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Mineral Christian School Handbook
2025-2026 Academic Year

Table of Contents

About Mineral Christian School	3	Academic Probation	10
Our Mission	3	Absences and Make-Up Work	11
Statement of Faith	3	Gifts and Invitations	11
Educational Philosophy	5	Communication	11
Why Latin?	7	School Board	11
School Policies and Procedures	8	Dress Code	12
Attendance	8	Student Code of Conduct	13
School Closings and Delays	8	Discipline Policy	13
Security and Emergency Procedures	8	Admissions	14
Parental Involvement and Volunteers	8	New Student Application & Enrollment	14
Backpacks	8	School Commitment	15
School Lunches and Snacks	8	Tuition and Fees	15
Water Bottles	8	Application Fee	15
Communication App: ClassTag	9	Tuition	15
Communication Newsletter	9	Tuition Assistance	15
Student Health Code	9	Returning Student Re-Enrollment	15
Vaccinations	10	Returned Checks and Late Payments	15
Medication Distribution	10		
Homework Philosophy	10		
Pick-Up Procedures	10		
Grading Policy	10		

About Mineral Christian School

Mineral Baptist Church has long supported and advocated for life-long learning and Christian education for children and adults through educational and outreach ministries, including vacation bible school, AWANA, Upward sports ministries, Centershot archery ministries, music ministries, youth and adult Bible studies, Sunday School for all ages, and pastoral teaching.

At Mineral Christian School, we continue that tradition by providing an outstanding Christ-centered educational experience for families in the Louisa, Spotsylvania, and Orange County region. We offer full-day kindergarten and first grade classes under the educational philosophy and guidelines of the Association of Classical & Christian Schools. Our long-range vision is that, by the grace and will of God, we may grow into a full pre-K through 12th grade Christian academy.

Mineral Christian School's purpose is to promote the spiritual, academic, emotional, and social growth of its students, providing a Christian atmosphere for growth and influence in the lives of the students and parents, and a place of contact to unchurched families in the community.

Our school motto, ***SIC LUCEAT LUX VESTRA*** (let your light shine) is a reference to Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." It is our vision that at Mineral Christian School, students will be nurtured, trained, and educated in such a way that they will grow into outstanding young adults, equipped for achievement, good works, and service, so that God will be glorified in all that they do.

Mineral Christian School colors are burgundy and silver. Burgundy references the Blood of Christ. "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, to cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14) Silver references Refining Fire. "For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined." (Psalm 66:10)

Our Mission

To provide an excellent education, rooted in a biblical worldview;
Deuteronomy 6:5, 11:19; Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6

To nurture the formation of each person's identity as God's creation, in a secure and loving Christian environment;
Luke 10:27, Psalm 139:13-14

To equip students with knowledge and understanding of that which is true and excellent, and the tools to share their gifts, talents, and knowledge with others;
Proverbs 1:7, 2:6-7, 2:10-12, 9:10; Philippians 4:8

To challenge students to live purposefully, with wisdom and discernment, according to biblical principles and values, for the glory of God and in service to others.
Colossians 3:23, II Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 3:5-8, Matthew 21:19-22

Statement of Faith

Families are expected to understand these are the beliefs that Mineral Christian School teaches our enrolled students. While parents and students are not required to make these beliefs their own, nor are they required to be members of a Baptist church, if a family's beliefs cannot harmonize with these tenets, they are encouraged to partner with another teaching institution, compatible with their world view.

Mineral Christian School is a ministry of Mineral Baptist Church. As such, and in common with Southern Baptists, we hold the Old and New Testaments as our only and all-sufficient rules of faith and practice. The following are considered fundamental doctrines held by and taught at this school.

We believe that the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments comprise the full, truthful, inerrant, and authoritative word of God and serve as the only infallible rules of faith and practice.

Isaiah 40:8, II Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, II Peter 1:20-21

We believe in the true and living God, one Godhead revealed to us in three persons of equal power and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I John 5:7, Matthew 3:15, 28:19, II Corinthians 3:14, John 1:14, 15:26, Galatians 4:6

We believe that all things were deliberately created by God in six days, and that all things were created good. We also believe that man was created in the image of God, that sin entered the world through Adam, that all people are separated from God, for all have sinned and are in need of a redeemer.

Genesis 1:1, 1:27, 2:17, 3:1-19; Isaiah 14:12-14; Luke 20:36; Hebrews 1:13-14, 2:5-8, 2:14; 1 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; John 1:1-3, 9:44, 12:31; Colossians 1:16-17; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3; Revelations 20:10

We believe that salvation from sin can only be obtained by grace through faith in the atonement and righteousness of Jesus Christ. We affirm that believers are eternally secure, have everlasting life, will not come into condemnation, and shall never perish. We assert that evidence of saving faith is displayed through good works, but that good works do not play a role in our salvation.

Ephesians 1:11-14; John 1:12, 2:3, 16:2; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7; Daniel 12:1-2; Matthew 25:31-46; John 3:16, 3:36, 5:24, 10:28-29, 11:25-26; Romans 8:28-39; 1 John 4:11-13; Jude 1; Revelations 20:12-15

We believe in the church, both universally and locally, as the spiritual body of which Christ is the Head. We also believe that the church is entrusted with the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:5; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-16, 5:22-23; Colossians 1:18

We believe that those whom God has saved are sent into the world by Christ as He was by the Father, commissioned to go make disciples and to make Christ known to the whole world.

Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:8, 17:18, 20:21; Acts 1; Romans 10:14-15; II Corinthians 5:18-20; Colossians 4:2-6; II Timothy 2:14-26

We believe in the physical resurrection of the dead, in the eternal conscious existence of all individuals in either Heaven or Hell, and in the reward of the saved and the punishments of the lost for all eternity.

I Corinthians 3:11-15, 15; Luke 16:19-31; II Corinthians 5:8-10

We believe that marriage unites one man and one woman in a lifetime commitment to each other.

Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:4-6

Marriage provides for intimate companionship, pure sexual expression, procreation and reflects the relationship of Christ and the church.

Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:25, Genesis 9:7, Malachi 2:15, Ephesians 5:25-33, Revelation 19:7-9

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of the marriage between one man and one woman.

Proverbs 5:15-19, I Corinthians 7:1-5

We believe that a person's gender is created by God's sovereign will, as part of the plan He reserves for the individual, and it is not His will for individuals to attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 2:24, Genesis 19:5&13, Genesis 26:8-10, Leviticus 18:1-30, Romans 1:24-29, I Corinthians 5:1, I Corinthians 6:9, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4

Educational Philosophy and Curriculum

At Mineral Christian School, we are committed to providing a challenging, time-tested, academically rigorous program that integrates Christian faith and learning in a safe, structured, and loving school environment. Our approach to instruction of Classical Christian Education is set apart from that which is offered in the public schools or in other private schools in this area. Mineral Christian School follows the guidelines and standards of the Association of Classical Christian Schools. We value that which is true and excellent, and doing all things, “as unto the Lord.” Our overall educational objective is to provide quality education, rooted in Christian principles and biblical doctrine.

Christian Education

Christian education is more than hearing Bible stories and memorizing Bible verses. Rather, all subjects are taught through a Christian worldview. The goal of Christian education, beyond sharing the Gospel, is to teach students to see Christ in every subject and in every area of life, as the Creator of all things, the One who brings order to all things and sustains all things. All thought and instruction is calibrated around Christ, and students are taught to see that there is a design and a purpose in all of creation and in life.

The benefits of Christ-centered education reach far beyond academic achievement and life skills. Character development and instruction from a Biblical standard produces students with moral integrity, virtue, and self-discipline. Through memorization of scripture, careful study of the Bible and instruction in theology, a Christian education has an impact on the eternal life of the student, and through the broad classical instruction, students have the knowledge and tools to share their gifts, talents and knowledge of Christ with others.

Classical Education in the Grammar School

The goal of *Classical* Christian education is to teach students how to learn and to love learning, and thereby to grow life-long learners. Students who acquire a broad foundational knowledge - including how to learn, the ability to articulate one’s thoughts, persuade others, and lead others - experience academic achievement and skills that will benefit the student in all areas of life. We believe that by investing time equipping students with the skills that will benefit them for life, that they will be able to succeed in any circumstance.

As a Classical Christian school, our days are framed by four elements: The Liberal Arts, The Great Books, Latin, and a Biblical World View as mentioned above. We use the liberal arts as tools to help our students evaluate the world God has made: arithmetic, music, geometry, astronomy, grammar, logic, rhetoric and physical movement. We also spend a great deal of our days reading and listening to Great Books. A Great Book is a work of literature which has stood the test of time and leads readers towards truth, goodness, beauty, and wisdom. Our students also engage with Latin from day one of kindergarten.

Our students exhibit a joyful willingness to memorize a vast amount of new information and new vocabulary, especially when presented repetitively, or in the form of rhyming songs, rhythmic chants, or in conjunction with active movement and choreographed motions. Parents whose children have memorized their favorite bedtime storybooks, or whose children delight in singing alternative words to common tunes (over and over again) will attest to this tendency in young children.

During this stage in their development, students are presented the meaningful and fundamental facts that make up the building blocks of learning. We call these facts the “grammar” of each subject. The “grammar” of history, Bible, and geography are the facts about people, places, dates, and events. The “grammar” of mathematics are the basic figures, facts, patterns, rules, and principles of mathematics. The “grammar” of language studies includes the basic rules of the written and spoken language, including verb tenses and sentence structure. Students learn how to approach any new subject, so that in any stage of life, they will know how to master any new subject or skill.

Mineral Christian School is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools.

For a comprehensive and in-depth explanation of classical Christian education, please refer to Dorothy Sayers' article, *The Lost Tools of Learning* and refer to *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, by Douglas Wilson.

The following is the curriculum overview and vision for the Mineral Christian School's Grammar School, kindergarten through 5th grade. Many of the topics covered begin simple, at an age-appropriate level, and increase in complexity each year. Each year students will interact with and learn through the following subjects:

Language Arts: Classical Literature, Poetry, Phonics, Sight Words, *All About Spelling*, Diagramming Sentences, Public Speaking and Narration, Grammar Rules Memorization, *Institute for Excellence in Writing*

The Bible: Through the Bible in a Year, Timeline of the Bible, Memorized Scriptures, Worship

Handwriting: D'Nealian Print Handwriting, D'Nealian Cursive Handwriting (beginning in 2nd Grade)

Arithmetic and Geometry: Number Reasoning, Number Skills, Geometry, Engineering, Fact Memorization, Saxon Math

Latin: Latin Vocabulary, Grammar, *Latin for Children*, *Lingua Latina*

Sustainable Scholasticism: Physical Education, Recess, Artists and Their Works, Drawing, Composers and Their Works, Music Theory, Singing, Movement, Music Composition and Performance, Elements of the Periodic Table

All students join in in embodied learning of geography, history, astronomy, science, and art through a four year cycle.

Year A: The United States, Virginia, US and Virginia History, Continents, the Orion Constellation Family, Explorers, Space, Water, Simple Machines, Electricity

Year B: The countries of Africa, the Ursa Major Constellation Family, Ancient Egypt, Old Testament History, Animals and Habitats

Year C: The countries of Europe and Asia, the Zodiac Constellation Family, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, Botany, Earth Science

Year D Concepts: The countries of North and South America, Ancient Rome, The Middle Ages/Exploration/Monarchs, the Hercules Constellation Family, the Human Body

Why Latin?

Dorothy Sayers wrote, “The best grounding for education is the Latin grammar. I say this not because Latin is traditional and medieval, but simple because even a rudimentary knowledge of Latin cuts down the labor and pains of learning almost any other subject by at least 50 percent.” Here are a few examples:

Science

The study of Latin develops the mind for precision, attention to detail, observation, comparison, and generalization, key tools necessary for many subjects, but particularly for science. Latin is also the foundational language of democracy, the judicial system, human anatomy, biology, medicine, and music.

Foreign Languages

Easy access to foreign languages opens doors of opportunity in both the local and global marketplace, and paves the way to missionary and evangelistic outreach around the world. Because Latin is the mother tongue of western civilization, the acquisition of Latin unlocks the study of all of the romance languages (Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian), with over 80% of their vocabulary coming from Latin. A foundation in Latin is also helpful for studying other inflected languages, such as Greek, Russian, and German.

Vocabulary

The vast majority of today’s merit-based college scholarship awards are presented to students with the highest grade point averages and SAT scores, many of these scholarships valued at one third to 100% of the cost of tuition. Latin provides an academic advantage for students on the SAT verbal assessments, since over 50% of English vocabulary comes from Latin. In fact, students of Latin score higher than students of other foreign languages. But students do not have to wait for college entrance exams to reap the benefits of a Latin-based vocabulary acquisition. Whenever a student opens a new book and encounters an unfamiliar word, Latin provides the key to decode it, yielding greater reading comprehension and fostering a greater joy in reading.

English Grammar

The ability to write and speak properly, with eloquence, style and precision, requires a solid foundation in English grammar. The study of verb tenses, sentence structure, and grammar in Latin studies, provides the most efficient way to master English grammar.

“Latin grammar greatly refines the student’s knowledge of grammar in general, which then carries over into English. For one simple example, when *God* is the subject of a Latin sentence, the word appears as *Deus*. When He is the direct object, the word appears as *Deum*. This difference between the nominative and accusative case can help a student who wants to understand why in English he should use *he* in some instances, and *him* in others.”

Douglas Wilson, *The Why and How of Latin*

Classic & Modern Literature

With the ability to read, interpret, and analyze Latin writings, students are equipped to read the most foundational literature of western culture. This leads the way to intelligent, systematic analysis of parallel translations of Latin writings, and serves as a stepping stone to studying other ancient written languages, including Hebrew, Greek, and Medieval English. It also provides a richer understanding of great English literature, written by men and women well-versed in the classics, and an appreciation for modern English literature which is peppered with Latin phrases, and frequently contains themes which echo the epic tales of ancient literature.

School Policies and Procedures

Attendance

School hours are 8:00 AM - 2:45 PM. Parents must ensure that students arrive between 7:50 AM and 8:00 AM to provide the student sufficient time to transition into the school day. Class instruction begins at 8:00. Students will be marked tardy if they arrive after 8:00 AM.

Classes will be dismissed promptly at 2:45PM. Instructions for parking lot procedures will be given at Parent Orientation.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their student arrives at school on time and is prepared for the school day. Students who miss classes, arrive late, or leave early cause a disruption to the entire class. Out of respect for the other students and the teachers, parents should make every effort to maintain an excellent record of attendance and punctuality. This includes scheduling doctor and dental appointments during after school hours. It is vitally important for students to maintain an excellent attendance record. Excessive absences, tardiness, or early dismissals can be grounds for automatic withdrawal of the student and may lead to student retention at the end of the scheduled grade.

School Closings and Delays

In the event of an emergency or weather-related closing, delay, or early dismissal, Mineral Christian School will communicate with families. School closings and delays will often, but not necessarily, follow those of the area public school systems.

Security and Emergency Procedures

The exterior doors will remain closed and locked during the school day. The school maintains specific fire and emergency procedures, and the students will practice these procedures during the school year.

In the event of an emergency evacuation, students will be transported directly to Moss-Nuckols Elementary School. If an emergency evacuation is ordered, parents should proceed to the designated location. The school maintains an Emergency Evacuation Kit which includes a copy of each child's emergency file, a first aid kit, a flashlight, extra batteries, and various comfort items.

Parental Involvement and Volunteers

Parents and grandparents are encouraged to be involved in Mineral Christian School. Opportunities for involvement include, but are not limited to: attending parent-teacher conferences and school programs, assisting in the classroom, hosting class parties, assisting with school open house events, accompanying a class on a field trip, coaching athletics, promoting and participating in school fundraisers, giving to a scholarship fund, organizing a school uniform swap, after-class cleanup activities, and communicating ideas for school improvements. Volunteers working around children must be pre-approved, scheduled, in many instances trained for their duties, and have completed a previous background check.

Parental Relationships

If parents are divorced or separated, please present the school a letter explaining the child's living situation (and schedule if applicable) signed by both parents. If a parent is unable to sign, please explain why. Any parents who are going through a custody dispute need to clearly communicate court rulings regarding custody to the school administrators as soon as possible.

Backpacks

All students are required to have a backpack, messenger bag or tote, clearly marked with their name, to carry books, artwork and materials to and from school. The backpack may not have toys or other items hanging from it.

School Lunches and Snacks

While we affirm the parents' authority over matters pertaining to their child's health and nutrition, students are required to carry to school each day a healthy and satisfying lunch, a mid-morning snack, and water bottle in a suitable lunch box or bag. Students will not have access to a refrigerator or microwave. Students may have one item for snack which doesn't require a utensil. While adults will help students open lunches at appropriate times, students should be able to care for their own food independently as much as possible.

Water Bottles Students will need to bring a water bottle.

Communication App: Remind

Parents will be required to use the Remind app to text with teachers. Parents will receive an invitation to join the app the week before school.

Communication Newsletters

Students will bring home newsletters throughout the year. This will help parents stay informed of school events, spelling words, and other classroom news. This is a tool to help parents ask questions of and support their students.

Student Health Code

Mineral Christian School students are expected to be healthy enough and rested enough to be attentive and productive in school. Parents should never send a student to school if he is too sick to participate or is known to be contagious. In general, students should stay home if they have a fever above 100 degrees, have uncontrolled coughing, difficulty breathing, wheezing, persistent crying, lethargy, rash (especially when accompanied by a fever or behavior change), diarrhea, or vomiting, and should remain at home until they are **symptom-free for 24 hours**. Children with stomach virus should stay home from school until 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhea to prevent spread of the illness to others. In the event that a doctor diagnosed a contagious illness or infection, parents must follow the doctor's instructions for how long the child must remain isolated from other students to prevent risk of spreading the infection to other students at school. In the event that a student is suspected of having head lice or other infestations, the child will be sent home and must meet the requirements of the school before returning to class.

Parents are asked to instruct their children at home about proper and thorough hand-washing, the importance of hand washing after using the bathroom or blowing their nose, and how to direct a cough or sneeze into their arm to reduce spread of colds and other infections.

Vaccinations

Rising 7th Grade students will be sent an email with required vaccinations during the summer.

Students K-6th Grade are required to provide copies of the following vaccinations received by the student:

Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or Tdap). A minimum of 4 doses. A child must have at least one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the fourth birthday. DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically exempt from the pertussis-containing vaccine (DTaP or DTP). Adult Td is required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. Effective July 1, 2014, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering the 6th grade.

Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine. This vaccine is required ONLY for children up to 60 months of age. A primary series consists of either 2 or 3 doses (depending on the manufacturer). However, the child's current age and not the number of prior doses received govern the number of doses required. Unvaccinated children between the ages of 15 and 60 months are only required to have one dose of vaccine.

Hepatitis B Vaccine. A complete series of 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine is required for all children. However, the FDA has approved a 2-dose schedule ONLY for adolescents 11-15 years of age AND ONLY when the Merck Brand (RECOMBIVAX HB) Adult Formulation Hepatitis B Vaccine is used. If the 2-dose schedule is used for adolescents 11-15 years of age it must be clearly documented on the school form.

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine. A minimum of 2 measles, 2 mumps, and 1 rubella. (Most children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the combination vaccine MMR). First dose must be administered at age 12 months or older. Second dose of vaccine must be administered prior to entering kindergarten but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2.

Pneumococcal (PCV) Vaccine. This vaccine is required ONLY for children less than 60 months of age. One to four doses, dependent on age at first dose, of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine are required.

Polio Vaccine. A minimum of 4 doses of polio vaccine. One dose must be administered on or after the fourth birthday. See supplemental guidance document for additional information.

Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine. All children born on and after January 1, 1997, shall be required to have one dose of chickenpox vaccine administered at age 12 months or older. Effective March 3, 2010, a second dose must be administered prior to entering kindergarten but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2.

For further information, please call the Division of Immunization at 1-800-568-1929 (in state only) or 804-864-8055.
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/11/2016/04/Min-Requirements.pdf>

Medication Distribution

Students are not permitted to carry or self-administer any medications (prescription or over-the-counter). All medications and treatments will only be administered by a designated agent of Mineral Christian School with the written consent of the parent and a signed physician's note. All medications must be delivered to the school by the parent and must be in the original container. Prescriptions must have the student's name on the container. Students who use inhalers, epi-pens, insulin pumps or other medical equipment or treatments must make sure the teacher and school administrator understand the use instructions prior to the first day of school. Medicated lip balm, throat lozenges or cough drops will also be administered by staff and require written consent and instructions from the parents.

Homework Philosophy

Parents of students are encouraged to read with their child daily. Homework assignments for normal school days are rare, unless a child needs extra practice in a specific area or is not using classroom time appropriately. Beginning in 3rd grade, students will take home a homework folder daily. Assignments will be sent home for asynchronous learning days, and work is expected to be returned.

I. PARENTAL SUPPORT

Academic achievement is closely linked to parent involvement and support of academics at home. Parents should see themselves as their child's first teachers. Mineral Christian School is pleased to assist parents as they fulfill their responsibility to educate and train their children, and expect that parents will stay involved in their child's education through careful attention to school work and homework assignments, active, daily discussions about school subjects at home and in the car, open and deliberate communication with and support for teachers, involvement in school activities, and establishment of family habits and routines that support academic success.

II. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

All students will be given instruction in organized, methodical processes for managing school work and keeping track of assignments. It is their responsibility to complete their in-class and homework assignments completely and on time.

Pick-Up Procedures

School is dismissed at 2:45PM. Only those listed on the Pick Up Permission form will be allowed to pick up the student. ID will need to be shown until the staff member is familiar with the driver.

Grading Policy

Students will receive evaluation marks for satisfactory progress, learning, mastery, and excellence.

- E = **Emerging** = The student is beginning to understand the concept with the assistance of the teacher.
- G = **Guided** = The student demonstrates growth in the concept and is making fewer mistakes when prompted by the teacher.
- P = **Progressing** = The student often demonstrates he/she understands the concept with very little prompting.
- I = **Independent** = The student demonstrates he/she understands and applies the concept without prompting.
- S = **Substandard** = The student is not exhibiting comprehension and is not meeting minimal expectations.

For students in and above 4th Grade, these marks will combine to earn Comprehensive Merit, up to 100.

Mineral Christian School students must meet minimum cumulative mastery and proficiency objectives to be promoted. In some instances, due to the child's rate of development, maturity level, or poor attendance record, a child may need to repeat a grade. Oftentimes, giving a child the opportunity to mature and master skills before moving on can be the right course of action for future academic success. In the event that a student is not making adequate progress during the year, the teacher and school director will meet with the parent, noting specific student difficulties and to make recommendations. Once the school makes the final decision to retain the student, the parents may submit an appeal in writing. In any case where the decision to retain a student is questionable, the parents will make the final decision.

Academic Probation

The teacher will notify parents if a student is not retaining 75% of the material. She will provide resources for the parents so that they are equipped in helping reinforce what the child is learning and set measurable goals over the next few months. Should the student not meet these goals, he or she will be placed on Academic Probation, which will be resolved by the student passing a specific exam. The results of the exam will affect grade placement or even re-enrollment acceptance for the following year.

Absences and Make-Up Work

In the case of a planned, extended absence, such as a family vacation, parents must provide the teacher advanced notice and request all assignments and lesson plans so that the student can complete missed work under the parents' instruction. This will help the student and the class stay on pace. *The homework is expected to be turned in when the student returns to school.* In the case of illness or other extenuating circumstances, parents must contact the teacher to communicate the issue and to formulate a reasonable plan for completing make-up work.

Gifts and Invitations

We understand that students enjoy celebrating relationships by giving gifts or by presenting invitations to birthday parties. In doing so, a student must present their token of friendship to the whole grade level, whole school, or to all the boys or all the girls. Differentiation from this must be off school grounds.

Communication

Clear and open channels of communication between parents, teachers, students and all other members of the school community are necessary to provide the best possible educational experience for the students, to provide a means of offering support and encouragement, to address concerns, to disseminate information, to clear up misinformation and prevent the flow of gossip, and to facilitate peaceful and biblical conflict resolution.

Parents may expect easy and open communication from their child's teacher, and are expected to maintain open channels of communication with the teacher. This facilitates the greatest parental involvement and cooperation between parents and the school. Parents should closely monitor and praise their child's progress by reading all teacher notes and student papers sent home, and are encouraged to communicate regularly with the teacher through notes and emails. If there is ever a need for a private or in-depth conversation, parents are asked to put that request in writing, with an introduction to the nature of the matter, and to include a request for a meeting or conversation at the teacher's earliest convenience.

All grievances, concerns, or issues must be directed through the proper channels, according to the principles outlined in Matthew 18. All persons are to deal with the situation at its source. This usually means initially speaking privately with the person involved in a constructive and supportive attempt to attain clarification or resolution. If, after honest attempts have been made and clarification or resolution has not been satisfactorily reached, then one or both parties should proceed to the next level of authority. This generally means speaking with a member of the school board. If satisfaction is still not reached, then the matter should be brought to the school board's attention in writing, to deal with as a group.

School Board

The role and duties of the Mineral Baptist School Board include:

- Implementing best practices to fulfill our Mission
- Setting a standard of behavior and thought that is not grounded in perfection or works-based acceptance, but one that values the individual as a child of God, and encourages excellence in all things, including diligent work "as unto the Lord"
- Encouraging creative expression and thoughtful dialog
- Fostering a culture of inclusion rather than exclusion; of humility, service, and outreach rather than pride, arrogance, or superiority; and which emphasizes the unity of the body of all believers

Dress Code

Students must wear French Toast uniforms. Please note that not all styles of French Toast are acceptable. Students are expected to dress in uniform whenever school is in session, and at any school events or field trips. Uniforms must be worn appropriately, and students are expected to maintain a tidy appearance. Parents are asked to monitor the length and fit of school uniforms as students grow, and to make sure students are equipped with clothing that promotes full movement and comfort. Skirts and dresses should be no higher than the width of a dollar from the knee. Pants should not give the appearance of leggings. Modesty shorts are to be worn under skirts and dresses, and should reach midthigh.

Shoes must be solid black or solid white, including the soles. No boots may be worn.

Why Uniforms?

School uniforms offer a wide range of benefits for parents, students, and the school.

Uniforms:

- Are generally more cost-effective and durable than regular apparel
- Establish a standard of modest and age-appropriate attire for all students
- Greatly reduce the pressure to conform to the styles promoted by the culture around us
- Promote a sense of equality, unity and school spirit
- Create a scholarly atmosphere
- Offer a visual cue that it is time for the student to take on the work and behavior of his / her “profession”
- Provide a positive image of the school within the community
- Train affections towards beauty

Beyond the economic value, parents appreciate school uniforms because they:

- Make it easier to shop for school clothes
- Save time in the morning and make it easier for students to get ready for school
- Eliminate wardrobe battles with kids

The school will open the “MCSCloset” periodically so families may purchase gently used uniforms.

Should masks be required, solid, muted colors (preferably in school colors) should be worn.

Uniform Infractions

We will speak to both the student and the parents if the uniform is unacceptable. If the same infraction occurs again, parents will be asked to provide a replacement item immediately. A third occurrence will result in a parent conference to discuss how our uniform policy is a part of Mineral Christian School’s philosophy and parent partnership.

Jewelry

Jewelry must not be distracting. If worn, it must be simple and delicate. Necklaces and bracelets are limited to one each. Girls’ piercings are limited to the lobes of ears; earrings must be small. Scrunchies may not be worn as a bracelet. Beaded or plastic bracelets are not permitted. Boys may not wear piercings. Students may not wear plugs, tunnels or gauges.

Hair

Hair must be kept neat and appropriate and may not be in the eyes. Hair color should be natural-looking. Hair accessories may not be distracting, may not contain glitter, and must be in either hair color or school uniform color.

Make-Up & Nails

Only girls may wear nail polish which is to be clear or a light single pastel color. Students are not permitted to wear make-up.

Outerwear

Outerwear must be worn correctly and needs to be labeled. In class, students must wear French Toast sweaters, jackets, and vests in black, dark gray, or burgundy. Outside, students may wear solid black coats, sweaters, or jackets that are not provided through French Toast. Spirit Wear items may be worn in class.

Uniforms Themselves

French Toast uniform items will be linked on July 1st of each year for the upcoming year on our website. Any changes due to clarification or discontinuation from the company will be noted with the date of change.

Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to uphold a proper and respectful standard of behavior and conversation, consistent with biblical instruction about what is true and right. All students must adhere to the following school rules and policies. Teachers may add rules specific to his / her classroom as needed to maintain an orderly and efficient educational environment.

Students are expected to exhibit a good work ethic, attending to school work with diligence, and giving all class instruction their full concentration.

Students are expected to cheerfully obey all the way, right away, every day.

Students are expected to be good stewards of school materials, furnishings and buildings.

Students are expected to show appropriate reverence with respect to worship, prayer, and chapel time.

Students are to be aware of and avoid off-limits areas of the school and church building. Children may not play in the parking lots, cemetery, or preschool playground before or after school. Parental supervision is required for any before or after school play.

Gum chewing and the use of electronics or cell phones is strictly prohibited in school. Cell phones and other electronics must be held in the office. Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, guns, knives, fish hooks, and weapons are NOT permitted on school / church property during school hours or at school functions.

Public displays of affection (hand-holding, kissing, hugging) in the context of romantic relationships are prohibited.

Discipline Policy

In order to provide an orderly and safe school environment for all students and staff, the school reserves the right to take swift and immediate action for the following offenses.

- Rebellion or disrespect shown to a teacher or staff member.
- Dishonesty (including lying, cheating, or stealing)
- Fighting or intentionally harming another person
- Unkind, obscene, vulgar, or profane language, including taking the Lord's name in vain.

Parents will be notified as soon as possible after each incident. Any actions which may cause harm to another person will be dealt with immediately.

Possible penalties may include restitution, public or private apologies, suspension, or expulsion from the school.

Mineral Christian School does not administer corporal punishments.

For more information on how discipline is more than just the "consequences", but is a life-giving shepherding of one's soul, please request a copy of Mrs. Sumner's philosophy of discipline or read *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp.

"On what moral basis shall the teacher who wholly suppresses all appeal to religion rest that authority which he must exercise in the classroom? He will find it necessary to say to the pupil, 'Be diligent. Be obedient. Do not lie.' This must be done so the student may acquire his secular knowledge. But on whose authority? By what standard? ... Because all truths converge towards God, the teacher who cannot name God must have fragmented teaching. He can only construct a truncated figure. In history, ethics, philosophy and jurisprudence, religious facts and propositions are absolutely inseparable from the subject at hand. The necessary discipline of a schoolroom and secular fidelity of teaching require religion."
R. L. Dabney,
On Secular Education

Admission, Enrollment, and Re-Enrollment

Mineral 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. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, or other school-administered programs.

New Student Application & Enrollment

Upon submission of a completed application, and application fee, a family interview with the child and guardian(s), and academic testing will be arranged. Two family references will be required.

If the applicant is approved for admission, the school will provide written notice of acceptance.

New Student registration must be completed before August 1st. Registration includes payment of all registration fees and tuition deposit, completed Health History Form and Emergency Release Form. In the case of separation or divorce, a copy of the custody agreement is also required.

Mineral Christian School reserves the right to withdraw acceptance at any point of the admissions process.

Kindergarten Readiness - New applicants entering kindergarten should be five years old by September 30 of the current academic year, or approved by academic testing and the acting school administrator.

Parent Agreement - Regardless of religious beliefs or church affiliation, parents must read and understand the faith statement of the school. Parents who enroll their child in Mineral Christian School agree to have their child taught the instruction based upon that statement of faith. Furthermore, parents commit to cooperate with and support the school in academic instruction, discipline, schoolwork standards, communication and policies.

School Growth - It is the school's long-range vision to eventually include classes through grade 12 and to be fully accredited. The school's rate of growth will largely depend upon enrollment, and therefore it is the school's intention, but not the school's guarantee, to add a new grade level each year.

Transfer Applicants - New applicants entering 1st grade or older will be required to submit school transcripts and standardized test scores. If transcripts contain any grades below 70% (or the equivalent) or excessive absences, the parents will be advised to include a letter of explanation. New applicants entering 1st grade or older will also be required to successfully pass entrance tests in reading, math, grammar, and Latin (where appropriate). In some instances, remedial work may be required for admission. It should be noted that Mineral Christian School provides a rigorous academic program. If a student has academic difficulties in school, placing him in the next successive grade at Mineral Christian School may only lead to further difficulties and frustration for the student and family. While parent's preferences will be taken into consideration, the school reserves the right to assign grade placement based upon admissions interview and testing. Appeals should be submitted to the school in writing.

Re-Enrollment - Students currently enrolled in Mineral Christian School may complete their re-enrollment process to secure a seat for the following year before the New Student Open Enrollment season begins.

Mineral Christian School reserves the right to deny re-enrollment. If re-enrollment is denied, the parents will be notified in writing, and all re-enrollment payments will be refunded.

All payments are nonrefundable.

School Commitment

Because Mineral Christian School cannot guarantee success for every student, it is important to set forth our understanding of our mission and our intent to do our best for each student. Accordingly, we pledge to strive to meet these expectations:

To provide a school community that is Christ-centered, safe and nurturing.

To provide spiritual, academic, and social challenges which encourage learning and promote continual growth and improvement.

To keep parents informed of their child(ren)'s progress through regular reports and conferences.

To work closely with families to assist with the personal and social development of each child.

To provide students opportunities to learn independently and acquire problem-solving skills.

To work with parents for the benefit and growth of the school community through regular parent meetings.

Tuition and Fees

Application Fee

\$25 before December 31

\$50 before March 31

\$150 April 1 or later

All application fees are non-refundable.^{1*}

Tuition

Tuition is \$4,800.

Tuition is to be paid in one of three ways: **1)** in ten equal payments due the first day of August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May, **2)** half on the first day of August and half on the first day of school in January, or **3)** in one lump sum on August 1st.

Tuition Assistance

Families with two or more students in the same house-hold may ask for the 20% discount from the 2nd child's tuition. Scholarships and individual tuition assistance are not available through the school at this time.

Returning Student Re-Enrollment

A re-enrollment deposit of \$125 per student (waived if re-enrolled by March 15) is due at the time of re-enrollment. All re-enrollment payments are non-refundable.

Returned Checks and Late Payments

Returned checks will require a fee. If a student's tuition is beyond 60 days past due, parents will receive formal notification that the late tuition and fees must be paid within 15 days, or the school is authorized to disenroll the student.

^{1*} If a student is enrolled with "provisional" status, all registration and enrollment fees will be refunded in the event that student is not accepted.