rules of the school;
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens a student for reporting, or to keep a student from reporting acts of hazing or harassment.

POLICY

The school strictly prohibits students from engaging individually or collectively in any form of hazing/harassment in conjunction with any school activity or involving any person associated with the school. Any student who participates in hazing/harassment will face immediate disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion, exclusion and loss of participation in extracurricular activities. In addition, students who participate in hazing may be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities, based on the severity of the offense and may face subsequent prosecution. "Conspire to engage in hazing" means to plan, encourage, fail to prevent or fail to report hazing and related initiation activities prohibited by this policy. Students may be held accountable and subject to discipline consequences if they fail to prevent or report hazing/harassment.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Immunizations: All **Kindergarten** entrants must meet specific immunization requirements and present an immunization record (i.e., a personal record with entries made by a physician or clinic). All students transferring from other schools in California or other states must present either a personal immunization record or a state

immunization record.

Physicals for 1st Grade: A student entering 1st grade needs a complete health examination as required by California State Law. Forms (available from the school office) verifying the examination must be returned to the school by October 20th. Please contact the office for further information.

Contagious Illness: If your student has been knowingly exposed to a contagious illness such as measles, chickenpox, mumps, and lice. etc., the school will send home a written notice.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is assigned for practice and repetition, extension beyond the lesson, and/or development of skills and concepts. Depending on the grade level, students will have different time durations and amounts of homework to complete.

If a student leaves early or arrives late, homework due in missed classes must be handed in to the office or appropriate teacher. If not, it will be considered late. No credit will be given for missed homework, assignments, tests or quizzes beyond the late deadline.

HONOR ROLL

Grades 3-6

Honor Roll is based upon the overall quarterly GPA received in all graded subjects. Students who receive a grade of D or F in any subject will not qualify for Honor Roll. The Honor Roll categories and qualifications are listed below:

Highest Honors	4.0	GPA
High Honors	3.75-3.99	GPA
Honors	3.5-3.74	GPA
Honorable Mention	3.0-3.49	GPA

When calculating a GPA, we use the following point system: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0.

<u>ILLNESS</u>

There are some types of communicable diseases which require students to have written clearance before returning to school. A physician's note may be required before re-admission to school may be granted (or if students' recovery is in question). If your student has been ill with a communicable disease, please consult the elementary office before returning to school.

A student who has been vomiting, has diarrhea, or has a fever, should be kept out of school. Students who exhibit these symptoms at school will be sent home.

INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC PLANS (IAP)

MCS does not issue Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 plans for students who need academic support. Instead, we issue Individual Academic Plans (IAP). IAPs are issued to help students who need additional academic support beyond what is normally provided in the classroom. IAPs may be issued for students with documented learning disabilities, and they may be issued in exceptional circumstances, like a prolonged illness, or academic interruption due to a death in the immediate family. The intent of an IAP is to help students be successful in the classroom, but MCS may not be able to provide all recommended services for a student. Individual needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The intent of an IAP is to help the student be successful in the classroom, but MCS may not be able to provide all recommended services for a student. MCS endeavors to provide the following:

- *Individualization* to determine, through qualified testing, the individual and specific needs of a student in order to develop an educational plan designed for that specific student;
- *Mainstreaming* to enable a student to be mainstreamed into regular classes;
- Independency to achieve a level of independent function at grade level by improving basic skills;
- Realization of Potential to enable the student to attain his/her God-given potential.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

We administer a Kindergarten readiness test prior to entrance into Kindergarten. This test is administered by an MCS trained teacher. Modesto Christian School's kindergarten cut-off age is age 5 by December 1st.

LOST AND FOUND

All articles left in the classroom or on the school grounds will be placed in the Lost and Found. Unclaimed items will be displayed periodically. Unclaimed articles of clothing will be donated to a charitable organization.

MEDICINE

C.E.C. 49423 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 49422, any pupil who is required to take, during the regular school day, medication prescribed for him by a physician, may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel if the school district receives (1) a written statement from such physician detailing the method, amount, and time schedule by which such medication is to be taken, and (2) a written statement from the parent or guardian of the pupil indicating the desire

that the school assist the pupil in the matters set forth in the physician's statement.

School personnel will cooperate with parents by providing a place for medication to be stored and by assisting in its administration pursuant to a parent's request and physician instructions. However, the primary responsibility for a student taking medication at school rests entirely with the student and student's parent(s).

- Parents are required to bring the student's medication to the school office in the original pharmacy container. All medication must have the student's name clearly marked on the container.
- A "Medication Consent Form" must be completed and accompanied with each medication.

MUTUAL COMBAT (FIGHTING AGAINST STUDENT OR STAFF)

Unlawful violence will not be tolerated at MCS. Mutual combat situations, unless it is clearly a case of reasonable self-defense against an unprovoked assault, is when two students engage in a physical altercation (i.e. punches thrown) often preceded by a heated verbal exchange and/or pushing and shoving. Students are required to contact a teacher, an administrator or any staff member if they have reason to believe that they may engage in a physical altercation. If a student fails to follow this directive and subsequently engages in a fight, it will be considered mutual combat and he/she will be suspended. Challenging and/or accepting a challenge to fight on or about campus is also considered mutual combat. The result will be the suspension of all combatants.

In all cases of unprovoked assault, the offending student will be suspended pending expulsion, and criminal charges may be filed with law enforcement. An unprovoked assault is one person attacking another who does not wish to fight.

NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AND REPORT CARDS

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled near the end of the first quarter. Additional conferences may be scheduled during the school year. If needed, please call the school office to arrange a conference with the teacher. Elementary School report cards are sent home with students during the second, third, and fourth quarters.

PARENTAL REINFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL RULES

Parents are asked to assist the school in helping their student understand the importance of following the school rules and to be supportive when situations arise at school where the student may encounter the consequence of not obeying them.

PARTICIPATION IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

In any and all promotional material in whatever form generated by MCS (including but not limited to online newsletters, MCS websites, emails, printed communication, advertisements, video, and social media such as Facebook or Twitter), MCS reserves the right to publish any student images, visual or audio, including any student work products, with or without student names. MCS does not control, nor can it reasonably control, all uses of student images published for personal use by students, family members, MCS employees, MCS board members, or any other member of the general community, including any images that are published including student names. MCS therefore assumes no liability for the publication of student images in any forum. In enrolling students at MCS, MCS parents/guardians fully release and forever discharge MCS from and against any liability whatsoever from any claims, actions, causes of action, liability and damage for the use of student images.

PHYSICAL PRIVACY

I. Purpose

In recognition of student physical privacy rights and the need to ensure student safety and maintain school discipline, this Policy is enacted to advise school site staff and administration regarding their duties in relation to student use of restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and other school facilities where students may be in a state of undress in the presence of other students.

II. Definitions

"Biological sex" means the biological condition of being male or female as determined at birth based on physical differences, or, when necessary, at the chromosomal level.

III. Policy

A. Use of School Facilities

Notwithstanding any other Board Policy, student restrooms, locker rooms, and showers that are designated for one biological sex shall only be used by members of that biological sex.

In any other school facilities or settings where a student may be in a state of undress in the presence of other students (*i.e.*, changing costumes during school theatrical productions, etc.), school personnel shall provide separate, private areas designated for use by students based on their biological sex.

B. Accommodation of Biological Sex Non-Conforming Students

Students that exclusively and consistently assert at school that their gender is different from their biological sex shall be provided with the best available accommodation that meets their needs, but in no event shall that be access to the school restroom, locker room, or shower of the opposite biological sex. Such accommodations may include, but are not limited to: access to a single-stall restroom; access to a uni-sex restroom; or controlled use of a faculty restroom, locker room, or shower.

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge to the American Flag

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Pledge to the Christian Flag

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe."

Pledge to the Bible

"I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God."

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM - BEHAVIOR

During pledges in class or at school functions, including the Pledge to the American Flag, the Pledge to the Christian Flag, and the Pledge to the Bible, as well as during performances of the National Anthem, students are expected to stand as a sign of respect. Students are encouraged to say the words, but they are not required to do so. Students may not engage in any form of protest during recitation of pledges or the performance of the National Anthem. Violations of this policy will be considered disrespectful behavior and will be handled according to MCES discipline policy

PRIVACY POLICY

Modesto Christian School releases certain information on students. This information is limited to name, address, telephone number, email, date and place of birth, major field of study, athletic and activity participation, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards, and most recent previous school. Modesto Christian School releases this information (unless parents specifically request in writing to not release this information) to the following groups: government agencies, representatives of the news media, employers or prospective employers, nonprofit youth organizations, and public/private schools and colleges.

If parents do not wish to have this information released, then the parent(s) must submit a request in writing to the Elementary School Office.

PROFANITY

Profanity, also known as swearing, cursing, foul speech, and cussing, is a show of disrespect, a desecration or debasement of someone or something, or just the act of expressing intense emotions. Profanity can take the form of words, expressions, gestures, or other social behaviors that are socially construed or interpreted as insulting, rude, vulgar, obscene, obnoxious, foul, desecrating or other forms. All forms of profanity are prohibited.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports are available midway through each quarter. This provides an opportunity for each student to improve or maintain his/her grade prior to the quarter grade.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Promotion to the next grade level is based on successful academic completion of the current grade, along with consistent attendance. A pattern of poor academics, irregular attendance, or unexcused absences may jeopardize promotion to the next grade level or even graduation. If a student is in jeopardy of not being promoted, special academic requirements or arrangements may be mandated by the school in order to be considered for the next grade level.

READMISSION AFTER WITHDRAWAL/EXPULSION

A student who has been expelled or withdrawn by request of the administration will be reconsidered for re-admission after a minimum of one year from the date of withdrawal. During the year, the student must exhibit successful attendance and achievement in another private or public school through appropriate documentation.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

To maintain order and discipline on school property and at school-related events and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, MCS has the right to perform unannounced searches and to seize contraband, and has the right to perform physical searches of students to determine whether they pose a danger to themselves or others. The Principal and Dean of Students or other authorized staff members may search a student's pockets, purse, backpack, gym bag, or other personal property; student lockers, desks or other school property; or student automobiles under the conditions described below.

No student may possess any illegal substance, object, or contraband that constitutes a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of any person or persons on school property. Contraband includes all substances or materials prohibited by school policy or state or federal law, including but not limited to controlled substances, drugs, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, guns, knives, weapons, or incendiary devices. All items deemed to be illegal, illicit, disruptive, or a general nuisance to the educational process may be seized by staff. Storage, return, or destruction of such items shall be at the discretion of the Principal, Dean of Students, or designated agent. Items may be subject to legal impoundment.

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER-BULLYING

Students must be aware that any inappropriate activity on social media networks or electronic communication that is brought to the attention of school administration may result in disciplinary action. This includes any obscene or inappropriate language, pictures, or other types of media regarding other students, parents, school staff or Modesto Christian School. Depending on severity, law enforcement may be notified. As a student at Modesto Christian, online and cell phone conduct must be appropriate, respectful of others, and in keeping with Modesto Christian School standards. Please see the Acceptable Use and Social Media Policy for more information.

STUDENT ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

MCS strives to provide the necessary athletic and playground equipment for students to use throughout the day. Therefore, students should not bring any type of equipment onto the campus including bats, balls (e.g. basketball, baseballs, tennis balls, rubber balls, etc.), jump ropes, etc. The school cannot be responsible for lost or damaged personal equipment, projects, or objects brought to school.

STUDENT BOOKS/TEXTBOOKS

When textbooks are issued, students should check for all damages or marks. If problems are observed, students should immediately report the damage to their teacher. All textbooks need to be covered to prevent damages to the books. Scotch

tape and clear adhesive covers should not be used directly on the textbooks as it damages the interfacing and covers of the books.

Students must protect the books issued at all times, as they will be billed for the full replacement price if books are lost, stolen or damaged.

Students leaving textbooks anywhere on campus will be subject to disciplinary action. Textbooks must be kept in classrooms, backpacks or in the students' possession.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The MCS staff is here to help you get the finest education possible. Every elementary school must have rules and the means to enforce those rules to prevent disorder and chaos.

The **Elementary Discipline Policy Charts** describes the types of consequences imposed for behavior and homework issues. One chart explains the consequences for grades K-2nd and one chart for grades 3rd-6th.

Discipline means "training that molds character" and reveals love (Proverbs 3:12); it tends to motivate students to learn, teaches self-control, and sets limits for the student's own good. The following principles are considered when the disciplinary method is chosen.

- Each student is an individual, each is unique, and may have special needs and respond differently to the same method... but all need firmness, fairness, and consistency.
- Any punishment should fit the offense, if possible. When punishment is administered, it is to be done as quickly and calmly as possible after the offense is discovered. (Ecclesiastes 8:11; Proverbs 14:17)
- Forms of discipline may include, but are not limited to, time-out from activities, lunch or recess detention, written
 assignments, community service, lunch or after-school detention. Serious incidents or continued misbehavior may
 result in possible suspension or expulsion.
- Every discipline encounter is viewed as a teaching opportunity.
- As with all aspects of a student's education, discipline at MCS is seen as a cooperative endeavor of the school and the home. Every effort will be made to ensure timely communication.

The classroom Discipline Plan is displayed in the classroom for easy reference by the student. There are reminders given to assist the student in learning appropriate behavior and attitudes. The expectations and consequences are also made available to parents, in writing.

Our purpose is to assist the student in developing Christ-like character traits, making wise choices, and learning to take responsibility for his/her actions. In each classroom, when discipline is necessary, it is administered fairly, consistently, and tempered by love and care for each student.

The most important aspect of a discipline policy is to create positive change in behavior. Repeat offenses will result in progressively more serious DISCIPLINARY RESPONSES THAN THE INITIAL VIOLATION.

Every attempt will be made to follow the dictates of the MCS Disciplinary Chart. However, the Administration reserves the right to objectively determine punishment based on the seriousness of a particular infraction and the discipline record of the student who commits the offense.

In order to ensure the safe, secure, and harassment-free learning environment of MCS, the Administration reserves the right to recommend the removal of any student who poses a threat, real or perceived, to any MCS student or staff member.

The Modesto Christian Superintendent and/or Administration reserves the right to notify local law enforcement prior to parent notification.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS

Rules are necessary for the safety and success of any school. A student is required to follow these rules and parents are asked to reinforce them when discussing school matters with their student at home. Parents are asked to support the school in helping their student understand the importance of obeying these rules when situations arise at school, and a student encounters the consequences of non-compliance of specific rules.

The basic school rules are as follows:

- The asphalt and cement areas are to be used for playground games;
- Student is to play a safe distance from school yard boundaries;
- Student is to walk on the sidewalks, blacktop or cement areas, or on bark;
- Running is permitted on basketball court and on grass areas only;
- Each elementary student is to stay on the elementary side of campus during the school day unless escorted/sent by teacher or adult;
- All play is to end at the sound of the bell. Student is to walk to his/her designated lines;
- Balls are not permitted in the bark area;
- BULLYING will not be tolerated;
- No playing or hanging out in the restrooms;
- Student must show respect at all times to all staff members including the Extended Daycare staff;
- Student is to follow a "hands off" policy; for example, no fighting, hitting, slapping, wrestling, pushing or kicking;
- Proper verbal communication is expected of the student at all times; for example, no swearing, lying, or teasing;
- Cell phones are permitted at school for emergency use only. During school days, phones must be turned off and kept in student's backpack;
- Food and drink may be consumed during class time with teacher permission only;
- Gum chewing is not permitted at school;
- Toy pistols, guns, knives, trading cards, video or other home games are not permitted at school. If a student brings
 them, the school will not be responsible for damage, breakage, loss or theft. If items come to the attention of school
 personnel, they will be confiscated and parents will be contacted to pick up items;
- Toys should only be brought to school for a specific reason as agreed upon by the teacher. They are to be kept by
 the teacher except for predetermined periods of time. Any article that interferes with a student's academic work will
 be regarded as a toy.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE GRADE LEVEL CONSEQUENCES

Elementary Discipline Policy - Grades K-2nd

Primary Consequences Plan - (Behavior)

First Reminder: Warning

Second Reminder: Snack Recess or Lunch (5 minutes)
 Third Reminder: Snack Recess or Lunch (10 minutes)

• Fourth Reminder: All Snack Recess or All Lunch

Conference with Teacher and Parent

• Fifth Reminder: Conference with Principal/Teacher/Parent

Primary Consequences Plan - (Homework)

Student must stay in at recess or at recess table until homework is complete.

• Two days of incomplete or no homework will result in teacher calling or emailing parent.

Elementary Discipline Policy - Grades 3rd-6th

Primary Consequences Plan - (Behavior)

• First Reminder: Warning

Second Reminder: Snack Recess or Lunch (10 minutes)

Third Reminder: All Snack Recess or All Lunch

Fourth Reminder: Conference with Teacher and Parent
 Fifth Reminder: Conference with Principal/Teacher/Parent

& Campus Beautification Program (CBP)

Primary Consequences Plan - (Homework)

• Student must stay in the classroom during recess or at the recess table until homework is complete.

Two days of incomplete or no homework will result in teacher calling or emailing parent.

MODESTO CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY CHART

The most important aspect of a discipline policy is to affect a positive change in behavior. Note that repeat offenses effect a progressively serious DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE THAN THE INITIAL NOLATION. Every attempt will be made to follow the clicitates of this chart. However, the administration does reserve the right to objectively determine punishment based on the seriousness of a particular infraction and the previous discipline record of the student who commits the offense.

	CATEGORY 1	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE	4TH OFFENSE	5TH OFFENSE
	Cell Phones		Documented warning,	Snack Recess or Lunch	All Snack Recess	Conference with
	Emergency Use Only Turned off during class	Documented warning	notify parent(s)	(K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	or All Lunch	Principal / Parent
	Chewing Gum on Campus	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Shack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal / Parent
IVE	Failure to Follow Dress Code	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal / Parent
MONTHLY CUMULATIVE	Food / Drink in Classroom Without Permission	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3; 5 minutes) (4-6; 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal / Parent
	Hands Off Failure to keep hands to self	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal / Parent
MONT	Tardy Failure to be in a designated place at the designated time	Documented werning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Shack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal / Parent
	Student Handbook Violation	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal / Parent
	Work Study Habits Excessive Talking / Not Doing assigned work / Not following Discipline Policy	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Teacher and Parent, and/or Principal
	CATEGORY 2	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE	4TH OFFENSE	5TH OFFENSE
	Cheating Presenting the work of others as one's own	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Notify Parents, 75% credit on assignment	Notify Parents, 50% credit on assignment	Notify Parents 25% credit on assignment	Notify Perents 0% credit on assignment,
	Deflance / Non-Compliance Failure to respond to adult requests and/or directives	Documented warning. notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal. 3 day suspension	5 day suspension
	Disrespect Unkind, inappropriate treatment of others	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal, 3 day suspension	5 day suspension
QUARTERLY CUMULATIVE	Disruptive Behavior Classroom / Chapel / School Activities / Bus Interruption to the classroom or learning environment	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3; 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Teacher and Parent, and/or Principal
ILY CUM	Littering Discarding of items or dumping trash in any location other than a trash can	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3; 5 minutes) (4-6; 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal
IARTER	Lying / Dishonesty Repeating untrue statements	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal, 3 day suspension	5 day suspension
귱	Out of Class / Out of Bounds Without Permission	Documented warning	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal
	Profanity / Inappropriate Language Language which is inappropriate yet not used in an abusive or threatening manner	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal, 3 day suspension	5 day suspension
	Theft School and/or personal property	Documented warning, notify parent(s)	Snack Recess or Lunch (K-3: 5 minutes) (4-6: 10 minutes)	All Snack Recess or All Lunch	Conference with Principal, 3 day suspension	5 day suspension
	CATEGORY 3	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE	4TH OFFENSE	5TH OFFENSE
CUMULATIVE	Flighting / Mutual Combat Physical injury, bodily harm, flighting, verbal and or physical, provoked and unprovoked	1 day suspension	2 day suspension	3 day suspension	4 day suspension, Conference with Parents	5 day suspension, Recommendation for Expulsion
	Harassment Intentionally harassing, threatening, bullying, intimidating others, verbal or physical, provoked or unprovoked	1 day suspension	2 day suspension	3 day suspension	4 day suspension, Conference with Parents	5 day suspension, Recommendation for Expulsion
SEMESTER	Possession of Illegal or Controlled Substances or Dangerous Objects	1 day suspension	3 day suspension		5 day suspension, Recommendation for Expulsion	
SEM	Sexual Assault / Battery	3-5 day suspension, could result with a Recommendation for Explusion, Law Enforcement contacted, if battery.	5 day suspension, Recommendation for Exputsion			

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CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM (CBP)

CBP has been established to help curtail continual disruptions in the educational process. It is the intention of the administration that CBP is a powerful tool to effect a positive change in behavior. If a student has been assigned to CBP, he/she works after school for two hours to assist in maintaining our campus.

- Students who fail to serve their designated CBP hours will be suspended from any school activity until the CBP has been completed.
- CBP assignments cost \$10.00 for each 2 hours. Fees may be paid at the time of the CBP, or they will be billed through FACTS for payment.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

We believe that each student enrolled at Modesto Christian School is a quality young person. We desire each student to strive for excellence in everything and in every way during his/her years at MCS. In fact, the Bible tells us, "in whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (Colossians 3:17)

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment. It should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." I Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)

How a student dresses has a profound influence on personal identity and self-esteem. A person feels well when he or she dresses well and appropriately. We want to instill in each student the positive character traits of cleanliness, neatness, and modesty, which we feel are pleasing to God.

Please follow the established guidelines for Dress Code. If it is not set forth in these standards, it is not considered acceptable uniform clothing.

Outerwear - Boys and Girls

Color: Student is encouraged to wear solid red, white, navy, royal blue sweatshirts, or those with an MCS logo. Pictures, designs, and team logos are allowed if neat and discreet.

Style: Cardigan, crew neck, v-neck, sleeveless vests, zippered-down sweaters or sweatshirts.

Jackets/Coats - Boys and Girls

Style/Color: Not standardized. Student may wear jackets/coats of his/her choice. Parents, PLEASE LABEL all outerwear so that clothing may be returned to your student.

Pants/Shorts - Boys and Girls

Color: Solid blue or khaki (no trim or designs)

Fabric: Twill, cotton blend, polyester, or corduroy. Student <u>may not wear jeans (except on designated days)</u>; sweat pants, or jogging pants.

Note: Pants must fit at the waist and not be more than one size too large or too small. Shorts must be mid-thigh length (one-half the distance between the crotch and the mid-knee) and must be loose fitting. Capris are acceptable.

Shirts/Blouses - Boys and Girls

Color: Solid red, white, or navy blue. Trim is permitted in school colors only. No pictures, designs, or logos are permitted **except** the MCS logo.

Style: Polo, oxford-style, turtleneck, or mock turtleneck. Long or short sleeves are acceptable.

Note: MCS "apparel shirts" (purchased from the school) are considered acceptable attire.

Skirts/Skorts/Jumpers - Girls only

Color: Solid blue or khaki (no trim or designs)

Fabric: Twill, cotton blend, polyester, or corduroy (no denim)

Note: Skirt, skort, and jumper length must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee, and must be worn modestly at all times. Shorts should be worn under skirts or jumpers.

Socks - Boys and Girls

Colors: Solid red, white, dark blue or black

Note: Girls may wear tights in school colors. For safety purposes, it is required that socks be worn with all footwear.

Shoes – Boys and Girls

Color: Any color that coordinates with outfit is acceptable

Style: Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe and practical. Shoes without backs or flip-flop shoes are not permitted. Shoes with skate wheels or high heels are not permitted. Please have student wear or bring tennis shoes on P.E. days.

Accessories - Boys and Girls

Jewelry: Modest jewelry only. Excessive jewelry and jewelry with symbols related to cults is not permitted.

Girls: Wearing of pierced jewelry is not permitted on any body parts other than ears. Post earrings only.

Boys: Wearing of pierced jewelry is not permitted.

Hats: "MC apparel" hats are permitted; other baseball caps, hats, or head bandanas may not be worn at any time. Special permission for wearing hats indoors will be given with a doctor's excuse.

Hair - Boys and Girls

All: Hair for boys and girls must be neat and clean. No shaved portions of the head. Colors and styles may not be extreme. Student may not deviate from the spectrum of natural hair colors.

Boys: Hair must not extend below the bottom of the ear or over the eyes and needs to be neatly trimmed so that it does not rest below the shirt collar.

Make-up

Make-up may not be worn.

Chapel Dress

Follow standardized dress code.

Free Dress

Jeans may be worn. Jeans cannot have any holes higher that four (4) inches above the knee. Standard styles of shirt are permitted in non-standard colors.

Special Dress-Up Days (Such as Pajama Day)

These days will have published guidelines sent home when the day is announced.

Cold Weather Days

During inclement weather, the school office may adjust the dress code policy. A notice will be sent home informing parents of any change.

If a student arrives at school inappropriately dressed (out of dress code) the parent(s) will be contacted and required to provide an appropriate change of clothing. If parent is unable to provide an appropriate change of clothing, the school will provide something to wear. Such clothing must be laundered and returned the next school day.

STUDENT LIFE

Modesto Christian Elementary School Students are expected to...

- Be respectful of the Bible as it is the inspired Word of God;
- Be respectful of others;
- Be treated **fairly**, with respect and in a courteous manner;
- Be responsible for their own actions and practice self-discipline and self-control;
- Be understanding of the diversity of culture, heritage, and gender of others at school;
- Be interactive with each other (in a respectful manner) and avoid needless confrontations;
- Be able to **approach each other politely** over matters of concern and conflict and, if necessary, seek help through adult mediation and problem solving;
- Be **responsive** to those **adults** in authority within the school community;
- Be respectful of school and personal property and not tolerate or contribute to vandalism, graffiti, or litter.

STUDENT-PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

We recognize that parents are examples of behavior to our students. It is expected that parents and students will demonstrate polite and respectful behavior at all times. This includes polite and common courtesies, respect for privacy and respect of school faculty, staff and the MCS community. Parents/students who use obscenities or speak in a demanding, loud, insulting or demeaning manner to a faculty/staff member, parent or student, or treat a faculty/staff member, parent or student disrespectfully or in a threatening manner may be asked to leave the campus and may jeopardize the student's continued enrollment. Law enforcement may be called for assistance, if necessary.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Every student has the opportunity to earn a Crusader Award each month. This award is received when a student has no more than one warning in

the classroom, on the playground, or in the cafeteria, and turns homework in on time.

At the end of the year 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students are recognized for Honor Roll (maintaining a 3.5 or above grade point average in all academic areas of study). At the end of the school year, awards are given to recognize Perfect Attendance, Community Service, Character Traits, Academic Excellence, Music, Physical Education, Technology, Outstanding Citizenship, and Great Academic Gain.

STUDENT SUPPLIES

A list of supplies, based on grade level needs is provided by each teacher prior to the beginning of the school year. Please see your teacher or the office if you need an additional list.

STUDENTS IN UNSUPERVISED ROOMS

Students are NEVER to be in any room, locker room, classroom, library, or office area, etc. without school staff supervision (with the exception of bathrooms).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MCS has a NO ILLEGAL DRUG policy 24/7 on and off campus while enrolled. Illegal drugs are defined as any substance that is illegal for a person under the age of 21 to buy or use, including any illicit drug, alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, or vaping product. Illegal drugs also includes the use of prescription medication in any manner other than as prescribed by an authorized medical practitioner to the intended recipient. The possession, use, sale or being under the influence of illegal drugs is forbidden on or off campus. Students who violate this rule may be taken into custody by law enforcement and may be suspended with a recommendation for expulsion.

A student who is involved in actions related to the procurement of any controlled substance by accepting and retaining money for said procurement but who subsequently fails to deliver the substance is still in violation of school policy pertaining to illegal drug transactions. A student involved in incidents of this nature may be referred to law enforcement and subject to suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion.

State law also forbids offering a substance for sale as a drug even though, in fact, the substance is not actually an unlawful drug. Violation of this rule will result in referral to law enforcement and suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.

MCS reserves the right to search student lockers and student possessions, as well as require students to empty all pockets and have the contents searched.

MCS may contract the services of K-9s to search for and/or detect the presence of illegal contraband and controlled substances on campus, including vehicles in the parking lot.

SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Modesto Christian School has created safeguards to protect the health and well-being of our students. These resources are shared on the school website at www.modestochristian.org/student-health.

MCS recognizes that physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's
educational outcomes;

- MCS further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people;
- MCS has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide;
- MCS acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal
 factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster positive youth development.

If you or anyone you know is at risk for suicide, get help by calling the Suicide Prevention Helpline at 1-800-273-TALK or by calling 911.

TELEPHONES

Each student is encouraged to take care of all business and other arrangements before and after school. Office phones will be available to the student only for emergencies, when a school schedule has changed, or for school disciplinary reasons; classroom telephones are not to be used. **Cell phones are not to be used AND MUST BE POWERED OFF during school hours. Cell phones must be stored in student backpacks in the classroom or locked locker.**

VISITORS

Any visitor to the MCS campus must check in at the office to receive a visitor's pass before proceeding to any other area of the campus. Visitors must dress modestly, and follow MCS policies and procedures. If he/she chooses not to, he/she will be asked to leave the campus. MCS does not permit friends/relatives to attend school for the day with an MCS student.

Teachers welcome visits from parents. The school does require, however, that any visit to the classroom be made by definite appointment with the office and teacher. When parents arrive to begin their visit they must sign in at the office.

VOLUNTEERS

While volunteer assistance is greatly appreciated, volunteers are required to complete a background check and TB test. Any volunteer who is on campus on a regular basis, or in a role that directly supervises a student, is expected to complete a background check and TB test.

WEAPONS OR EXPLOSIVES

MCS Board forbids anyone except a peace officer to bring any type of weapon or explosive on any MCS campus without the express written permission of the Principal.

MCS considers pepper spray and tasers of any sort to be dangerous and, as such, forbids students from possessing and/or using it on or about the campus during school hours, coming to or going from school, or at school events.

WITHDRAWAL FROM MODESTO CHRISTIAN

Parents must give a written 30-day notice to each appropriate campus administrator and the business office when withdrawing students before the end of the school year.

Account balances will be pro-rated on the last day of attendance by counting the number of days the school has been in session while the student(s) is enrolled, using the current annual tuition rate and the number of school days in the current school year. Financial aid will be pro-rated accordingly.

All early withdrawals are charged a \$150 processing fee. Account balance is due the last day of attendance. Parents must complete an exit interview with the appropriate campus administrator or the Director of Enrollment and Admissions, unless waived by the school. A student's cumulative file will be sent upon request from the new school once the withdrawal process has been completed.

Writing Style Guide: Grades 4 & 5 & 6

The Writing Style Guide, prepared by the MCHS English Department, is available for students to refer to throughout the school year. Individual classroom teachers work on developing the knowledge and skills necessary for the writing process using the Writing Style Guide as a reference. The Writing Style Guide may be downloaded from the school website, high school tab, for your reference.

Written Papers, Projects, and Reports: Grades 4 & 5 & 6

Since students are generally assigned written papers, projects, and reports several weeks in advance, these assignments will still be due on the date designated by the teacher even if the student is absent that day. Please make arrangements to have someone bring the assignment to

the school (parent, friend, relative, etc.) to turn it in for the absent student. Failure to do so will subject the paper, project, or report to late grading penalties.

If not turned in on the due date, upon return to school from the absence, the student must turn in the paper, project, or report. The late written paper, project, or report may be marked down according to the Homework Policy for each grade level in this section.

School Contact Information

www.ModestoChristian.org Main Number: 209-529-5510



Elementary Handbook Verification Form 2023/2024

We have read and understand the 2023/2024 Modesto Christian School Elementary Handle			
Student Name (Please Print)	 Grade Level		
Student Signature	 Date		
Parent Name (Please Print)			
Parent Signature	 Date		

Revised 7/25//23