



CORNERSTONE
SCHOOL

Excellence Together

High School Student & Parent Handbook

Kingdom Purpose

To empower students to glorify God
Matthew 6:33

Our Vision

To be a world-class, Christ-centered school in the inner city

Core Values

Excellence for God
Excellence in Education
Excellence for Students
Excellence in Character

Our Mission

To inspire and develop critically thinking and compassionate young people in a Christ-centered learning community that is committed to academic excellence and character development. We strive to empower students to be responsible and productive citizens of the world, all to the glory of God.

Cornerstone Elementary School

118 55th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35212

Cornerstone Middle School

980 Huffman Road
Birmingham, AL 35215

Cornerstone High School

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Parent Commitments

- Ensure that students are **in school every day** with necessary books, materials, and/or supplies.
- Help your student(s) maintain a personal appearance that reflects Christian values and follows all uniform policy guidelines.
- Make sure that students arrive at school **before 7:55am** with ample time to organize books and supplies and be ready for instruction when classes begin at 8:00 a.m.
- Ensure that student(s) attend any and all detentions that are assigned throughout the year.
- **Attend all scheduled parent/teacher conferences.** If a parent is unable to attend at the designated time, the parent must contact the teacher to arrange an alternate time.
- Sign all forms and ensure that the student(s) return them within two days of distribution.
- Work with the school staff to promote appropriate speech, behavior, and attitude toward learning in accordance with the standards and expectations of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.
- **Pick up students by 3:45 p.m.** each day following dismissal unless they attend aftercare. Students remaining after dismissal must report to the School aftercare program, and parents will be charged the drop-in fee when picking up student(s) after 3:45 p.m. No student will be allowed to wander the campus after dismissal. Failure to report to aftercare may result in disciplinary action.
- Provide children with a quiet, distraction-free environment for homework and studies and establish a healthy schedule to include adequate sleep each night. Provide help as needed for homework and project assignments. This help includes, but is not limited to, checking work for accuracy, neatness, understanding, and completion on time. Parents will have a RenWeb login to access student grades and assignments.
- Ensure that your child/children uphold the requirement of accumulating at least 20 hours of community service throughout the school year and report those hours to the school office in writing. Community service opportunities must be preapproved by Administration. Twenty hours of community service are required of each student in order to return the following school year. Seniors must accumulate 20 hours of community service in order to graduate.
- **Meet all financial and service obligations** in a timely manner in accordance with the signed tuition assessment agreement.
- Provide a written excuse within two days of returning from an absence.
- Adhere to the Parent Covenant.

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

Parent Covenant

Because we believe that education is only possible when there is support in the home, we ask the parents of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama students to renew their commitment to our Parent Covenant each year.

Following is the Covenant that we ask parents to sign:

In recognition of the promises of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to provide an outstanding Christ-centered education, and recognizing that my child's success in school depends largely on my support and involvement:

- I accept the School's mission statement, beliefs, and strategies of education that are in accordance with the Word of God and Biblical virtues.
- I agree to support the School in upholding its rules and policies as outlined in the Student and Parent Handbook. As a parent, I am responsible for the behavior and actions of my child.
- I will support the authority and disciplines issued by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama staff. I understand that disagreeing with staff discipline may occur; however, I will not undermine the authority of the staff when discussing the discipline with my child/children.
- I will support the School in maintaining a high standard of Christian conduct for its students. I acknowledge that should my child/children's behavior, while under the supervision of school personnel, become incompatible with the standards of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, normal disciplinary procedures apply. However, depending upon the severity of the infraction, the behavior may be considered grounds for suspension or expulsion.
- I will practice the principle found in Matthew 18 by resolving difficulties with School personnel directly. If the conflict is unresolved, I/we will discuss the matter with the next person in authority. The line of authority is as follows: Teacher, Principal, and lastly, President.
- I agree to participate in mandatory parent activities, including parent-teacher conferences.
- I agree to pay for my child's tuition and to do so in a timely manner.
- I agree to provide a supportive, educational environment for my child, which includes the following:
 - a. Ensuring that my child arrives at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama daily by the start of school;
 - b. Ensuring that my child follows the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama dress code;
 - c. Always being aware of my child's academic standing.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause my child to lose various privileges and can lead to my child's removal from Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

I understand that the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama Parent/Student Handbook is not intended to cover every situation which may arise during the school year and that it is a general guide to the goals, policies, and expectations of Cornerstone. Furthermore, I understand that the President and/or Board of Directors have the authority as the Administration of the said private school, Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, to make all decisions regarding the School (facilities, instruction, discipline, curriculum, activities, faculty/staff, students, and enrollment).

Please return signed acknowledgement and agreement form on page 38.

Financial Responsibilities

It is the parent's or legal guardian's obligation to pay all tuition, aftercare, student fees, athletic fees, and any other miscellaneous charges the student may incur during the school year.

The tuition must be paid in accordance with the terms set forth by the tuition agreement. It is the parent's or legal guardian's responsibility to contact the school with any issue that prevents them from paying fees by the scheduled due date.

Failure to comply with this obligation may result in the following:

- A late fee may be added to any tuition payment made after the 15th of the month.
- A returned check will result in an automatic \$30.00 returned check fee. Any family that submits two returned checks may be denied the ability to pay by check.
- Access to the RenWeb system may be blocked.
- Student will not be able to attend aftercare until all fees are paid.
- Student will be barred from any extra-curricular activity that has an unpaid balance including any athletic team.
- **Principals reserve the right to prevent a child from attending any activity at Cornerstone, including classes, upon the failure to pay a delinquent account.**

Student Commitments and Expectations

Students are expected to act in an orderly and respectful manner, maintaining Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, language, morality, honesty, and body language.

Respect

- Demonstrate respect for authority (God, administrators, faculty and staff, parents, volunteers, and visitors).
- Demonstrate respect for fellow classmates.
- Help create a safe, supportive environment that is free of aggressive behaviors, such as fighting, bullying, name-calling, displaying inappropriate body language, or hitting others.

General

- Punctuality – Attend school every day, arrive on time, and wear the correct and complete uniform. Students who are not in correct uniform may be sent home or required to make corrections before attending classes. All students must be in class and seated when the tardy bell rings.
- Preparedness – Students are expected to bring appropriate materials to class each day (pencil, paper, textbooks, homework, etc.).
- Participation – Students are expected to involve themselves in discussion and to participate in class activities with a positive attitude.
- Gum – Students are not to have gum on School property at any time.

- Cell Phones – If a student brings a cell phone to school, it must remain turned off and be stored in a locker throughout the school day. Any cell phone seen or found elsewhere on School property will be kept in the School office until parents pick it up. Other electronic devices of any kind are not allowed in School (including but not limited to, iPods, iPads, tablets, etc.), unless requested and designated by the teacher for classroom use. Unauthorized items will be kept in the School office until parents pick them up.
- Public Displays of Affection (PDA)-PDA are not acceptable on School property or at School events. Examples of PDA include, but are not limited to the following: hugging, kissing, holding hands, inappropriate touching, sitting in laps, lewd gestures, and sexual advances (verbal and in writing).
- Service Hours – All students are required to accumulate at least 20 hours of community service throughout the school year. It is the student’s responsibility to serve, record, and report in writing any hours of community service to the front office. Any hours served that are not accurately reported to the office will not be counted. All students must accumulate at least 20 service hours in order to return the following school year. Babysitting and other regular household chores will not be accepted as community service hours. Seniors must accumulate 20 hours of community service in order to walk at graduation.

Hallways

- Always move through the halls in a respectful manner. Refrain from shouting, slamming or hitting lockers, running, horseplay, etc.

Lunchroom

- Show respect towards, and be thankful for, our lunchroom staff.
- Wait patiently in the lunch line and/or lunch checkout.
- Demonstrate good manners and appropriate voice level when speaking to others.
- Clean up personal and assigned food areas on designated days, including table, seating, and floor.

Building

- Share in the responsibility of keeping all School property and the School building in good condition. Students will help by taking part in properly disposing of trash; keeping classrooms, restrooms, and common areas clean; and being respectful of personal and School property.
- Students are responsible for deliberate damage to or defacing of School property, **including, but not limited to, books, furniture, and lockers (please see Behavior Plan for Consequences p. 13-15).**

Student Driving

- Upon arrival at school, student drivers must immediately park in the designated parking area. Vehicles should be locked and are not to be moved during school hours.
- Students must have a valid copy of their **driver’s license** and **proof of insurance** on file with the main office.
- Students are not permitted to sit in cars upon arrival at school.
- Students are not permitted to return to their cars during school hours without permission from a teacher or a member of the administration.
- Any student leaving school after arrival on campus must have appropriate permission from the Principal and a parent or legal guardian.

- If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she may drive home after checking out in the office. The office will call the student's parent or guardian before the student departs.
- Students must leave campus immediately at the end of the school day or activity.
- Cornerstone assumes no liability for damages to or losses from any vehicle parked on campus during the school day or any school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

Community Service Hours

Every middle and high school student at Cornerstone is required to serve and log at least 20 hours of community service each school year in order to be eligible to re-enroll at Cornerstone the following year. (Beta Club members are required to serve 25 hours.) Students must log their served hours using Cornerstone's log sheet, which is provided in the front office, and report the log to the school counselor to have hours approved and properly logged. Babysitting and other regular household chores are not accepted as community service hours. Approved services must be considered a service to members of the community. Community service is defined by a not-for-pay activity that is performed by someone or a group of people for the benefit of the public or its institutions.

Administration reserves the right to make discretionary decisions on issues that may result in loss of driving privileges and/or other disciplinary action.

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them.
1 Timothy 4:15

Student Covenant

We believe that education and character are crucial to being productive citizens of the world. Although it takes support from family and faculty, we recognize and value the individual commitment that is the foundation in this process. Students should read and sign the following Covenant.

In recognition of the promise of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to provide an outstanding Christ-centered education, and in acknowledgement that my success in school depends largely on me, I pledge myself to the following commitments:

- I accept the School's mission statement, beliefs, and strategies of education that are in accordance with the Word of God and Biblical virtues.
- I agree to support the School in upholding its rules and policies as outlined in the Student and Parent Handbook. As a student, I am responsible for my behavior and actions.
- I will respect the authority and any disciplinary action issued by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama staff. I understand that I may disagree with discipline I receive; however, I will accept my discipline with a repentant and humble spirit.
- I will support the School in maintaining a high standard of Christian conduct both on and off campus. I acknowledge that my poor behavior or choices may be considered grounds for suspension or dismissal.
- I agree to inform my parents of any communication or documentation that requires their signature.
- I agree to do my part in the following:
 - a. Ensuring that I arrive at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama daily by the start of school;
 - b. Ensuring that I follow the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama dress code;

- c. Always being aware of my academic standing.

I understand that the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama Student and Parent Handbook is not intended to cover every situation which may arise during the school year and that it is a general guide to the goals, policies, and expectations of Cornerstone. Furthermore, I understand the President and/or Board of Directors have the authority as the Administration of the said private school, Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to make all decisions regarding the School (facilities, instruction, discipline, curriculum, activities), faculty/staff, students, and enrollment.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause me to lose various privileges and can lead to my removal from Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

Please return the signed acknowledgement and agreement form on page 38.

Attendance Policies

Faithful school attendance is critical to a successful school experience. While some elements of a missed classroom experience can be made up, certain other facets can never be reproduced or repeated. Some absences are inevitable and unavoidable; however, attendance policies at Cornerstone School are strictly adhered to and enforced. Attendance records will be reported on progress reports and report cards.

Students may not accumulate more than 20 absences (excused or unexcused) during a school year. Those who do will be subject to dismissal.

School Tardiness: Punctuality at school is important. While unforeseen problems may occur in getting to school on time, every effort should be made for students to be in the classroom **before instruction begins at 8:00 a.m.** *Any arrival into the School building after 8:00 a.m. is considered tardy.*

- Two (2) tardies within one week will require a parent conference.
- Three (3) tardies equal one absence.
- Five (5) tardies within a quarter will result in a student detention.
- Any check-in after 11:30 a.m. is considered one full day's absence.

Early checkout: Once the student has arrived and begun the school day, it is important to complete the entire school day. Every effort should be made to keep students in the classroom until dismissal begins. Please note the following:

- All checkouts before dismissal are considered the same as a tardy.
- Three (3) early checkouts equal one absence.
- Any checkout before 11:30 a.m. is considered one full day's absence.
- Checkouts will not be allowed after 2:30 p.m. without a signed doctor's note.
- Any student who is absent from school more than half a day may not participate in any extracurricular activities, including sports, band, dances, etc.

Excused Absence

Upon returning to school after an absence, please provide the School with a written explanation or doctor's excuse. Please include the **date, reason for absence, and a parent/guardian or doctor's signature.**

The following are excused absences:

1. Personal illness of student - Parents may write a note including date, student name, and reason for absence within 2 days of absence. Administration reserves the right to determine if absence is excused. Students must have a doctor's excuse when absent for 3 or more consecutive days.
2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Doctor/medical appointments – Excused only when appointments cannot be scheduled during non-school hours. These absences must be accompanied by a doctor's excuse.
4. For juniors and seniors, up to two college or university visits will be considered excused with written documentation from the corresponding college or university. Additional visits will be considered an unexcused absence.

The Administration reserves the right to determine whether a student's absence/absences will be considered excused or unexcused. Request for any other absence must be made in writing by the parent or guardian at least a week in advance.

Students are required to make up any missed work, including class work and homework. Students have one day per days of absence to complete any missed work. It is the student's responsibility to get any missed work from his/her teacher and to turn in the completed work within that time period. Tests or quizzes will be taken preferably on the day of return to School or at the teacher's earliest convenience.

Unexcused Absence

The following are considered unexcused absences:

1. Any absence without written explanation from a parent, guardian, or doctor;
2. Vacation;
3. Lack of transportation;
4. Appointments of any kind other than approved doctor/medical appointments;
5. Illness of a sibling or other family member.

The Alabama State Code of Conduct states the following:

Every child between the ages of seven and 16 must attend a public school, private school, church school, or be instructed by a competent private tutor for the entire length of the school term except that every child attending a church school is exempt from the requirements of Ala. Code (1975) §16-28-3, provided such child complies with the enrollment and reporting procedure specified in Ala. Code (1975) §16-28-7 of the code. Authority: Ala. Code (1975) §16-28-3

The Alabama State Code of Conduct and Attendance Manual addresses tardies in this way:

Tardies will be closely monitored and students with consistent tardies to school may be summoned to the Early Warning Program. Tardies to school should not exceed 5 per semester.

Any student enrolled in the School who accumulates twenty (20) or more absences (including accumulation of tardies) during the year is subject to dismissal. This includes excused and unexcused absences. Cornerstone Administration also reserves the right to make discretionary decisions on attendance that may result in immediate dismissal.

Procedures for Truancy

- FIVE (5) absences (3 tardies equal an absence) = **Warning & truancy notice**
The School shall notify parents and a truancy notice will be sent home for parent signature.
- TEN (10) absences (3 tardies equal an absence) = **Conference**
Parents must attend a mandatory conference regarding the student's attendance.
An action plan will be discussed to improve the student's attendance.
- FIFTEEN (15) absences (3 tardies equal an absence) = **Conference and final warning**
Parents must attend a mandatory conference and must sign an acknowledgement of the final step in Cornerstone's attendance policy.
- TWENTY (20) absences (3 tardies equal an absence) = **Dismissal**
The student will be dismissed from Cornerstone and their attendance record will be transferred to their next school.

Academic Policies

Letter grades are determined by the following criteria:

Grading System

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Academic Alert - Any student with one semester grade below 70 will be placed on academic alert. The parent will be notified immediately following the semester. Students are expected to work diligently with teachers and parents to raise the grade to 70 or above by the end of the next semester.

Academic Probation - Any student with two or more grades below 70 for the semester will be placed on academic probation. Parents must attend a parent/teacher conference immediately following the grading period to review an action plan. Students are expected to work diligently with teachers and

parents to raise the grade to 70 or above by the end of the next semester. **Any student with four or more grades below 70 as a semester average is subject to dismissal from Cornerstone.**

ACT TEST – Cornerstone juniors and seniors are required to take the ACT exam at least once within each of those years. Parents of sophomores and older students are welcomed and encouraged to have their child take the ACT exam additional times outside of Cornerstone’s recommendation.

Athletic Eligibility – Cornerstone follows the athletic eligibility guidelines of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. In addition to this guideline, Cornerstone coaching staff, athletic director, or administration reserve the right to make discretionary decisions on a student's eligibility to participate in Cornerstone athletics. If a student athlete earns an F in any core subject, he/she will have the following 4.5-weeks of the 9-week grading period to pull the grade up above a 59. If the student is unable to do so, he/she will lose their eligibility, effective at the end of the grading period. Eligibility may be regained as soon as the grade is brought above a 59.

Books – All books are to be handled with care and kept in good condition free from marks. The student will be charged for any lost or damaged library books or classroom textbooks.

Failed High School Courses – If a student fails one or more semesters of a core class, he/she must make up that credit over the summer. It is the student’s responsibility to make up the credit and to earn a passing grade in order to return to Cornerstone the following school year. If a senior fails a required 2nd semester course, he/she will not be eligible to walk at graduation. The student will have to make up the course credit in order to receive his/her diploma from Cornerstone.

Homework - Assignments must be completed on time and written or typed properly. The parents of students who consistently do not complete homework assignments will be notified (please see Academic Disciplinary Policy on p.12). Students have one (1) day per day absent after they return to school to turn in all missed work, including homework.

Honor Roll – Students are recognized for A and A/B honor roll at the end of each nine (9) week grading period. All graded subject areas are considered in determining honor roll.

Progress Reports and Report Cards - A written progress report will be given at the mid-point of each nine (9) week grading period. Report cards will be given at the end of each nine (9) week grading period. Progress reports and report cards should be signed and returned.

Withholding Report Cards - Report cards will be withheld for students whose tuition and fee accounts are not current.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3

Academic Disciplinary Policies

Academic Violations

- Failure to bring homework to class when it is due
- Failure to bring required instructional materials including pencil, paper, notebook, textbooks, calculators, and other required materials to class (generally being unprepared for class)
- Refusal or lack of effort to complete class assignments

These violations may result in disciplinary measures, including, but not limited to, detention.

Academic Notification Forms

Students are expected to have parents sign all progress reports, report cards, academic notifications forms, requests for conferences, and any other documents requiring signatures. These forms must be returned no later than two days after distribution.

Academic Integrity

Cheating includes plagiarism, giving answers, copying, and using unapproved test aids or other methods of assistance on assessments or assignments.

Plagiarism is defined by claiming the words or ideas of others as your own.

Consequences

First Offense:	Zero on the assignment/test and parent contacted
Second Offense:	Zero on the assignment/test, parent conference, and 1-day suspension
Third Offense:	Dismissal from Cornerstone Schools of Alabama

The integrity of the upright shall guide them.
Proverbs 11:3

Behavioral Disciplinary Policies

Classification of Code of Student Conduct Violations

Classroom Behaviors - Class I Offense

1. Disrespect toward peers
2. Disrespect toward teacher
3. Disruptive behavior
4. Excessive talking/talking back
5. Food, drinks, or chewing gum in the hallways and classrooms
6. Four (4) tardies to a single class within one week
7. Inappropriate language or behavior (includes hitting/pushing/name calling, harassment)
8. Inappropriate materials (includes phones, tablets, or other potentially distracting materials)
9. Incorrect uniform

10. Negative attitude/body language
11. Public Displays of Affection
12. Uncooperative behavior
13. Any other offense that the administration of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama may deem to fall within this category

Consequences

Consequences may include student conference, parent conference, detention, and in-school suspension. Four (4) Class I Offenses within a 9-week period will lead to a Class II consequence.

Classroom Behaviors - Class II Offense

1. Blatant defiance
2. Damage to property (value under \$200)
3. Fighting
4. Hazing
5. Moral Misconduct
6. Stealing (value under \$100)
7. Threats and/or harassment (both verbal and written, including social media, blogs, and emails)
8. Any other offense that the Administration of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama may deem to fall within this category.

Consequences

Consequences may include in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or dismissal.

Classroom Behaviors – Class III Offense

1. **Accessing, Viewing, or Changing Information in school Computers to Falsify, Endanger, Cause Harm to, or Violate Privacy Law.**
2. **Assault of Any Person** – Student, teacher, staff member, visitor, etc., by definition to include a violent physical or verbal attack.
3. **Battery upon Employee** -The threatening by word or act of the unlawful and intentional touching or striking of an employee against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a school employee, in accordance with The Code of Alabama, 16-28A-1 and Legislative Act 94-794, it is a felony to assault teachers or employees of the school.
4. **Bomb Threats** – Any such communication(s) or an overt act directed to a school employee or student that has the effect of interrupting the educational environment.
5. **Burglary of School Property** – The act of breaking into, entering, or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein during the hours the premises are closed to the public.
6. **Criminal Mischief** – The willful and malicious injury or damage at, or in excess of \$200 to public property, or real property belonging to another.

7. **Inciting or Participating in Major Student Disorder** – Leading, encouraging, or assisting in major disruptions that result in destruction or damage of private or public property, personal injury to participants or others, or that result in damaging Cornerstone’s reputation
8. **Illegal Organizations** – Any participation in fraternities, sororities, secret societies, or gangs.
9. **Possession of Drugs** – Unauthorized possession, use, or transfer of a physician prescribed drug, controlled drug, or street drug.
10. **Possession of Weapons**—A switchblade knife, or **any knife** (including pocketknives/Swiss Army knives, etc.), metal knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or any other weapon, instrument, or other object capable of causing bodily harm, or with the intent to be armed. The Code of Alabama 13 A-11-72 (d) states that the possession of a deadly weapon on school premises with the intent to do bodily harm is a Class C Felony.
11. **Robbery** – Taking of money or other property from a person who may be the subject of larceny in the custody of another by force, violence, and assault, or putting in fear of the same.
12. **Sexual Harassment** – Unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature from students or employees in following situations:
 - a. Submission to conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly as a term or condition of the student’s maintaining his/her good name, character, or other legal rights, academic progress, completion of a school-related activity; or
 - b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis in evaluating the student’s eligibility for academic courses and extracurricular activities, performance in a course of study or other school-related activity; or
 - c. Such conduct has the purpose of effect of substantially interfering with the student’s educational performance or creating an intimidating hostile or offensive learning environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following: verbal harassment of abuse, pressure for sexual activity, repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications, unwelcome touching, sexual jokes, posture, etc., suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one’s grades, job, etc.

13. **Stealing-Larceny-Grand Theft** – The intentional and unlawful taking and/or carrying away of property valued at \$100 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
14. **Unauthorized possession of any air gun, pellet gun, or BB gun, or any other device on school property.**

Any other offense the Administration or Cornerstone Schools of Alabama may deem to fall within this category.

Consequences

Consequences may include suspension or dismissal. Depending on the nature of the dismissal and the state of the relationship at that time, students dismissed from Cornerstone and will not be allowed to attend future school and athletic events. In addition, students who are suspended

from School may not attend or participate in any extracurricular events during their time of suspension.

Drug Policy

Cornerstone reserves the right to test any student for drug use, or to mandate that they be tested, if there is any suspicion, rumor, or evidence of drug use.

Cornerstone reserves the right to randomly check for drugs on school property, including lockers, backpacks, purses, pockets, vehicles, etc. There will always be at least two Cornerstone staff present for a student search. The purpose of the search will be verbally communicated to the student(s). If any items of concern are found, Cornerstone will inform parents immediately.

Any student that is found with possession of drugs or is found to be under the influence of an illegal substance will be expelled (see Class III offences on page 15-16).

Conduct Outside of School

While Cornerstone has no control over activities by students off campus that are not school-sponsored, such activities may come to the attention of the school authorities. Since Cornerstone students reflect the School and its standards, such activities may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal.

Moral Misconduct and The Internet

Any student presence on the internet, including but not limited to social media, blogs, email, web pages, pictures, chat services, texting, sexting, etc., that is deemed by the School Administration to be immoral, harmful, threatening, demeaning, bullying, and/or harassing, derogatory, defaming of the reputation and character of others, and that is inconsistent with School policies and Biblical teachings in violation of local, state, or federal law, will be subject to discipline.

Detention Policies

Detentions are designed to be an intermediate form of discipline determined and administered by teachers and fully supported by the School Administration. Detentions are earned by students for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- Breach of any classroom policies
- Disobedience
- Disrespect
- Disturbing class
- Excessive talking
- Failure to complete classwork
- Failure to complete homework
- Failure to report to class
- Lack of class materials
- Littering
- Mischief of any type
- Other incidences that a teacher finds worthy of a detention

It is the student's responsibility to inform parent(s) or guardian of the assigned detention and to have the detention slip signed and returned to the teacher the following school day.

Failure to report to detention, or reporting to detention late, will result in the student being required to make up that detention and will count as an additional detention earned.

Two detentions, including a late or missed detention, will result in an office referral form and will remain in the student's discipline file for the remainder of the school year. (Class I Offense)

If a parent has a question or concern regarding a detention, he or she should contact the issuing administrator via email or phone message. Conferences must be set up in advance. Further questions can be directed to the Principal.

Refusal to sign a detention slip or refusal to have a child report to detention is a violation of the Parent Covenant.

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

2 Timothy 3:16

Athletic Policies

Athletic Vision

To be a Christ-centered, world-class athletic program in Birmingham.

Athletic Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide the students of Cornerstone with an opportunity to participate in "spirited" competition through sports. We will provide an arena in which they not only compete, but also through hard work and dedication, they can win. Through the process of preparation and competition, they will learn how to practice Biblical principles and to be an example to others. They will always learn the value of teamwork and communication and be expected to do their best.

General Guidelines for Participation

- Players are expected to attend each and every practice session. Any absence must be excused at least 24 hours PRIOR TO the scheduled practice. Failure to attend practice without prior approval will result in disciplinary action and could result in a player being placed in "bad standing" or serving a suspension from competition or the team.
- Players are expected to show up on time for each practice. On time is defined as being present AND dressed in appropriate athletic gear ready to play by the specified practice time. Late arrival will result in disciplinary action and could result in a player being placed in "bad standing" or serving a suspension from competition or the team.
- Any issues that arise during the season, including tryouts, should be communicated directly by the player to the Coach.

- Any one-on-one meeting between coaches and players or parents must be scheduled in advance. No meetings will take place within the 48 hours immediately following a practice or game. The School administration reserves the right to call a meeting within the 48-hour time period if deemed necessary.
- Students must attend a full day of school in order to participate in sports practices or competitions as defined in the Attendance Policy.

As a representative of Cornerstone, student athletes have the privilege, as well as a responsibility, to conduct themselves with utmost integrity. Athletes' practice, playing time and eligibility can and will be affected by their behavior, attendance, and academic standing. The consequences of behavior violations are at the discretion of the School Administration and the Athletic Director. (Please refer to Behavior Policies on pages 13-16.)

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of love, power, and self-discipline.
2 Timothy 1:7*

Dress Code and School Uniform Policy

It is the desire of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama that our students live and conduct themselves in a manner that will be pleasing to God and glorifying to the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Standards for appearance are a means of building character and distinction in the lives of our students. All students in grades 9-12 are expected to wear the correct school uniform daily as outlined below.

Everyday Uniform for Ladies

- Khaki skort or khaki pants; no skirts, shorts, “skinny” khakis, capris, corduroys, joggers, or cargo pants
- White or red collared (polo style) shirt with Cornerstone logo (white button-down shirt also acceptable)
- Completely black, navy, or brown shoes with closed toe; no heels or boots; no additional colors or decorations, or sandals/slides
- White or navy socks
- Brown or black belt when wearing pants

Chapel Uniform for Ladies (Wednesdays)

- White collared button-up shirt, blue/white houndstooth skirt, red striped cross tie
- White or navy socks
- Completely black, navy, or brown shoes
-

Additional for Ladies

- Students may wear all white, red, or navy blue Cornerstone logo outerwear (cardigan, sweater, hooded sweater, Cornerstone athletic team jacket).
- Wearing hats and hoods is not allowed in the building.

- Makeup, if worn, should be minimal and tasteful.
- Earrings must be studs or simple small hoops that do not extend more than one inch below the earlobe. No gauges, hanging earrings, large studs or hoops, or nose piercings are permitted.
- No bracelets, rings, necklaces, or additional jewelry, except a wristwatch are permitted.
- Students may not wear long or pointed acrylic nails, nor may they add sparkles or any additional accessories to their nails.
- Hair must appear to be of the student's natural color, and the style must be considered modest.
- Minimal bows, ribbons, and other hair accessories must stay within the uniform color scheme.
- No tattoos are allowed.
- All parts of uniforms must be in good repair and in presentable condition.

Everyday Uniform for Gentlemen

- Khaki long pants. No shorts, corduroys, jogger or cargo pants permitted
- Either a white or red collared (polo style) shirt with Cornerstone logo; white button-up shirt also acceptable
- Completely black, navy, or brown shoes; no boots, additional colors, or sandals/slides permitted
- Khaki, white, navy, or black socks
- Brown or black belt

Chapel Uniform for Gentlemen (Wednesdays)

- White collared button-up shirt, khaki pants, and red striped neck or bow tie
- Khaki, white, navy, or black socks
- Completely black, navy, or brown shoes; no boots, additional colors, or sandals/slides

Additional for Gentlemen

- Students may wear all white, red, or navy blue Cornerstone logoed outerwear (cardigan sweater, hooded sweater, Cornerstone athletic team jackets).
- Wearing hats and hoods in the building is not allowed.
- No earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces, or any additional jewelry, except a wristwatch, are permitted.
- Hair must appear to be of natural color.
- No tattoos are allowed.
- No facial hair is permitted, which includes coming to school clean-shaven. Hair may not cover eyes, neck, or ears. Hair should not stand out from the head more than two inches. Also not permitted are designs or cuts in hair or hair accessories. Hairstyles that would be considered anything but 'professional' are not allowed; braids are not an appropriate hairstyle for males.
- All parts of uniforms must be in good repair and in presentable condition.

Administration reserves the right to discern whether a student's uniform or appearance is acceptable.

Consequences:

First Offense: Student will be given a uniform violation form. This form must be signed and returned by parent(s). The student is responsible for taking the form home and returning it signed.

Second offense: Detention

Additional dress code violations may be considered defiance.

...But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

1 Peter 3:4

Cell Phone Policy

We understand that some families may choose to provide their students with cell phones based on concerns about safety or convenience. Students may not use their cell phones during the school day. If a School staff member sees or hears a student's cell phone, even if it is not in use, it will be confiscated immediately.

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama has a right to collect all student cell phones at the beginning of the day and to secure them in a safe place until the end of the day. The School may return the phone upon dismissal for the first infraction, but multiple violations of this policy may require a parent/guardian to come to the school to pick up the phone. Cornerstone Schools of Alabama is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage to cell phones confiscated as a result of a violation of policy.

Moral Misconduct and The Internet

Any student presence on the Internet, including but not limited to social media, blogs, email, web pages, pictures, chat services, texting, sexting, etc., that is deemed by the School Administration to be immoral, harmful, threatening, demeaning, bullying and/or harassing, derogatory, defaming of the reputation and character of others, or that is inconsistent with School policies and Biblical teachings in violation of local, state, or federal law, will be subject to discipline.

Technology Usage Policy

Policy Statement

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, Inc. provides computers, network, and Internet access to support the educational mission of the Ministry and to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities for students and school staff.

Introduction

The intent of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama is to provide access to resources available through technology and the Internet with the understanding that students will access and use information that is appropriate for his or her various curricula. All School rules and guidelines for appropriate technology usage, as well as local, state, and federal laws, apply to usage of Cornerstone School technology and the Internet.

All students must acknowledge and adhere to the technology usage policy of Cornerstone. Any questions about this policy, its interpretation, or specific circumstances shall be directed to the Principal before proceeding. Students who are found to have violated this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.

Policy

- A. The use of all Cornerstone Schools of Alabama technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Any inappropriate or suspected inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges, pending investigation.
- B. Cornerstone's technology shall be used only for purposes related to education.
- C. Cornerstone School reserves the right to monitor any online communications for improper use. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted, may be monitored or read by a school administrator.
- D. Students may use only accounts, files, software, and/or other technology resources that are assigned to, provided, or approved for him/her by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama teachers and/or administration.
- E. Students must not attempt to disrupt any technology services or data integrity by engaging in inappropriate activity.
- F. Students must not attempt to modify technology resources, utilities, and configurations, and/or change the restrictions associated with his/her account or attempt to breach any technology resources security system or filtering system, either with or without malicious intent.
- G. Personal technology-related devices such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones, smart-phones, iTouch/iPods/iPads, tablets, cameras, or other eDevices, etc., used on school grounds are subject to all items covered in this policy and other applicable published guidelines. The permission for such personal devices to be brought to school and the use of such devices will be at the discretion of the Principal. Guest Internet access is available for visiting devices and is subject to the conditions outlined in this policy and all other school system policies and guidelines, as well as local, state, and federal laws.
- H. The Principal will determine when inappropriate use has occurred, and he/she has the right to suspend or expel specific users.
- I. To maintain network integrity and to ensure that the network is being used responsibly, if any policy violation or inappropriate behavior is suspected, the Principal reserves the right to inspect any and all data, including data stored by individual users on individual school or personal devices. Users should be aware that activities may be monitored at any time, without notice.
- J. Because communications on the Internet are public by nature, all students should be careful to maintain appropriate and responsible communications.
- K. Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, Inc. cannot guarantee the privacy, security, or confidentiality of any information sent or received, either via the Internet, an email facility, telephone, or otherwise.
- L. Students are encouraged to avoid storing personal and/or private information on Cornerstone technology resources.
- M. Students may not attempt to log onto the network using any network account and/or password other than the login(s) assigned to him/her by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama's teachers and/or administration.
- N. Information posted or viewed on the Internet may constitute published or copyrighted material. Reproduction or use of images from the Internet should not be used without documented permission.

- O. No purchases should be made on the Internet by any students while on Cornerstone property.
- P. Students are prohibited from accessing, posting, submitting, publishing, or displaying harmful matter or material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs.
- Q. Users shall not use the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, nor shall they promote unethical practices, or any activity prohibited by law or School policy.
- R. Vandalism will result in the cancellation of user privileges. Vandalism includes the intentional uploading, downloading, or creating computer viruses and/or any malicious attempt to harm or destroy Cornerstone Schools of Alabama's equipment or materials or the data of any other user.

Students may not be allowed computer access outside of classroom assignments until a Technology Agreement Form has been completed, signed, and returned.

THE FIVE SECOND RULE

The next time you are about to post an update to your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or other social media sites, pause for five seconds. At worst it might help you think of a better way to phrase things. At best, it might stop you from writing something that could have unintended consequences, such as hurt feelings or embarrassment.

A few things you might ask yourself in those five seconds:

1. Why am I writing this?
2. Am I giving away private information about myself, my family, or Cornerstone?
3. Would I ever say this to a stranger on the street or to my own mother?
4. Am I revealing my travel plans or otherwise showing when I'm not home?
5. Am I bragging to impress people?
6. This will live on the Web forever. Am I okay with that?
7. Am I adding to the sum of human knowledge?
8. Does this really matter?

Miscellaneous Information and Policies

Accidents and First Aid - Minor scratches, scrapes, and cuts are given first aid attention by school faculty or staff. A student who sustains any injury beyond the above mentioned will be taken to the office, and parents will be notified. Any student who vomits will be sent to the office, and parents will be contacted for immediate pick up. Student drivers who become sick will be allowed to drive home with verbal permission from a parent via telephone. An accident/incident report for injuries will be completed by the teacher or office staff. Paramedics will be called for an injury or illness requiring immediate medical attention.

Change of Address - Please notify the school office as soon as possible regarding any change in a student's physical address, parent email, or telephone number. This information is imperative for our emergency and health information.

Community Service Hours – Every high school student at Cornerstone is required to serve and to log at least 20 hours of community service by the end of the current school year in order to be eligible to reenroll at Cornerstone the following year. (Beta Club members are required to serve 25 hours.) Students must log their service hours using Cornerstone’s log sheet provided in the front office and reporting the log to the school counselor to have hours approved and properly logged. Babysitting and other regular household chores are not accepted as community service hours. Approved services must be considered a service to members of the community. Community service is defined by a not-for-pay activity that is performed by someone or a group of people for the benefit of the public or its institutions.

Dismissal – All students are dismissed to carpool or aftercare at 3:30pm. Students must be picked up (or drive themselves) no later than 3:45pm. **No student will be allowed to wander the campus after dismissal.**

Field Trips – Field trips are specifically chosen to enhance our curriculum. All field trip requests are submitted by teachers and approved by the Administration. In order to participate, all students must have a permission form signed by a parent/guardian for each field trip. Field trip costs include any ticket charges for entry and transportation. Individual teachers will notify parents in advance of upcoming field trips. Please be aware that some field trips limit the number of chaperones.

Homework – Unless otherwise noted by the teacher, homework should be done and returned the following day. Questions regarding homework should be brought to the teacher’s attention. If for any reason a student is unable to complete a homework assignment, a parent must contact the teacher to verify the reason why it is incomplete.

Medication - Medication, other than inhalers or EpiPens for students with asthma or allergies, should not be in the student’s possession. All medication should be taken before the student arrives at school. If students must have medication during the day, a medical form should be completed. All medication must come in the prescribed container indicating dosage and must remain in the main office.

Parent Notices - Parents are asked to **ALWAYS** read the notices sent home because important news concerning various items such as school closings, holidays, time changes, etc., may be involved.

Parent/Teacher Conferences – Parents are required to attend parent/teacher conferences. A parent or teacher may request a conference at any time during the year. A student’s teacher is always the first contact with concern about a child’s progress. At no time are parents permitted to go to the classroom to visit with the teacher without permission from both the office and the teacher involved. Teachers are available for conferences before or after school. To facilitate conferences, parents are asked to call the School office to confirm availability of the teacher they wish to see. If a telephone conference is desired, parents are asked to leave a message with the office. The teacher will be asked to return the call at his/her earliest convenience. Disruption of classroom instruction to take phone calls or meet with parents is not permitted.

Recommitment and Enrollment - Recommitment begins every school year in January. Priority recommitment is given to current students in good academic, behavioral, and financial standing. The priority recommitment period is limited to January 1 – February 28. Open enrollment begins March 1 each school year. No space is given or guaranteed for anyone until all steps of the application process are completed and all fees are paid.

School Delays and Closings – In the event the School is closed because of weather or poor travel conditions, Cornerstone Schools of Alabama will inform the local television stations as early as possible. Please check the following stations and social media for school delays and/or closings:

- ABC 33/40
- CBS 42
- NBC 13
- Fox 6
- Cornerstone’s Website
- Cornerstone’s Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

School Telephone – Students are not allowed to use classroom phones for any reason during the school day without teacher permission. All phone calls must be made with the permission of the classroom teacher and/or office staff.

School Visitors - Permission to bring a visitor to any classroom must be obtained from the School office.

- Conferences with any faculty/staff are by appointment only.
- Parents/visitors must enter the building through the main office.
- Parents/visitors must sign in and obtain a visitor’s pass from the main office before entering.
- Parents/visitors may not disrupt instruction upon a visit. Scheduling visits during lunch times is encouraged.
- No substantial or attention-drawing gifts or surprises can be delivered during School hours. Any birthday or celebration treats brought to School should be enough to share with the student’s entire class.
- Please refrain from bringing outside food and drinks to students throughout the school day, unless it is during the student’s specified lunch period.

Use of Metal Detectors

In view of the potential presence of weapons in our school, Cornerstone has authorized the use of hand-held and walk-through metal detectors to check a student’s person or personal effects as follows:

School officials or law enforcement officers may conduct metal detector checks of groups of individuals if the checks are done in a minimally intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner (e.g., on all students in a randomly selected class, on every third individual entering an athletic event, etc.). Metal detector checks of groups of individuals may not be used to single out an individual or category of individuals. If a School official or a law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon, he or she may conduct a metal detector check of the student’s person and personal effects.

A student’s failure to permit a metal detector check as provided in this code will result in disciplinary action, including suspension.

Any student wearing a pacemaker, defibrillator, or similar device who objects to being scanned by a metal detector, may so notify the appropriate school official and may be subjected to an alternative means of search.

METAL DETECTOR CHECKS OF CLASSES OF STUDENTS

When a Principal decides to conduct a group metal detector check, he or she will select the class to be checked at random by blindly drawing one or more classrooms from all the classrooms within the School. The drawing shall be conducted in the presence of another adult.

Before conducting the metal detector checks, the participating administrator or law enforcement officer will enter the classroom and explain the scanning process to students in the class, emphasizing that the checks are intended to maintain a safe school.

An administrator or officer will check each student by visually searching the student's desk and then escorting the student and his/her personal effects into the hall to proceed with the metal detector check. An adult will closely observe students at their desks to ensure that no objects are removed from pockets or personal effects.

In the hall, the administrator or officer will ask the student to remove all metal-containing objects from his or her clothing and personal effects. The administrator or officer will then scan the student without touching his or her body and will scan the outside of the student's personal effects. The metal detector scan of the student's person will be done by an adult who is the same sex as the student. If the student refuses to cooperate, the administrator or officer may proceed with the check in the presence of another adult.

If the metal detector is activated during the scanning of the student's effects, the administrator or officer will open the bag, purse, etc., and look for weapons. If the metal detector is activated during the scanning of the student's person, the student will be given a second opportunity to remove any metal-containing objects from his person. If the metal detector is again activated, a same-sex administrator or officer will conduct a pat-down search of the student's outer clothing in the presence of an adult witness, when feasible. If the administrator or officer feels an object on the student's person, the student will be given an opportunity to remove the object. If he or she refuses, the administrator or officer will escort the student to a private room and remove the object from the student in the presence of an adult witness of the same sex.

Before conducting a metal detector check of an individual student, the administrator or officer must have individualized reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon. The provision regarding personal searches as set forth shall be followed under the circumstances.

If a properly conducted search yields a weapon or any other illegal material, it shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

I. Search of Property

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama fully recognizes the implications of constitutional law in the area of student privacy. Cornerstone is equally aware that some tangible personal property items, such as student desks, student lockers, and related properties, are and remain the property of Cornerstone.

Cornerstone is charged with maintenance of such property and thus authorizes inspection for any maintenance-related reasons. With respect to the opening of lockers or desks for other reasons, the following shall apply throughout Cornerstone Schools of Alabama:

Desks, lockers, and other equipment at School belong to the School and, although assigned to particular students for use, may be entered and searched by School officials whenever said School officials have reasonable belief that some object, item, article, substance, or other material is contained therein, which is illegal, harmful to the safety of the student himself or to the student body as a whole, or significantly disruptive or dangerous to the overall discipline in the School.

Vehicles driven by students and parked on school property are subject to search with or without the consent of students. Students shall not be allowed to park vehicles on campus until such time that the “*Student Covenant Form*” has been properly completed and returned to the School. Such forms shall be maintained on file at the School.

Any items which are specifically prohibited by law, by Cornerstone policy, or by fair and reasonable local school regulations, may be impounded by School officials. In such cases, students shall be given a receipt for said impounded items. Such prohibited items shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Alcoholic beverages;
- Any weapons;
- Drugs of any sort;
- Pornographic or otherwise obscene material; or
- Any other object, controlled substance, or material which a violation or evidence of a violation of would be federal or state law, of Cornerstone policy, or of the local school’s fair and reasonable regulations.

If possible, the student or students shall be contacted prior to any search of a desk or locker assigned to such student, and the desk or locker shall be opened in his/her presence. A witness from the professional staff shall always be present during the inspection when students cannot be contacted.

The content of this policy shall be communicated to all students and staff at the beginning of each school year.

II. Search of a Student’s Person

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama authorizes teachers and administrative personnel who have reasonable belief that the student(s) is in possession of weapons, illegal drugs, or other items harmful to the student or students or to the welfare of the student body, to search the person of said student(s) under the following conditions:

- Any such action shall not be taken unless there is a reasonable belief of violation of law or policy which can be substantiated if necessary;
- Any such action shall not be deliberately intended to embarrass, harass, or intimidate the student(s);
- Parents/Guardians shall be notified, in writing, of all such searches of a student's person. A copy of said notice shall be retained by the Principal.

The search of a student's person shall be with the knowledge, and under the supervision, of the Principal or his/her designee.

Any search of a student's person shall be done privately by a teacher or administrator of the same sex as the student to be searched. At least one witness who is an administrator or teacher, also of the same sex as said student, shall be present throughout the search. A record of the search shall be made. One copy shall be filed in the Principal's office. One copy shall be sent to the President of the School. Students shall be given a receipt for all items impounded.

Reasonable belief of a violation of law or policy may be based upon information from such sources as faculty members, reliable students, a law enforcement officer, visual evidence, or any of these factors.

III. Detection of Illegal Drugs

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama authorizes law enforcement agencies to make periodic, unannounced visits to any of its schools for the purpose of detecting the presence of illegal drugs. Such visits are unannounced to anyone except the President of the School and building Principal.

IV. Interrogation

A student enrolled at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama shall not be interrogated by any non-school authority without the knowledge of the School Principal or the President. When law enforcement officers make it known that they wish to talk to a student while under the supervision of the School, the student will be informed by the Principal that the student has three choices:

- He/she may converse by telephone with his/her parent/guardian.
- He/she may decline to talk to the officer(s) until his/her parent/guardian is present.
- He/she may talk with the officer(s) either in or outside the presence of a School official.

School officials will make every reasonable effort in every case to notify the parent / guardian. In those instances in which a parent / guardian cannot be present within a reasonable period of time, School officials must allow interviews by law enforcement officials to proceed in the absence of the parent / guardian. Other non-school persons, except for parent / guardian, shall not interview students during school hours.

No student shall be removed from the School without a warrant or petition being officially served.

REFERENCE(S): CODE OF ALABAMA, 16-1-14, AAC 290-030-010-06

HISTORY: ADOPTED MAY 23, 2003. REVISED OCTOBER 12, 2010. FORMERLY 5.31.

No Charge Policy

While it is the goal that all our students are served good tasting and healthy meals that are compliant with the USDA guidelines, it is important that parents provide the payment for all students who do not qualify for free lunch. Cornerstone Schools of Alabama has a No Charge Policy, which means your child must have money on their accounts or money in their hands to receive meals. We make every effort to notify parents via emails and personally telling students-of-age when their account balances are low. If any student in the elementary school does not have breakfast or lunch money, an alternative meal will be served. The alternative meal could be cereal or a sandwich. All middle and high school students will be asked to step out of line and to call a parent to make a credit or debit card payment via the School's website. If payments are not immediately made, students will be given an alternative meal such as cereal or a sandwich.

Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention

No student shall engage in or be subjected to harassment, violence, threats of violence, bullying, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics that have been identified by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama in this policy. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary sanctions.

Definitions

- A. The term "harassment" as used in this policy means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on School property, on a School bus, or at a School-sponsored function including, but not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the characteristics set forth in Section III B below. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
- Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property;
 - Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student;
 - Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the School;
 - Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the School, on School property, on a School bus, or at a School-sponsored function.;
 - Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
- B. The term "violence" as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.
- C. The term "threat of violence" as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.

- D. The term “bullying or intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any School program, benefit, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.
- E. The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

Description of Behavior Expected of Students

- A. Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and to comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristics of the student that are identified in this policy.
- B. Violence, threats of violence, harassment, and bullying or intimidation are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and sanctions if the perpetrator of such actions is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim of such conduct:
 - the student’s race;
 - the student’s sex;
 - the student’s religion;
 - the student’s national origin; or
 - the student’s disability.

A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.

Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures

- A. Complaints alleging violations of this policy must be made on Board-approved complaint forms available at the violation or by the student’s parent or legal guardian and delivered to the Principal or the Principal’s designee either by mail or personal delivery. At the request of the complaining student or the student’s parent or legal guardian, incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.
- B. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Principal or the Principal’s designee will, at his/her sole discretion, determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the Principal or the Principal’s designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the Principal or the designee will undertake an investigation of the complaint within a reasonably prompt time period, considering the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the Principal or the School.
- C. Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to School officials

under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

- D. The complaint form developed to report violations of this policy will include a provision for reporting a threat of suicide by a student. If a threat of suicide is reported, the Principal or the Principal's designee will inform the student's parent or guardian of the report.

This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes, including publication on the Cornerstone School website.

Inclement Weather

The closing or early dismissal of school due to inclement weather will be announced as soon as possible. Sometimes the announcement can be made the evening before the closing of school, but most days the announcement cannot be made until the morning of the closing of school. The School Administration will endeavor to decide as early as possible. When school is closed for inclement weather, all events for that day, including practices or evening activities, will be canceled.

Parents will be notified through the RenWeb Parent Alert System. PLEASE NOTE: To receive Parent Alerts you must have current contact information (valid home, work, and cell phone numbers and email addresses entered into RenWeb). Failure to maintain accurate and current information on RenWeb will prevent you from receiving notifications. Parents are responsible to keep this information accurate and current. Please contact the main office of your child's school for assistance with updating your information (205.591.7600).

Substance Abuse Policy

Cornerstone's policy is to strive to maintain a drug free environment for all its students and staff. The School reserves the right to universally or randomly test students at any time for drug use.

A part of the School's comprehensive substance abuse policy is to conduct universal and random drug tests as an additional deterrent to illegal use of controlled substances. The penalty for any violation of this policy may, at the recommendation of the School Administration, be a request for withdrawal or expulsion of the student.

Any new student applying for admission to the High School must pass a drug test under the accepted procedures of the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama policy at the parent or guardian's expense. Any refusal to provide a sample for required testing will be deemed a violation of the School Handbook and will result in a request for withdrawal or subsequent expulsion.

CSA reserves the right to select/approve drug testing companies and technologies and may refuse a test result from an unapproved or outside agent.

Cornerstone reserves the right to conduct searches by the Staff and Administration of Cornerstone and to invite appropriate law enforcement officers to visit at any time to search for controlled substances. Searches may include the use of law enforcement officers, canines trained in the detection of narcotics and/or firearms and explosives, and other technologies.

The School reserves the right to search any person or property, including vehicles, brought onto school premises. Any alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia found in lockers, cars, or other items under the student's control will constitute possession. The possession of prescription drugs on campus is a violation of School policy. The possession of controlled drugs, including prescribed drugs, without a valid prescription, is a felony.

During a search of the school and/or school premises, if any controlled substances are discovered, an arrest may be made pursuant to appropriate federal, state, or local law.

Any student arrested during the course of a school search will be transported by appropriate law enforcement officials to the appropriate facility. The school has no authority to intervene with law enforcement officials.

Student Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cornerstone reserves the right to examine any and all content including, but not limited to, messages, text messages, videos, and pictures on any electronic device, including cell phones, and to take disciplinary action based on the content, including the right to notify civil authorities at the School's discretion.

Cornerstone reserves the right to use current, existing, and available technologies in examining the electronic devices.

Cornerstone reserves the right to restrict any electronic device whether the specific device is mentioned in the Handbook.

Cornerstone is not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of personally owned electronic devices.

Cell phones or any other personal electronic devices may only be used in accordance with the specific guidelines outlined in this section. Violators of the school cell phone policy will have their phone confiscated with all information needed to properly examine the phone. The phone will then be given immediately to the proper administrator.

Please note that any phone taken up for violating cell phone policy may be kept for an undetermined amount of time. Though efforts will be made to return the phones in a timely manner, cell phones do not have to be returned by the end of any school day. In certain cases regarding cell phones, the School may require a parent or guardian to pick up the phone during regular business hours.

Cell Phone Policy - Areas of Permission

No cell phone is ever to be powered on in school locker rooms or restrooms. Students must turn off the power to all cell phones and other devices and must place them in their lockers throughout the school day (8:00 AM - 3:30 PM).

Students may turn on their phones as they enter the lunchroom during lunch for the purpose of checking texts and/or emails only. Before students exit the lunchroom after lunch, they must power down their phones.

If announcements are made regarding cancellations or important school changes, Administration may grant permission for students to turn on phones and text parents. Teachers will be asked to provide that opportunity with minimal interruption to instructional time. Teachers are also given the ability to grant important or emergency cell phone needs as situations warrant.

Incentives and Penalties to Encourage Attendance

Incentives:

Perfect attendance for the first semester will result in that student being permitted to have a dress down week immediately following Christmas Break.

Perfect attendance the second semester will also result in a dress down day during the final week of regular scheduled classes.

Penalties:

The exam exemption policy requires that a student have no more than five (5) absences for the semester or ten (10) absences for the year (excused or unexcused, not counting the allotted approval college days for Juniors and Seniors).

Campus / Lunchroom Visiting

All visitors to CSA during the school day must sign in at the main office.

In instances where large events are held (e.g., pep rallies, fine arts performances during the school day, or National Honor Society / Honors Day ceremonies) the Administration may open certain exterior doors and not require a sign in. Parents, grandparents, and siblings of CSA students may attend lunch at CSA. Alumni are also permitted to attend lunch at CSA.

Students may not go outside exterior doors to pick up deliveries of food during lunch. Students are not allowed to order food delivery without permission. Family or alumni who bring food to lunch are asked to sign in and bring it into the lunchroom.

Any other lunchroom visitors must receive prior permission from the Principal.

As a rule, due primarily to a logistical issue of space and time, students from other schools are not allowed to visit CSA during lunch.

Athletics

Athletic / Extracurricular Activity and Eligibility

The determination of AHSAA/CSA athletic eligibility and the NCAA Clearinghouse is a collaborative effort of the School Counseling Department and the Athletic Director.

- Students must pass six units per year to be eligible for practice and participation in extracurricular activities for the upcoming year.
- No student who has more than one “F” in the grading period preceding the issuance of the report card is eligible.
- No student in grades 7-12 who does not have an overall grade point average of 2.00 for the preceding grading period is eligible. For a student in grades 7-8 who would like to pursue an opportunity to participate at the varsity level, the student must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 in their core classes (Bible, English, History, Math, and Science) for the preceding grading period.
- A student is not permitted to play, practice, or participate in athletic events or extracurricular activities during the grading period following the determination of his or her ineligibility. A player’s eligibility is defined as the date the report cards are posted.
 - Sections a-d under Athletic Eligibility take effect following the first grading period of the seventh grade for students who are in seventh grade for the first time. These Academic Eligibility sections then continue applying until the student graduates from Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.
 - The School Counseling Department monitors student achievement as related to athletic eligibility and communicates regularly with the CSA Administration, Athletic Director, coaches, and parents regarding students who are at risk for athletic ineligibility. ‘

Physical Education Excuses

Every student enrolled in Physical Education is expected to participate. Excused absences may include the following:

Medical Excuses:

- Sickness which prevents attendance in any other class.
- Doctor’s written excuse: These notes must state the cause and reason for excusing the student, as well as the time at which student will be able to return to normal activity.
- With permission of a doctor and special supervision of Physical Education teachers, special exercise programs for students temporarily or permanently handicapped may be offered.

Other Excuses:

- Parent’s written excuse: These notes should ask the instructor to take into consideration a student’s condition. Generally, there are activities that can be done without aggravating a problem. Therefore, in most situations a student will not be excused from P.E.
- Instructor’s prerogative: The instructor may excuse any student whom he considers unable to participate.

Student Withdrawal Policy

No school records will be forwarded until all accounts are paid in full. Any requests for special exemption to this policy must be submitted to the President or her designee in writing. The request should detail a plan for paying the account.

A completed Student Withdrawal Form must be in Cornerstone's possession before any school records will be forwarded. This form must be signed by the parent or guardian. The official records will be mailed to the student's new school.

Students who withdraw from Cornerstone may not return for one full academic year; readmission after a year should not be considered automatic. We will not make a commitment to you about the readmission of your student to Cornerstone.

A student may not re-enroll until any outstanding balance is paid in full.

Parent Covenant

Because we believe that education is only possible when there is support in the home, we ask the parents of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama students to renew their commitment to our Parent Covenant each year.

The following is the Covenant that we ask parents to sign:

In recognition of the promises of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to provide an outstanding Christ-centered education and recognizing that my child's success in school depends largely on my support and involvement:

- I accept the School's mission statement, beliefs, and strategies of education that are in accordance with the Word of God and Biblical virtues.
- I agree to support the School in upholding its rules and policies as outlined in the Student & Parent Handbook. As a parent, I am responsible for the behavior and actions of my child.
- I will support the authority and any disciplinary action issued by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama staff. I understand that disagreeing with staff discipline may occur however; I will not undermine the authority of the staff when discussing the discipline my child/children.
- I will support the School in maintaining a high standard of Christian conduct for its students. I acknowledge that should my child/children's behavior, while under the supervision of school personnel, become incompatible with the standards of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, normal disciplinary procedures apply. However, depending upon the severity of the infraction, the behavior may be considered grounds for suspension or expulsion.
- I will practice the principle found in Matthew 18 by resolving difficulties with School personnel directly. If the conflict is unresolved, I/we will discuss the matter with the next person in authority. The line of authority is as follows: Teacher, Principal, and lastly, President.
- I agree to participate in mandatory parent activities, including parent-teacher conferences.
- I agree to pay for my child's tuition and to do so in a timely manner.
- I agree to provide a supportive, educational environment for my child, which includes the following:
 - a. Ensuring that my child arrives at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama daily by the start of school;
 - b. Ensuring that my child follows the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama dress code;
 - c. Always being aware of my child's academic standing.

I understand that the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama Parent/Student Handbook is not intended to cover every situation which may arise during the school year and that it is a general guide to the goals, policies, and expectations of Cornerstone. Furthermore, I understand that the President and/or Board of Directors have the authority as the Administration of the said private school, Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to make all decisions regarding the School (facilities, instruction, discipline, curriculum, activities) faculty/staff, students, and enrollment).

Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause my child to lose various privileges and can lead to my child's removal from Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

PLEASE SIGN ON PAGE 38 TO ACKNOWLEDGE PARENT COVENANT.

Student Covenant

We believe that education and character are crucial to being productive citizens of the world. Although it takes support from family and faculty, we recognize and value the individual commitment that is the foundation in this process. Students should read and sign the following:

In recognition of the promise of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to provide an outstanding Christ-centered education, and in acknowledgement that my success in school depends largely on me, I pledge myself to the following commitments:

- I accept the School's mission statement, beliefs, and strategies of education that are in accordance with the Word of God and Biblical virtues.
- I agree to support the School in upholding its rules and policies as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook. As a student, I am responsible for my behavior and actions.
- I will respect the authority and any disciplinary action issued by Cornerstone Schools of Alabama staff. I understand that I may disagree with discipline I receive; however, I will accept my discipline with a repentant and humble spirit.
- I will support the School in maintaining a high standard of Christian conduct both on and off campus. I acknowledge that my poor behavior or choices may be considered grounds for suspension or dismissal.
- I agree to inform my parents of any communication or documentation that requires their signature.
- I agree to do my part in:
 - d. Ensuring that I arrive at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama daily by the start of school;
 - e. Ensuring that I follow the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama dress code;
 - f. Always being aware of my academic standing.

I understand that the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama Parent/Student Handbook is not intended to cover every situation which may arise during the school year and that it is a general guide to the goals, policies and expectations of Cornerstone. Furthermore, I understand the President and/or Board of Directors have the authority as the administration of the said private school, Cornerstone Schools of Alabama to make all decisions regarding the school (facilities, instruction, discipline, curriculum, activities) faculty/staff, students, and enrollment.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause me to lose various privileges and can lead to my removal from Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

PLEASE SIGN ON PAGE 38 TO ACKNOWLEDGE STUDENT COVENANT.

Technology Usage Agreement

Parents/Students:

Students may not be allowed computer access outside of classroom assignments until this form has been completed, signed, and returned. If you have any specific questions regarding the policy, please contact the Technology Coordinator.

Students:

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to all terms in the Technology Usage Policy as outlined in the Student Handbook. I further understand that I am responsible for appropriate behavior when using any Cornerstone technology resource or any personal technology resource if allowed on campus.

I understand that any or all the following disciplinary actions could be imposed if I break any of the rules of the policy:

1. Loss of access to any technology resources such as, but not limited to, computers, printers, the Internet, and/or video equipment.
2. Additional disciplinary action determined as appropriate by the School Administration; and/or legal action, when applicable.

As a student of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, I understand and agree to comply with the Technology Usage Policy.

PLEASE SIGN ON PAGE 38 TO ACKNOWLEDGE UNDERSTANDING OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY.

Acknowledgement Form

The Student & Parent Handbook has been created to provide students, parents, faculty, and staff with a clear expectation of policies and procedures that are to be followed at Cornerstone Schools of Alabama. The policies and procedures are in place to provide everyone with a safe, Christ-centered, effective learning environment. The Handbook also provides answers to many frequently asked questions.

Commitment to the policies and procedures outlined in the Handbook provide better communication and clear expectations. This Handbook serves as a basic guideline for the school year. Cornerstone Schools of Alabama reserves the right to change the Handbook, policies, procedures, rules, or information provided in the Handbook at any time during the school year. Parents will be notified of any changes made in the Handbook.

I have received, read, and understand the policies and procedures in the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama Student/Parent Handbook. I will adhere to all policies and procedures in the Handbook, including the Student/Parent Commitments, the Parent and Student Covenants, and the Technology Usage Agreement. I understand that the policies and procedures outlined in this Handbook may be amended at any time during the school year by the administration of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

