

**Trinity Christian Academy
Lower School Handbook
2020-2021**



TCA parents and students are expected to read, respectfully adhere to, and refer to the Trinity Christian Academy Lower School Handbook in its entirety.

**Trinity Christian Academy
10 Windy City Road
Jackson, Tennessee 38305
731.668.8500|tcalions.com**



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Mission Statement

God has called Trinity Christian Academy to assist Christian families and their churches in providing a Biblically directed, academically excellent education that equips students to be Godly leaders and servants in their homes, churches, and communities. *(Adopted 2003)*

Vision Statement

Our vision is to train young champions for Christ who are equipped to serve the Lord by being prepared spiritually, academically, and physically.

Philosophy of Christian Education

God calls His people to raise their children in a context where love for God and communication about Him are present in their homes and lives. God has revealed Himself to man, and His revelation is central to all of life and learning. Christian education teaches and applies the content of Scripture to help students see the world and all academic disciplines from the viewpoint of the Creator.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Our basic philosophy is succinctly stated by **Romans 11:36**, *“For of Him and through Him, and to Him are all things; to whom be glory forever.”*

2020-2021 School Verse

1 John 4:10-12 (NIV)

“This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.”

Trinity Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, handicap, or national origin in its dealings with employees, students, the general public, applicants for employment, educational programs, activities, or access to its facilities.

Board And School Governance

Trinity Christian Academy is governed by a Board of Trustees. The primary function of the Board is to act as the guardian of the mission of Trinity Christian Academy, to develop the major institutional policies, to hire and manage the Head of School as its single employee, and to be responsible for the financial viability and stability of the school. The Board appoints out of its membership such committees as it may deem necessary for the performance of its duties.

The Board of Trustees consists of persons who are members of a recognized Christian, Biblical church that believes in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ as the only Savior of men. The Board members affirm the Purpose Statement, Doctrinal Statement, and Educational Statement of Trinity Christian Academy. No more than one half of the Board shall be members of the same denomination. The Board is self-perpetuating, with a systematic Board-appointed nomination and election process in place to fill vacancies resulting from expiration of terms.

The day-to-day operation and management of the school rest with the Head of School, the administrative staff, and the faculty.

Administration, Faculty & Staff

A complete listing can be found on our website tcalions.com

Purpose Statement
(TCA Bylaws, Article 2)

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY EXISTS TO:

- ❖ offer a strong academic Christian Education based on:
 - a. The Bible as God’s inerrant, infallible Word
 - b. The fact that Jesus Christ is not only the Savior of men, but is also the Lord over every area of life, including our minds, bodies, finances, possessions, and family life.
- ❖ maintain a Christian education founded in the child’s relationship to God as taught in the Scriptures so that a child’s personality is developed by instruction in God’s truth.

“And He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in Him all things were created both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together”. Colossians 1:15-17

- ❖ educate children so that they live a life of obedience to God, they commit their life to Jesus the Christ, as their personal Savior and Lord, they know God’s Word and His creation, they love their fellow man and they are stewards in their God-given cultural task.
- ❖ offer Christian parents and churches a medium through which they can fulfill the responsibility they have freely taken when they dedicate, make an agreement or undertake a covenant with the Lord to rear the child by Christian principles, set a Christian example and offer Biblical education. That is, we believe that Christian education is the Christian community’s responsibility and that this school will assist in providing that education.
- ❖ hire Christian teachers who are committed to the Doctrinal Statement of Faith of this school and use it in their authority in character training, discipline and instruction, and to live it as a model for children.
- ❖ have a curriculum based on the Bible and the truth found therein, and to use textbooks and materials in all grades wherever possible, which affirm and support the Christian commitment of the school.
- ❖ accept all children of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin who could thrive and grow in such a school and whose parents affirm and support the Christian commitment of the school.
- ❖ have a Board of Trustees with the same Christian faith, lifestyle and affirmation, as would be required of the faculty, and who endorse both the Doctrinal Statement of purpose of Trinity Christian Academy.

THE TRINITY DIFFERENCE

TCA offers Christian parents a partnership of biblical truth and discipleship with their child's formal education, their local Bible believing church, and their homes. Christian Education at Trinity recognizes that God's word is the measure of all things, the scale on which His people are to weigh all issues of life. He is the foundation of true education. "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Colossians 2:3

- ❖ TCA's mission, vision, and supporting programs/policies all seek to honor and uphold the power, love, and hope of Christ.
- ❖ The Holy Bible is the source of truth at TCA.
- ❖ Courses are taught from the Christian perspective in order to teach the student that God plays a most important role in every area of our lives.
- ❖ We believe that the single most important thing a child must learn is to have the proper relationship with God. Everything we do at our school is done with this basic foundation. Matthew 22:37 - "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*"
- ❖ TCA seeks to educate and minister to the mind, body, and spirit of its students.
- ❖ TCA recognizes its mission as a partnership with home and church.
- ❖ Administration, teachers, and staff are dedicated Christ-followers.
- ❖ Administration, teachers, and staff feel called to serve in Christian Education.
- ❖ TCA provides a rigorous academic program that promotes excellence for varied learners.
- ❖ The school provides athletic and extracurricular activities that promote opportunities for character training and growth.
- ❖ TCA encourages students to use their God-given gifts and talents for His glory.
- ❖ TCA encourages its students to serve others as representatives of Christ.

Trinity Christian Academy exists to help train the child to be a faithful servant of God, to encourage students to seek Him in every aspect of their lives, and to help equip students to fulfill God's will for their individual lives. Our goal is that TCA students grow in their faith and love for the Lord and that they seek and serve Him throughout their lives. We work to strengthen our students' knowledge and application of Biblical Truth and of the transformational salvation of Christ so that their foundation and peace is in Him, and not in the world.

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

"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

Ephesians 4:11-16

"The second (commandment) is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Statement of Faith

Doctrinal Statement

(TCA Bylaws, Article 3)

The basis of Trinity Christian Academy is the infallible Word of God, written, known as the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments, as they are interpreted in the historic, evangelical confessions of Christian faith. In accordance with these confessions, we hold unreservedly to the sovereignty of God as taught in Scripture and as specifically revealed in the Lordship of Jesus Christ over the world and thus over every department of human activity, thereby recognizing these Scriptures as the supreme and final standard for life. Trinity Christian Academy is not a church nor is it subject to any ecclesiastical organization but works with and through such bodies to aid and benefit both this school and such church bodies with which it may be associated. Therefore, the school is committed to and subscribes to the following articles of belief:

THE BIBLE - We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be inspired by God, inerrant in the original writings, and accurately maintained over the ages by God's Spirit. They are the only supreme and final authority for the rule of faith and life for all men.

GOD - We believe in only one living and true God, Who externally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, having one substance, power and eternity, perfectly sovereign, holy and unchangeable and infinite in being.

MAN - We believe that man and the universe were created by an immediate and direct act of God. Also, we believe that man was created in the image of God, but he chose to sin and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is eternal separation from God and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word and deed. All human beings stand accountable before and to God for their sins.

JESUS CHRIST - We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born to the Virgin Mary, and is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man. Also, we believe that He was crucified on a cross, died and was buried and resurrected by God. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest, King and Savior of His Church.

SALVATION - We believe that the Lord Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in and trust in Him alone are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and perfect, righteous life. We further believe that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again by the Holy Spirit, and thereby, become children of God and are being sanctified by God.

SECOND COMING - We believe that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will personally return and set up His Kingdom wherein He will rule and reign in righteousness.

FINAL RESURRECTION - We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just to eternal blessedness according to the pattern of Christ's own glorious body and the bodily resurrection of the unjust to eternal punishment.

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

(TCA Bylaws, Article 3B)

Consistent with the Bible and Trinity Christian Academy's Foundational Doctrines, we believe the following:

- *God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.*
- *The term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (I Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.*
- *Any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; I Cor. 6:9-10)*
- *In order to preserve the function and integrity of Trinity Christian Academy as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the students and other members of the Trinity Christian Academy community as well as the community at large, it is imperative that all persons employed by Trinity Christian Academy in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22)*
- *God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)*
- *Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Trinity Christian Academy.*
- *The Christian family was the first institution ordained by God through which future generations are raised to live Godly lives and glorify God, living lifestyles in keeping with scripture. We define God's design for the family, ideally, as a husband and wife joined together in holy marriage, partaking in God's command for procreation and having children whom they instruct in Biblical principle, participate with them in a local church and seek to model their faith in their daily lives. In today's culture, God's ideal does not change, but we recognize that there are single parents and blended families (a parent remarries someone of the opposite sex). Regardless of the reasons for current circumstances, we value the commitment to God's standard for marriage and family through our admission process, instruction on the family, and ministries of the school. We consider homosexual relationships and cohabitation to be sin and in rebellion to God's standard for the family. (Gen. 2:23-24 and Deut. 4-9)*

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Educational Statement (TCA Bylaws, Article 4)

Section 1 - Preface. The presupposition upon which the educational philosophy of Trinity Christian Academy is based is that God as described by the Bible exists. Thus, we believe that there are absolutes and that these absolutes imply antithesis. Upon no other foundation can a system of logic or reason which will yield a meaning for life be built.

God's word is the measure of all things, the scale on which His people are to weigh all issues of life. He is the foundation of true education. As we see it, the purpose of education is to train the child to be a faithful servant of God, to seek to be holy as He is Holy, and to be equipped to fulfill God's cultural mandate and the Great Commission.

As Christian parents, we have the God given responsibility to educate our children. God has set the basic center of learning; the church and school are but an extension of the Christian home. Since indeed this is true, then we logically believe that Christian education should extend not only through the church but also the school.

Believing that all truth is a manifestation of God's sovereignty in creation, we desire to establish and maintain a school, which in its ultimate purpose glorifies and reveals God. Man, made in the image of God, is responsible to God in all things, therefore, his education must enable him to understand and use the created universe and to live by the precepts which God has established for Godly living. Knowing that man has chosen to glorify himself and worship his own works rather than worship and glorify God, we understand that our students have a nature which hinders them from achieving the objectives which we have named. However, knowing that the Lord, himself, has provided a way for these children to reach their full potential through His payment for sin on the cross, we realize that each child here has a unique and valuable place in the plan of God and must be highly esteemed and respected.

It is therefore important that our ministry to the student must be well-rounded; introducing him to the redeeming work of Christ, helping him to appreciate himself and his fellow man, and enabling him to take his proper position in creation as one who bears the image of God and exercises dominion over created reality.

Our basic philosophy could be succinctly stated by **Romans 11:36**, "*For of Him and through Him, and to Him are all things; to whom be glory forever.*"

Section 2 - Education. Therefore we believe that Christian education is necessary not only for the believing child to nurture him the hours he is away from home. Furthermore, we believe every opportunity should be made to provide Christian teachers concerned with the spiritual growth of the child in which the Holy Spirit may work in an unbelieving or a believing child to draw him to Himself.

Education at Trinity Christian Academy will cover the four areas in a child's life based on **Luke 2:52** - "*Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*" These four areas are academic, physical, spiritual and social.

Section 3 - Academic Education

1. Our academic objective is to provide a well rounded curriculum; one which will meet the scholastic needs of all students.
2. The key to quality academic instruction is the teaching staff. Teachers in all academic subjects should be highly qualified teachers who have a clear Christian testimony both in word and deed; and be truly concerned for the spiritual well being of the child as an individual and collectively as part of the body of Christ.
3. The size of the classroom is also important and we will strive to keep the teacher-student ratio low.
4. In addition to academic subjects, we will also offer Bible as a required course. We will also have strong emphasis on instruction in patriotism, respect for authority, and the free enterprise system.
5. Every course will be taught from the Christian perspective in order to teach the student that God plays a most important role in every area of our lives. We will use Christian curriculum.
6. Our objectives are supported by the following listed scriptures:

Colossians 2:3 - *“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* **Colossians 2:8** - *“See to it that no one takes you captives through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”*

Psalms 111:10 — *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*

Section 4 - Physical Education

1. We believe that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and thus we will teach our children how to take proper care of the bodies the Lord has given them. This should involve instruction in proper eating habits, rest and exercise;
2. We want to have a strong intramural program for both boys and girls. At all levels, we will strive to reward effort and dedication to build Christian character as well as rewarding ability.
3. Corporate or individualized sports will be given according to the needs of the students.
4. Our objectives are supported by the following listed scripture:

I Corinthians 3:16-17 - *“Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you. If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”*

Section 5 - Spiritual Education

1. We believe that the single most important thing a child must learn is to have the proper relationship with God. Everything we do at our school is done with this basic foundation. **Matthew 22:37** - *“You*

shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

2. We believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God. We will stand firm on our Doctrinal Statement, (Article 3). We will not take a dogmatic stand on mode of baptism, eschatological issues or the special gifts. **II Timothy 3:16**, *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”*
3. We believe that our children should be equipped both for spiritual battle in this world and to function in the body of Christ learning to die to self and live unto Christ. Our objectives are supported by the following scriptures: **Ephesians 4:11-16**, *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Philippians 3:8- *“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.”* **Ephesians 6:10-18** - *“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Out in the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the spirit, and with this in view, be in the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”*

4. Although our basic function is to provide instruction in the Christian doctrine and Christian living, we believe the most healthy spiritual growth comes from a program involving output as well as intake. Consequently, we will involve the students in some type of Christian outreach, such as personal evangelism, group evangelism, Bible studies, prayer groups, neighborhood bible clubs, summer Christian camp programs, etc. Our objectives are supported by the following listed scripture:

Matthew 28:18-20 - *“And Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Conflict Resolution Policy - Matthew 18 Principle

We ask that each member of the TCA family address conflicts by applying the *Matthew 18 Principle*, which encourages us to go directly to the one with whom we have conflict to seek Christ-honoring resolution. If the conflict can be resolved, it ends at that level. If it is not resolved, the parties are then encouraged to seek the next step of resolution by meeting together with the next person in authority.

TCA is a community that seeks to honor God in all things. Conflict is inevitable in a community; however, Christ-honoring resolution and peace is our goal.

TCA expects its parents to:

- Willingly accept, adhere to, and assist their student(s) to honor school guidelines and the Student Honor Code with a positive spirit and an attitude that communicates a desire to comply and to respect the school community.
- Demonstrate and model good sportsmanship at athletic events; strive to be gracious in defeat and respectful in victory.
- Bring any classroom, academic, or teacher concerns to the teacher first; if resolution is not found, then contact the Lower School Principal.
- After following the *Matthew 18 Principle* of conflict resolution, bring any concerns regarding Lower School Administration to the Head of School.
- Communicate with Mrs. Kym Mayes regarding all Lower School (EE-5) attendance notifications and needs. (kym.mayes@mytcalions.com)
- Worship regularly with other believers (at least one parent).
- Agree with the school's Doctrinal Statement of Faith (at least one parent).

Attendance Policy/Guidelines

School attendance is incredibly valuable for each of our students. TCA's School Calendar is posted in the spring for the coming school year for the benefit of advance family planning and scheduling. The calendar has generous scheduled breaks for students throughout the year. Parents are asked to make plans around these dates and to have their children at school when at all possible.

Elementary School Attendance is taken daily by the classroom teacher. To check a student's attendance record, follow these steps:

- Go to the school website: www.tcalions.com
- Sign in to FACTSnusing your parent account username & password
- Under the word Student Information select the drop down arrow and choose your student
- Click on the word "Attendance"
- This screen is broken down by quarter or you can choose all for the entire school year.

Student absences from class or school (for all or part of a day) fall into three categories – Excused, Unexcused, and School-Related.

Excused Absences (AE)

Students who are absent for the following reasons and submit applicable documentation within five days to the Attendance Coordinator will be assigned an excused absence and may make up missed work as defined by each teacher:

- Medical appointments documented (Physician's note) with the Attendance Coordinator
- Documented personal illness (Written/signed note from a parent)
- Family illness or death (Written/signed note from a parent)
- Court appearances (Written/signed note from a parent)
- Pre-approved trips/absences processed through the Attendance Coordinator

Unexcused Absences (AU)

Unexcused absences are assigned for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- Truancy
- Sleeping in
- Absences due to trips (one or more full days) without prior documented administrative approval arranged through the Attendance Coordinator
- Suspensions (OSS, ISS)

Consequences for Unexcused Absences:

- May result in the student not being able to make up missed assignments (homework, tests, quizzes, projects, etc.) for full credit. This may result in a zero for missed assignments and/or points deducted from larger assessments.
- May limit participation in extracurricular activities (athletics, fine arts, etc.), field trips, and other school events
- Unexcused absences in a semester may result in additional consequences and/or a conference with the area Principal

School Related (SR) Absences:

- TCA-sponsored extracurricular activities in which the student is a participant
- School field trips
- Academic Competitions

School-related absences do not count against absence limits for students.

Missed Assignments Due to Absences

- Students are responsible for missed assignments while absent. Any assignments and tests missed due to absences may be recorded as a zero if not completed in a timely manner as designated by the teacher. As a general rule, students may have the number of days missed to complete and submit missed assignments due to absences.
- Work assigned prior to a student's absence is due on the day of return.
- Tests assigned prior to a student's absence are to be taken on the day of return.
- It is important for students and/or parents to communicate with teachers in person or by email if there is any question about missed work. Lack of communication does not warrant extended time for missed assignments.

Maximum Absences/Academic Credit Risk

- For a student to receive full credit for a class at Trinity, a student's absences should not exceed ten (10) days in a semester unless an exception for extraordinary circumstances is made by the school's Attendance Committee which will require detailed documentation (i.e. physician, court, psychologist).
- Any absence beyond ten (10) days in a semester and/or twenty (20) days for the school year will be recorded as unexcused without detailed documentation (i.e. physician, court, psychologist).
- *Covid related absences will not count toward the maximum number of days allowed in a semester/school year with documentation from a physician. See the Covid policy for additional information.*

Contact the Attendance Office regarding all absences:

- If unforeseen/unexpected events occur on the morning of a school day or a student wakes up sick and cannot attend school, then the parent should make every effort to call the Attendance Office before 8:30 a.m.
- Students have five days from his/her return after an absence for parent or physician's note to be turned in to the Attendance Office; otherwise, the absence(s) may be recorded as unexcused.

Tardies

Students should plan on leaving early enough that under normal circumstances they would arrive to school ten or fifteen minutes early. There are times when there are excusable reasons for tardiness. In such cases, the parent should communicate with the Attendance Office.

- A student arriving after 7:40 a.m. is counted as tardy to school.
- Tardy records begin with a clean slate at the beginning of each quarter.
- Each student is permitted two unexcused tardies per quarter without a disciplinary penalty.
- A third tardy within a single quarter will result in an assigned daily cafeteria duty.
- *A fourth and each subsequent unexcused tardy will result in an assigned weekly after school clean up detail on Wednesday's from 3:00-3:30.*
- A parent conference may be required if unexcused tardies continue with the purpose of evaluating this lack of promptness and to explore options to solve the issue(s).

Students arriving any time after the 7:45 a.m. bell rings should:

1. Report to the Elementary Office to receive a slip to enter class.
2. Present a detailed note from a parent explaining the late arrival within five days to avoid being assigned an unexcused tardy.

Early Dismissals

- Requests for early dismissal should be brought or emailed to the Attendance Office prior to leaving campus for the school day. If there is a question or concern about the reason for an early dismissal, please see the Principal for approval. The Attendance Office will approve the request for early dismissal and will provide the student with an early dismissal slip.
- **Parents should call Kym Mayes, Lower School Attendance Coordinator when they arrive on campus. She will walk students to the main office for pick up.**
- Students are to turn in assignments that will be missed before leaving campus. Whenever possible, any missed tests or quizzes should be rescheduled with the teacher before leaving campus.

Family Trips or Other Special Activities

- Though we understand and appreciate the value of family vacations and mission trips, we strongly recommend that such trips which exceed two days not be taken during school. If extenuating circumstances do not allow you to plan such trips when school is not in session, email your area principal to request approval as early as possible. Preferred notice time is 30 days in advance.
- Brief family trips or other special activities (1-2 days), with prior written administrative approval, may be excused if the student has four or fewer absences at the time of the approval within that semester and if the student is making satisfactory academic progress in all classes. Days absent for the family trip or special activity may not cause the total number of days absent for the semester to exceed ten and the year to exceed twenty. (This includes early sign-outs or dismissals for weekend trips or non-school activities, etc.)
- The student is responsible for collecting all make-up work and completing all missed assessments as organized with each teacher prior to absences.
- Any days or classes missed for a family trip or special activity that causes a student to exceed twenty absences in a year will be recorded as unexcused and may jeopardize the student receiving credit for that course.
- Absences for family trips or special activities may not be excused during standardized testing unless they involve circumstances outside the family's control.

Emergency Closing of School

In case of bad weather, TCA will announce an emergency closing of school through the news media and text messaging. TCA will not necessarily follow the Jackson-Madison County School system regarding closings. On the days when there is a question regarding the weather, students and parents can keep posted by listening to the local TV and radio stations. Unless the announcement is made that school is closed, students should assume that school will be open. When a decision concerning a closing is made, an announcement will also be placed on the website and communicated through a FACTS Parent Alert.

Extracurricular & Athletic Participation

All students are expected to be in attendance during the regular school day to be eligible to participate in the extracurricular and/or athletic activities for that day. For a student to be considered eligible for practice or competition they must be in school for at least half of the school day (3 hours and 10 minutes). If the principal or designee grants an excused absence in advance for a pre-scheduled activity or an unforeseen emergency, the student may participate on that day.

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of the educational process. *Field trips are on hold as we evaluate Covid spikes in our area.* Trips are carefully selected and planned according to their relevance to the curriculum and the needs of the group attending. Parents signed a permission notice during the enrollment process for students to participate. It is the responsibility of the parent to communicate with the teacher and/or principal *prior* to the trip if their child requires any special medical, dietary, and/or travel considerations. Unfortunately, there will be times when the considerations cannot be met and it will be the parents' decision on whether to allow their child to attend. *If students do not attend **academic** field trips, they may be required to complete reports or other work in their place.*

Cooperation and responsibility from both students and parents are crucial to the success of a field trip. Students are expected to behave in a manner that reflects positively on TCA. Failure to do so will result in a disciplinary response that may include the loss of the privilege of attending subsequent field trips. Parents and/or adult sponsors involved in chaperoning field trips shall assume the responsibility of seeing that the students conduct themselves properly. They shall also cooperate with any policies and guidelines established by TCA and the venues being visited. Many field trips require advance reservations and payments. Therefore, teachers and administrators will have the discretion to determine the number of chaperones needed. *Field trips are considered school events; therefore, siblings may not attend.*

Change of Address

Please update your contact information in FACTS if you have a change in address or phone number. Otherwise, mailings containing important information may be substantially delayed and may lead to communication problems. All changes should be confirmed with the elementary school secretary.

Health Issues

Medical Release Forms

Every student must have a completed and signed Medical Release Form on file in FACTS.

Medications Policy

Students are not allowed to possess or dispense medication at any time. Teachers and assistants are also not allowed to dispense medication. All medication, including prescription, over the counter, asthma inhalers, etc. must be brought to the elementary office. If your child requires medication to be dispensed at school the following guidelines must be followed:

1. The medication must be in the original container and include the dosage instruction label.
2. All medication must be kept in the elementary office.
3. Parents are responsible for bringing medicine and picking up empty containers.

School personnel can administer basic first aid to your child. Emergency situations will be dealt with as the situation dictates, and only until we are able to contact the home or follow the designated procedures prescribed by the student's parents.

Please do not send your child to school if they have the following conditions:

Fever	Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis	Measles
Impetigo	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Lice w/proof of treatment

Children should be free from the above symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school. This includes being fever free without medication for 24 hours.

If your child is running a fever, the parent will be contacted to pick up the child from school. It is important that the school has emergency contact telephone numbers in case your child needs to leave for any medical reason. Please notify the office of phone number and address changes.

First Aid - Minor Injuries

Those students receiving minor injuries will be sent to the elementary school office. If appropriate, treatment will be given by a staff member. If it is more serious in nature and requires professional assessment and care, a parent or emergency contact (someone who is available and could be easily contacted by TCA) will be called so the student can be taken to a medical facility.

First Aid - Major Injuries/Serious Illnesses

In the event of a serious injury or illness, TCA reserves the right to call emergency personnel to assist in the care of the individual. Every attempt will be made to contact the parent before doing so.

Illnesses during School Hours

Students who become ill during the school day will be sent to the elementary secretary who will call parents to come for the student when this is deemed necessary. When neither parents nor the emergency contact listed can be reached, the student who is too ill to attend class will remain in the elementary office until someone can be contacted. It is the parent's responsibility to come or send someone for the sick student immediately since the school may not be equipped with proper facilities or personnel. Parents should come to the elementary office to check their child out.

Lower School Peanut Free Policy

Peanut allergies represent a health and safety hazard, which can have serious consequences for those who have such an allergy. In order to protect those students, staff, employees, visitors and guests from an environment that may be harmful to them because of such an allergy, and because of possible harm to personal well-being Trinity Christian Academy Lower School is Peanut Free. This includes infants through 5th grade students. A child with a serious peanut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a peanut-containing food or surface. Strict avoidance is the only way to prevent a life threatening allergic reaction. We are asking for your help as we work to provide all students with a safe school environment.

Please adhere to the following safety guidelines:

- Please do not send any peanuts, peanut butter or foods containing peanuts or made with peanut oil. This is for lunch as well as snacks.
- If you would like to send baked goods for parties, please be careful about the ingredients and cross contamination.
- If your child has eaten any food containing peanuts or peanut butter before coming to school, then please be sure that your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school.

TCA COVID-19 Updates: August 7, 2020

Information is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

It is our continued plan to be on campus this school year. With this goal in mind, we are attempting to minimize risks to the extent feasible and reasonable, fully realizing that it is not possible to eliminate them completely. Parents will receive updates as needed in a variety of ways (Email, website, text). Your flexibility, support, and respectful adherence to policy is needed as we all work together to protect your children and each other.

Basic Health and Hygiene practices:

- Students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds frequently during the school day.
- When hand washing is not possible, we have hand-sanitizer stations located throughout the school that contain at least 60% alcohol sanitizing solution.
- Students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs, sneezes, etc. with their arm or tissue, and to dispose of tissues properly and wash their hands.

Face Coverings/Masks: The school will provide a cloth mask and gaiter for each student and will also keep a supply of disposable masks.

- All students in 6 - 12th grade must wear a TCA issued or solid color masks or breathable face covers (gaiters) into the building and in common spaces (i.e. hallways, cafeteria, until seated, etc.).
- LL3-5th grade masks may not have faces of any kind or anything disrespectful. LL3-5th are also required to wear their mask/face covering into the building and in common spaces (i.e. hallways, cafeteria, until seated, etc.).
- Students may opt to remove their mask once seated in the classroom or lunchroom.
- Students are required to wear a mask or face covering for any type of group work.
- TCA teachers will wear a face covering or shield at all times in the presence of students.

Temperature Checks: Until further notice, TCA will conduct temperature checks for all entering the building, including students and all employees.

Covid-19 Pre-Screening Mandatory Questions: All who enter the building are required to conduct Covid-19 prescreening. Parents are to conduct the COVID-19 self-screening for his/her student(s) each morning prior to coming to school. This new morning routine helps each of us all to minimize risks for others.

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID -19?
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you had a new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

If the answer “YES” to any of the questions, then your child must stay home. High-risk contacts will be determined, based on facts and circumstances, using the guidance from the public health authorities. Area principals will contact you regarding academics.

What will happen if a student gets sick during the school day?

Should a student become ill at school, he/she will be assessed for COVID-19 symptoms by our school nurse. Should a student have symptoms, he/she will be placed in a monitored isolation room. You will be contacted as soon as possible and specific pick-up instructions will be provided. It is imperative that the student be picked up as quickly as possible once notified.

TCA’s nurse will provide information on the assessment, and you will be advised to contact your pediatrician. You will need to contact the TCA nurse with the information you gained from the doctor for us to make a determination about your child’s re-admittance to school. Different situations may have different facts, and we will work through these on an individual basis.

How will it be handled when a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19 with symptoms?

First, communicate the test result to Cheryle Emison (cheryle.emison@mytcalions.com) and do not return to school on campus until you meet the following criteria as defined by the CDC:

- 24 hours with no fever
- Decreased respiratory symptoms
- 14 days since symptoms first appeared

Your child’s area principal will communicate with you regarding academics. Virtual learning can be immediate and we will help you through this process.

Our nurse and team will review the situation, including contact tracing, and contact the public health authorities for guidance on steps to take as a school.

How will it be handled when a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19 with no symptoms?

If a student continues to have no symptoms, he/she may return to school 14 days from the date the test was administered. If symptoms develop after testing positive, please communicate this information to Cheryle Emison (cheryle.emison@mytcalions.com) and do not return to school on campus until you meet the following criteria as defined by the CDC:

- 24 hours with no fever
- Decreased respiratory symptoms
- 14 days since symptoms first appeared

Your child's area principal will communicate with you regarding academics. Virtual learning can be immediate and we will help you through this process if needed.

How will it be communicated when a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19?

- Our nurse and administration will review the situation, including contact tracing, and contact the public health authorities for guidance.
- The parents of the students in the room(s) in which the student who tested positive will be notified of the COVID-19 case.
- Parents will be advised to watch for symptoms and to contact their pediatrician if necessary.
- Your student will be able to remain in school, unless otherwise notified by administration.
- High-risk contacts will be determined, based on facts and circumstances, using the guidance from the public health authorities. If there has been no determination of a high-risk contact, we will not have to quarantine other students.

How will it be handled when a student with a member of his/her household has a confirmed case of COVID-19?

- If a member of your household has a confirmed case of COVID-19, contact Cheryle Emison (cheryle.emison@mytcalions.com). The student will shift to virtual learning and we will help with this process.
- If the affected family member is completely isolating, the student may return to school after 14 days from the last contact/exposure.
- If the affected family member is not completely isolating, then the student may not return until 14 days after the affected family member meets the following criteria as defined by the CDC and if the student shows no symptoms:
 - 24 hours with no fever
 - Decreased respiratory symptoms
 - 14 days since symptoms first appeared

How will it be handled when a student has a possible case of COVID-19?

If a student has a symptom(s) and/or has reason to believe he/she was exposed to COVID-19, please call your pediatrician for guidance. If there is no other diagnosed reason for the symptoms, the student will need to shift to virtual learning. Please notify your area principal.

The student may return to school after all the following criteria is met:

- 24 hours with no fever
- Decreased respiratory symptoms
- 14 days since symptoms first appeared

Will school be required to close for positive Covid cases?

The school will do everything possible to stay physically in session with safety parameters in place. Our nurse and taskforce team will review each situation, including contact tracing, and contact the public health authorities for guidance on steps to take as a school. Depending on the situation, closing of campus may become necessary for extensive sanitation, a quarantine period, stay at home order(s), or health department and/or government recommendation. Virtual Learning will begin if closure of our physical campus becomes necessary.

We continue to consult health care professionals and guidelines from the Jackson/Madison County Health Department, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and government officials to inform us on current recommendations and mandates related to COVID-19.

What is social/physical distancing at school?

- Social/physical distancing in early childhood will be achieved by limiting the mixing of students in classrooms, encouraging outdoor activities and allowing for some activities that promote individual play.
- School-wide classrooms space will be optimized for physical distancing as much as possible.
- Some classes will be held in alternate locations for optimal spacing (i.e. chapel).
- Chapels and Harbor Groups will continue with modified formatting for social distancing.
- Hallway traffic will promote physical distancing and utilize one-way traffic or walking on a designated side.
- Cafeteria lines and tables will be physically distanced (Early Ed through 1st grade will eat in their classrooms).

Will Early Ed be required to shut down if Upper School is required to close for any period of time?

While it is our goal for all students to remain on campus, in person, full-time, we have been informed that our infants, toddlers two, three and four-year old classrooms *may* be able remain open under the Tennessee Department of Education Emergency Childcare unless otherwise instructed by a governmental directive. It is our hope that the Tennessee Department of Education would extend this to include all elementary students, as we know that many of our elementary families depend on their students being in school to allow parents to work.

How will absences that exceed the maximum amount be handled? Principals will work through absences that exceed the maximum amount on a case by case basis.

Visitor/Lunch/Outside Food Policy:

Until further notice visitors are not allowed in the school building without a previously scheduled appointment. All visitors will have a temperature screening and be asked the COVID-19 questions. Our hope is that we will be able to open the school to visitors soon!

Parents or visitors are not allowed in the cafeteria or to eat lunch at school until further notice. Outside lunches or food of any kind may not be brought in or delivered to students of any age.

Lower School Dress Code

Modesty and neatness are the basic ideas behind the TCA uniform dress code. The dress uniform is part of your normal responsibility as a TCA student. It's not optional, and your cooperation is anticipated. Clothing and apparel not specifically mentioned is not acceptable.

Uniform pants (for girls and boys) may be purchased from vendors other than the Uniform Source as long as they reflect the same style, color and fit as the Uniform Source uniform pants. Pants that do not reflect all three aspects mentioned will not be considered in code. This applies to uniform PANTS and SHORTS only.

***Other Trinity uniform pieces (tops and bottoms) must be purchased from the Uniform Source.**

Dress Code/Uniforms Enforcement

Uniform dress code compliance is the normal responsibility of a TCA student and parent. It is not optional, and each student's cooperation is anticipated. The following procedures are designed to deal with violations in a fair and deliberate manner. When a student is out of dress code, all efforts will be made to discreetly correct it. If necessary, a parent will be notified and the necessary arrangements will be made to correct the situation. A Dress Code Violation note will be sent home. Repeated offenses will result in further disciplinary actions.

TCA's dress code supports the school's mission and serves to:

- Equip students with developing respect for authority, policies, and procedures
- Limit distractions in the learning environment
- Reduce peer competition based on clothes, outward appearance, and affluence
- Decrease focus on the superficial and emphasize the focus on inner values and character
- Enhance school spirit
- Support campus safety

Parent Expectations

- Students are expected to be in dress code on the first day of school and each day of school thereafter unless otherwise instructed by Administration.
- Dress code compliance is the responsibility of the TCA student and parent(s). Parent support is needed to make sure students are in dress code daily.

Girls Dress Standards

K – 5th Chapel/Special Assembly Uniform

- * **Plaid Dress** – The plaid dress may be worn by girls in grades K – 2nd grade.
 - * **Blouse** – White or black short or long sleeve with logo. The white blouse is required for all performances. Undershirts or camisoles may be worn under blouses. They must be solid white with no visible logo or writing when worn under the white shirt.
 - * **Skort/Jumper** - Plaid Skort for 3rd - 5th grade; Jumper for K – 3rd grade (must be two inches or longer from the top of the knee cap) *3rd grade girls have the option to wear the plaid skort or plaid jumper for chapel.*
- Socks/Tights**– Students may wear socks outside of school colors with no derogatory or disrespectful images or words of any kind. Tights must be only the following solid colors: purple, white, grey or black.
- Shoes** - Any shoe or boot with heel not to exceed two inches. No backless shoes, but sandals, clogs, and crocs with a heel strap are acceptable. **Athletic shoes are required on P.E. days.**

Chapel dress is NOT required for LL-PreK

LL – 5th All Other Days Mix and Match Options

- * **Blouse/Shirts** – White or black short or long sleeve; white 3/4 sleeve; purple, black or white short/long sleeve knit all must have logo. Undershirts or camisoles may be worn under blouses/shirts. They must be solid white, black, purple, or grey. Shirts worn under a white shirt cannot have a logo or writing.
- * **Jumper** – Plaid; khaki
- * **Plaid Dress** - (LL – 2nd)
- * **Knit Dress** - Solid black or purple
- * **Skorts** - Plaid; khaki
- * **Shorts** - Khaki
- * **Pants/Capris** - Khaki
- * **Socks or tights** – Students may wear socks outside of school colors with no derogatory or disrespectful images or words of any kind.
- * **Shoes** - Any shoe or boot with heel not to exceed two inches. No backless shoes, but sandals, clogs, and crocs with a heel strap are acceptable. **Athletic shoes are required on P.E. days.**
- * **Accessories** - Black v-neck pullover with logo; black cardigan with logo; black v-neck vest with logo; fleece jacket with logo; nylon jacket with logo. TCA or Uniform Source issued sweatshirt or hoodies may be worn on non chapel days. The hoods are not to be worn on the head in the building at any time.
- * **Jewelry** - Rings, necklaces, and earrings must be tasteful. Use common sense and take into consideration the many activities in which elementary students are involved. Studded jewelry, collars, or hair scarves are prohibited. Earrings are to be worn in the ear lobe with a maximum of two per ear while at school. Body piercing is not permitted.
- * **Hair** – Hair should be neat, clean and combed. Extreme hair colors and styles are not permitted. Hair colors need to be limited to natural shades. No primary, pastel, or neon colors. This includes purple.
- * **Make-up** – Make-up is not permitted in elementary school. No tattoos.

Pride Days-

- Each Friday will be TCA Pride Day (Go Lions!) unless posted otherwise. Students may wear TCA sweatshirts, TCA t-shirts or TCA hoodies with uniform bottoms on Fridays.
- MISSION PRIDE DAY - One Friday per month will be designated as Mission Pride Day. Students may opt to wear jeans, solid (black or grey) athletic pants (no yoga pants, leggings, or tights), or knee length athletic shorts (black or grey) for a \$2 donation to support alumni missionaries or other mission endeavors..

Boys Dress Standards

K – 5th Chapel/Special Assembly Uniform

Shirt - White or black oxford short or long sleeve shirt with logo. The white shirt is required for all performances. Undershirts may be worn. They must be solid white with no visible logo or writing when worn under the white shirt. Shirts must be tucked in.

Pants - Khaki (flat front or pleated); khaki shorts are permitted in August, September, April and May.

Socks/Shoes – Students may wear socks outside of school colors with no derogatory or disrespectful images or words of any kind. No Backless shoes.

Athletic shoes are required on P.E. days.

Belt - Black or brown belt in grades 3rd–5th.

Chapel dress is NOT required for LL-PreK

LL – 5th All Other Days Mix and Match Options

Shirt - White or black short/long sleeve oxford with logo; purple, black or white short/long sleeve knit with logo. Undershirts may be worn. They must be solid white, black, purple, or grey. Shirts worn under a white shirt cannot have a visible logo or writing.

Pants - Khaki (flat or pleated).

Shorts - Khaki

Socks/Shoes – Students may wear socks outside of school colors with no derogatory or disrespectful images or words of any kind.

Athletic shoes are required on P.E. days.

Belts – Belts are NOT required. If boys in 2nd grade and under prefer to wear a belt, the magnetic clasp type is recommended.

Accessories - Black v-neck pullover with logo; black cardigan with logo; black v-neck vest with logo; fleece jacket with logo; nylon jacket with logo. TCA or Uniform Source issued sweatshirt or hoodies may be worn on non chapel days. The hoods are not to be worn on the head in the building at any time.

Hats - Hats may not be worn or carried around school.

Hair and Sideburns - Hair should be neat, clean, and combed. Hair should not extend over the eyebrow, extend over the ears, or extend over the collar. Extreme hair styles are not permitted. Hair colors need to be limited to natural shades. No primary, pastel, or neon colors. This includes purple.

Jewelry - Earrings may not be worn to school or any school function. Necklaces must be tasteful.

Pride Days-

- Each Friday will be TCA Pride Day (Go Lions!) unless posted otherwise. Students may wear TCA sweatshirts, TCA t-shirts or TCA hoodies with uniform bottoms on Fridays.
- MISSION PRIDE DAY - One Friday per month will be designated as Mission Pride Day. Students may opt to wear jeans, solid (black or grey) athletic pants (no yoga pants, leggings, or tights), or knee length athletic shorts (black or grey) for a \$2 donation to support alumni missionaries or other mission endeavors.

Outdoor Play Dress Guidelines

It is important for our children to get outside every day that the weather permits. Please make sure that your child has appropriate outerwear for playing outside for 30 minutes each day. A Trinity fleece or jacket is not required. Students may wear any warm coat, and may also need a hat and/or gloves. We will use wisdom and common sense in determining when it is appropriate to go outside. **Please label all jackets, coats, hats, gloves, & scarves.**

Non-Uniform School Days

There are occasions when students will be allowed to wear clothes other than the school uniform to school as a means to inspire school spirit, provide a break from uniform days, and/or promote interest in a specific activity or event. On these occasions, students are to follow the guidelines provided with an attitude of respect. Clothing must be modest and respectful at all times, including Spirit/Theme Days.

NOTE:

Items not permitted at school-related events without documented prior permission from Administration, whether on or off campus and including Spirit/Theme Days, include, but are not limited to:

- Weapons and/or fake weapons - knives or guns (including water guns)
- Non-TCA flags
- Drones
- Shopping Carts
- Scooters
- Skateboards
- Hoverboards
- Coolers

Face Coverings

All students must wear a mask or gaiter into the building and through common spaces. Students may opt to remove their mask when seated at their desk and while seated in the cafeteria. Mask may not have faces or make political statements. The trading of masks is prohibited.

Guidelines for Student Behavior

The primary task of a TCA student is to receive a Christian education. When each student is admitted, he/she becomes identified with the school, and his/her conduct should reflect favorably on them and the school. Guidelines provide boundaries for security and freedom, and we expect each student to follow them both in attitude and behavior. We anticipate cooperation and a great year, but TCA reserves the right to discipline, suspend, or expel a student who is guilty of serious misconduct occurring on or off the school campus. Listed below are serious offenses that will not be tolerated. Any one of these could lead to immediate dismissal.

Abusive or Obscene Language

Curse words, swear words, racial slurs, and suggestive language are not appropriate for the spiritual and academic environment of our school, whether printed, spoken or recorded.

Alcohol and Drugs

Possession or use of alcohol or un-prescribed drugs of any kind are not allowed on campus or at school-sponsored activities. This includes coming on campus or attending school-sponsored activities under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Students who violate this policy may be terminated from the school. Prescription drugs should be used only under the direct supervision and knowledge of elementary school office personnel. It is prohibited to sell, give, or otherwise transfer prescription drugs to another student or individual.

Cheating

Cheating is defined as any act of deception or fraud that results in representing someone else's work as one's own or in affecting one's grades or any act that aids another student in such a deception.

Disrespect

Students are expected to submit to the authority of their teachers and administrators in all situations and under all circumstances, showing proper respect in both attitude and actions. Students will, in turn, be treated with respect by their teachers and administrators.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is passing off a source's information, ideas, or words as the student's own by omitting to cite them, and it is an act of lying, cheating, and stealing. Since the student also claims that it's their own work and use it to get credit for work they haven't really done, the student also lies and cheats. The student cheats their source of fair recognition for his or her efforts, and cheats the other students who have completed the same assignment without plagiarizing.

Stealing

Stealing is the taking or borrowing of another's property without permission on each occasion. This includes textbooks, uniforms or equipment, and personal items.

Vandalism

A destructive act against the school facility or equipment is an act against all of our students, faculty, parents, and friends who strive diligently to provide a clean, decent environment that honors God. At minimum, students will be required to pay compensation for all damages.

Weapons

TCA takes its responsibility to protect all of our students very seriously. Therefore, if a student brings a weapon to school, or to a school function, or has a weapon on his/her person, the school may terminate the student.

Discipline

Trinity Christian Academy, like any community or organization, must have a basic set of rules for behavior that promotes self-control, character and an environment where learning can take place. Students are expected to behave in a manner which demonstrates a respect for self, others, and recognition of the responsibilities of being part of a Christian educational community.

It is imperative that the classroom environment is conducive to learning. Teachers have a discipline plan to promote this environment. They use discipline methods which draw on their own strengths for effective results. In the vast majority of cases, these methodologies achieve their intended purpose; however, there are students who, despite the best efforts of the teacher, continue to be disruptive. Stronger steps must be taken to assure compliance with acceptable standards of behavior.

When a student is involved in a disciplinary incident, parents will be informed. If parents have questions, concerns, or comments concerning the incident, they are encouraged to contact the teacher directly involved in the incident. If parents have additional concerns after contacting the faculty member, they should contact the Principal.

Significant Infractions - The student will be removed from class and taken to the Elementary School Office. Conferences will be held with the student, the teacher, and an administrator to discuss the incident. Parents will be notified.

Subsequent Infractions - The student will receive consequences agreed upon by the team which may include: parents, teachers, administration and the student. Parents will be contacted regarding the incident and involved in the restoration.

Disciplinary Options

The following methodologies are options available to teachers and administrators as they work with students concerning problematic behaviors.

Conferences – Student and parent conferences are often not only necessary, but important in communicating the defined behaviors that are being sought to bring a student into compliance with school guidelines. These may involve the student, the parent, the teacher, guidance personnel, or administrators.

Loss of Privileges - There are many privileges for students who attend Trinity Christian Academy. These privileges are earned through appropriate behavior and attendance, and these privileges may increase as a student matures. When a student is issued a loss of privilege, he or she will be unable to utilize some or all of the privileges that are available. These privileges may include, but are not limited to, optional eating areas at lunch, full recess time, enrichment rewards, and attendance at, and/or participation in extracurricular activities. Students who lose lunchroom privileges will eat in a designated location. Students who do not comply appropriately with a loss of privilege may be given additional consequences.

In-School Suspension - Students involved in serious misconduct, consistent disruptive behavior or showing disregard for TCA policies may be given an In-School Suspension. Although isolated from students during the day of suspension, suspended students will be expected to complete all assignments on time. A letter will be placed in the student's file concerning the incident. Generally, 1, 2 or 3 days will be assigned depending on the seriousness or the repetitive nature of the offense. A student may not participate in extracurricular activities on days when In-School Suspension is served.

Removal from Class - Occasionally a student's behavior is detrimental to a favorable classroom environment. When a teacher's efforts at correction are unproductive and the learning or teaching process continues to be disrupted, a student may be temporarily removed from the class.

Out-of-School Suspension - Students involved in a serious violation of school policy may be given an Out-of-School suspension. A letter will be placed in the student's file concerning the incident, and the student will not be readmitted without a parent conference. A student may not participate in extracurricular activities during this time.

Expulsion - Sometimes, in extreme cases, it becomes apparent that it would be best for the school and the student that he/she leaves the TCA campus. If a student who has been expelled wishes to rejoin the TCA community, the student must re-apply through the Admissions Office and complete the admissions process. The TCA administration reserves the right to refuse re-admission.

Voluntary Withdrawal from School – Occasionally in severe cases it may be in a student's best interest for parents to take action before the school does and withdraw their student voluntarily.

Physical Violence Policy

We understand that tempers flare occasionally and a child may express acts of violence against another child (or adult). “Acts of Violence” include ALL acts of physical violence (hitting, kicking, biting, pinching, etc.) that cause harm to other students or teachers. These acts are a form of communication and are almost always a response to the child’s needs not being met or coping with a challenge or stressor. At Trinity we believe by understanding the developmental stages of the children in our care and their individual needs, we can proactively prevent many behaviors by the environment which we create for the children.

Trinity has developed the following plan of action to be used if and when these events occur in our school.

When a child is hurt:

For the child that did the act:

1. The student is immediately removed with no emotion, using words such as “biting is not okay – it hurts.” We will avoid any immediate response that reinforces the incident or calls attention to the student that did the act. Caring attention will be focused on the child who was hurt. The child will be talked to on a level which he/she can understand. “I can see that you want that car, but I can’t let you hurt him.”
2. The child will be redirected to other work/play.
3. Staff will complete an incident report and notify the family of the incident when the child is picked up for the day.

For the victim:

1. Staff will separate the child who was hurt from the child that did the act.
2. Special attention will be given to comfort the child.
3. Staff will administer appropriate first aid.
4. Staff will then complete an incident report to notify family of the incident.
5. Classroom staff will confer with the director/principal to review the context of the incident.

When the same act continues:

1. Classroom staff will meet with the director/principal on a routine basis for advice, support and strategy planning.
2. In a biting situation, Staff will “shadow” children who indicate a tendency to bite, in order to head off biting situations before they occur.
3. Staff will work together as partners with the parents of both the child doing the act and frequent victims to keep all informed and develop a joint strategy for change.
4. Teachers will hold a conference with the parents of the child doing the hurting to develop a written plan of action. Schedule follow-up meetings or telephone conversations as needed.
5. If hurting others continues, the student may need to be removed for a period of time from the classroom.
6. If it is deemed in the best interest of the child, school, and other children, termination of the child from Trinity for the duration of the biting, hitting, etc. stage may be needed. Written warning will be given to the families before this action will be taken. Regular tuition would be expected during the child’s absence.

Bullying

Bullying includes three important components:

1. Bullying is threats and aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

Bullying will not be tolerated.

Students will be encouraged to be a leader in God's eyes, not a bystander if they witness bullying.

Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

Philosophy

Bullying and harassing others will not be tolerated at TCA. Students are entitled to have an educational environment that is free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. Every person who is a part of TCA has the responsibility to support and care for each other and to behave in a pleasant and non-threatening fashion.

Definition

Bullying and harassing is any persistent, willful and deliberate action done by an individual or a group, to hurt, distress, upset, frighten or threaten another person or persons. It is not an isolated incident of argument or aggression between students.

Bullying can be:

- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, touching or any use of violence or repeated annoyance after being asked to stop
- Verbal: written or oral name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, malicious gossip or teasing
- Emotional: deliberate excluding, tormenting (hiding books, threatening gestures, extorting money), racial taunts, graffiti
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or abusive and/or suggestive comments
- Cyberbullying: willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices

Aims of the Policy

1. To ensure that all students, staff and parents know what is meant by bullying, and to know that it is unacceptable behavior
2. To create an atmosphere where bullying is not accepted
3. To empower victims of bullying to seek appropriate help
4. To ensure that faculty respond consistently and appropriately to bullying
5. To develop procedures for reporting, investigating and dealing swiftly with bullying behavior when it occurs
6. To develop a program of support for those affected by bullying behavior and for those involved in such behavior

Guidelines

As a school community, we expect all incidences of bullying to be reported. This requires students to:

- Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation.
- Take some form of intervening action if present when bullying occurs.
- Report the incident or suspected incident to a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor.

The school recommends that parents:

1. Watch for signs of unusual behavior or distress in their child, such as not wishing to attend school, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged clothes or bruising.
2. Advise their child to tell a staff member about any incidents of bullying.
3. If possible, parents should allow the student to report and deal with the problem. If the child will not report the incident, parents should inform the school.
4. Keep a written record of the bullying (who, what, when, where, why, how).
5. Discourage their child from retaliating.
6. Attend interviews at school if their child is involved in any bullying incident, either as the offender or the recipient.
7. Inform the principal of suspected bullying even if their child is not directly affected.

The faculty and staff will:

- Be positive role models at all times.
- Watch vigilantly for any incidences of bullying.
- Minimize opportunities for bullying by intentional and close supervision.
- Act on suspected incidents promptly and in the appropriate manner.
- Teach students appropriate ways to respond when they are witnesses to incidences of bullying.

Implementation:

- Faculty will make it clear in the classroom that bullying behavior is unacceptable and that consequences will be imposed to ensure a change in their behavior.
- All reports of bullying, no matter how trivial, will be investigated and dealt with fairly and positively by classroom teachers. In this way, students will gain confidence that reporting of incidents will not be ignored.
- If the incidents of bullying are serious and persistent, the classroom teacher will report immediately to the principal. The principal must ensure that the incident is dealt with effectively and promptly. Priority will be given to providing support for the victim and safety for all students.
- The principal will find out all the facts surrounding serious incidents of bullying by talking to all the parties involved, including any witnesses. All the evidence and all views will be taken into account. If possible, all parties should be asked to give a written account.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-4503 requires that every school district have a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment as well as procedures for investigating reports of bullying and harassment.

Spectator Code of Conduct for Athletic Events

Students

All students are considered community representatives of Trinity Christian Academy. Students are expected to act in an appropriate manner at all times when attending athletic events. The following behaviors are inappropriate and will not be tolerated: fighting, profanity, possession, use of, or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, unsportsmanlike conduct, rude or disrespectful behavior on and off the field/court, taunting opponents or officials, destruction of property, obscene gestures, derogatory or degrading comments. Students who exhibit any of the above behaviors or any other inappropriate behavior will face appropriate consequences, pending further investigation. The Director of Athletics, Dean of Students, and Upper School Principal will determine these consequences. Discipline Committee referral may be necessary.

Parents and Other Spectators

All parents are considered community representatives of Trinity Christian Academy and representatives of Christ. Being a parent of a student-athlete is intended to be a great experience. Parental participation and support is very important to student-athletes, our school, and community. Everyone associated with an athletic event plays an important role in seeing that standards of sportsmanship are upheld. Parents and other spectators are reminded that their sportsmanship and behavior reflect upon the reputation of Trinity Christian Academy and of Christ. To make this experience honorable and the most rewarding for all concerned, the following are expectations for being a supportive parent or spectator of athletic events:

- Cheer for your team and not against the opponents – Matthew 7:15-20.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to cheerleaders.
- Diplomatically censor fellow spectators who display negative behavior.
- Respect others.

Coaches and/or on-site administrators and officials who observe inappropriate behavior from our parents and/or other spectators will address it personally and inform the Director of Athletics of such behavior. Inappropriate conduct may result in being removed from the venue and subject to further action.

Child Abuse Reporting Policy

In accordance with Tennessee Law, Trinity Christian Academy acknowledges its responsibility to require employees to immediately report cases of verified or suspected child abuse and neglect. Individuals who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child has been abused or neglected are, by statute, responsible for immediately reporting such suspicions directly to the Department of Children's Services. All TCA personnel are required to immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect. The information should include, to the extent known by the reporter, the name, address, telephone number of the child and parents or guardian, birthdate (age) of the child and present whereabouts of the child, if not at home. The following procedures for reporting cases are designated:

1. Reporting Procedures

a. Suspected child abuse and/or neglect by someone other than a TCA employee.

(1) The employee must immediately report the suspected child abuse or neglect to:

(a) The Department of Children's Services (DCS) or an appropriate Law Enforcement Officer.

(b) The school principal, head of school, or other appropriate school administrators.

b. Suspected child abuse and/or neglect by a TCA employee.

(1) The employee must immediately report the suspect child abuse or neglect to:

(a) The Department of Children Services (DCS) or an appropriate Law Enforcement Officer.

(b) The school principal, head of school, Human Resources, or other appropriate system administrators.

c. Additional requirement if the abuse occurred on school grounds or while the child was under the supervision or care of the school:

If the abuse occurred on school grounds or while the child was under the supervision or care of the school, then the principal or other person designated by the school shall verbally notify the parent or legal guardian of the child that a report pursuant to state statute has been made and shall provide other information relevant to the future well being of the child while under the supervision or care of the school. The notice shall be within 24 hours from the time the report is given to the Department of Children's Services or appropriate law enforcement officer. In any event the notice shall not be given to any parent or legal guardian if there is reasonable cause to believe that the parent or legal guardian may be the perpetrator or in any way responsible for the child abuse or child sexual abuse.

Once the notice is given, the principal or other designated person shall provide to the parent or legal guardian all school information and records relevant to the alleged abuse or sexual abuse, if requested by the parent, with the information redacted to protect the confidentiality of the identity of the person who made the report and any other person whose life or safety may be endangered by the disclosure and any information made confidential pursuant to federal or state law. The information and records described herein shall not include records or documents of other agencies.

By law, the person reporting in good faith shall be immune from any civil or criminal action and his/her identity shall remain confidential except when the juvenile court determines otherwise. In cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect, the law requires the school system to provide all school records to the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, juvenile court judge, or the police, if requested. This includes any surveillance videos depicting suspected child sexual abuse instances on

TCA property, on a school bus, or at TCA-sponsored events. Parental permission is unnecessary as the Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) creates an exception for information released “in connection with a health or safety emergency.” The alleged perpetrator of the child abuse or neglect should not be notified that a report of abuse has been made or that there is a pending investigation unless compelling reasons exist to do so.

Legal References: 1. T.C.A. §.37-1-403. 2. T.C.A. § 37-1-403(h). 3. T.C.A. § 37-1-419. 4. T.C.A. § 37-1-410. 5. T.C.A. § 37-1-605. 6. T.C.A. § 37-1-605(d)(1). 7. T.C.A. § 37-1-602(d)(2). 8. T.C.A. § 10-7-504. 9. Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, 34 CFR § 99.31 (a)(10).

School Safety

- The safety and protection of our students, families, faculty, and staff is priority. Help keep TCA a safe and secure place by honoring and respectfully adhering to all policies and safety requests.
- Students are expected to respect the request(s) of administrators and teachers if asked not to have something or to stop doing something due to a concern for school safety.
- TCA conducts school-wide safety drills with students throughout the year, including, Fire, Tornado, and Lockdown Procedures. The schedule and dates of these drills are confidential for the protection of our students.
- TCA faculty and staff are provided with clear policy and procedures on all safety drills.
- Local law enforcement is paid by the school to be on campus daily as scheduled by our Security Team.

TCA Safety Requirements

- All parents and guests are to enter through the Main Entrance of the school. A personal driver’s license is required to be scanned before a name tag may be issued to enter the school for any reason.
- The schedule and dates of these drills are confidential for the protection of our students.
- Weapons or drugs are NOT allowed on TCA’s campus or at any TCA event; anyone in violation of this policy may face expulsion and referral to local law enforcement.
- TCA is equipped with various exterior and interior security cameras throughout campus.
- TCA reserves the right to search student lockers, backpacks, and vehicles if needed.
- TCA will refer to and rely on law enforcement when needed.
- TCA reserves the right to require student drug testing at the expense of the parent; further, in such cases of required drug testing, TCA reserves the right to limit or deny enrollment based upon a negative or failed drug test.
- The list below includes, but is not limited to, items **prohibited** on Campus without documented prior permission from Administration:
 - Weapons
 - Anything illegal
 - Fake weapons - a toy that resembles a weapon to include, but not limited to, knives or guns (including water guns)
 - Drones

Classroom Interruptions

Aside from emergencies, classroom interruptions are intentionally avoided to preserve instructional time. Class changes, advisory periods, and e-mails are generally used to communicate messages with teachers and students. As needed, front office staff or school administrators may:

- Communicate via PA system, localized to a single room or school-wide
- Physically enter a classroom

Contacting Faculty and Administrators

Faculty and administrators are more than willing to assist students and parents with their needs and concerns and will make time in their schedule to accommodate them. Every effort should be made to do this during normal school hours. After or before school hours, a message can be left on voicemail or the teacher's e-mail. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours of the message. Faculty and administrators should not be called at home or text after school hours except in the case of extreme emergencies.

Teachers are not available to meet between 2:30 and 3:00 as this is an extremely busy time due to afternoon dismissal when teachers are still supervising their students.

Content of Textbooks

TCA uses a wide selection of textbooks and other reading material. Use does not imply acceptance of all its contents. Scripture will be the final authority in all areas of instruction.

Distribution or Display of Materials

All materials must be approved by sponsors or the administration prior to being distributed or displayed. This includes all school related materials regarding events and activities. On rare occasions, the principal may consider posters or announcements from other sources that would be of important concern for our faculty and students.

Grading System

The following system is used for TCA Elementary:

<u>Objective Grades</u>		<u>Subjective Grades</u>	
93-100	A	E	Excellent
85-92	B	G	Good
75-84	C	S	Satisfactory
70-74	D	N	Needs Improvement
69 and below	F	U	Unsatisfactory

A Basic Skills Checklist will be used in Little Lions, PreK, and Kindergarten as an additional component to determine promotions and retention. Students in Kindergarten-2nd grade who have a final failing average in any one (1) of the core subjects will not be promoted to the next grade. These core subjects include Phonics, Reading, and Math. Students in 3rd-5th grade who have a final failing average in any two (2) of the core subjects will not be promoted to the next grade. These core subjects include Reading, Math, English, Science, and History.

Homework

Homework teaches responsibility, time management, goal setting, and self-discipline. Therefore, homework is an integral part of the school program at the appropriate level. Homework will benefit the student and credit will be given. Parents should sign any assignment pads/sheets each night. Any homework for Wednesday and Friday nights will be incomplete seatwork, studying for quizzes, or completing long-term projects. While homework is basically the student's responsibility, it does require family cooperation, supervision and some assistance. Parents should help children choose a time and place free of distractions to prepare school work. Homework must be completed neatly and presented on time. Assignments will be recorded in a planner, Plan Ahead, or in Google Classroom.

Wednesday Night Homework

1. Routine Math homework may be given every day.
2. To meet unusual schedule constraints, occasional tests may be given on Thursday with the approval of the Principal.
3. Thursday tests may be given by any teacher during the last week of a nine-week marking period.

Report Cards

Report cards for PreK through 5th Grade will be sent home every nine weeks. Report cards should be signed by the parent(s) and returned the following day. Report cards will be withheld if any part of the families' financial account is not current.

Standardized Testing

Trinity Christian Academy administers the Stanford Achievement Test for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade and the ACT Aspire for students in 3rd through 10th grade during each spring. All students in grades K-5th grade must participate. No absences for family trips or special activities will be excused during the achievement testing period. Results of the Stanford and ACT Aspire will be sent home at the end of the school year or at the beginning of the following year depending on when the results are reported to TCA.

Textbooks

All textbooks belong to TCA and are loaned to the students for use during the school year. Textbooks are distributed by the classroom teacher. The name, number of the textbook, and its condition are recorded by the teacher. If a book is lost or damaged beyond use, the student must pay for its replacement before he/she can be issued another text. If the book is found within a two-week period following the student having purchased another text, the money will be refunded. Students are responsible for the textbooks issued to them. Any loss of a book should be reported immediately to your teacher. Textbooks may be checked out by parents during the summer to assist with tutoring for their student providing they are returned by August 1 or arrangements have been made with the Principal.

Permanent Records

Permanent records for students in Little Lions through 5th grade are located in the Elementary Office. Included in the records are results of achievement tests, ability tests and grades. Health and immunization information and a copy of the student's birth certificate, when supplied by the parent, are placed in the file. With the parent's consent, any special psychological educational test reports that supply information helpful to the teachers and students are included in the records. Some disciplinary reports are also included. Records may be viewed by parents upon request. Administrators will be happy to assist parents in test interpretations and ability-achievement correlation. It is best to call and set up an appointment.

Lost and Found

All lost items, except books that are found in classrooms, will most likely be taken to the office at the end of the school day. Unclaimed clothing and shoes will be sent to the Goodwill Center several times a year. Valuables, such as watches, jewelry and glasses, will be stored by the elementary school secretary.

Library Services

The Library provides a place where students, faculty, and parents can come to access information and materials for personal and academic use. It is a place where students can study, enjoy leisure reading and receive help in finding answers to their questions. Although quiet conversation is allowed, an atmosphere conducive to study and reading is essential. Each student is responsible for helping to maintain an academic environment.

1. All materials taken from the Library must be first checked out at the circulation desk. Students who remove materials from the Library without checking them out are subject to disciplinary action.
2. Circulation Policies- TCA Libraries do not charge late fees or overdue fines for library books that are turned in late. However, students may not checkout further library materials until current library books/materials have been checked in. We appreciate students returning library books and materials in a timely manner.

Lost Library Books/Materials

If library books/materials are thought to be lost, these items need to be replaced. Therefore, full replacement cost is to be paid for lost library books/materials. Or, parents have the option to replace book/material provided replacement is of the same type (e.g., hardback for a hardback).

Lunch Program

TCA's lunch program is through Gourmet Your Way. Menu options will be made available on our school website and through email. *Little Lions through 1st grade students will eat lunch in their classroom. 2nd through 5th grade students will eat in the main cafeteria at socially distanced tables - 4 students per round table, and 6 students per long table.* All elementary students will have lunch accounts set up through Gourmet Your Way. Parents are to load their child's account online. Students may also bring their lunch from home. Parents should include all necessary items such as napkins and eating utensils. Please remember to include a drink. Microwaves and refrigerators are not available at this time. All lunches brought to TCA will need to be contained to the student's lunch box and preferably a disposable container.

Everyone entering the cafeteria is required to wear a mask or face covering in the lunch line and throughout the cafeteria. Students and teachers may remove their mask once seated at their lunch table.

Everyone is required to hand sanitize as they enter the cafeteria and as they exit.

Until health and safety precautions are lifted visitors are not allowed access past the security doors due to Covid concerns.

School Pictures

Individual and class pictures will be taken during the school year. These dates will be announced.

Parties

Teachers and administrators have discretion to schedule parties according to school policies. *All parties (other than a student's birthday) are considered school events; therefore siblings may not attend.*

Refreshments for a student's birthday are permissible with the classroom teacher's approval. NO special decorations or favors may be included. Please schedule such activities well in advance with the student's teacher. Parents are asked to be sensitive to the feelings of classmates when planning any party outside of school. Invitations to outside parties may not be given out at school unless the entire class is invited. The method and time of distributing invitations will be determined by the teacher. The Elementary office will not accept any deliveries for students from florists or gift shops.

Personal Property/Cell Phones

Students should use discretion in the personal property they bring to school. **Items such as laser pointers, artificial noisemakers, personal electronic devices (unless specified by the classroom teacher), and other similar devices tend to invite misuse and often cause classroom distractions and interruptions. Leave them at home.** Students should also avoid keeping large sums of money in their purses, wallets or pockets.

Students may possess cell phones at school; however, students may not use them at any time during the school day to take pictures or video, to make or receive calls, or to send or receive text messages without their teacher or administrator approval.

Cell phones & smartwatches must be turned off and stored in a purse, book bag, or classroom storage pocket at all times from 7:45-3:00.

Students are allowed to contact parents using the school phone in the Elementary Office in the event of an emergency. Parents are also able to leave messages for students by calling the office. Parents and students should avoid using cell phones to communicate during the school day.

School Calendar

The 2020-2021 School Calendar can be accessed at the following link: [2020-2021 School Calendar](#)

TCA VIRTUAL ACADEMY

In addition to traditional in-person learning, families have the option to choose the TCA Virtual Academy for a one-semester commitment.

Expectations & Rules

- TCA Virtual Academy is available for students 1st - 12th grades. For more information about early education through kindergarten, please contact [Kristie Tims](#).
- Students 3rd - 12th grade will be provided Chromebooks for both in-person and online learning.
- If needed, students K - 2nd grades will have an option to check out a Chromebook for online learning.
- TCA Virtual Academy will follow the same schedule as the school day. Using their school-issued Chromebook, students are required to observe and interact with lessons during their scheduled class time.
- Attendance will be taken, and the student handbook attendance policies will apply for the virtual classroom. ****Please refer to the *TCA Virtual Academy Attendance Policy*.**
- Assignments, instructional materials, virtual meeting links, assessments, and all class communication will be posted in the student's Google Classroom. Additionally, parents will be able to access assignments and grades through the Parent Portal or the TCA Family App (coming soon).
- Students who begin the semester in-person can choose to opt-in to the TCA Virtual Academy for health-related reasons (a letter from the student's physician may be required). Transferring students who enroll after the beginning of the semester will also have the option to opt-in.
- REACH students will have the option for in-person learning in the event of a stay-at-home order or if they sign up for the TCA Virtual Academy. For more information or questions regarding REACH, contact [Jenni Moffett](#).

If you choose the TCA Virtual Academy option, families and students will be required to commit to the full first semester (August 21, 2020 - January 15, 2021).

- After the first semester, the TCA administration will re-evaluate TCA Virtual Academy. Families will have the option to re-enter on-campus classes or continue with TCA Virtual Academy.
- Due to a modified schedule, the first semester will end on January 15, 2021.
- TCA Virtual Academy Students can participate in on-campus athletics.
- Online learning is the same tuition price as on-campus learning.
- If federal, state, or local government officials mandate a stay-at-home order, all students grades 1-12 will transition to TCA Virtual Academy for the mandated time.

TCA Virtual Academy Attendance Policy

If enrolled in TCA Virtual Academy or in the event that TCA is required to move to online learning, the following attendance policies and guidelines will be implemented.

Consequences/Disciplinary Process for Non-Adherence to Unexcused Absences Policy for grades 1-12

In compliance with Tennessee state law (49-6-3007) applying to all state of Tennessee independent schools, when a student accrues five (5) unexcused absences from school, written notice will be given to the student's parent or guardian and disciplinary action will be taken. If the parent or guardian fails to rectify the absenteeism, TCA is required by law to report said absenteeism to the appropriate local governmental authorities.

- 1st Unexcused Class Absence in 1 or more classes = Documented email to parent by Attendance Coordinator for official notice of unexcused absenteeism
- 2nd Unexcused Class Absence = Assigned Consequence for *Unexcused Absenteeism/Missing Class* by Attendance Coordinator
- 3rd Unexcused Class Absence - Parent/Guardian will be contacted by the Upper School Principal
- 4th Unexcused Class Absence - Administrator/Parent Conference (phone or virtual meeting) to discuss continued enrollment at TCA and mandatory state of Tennessee reporting if the parent or guardian fails to rectify the absenteeism with Administration

Maximum Absences/Academic Credit Risk

- For a student to receive full academic credit for a class at Trinity, a student's absences should not exceed ten (10) days in a semester unless an exception for extraordinary circumstances is made by the school's Attendance Committee which will require detailed documentation (i.e. physician, court, Any absence beyond ten (10) days in a semester and/or twenty (20) days for the school year will be recorded as unexcused without detailed documentation (i.e. physician, court, psychologist). psychologist).
- ***Covid related absences will not count toward the maximum number of days allowed in a semester/school year with documentation from a physician. See the Covid policy for additional information.***

Contact the Elementary Office Regarding All Absences

- If unforeseen/unexpected events occur on the morning of a school day or a student wakes up sick and cannot attend TCA Virtual Academy, then the parent should make every effort to call the Elementary Office before 8:30 a.m. (731.668.8500).
- Students have five days from his/her return after an absence for parent or physician's note to be turned in to the Elementary Office; otherwise, the absence(s) may be recorded as unexcused.

Tardies for TCA Virtual Academy

Logging In and Out of TCA Virtual Academy

- A student logging in five minutes after the start of a class is counted as tardy. If the student is experiencing technical difficulties, please contact Mrs. Mayes (kym.mayes@mytcalions.com) in the Elementary Office as soon as possible.
- A student who misses more than 15 minutes of a virtual class will be counted as absent for that class period.

Early Dismissals

- Requests for early dismissal for Virtual Academy should be emailed to Mrs. Mayes kym.mayes@mytcalions.com.
- Students are to submit assignments for classes that will be missed prior to or no later than the assigned class period in the event of early dismissal to receive full credit.

Missed Assignments Due to Absences

- Students are responsible for missed assignments while absent. Any assignments and tests missed due to absences may be recorded as a zero if not completed in a timely manner as designated by the teacher. As a general rule, students may have the number of days missed to complete and submit missed assignments due to absences.
- Work assigned prior to a student's absence is due on the day of return.
- Tests assigned prior to a student's absence are to be taken on the day of return.
- It is important for parents of elementary students to communicate with teachers in person or by email if there is any question about missed work. Lack of communication does not warrant extended time for missed assignments.

Family Trips or Other Special Activities

- Though we understand and appreciate the value of family vacations and mission trips, we strongly recommend that such trips which exceed two days not be taken during school. If extenuating circumstances do not allow you to plan such trips when school is not in session, email your area principal to request approval as early as possible. Preferred notice time is 60 days in advance.
- Brief family trips or other special activities (1-2 days), with the prior written administrative approval, may be excused if the student has four or fewer absences at the time of the approval within that semester and if the student is making satisfactory academic progress in all classes. Days absent for the family trip or special activity may not cause the total number of days absent for the semester to exceed ten and the year to exceed twenty. (This includes early sign-outs or dismissals for weekend trips or non-school activities.)
- The student is responsible for collecting all make-up work and completing all missed assessments as organized with each teacher prior to absences.
- Any days or classes missed for a family trip or special activity that causes a student to exceed twenty absences in a year will be recorded as unexcused and may jeopardize the student receiving credit for that course.
- Absences for family trips or special activities may not be excused during semester exams or during standardized testing unless they involve circumstances outside the family's control.

TCA Virtual Academy Dress Code and Environment

- TCA Virtual Academy students will be required to wear a TCA top (polo, t-shirt, hoodie or sweatshirt)
- No head coverings or hats (including hoods on hoodies or jackets)
- No sunglasses or eyewear except for prescription glasses
- The the virtual student's room needs to be well lit and free of distractions
- No visibly inappropriate background images (physical or virtual) displayed on the student's screen
- No music or audio electronics playing in the background including but not limited to TVs, mobile devices, radios, etc.

Virtual Learning Contact: Jay Cashion jay.cashion@mytcalions.com

Policy for Responsible Use of Technology

TCA provides technology resources and also allows students to bring other approved technology. We seek to facilitate access to educational tools and resources, to encourage innovation and collaboration, and to partner with parents to help students learn to manage personal technology in a manner that is honorable.

Trinity expects students to exercise personal responsibility and respect in their use of resources and with technology as a whole.

Expectations & Rules

- Responsible use of the school's and/or a student's personal technology resources is to support TCA's Student Honor Code and mission.
- Students are to honor the school and its mission in all social media postings or choose not to make public postings regarding school matters. Negative or disrespectful social media comments regarding others is detrimental to the TCA community, poses a concern for the school, and may be addressed.
- Students are not to make personal postings of any kind on any form of social media during school hours.
- Violating any portion of this policy may result in disciplinary review and may require suspension, expulsion, and/or communication with law enforcement officials.
- Trinity will cooperate fully with law enforcement requests and investigations.
- Online Behavior
- As members of the Trinity community, students are representatives of TCA in all online communications on or off campus.
- TCA students are not to disrespect Trinity or members of its community in any public, private, or anonymous forum (i.e. Twitter, Topix, Instagram, Snapchat, After School, etc.).
- Students should never assume someone else's identity in any way via technology.
- If a student is uncertain whether a specific activity is permitted or appropriate, then they are to ask a teacher or an administrator before engaging in that activity.
- Privacy
- Students should avoid sharing user names or passwords with others.
- Respect the privacy of others; do not share or access others' folders, files, or data without their prior authorization.
- TCA has the right to inspect any data, email, logs, or files that exist on the network or on individual technology devices without the prior consent of system users.
- Students should not share or post personally identifying information about any member of the TCA community without prior permission.
- Students should not create, distribute, or post audio or video recordings of TCA employees or students without prior permission.
- Students should not disparagingly alter, distribute, or post any disrespectful image, audio, or video.

Use of Technology Resources

- Technology use at TCA, including cell phones, must be teacher or administrator authorized.
- TCA email is designed for school-related activities.
- Deliberately performing any act which negatively impacts the operation of a technology device, printer or network is unacceptable; a student's family is liable for any resources required to rectify such situations.

- Students should not store, transfer, or use software or settings for hacking, eavesdropping, network administration/monitoring, or network security circumvention.
- Students should not install or boot to non-approved operating systems on any device.
- Obscene or Inappropriate Materials
- Students should not search for, solicit (ask for), download, or distribute (send) any material that is illegal, offensive, lewd, pornographic or inappropriate based on the school's mission.
- Students who mistakenly access inappropriate information at school should notify a teacher or staff person immediately so that it may be blocked.
- Administrators and TCA's Discipline Committee takes into consideration students & parents who self-report to administration and are forthcoming and honest regarding their responsibility in such matters.

Copyright & Plagiarism

- Students are not to plagiarize from any source, including taking someone else's writing, image, or idea and presenting it as your own without proper citation of the source.
- Except for "educational fair use" as defined by a teacher, students are not to copy, save, or re-distribute copyrighted material (files, music, software, etc.) Users should assume material is copyrighted unless it is stated clearly to the contrary.
- Personally Owned Equipment & Devices
- Students may connect their devices to Trinity's wireless network.
- Students are not to connect to other networks while on campus, including using cell phones as wired or wireless tethering devices or hotspots.
- The school is not responsible for damage to or theft of personal electronic devices.
- Students are responsible for device charging before arriving at school.

Limitation of Liability

- TCA takes precautions to restrict access to objectionable material online, but recognizes the limitations of fully controlling online access.
- TCA reserves the right to block content with the potential of any negative impact.
- TCA is not responsible for any lost data or interrupted service caused by malfunction, negligence, or omission.
- TCA is not responsible for financial obligations arising from unauthorized use of the network or devices.
- TCA cannot assume the responsibility for any inappropriate material that bypasses the school's security/monitoring software/equipment.
- Students are independently responsible for their actions and choices in relation to technology and social media.

Google Accounts

Trinity Christian Academy is a Google school. We use the Google suite of applications for classroom projects, communication, homework, quizzes, tests, and other school-related tasks.

All TCA students, starting in pre-k, are given a @mytcalions.com email account. Their account credentials allow them to sign-in to their G Suite apps and login to Chromebooks.

For G-suite questions, please contact helpdesk@mytcalions.com.

1:1 Initiative

- All students grades 3-12 will be provided with a Chromebook.
- Students grades 3-5 will only bring their Chromebook home when a teacher sends them home for an assignment or for TCA Virtual Academy. Otherwise, the Chromebooks will stay in the classroom.
- Students are not allowed to alter the physical appearance of the device in any way (i.e stickers, labels, skins, etc.).
- Any attempt to tamper with the Chromebook's hardware (both internal and external) or software will result in a repair fee to return the device to its original condition.
- Any cosmetic damage from abuse, misuse, and unauthorized modification will result in a repair fee to return the device to its original condition.
- Students will be required to replace any lost or damaged peripherals (i.e. power supplies or stylus) at full cost.
- Students will be required to replace any lost or stolen Chromebook at the fair market value replacement cost determined by the IT department.
- Each device is allowed one accidental repair for the life of the device (approximately three school years). Accidental repairs include unintentional bumps or drops from no more than three feet (i.e. falling from a desk), liquid spills on the keyboard, or a power surge. Additional damage(s) will be charged to the student at the cost of the repair.
- All warranty related device failures (manufacturer defects or malfunctions not caused by accidental damage) will be repaired at no cost to the student for the life of the device.
- Each device and device peripheral(s) will be returned at the end of each school year. Devices will be assessed for damages or missing components. Damages outside the scope of normal wear and use will result in a fee to repair or replace the device.
- Students will be assigned the same Chromebook each year, and graduating seniors will be able to keep their Chromebook.

REACH Program

TCA has a long standing tradition of working to meet the needs of students with learning challenges and disabilities. For more than 10 years, the REACH program has worked with individuals and small groups of students to equip them with the tools needed to not only succeed academically, but to embrace the person God designed them to be. Even in the years before the REACH program began, there was differentiated programming to meet the needs of each TCA student.

The REACH (Resources Empowering All Children) program at Trinity Christian Academy provides individualized instruction for students who have been professionally identified with a learning or medical disability. REACH is a resource program that creates and facilitates an environment for more personalized learning to help each student better achieve academic success. There is a close collaboration between REACH teachers, classroom teachers, and parents. As a team, a plan is developed to help each student grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually into the person God designed him or her to be.

More information about REACH can be accessed at the following link:

- [The REACH Program](#)

RISE Program

Trinity's RISE Program (Raising Independence and Success in Exceptional learners) is designed to provide an inclusive Christian educational program to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). A developmental team consisting of special education teachers, psychologists, educators, social workers, program directors at other private schools, and others spent over a year creating a program that would develop the full academic and social potential of each of our RISE students. A significant aspect of this program includes the use of an inclusion teacher to assist our RISE students in the general classroom setting. By including all students in as many activities and subjects as possible, our typically-developing students learn to respect, accept, understand, and love those with developmental and learning differences.

Our RISE Program plan is individualized to the student's specific needs and includes best practice and research based strategies. Each student will receive one-on-one multisensory instruction from a certified special education teacher in the areas of reading and math, while the remaining parts of the day are spent with their homeroom classes. The special education teacher will also provide support to the general education teachers ensuring that all educators involved understand the specific needs of the individual student.

Not only does the RISE program plan include academic goals but also an understanding of developing the whole child- intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. All RISE students are included in school performances, chapel services, auxiliary classes, field trips, and special events. In fact, if a RISE student is interested in performing in the school play, joining an athletic team, or any other organization or club, our RISE students are fully encouraged to participate in the way that best fits their needs.

Trinity's RISE Program has very limited enrollment and is currently open to grades PK-5 only. It's primary enrollment goal is to serve qualified applicants in the TCA community.

Volunteer and Chaperone Policy

(Adopted August 3, 2018)

TCA teachers and staff are responsible for vetting and securing volunteers and/or chaperones by providing advanced requirements and expectations that include, but are not limited to, adherence to the following:

While volunteering or chaperoning, whether students are present or not, all TCA volunteers and chaperones are required to:

- have successfully cleared a background check facilitated by the school (fees may apply)
- report any potentially harmful or illegal behavior, suspicion, or intent to the designated leader or school official as soon as possible
- act as a positive role model in word and in action that supports a Christian witness
- cooperate respectfully with any policies and guidelines established by TCA and the venues being visited
- act responsibly in leading and redirecting students to conduct themselves respectfully in attitude and action
- abstain from alcohol, tobacco, vapes, or any substance that is illegal for minors

The designated leaders will be held responsible by Administration if volunteers and/or chaperones are allowed to continue any known action or conduct that is not in agreement with the Volunteer and Chaperone Policy if no attempt of correction, re-direction, or proper reporting to school officials is made. Designated leaders of chaperones or events are required to report any misconduct to their area principal or supervisor in writing (email is acceptable) to their principal or area supervisor within 24 hours of the occurrence.

The event and/or field trip coordinator is required to provide their area principal a list of all chaperone and/or volunteer names, phone numbers, and an individually signed required form at least two weeks in advance of the trip to allow time for background check clearance.

As mandatory reporters and guardians of our students, families, and school, TCA may report all known illegal actions of school leaders, school volunteers, and or chaperones, including those actions that directly and/or indirectly affect students and/or minors, to either local law enforcement or other required entities.

Withdrawal Procedures

1. Submit a written request for release on or before May 1 to the TCA Admissions Office, in person at 10 Windy City Rd., Jackson, TN 38305 or via United States Postal Service or by emailing admissions@mytcalions.com.
 - a. If your family has opted for tuition insurance, a separate form will need to be completed in order to complete the withdrawal request. The Admissions department will send a copy of this to you once a written request for release has been received.
 - b. If the student is withdrawing during the course of the school year an additional form will need to be completed to ensure all textbooks, athletic uniforms, electronic devices, and library books have been returned. The Admissions department will send a copy of this to you once a written request for release has been received.
2. Submit requested documentation as listed above (if applicable) to the TCA Admissions Office, in person at 10 Windy City Rd., Jackson, TN 38305 or via United States Postal Service or by emailing admissions@mytcalions.com.

Please note: All student accounts must show a zero balance in order for records to be transferred to another school. To request your child(ren)'s records, please email admissions@mytcalions.com.

Withdrawal Policies

1. Since TCA hires teachers, purchases textbooks, and makes other financial commitments on a yearly basis determined largely by the strength of enrollment contracts, the Undersigned understands that the contracted student is enrolled for the entire school year or such portion as may remain after the date of entrance, TCA families are obligated to pay all tuition and fees listed in the contract for the full academic year unless a written request for release is delivered on or before May 1 to the TCA Admissions Office, in person at 10 Windy City Rd., Jackson, TN 38305 or via United States Postal Service or by emailing admissions@mytcalions.com. Request for release shall be considered delivered only when received; TCA shall not be responsible for delays in delivery.
2. After May 1 all tuition and fees for the entire year become payable for every contracted student without exception. The re-enrollment fee of \$100 is considered non-refundable.

Please note: The absence, withdrawal, or dismissal of any student after May 1 whether as a result of accident, sickness, disciplinary action, or otherwise, does not relieve the Undersigned of the responsibility for payment of the entire year's tuition and fees. In the event enrollment is terminated after May 1 and prior to payment in full of all tuition and fees due for the year, the balance is immediately due and payable by cash or cashier's check unless an approved alternate payment plan is made in writing and signed by all parties to the contract.

Parent/Guardian Signature Required:

As a parent/guardian, I agree that I have read the above *TCA Upper School Handbook (Grades K-5)* and affirm that I will support and help my child(ren) fulfill these expectations.

Child(ren)/Student(s)

Names _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Notice and Release

Trinity Christian Academy ("TCA") is hereby providing notice that it currently intends to open its educational and school program for the 2020-21 school year. I understand that "TCA" cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks which may be encountered as a result of my child attending "TCA". I realize there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and hazards which independently or in combination with any activities engaged in while participating in this program may result in the exposure to certain risks including exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agents, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization or death.

I hereby state that I, on behalf of my child/student and myself, am an adult, over the age of 18, and legally competent to sign this form. I understand these inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing its educational program and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious or predictable, and hereby intend this release to extend to injury or loss which results from both obvious or predictable risks, as well as risks that are unpredictable and not obvious and to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable. In consideration of myself and my/our child/student participating in Trinity Christian Academy's educational and school program, I, and any legal representatives, heirs and assigns, hereby release, waive, and discharge Trinity Christian Academy, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness or exposure to and/or contracting the corona virus (COVID19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent by me or my/our child/student's attendance at and participation in Trinity Christian Academy's educational program, including any medical expenses, injury and/or death.

I agree to indemnify Trinity Christian Academy, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student's participation in the aforementioned program, whether caused by negligence of Trinity Christian Academy, or otherwise.

I fully understand, on my own behalf and on behalf of my child/student the risks associated with the aforementioned participation and assume any risk associated therewith. This notice, release and indemnity agreement contains the entire agreement between and among the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital. The parties to this agreement hereby agree that the interpretation and enforceability of this release shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee. I/we expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect. I understand that by signing this agreement I am giving up on behalf of my child/student and myself certain legal rights and remedies including the right for my child/student and/or myself to recover damages in the event of death, personal and/or bodily injury of any kind, property loss or damage, expenses of any nature whatsoever including attorney's fees, and other losses that my student(s) or that I may sustain in association with my child's participation in the Trinity Christian Academy's educational program.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY AS MY OWN FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

Child(ren)/Student(s) Names _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____