# HOUMA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

#### **Mission Statement**

Designed with a purpose, Fearfully and wonderfully made, We will pursue academic excellence And a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### **Vision Statement**

Houma Christian School is committed to the cultivation and intellectual development of all students in the pursuit of academic excellence, and values the integration of faith in Jesus Christ for the maturing of mind, body, and spirit.



# SCHOOL HANDBOOK 2018-2019

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A ministry of Living Word Church

## Houma Christian School Statement of Faith

- 1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. John 10:30; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
- 2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30
- 3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 10:33), in His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14), His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26), in His miracles (John 2:11), in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7), in His bodily resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:4), in His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19), and in His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelations 19:11).
- 4. We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation. Because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, man is justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace and through faith are we saved. John 3:16-21, 5:24; Romans 3:23, 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5
- 5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is able to live a Godly life, that the ministry and indwelling of the Holy Spirit is available for every believer, and is not a prerequisite to salvation. John 14:16; Acts 1:5-8; 2:2-4; 12:18.
- 6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:28-29
- 7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, no matter to which Bible-believing denomination a person belongs, ever-seeking, together, to become more and more in every way like Christ who is the head of His body, the church. Ephesians 4:16
- 8. We believe in the biblical principles of marriage and family life. 1 Corinthians 7:1-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Ephesians 5:22-23; Hebrews 13:4; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Genesis 1:27

#### STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Houma Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to or made available to its students. Houma Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, athletic and other school-administered programs. Houma Christian School is a part of the ministry of Living Word Church, a non-denominational Christian Church dedicated to the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Admission to Houma Christian School is not now and will never be solely based on membership in or participation in the ministry of Living Word Church.

Houma Christian School has been established to provide an academically excellent Christian education undergirded by a faith in God and in the Bible. The curriculum and its related activities are planned to meet the needs of students desiring a quality education in a Christian environment.

A quality education is based on traditional, fundamental discipline with emphasis placed on sound habits, skills, and attitudes. The whole child must be considered by providing guidance in learning to respect and relate to others, to accept responsibility, to establish sound moral and spiritual values, and to use individual talents and abilities to the glory of God.

A Christian environment can be obtained by comprehensive spiritual training which will provide for the developing of full Christian personalities on the premises given by God in the Scriptures; teaching of all courses of study in a Christian atmosphere, giving a reason for being, based upon a Christian view of God and the world, establishing absolute values based on Scriptural principles, and preparing Christian young people for effective service to God and to the community.

Houma Christian School is staffed with an alert, well-trained Christian faculty who takes pleasure in teaching, displaying genuine interest in the students, and working in harmony with each other. Students are provided an avenue of participation collectively under the leadership of a student council and individually through freedom to offer suggestions for the improvement of any program. The administration works creatively and professionally with both groups, recognizing that the faculty is members of the professional team, that students are most directly involved in their own development, and that all prosper most effectively in a harmonious relationship in which all share responsibility for the successful culmination of the school's program.

Houma Christian School is dedicated to the fullest possible development of each student committed to its care by striving to provide opportunities whereby the student can develop his or her individual potential. Houma Christian School aspires to help each student establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, cultivate a loyalty to democratic principles, develop a well-integrated personality that is spiritually alert, morally sound, emotionally and intellectually mature.

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## **Academic Policies**

Houma Christian School is a state approved institution. Houma Christian School follows all regulations per the Louisiana Department of Education's Bulletin 741 for private schools.

#### Homework

- 1. Students are required to do their own homework. Homework is given to provide the student an opportunity to practice/study subject material.
- 2. All homework is subject to grading.
- 3. Homework assignments will not be given or will be limited on Wednesdays (elementary only). However, a teacher may give a test on Thursday.
- 4. Teachers grades K-6<sup>th</sup> will send test folders home once a week (Wednesdays) to be signed and returned to school.
- 5. High school tests will be made available for students to check out if needed.
- 6. Students who are caught sharing answers on a written homework assignment without permission of the assigning teacher will receive a '0' on the assignment. See page 19 for cheating and forgery consequences.
- 7. High School students who miss one or two days of school may call one of their classmates to receive the assignments for that day or check houmachristianschool.com.
- 8. On the second consecutive day of being absent, parents may call before 9:30 to pick up assignments from the school office at the end of the day.

#### Exams

Students in grades 9-12 will take a midterm and a final exam.

Students in grades 9-12 may be exempt from the midterm/final after meeting the following criteria:

- 1. Have completed and returned all homework for the course on time, taken all tests and completed all makeup work.
- 2. Have carried an "A" on each quarter.
- 3. Have no Saturday School referrals or suspensions.
- 4. Do not have excessive absences. Students should not have more than 5 unexcused absences per semester. Also, students should not have more than 10 excused absences per semester.
- \*\*Students in grades 7-8 will take a cumulative exam at finals for math, reading, and English. Students in grades 7-8 will not be exempt from exams.

#### **EXAM Make-Up**

\*\*It is imperative that students are present at school during midterm and/or final exams. Only illnesses and pre-approved emergency absences will be excused for make-up exams. If students purposely miss exam days for unacceptable reasons, they will receive an "F" on their exam.

## **Reports to Parents**

The school seeks to be in continuous contact with parents of students in order to keep the parents informed of the students' progress in the school program. Parental support is needed and valued; therefore, the school seeks to work closely with the home.

Every parent and student will receive an activation code to Houma Christian's online program, WebPams. WebPams is a communication tool for teachers, students, and parents and works in conjunction with the school's electronic grading system. Any and all correspondence is password protected in a secure site. Teachers may post assignments on houmachristianschool.com for students. However, that website is not the definitive source for assignments, and students are ultimately responsible for the assignments that are given in their classes.

Report cards are sent home 4 times a year. WebPams is the only grade book that Houma Christian School utilizes. Grades will be updated every two weeks in WebPams.

Report cards are printed on computer. These report cards are kept at home; however, report card envelopes are to be signed and returned to school. If the envelope is lost, a \$1 fee must be paid for a new one.

## **Grading System**

# <u>Grade point averages for Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and the Valedictorian Requirements are found on page 8-9.</u>

A = 100-93 S = Satisfactory (A/B)

B = 92-85 NI = Needs Improvement (C)

C = 84-75 U = Unsatisfactory (D/F)

D = 74-67

F = Below 67 (Denotes failing work)

A plus (+) or a minus (-) may be used to on the report card to indicate a strength or a weakness in the areas indicated by subheadings.

## **Honor Rolls**

Houma Christian School maintains the following Honor Rolls for each nine weeks:

- 1. "A" Honor Roll All "A's" in all subjects with no grade lower than an "A" in conduct (elementary).
- 2. "AB" Honor Roll All "A's" and "B's" in all subjects, with no grade lower than a "B" in conduct (elementary).

Note: Any student making a "C" in academics or a "C" in conduct will be disqualified from either of the honor rolls.

#### Students who display outstanding academic excellence will be recognized annually as follows:

**Faculty List** – To qualify for the Faculty List a student must have all "A's" & "B's" on the report card in academics and in conduct.

**Principal's List** – To qualify for the Principal's List a student must have all "A's" on the report card in academics and in conduct(This excludes midterm and final exam grades).

## **High School Classification Requirements**

- To be a sophomore (10th grade) 6 credits must be completed before the fall semester.
- To be a junior (11th grade) 12 credits must be completed before the fall semester.
- To be a senior (12th grade) 18 credits must be completed before the fall semester

High School students who fail more than one subject may forfeit their class placement.

#### **Promotion and Retention**

#### 1st - 3rd Grade:

In order to be promoted, students in grades 1 thru 3 must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Pass reading for the year (An F in the 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks will result in referral to administration for possible retention.)
- 2. Pass either math or language for the year
- 3. Meet expected minimum attendance requirements as described on page 13.

Note: A student who fails reading for the year cannot be promoted to the next grade.  $4^{th}$  -  $6^{th}$  Grade:

In order to be promoted, students in grades 4-6 must meet the following criteria:

Not fail two major subjects or one major and two minor subjects.

**Major subjects:** English, reading, math, science, social studies

**Minor subjects**: spelling, handwriting

Meet expected minimum attendance requirements as described on page 13.

#### 7th - 8th Grade:

In order to be promoted, students in grades 7-8 must meet the following criteria:

Not fail two major subjects or one major and two minor subjects.

Major subjects: English, reading, math, science, social studies

**Minor subjects**: physical education

Meet expected minimum attendance requirements as described on page 13.

Note: A quality point average of not less than 1, with a corresponding mark of absolute D, is required as a passing mark for the grading period.

## **Grade Point Average Amendments**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has amended the grade point average calculation for the TOPS award in the state of Louisiana. In response to this update, Houma Christian is updating its quality points awarded for different classes. Students who are enrolled in an honors class, advanced placement class, or participating in dual enrollment with a local college may earn more than a 4.0 for an A. The grading scales are listed below.

Regular Classes	Honors Classes	Advanced Placement and
		<b>Dual Enrollment Classes</b>
A - 4.0	A – 4.5	A – 5.0
B – 3.0	B – 3.5	B - 4.0
C – 2.0	C – 2.5	C – 3.0
D – 1.0	D – 1.5	D – 2.0
F - 0.0	F - 0.0	F - 0.0

## **HCS Valedictorian Requirements**

The Houma Christian School Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian will exemplify the virtues and characteristics that are embodied in our school mission statement and philosophy. While the valedictorians and salutatorian will demonstrate high academic standards, they will also model high moral and spiritual behavior that is in line with the very Godly principals that serve as the foundation from which our school resides. Below is a list of the requirements for Houma Christian School Valedictorian/Salutatorian:

#### Academic

- \*\* Must have the highest overall GPA upon graduation
- \*\* Must be enrolled in the highest core offering (honor track)
- \*\* Must take the following classes:
  - 1. AP Biology
  - 2. Calculus
  - 3. AP English

#### Character / Attitude

- \*\* Student admitted on Redemptive Policy during or after ninth grade will be ineligible.
- \*\* Student with more than one suspension on or after the eleventh grade will be ineligible.

## Leadership and Athletic Eligibility

Cheerleaders, team members, and leadership must maintain at least an overall 2.0 average in order to participate. Eligibility will be reviewed every report card. Any suspension may result in losing leadership positions. Habitual behavioral issues may result in the student being dismissed from selected sport and/or club or recommended expulsion. HCS will follow all eligibility guidelines from the LHSAA with regards to athletics. Students who are suspended will forfeit their leadership position and opportunities to be recognized on Homecoming and Prom Court.

## Make-Up Work

Students with absences will be allowed to make-up work within <u>three to five days</u> of student's return to school. Make-up tests in grades  $7^{th}$  -  $12^{th}$  will be completed on Thursday after school and/or study hall. If the student receives an incomplete on a report card, the work must be completed within <u>two weeks</u> from the end of the grading period or <u>the "I" will automatically become</u> an "F".

Teachers will assist students in making up work. Students are not permitted to miss regularly scheduled classes in order to make-up work.

\*\*Assignments at Houma Christian School are not an option. Students who do not complete their assignments will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Additional Academic Programs**

<u>Innovative Studies Program</u> is designed to provide opportunities for advanced students to excel. Students can earn advanced and college credit through dual enrollment at Fletcher Community College, Nicholls State University or any other college of choice. Houma Christian School does not endorse any specific dual enrollment plan but will offer assistance in enrolling students in dual enrollment if requested.

<u>Summer Skills Program</u> Houma Christian School offers the Warrior Summer Tutorial Program to help students close academic gaps in the areas of math and reading.

<u>Warrior Accommodation Program</u> The Warrior Accommodation Program (WAP) exists to provide minor accommodations to students in need. This program is ancillary and requires an additional fee. Students who qualify receive additional academic and testing accommodations as deemed necessary by the WAP team.

#### ARRIVALS AND DISMISSALS

High School students are expected to be at school prior to the first bell which rings at 7:25A.M. K4 and Elementary students must be at school before the first bell which rings at 8:00 A.M. High School students should not arrive at school before 7:05 A.M. (unless enrolled in before care) nor should they remain at school past 2:30 P.M. K4 and Elementary students may arrive at school no sooner than 7:30A.M. (unless enrolled in before care) nor should Elementary students remain at school after 3:15 P.M. (unless enrolled in after care). Provisions will be made for families with siblings in both elementary and high school.

Dismissals are as follows: High School 2:15, K4 (PK) - 2:30, K - 6<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 \*\*HCS will no longer provide after care for high school students (7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades).

Please, if at all possible, make arrangements for your child's ride home before the child comes to school in the morning. Write a note to the teacher making her aware of your child's riding arrangements. It is understood that sometimes <u>matters beyond your control</u> cause these plans to change. If this should happen please call the office as soon as possible and the message will be given to your child. Please note: Students will not be allowed to leave campus with anyone other than the people listed on the blue Emergency Card.

Any high school student remaining at school after 2:30 P.M. or any elementary student remaining at school after 3:15P.M. will automatically be sent to aftercare and required to pay for that day's care. Failure to pay could result in a child's dismissal from Houma Christian School. *Any student found in any other location to avoid after care will be fined and serve 1 day detention.* 

When HCS has a home game, practice or any after school activities, siblings of the students participating in the events are not allowed to stay after school. Parents must secure a ride home for them or they will be assigned to aftercare and charged a fee.

#### Late To School

High school students who arrive after 7:25 A.M. and elementary students who arrive after 8:00 A.M. are Late to School and need to be signed in by a parent or guardian (car pool driver). Students will not be allowed to sign themselves in (only student drivers sign themselves in). *There will be a \$25.00 fine on the fourth, eighth, and every fourth subsequent late arrival.* 

The following consequences will be issued for late arrivals:

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: warning, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Friday detention, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Saturday School, and 13<sup>th</sup>: Stay-Out Letter with until parent conference is held with administration.

<u>Continued late arrivals could result in dismissal of the student from Houma Christian School.</u> <u>These will accumulate for the school year.</u>

### **Student Drivers**

Student drivers have the same privileges and responsibilities as adult drivers. Driving is a privilege for students at HCS. Habitual late arrivals could result in the student not being allowed to drive to school.

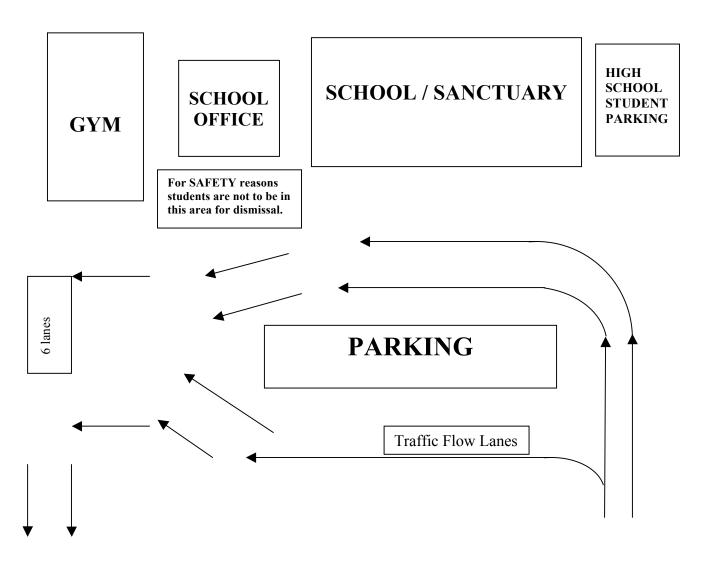
The school will require that a student driver who needs to check out during school hours will be required to have written permission from their parent/guardian.

## **ARRIVAL RULES AND MAP**

- 1. All students are to be dropped off in front of the gym until 8:00. After 8:00 students must check in at the office before proceeding to class.
- 2. Licensed high school students may drive their own vehicle to school.

#### **DISMISSAL RULES AND MAP**

- 1. Remain in vehicles.
- 2. Form 6 lines to pick up students after school. Elementary parents will be allowed to line up after 2:45. Parents of high school students with elementary siblings need to line up after 2:45.
- 3. Parents cannot congregate in hallways waiting for dismissal bell in the afternoon. Parents, please refrain from parent/teacher discussions at pick-up.
- 4. Elementary parents, you may **not** check your child out after 2:30.
- 5. High School parents, you may **not** check your child out after 1:45.
- 6. No eating or drinking before school in the gym or under the canopy after school.
- 7. Please do not block traffic flow during dismissal. Pull up all the way to the front of the lane before loading child.
- 8. New state law states that drivers cannot be on the phone in school zones unless calling in emergency.



## **ATTENDANCE**

All HCS students, staff and support personnel will be issued photo identification (ID) cards. Student ID cards are also a season pass into every HCS sport home game with the exception of football games and playoff games.

Replacement cards will cost \$5.00. Additionally, for safety and accurate accountability reasons other ID card usage may be instituted, as applicable, during the school year.

## **Policies Concerning Absences**

Attendance at school provides a student with the <u>classroom experience</u>. This experience is composed of participation in class activities and direct instruction conducted by the classroom teacher. The instructional program designed by each teacher is a progressive and sequential experience. It is generally impossible for that experience to be "made up." For this reason, failure of a student to attend class will be seen as a serious problem.

Failure of a student to attend school will be considered an absence. Each absence will be considered <u>excused or unexcused</u>. An *excused absence* is an absence due to a personal illness while under a doctor's care. These excuses must be turned in within <u>3 days</u> of students return or the absence will become an unexcused absence. When a student will be out of school for any reason, and the time of the absence is known in advance, it is the responsibility of the parents to contact the principal or teachers and to secure the class assignments for that period of time.

The authority for determining the legitimacy of an absence rests with the school administration. After 8 <u>unexcused</u> absences, the Child Welfare and Attendance office will be notified that the student is truant. The child may forfeit all course work done during the term. **Louisiana requires students to attend school 167 days in order to receive course credit.** An attendance hearing must be conducted for any student at HCS having 8 unexcused absences.

Upon returning to school after an absence, the student is to bring a signed note from the parent detailing the date and cause of absence. The teacher will ensure that the note is properly filed.

Regular and punctual attendance on the part of all students is necessary for success in school. An absence is considered "excused" if it involves illness as documented by a physician or a death in the immediate family. Notes for excused absences must be sent to the teacher on the day the student returns to school. Parents are asked to schedule doctor and dental appointments so as not to conflict with class time.

Failure to follow the attendance policy of the school may jeopardize the student's grades or subject the student to punitive action by the Child Welfare and Attendance Office.

## **College Visits**

Seniors are allowed two college visitation days during the school year. Students must follow the procedure below in order to be approved for a college visit.

- A. The senior student brings a note from his/her parent requesting a college day. The note must be approved by the administration.
- B. The senior student must provide verification of the visit from the university upon his/her return to school.

## **Truancy**

Truancy is an excessive number of unexcused absences with or without the knowledge and consent of parents and/or school staff. Truancy will result in the student being reported to the District Attorney's Office.

### **Student Check Out**

Students will **NOT** be allowed to check out for lunch.

Parents <u>must</u> come to the office to check out a student. <u>Parents are not allowed to go directly to the</u> <u>classroom to check out their child.</u> Please do not call the office and request the student be called out of class to be waiting to be picked up.

If the student is to be checked out by someone other than an authorized person on the Emergency Card, a note of consent must be given to the office before the student will be allowed to leave. This is to ensure your child's safety.

## **Cutting Class**

Definition of the word CUT: choosing not to attend any class, classes, or school activity while on campus without proper permission. (The student parking lot is considered off campus.) Students will be suspended from school for cutting.

## School Rules- Elementary Students K-6th grade

## Young Warriors are:

Safe Respectful Responsible Life Long Followers of Christ

Be Safe	Keep your hands and feet to yourself Follow all school procedures
Be Respectful	Wait your turn Listen to adult directions Use kind words Clean up after vourself
Be Responsible	Wear your uniform correctly Leave novelty items and toys at home Arrive on time to all events Complete assignments
Be Life Long Followers of Christ	Follow the school rules and remind others to follow them. Leave all areas better than you found them

## Rules on Duty and Recess

Be Safe	Walk on the cement Keep your hands and feet to yourself Remain in your assigned play area Follow all school procedures
Be Respectful	Follow adult directions Play fairly and allow others to play Use kind words Follow game rules
Be Responsible	Return play equipment Put litter in the trash cans Use restrooms at recess
Be Life Long Followers of Christ	Invite others to play- be a friend Solve problems with words Get adult help for big problems Be open to playing different ways

### **Lunch Room Rules**

Be Safe	Follow procedures in the lunch line Ask permission to leave the table Keep the floor and table clean
Be Respectful	Follow adult directions Communicate in a quiet voice Use kind words
Be Responsible	Clean up your area Stay in the seating arrangement as assigned by your teacher Ask permission to leave the table
Be Life Long Followers of Christ	Look for ways you can help others Use good table manners Use appropriate language at the table

## High School Rules- 7th- 12th grades

#### Warriors:

Worship God Always, Respecting themselves and others, being Responsible, recognizing the Individual gifts of Others, Resulting in a life of Service

Worship God Always,	Honor the Lord in all you do Whatever task has been placed before you, do it with all of your might as to give glory to God
Respecting themselves and others,	Use encouraging words Follow school procedures
being Responsible,	Be Safe Be Prepared Be Honest
recognizing the Individual gifts of others	Listen to each other Share ideas Let everyone have a turn
Resulting in a life of Service	Serve one another Be a good steward of all that God has provided Represent Jesus at home, school, work, church, and play

## **Conduct**

## **Discipline**

Students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible citizens at all times. The students will show respect for the rights and property of others, and display attitudes and actions expected of Christian young ladies and gentlemen.

A disciplinary tracking form along with a schedule of consequences will be used to communicate with parents.

## **Bullying**

Biblical illustration of relationships: John 15:12-"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

<u>Purpose</u>: In an effort to instill biblical values and create a more loving environment, Houma Christian School has adopted this policy. From time to time, conflict can and will occur. Houma Christian School realizes that while bullying may occur, it is never acceptable. We seek to implement a clear framework for dealing with bullying incidents in order to protect our students and help the person doing the bullying to learn how to relate in a way that is aligned to biblical standards.

<u>Definition</u>: Bullying occurs when a person or group is intimidated, frightened, excluded or hurt by a pattern of behaviors directed at them by others. (Greg Griffiths, "Bullying in Schools-the hidden curriculum"

(2003)).

The following actions in an ongoing form may be forms of bullying:

- · Physical aggression including hitting, punching, kicking
- · Teasing or verbal abuse-including putdowns, insults, name calling or racial/sexual remarks
- · Intentional exclusion from activities or friendship groups
- The setting up of humiliating experiences
- · Damaging a person's property/possessions or taking them without permission
- · Threatening gestures, actions or words
- · Written/verbal/ electronic messages that contain threats, putdowns, gossip or slandering
- · Cyber bullying through Facebook or other electronic and social media means

Policy Statement: From time to time in a large community such as a school, conflict and offense can occur. As part of living in a sinful world, bullying can result when we don't always relate to others as we should or when people try to exert power and influence over others. Houma Christian School realizes that while bullying may occur, it is never acceptable and seeks to implement a clear framework for dealing with bullying incidents. The school's response to bullying is based on the pattern of relating to one another found in the Bible. God intended for us to live in a way that acknowledges differences and accepts others because we are all made in God's image. Our policy is based on the principle that bullying is "not OK at HCS." HCS recognizes that not all behaviors should be considered bullying or willful violation of this policy. Behaviors will be assessed by the teacher and/or administrator and addressed according to the procedures below.

#### **Procedures:**

- · All parties will be spoken to victim, bully and sufficient bystanders to establish the facts of the situation and to hold them accountable for their actions/inaction. Generally all parties will be asked to give a verified account of what has happened with a view to understanding the whole picture.
- · All incidences are to be documented and written reports will be kept on the behavior.
- · All staff will be informed about and have access to the information recorded on all incidents so that they may be aware of any issues between students.
- $\cdot \ A cknowledgement \ of \ the \ allegation \ of \ bullying \ and \ assessment \ of \ student \ safety \ must \ take \ place \ within \ 1 \ school \ day \ of \ the \ report.$
- $\cdot$  Investigations into bullying allegations must be undertaken in a timely manner and should be carried out in such a way as to minimize the risk of escalation.
- $\cdot$  Parent(s) of victim and bully will be informed throughout the process and may be invited to be present in discussions. In some cases this may apply to parents of bystanders also.
- $\cdot$  All incidents of bullying will be followed up in writing to parents/caregivers of at least the victim(s) and bully.
- $\cdot$  Bullying incidents will be followed up and students monitored to ensure the incident is resolved satisfactorily. The school will take serious disciplinary action in cases of retaliation.
- · Discipline will follow the discipline policy.

#### Responsibilities

#### **STUDENTS**

- · Student should ask the offending student to stop.
- · Students being bullied should report it to staff, parents or another adult.
- · Students who are aware of bullying should report it to the teacher.
- · Students should take appropriate steps to discourage or prevent bullying.
- · Students should be willing to resolve bullying situations, employing forgiveness and some changes in behavior.

#### **PARENTS**

· Parents are encouraged to take what their children say seriously and to report bullying concerns to the teacher first.

- · Parents need to accept that the whole story may be quite complex and trust the school to resolve bullying matters.
- · Parents not satisfied with the action may refer to administrators if the need arises

#### **STAFF**

- · Non-teaching staff should refer all allegations of bullying to teacher and principal. (in that order)
- · Teaching staff should establish whether an alleged incident is isolated or an ongoing pattern of behavior. (bullying)
- · Teaching staff will refer to principal with allegations/incidences of bullying. This will be done in a timely manner (within 1 school day of report).
- · Bullying incidents will be followed up and students monitored to ensure the incident is resolved satisfactorily. The school will take serious disciplinary action in cases of retaliation.

## **Corporal Punishment**

When other methods of punishment have been tried and have not succeeded in bringing about the desired behavior change, the administration of the school may approve the use of corporal punishment. If necessary, the parent will be invited to come to the school to administer corporal punishment upon the request of the principal to avoid possible suspension.

All parents have entrusted their children to Houma Christian School Administration concerning discipline and have signed a contract stating their agreement with corporal punishment (paddling).

## **School Detention & Suspensions**

School or classroom discipline begins with verbal correction; punish work, infractions, etc. Sometimes, because of the continued misbehavior or because of the severity of the infraction the following steps will be taken:

- 1. **In School Detention** will be served during lunch or recess. May include physical training used as a deterrent.
- 2. **After School Detention** will be served Thursdays from 2:15 3:45. The student reports to the detention room to write punish work, etc.
- 3. **Saturday Detention** will be served from 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. The student reports to school in full uniform to do punitive work and/or indoor/outdoor maintenance, etc.
- 4. **Suspension -** The administrator has at all times the authority to suspend a student. The length of suspension will be 1-5 days as determined by the administrator. After serving a suspension, the student may be required to be counseled by school personnel. Assignments and tests missed during the suspension will be subject to dropping one letter grade. (Ex. If a student scores an "A" on an exam upon returning from a suspension, he/she will receive a "B".)

The following acts <u>may</u> result in suspension of the student:

Using cell phone on campus

Cursing

Cheating/ forgery

Fighting

Disrespect for authority

Continued, deliberate disobedience

Lying to a staff member

Harassment/bullying

**Inappropriate Social Media Posts** 

A serious breach of conduct either on or off campus

5. **Expulsion** - A student may be expelled from school for a serious breach of conduct or repeated problems with behavior or academic performances. In the case of such

action, the parent and the student may request an appeal before the school board.

The following acts could result in an expulsion of the student:

Possession of a weapon or instrument that could be used as a weapon

Involvement in a break-in or vandalism of any property

Possession, use, or sales of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages

Sexual misconduct

Felony violations of federal, state, or city law

Other behaviors that interrupt the instructional process

Further, the administration has a moral and legal responsibility to maintain suitable standards within the school, to assure the welfare and health of all students. It is essential that a pregnant student report her pregnancy to the administration as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed by any type of confirmation.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as setting forth the exclusive use of suspension or termination for misconduct. The use of suspension or termination is delegated to the principal for use at his professional discretion to deter misbehavior. Students are held to a high moral code both in school and outside of school and may be disciplined for inappropriate behavior outside of school premises and operating hours.

## Redemptive Discipline Policy Houma Christian School

In accordance with the mission statement of Houma Christian School to integrate the values of Christ throughout the student's personal and educational, process, HCS will incorporate an innovative process called "Redemptive Discipline" (RD).

Redemptive Discipline seeks to demonstrate a degree of compassion and mercy towards students whose actions are of a more serious nature, while also fostering accountability and personal responsibility for one's actions.

HCS reserves the right to evaluate situations on an **individual basis**. These situations include, but are not limited to: sexual activity, pornography, use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs; inappropriate material on public internet (social) websites such as Facebook, Snapchat, etc... **RD will be considered only if both student and parent show a contrite heart and a willingness to comply with the guidelines set forth in the RD policy**.

Following is a list of possible expectations for continued enrollment at HCS:

- The student is willing to make a public confession of repentance.
- The student and parents are willing to meet with the pastoral counsel on a scheduled basis.
- The student is willing to meet with HCS staff member(s) for specific scripture reading, journaling, and accountability.
- The parents are cooperative with HCS and supportive of its expectations.
- The student commits to abstain from communication which "glorifies" the offending act.
- The student is willing to undergo necessary random testing until otherwise notified.
- The student and parent agree to home-school for a period of time in which the student completes lessons assigned by HCS and graded for credits.
- Parents agree to pay additional fees which may be incurred from any of the above.
- The student and parents grant permission to HCS to address the issue publicly when necessary.
- The student and parents are willing to accept certain limitations regarding school activities as deemed appropriate by HCS administration.

Redemptive Discipline is an alternative to the policy of immediate termination. However, termination may still occur if the student and/or parents fail to meet requirements set forth in the RD contract or if deemed necessary by the HCS school board.

#### The procedure will be as follows:

- First, the normal disciplinary measures will be followed as per the administrative office.
- Second, if requested, the School Board Discipline Committee will meet to gather information and hear an appeal from the student and parent(s).
- Third, a vote will be taken to determine if Redemptive Discipline will be used.
- Finally, if approved, an individualized contract will be signed by the student and parent(s).

## Cheating / Forgery/ Plagiarism

Cheating, forgery, and plagiarism are serious offenses. It involves taking information from another source and presenting it as one's own information. Thus, it involves both the components of stealing and lying. Teachers are required to take precautions in terms of test security and the structure to the classroom testing environment in order to protect students from unnecessary temptation. Students should always be reminded by the teacher of the consequences of cheating. Cheating is defined as copying homework, handing in another's work, plagiarism in research papers and compositions, and unauthorized assistance on tests or quizzes. Forgery is lying about a parent's knowledge of grades, discipline forms, or assignments.

If it is determined that a student has plagiarized and/or cheated on a test on major writing assignment(s), the following actions will be taken:

- 1. The student will receive a 40-F on the assignment for the first offense. The student will receive a 0-F on assignments for the second offense.
- 2. The parents will be called by the administration.
- 3. If the student holds any sort of leadership position in a club, class, or is an athlete or cheerleader, the student may lose that position, but not removed from the club or team. Cheating is a violation of honor and leadership is a matter of honor.
- 4. Students caught cheating or forging will incur the following penalties:

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4<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> offense - 1 day suspension; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - 2 day suspension; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - recommended expulsion
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If it is determined that a student has plagiarized and/or cheated on a quiz or minor writing assignments the following actions will be taken:

- 1. The student will receive an "F" on assignment.
- 2. The parents will be called.
- 3. Students caught cheating, forging, or plagiarizing on a quiz or minor writing assignments will incur the following penalties:

7th - 12<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> offense - Saturday School 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - Suspension

## **HCS K4 UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

Uniforms and Outerwear must be purchased from Schooltime or Jake's.

#### **GIRLS**

- 1. **Pre-K Smock:** Plaid with HCS log on the white, Peter Pan collar. Length must be mid-knee when standing up. Shorts must be worn under jumpers.
- 2. Socks: Gray, navy, black or white, solid color, CREW socks only (No ankle or no-show socks)\*\*\*No LOGOS
- 3. **Tights:** Black or white \*\*NO LEGGINGS
- **4. Shoes:** Black, navy, gray or white. TENNIS SHOE with non-marking soles, VELCRO or ELASTIC closures only. NO lace ups or high tops. MUST BE 100% SCHOOL COLORS

#### **BOYS**

- 1. Pants: Navy ELASTIC WAIST ONLY
- 2. Walk-Shorts: Navy ELASTIC WAIST ONLY
- 3. Knit Shirts: Gray long sleeve or short sleeve, with HCS logo on left chest
- 4. **Socks:** Black or white CREW socks only (No ankle or no-show socks)\*\*\* NO LOGOS
- **5. Shoes:** Black, navy, gray or white TENNIS SHOE with non-marking soles. VELCRO or ELASTIC closures only. NO lace ups or high tops. **MUST BE 100% SCHOOL COLORS**

#### **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

SWEATERS: Must be purchased at Schooltime or Jake's

**SWEATSHIRTS:** Sweatshirts, (hoodies), with the HCS logo, will be sold at school. No other sweatshirts will be allowed. Sweatshirts must be worn over a uniform shirt.

JACKETS/COATS: Must be purchased at Schooltime or Jake's.

## **HCS ELEMENTARY K5-6th UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

Uniforms and Outerwear must be purchased from Schooltime or Jake's. Every article of the uniform must have a logo with the exception of the girls plaid.

#### **GIRLS** (Skirts, Pants, and Shorts must be worn at the natural waistline).

- 1. **JUMPER:** K5-3<sup>rd</sup> only plaid jumper (Length: The jumper must be mid-knee when standing up)
- 2. SKIRT: 4th -6th only plaid skirt (Length: The skirt must be mid-knee when standing up)
- **3. BLOUSE:** K-3<sup>rd</sup> white sport collar or oxford style
  - 4th -6th must wear oxford style only
- **4. PANTS:** navy, pleated or flat front
- **5. WALKING SHORTS:** plaid or navy (Length: 4 inches from the floor when kneeling)
- 6. **KNIT SHIRTS:** white worn with shorts or pants navy shirts may be worn with plaid shorts only Knit shirts are to be worn with pants and shorts only, not with jumpers or skirts.
- 7. Undergarment shorts should be worn under all jumper/skirts for all grades
  Girls Winter Wear: During winter months, girls may wear solid white, navy, gray, or black tights. NO LEGGINGS

#### **BOYS** (Pants, and Shorts must be worn at the natural waistline).

- 1. PANTS: gray or navy
- 2. **SHIRTS:** choice of white oxford or knit (white or navy) navy shirts may be worn with gray pants or shorts only.
- 3. WALK-SHORTS: gray or navy

SOCKS: Pre K-6<sup>th</sup> Girls / Gray, navy, black, or white, solid color, CREW socks only (No ankle or no-show socks)\*\*\*No LOGOS

**Boys** - \*\*Solid white or black crew socks only\*\* NO **LOGOS** (No ankle or no-show socks)

**BELTS:** Mandatory for boys and girls - must be \*\*SOLID (no stripes, jewels, studs, etc.) navy, black, or brown leather, cloth or elastic styles - must be worn with all pants or shorts (with the exception of the girl's plaid shorts)

SHOES: Kindergarten – Must wear Velcro tennis shoe. 1st - 6th Girls/Boys - black, navy blue, gray or white lace style, tennis shoe with non- marking soles. NO HIGH-TOPS Velcro is okay. \*\* Must be 100% school colors.

## HCS 7th - 12th UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

#### **GIRLS**

- 1. **SKIRT:** plaid skirt- (Length: The skirt must be mid-knee when standing up)
- **2. BLOUSE:** white oxford.

SOCKS: Gray, navy, white or black and must be clearly over ankles. Crew socks only (No ankle or no-show socks)

Girls Winter Wear: During winter months, girls may wear solid white, navy, gray, or black tights. NO LEGGINGS

SHOES: HCS has acquired a special contract with Shoe Carnival in Houma. They have assured us that they will have all the acceptable shoes for HCS in stock. Only these shoes will be allowed!

#### **BOYS**

- 1. PANTS: gray only Must be worn at the natural waistline.
- 2. SHIRTS: white oxford

BELTS Mandatory - must be \*\*SOLID leather black or brown NO ORNAMENTAL BELT BUCKLES

**SOCKS:** White or black crew socks only. NO LOGOS (No ankle or no-show socks)

SHOES: HCS has acquired a special contract with Shoe Carnival in Houma. They have assured us that they will have all the acceptable shoes for HCS in stock. Only these shoes will be allowed!

<u>P.E. UNIFORMS</u>: High School Boys and Girls P.E. uniforms will be navy shorts and gray shirts with logo. Navy sweatpants with logo are optional for winter. <u>P.E. uniforms are purchased through the athletic department.</u>

#### **OPTIONAL ITEMS** (Elementary and High School)

SWEATERS: Must be purchased at Schooltime or Jake's

**SWEATSHIRTS:** Sweatshirts (hoodies) with the HCS logo will be sold at School. No other sweatshirts will be allowed. Sweatshirts must be worn as an over - garment over a uniform shirt.

JACKETS/COATS: Must be purchased at Schooltime or Jake's

**Extreme Cold Days:** On extremely cold days only (32 degrees Fahrenheit or below), students may wear heavier outerwear that is not purchased at Schooltime or Jake's.

## **Dress Standards**

Uniforms shall be worn by all students of HCS. The uniforms shall be approved by the administration and shall be worn in accordance with rules established.

Girls will be required to closely observe the regulation governing skirt lengths. The skirt must touch the floor while kneeling; the back of the skirt must touch the bend of the knee. Walking shorts must be no shorter than 4 inches from the floor when kneeling. HCS reserves the right to send a student home if this length is continually violated.

All students are to wear uniforms presenting a neat appearance at all times. Personal grooming is an important aspect of school life.

In addition, the following rules shall be in effect:

- 1. No cut, slit in hem, or holes in knees of pants.
- 2. Shirts for school typically are knit pullovers or cotton button-downs with collars. Shirts must be worn tucked in trousers or skirts at all times. **UNDERSHIRTS, T-SHIRTS** (solid white only).
- 3. Students are not to wear sunglasses, hats, caps, or sweat bands.
- 4. Regulations regarding haircuts, jewelry, makeup, etc. are as follows:
  - a. Earrings: Earrings are to be worn by **girls only** and should match. Girls are allowed to wear only one pair (one earring per ear) of earrings at a time **in the ear lobe only**. Oversized

- jewelry is not permitted to be worn.
- b. Make-up: Make-up may be worn by girls in the 7th through 12th grade. It should not be excessive as we want the natural beauty of our girls to show.
- c. No facial hair is allowed. Male students who come to school with facial hair will be given infraction. Parents will be called if this problem continues.
- d. No wraps or scarves on head
- 5. Appropriate dress
  - a. No crop tops, bare midriffs, short shorts, tank tops, nor tight fitting clothes will be allowed on school property or at school functions on or off campus.
  - b. Appropriate dress also applies to parents and visitors to HCS.
- 6. Skirts, dresses, and evening apparel worn at school events should be modest and no shorter than 4" above the knees. \* **Disciplinary action will be taken when student returns to school.**

#### **Tattoos**

Tattoos are NOT ALLOWED.

#### Hair

Elementary K- $6^{th}$  Boys- "Clean Cut"- hair must be above the eyebrows, above the ears and off of the shirt collar. No ponytails, braids, etc.

**High School Boys 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-** Boys' hair cannot be lower than the eyebrow. Also, hair may not be longer than mid-ear or touch the collar. It must be neatly groomed at all times. Sideburns must be no lower than the ear lobe. No pony tails, braids, etc. No flips or mop-heads are allowed. Height of hair will fall under maintenance. Mohawk, wedge, uneven cuts, excessive Afro, braids, fade lines, layered hair, shaved head, and spiked hair are examples of unconventional hairstyles that are not allowed.

#### Girls and Boys:

- (a.) **Elementary students grades K- 6th** are not allowed to dye their hair.
- (b.) **High school students' grades 7<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>** that dye their hair must dye it a natural hair color. No extreme contrasting colors. All hair color is subject to the approval of the administration.

## Fingernail Polish

- 1. Students are not allowed to bring fingernail polish to school.
- 2. Girl students are allowed to wear fingernail polish in good taste only, as determined by the administration.
- 3. Failure to comply with the above policy may result in a \$25 administrative fine and will lose Fingernail Polish Privileges.

## **Physical Education**

- 1. During P.E. classes, high school students must wear regulation shorts, shirt, and socks. Students may wear any tennis shoe as long as it's not offensive. Jogging <u>uniforms</u> may be worn during the winter. Uniforms are to be purchased from the Athletic Department at HCS.
- 2. Students who fail to dress out for P.E. will be penalized academically.

#### **Formal Dress Rules**

### These rules apply to all students from HCS or other schools.

- 1. Strapless dresses must come up high on your chest, fit close to the chest, and show no cleavage. If it has a V-neck, the "v" must not go lower than 3 inches below the tracheotomy hole.
  - a. This can be fixed with a piece of fabric and a sewing machine.
  - b. If it doesn't fit to the chest, use body tape.
  - c. If it doesn't stay up without tugging on it, sew straps on it.

- 2. All dresses must have backs that go up to the shoulder blades.
  - a. If backs are lace-up, fabric must be sewn in to cover it up.
  - b. No skin may show around the middle, front, back or sides.
  - c. Fabric may be sewn to fix this problem also.
  - d. Halters are allowed if the back comes to the shoulder blades, no cleavage may show, and the V-neck rule above applies.
- 3. Slits in dresses must not be higher than mid-thigh, when seated. Stitch it up if it is too high.
- 4. For dresses with uneven hem lines, the short side must be regulation length. (To the knees) No solution to this problem. You might want to find another dress!
- 5. Absolutely no cleavage showing.
- 6. Dresses that are not floor length must come at least to the knees.

#### There will be someone posted outside the door to monitor dress problems.

You may be asked to wear a jacket or sweater if inappropriately dressed. Don't ruin your special night by breaking the rules!

## Fun Day and Field Trip Standards

On Elementary Fun Day students may wear shorts that are no shorter than 2 inches above the knee when kneeling.

On field trips, dress will be determined based on the nature of the field trip. Administration will approve any deviation from the standard uniform upon approval of a field trip. This information will be conveyed to students on the permission slip.

## **Warrior Day**

#### **Dress Down Expectations**

All Houma Christian School students will have the option to dress down each Friday (Warrior Day). Students may pay \$1.00 and dress down in a warrior/spirit shirt with any uniform bottom or blue jeans. Students must adhere to the following if they choose to participate in Warrior Day:

- Wear any Warrior or spirit shirt purchased at Houma Christian School
- Wear blue jeans that are appropriate and not too tight. Pants should not have any holes. Only blue denim material allowed.
- Capri pants are not allowed
- Leggings and jeggings are <u>not</u> allowed
- Athletic shoes are acceptable as long as they are appropriate
- Boots of any kind are <u>not</u> acceptable
- All students may wear regulation uniform bottoms (pants, shorts, or skirts) with Spirit shirt.
- Students must wear school-colored socks on Warrior Day.(Ankle socks are allowed with jeans.)

### Lunch

Lunch times are as follows:

PK	10:25 - 10:55
K	10:30 - 11:00
1st-3rd	10:35 - 11:05
10th-12th	11:05 - 11:35
7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	11:35 - 12:05
4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	12:10 - 12:40

The HCS School Wellness Policy prohibits students from bringing fast foods into the school during lunch times. HCS will be following this policy. Students have the following options for lunch:

- 1. Order lunch from myschoolaccount.com
- 2. Bring lunch from home
- 3. Purchase food from snack line (on site)

Parents in grades PK-6 may join their child for lunch. There will be a specified area for parents to eat with their child.

Students will not be permitted to call home for lunch or lunch money.

Students in K4 - 6<sup>th</sup> grades will not be allowed to heat up food at school.

## **Medical**

# Medication: The school accepts no responsibility for the administering of medication in any form.

## **Medication Policy**

- 1. Students are not to bring any medication to the school office.

  Parents must make arrangements with the administration if an Epi-pen or inhaler is needed.

  If there are other critical needs, please schedule a conference with the administration so arrangements can be made to keep your child healthy and in school.
- 2. Parents will be permitted to come to school and administer medication to their children.
- 3. The school specifically forbids and accepts no responsibility for students administering medication to each other.
- 4. Over-the counter medications are NOT to be in the students' possession. Possession of medication at school may result in suspension/expulsion.

## **Medication Policy for Prescribed Drugs**

The parent must come to the school to administer all prescribed medication.

## **Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco**

#### HCS reserves the right to randomly drug test students and employees.

Total abstinence and absence (use or possession) from tobacco, alcoholic beverages, non- prescribed use of drugs and inhalant is expected of all students **at all times**. (Twenty-four (24) hours per day - seven (7) days per week.) Students taking medicine or prescribed drugs are to follow school written guidelines. (I Cor. 6:19, 20; I Cor. 8:9) Any violation of this policy will be dealt with severely including suspension and possible expulsion, depending on circumstances.

## **Use of, Selling, or Distributing Drugs**

The Scripture gives us guidelines in this situation. Romans 13:1-7 instructs us to be subject to the civil authorities since they are ordained of God. In obedience to the Scripture, we have checked with the civil authorities and find that "crime is committed when drugs are sold or in some cases possessed." The <u>official position</u> for HCS is to report all such violations to the local law enforcement agencies as well as consider what action will be taken as an institution in reference to that student's future at HCS.

High School (7-12) Parents must sign a permission/consent form for drug-testing for students to attend HCS. These tests will be random or done under suspicion due to drug related behavior. If the results are positive, they will be verified. If verification returns positive, the student will be expelled from HCS.

HCS will randomly bring in Police Dogs for searches. HCS will report to authorities any parent who has knowledge of alcohol, tobacco, or drug usage while students in are in their charge.

## **Electronic Telecommunication Devices**

The use of cell phones, smart watches, and the possession of IPODs, etc. during school hours is strictly prohibited. (7th - 12th grades only)

The definition of a smart device is any device that has the ability to access data and actively communicate information such as but not limited to texts, messages, calls, or pictures. Once students arrive on campus, all smart devices MUST be kept in lockers and/or vehicles and turned off. Smart watches cannot be worn during instructional time for any reason and are encouraged to be left at home. If a device goes off during school hours by ringing, vibrating, or is visible in any manner, the device will be confiscated and will be returned to the parent/guardian and the student will receive an administrative disciplinary consequence such as but not limited to out of school suspension, Saturday school, or detention. Phones, smart watches, or any other device may be confiscated up to five days. All confiscated devices can and will be reviewed by administration. If confiscated devices show another student using a device during school hours, they will also be subjected to the same disciplinary action. Repeat violators of this policy may be recommended for expulsion from Houma Christian School.

Consequences will be issued based on individual infractions and will not be subjected and/or limited to the following as discretion is with the acting administrator.

discretion is with the defing deministrator.	1	
<u>Offense</u>	Consec	<u>quence</u>
Possession in class (not ringing or using)	Physical training	(1 <sup>st</sup> Offense)
	Saturday School	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense)
	1 day Suspension	(3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense)
Ringing, notifications sound, in class	Saturday School	(1 <sup>st</sup> Offense)
	1 day Suspension	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense)
	Lose Phone Privilege	(3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense)
Using Phone During School Hours on Campus/Texting, Talking, Taking Pictures, Social Media	1 day Suspension	(1 <sup>st</sup> Offense)
	3 day Suspension	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense)
	Expulsion	(3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense)

Habitual offenses for cell phone may result in loss of phone privileges and/or expulsion from Houma Christian School. Parents need to strongly consider whether their child is responsible enough to have a cell phone at school. Parents and students must sign form and return.

## **Racially Discriminatory Acts or Remarks**

No student shall undertake, participate in, or support any action, verbal or otherwise, which is intended to harm, injure, harass, or insult any other student on the grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin. Students violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline, and repeated violations shall be grounds for dismissal.

#### **Married Students**

Married students may not attend school at HCS. Students who marry are classified by law as adults and no longer answer to their parents or guardians. HCS, as an institution, will deal only with students who are still responsible to parents or guardians.

## **Emergency Closing**

If the school closes or delays the start of school on any day because of bad weather, the announcement will be will be sent via school-wide parent text through HCS webpams and/or website. Also, please check with local media sources for emergency announcements about school closures.

During hurricane season the policy of Houma Christian School <u>will</u> be the same as that of the Terrebonne Parish Public School system unless notified otherwise. Therefore, if an emergency closing of the Terrebonne Parish schools is necessary, Houma Christian School <u>will</u> close also. Please check with the local radio stations to ensure validity.

Please check the school website (houmachristianschool.com) for additional updates.

#### **Visitors**

The school is proud of its facilities and its programs; however, it is impossible to accommodate visitors to the building without prior planning. Non-student visitors to the campus must be cleared with the office prior to their being invited to school. Students are not allowed before, during, or after school to congregate with non-student visitors in the parking lot or anywhere else on campus.

- 1. A visitor is defined as a non HCS student or a non staff or faculty member of Houma Christian School or Living Word Church.
- 2. All visits (except parent lunch visits) require prior planning and approval through the school office.
- 3. After approval all visitors must sign in at the school office and must wear a Visitors Pass while on campus.

## **School Security**

Houma Christian School takes school security very seriously and has implemented a three-phase process by which to keep our facility safe. Additional items may be reviewed and added as administration sees fit.

- i. Having a full-time school resource officer on campus.
- ii. Securing a perimeter around the entire school with metal fencing.
- iii. Maintaining a video surveillance system that visually monitors the entire campus.
- iv. Training all staff members utilizing the ALICE training model. Additionally, HCS will become a certified ALICE school once staff attend onsite training and then implement procedure and protocol within the facility.

## **Miscellaneous**

#### **Parent / Teacher Communication**

All meetings with teachers must be scheduled. Please do not approach a teacher during or after school for impromptu meetings.

#### **Gum Rules**

- 1. Students are not allowed to have or chew gum at school.
- 2. Failure to comply with rule 1 above will result in the following:
  - a. First offense \$25.00 fine
  - b. Second offense \$25.00 fine and detention
  - c. Third offense \$25.00 fine and Saturday School

#### Lockers

- 1. All high school students will be charged a \$10.00 locker rental fee for the school year.
- 2. Once assigned a locker students may <u>not</u> change lockers.
- 3. Students are not allowed to permanently attach anything to his/her locker, either on the inside or the outside.
- 4. Please use care when using your lockers and report any broken parts to the office.

#### Media

All media (not limited to magazines, newspapers, books, etc.) with <u>material offensive to Jesus</u> will not be allowed on the school grounds. Disciplinary action will depend on content of magazine.

#### Withdrawals

- 1. Give the school a 24-hour notice.
- 2. Complete the Withdrawal Commitment Form.
- 3. Pay outstanding tuition, fines, or concessions fees.
- 4. Return all library books.
- Return all textbooks.

In signing the Withdrawal Commitment Form, you are relinquishing your enrollment at Houma Christian School, and the place will be filled by another applicant.

All of the above listed must be fulfilled before records or student transcripts will be sent to the transferring school.

#### **Issuance of Textbooks**

Students will be issued textbooks with the condition recorded at the beginning of each course. Students are responsible for their textbooks. Textbooks that are lost or damaged will be charged to the students' FACTS account. Report cards and or schedules will be held until all books are returned or paid for.

## **Parking Permit**

Parking permits are a privilege and not a right of students. Students who do not follow the HCS student-driving policies will not be allowed to drive to school.

**Cost**: \$15.00 per year

**Parking Permit:** A permit is to be secured on the rear view mirror.

Students are to apply for a parking permit through the office *before* driving on campus.

- 1. Permits must be on rearview mirror and visible at all times.
- 2. \$25.00 fines will be given to students who do not park in designated areas.

- 3. Permits may be revoked for the following reasons:
  - School discipline issues
  - Observed unsafe driving practices
  - Disregards parking policies
- 4. Seniors will be offered first, then juniors, then sophomores if there are available parking spots. Permits will be issued on a first come basis.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance is an important component of our daily schedule at HCS. We believe that God and patriotism are seamlessly connected and interwoven together. All students of Houma Christian School are required to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance at any school function or event. Failure to do so will result in a disciplinary consequence.