

# **WEST HERNANDO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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## **PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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# ***WEST HERNANDO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL***

## ***OUR MISSION***

Working in harmony with homes and churches, West Hernando Christian School strives to nurture each student's spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical development so that their highest human potential may be attained through the love and guidance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## ***OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH***

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. (II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21, John 17:17).
- We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (I John 5:7).
- We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:30, 17:11, 22), His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:21-25, Luke 1:26-35), His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26), His miracles (John 2:11), His vicarious and atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), His resurrection (John 11:25, I Corinthians 15:4), His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19, Acts 7:56), and His personal return in power and glory (Acts 9-11, Jude 14-15, and Revelation 19:11).
- We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ, and that only by God's grace through faith alone we are saved (John 3:16-19, 5:24, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Titus 3:5).
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:14-17, I Corinthians 12:12-14, Galatians 3:26-28).
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (John 16:7-15, Romans 8:9-13, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).

## ***WHCS CORE VALUES***

- \*Provide an environment that nurtures and encourages each student's spiritual growth and relationship with Christ.
- \*Instill values in our students, including love of God, others, and our country.
- \*Provide an academic environment that encourages each student to reach their fullest potential according to their abilities.
- \*Educate our students to be able to discern truth and express themselves clearly through writing, speaking, and actions.
- \*Train and develop Godly leaders.
- \*Come beside the family to offer academic, social, physical, and spiritual development.
- \*Show the love of Christ through the way we interact with each other.
- \*Lead others to know God personally.
- \*Be a light to our local community through our Godly example and acts of service.
- \*Transform and mold students for their life's purpose as planned by our Lord and Savior.



## ***PROFILE***

WHCS is an expanding ministry founded in 1996 for the education of your children within a Christian environment. It sits on ten acres developed which at present form the total campus environment. Students from prekindergarten through the senior year of high school learn with the intent of being fully prepared to enter a college community as young adults having both the academic skill to compete and the nurture of Christian training to know why and how to serve their Lord Jesus. WHCS is a member of the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, through which it derives and maintains its standards of academic excellence.

## ***NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY***

West Hernando Christian School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally afforded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its admission policies, educational policies, scholarships, loan programs, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

## ***PHILOSOPHY***

West Hernando Christian School is interested in attracting students who are: motivated to learn, strong in character, and amenable to Christian instruction. Our goal is a college preparatory education for students who are average or above average scholastically. We do welcome learning disabilities, but our program is designed to only serve children with mild to moderate LD needs in reading and math. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide programs which meet the needs of students who require unique or specialized learning.

## ***PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION***

- Parents seeking a Christian education based upon academic excellence for their children will be accepted providing the WHCS Statement of Faith and Parent/Student Handbook are unchallenged. WHCS maintains the right to refuse admittance, suspend, or expel anyone determined to be incompatible with standards and conditions as set forth, whether it be students or their parents.
- The faculty and staff are cooperatively bound in their commitment to Christ and work in a labor of love to assist parents to rear their children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).
- The teachers are willing to teach under the Lordship of Christ, based on the truth of God’s Word, and to motivate children through Christ-centered curricula toward a dynamic life needed to fulfill God’s cultural mandate (Genesis 1:28).
- Fundamental disciplines are taught. This interdenominational effort has embodied the cardinal tenets of the Christian faith in its charter and shall not yield to compromise.
- We believe the definition of marriage to be the union of one man and one woman for life here on earth. (Mark 10:6-9) (Matthew 19:5-6)
- We believe that God’s plan for natural sexual relationships (between a man and a woman) is His ideal for His creation and anything deviating from it is sin. (Romans 1:24-32)
- Educationally, WHCS seeks to provide the highest standards of academics; to that end, we teach the whole child: spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and physically (Luke 2:40, 52).
- We believe that God created life in the womb (Psalm 139:13) and to end such a life would be a sin (Exodus 20:13).

## *CHAPEL*

Chapel services are held weekly. Local pastors, youth pastors, teachers, administrators, and music ministries may be included as speakers. Each will be asked to restrict message to the Bible, leaving doctrinal issues to the local church.

### *WE PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE*

- **TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

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

- **TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG**

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

- **TO THE BIBLE**

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

### *THE SCHOOL OFFICE*

School office hours are from 7:30 until 4:00. Visitors to the school should come to the office first. Please **DO NOT** go directly to the classroom. Lunches, homework, books, etc. may be left at the office for delivery. Though school telephones are for business, a telephone may be used by students with office permission. Cellphones are not to be used by students while on campus, so please do not communicate with them in this manner.

In the event of illness, administrative staff will contact the parents to arrange student pick up. Facilities are lacking to care for sick children for any length of time. **With a fever of 100 degrees or more, a student must be picked up as soon as possible in accordance with the Florida Department of Health.**

### *VISITORS*

Visitors desiring to see any student or member of the faculty during school hours must first secure permission from the school office. Parents or others wishing to confer with teachers or students must call for an appointment. In general, students should not invite visitors to come to school with them. For situations deserving exceptions to this rule, prior written permission must be secured from administration. The parents of both students (WHCS student and visiting student) must write a letter requesting permission to visit WHCS at least 24 hours prior to the date of the visit.

## ***LIBRARY***

Our beautiful library is available to students as well as parents and the general community. Anyone other than students wanting to use the library should first sign-in at the office and wear a visitor's badge while on campus. Overdue book fines are at the rate of \$1.00 per day. While this may seem steep, it certainly eliminates problems and encourages responsibility.

## ***SCHOOL CLOSING***

WHCS has the highest concern for student safety. Thus we have developed a thorough emergency response plan covering most natural and other emergencies. If you wish to discuss specific concerns or to ask questions, please call the school office.

As parents, you play an essential role in keeping students safe during an emergency. Please consider the following guidelines that are of particular importance to parents in emergencies so that you may help our staff respond effectively.

1. ***Be prepared for early dismissals.*** In some emergencies, such as severe weather conditions, school officials will deem it prudent to send students home early. We will contact you if there will be an early dismissal. Please make sure you provide us with up-to-date contact information so that we can easily reach you if there is an early dismissal.
2. ***If no early dismissal, do not pick up children in school or area emergency.*** If you do not learn about an early dismissal, but learn of a school or area emergency, please do not rush to school to pick up your child. Traffic will block any needed emergency vehicles, and your presence in the school building during an evacuation may delay the process. Keep in mind that police will bar parents from school grounds in some emergencies. The safety of our students is paramount to us, and we will reunite students and parents as soon as possible.
3. ***WHCS participates in an emergency communication system*** with its parents. This service will notify you of any emergency occurring at the school.
4. ***In the event of evacuation of the campus,*** WHCS has designated Northcliffe Baptist Church as the site to which it will relocate its students for a safe reunion with their parents. Please know where this location is now so that you will know where to go.

If Hernando County schools are closed for emergency weather conditions or if evacuation is issued for zone A/B, WHCS will also be closed. In the event of severe weather conditions, WHCS may be forced to evacuate prior to county schools. If modular units are evacuated and students are moved to the permanent building, parents are not permitted to enter the modular units to retrieve student belongings if they choose to pick up their child.

## ***SCHOOL HOURS***

Early Ed (K3 – K5)	8:30 - K3 – K4 12:30 / K5 – 2:45
1 <sup>st</sup> - G12	8:15 - 3:00

## ***BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE***

Students should **not** be dropped off until 8:10 unless attending Before-School Care. At this time, classrooms should be open. **“Hanging out” behind buildings is not acceptable.** Students thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade not picked up by 3:15 will be sent to After-School Care and billed accordingly unless their parent is on campus and responsible for their safety. Seventh grade and up may remain on campus but the school is not responsible for their safety or supervision. After-School Care closes at 5:30 - \$1.00 per minute is charged for each minute late.

## ***DROP OFF/PICK UP***

**Flow of traffic is always one way, east to west (see map on page 26).** Please follow the drop off/pick up patterns provided to ensure the safety and timeliness of your child. If you desire to escort your child to their classroom, please leave them at the doorway so your child’s day may begin there. If you need to speak with the teacher, please set up an appointment through the office. This also applies to dismissal time. Please do not approach the pick-up line to meet with your child’s teacher. Their responsibility must be totally focused upon the children. They can meet with you after dismissal is safely accomplished. Any vehicle picking up an elementary child must have a pick-up ID card or the driver will be asked to park and go into the office for appropriate ID check prior to placing the child in the vehicle. **NOTE: SPEED LIMIT IN ALL DRIVEWAY AREAS IS 5 MPH. CROSSWALKS ARE MARKED AND MUST BE USED. CHILDREN ARE OUR PRECIOUS COMMODITIES; LET US BE VERY CAREFUL.**

## ***STATE HEALTH LAW***

All students (Pre K through 12) who enroll in Hernando County Schools (public or private) **MUST** have a birth certificate and a complete current certificate of immunization (Form HRS 680/3040 – this is a blue card) **PRIOR** to enrollment. A current physical examination is required for all Pre K and K5 students; however, **ALL** students must have a Florida physical examination on file.

Florida law mandates that students entering K5 and 7<sup>th</sup> grade have their immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases up-to-date. They will be required to have the following:

**HEPATITIS B SERIES** ( 3 shots over six months)

**TETANUS-DIPHTHERIA** (K5 – 4 -5 doses) (7th grade-Tetanus Booster required)

**MMR** (measles, mumps, and rubella)

**VARICELLA** (K5 - 2 doses required): Pre K – 7th Grade (or documentation of history of chicken pox)

**POLIO**

If for any reason an immunization certificate cannot be understood, the school will refer the parent to the Hernando County Health Unit for certification.

If enrollment is a transfer from within the state, no physical examination is required if a copy of a Florida examination is included with the records. If the enrollment is the student’s initial entrance into a Florida school, a Florida physical examination is required within the first year. Students participating in sports will need a physical examination each year.

## ***MEDICATIONS***

It is the policy of WHCS that no student shall be in possession of medication, prescription or over-the-counter, while on campus. The disbursement of medications is as follows: All parents/guardians requesting medication of any type, including herbal remedies, to be given to a student must complete an Authorization for Administration of Medication/Treatment form. This form may be obtained from the office. If the medication is prescribed by a physician, the form must be signed by the parent giving the school permission to administer the medication. The medication must be in the container with the prescription label on it as authorization from the doctor. **ANY MEDICATION MUST BE SUPPLIED BY THE PARENTS AND WILL BE LABELED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME IN THE CLINIC. ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE KEPT IN THE CLINIC.**

**Students who need to self-administer inhaled asthma medications, blood glucose testing and insulin injections, and/or auto – injectable epinephrine are required to complete a Written Authorization and Permission Form each year of their enrollment at WHCS. This form is available in the school office.**

## **PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)**

As part of the personal hygiene routine, children should be checked periodically at home for head lice. If head lice are found on the child, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should treat the child with a pediculicide shampoo as well as follow the necessary procedures to rid the living environment of lice. All adult lice and nits (eggs) must be removed before the child may return to class. Students should be able to return to school in no more than three (3) days if proper treatment is provided. Children may not be readmitted to school until the clinic or office staff has cleared the student.

If your child has been in close contact or spent the night with other children in the last few days, you should inform the other family so that they may also check for head lice. The school will do a classroom head check and inform parents of same.

# **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE**

## **COURTESY**

Christians are supposed to treat everyone with the proper respect and are to show proper deference to those in authority. Such conduct as talking back, sarcasm addressed to those in authority, complaining, gossiping, vulgarity, cursing, or discouraging others is not acceptable at West Hernando Christian School and will be corrected through discipline.

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to come to class prepared and on time...prepared means that you have paper, writing implement, homework completed, and the books necessary for that day's work. Disruptions to the class routine will not be tolerated and will be corrected through discipline.

## **HONOR**

Students are expected to be honorable in their character, which would not allow for lying, cheating, stealing, deception, forgery, or poor stewardship. Cheating will result in a zero for that assignment, whether the student was the one *doing* the cheating or *allowing* the cheating. Claiming any other person's work as your own is considered cheating, including homework. Further discipline measures will also be taken.

## **PHYSICAL CONTACT**

Proper Christian conduct toward the opposite sex is important and is emphasized at West Hernando Christian School. No romantic physical contact (holding hands, putting arms around each other, etc.) will be permitted at school, in vehicles, or at school activities or functions. Further, placing hands on another person is unacceptable, including but not limited to pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, and scratching. Violations will be corrected through discipline.

## **WORLDLY PURSUITS**

West Hernando Christian School strives to teach their students how to live a Christ-centered life *IN* this world and not to become a part *OF* the world. Therefore, use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and/or misuse of legal drugs, reading and/or watching pornography, or immodest behavior are all activities that our students are expected not to engage in both on and off campus. Further, any student who engages in or promotes sexual behavior not consistent with Christian principles (including sex outside marriage and homosexuality) to the extent that it impacts the student body may be suspended or asked to withdraw.

Conduct which is prohibited at school is equally prohibited away from school. The Christian life is not a game, with one set of rules for church and school and another for everyday life. Regardless of whether the proscribed activity takes place at or away from school, the student is equally subject to discipline for those actions, up to and including expulsion.

The Standards of Conduct will become a part of the enrollment process at West Hernando Christian School to be acknowledged and signed by the student as well as their parents so that there is clarity of expectations.

# ***WHCS PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN***

## **(Grades 7 through 12)**

The purpose of the Progressive Discipline Plan is to hold students accountable for their actions in a cumulative way. As boundaries are crossed and discipline points are accumulated, the forms of intervention applied also have a cumulative effect in the hopes of providing a system of discipline that focuses on overall behavior rather than individual events.

**DISCIPLINE POINTS:** When a misconduct occurs, a notice is completed by the staff member indicating the infraction, is signed by the student, and the notice is sent to the office. A member of the administrative team will assign points to the misconduct (if deemed appropriate), and it will be entered into the student's discipline record. When the student's points accumulate to such a level as to warrant an intervention, then the parent will be notified of the upcoming intervention planned. Points will be cumulative for a period of one school year; however, if at the end of the first semester the student has 4 or less points accumulated, they will be wiped clean for the second semester.

**ACTS OF MISCONDUCT:** There are five levels of misconduct, each containing a range of discipline points. For purposes of consistency, only administrators responsible for discipline will be assigning point values for misconduct.

**Level 1 (1 point per infraction):** Those which interfere with the orderly operation of the classroom or school activities. These include, but are not limited to: classroom disruption, disorderly behavior, off-task, unprepared for class (including homework completed), tardy to school or to class, gum, dress code violation, food/beverage in a classroom/chapel, disrespect for other students (see Harassment Policy below), parking violation, loitering, littering, failure to return signed document.

**Level 2 (3-5 points per infraction):** Include, but are not limited to, disrespect of faculty or staff, inappropriate public displays of affection, cellphone, pda, electronics of any kind, skipping class, leaving campus without permission, profane/obscene/inflammatory language or gestures, taking God's name in vain, possession of a simulated weapon, careless driving on campus/school events.

**Level 3 (10 or more points per infraction):** Include, but are not limited to, fighting, insubordination, honor offenses (lying, cheating, stealing, deception, forgery), bullying, damage to school/another student's property, use of tobacco at any time, gambling (making a wager or bet that involves the use of money/goods/services/favors as payment), tampering with safety equipment, reckless driving on campus/school events. *May be reported to the proper law enforcement agency if appropriate.*

**Level 4 (20 or more points per infraction):** Include, but are not limited to, use of alcohol at any time, sexual/racial/other harassment, possession of or involvement in pornography, public indecent exposure or any criminal activity of a misdemeanor nature. *May be reported to the proper law enforcement agency if appropriate.*

**Level 5 (25 points per infraction):** Include, but are not limited to, bringing a weapon/explosive/firearm on campus or to any school-sponsored event, threatening/bringing bodily harm to a student/faculty/staff member/administrator, possession of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco on campus or at any school-sponsored event at any time, involvement in sexual immorality while enrolled at WHCS, any involvement with illegal drugs, any criminal activity of a felony nature, distribution or usage of prescription drugs not prescribed to the student, parents who do not adhere to or cooperate with the philosophy of Christian education and our discipline system as agreed upon by signing the enrollment form accordingly.

**CLASSIFICATIONS OF DISCIPLINE INTERVENTION:** As with the levels of misconduct, there are five classifications of discipline intervention as follows:

**Class 1 – Accumulation of five (5) discipline points:** One-hour after-school detention.

**Class 2 – Accumulation of ten (10) discipline points:** 1-2 days of in-school suspension. The number of days is determined by the way in which the points were accumulated. Academic work must be completed, and the student may not socialize for the entire school day, including lunchtime.

**Class 3 – Accumulation of fifteen (15) discipline points:** 1-2 days of out-of-school suspension. The number of days is determined by the way in which the points were accumulated and although academic work must be completed, the student will receive a zero for the work done while on OSS or work done in the class while on OSS. Communication will take place between an administrator and the parent(s)/guardian. *Student will be unable to attend field trips. Student will be removed from school organizations and leadership positions.*

**Class 4 – Accumulation of twenty (20) discipline points:** 3-5 days of out-of-school suspension. The number of days is determined by the way in which the points were accumulated and although academic work must be completed, the student will receive a zero for the work done while on OSS or work done in the class while on OSS. Communication will take place between an administrator and the parent(s)/guardian. *Student will be unable to attend field trips. Student will be removed from school organizations and leadership positions.*

**Class 5 – Accumulation of twenty-five (25) discipline points:** 10 days of out-of-school suspension and withdrawal meeting with administration. In some cases, immediate expulsion may be warranted.

**HARASSMENT POLICY:** When it comes to disrespect of another student, WHCS has a four-step progressive harassment policy as follows:

- \*Level 1 – disrespect of another student
- \*Level 2 – a second occurrence of Level 1 misconduct
- \*Level 3 – a third occurrence of Level 1 misconduct
- \*Level 4 – could be a fourth occurrence of Level 1 or be a racial or sexual first offence, depending on the severity

**RE-ENROLLMENT POLICY (after disciplinary action):** Students who reach discipline Class 4 (the accumulation of 20-24 discipline points) are not automatically accepted for the following school year. Class 4 students must interview with the Discipline Committee before final acceptance for the next school year is granted. If the student is denied admission for the following year, he/she may re-apply after one full school year has transpired.

### ***WITHDRAWAL - DISMISSAL***

Withdrawal requests from school must be made in writing on a school form which may be obtained from the office. All accounts with an outstanding balance will be prorated to the end of the month in which the student last attended. A student may be dismissed from school at any time he/she or his/her parents are found out of harmony with the operation of the school or are not in good standing financially. School records may not be transferred until the tuition account is paid in full.

### ***PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY***

It is our desire that WHCS serves as an extension of your child's home. Communication between parents and school personnel must be excellent. It should reflect the fact that parents and teachers are working together for the child's good.

It is a goal of WHCS to provide a reasonable tuition schedule that can make Christian education available to many families. These fees do not cover the total cost of education, so we depend upon the support of our families through prayer, gifts, and service. Our fundraising goals, though great, can only be accomplished by committed parents, students, and our faithful God.

Parents must give the teacher and the administration authority in the discipline of children. This would include use of writing assignments, detention, suspension, and expulsion from the school. Parents will be notified the day before detention is assigned. The parent will always be involved in the administration of discipline. Parents must accept the fact that the school reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not cooperate with the educational process.

Our dress down dress code established for our students is a comfortable, modest attire for everyone to live with. It would be *appreciated* if parents would also abide by it when visiting our campus, but it is *expected* if participating in a school-sponsored activity.

Parental permission must be given for students to participate in all school activities, including sports and school-sponsored trips away from the school. Parents must also agree to absolve the school from liability upon parent or child during any school activity unless negligence by the school is determined.

Parents are required to sign a statement of cooperation on each student's enrollment application.

## ***PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES***

There are two days scheduled on the calendar after the first quarter of the year when the elementary school will not be having classes in order to accomplish parent-teacher conferences. These conferences are mandatory as it is a vital part of our school's mission that the communication between parent and teacher be open and strong. This will be an opportunity to sit down with the teacher to review your child's first report card of the year and discuss his/her progress. Hopefully this communication will continue on an individual as-needed basis throughout the school year. Parents of middle/high school students are encouraged to contact the teacher directly or the administrator to schedule a conference if deemed necessary.

## ***CONFLICT RESOLUTION***

We welcome suggestions or questions by parents. Please keep the lines of communication open among teachers, administration, and the School Board. West Hernando Christian School follows the guidelines set forth in Matthew 18:15-17 as a form of conflict resolution. If a parent should have a problem with a teacher, then an appointment should first be set up to discuss the problem with the teacher. Most conflicts are resolved at this level. If unresolved after this meeting, an appointment should be set with the teacher, the administrator, and an administrative representative if necessary. If unresolved at this meeting, then a letter requesting appearance at a meeting of the School Board can be sent to the administrator. The School Board's policy regarding conflict resolution beyond this point will be addressed on an individual basis.

## ***FEES/CHARGES***

All tuition payments are due by the first of the month. The school depends on prompt payments of tuition in order to operate properly; therefore, if payment has not been made by the 10<sup>th</sup> of that month, a \$25.00 late fee will be charged to the account. If an account becomes delinquent above an amount of \$1,500.00, a meeting with the School Board will be requested. If an account is delinquent at the end of the school year or upon withdrawal of the student, report cards may not be issued or academic records may not be transferred to another school until the account is paid in full. Financial commitment is definitely reviewed each year a child seeks re-enrollment.

A service charge of \$25.00 will be added to any returned checks to cover the additional cost of handling. Any account for which two checks are returned may be required to pay by cash, money order, or certified check.

If a parent should decide not to send a student who has been registered, enrollment fees will **NOT** be refunded after June 1<sup>st</sup>, since book purchases are made at that time. Other fees may be assessed by classes which are not included in the enrollment fee, such as laboratory fees or art supplies. We expect students to use reasonable care in handling school textbooks. Books lost or damaged by students will be charged to the student's account.

## ***FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE***

It is the policy of WHCS to distribute those funds budgeted for financial assistance fairly based upon need as well as what is in the financial best interest of the school. WHCS is blessed to be able to provide assistance as part of its operating budget. We pray that those accepting financial aid will seek ways to praise the Lord for meeting their financial needs by wholeheartedly supporting its fundraising programs and volunteering their time when able.

WHCS sends all of its applications for financial aid to FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition) so that applications are assessed completely confidentially and objectively.

In February, when the registration process begins each year, those families who are currently receiving financial assistance will be contacted to determine their need for the next school year. In April, after those applications have been processed, applications will be distributed to families within our school requesting financial assistance. Then in May, assistance will be made available to new families seeking enrollment. All requests for financial assistance must be received by FAST by June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to qualify for the next school year.

Once financial aid has been determined, the student's academic and disciplinary record and the family's payment record shall be reviewed. If approved, the parent is then notified of the amount of financial aid which has been granted to them.

Enrollment must be secured by July 1<sup>st</sup> or the allotted financial assistance will once again be made available to another family.

Any additional requests for financial assistance which may arise during the school year will be made **IN WRITING** to the School Board for consideration. These requests will then be acted upon based on funds availability.

## ***INSURANCE***

We are pleased to provide a student "excess" insurance coverage while at school. This insurance is secondary only, and all claims must first be filed with the primary insurer.

## ***LUNCH PROGRAM***

The school is pleased to provide an excellent lunch menu for our students to purchase their lunch. Students are also permitted to bring their lunches to school; however, Pre K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade may **not** bring warm-ups. Milk/juice/snacks are available to supplement lunches from home or those purchased through our program. All food/drink is to be consumed in designated areas only...not in the classrooms unless so directed. Lunch tickets may be purchased from the office at a cost of \$25.00 for individual students or \$50.00 for families. Soda and candy will **not** be made available at lunch. Please also refrain from packing these items in your child's lunch.

**BORROWING:** If a student borrows money for lunch, the student's account will be automatically charged unless the amount borrowed is repaid in a timely fashion. This process will continue as long as the student is borrowing.

## ***SCHOOL PROPERTY***

We are proud of our campus. We appreciate the efforts of those who have made it possible for us to have such a beautiful and functional campus. We expect each student to help keep the buildings and grounds clean and orderly and to encourage others to do likewise. Any student who damages school property is responsible for the repair or replacement of same. There will be a **minimum** of \$25.00 for each incident of property destruction.

Because of where it eventually lands, there will be absolutely no gum chewing on campus. Littering is also a disciplinary offense.

The only beverage permitted in the classroom is water and no eating is permitted unless otherwise directed by the teacher.

## ***REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL***

No student or group of students while fundraising may represent the school in any way off campus without a chaperon and prior administrative approval. Representations in any capacity must conform to the rules and principles of the school.

## ***FIELD TRIPS***

Students go on field trips several times throughout the year. These trips are planned to correlate with class instruction. Students pay the cost of the trip, including cost of admission, food, and transportation. The permission form must be signed and returned to the teacher by the deadline date in order for the student to attend. Students not returning their forms by the deadline will not be allowed to attend the field trip. Parents may be asked to assist in providing the necessary transportation. Siblings may not accompany the parent on the class trip.

Students must not attend school if they are not going on the field trip. A note is required prior to the field trip if the student is staying home. Their school record will indicate an excused absence for the day.

## ***PERSONAL BELONGINGS***

Each student grade 7 thru 12 will be issued a locker. Students may use a personal lock; but it must have a combination (not a key), and the combination must be on file in the office. A student's locker or desk is the property of West Hernando Christian School and is at all times under the control of the school. The school will not be responsible for articles stolen from either location. School authorities may perform general inspections of lockers and desks at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. If unable to gain access to a locker because of an unapproved lock, it may be cut off to gain access.

A student's person or personal effects (e.g., backpack, purse, pockets) may be searched by a staff member to determine whether the student is in possession of contraband. Searches may be performed without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant. All personal searches will be performed in a manner that is respectful of the norms of decency and the emotional maturity of the student. A school administrator of the same sex will conduct the search in private, with another adult witness of the same sex present. The student's parents will be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible. Under no circumstances will a body cavity or strip search be permitted unless conducted by law enforcement personnel.

Students are permitted to park on West Hernando Christian School premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. Permission to park on school property is granted only after the student driver, the owner of the vehicle, and the student's parent or guardian have signed written consent and the vehicle is identified with a school decal. School authorities may perform periodic patrols of student parking lots and conduct exterior inspections of student automobiles on school property. Interior searches of student vehicles can occur to determine if contraband is contained inside. Refusal to allow access to a vehicle at the time of the search will be cause for terminating the privilege of parking on school property without further hearing.

### ***ELECTRONIC DEVICES***

Beepers, tape recorders/players, transistor radios, CD players, records, tapes, electronic games, magazines, books, toys, etc. are not to be brought to school unless they are part of an assignment. This includes all events associated with WHCS, sports, field trips, etc. If needed, the above materials will be requested in writing by the teacher. For safety reasons, students may have cell phones in their possession, but they must be turned off and remain in their backpacks during school hours (even lunch). Revealed items will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. If confiscated again, the item will be returned during the school year upon parental written request or parental visit. Further confiscation will forfeit ownership until parent conference has occurred. The guidance is simple . . . if it is from home, leave it home. The only exception is in the case of e-readers; and if brought to school, please inform the teacher of its intended use.

# WHCS DRESS CODE

*As with all that we do at WHCS, we are to reflect God even in the way that we dress. Our dress code is developed with a two-fold purpose:*

*\*To take attention away from ourselves so that we might invest our time in developing the inner qualities that make us truly beautiful.*

*\*It is a set of standards that relate to discipline, self-control, and modesty. Reasonable standards of conduct are an important part of an educational system.*

*The spirit of our dress code standards applies to all school activities on or off campus. It is expected that dress down attire will be worn at all events affiliated with this School. It is most appreciated if parents would comply with their attire as well.*

## PreK Students

Uniforms are optional. Play clothes must meet dress down regulations; however, ONLY SNEAKERS may be worn for safety purposes.

## Elementary Students (Grades K5 through 6<sup>th</sup>)

**TOPS:** Collared polos in burgundy, navy, hunter green, or white with school emblem. Girls may wear a Peter-Pan collared shirt only under a jumper. School uniform polos have no more than three buttons on the placket. This rule will be strictly enforced - if you choose to go outside of the school to have the logo applied, you do so at your own risk. They may not be approved.

**BOTTOMS:** Khaki, navy, or plaid slacks/shorts/capris/skorts/jumpers. School uniform brands only.

**SOCKS/SHOES:** Unpatterned socks/tights/leggings in School uniform colors only. ONLY SNEAKERS may be worn for safety purposes.

## Secondary Students (Grades 7 through 12)

**TOPS:** Collared polos with school emblem. Grades 7 and 8 can only wear burgundy, navy, hunter green, or white. Grades 9 through 12 may wear any color polo. School uniform polos have no more than three buttons on the placket. This rule will be strictly enforced - if you choose to go outside of the school to have the logo applied, you do so at your own risk. They may not be approved.

**BOTTOMS:** Khaki or navy slacks/shorts/capris/knee-length skirts. Because of sizing issues in the school uniform brands, other brands such as Dockers or Dickies may be purchased, but they may not be denim (jeans) material.

**SOCKS/SHOES:** Unpatterned socks in School uniform colors only. Shoes may not have open toes or open heels.

**PE ATTIRE:** PE uniform purchased through the office, sweats (if cold), sneakers.  
(Beginning Jan. 2015)

## Dress Down Day

Students may wear t-shirts or collared polos, jeans, or shorts (uniform length). No sweats or leggings. Any shoes may be worn except sandals. Students may not dress down on chapel days, and all general rules also apply to dress down days.

### General for All Students (*All Day....Every Day*)

- Shorts/skorts/skirts/jumpers may be no more than 5” from the floor when in a kneeling position. Slacks/shorts/jeans must be able to “pinch an inch”, which means ½ inch of material should be able to be pinched on each side to measure tightness. They may not be skin tight.
- As a sign of support for our troops overseas, red collared polos with a School emblem may be worn on Fridays. This will continue to be in effect until the troops are all home.
- Only school uniform attire may be worn in the classroom or in chapel.
- Polo shirts may not be oversized or undersized. Boys undershirts may not be visible.
- Solid turtlenecks of any brand in School colors may be worn under a School polo shirt.
- T-shirts and sweatshirts may not have any offensive logos.
- Clothing may not be torn or ripped, including jeans.
- Haircuts, hairstyles, and/or jewelry/accessories are to be modest in such a manner that it does not draw attention to oneself. This would include unnatural hair colors or fad hair styles.
- **BOYS:** Face must be clean shaven. Sideburns are to be thin and no lower than mid-ear. Hair is to be trimmed so as not to hang over the collar, obstruct the eyes, or cover the ears.
- **GIRLS:** Three earrings per ear limit. No excessive makeup, and elementary girls may not wear makeup at all.
- No visible body piercing (other than ears), tattoos (real or fake), or gauges.
- Hats, bandannas, scarves on head, sunglasses may not be worn in School buildings.

***Exceptions:*** *In the event that an exception from the dress code is necessary (i.e. lost/damaged uniform, etc.), Administration will issue an exception pass which is timed to allow for correction of the problem.*

***SEE DISCIPLINE PLAN FOR CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE***

### ***DRESS-DOWN-DAY ATTIRE***

- T-shirts (Appropriate logos) or collared polos styled as uniform polo. (nothing low cut)
- Jeans/shorts (Appropriate length, not torn or ripped, and worn at the waist).
- Any shoes except sandals

## ***ATTENDANCE***

Regular attendance shall be defined as attending school for the full scheduled day on each day during which school is in session. Students are expected to attend all sessions unless properly excused by the school authorities.

Regular attendance is imperative! Please avoid unnecessary absences. Whether absent or one hour late, a parent/guardian must notify the office by 9:00 on that day to explain the absence or delay. **A PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTE OF EXPLANATION IS REQUIRED UPON THE STUDENT'S RETURN** unless the office has been notified by telephone. Middle and high school students report to the office to receive a pass to return to class. Elementary students should present their note to their teacher. If there is no written or verbal excuse, the student is unexcused. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PICK UP THE STUDENT'S WORK, PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE BY 10:00 TO RECEIVE IT BY 3:00 THE SAME DAY.**

- 1. Excused Absences** – Acceptable reasons for absence include, but are not limited to, personal illness, serious illness in the family, death in the family, school – approved trips, medical or dental appointments which cannot be made after school hours. These absences will be EXCUSED and no penalty will be assessed. All work missed is to be made up in the assigned time, and full credit will be given.
- 2. Unexcused Absences** – Absences for any reason other than those stated above may be unexcused. All class work, quizzes, tests, and homework assignments missed will receive a “zero” grade if deemed unexcused.
- 3. Maximum Allowed Absences** – Any student 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, having 18 or more absences, excused or unexcused, in a given school year may receive no credit for the school year. The child may not be promoted to the next grade. The school will determine if attendance in summer school is sufficient to permit promotion. An exception may be considered by Administration if extenuating circumstances exist.

Any student, 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, having 9 or more absences, excused or unexcused, in a given school semester may receive no credit for the semester. An exception may be considered by Administration if extenuating circumstances exist. This attendance policy applies to each and every class of which a student is expected to be in attendance.

An additional two (2) days of excused absences will be given to juniors and seniors to visit college campuses.

- 4. Family Vacation/Trips** – It must be recognized that absenteeism for any reason may be detrimental to a student's progress. Parents are strongly encouraged to plan vacations/trips during times that school is closed. Families are allowed a maximum of five (5) excused absences during the course of a year for the purpose of family trips.

All requests for these days must be reviewed and approved by the Administration. All requests to use vacation/trip days must be submitted in writing no later than three (3) days prior to absence.

The vacation/trip will only be excused if the student has been absent fewer than 7 days in the current semester, is in good academic standing, and the request was made in advance as outlined above. Family vacations/trips should not be taken during semester exam week. If the above criteria are not met, the absence will be unexcused.

- **Absence from school for five days without contact is considered abandonment, and the child will be withdrawn.**

**OSS is considered an unexcused absence.**

**If a student leaves before 12:00 noon, it is an absence; likewise, arrival after 11:00 is also an absence. A student may only use one of these in any one given day.**

**Excused absentee work must be made up for full credit. It is the student's responsibility to ask teachers for missed work and schedule completion dates with them.**

### ***TARDINESS***

School begins at 8:15. Students should be in their seats when the bell rings. Elementary students should be escorted directly to the classroom, and secondary students arriving late should report to the office for a tardy pass. If you are in a car pool and the car pool is tardy, all involved are considered tardy. Unexcused tardiness will result in discipline points for all grade levels and the progressive discipline plan followed accordingly if deemed warranted.

**ESTABLISH GOOD HABITS AND BE ON TIME EVERY DAY!!**

### ***HOMEWORK***

We believe that homework is an important part of the school program, and each teacher is at liberty to give homework to aid each student in their studies. Each student is expected to complete homework assignments. Missing homework will result in zeroes for that class which will affect the student's overall grade. Please note that on Wednesday nights homework assignments will be minimal.

Students who are excused absent must check with the classroom teacher(s) upon returning to school to get all assignments missed. ***This is the student's responsibility.*** Make-up work must be done to the satisfaction of the teacher. Work not made up will go on record as a zero. Unexcused absences will not be permitted to make up work and will go on record as a zero.

Parents can help by:

- Providing a lighted, ventilated, quiet study place
- Keeping distractions to a minimum - no TV, radio, telephone, etc.
- Reserving a set study time and being consistent with it
- Being interested in what your child is learning...supervise and encourage but do not do the work for them
- Seeing that the student is organized and completes assignments
- Planning for a break time every thirty minutes
- Conferring with the teacher for areas of reinforcement

## **GRADING PROCEDURES**

### **GRADING SCALE**

A = 90 - 100                      C = 70 - 79                      F = 59 or less  
 B = 80 - 89                      D = 60 - 69                      I = incomplete

**BEHAVIOR:** E = Excellent              G = Good              S = Satisfactory              N = Needs Improvement  
 U = Unsatisfactory

Elementary and middle school students must demonstrate proficiency or satisfactory progress toward proficiency on the Stanford Achievement Test and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (administered yearly at WHCS) in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. High school students will be assessed using Explore (9<sup>th</sup>), Plan (10<sup>th</sup>), PSAT (11<sup>th</sup>), and college boards (12<sup>th</sup>). Teacher observation of student products indicating proficiency, teacher tests, and other teacher - devised means will be used to determine student progress in other areas.

### **SEMESTER EXAMS**

	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	Nine Week Test (counts 10% of nine week grade)	Nine Week Test (counts 10% of nine week grade)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	Nine Week Test (counts 10% of nine week grade) NO SEMESTER EXAM	Semester Exam (counts 10% of 1 <sup>st</sup> semester grade)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	Nine Week Test (counts 10% of nine week grade)	Nine Week Test (counts 10% of nine week grade)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>	Semester Exam-covers 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester (counts 10% of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester grade)	Semester Exam (counts 10% of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester grade)

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADES (9 - 12)**

The semester exam will be comprehensive and will be weighted 20% of the semester grade. Semester grades will be computed based on the following:

1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks grade                      =              40%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks grade                      =              40%  
 Semester Exam                              =              20%

Semester exams are required in the academic subjects (math, English, science, and social studies). Exams in the other areas will be optional - at the discretion of the teacher. During exam week, no student will have more than 2 exams per day.

Seniors may be exempt from a maximum of two final examinations if they have maintained an average of 90% or higher throughout the school year up to the point of the exam.

## CALCULATION OF GPA

Upon entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, credits are awarded toward the graduation requirement and grades are applied to an overall grade point average (GPA). The GPA is calculated as follows:

A	=	4.0
B	=	3.0
C	=	2.0
D	=	1.0
F	=	no weight or credit awarded

An additional .5 will be awarded to the grade for dual-enrolled courses and approved honors classes. An additional 1.0 will be awarded to the grade for AP classes.

## *SCHOLASTIC HONORS*

**HONOR ROLL** is compiled after each 9-week grading period for students maintaining grades of 80% or better in all subjects or a letter grade of G in academic subjects.

**HIGH HONORS** is compiled after each 9-week grading period for students maintaining grades of 90% or better in all subjects or a letter grade of E in academic subjects.

**PRINCIPAL'S LIST** is compiled after each 9-week grading period for students maintaining grades of 95% or better in all subjects or a letter grade of E in academic subjects.

**VALEDICTORIAN** and **SALUTATORIAN** - Only students attending full time at WHCS in both their Junior and Senior years or an equivalent thereof will be considered for these honors. This does not apply for other awards. These are standard policies for Florida schools. An exception may be considered by Administration if extenuating circumstances exist.

# ***PROMOTION POLICY***

## **From Kindergarten**

Children completing Kindergarten should be developmentally ready for the work related to the first grade curriculum. Teachers' observations, success with the Kindergarten curriculum, and testing results are all used to determine readiness for first grade.

## **Within Elementary School (Grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Students will be promoted to the next grade unless any of the following three areas are not achieved:

- 1) an overall yearly average of 60% or above
- 2) an individual yearly average of 60% or above in Language Arts (including Reading)
- 3) an individual yearly average of 60% or above in Math

Then the student will be required to take a mastery test at the end of the year to determine if minimum core essentials in that subject area have been mastered. If a student fails the mastery test, he/she will be required to receive remedial tutoring (not provided by the school) and demonstrate mastery of the core essential skills and concepts as a condition for promotion. Students who do not demonstrate mastery after tutoring may be required to repeat the grade level in order to re-enroll or be considered for placement in the Meeting Me Learning Center.

## **Within Middle School (Grades 7 and 8)**

Students will be promoted to the next grade unless they have a yearly average of "F" in two or more core subjects. Mastery of core curriculum (English, math, science, history & Bible) is essential for success at the next grade level. Students failing a core area may be required to receive tutoring (not provided by the school) as a condition for re-enrollment.

## **Within Senior High**

Students in grades 9 through 12 will be promoted as long as they have earned sufficient credits to be classified as a "sophomore (6 credits)", "junior (12 credits)", or a "senior" (18 credits). Students receiving a failing grade in any core subject required for graduation will be required to make up that credit through a school-approved means. Students will only be allowed to graduate when they have earned sufficient credits.

# ATHLETIC PROGRAM

*Athletes of West Hernando Christian School strive to be a positive witness for Christ, to bring our bodies into physical condition, and to compete for the prize.*

WHCS will offer varsity and junior varsity competition for boys and girls 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, provided that there are enough participants. Students must be at least 11 years and not more than 18 years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup> or in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above to participate. Programs available as per conference, coach, and student interest.

Elementary grades may also have the intramural sports (such as soccer, basketball, or cheerleading) dependent upon coaches and student interest.

- ***A PARTICIPATION FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR EACH SPORT.***

## GUIDELINES

**I. CONDUCT** - *WHCS athletes are representatives of Christ in actions, words, and attitudes both on and off the court.*

- Athletes are to be well-mannered at all times and show loyalty to the coaches, team, and its individual members. It is important to make positive comments when discussing the team, captains, and coaches. If there is a problem, don't hesitate to go quietly to the person or coach if necessary.
- No anger is to be displayed toward referees, coaches, players, or anyone from another school.
- Athletes are to set a positive example at WHCS. Your testimony in and out of the classroom should reflect Christian character.
- Discipline points accumulating over 14 will be a basis for removal from the team.

## II. ACADEMICS

- Any failing grade (59 or less) will make a student ineligible until two weeks after issuance of the progress report, at which time the grade will be reviewed.
- Any grade below 70 will put the student on probation. If the student is on probation, their teacher will make the decision if they are eligible after the next test or quiz. **Student** must give the athletic director written permission from the teacher before permitted to participate in the next game.
- Athletes who have an incomplete will NOT be permitted to participate in competition until a grade is recorded in the office, and they have maintained the above standard. The **student** must give the athletic director written permission from the teacher before permitted to participate in the next game.
- Students who are ineligible MUST continue to practice with their team. The student is NOT expected to go to the games, BUT is not permitted to go to AWAY games..

## III. PRACTICES

- Please be aware that if you miss a practice, it affects the entire team. Even if you are sick or hurt and miss a practice or practices, your position may be changed or you may be benched for a period of time.*
- If you are at school, you are expected to be at practice.

- C. If you are grounded or in trouble with your parents, it is not an excused absence from a practice or game.
- D. If you are going to be late or miss a practice, YOU must let a COACH know the reason. **It is your responsibility to locate the coach.**
- E. You are expected to be ready to begin practice on time.
- F. Practice Clothes
  - 1. They are to be neat, clean, and within the following guidelines:
    - a. P.E. Attire
    - b. Appropriate Shoes
    - c. Hair is to be up at practice and during games
    - d. Watches or jewelry are not to be worn

#### IV. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Expulsion - you will be considered for the following:
  - 1. Too many suspensions from the team
  - 2. Failure to cooperate
  - 3. Excessive absences from practices or games
  - 4. Fifteen or more accumulated discipline points.
- B. Absences - Excused absences are for personal illness, doctor appointments, or parent request.

#### V. UNIFORMS

- A. Uniforms are to be clean (they should not be dried in the dryer) and neat in appearance at all times.
- B. No jewelry or watches are to be worn.

#### VI. GAMES

- A. Home Games: Athletes **MUST** be at the gym ½ hour prior to their game, unless told otherwise.
- B. Away Games: Athletes **MUST** be transported with the school, unless told otherwise.

#### VII. FUNDRAISING

- A. Athletes as a group will be participating in school fund-raising to support the athletic budget.
- B. Fund raising activities may be scheduled on week-ends and during the summer to assist parents and students with the cost of being an athlete, such as camps or uniforms.

#### VIII. JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Captains and Co-Captains - **Being ruled ineligible for ANY reason will relinquish your captain status.**
  - 1. Be an **ENCOURAGEMENT** to all team members
  - 2. Start practices if coach is not present
  - 3. Represent your team on the court
  - 4. Be willing to listen to team member's ideas

5. Do all the things listed for team members

B. Team Members

1. **ENCOURAGE** your captains and each other
2. Be willing to help out when asked
3. Be at practices and games on time
4. Check with the captains or coaches if unsure about any game or practice information.

**IX. GROOMING AND HEALTH**

- A. Bathe daily - - - sports is strenuous, **USE DEODORANT**
- B. Keep nails clean and short
- C. Maintain your health with a healthy diet of good food and exercise
- D. Drink plenty of water
- E. Jumping rope, running, swimming, riding a bike, and practice are beneficial **ESPECIALLY ON SCHOOL BREAKS WHEN NO PRACTICE IS SCHEDULED.**

- These guidelines do not cover every situation. Each sport will receive guidelines for the specific sport.
- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION:** WHCS follows the guidelines set forth in Matthew 18: 15-17 as a form of conflict resolution. If a parent or athlete should have a problem with the coach, speak with the coach to discuss the problem. Most conflicts are resolved at this level. If unresolved after this meeting, an appointment should be set with the coach and the athletic director. If unresolved after this meeting, an appointment should be set with the coach, athletic director, and the administrator.
- **PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:** Our coaches and athletic directors are also held accountable for the conduct of our spectators. Because we are members of a Christian Conference, appropriate modest attire is required. Referees/coaches may not be challenged, and there will be no booing/heckling from the stands. Such conduct may result in being required to leave the gymnasium.

*Please be on time to pick your child up from practices and games. This is a matter of courtesy as our coaches have family responsibilities as well. The administrator will contact you if this becomes a problem, and it could be grounds for dismissal from the team.*

*Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2: 2-5*

**“THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURE OF HOW WELL I PLAY THE GAME IS HOW MUCH BETTER I MAKE MY TEAMMATES PLAY.”**

NBA Hall of Fame

Center Bill Russell