

## **Policies for Somerset Christian School Regarding Sexual Morality**

### **General School Policies**

#### **Affirmation of Core Beliefs Regarding Sexual Morality**

God created male and females, each with separate and unique gifts. Sexuality is a gift from God which must be used in keeping with His plan. God's plan grants that sexuality be expressed between 1 man and 1 woman within the holy state of matrimony. The scriptures affirm that any sexual expression apart from the marital union is immoral and sinful before God. Such practices include but are not limited to engaging in, viewing, or condoning pornography or acts homosexuality, transgender identity, or any sexual expression apart from the marriage union.

Members of the body of Christ are given the power of the Holy Spirit to help them conduct themselves as God intended. We are all required to call upon this power so as to refrain from engaging in or condoning immoral and/or indecent conduct.

Because of the school's belief that any sexual practices and lifestyles apart from that expressed in the marital union of 1 man and 1 woman are contrary to God's plan, and, in fact, inimical and antithetical to the mandates and teachings of the Christian scriptures regarding personal living and conduct (See for example: Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6-9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4), the school will not admit students who themselves or their immediate families nor retain employees or volunteers who engage or condone any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, fornication, polygamy, pornography, or any sexual expression apart from the marital union. In addition, the school will not make the facilities, property, or staff members available to any persons or organizations that engage in, espouse, or encourage others in such practices.

### **Employee and /or Volunteer Policies**

Any employee and/or volunteer who engages in conduct or who condones or supports sexual expression apart from God's plan will be given an opportunity to counsel and pray with school and/or church leadership about the situation. If the employee does not repent and correct the error(s), the employee will be terminated for misconduct. If the volunteer does not repent and correct their error, the volunteer will be removed from their role and/or participation.

### **Student/Family Policies**

The school reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student if the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home or the activities of the student are counter to or are in opposition to the biblical lifestyle the school teaches. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, participating in, supporting, or condoning homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, fornication, polygamy, pornography, or any sexual expression apart from the marriage union, or being otherwise unable to support the moral principles of the school.

Adopted May 5, 2014

## **STUDENT'S STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

This is to verify that we have received a copy of the Somerset Christian School Parent-Student Handbook upon enrollment. We have read and understand the rules outlined in the handbook and agree to obey those rules. If there are any questions, it is our responsibility to meet with the teacher and/or administrator and discuss them.

We understand that student's pictures/images in pictures and/or web video may be included in newspaper articles, event pictures, video of school performances, school advertisement, etc.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
RECORDS REVIEW POLICY**

Somerset Christian School maintains current year and cumulative record files for each student. The current year files are stored on our computer data base in the Infinite Campus formation System. Parents can access IC records through IC Parent Portal. There is a link from the Somerset Christian School Webpage at: [www.somersetchristiancom](http://www.somersetchristiancom).

Cumulative records are stored in the Somerset Christian School Records Room located in the school office. There is a Cumulative Record Folder for each student enrolled at the school. Student folders for those students currently enrolled are stored in the Active Student File. Folders for graduates of the school are in the Alumni File and student folders for students who have withdrawn prior to graduation are stored in the Withdrawn Student Files. Access to Cumulative Record Folders is restricted to the parent and student. To review your Cumulative Record Folder or your child's cumulative Record Folder, please call the office at 606-451-1600 and make an appointment for the review. The folder will be pulled and a conference room made available for you to review the contents. The inclusion of items in the folder can be discussed with the Principal to determine whether or not the item may be removed from the permanent record of the student.

For more information, as to see the school policy as it relates to parents, students and staff.

There are no legal ramifications for a staff member reporting suspected abuse or neglect as state law requires the reporting of all suspected abuse/neglect.

Adopted: 02/04/08

Revised: 03/26/09

**\*EDUCATION PAYS**

Kentucky high school students have a great opportunity to make their education pay with the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). KEES is an exciting new program administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). Students who try to get the most from high school by studying hard and making good grades can earn scholarships for Kentucky colleges or technical schools. The better students do in high school, the more they will earn toward college scholarships. Students who continue to make good grades in college can retain their scholarships. Students who complete their college studies or technical training have a better opportunity to achieve their career goals and improve their standard of living. Education really does pay! (\*Current law under legislative review, subject to changes).

Students will be eligible for scholarships based on their grade point average (GPA) for each year of high school (5 KEES courses per year required) and a bonus award based on their highest ACT score. Students must have an annual 2.5 or better GPA for the base amount of the scholarship. Scholarship amounts are listed below for GPA and ACT scores: (Money goes directly to the college/school of choice).

GPA	Amount	ACT	Amount
2.50	\$125.00	15	\$36.00
2.60	\$150.00	16	\$71.00
2.70	\$175.00	17	\$107.00
2.80	\$200.00	18	\$143.00
2.90	\$225.00	19	\$179.00
3.00	\$250.00	20	\$214.00
3.10	\$275.00	21	\$250.00
3.20	\$300.00	22	\$286.00
3.30	\$325.00	23	\$321.00
3.40	\$350.00	24	\$357.00
3.50	\$375.00	25	\$393.00
3.60	\$400.00	26	\$428.00
3.70	\$425.00	27	\$464.00
3.80	\$450.00	28 and up	\$500.00
3.90	\$475.00		
4.00	\$500.00		

# Somerset Christian School

## MISSION:

**“Helping students discover and develop their full potential in Christ.”**

## VISION:

**“Training a generation to change their world.”**

**2016 – 2017**

## PARENT – STUDENT HANDBOOK

**My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2,3)**

## INTRODUCTION

**This handbook is to be read and the Assurances Page at the beginning of the booklet must be signed by the student and parent and be returned to the school upon enrollment. Signatures indicate that you understand and will follow the rules presented in this booklet and that you will work to make the philosophy of Somerset Christian School, as outlined in this booklet, a reality in your lives.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Fall, 2016**

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

Somerset Christian School does not discriminate in hiring or enrollment practices on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin.

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## SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MERIT TRIP POLICY

**Merit**, (mer-it), noun. Excellence that deserves honor or reward.

Students in grades seven through twelve will be awarded the opportunity to participate in a field trip each semester based on merit. Eligibility to participate in the Merit Trip will be determined by the following criteria:

1. The student must pass all classes for the quarters.
2. The student cannot have any unexcused absences or more than one unexcused tardy for the quarter.
3. The student cannot have been assigned detention more than one time during the quarter.
4. The student cannot have been suspended during the semester.

Expenses for the Merit Trip will be equally divided among the students participating. Those students who choose not to participate or who are ineligible to participate shall be required to attend school in compliance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes related to compulsory school attendance.

*Adopted: 02/04/08*

## SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### **Abuse and Neglect Policy:**

**KRS 600.020** “Abused or neglected child” is a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm.

Somerset Christian School educates all faculty members during professional development to recognize and report child abuse or neglect. In Professional Development, staff members are made aware of the Faculty Handbook policies and procedures related to reporting abuse or neglect of a child. Abuse or neglect of a child by a staff member will be grounds for dismissal. A staff member suspected or abuse or neglect of a child will be reassigned duties away from children until the matter is resolved.

The law requires anyone who suspects abuse or neglect of a child to report it immediately. Staff members who suspect that a child is being abused or neglected must report the abuse/neglect directly to the Department for Social Services at 606-677-4086 or to the Kentucky Abuse Hotline at 1-800-752-6200. Inform the school administrator that a report has been filed.

In dealing with any suspected abusive situations, staff members must uphold the highest level of confidentiality and respond in a Biblical manner. Pray for all parties involved.

There are no legal ramifications for a staff member reporting suspected abuse or neglect as state law requires the reporting of all suspected abuse/neglect.

*Adopted: 02/04/08*

*Revised: 03/26/09*

3. Drive in a safe manner obeying all traffic rules and state laws. Use your seatbelt when in motion.
4. Exit car immediately upon arrival. Take the keys and lock the car. Do not return to the car during the day without office permission.
5. Maintain an exemplary discipline record (no suspensions, few detentions).
6. The state mandated speed limit on school property is 15 m.p.h.

**DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS PROCEDURES**

Please keep accounts current or paid in full. Somerset Christian School depends on the revenue generated by tuition to cover the operating expenses of the school. Delinquent accounts cause a funding imbalance that jeopardizes the work of the school and our accreditation.

If you find yourself **delinquent** in your payment (no payment made by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month or semester payment not received by due date), please contact the school administrator to discuss the issue. It is not our desire to turn anyone away due to unforeseen emergencies but we must remain financially solvent and cannot do that without the funds provided by tuition payments. **There will be a penalty for late payment (see financial section.)**

If your payment is **30 days delinquent**, you must make an appointment with the school administrator within **5 days** to develop a plan to make the payment and keep the student in school. If no appointment is made within the 5 day period, the student will be withdrawn from the school. At the meeting, a plan will be developed and signed by the parent/guardian and the school administrator. **Failure to comply** with the terms outlined in the plan will result in the student being withdrawn from the school.

In the event a student leaves the school with a delinquent account, no grades, credits, progress reports, records, or transcripts will be released until the balance on the account has been paid.

All accounts must be paid in full by the end of the school year.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

1. Work to resolve all issues with your child’s teacher. See Parent-Teacher Communication under the Parent Ministry heading.

An appeal forwarded to the board will be considered at a called meeting of board members. The board will hear the appeal and make a decision based on policy. The decision of the board is final.

2. The parent can appeal the ruling of the principal if it falls outside the guidelines established in the Parent-Student Handbook. A written appeal must be submitted to the principal within 5 working days of the decision. The appeal will be forwarded to the Board of Education Grievance Committee for review. The committee will decide whether to refer the appeal to the board for consideration or dismiss the appeal without further consideration. A decision to dismiss the appeal without consideration will be final.

**SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

**MERIT TRIP POLICY**

**Merit**, (mer-it), noun. Excellence that deserves honor or reward.

3. An appeal forwarded to the board will be considered at a called meeting of board members. The board will hear the appeal and make a decision based on policy. The decision of the board is final.

1. The student must pass all classes for the quarters. 29

2. The student cannot have any unexcused absences or more than one unexcused tardy for the quarter.

3. The student cannot have been assigned detention more than one time during the quarter.

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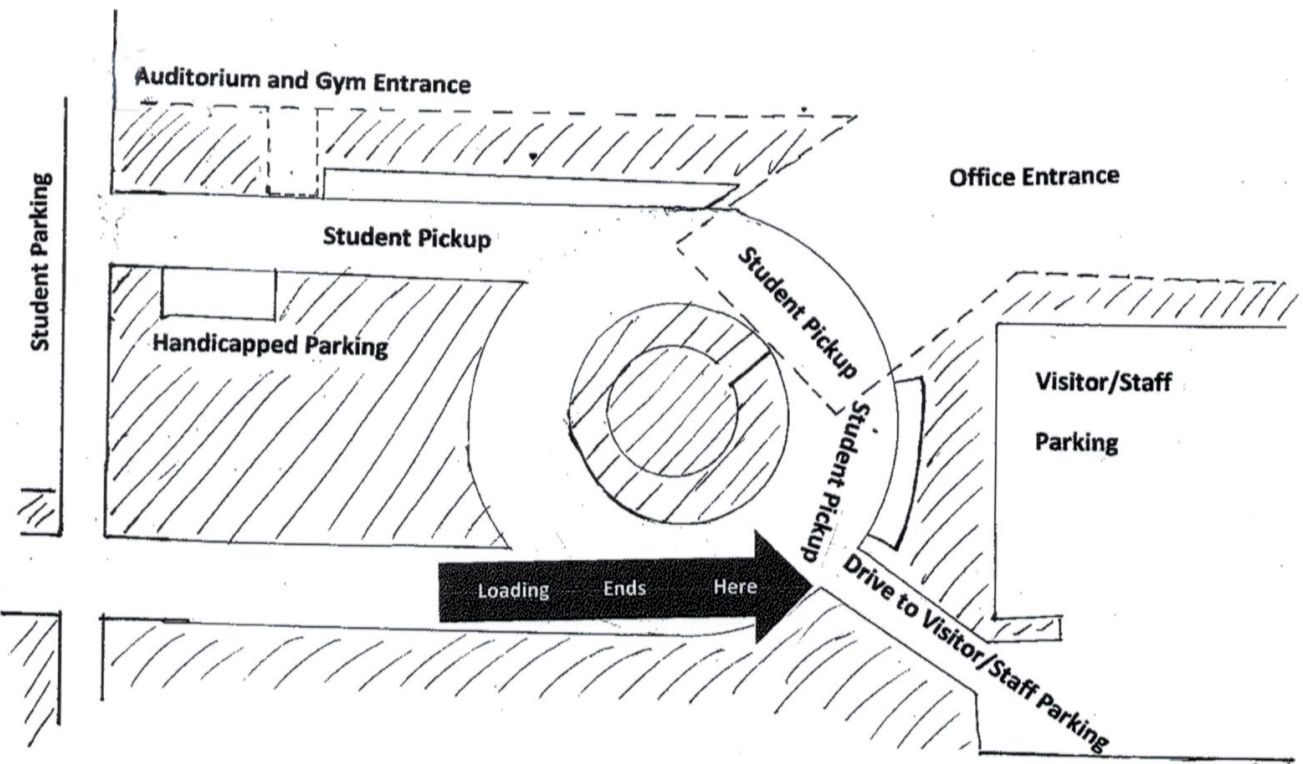
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Acknowledgment: "Portions of this handbook have been selected from *Parent/Student Handbook* by Dr. Dennis M. Demuth, DEL Publications."

**DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS PROCEDURES**

Please keep accounts current or paid in full. Somerset Christian School depends on the revenue generated by tuition to cover the operating expenses of the school. Delinquent accounts cause a funding imbalance that jeopardizes the work of the school and our accreditation.



**MORNING DROP-OFF PROCEDURE:**

1. Enter the circle drive by the Visitor and Staff Parking Lot and exit by the Student Parking Lot (between the soccer field and gym).
2. For safety sake, remind all passengers to exit the vehicle from the passenger side (curb side) of the vehicle.
3. Never pass a car that is unloading students in the circle drive.
4. Do not park your car in the circle drive and leave it. If you need to enter the building during student drop-off, park in the Visitor and Staff Parking Lot and enter through the side doors by the parking lot. Those doors are unlocked from 7:30-8:10 each morning.
5. Please advise all passengers to be prepared to exit the vehicle quickly upon arrival so other drivers are not stuck in line behind your vehicle.
6. Vehicles do not have to be under the drive-through to unload but can unload anywhere along the covered walkway.
7. Students are tardy if they are not in the classroom by 8:10. Classes begin at 8:10.

**SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY DURING DROP OFF AND PICK UP.**

periodically on textbooks, their ownership and condition. Report cards will be retained for unpaid book fines or textbooks that have not been turned in.

Housekeeping – Each student is expected to do his/her part in keeping the classrooms, hallways, playground, bathrooms and campus clean. Please help us keep our building and grounds as a Christian example to the community. This can be accomplished, if each of us will deposit our trash in the proper container and pick up paper, rather than walking over it. Trash containers are located in each classroom, as well as each bathroom.

Points to Remember

- If you open it, close it.
- If you unlock it, lock it.
- If you borrow it, return it.
- If you make a mess, clean it up.
- Be a blessing whenever you can.

- If you turn it on, turn it off.
- If you break it, repair it.
- If you use it, take care of it.
- If you move it, put it back.

**TECHNOLOGY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Generally, behavior including, but not limited to, the following is not permitted:

- Sending, displaying, or receiving obscene language and/or offensive messages or pictures.
- Sending chain mail.
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others.
- Damaging computer systems or computer networks.
- Violating copyright laws.
- Using another’s password.
- Trespassing in another user’s files, folders or work.
- Intentionally wasting limited resources.
- Using the network for commercial purposes.
- Students are not permitted to use the internet at school without adult supervision.
- Students are not to enter “chat rooms” or post message on other websites from SCS computers.

Violation of these rules and regulations may result in loss of access/usage of technology as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

**STUDENT DRIVERS**

Students who wish to drive to school at SCS must present a valid driver’s license, proof of automobile insurance, and obtain a parking permit in the school office.

To maintain driving privileges:



Injuries/Safety – Report any injury immediately to your teacher. Report any equipment or apparatus that may be dangerous. Do not try to move a fellow student with an injury, notify your teacher.

Insurance – If your child is involved in a school activity and requires medical treatment, please notify the office as soon as possible to proper insurance forms can be submitted.

Safety and emergency instruction manuals are in each classroom.

All staff members and regular volunteers must have state and FBI background checks.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Athletic/Field Trips – Field trips are planned throughout the school year. Parents are requested to assist in supervision and/or transportation. Students must turn in a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian before being allowed to attend. Students are required to wear seat belts when traveling in vehicles that provide them. High school Trip eligibility will be based on attendance, conduct and grades.

Car Pools – SCS will seek to assist parents by compiling a list of those interested in participating in car pools. If you are interested in being a part of a car pool, please contact the school office.

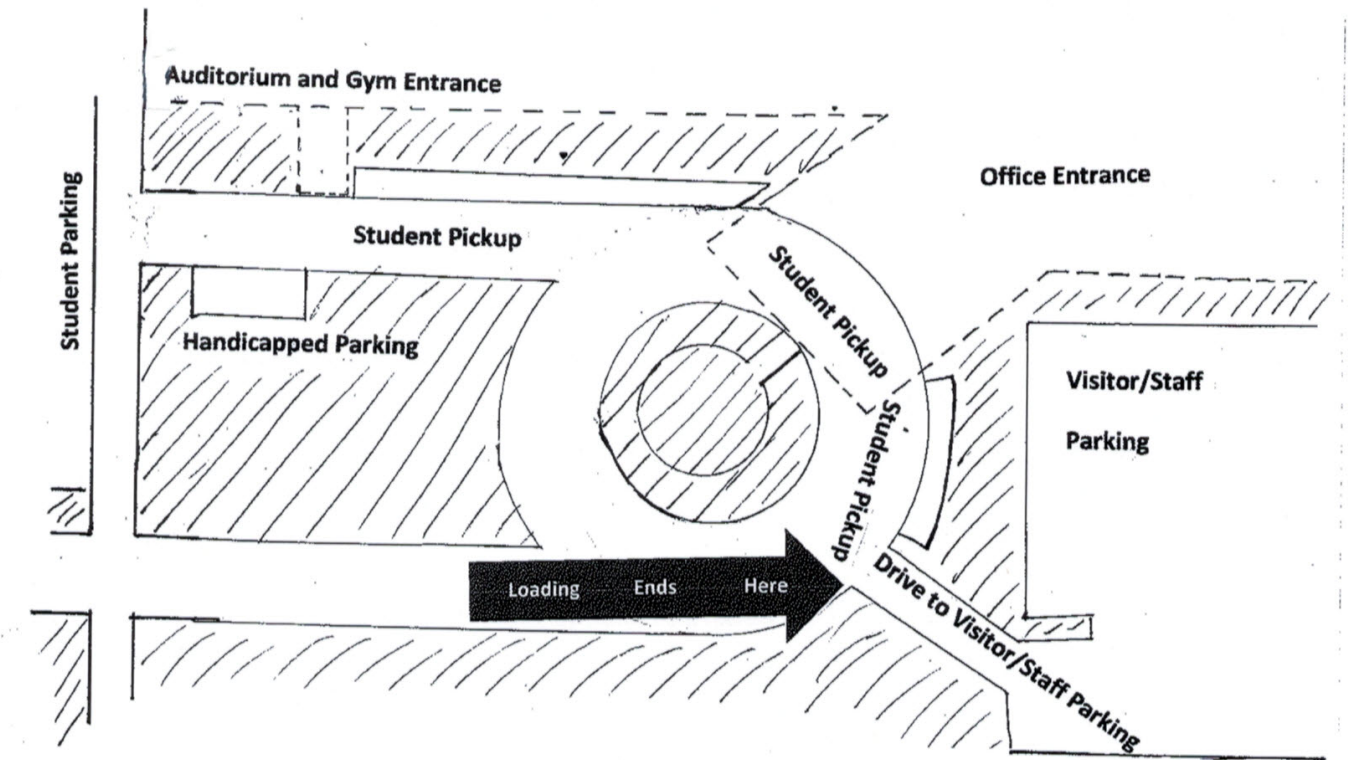
Student Drivers – Students who drive may drive to school and park in the designated student parking area. They are not to return to their cars during school hours. Driving privileges will be revoked for students who are chronically late or who enter or exit the parking lot in an unsafe manner. Students must maintain passing grades in every class each quarter and maintain excellent discipline or driving privileges on campus will be revoked. No student is to leave with another student in an automobile without written parental permission on file in the office.

Formal Attire Dress Code – Male students are to wear suits, sport coat with dress slacks, or tuxedo with a tie and dress shoes. No tennis shoes or no jeans of any color will be permitted.

Female students' are to wear dresses that are at least knee length, no slits above the knee. There must be no cleavage showing at all (front or sides). Strapless dresses will not be permitted (one strap is acceptable). Straps must be at least one inch wide and may not be clear. Sweetheart necklines are not permitted. The back of the dress can be no lower than the bottom of the shoulder blades. Sheer material is only allowed if it is in an area where no material would be allowed. If there is any questions about the dress, please have it approved by the appropriate female staff member. Modesty is the issue. Students not in compliance will not be admitted to the event, and the cost of the ticket will not be refunded. **All clothing must be knee length or longer.**

### MISCELLANEOUS

Textbooks – Students are responsible for all material checked out to them. Since students only pay a book rental fee, students are expected to cover all textbooks and to keep them in good repair. Students who lose books or mistreat books resulting in more than normal wear and tear (water damage, ripped covers, broken bindings, etc.) will be fined an appropriate replacement or repair cost. Writing is permitted only in workbooks as assigned by teachers. Teachers will check



#### Students in grades 6-12:

Will be dismissed through the Auditorium/Gym Entrance at 3:00 PM. Parents may park in the circle drive and wait or in the Student Parking Lot across from the gym. If you also have children in the lower grades, you will need to either wait in the circle drive or have your older child pick up the younger child from the teacher and escort the child to your car in the Student Parking Lot or you may park in the Student Parking lot and pick up the younger child yourself and return to the car.

#### Students in grades PreK-Grade 5:

Will be escorted out the Front Door (Office Entrance) at 3:00PM and will wait on the sidewalk until released by the teacher. Parents should park in the circle drive in front of the building. Preschool children must be signed out so parents will need to turn off the automobile and go to the teacher to sign the child out. Kindergarten - Grade 5 students will be released to go to their cars when all traffic has been stopped. **Parents of K-5 children remain in the vehicle.** We will load vehicles parked between the Auditorium Entrance and the drive to the Visitor/Staff Parking Lot. When all those cars have been loaded, students will step back from the curb and those vehicles will be released. **Do not move vehicles until directed to do so by staff.** The procedure will repeat until all students have been dismissed.

#### Handicapped Parking:

**Do not use handicapped spaces unless you have a handicapped permit or you are directed by staff to do so.**

## WELCOME TO SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

You have enrolled your child in a school that is committed to providing a distinctively Christian educational environment where curriculum, instruction, and methodology proceed from the holy Word of God. We are happy that you are a part of Somerset Christian School.

The policies and procedures contained in this handbook have been carefully prepared to be of great value in helping you and your child become an integral part of this school. All students are expected to know and follow the regulations in this handbook. These guidelines have been designed with their best interests in mind.

May God's blessings be yours for a successful and rewarding school year.

### PURPOSE

In response to the parental mandate laid out in Holy Scripture in general and in Deuteronomy 6 and Psalm 78 in particular, Somerset Christian School has been established to serve families by offering a distinctively Christian educational environment. The scripture clearly places the responsibility for training children in the "ways of the Lord" on the shoulders of the parents and family.

The ministry of Somerset Christian School exists to assist parents in carrying out their responsibilities by providing a caring, devoted, qualified staff committed to the purpose of training children in godly character and discipline, employing such curriculum and instructional materials as are consistent with those goals.

Somerset Christian School exists to serve families through a distinctively Christian education where curriculum, instruction and methodology are based on the eternal truth of God's Word. SCS is dedicated to helping each child discover and develop his or her full potential in Christ through biblical training, academic mastery, spiritual growth, and physical development. Through training and developing a Christian world view in each of our students, we endeavor to train a generation to change their world.

For parents looking for a return to God-centered education, searching for an education that teaches children to love God's Word, textbooks that teach honor and reverence to God, and educators who understand and teach the value of character and morality, Somerset Christian School exists to serve you and your family.

#### Pastor's Council

Dr. Harold Brown, Retired

Dr. French Harmon, First Baptist Church, Somerset

Pastor Mark Harrell, Victory Christian Fellowship

Rev. Gary Phelps, Oak Hill Baptist Church

#### School Administrator

Mr. John Hale

#### **Board Members:**

**Seth Atwell**

**Shane Baker**

**Joe Cox**

**Emily Golden**

**Tina Grippe**

**Laura Keith**

**Mike Noftsgar**

**Charles Sobieck**

**David Stephens**

#### **AHERA REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTIFICATION**

As required by the EPA and the Kentucky Division for Air Quality, Somerset Christian School maintains an Asbestos Management Plan. Our school is certified "Asbestos Free". Our Asbestos Management Plan is available for review in the school office during regular business hours.

I confess, "The Lord is the strength of my life," (Psalm 27:1) and "The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." (Daniel 11:32)

I confess, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4)

I confess, "With His stripes I am healed." (Isaiah 53:5) and Jesus "Himself took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses." (Matthew 8:17)

I confess, "I am casting all my cares upon Him who cares for me." (I Peter 5:7) therefore, I have no worries or frustrations.

I confess, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Corinthians 2:17) My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

I confess, "There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1) I am in Christ and free from condemnation.

We are encouraged and admonished in God's Word to grow in grace. A serious study of these confessions can help us more fully recognize what God is willing to do in our lives. The grace and love of God is adequate and sufficient for every need. Faith on our part is the key. Jesus said that all things are possible to those who believe. How foolish of us not to take God's promises seriously. He has not made these great promises to pacify His people; He has made them to satisfy His people! Praise His Name!

### LIBRARY

Somerset Christian School is continually expanding and upgrading its library. If you are interested in donating or purchasing books for the library please check with the librarian for preferred titles.

### SAFETY

In order to keep the school secure, all outside doors will be locked at all times with the exception of the main entrance to the office.

School Lockers – Lockers are the property of the school and subject to be searched.

Searches – Teachers and/or administrators may search any items brought onto the school campus, including student-driven automobiles, if there is reason to suspect items may be present which are not permitted or may be dangerous.

Fire/Disaster Drills – Fire drills are held periodically throughout the school year. When the alarm sounds, students must go quickly and quietly outside the building to the designated area. An announcement will be made by the principal when students may return to the building. It is necessary that all students be present and/or accounted for. Teachers will familiarize students with the proper exit route.



(sore throat, nausea, etc.) can only be honored for three days without a doctor's notice. A significant portion of the student's grade is based on participation.

### **PARENT MINISTRY**

We strongly encourage involvement of our parents in the activities of the school. If you are interested in serving or volunteering, please forward a note to the school office identifying the areas in which you would like to minister. It is expected that parents will be in attendance at all Parent-Teacher Fellowship nights. These events may consist of special teaching and training on topics important to parents. Room parents, class sponsors, and daily intercession are important responsibilities of out parent ministry.

Parent-Teacher Fellowship – The purpose of PTF is to serve the school and its families. Its desire is to foster a greater understanding of Christian education, to help parents in the rearing of their children, and to encourage them to be more loyal and committed to the school. The PTF sponsors a number of events each year designed to promote closer relationships and a sense of community among parents, teachers, and students including bi-monthly meetings, a fall festival, field day and “giving tree”.

Parent Teacher Communication – We encourage out staff and parents to utilize the Matthew 18 Principle. Most of your questions and concerns can be resolved by going directly to your child's teacher. If you have a question or challenge concerning your child's grades, homework, class behavior or activities, please contact the teacher first, before bringing it to the attention of the administrative staff.

Parent – Teacher Conferences Any parent who wishes to have a conference with a teacher is encouraged to do so. The parent may call the school for an appointment with the teacher. Should a conference with an administrator be desired, the same procedure should be followed. Please do not attempt to contact the teacher before or after school without an appointment. The school will schedule opportunities each semester for all parents to visit teachers.

Parental Visits – It is our desire to be of service to both parent and student. We welcome parents who wish to visit. We do require, however, that any visit to a classroom be scheduled in advance with both the teacher and school office. Parents are not allowed in the hallways, classrooms, etc., without first checking in with the office.

### Parent/Student/Teacher Scripture Confession List

I confess “I can”, for “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phillippians 4:13)

I confess, “My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phillippians 4:19)

I confess, “God has not given me the spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (II Timothy 1:7)

### **COVENANT WITH GOD**

**C** commitment  
**O** outreach  
**V** vision  
**E** excellence  
**N** never changing standards  
**A** authority  
**N** nobility  
**T** truthfulness

**W** wisdom  
**I** integrity  
**T** testimony  
**H** honesty

**G** goodness  
**O** overcoming love  
**D** devotion

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible authoritative Word of God. (II Timothy 3:16)

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (I John 5:4-6)

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (I Corinthians 15:3, I Peter 2:21-24, John 3:16, I Thessalonians 4:18; Revelation 21:20)

We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful humanity, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (Romans 3:21-30; Galatians 4:4-7)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 5:18)

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and lost; that they are saved unto the resurrection of life; and that they are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:24, 28, 29)

### **Pastor's Council**

The Pastor's Council maintains the specific operational and spiritual oversight of the school.

### **Board of Education**

The Board shall determine policies for the school and develop an operating budget based on tuition, fees, and gifts for that purpose.

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Somerset Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and other school administered programs.

However, Somerset Christian School reserves the right to use appropriate selection and dismissal criteria in keeping with its stated goals and objectives.

## ACADEMICS

“My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3

The primary objective and purpose of the school is to train its students in the Christian lifestyle, to provide a sound academic education, and to develop students with a Christian world view. We seek to train our students to evaluate knowledge in the light of biblical truth. Through the power of God working in each individual, Somerset Christian School expects its students to develop their full potential in every area.

### Goals of Christian Education

- To present every child complete in Christ.
- To educate the spirit, mind and body.
- To provide knowledge of God’s universe.
- To present God’s perspective of man and world history.
- To prepare students both for things temporal and eternal.
- To train students to be pleasing servants of the Lord.
- To train students to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- To train students:
  - to be conformed into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29)
  - to know the truth and that truth shall make them free (John 8:32)
  - to do that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:1-2)

6. College-name t-shirts and sweatshirts, SCS t-shirts and sweatshirts, and Christian t-shirts and sweatshirts are permitted. Plain shirts/blouses are permitted. Clothing with other wording/pictures/artwork is unacceptable. Jeans, slacks, and other attire must be plain. Decorative attachments or designs are not permitted. Clothing supporting professional sports teams may also be worn as long as it does not conflict with the mission or philosophy of the school (see #13). No clothing shall be permitted which promote alcohol or drugs or which bears offensive language, pictures, signs, or insinuations (including some college and professional team logos and mascots). If it is illegal for you to do or immoral or promotes a message contrary to our school’s vision, it is banned on clothing in our building or at our functions. Small logos may be permitted.
7. All clothing must be properly buttoned, snapped, or otherwise fastened.
8. See-through clothing, base midriffs, and clothing containing holes which show bare skin above the knee (other than head or arms of course) are prohibited as is any clothing deemed by the principal to be indecent or distracting.
9. Belts must be worn. Shirts must be long enough to be tucked in (but do not have to be tucked in) so skin and/or underwear does not show when standing or sitting.
10. Clothing cannot be excessively tight or baggy but must be “form-fitting”.
11. All pants and shorts must be worn at the waist. The waist is the area above the hipbones. Undergarments cannot show.
12. Coats cannot be worn in the classroom unless weather dictates a need and teacher and the principal agree.
13. Clothing for swimming or other water activities must be modest and meet teacher/principal approval.
14. School uniforms may be worn.
15. Students who forget that it is free dress day will not be permitted to call for other clothes. Pay attention if here, find out what you missed when absent.
16. The principal is the final arbiter. All decisions of the principal are final.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Tobacco Products – SCS is a tobacco-free facility. Use of tobacco in all forms is prohibited.

Medicine – Ideally all medication should be given at home. Somerset Christian School recognizes that some students may have special needs which require a prescription or over the counter medication to be administered during school hours. SCS requires a form, (obtained through the school office) signed by the family medical doctor or parent giving clear directions on the name and amount of medication to be given, time to be administered, side effects, etc. No more than one week’s supply should be sent to school. Non-prescription Tylenol or throat lozenges are available for students in the office, provided that written permission from the parent is on file in the school office. All medicines are to be left in the school office upon arrival of the student at school. No medications should be in the student’s possession in the building.

P.E. Excuses – When any student has a physical challenge that limits activity or prohibits a particular activity, the school requires a note from the family medical doctor indicating the reason for limitation and the period of time for which the limitation is valid. Parent requests for exemption

8. Shirts and blouses worn with skirts, shorts, slacks or trousers are expected to be tucked in at all times. This does not apply to new ¾ length sleeves. They are not designed to be tucked in. Short sleeved shirts are not to be rolled up.
9. Slacks and shorts are to be worn comfortably, but not in a sloppy manner (pant legs may not be rolled up or split at the seams). Belts are required.
10. Excessive jewelry is not permitted. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Body piercing (other than girls ears) is not permitted.
11. All personal items including shoes must be marked with student name and grade.
12. Distracting clothing, hair, or looks (Gothic for example) are prohibited. Students will not be admitted to class unless they are in compliance with the dress code.

**Uniform additions:** SCS school sponsored (Booster Club, PTF, other school organization with Principal’s approval) sweatshirts and polo shirts may be worn as part of the uniform. Similar t-shirts may only be worn on Free Dress Days.

**All uniform shirts/blouses must have the SCS monogram.**

**NOTE:** Seniors enrolled in dual-credit courses being taught on campus At Somerset Community College may be exempted from the uniform requirements with the principal’s permission. These students are required to adhere to the Free Dress Day Code at the college as well as SCS.

**SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
DRESS CODE FOR  
FREE DRESS DAYS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Dress code requirements apply to all students (male and female) and are to be followed during school-sponsored events, and during extra-curricular activities. Students participating in physical education classes, cheerleading, or athletic team practices must adhere to dress code policies before entering the hallways or classrooms. The Physical Education teacher will set the dress code each day for class depending on the activity. Athletic teams and cheerleaders will wear physical education uniforms, team uniforms or other practice uniforms approved by the principal. These uniforms are approved for practice, games, or physical education and are not to be worn to class or in the hallways during the school day.**

1. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.
2. Leggings and tights may only be worn under knee length outer garment.
3. All clothing worn at school functions or in the classroom must be long enough to touch the knee when the student is standing.
4. No sleeveless shirts of any style are permitted. Shirts and blouses must promote modesty and not expose undergarments.
5. Students are not permitted to wear sunglasses (unless required by a physician), hats, headbands, caps, bandanas, or other head covering unless authorized for a school activity.

**Grading Scale** – Grades are given on report cards and approximate averages are given on progress reports. These are the letter grades with their numerical equivalents for grades 1-12:

A	90-100	Excellent achievement
B	80-89	Above average achievement
C	70-79	Satisfactory achievement
D	60-69	Passing, below satisfactory level
F	59 and below	Failing-insufficient achievement to pass
I		Incomplete-grade assigned because of excessive absence or failure to complete major assignments or tests. In either case it is the student’s responsibility to give prompt attention to completing the work.
Pass/Fail (P/F)		Dual-credit college classes and middle school specials and electives will be graded on a pass/fail scale.

**SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL POLICY  
WEIGHTED GRADING SCALE/A.P. CLASSES**

In calculating student grade point averages, Somerset Christian School will recognize the following weighted grading scale for all Advanced Placement classes.

A = 5.0      B = 4.0      C = 3.0      D = 2.0      F = 0.0

The purpose of the weighted grading scale is to recognize the more challenging material covered in Advanced Placement classes when compared to standard required courses and to reward those students with the initiative to tackle the most demanding courses in our curriculum.

**Students may be required to take final exams in A.P. classes 1<sup>st</sup> semester, regardless of grades. Students enrolled in AP classes will be exempt from the AP class final exam if they take the A.P. exam.**

**Homework** – Homework is an integral part of the school program. In assigning homework, each teacher follows specific guidelines designed to further assist students in expanding their knowledge of the subject matter. Students are required to complete assignments on time. Homework affects the student’s grades and is assigned for several reasons:

1. Preparation – To stimulate interest and help students mentally organize material.
2. Practice – To reinforce basic knowledge and skills (especially important in math).
3. Extension – To “go beyond” the regular classroom lesson and apply material to real-life situations.
4. Creative – To take ideas and apply them in unique and creative ways (parents encouraged to get involved.)

Researchers agree that the most important factors in determining whether a child will do well in school are parental support and motivation. Homework provides a unique opportunity for you to help your child succeed in school. It is designed to help students master today’s lesson and prepare for tomorrow’s while learning study skills and developing the ability to work independently. These are skills that will serve them for a lifetime. Homework must be turned in when it is due. The only

acceptable excuses for late homework are student illnesses and written notification for student emergencies. Parents, please check for properly completed homework each day. Secondary students' homework turned in a day late will receive partial credit. Unexcused absence or homework not turned in will result in a zero for that assignment.

Students who are neat, diligent, and dependable in their homework will always earn high marks for their effort. Homework is to be expected on a regular basis. Parents should encourage their children to complete their homework. Here are several helpful suggestions:

1. **Establish a proper study area.** Students must have a quiet, well-lit, comfortable place to do their work. When students get into the habit of working in the same area, homework attitudes change. Efficiency and attention span will increase.
2. **Provide adequate supplies.** Give your child the necessary "tools of the trade", e.g. pencils, pens, paper, ruler, etc. These "tools" vary depending on grade level.
3. **Schedule a set homework time every night.** Make homework a regular part of your child's routine. This will discourage working too fast or forgetting homework, when your child sees that he or she has to work or read for the assigned time anyway!
4. **Help your child organize his materials.** Organization is one of the most useful skills students will learn. It is not only important for homework success, it is important to succeed in every area of life.

Progress Reports – Progress reports will be provided in order to keep parents informed of their child's classroom performance. Progress reports will be sent home in the middle of each quarter. This written communication will notify parents of how their child is doing in attitude, work habits, and academics. It is but an indication of how the student is progressing based on homework, tests, and quiz grades.

*"Homework is of little value unless it is used to enhance learning. Therefore, our challenge is to design homework assignments that students will complete and that will lead to learning." (The Master Teacher, volume 34, number 25)*

**Rationale:** There are four major reasons for assigning homework, but not limited to:

- ✓ Develop self-discipline, independency, responsibility, and time-management skills.
- ✓ Practice and reinforce skills learned in class.
- ✓ Provide opportunity to explore individual interests and extend learning through completing appropriate projects.
- ✓ Help parents understand what's happening at school – and provide opportunity to involve parents.

Wednesday Night Homework – Families are encouraged to attend church services and students are encouraged to be active in their youth groups. Consequently, homework is not given on Wednesday nights in any grade and tests are not given on Thursdays. Teachers have been asked to collaborate with each other to prevent an overload of homework on any given day.

Homework Notebooks – Homework notebooks are required in elementary grades. Each notebook contains pre-printed assignment sheets for writing down and keeping track of homework assignments throughout each quarter. Parents must initial these pages each night. A space is also provided for tracking long-term assignments and logging parent-teacher communication.

**Kinds of Homework:**

### Uniform guidelines for Boys:

#### K3 – Grade 5:

- Polo shirt in white, green, navy or burgundy with monogram (short or long sleeve).
- Oxford shirt in white with monogram (long or short sleeve).
- Pleated or flat front khaki pants. (includes cargo)
- Pleated or flat front khaki shorts. (includes cargo). Must be knee length.
- V-neck cardigan sweater in navy.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades:

- Polo shirt in green or navy with monogram (short or long sleeve).
- Oxford shirt in light blue or white with monogram (short or long sleeve).
- Pleated or flat front khaki pants (includes cargo).
- Pleated or flat front khaki shorts (includes cargo). Must be knee length.
- V-neck long sleeve pullover sweater in navy (See **Outerwear**).
- V-neck sleeveless sweater vest in navy (See **Outerwear**).
- V-neck cardigan button down sweater in navy (See **Outerwear**).

#### Additional uniform Guidelines for Boys:

- Black, brown, or navy belts must be worn with shorts or pants.
- White, navy, hunter green, burgundy, tan or black socks.
- Shoes must be 80% one color – white, navy, or black. No sandals or clogs.

#### Other Dress Code Items.

#### **\*\* All clothing must be knee length or longer except athletic team uniforms and PE uniforms.**

1. Boys hair must be clean, neatly groomed and off the collar, covering no more than ½ of the ear. Any "out of the ordinary" hair fashions are not acceptable nor are "tails" of any type.
2. Boys must be clean shaven at all times. Mustaches, goatees, etc., are not permitted. Sideburns are permitted as long as they do not extend below the bottom of the ear.
3. Hats or caps are allowed only in extreme weather conditions and are not to be worn inside the building.
4. Outerwear, such as jackets, coats, and zip-up hoodies, are not to be worn in the classroom. We encourage parents to monitor students to see that students dress appropriately for various seasons. Denim jackets/coats are not acceptable on campus and should not be worn to school.
5. Thermal shirts may be worn under long sleeve shirts only.
6. All students, while on campus, are expected to comply with the dress code. For extra-curricular activities, see number 6.
7. Absolutely no designer labels (i.e., Polo, Tommy Hilfiger, Abercrombie & Fitch, Ocean Pacific, etc.) are authorized.

## Uniform Guidelines for Girls:

### K3-Grade 5:

- “Peter Pan” blouse with lace trim in white (short or long sleeve).
- White pointy collar blouse (long or short sleeve).
- White poly knit blouse with  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves.
- Pique polo in white, white with blue trim collar, navy, hunter green, or burgundy with monogram (long or short sleeve).
- Green plaid v-neck pleated jumper. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki pleated hem jumper. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki kick pleat scooter. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki flare cut wrap skort. (knee length)
- Navy ruffled pique polo dress. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki adjustable waist pant.
- Navy or khaki tie belt pant.
- Navy or khaki twill Capri.
- Navy or khaki pleated short. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki Bermuda short. (knee length)
- Crewneck cardigan sweater (optional) in navy or cardinal (See **Outerwear** for details).
- Clothing length must reach the knee when standing.

### 6<sup>th</sup> through 12 grades:

- White oxford blouse (short or long sleeve).
- White polyknit blouse with  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeve.
- Pique polo shirt in white, green, navy, burgundy with knit collar (long or short sleeve) with monogram.
- Plaid pleated skirt (knee length).
- Navy or khaki kick pleat scooter. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki three tab pleated skort. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki flare cut wrap skort. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki shorts. (knee length)
- Navy or khaki flat front junior slacks.
- V-neck sleeveless sweater vest in cardinal or navy (See **Outerwear** for details).
- V-neck cardigan button down sweater in cardinal or navy (See **Outerwear**).
- Clothing length must reach the knee when standing.

### Additional Uniform Guidelines for girls:

- Gray, white, navy, hunter green, burgundy, tan or black socks, knee-highs or tights may be worn under skirts, dresses, etc.
- Burgandy, tan, gray, black, white, navy, or hunter green solid-color leggings may be worn with a dress, skirt, or skort.
- Shoes must be 80% one color – white, navy, brown or black.
- No character shoes, open-toed shoes, sandals or clogs.
- High heels may only be worn with formal or semi-formal attire.

### Outerwear:

- All sweaters, including sweater vests, and coats must be 80% solid color.

- ✓ **Practice exercise:** provides student with opportunity to apply new knowledge, or to reinforce newly acquired skills.
- ✓ **Preparatory homework:** Makes students obtain background information on a unit of study so they are better prepared for the following day’s class.
- ✓ **Extension assignments:** Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

The amount and type of homework assigned are at the discretion of the teacher within the following guidelines:

- ✓ Always give homework assignments based on relevant material.
- ✓ Homework should be within the ability of the student to accomplish successfully.
- ✓ Make sure assignments are clearly understood. Tell students precisely what they need to do to be successful with a homework assignment. Consider printed instruction with examples the student can refer back to as homework is attempted. Without this guideline students may not do the work properly – and it will not lead to learning.
- ✓ Structure each homework assignment to be meaningful to the students. Homework should never include busywork or be given as punishment.
- ✓ Consider the length of the assignment. For long assignments/projects, set a timeline for predetermined intervals/checkpoints, rather than one final due date.
- ✓ All assigned homework will be evaluated by the teacher and will affect the student’s grade. Make clear to the students the degree to which homework will affect the grade.

A summary of this policy will become a part of the student handbook and copies will be distributed to all students, their parents and all staff.

In order to be most effective, parental support is needed. Parents can help in the following ways:

- ✓ Don’t treat homework as a competition about scores or class ranking.
- ✓ Keep your child focused on the subject itself. Practice is the goal.
- ✓ Create a space for homework, with good lighting and necessary supplies and free from disturbance.
- ✓ Remember that you are a model for your child. Demonstrate your own willingness to learn and emphasize the value you place on learning.
- ✓ Encourage your child to put responsibility for homework above other demands on their lives.

It is the student’s responsibility to complete homework. Practical suggestions are:

- ✓ Write down the assignment and due dates.
- ✓ Ask questions to be sure you clearly understand what you are being asked to do.
- ✓ Plan the best time to complete the work.
- ✓ Avoid putting off beginning long-range assignments.

All students are expected to complete homework assignments as part of their course requirements. Homework may include activities designed to **prepare** students for the following day’s class, provide students with the opportunity to apply new knowledge through **practice**, or **extend** students’ knowledge through independent and imaginative assignments. Students may expect that homework assignments will be included as part of their cumulative course grade.

Report Cards – Report cards will be sent home with students approximately one week after the end of each marking period (see Academic calendar for dates). Report cards are issued each nine weeks or four (4) times a year. Parents should not compare their child’s grades with those of other children. Each student is unique and grades are given on the basis of progress. Avoid putting too much emphasis on grades; rather put your emphasis on attitude, dedication, diligence, character development and learning.

Honor Roll – Honor Roll will be recognized each 9 weeks. Honor Roll will be a 3.5 – 3.99 grade point average with no grade lower than a B. Distinguished Honor Roll would be a 4.0 (or higher) grade point average. Names and grade levels of Honor Roll and Distinguished Honor Roll students may be published.

Athletic Program – Participation in athletics at Somerset Christian School is a privilege not a right. Uniforms must comply with school dress code. PE uniforms are appropriate for practice. Students who participate in athletic programs must maintain a passing grade in each class. Grades will be checked on a weekly basis by the principal and athletic director each Friday. If an athlete fails to maintain these standards, he/she will be suspended from the team until the student improves his/her grades to meet the eligibility standards. At the beginning of a new nine weeks period, students will not be evaluated until the second week of the new grade period. A student will be reinstated on the first Friday that he/she meets eligibility standards. An athlete who is suspended will not be allowed to practice, play or travel with the team. Student athletes must present proof of insurance and a doctor’s statement that they are physically fit to participate with the team. Students must be present at least ½ day on game day to participate. Noon will be considered mid-day. Unexcused absences/tardies the day following a game will result in suspension from the team until after the next game. The student-athlete must maintain an excellent disciplinary record in order to represent SCS. Student-athletes may be suspended or dismissed from the team for disciplinary problems that may result in suspension from school. (11/7/05) (clarified on 11/21/05). Teams will assemble on the court/field for prayer immediately before or after games.

Annual Spring Testing – As a means of assessing individual student achievement and measuring the effectiveness of our academic program, students at SCS will complete the Terra Nova, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition each spring. Proper rest and a good breakfast are essential to your child’s success.

Promotion/Retention

K3-K5 – The decision to promote will be made by the teacher with parental input through conferences.

Grades 1-8: Failure of one Core Class (math, science, English, reading, spelling, history) will require summer school or retention. Failure of two or more classes in any subject will result in retention.

Grades 9-12: The following number of credits will be required to promote to the next grade:

- Grade 10 - 7 credits
- Grade 11 – 13 credits
- Grade 12 – 19 credits
- Graduation – 26 credits

expelled and their offenses reported to local law enforcement officials. Drug testing may be required by SCS.

Character Training – Every subject area, every teaching method, every attitude, every action of student or teacher is a means of training character. Character training is taking place throughout the day, no matter what else is being taught. Teachers maintain orderly, structured classrooms and expect the students to work hard to learn subjects being presented. In the process, teachers strive to teach students to:

- Respect authority.
- Pay attention.
- Obey willingly and immediately.
- Apply themselves to the task at hand.
- Learn rules and apply them.
- Understand how things work together.
- Finish the job.
- Do right because it’s the right thing to do.
- Work hard to get the right answer.
- Love wisdom.
- Choose things that are excellent.
- Develop habits of orderliness, carefulness, alertness, obedience, persistence, honesty, accomplishment, and cooperation.

**Somerset Christian School  
DRESS CODE**

**\*\* All clothing must be knee length or longer. Leggings and tights are not permitted as an outer garment but may be worn under knee-length clothing.**

There is a close relationship between performance and appearance. It is our belief that students will achieve and develop their potential in proportion to how they view themselves. A dress code is another form of discipline that will aid the student in forming a self-disciplined, Christ-like character. Students are expected to show their respect for themselves and the school by honoring the following guidelines. The administration and teachers of Somerset Christian School will maintain and enforce dress code at both school and school-related functions.

**Note:**

**All uniform clothing for grades K3-5**, with the exception of shoes, winter overcoats, school jackets, and accessories must be purchased through **French Toast**. Orders can be placed over the phone by calling 1-800-373-6248, faxing an order to 1-888-296-4966, or by picking up an order form from the school office and ordering on-line at: [www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com). All items on the order form do not meet SCS guidelines. Use this dress code policy to guide your purchases.

**Uniform clothing for grades 6-12**, may be purchased through **Lands End**. Catalogs will be available in June. Orders can be mailed, faxed, e-mailed or called in. French Toast items from grade 5 may be worn if they still fit properly. All items on the order form do not meet SCS guidelines. Use this dress code policy to guide your purchases. Lands End is not required, but use Lands End colors as your guide.



5. Cell phones are to be turned off during detention. If your phone rings, you will be assigned an additional detention.
6. There will be no sleeping or “resting your eyes”. You are required to sit up and focus on the work you have to do.
7. A problem in detention will result in another detention being assigned. A second problem in detention will result in suspension.

We prefer that no one have detention so please follow the rules and directions of the staff. Otherwise, as stated in this handbook, accept your consequences with a positive attitude.

Suspensions – Under certain circumstances, it will be necessary for the administration to take severe disciplinary action. In such cases, a student may be suspended from one to ten days. A notice of suspension will be sent home with the student and must be signed by the parent. Parents will be notified by phone also. The notice must be returned to the principal when the student returns to school and will be filed in the student’s permanent record. It is the student’s responsibility to collect homework assignments for the work that was missed and for making arrangements to take any quizzes or exams. Students are required to make up all work, but a student who has been suspended will receive a grade of zero for all homework missed. Quiz and test grades will be lowered by 10%. Multiple suspensions in a school year may be cause for expelling the student from SCS.

During a suspension from school, students are not permitted on school grounds or at school functions, on or off campus. Non-compliance may lead to additional suspensions or expulsion. Suspension may result in loss of extra-curricular privileges for the semester or year.

Expulsion – For the most egregious of offenses, students will be expelled. A student who is expelled shall be immediately dismissed from the school. Expulsion shall be for the balance of the current semester plus one semester. A student who has been expelled shall be considered for re-enrollment only when the following conditions have been met:

- \* A pastor’s interview and a letter of recommendation.
- \* A youth pastor’s interview and letter of recommendation.
- \* Principal’s interview and letter of recommendation.
- \* Approval of review committee.
- \* Formal probation period.

Student Visitors – As a general rule, student visitors will not be permitted unless requested by a teacher to attend that teacher’s class for a specific purpose. Student visitors will be required to adhere to the Free Dress Day Dress Code and other SCS policies. All visitors must sign in and out through the office. Student visitors must be approved in advance by the principal. Parent visitors are welcome.

Zero Tolerance – Somerset Christian School has adopted a zero tolerance policy for students involved in drug possession, usage, or trafficking (including marijuana, chemicals, huffing, etc.) or possessing illegal firearms or other weapons on campus. Students engaged in such activities will be

Students who fail to maintain a 2.0 GPA will be put on probation for nine weeks with required remedial help. See the teacher of the class before or after school. Students who do not meet minimum requirements to move to the next grade will be retained in their current grade and must meet the minimum GPA in the first nine weeks of the following school year in order to remain enrolled at SCS.

Graduation Requirements – Based on Kentucky graduation requirements and the academic standards of SCS, students who attend all four years in high school are required to earn the following 26 credits to meet the minimum pre-college graduation requirements for SCS:

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| English – 4 credits                  | Social Studies – 4 credits   |
| Math – 4 credits                     | Science – 4 credits          |
| Bible – 4 credits                    | Electives – 2 credits        |
| Foreign Language – 2 credits         | Arts & Humanities – 1 credit |
| Physical Education/Health – 1 credit |                              |

Algebra I (taught in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be included as a high school elective credit). Students will be required to complete 4 credits of math in grades 9-12.

Addition graduation requirements include student participation in a mission trip and completion of 135 hours of community services as outlined elsewhere in this handbook. Students will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies until all requirements have been completed.

Students who transfer to SCS during high school are required to meet or exceed the minimum Kentucky graduation requirements.

Final exam exemptions for students with an A average in a class will not be honored for students with more than 2 unexcused absences.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE/MISSIONS**

A conviction of Somerset Christian School, based on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Missions Mandate (Acts 1:8), is that young people need to receive stimulation and training in missions education as part of discovering and developing their full potential in Christ. Through the Community Service/Missions requirement, students will develop a deeper Christian world view, consider missions and Christian vocations as career choices, and become more involved in the local church and Christian family.

Service is an essential element of the Christian faith. It was Jesus who said, “Just at the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28) In teaching students to be like Christ, we must teach them to serve each other, their communities, and the body of Christ. The community service/missions requirement provides this opportunity. Occasionally, community service will be required at school to assist in preparation or to clean after an event.

Requirements – Each student must meet and document in writing the following minimum hours of community service each year:

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> grade – 10 hours | 10 <sup>th</sup> grade – 30 hours |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> grade – 15 hours | 11 <sup>th</sup> grade – 30 hours |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> grade – 20 hours | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade – 30 hours |

Missions – In keeping with our vision to teach students to serve and carry out the Missions Mandate described in Acts 1:8, students will be required to participate in at least one mission trip between their 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.

In meeting this requirement, it is our prayer that students will further develop a Christian world view, experience a closer walk with God, and bring Him glory through their ministry. Students must meet a minimum in order to graduate or return to SCS the next year. Documentation from the pastor or mission trip leader will be used to monitor this requirement.

**ATTENDANCE**

Morning Arrival – Morning arrivals for all SCS students should be no earlier than 7:30 am. The school cannot be held responsible for students on campus prior to this time. Upon arrival, K3 and K4 students will proceed directly to their assigned classrooms. Primary students (grades K5-5) will proceed in a quiet, orderly fashion, to the cafeteria and secondary students (grades 6-12) will proceed to the secondary wing. Students are to be seated and remain quiet until their teachers arrive. To assist in the flow of traffic and safety of our students we are asking students and parents to observe the following entrance and exit points:

**All students grades Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> are to arrive at either the front foyer or side entrance by parking lot and depart at the front foyer entrance under the covered drive. Parents should then exit through the parking lot. Grades 6-12 depart through gym entrance and parking lot.**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>School Begins</u>	<u>School Ends</u>
K3-K4 (preschool)	8:10 am	3:00 pm
K3-K5 (half day)	8:10 am	12:20 pm
K5 (full day)	8:10 am	3:00 pm
Grades 1-12	8:10 am	3:00 pm
School staff	7:30 am	3:30 pm

**\*\* ACTIVITIES – STUDENTS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE A MINIMUM OF ½ DAY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL ACTIVITY.**

**Students who are habitually truant or tardy may lose privileges or receive detention.**

School Dismissal – Students (grades K-5) will be dismissed through the front foyer only. In the interest of safety for you and your child, parents are asked to remain in their cars and form a line in the driveway by the covered walk. Students (grades 6-12) may be picked up in the South Parking Lot (by the gym) unless they have younger brothers or sisters in grades K-5. In that case, all would load by the front entrance. All students not being supervised by a staff member will be required to leave school grounds after dismissal. Students leaving school grounds prior to regular dismissal shall sign out in the office (this includes students taking college classes).

Grades PreK-5: Elementary students may not use cell phones during the instructional day. Students are to power off phones upon entering class.

Grades 6-12: Students in grades 6-12 may use cell phones in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Cell phones may be used during breaks and during lunch with ring tones set to silent.
- Cell phones may only be used in the classroom with the teacher’s permission.
- If a cell phone contains an I-Pod, video or still camera, or other recording device, that device cannot be used during the school day without the teacher’s permission.
- Headphones and Bluetooth-type devices are prohibited at school.
- Cell phones must be powered off during instructional time
- Cell phones and cameras cannot be used in the restrooms, locker rooms, or for any other illicit or immoral activity. This is a zero tolerance violation and may constitute sexual harassment.
- Cell phones must be placed in the student’s locker during regularly scheduled exams.
- Consequences for failure to adhere to the policy:
  1. First offense= warning.
  2. Second offense = detention and parents are notified.
  3. Additional infractions = detention, loss of Merit Trip. Cell phone privileges on campus are revoked for the remainder of the semester.
  4. Repeated infractions will be considered defiance of authority and could lead to suspension or expulsion.

**ADOPTED: 09-08-08**

Detention – Students who violate school or classroom rules may be assigned detention. Detention can meet before or after school. Detention will be assigned at the discretion of the teacher or administrator. Students assigned detention must report on the day assigned and stay the entire allotted time. If a student fails to attend detention, he or she will be suspended. If detention is not effective in reforming behavior, suspensions or corporal punishment may result.

Detention Rules

1. Detention will be served in a designated room in the building from 3:05-4:00 pm. In some instances with PRIOR approval, detention can be served from 7:00-8:00am in the office. Either time, the following rules apply.
2. If you are late for detention, an additional detention will be assigned.
3. You must have homework, reading, or materials to study while in detention.
4. There is no communication with other students while serving detention.

13. Any sports equipment brought to school must be secured before the start of school in the student's locker.
14. No student will falsely use, in writing, the name of another person, or falsify times, dates, grades, addresses, homework, data on school forms, or correspondence directed to the school, change or alter passes, or commit any other form of forgery.
15. No student will have in his possession (on person, in locker, or vehicle) any kind of fireworks, explosives, knives, firearms or other weapons. Possession of such items will result in disciplinary action including corporal punishment, suspension, or expulsion.
16. There will be no attempt to sell or distribute any object or substance which has not been authorized for sale or distribution by the principal.
17. Cheating, lying, or stealing will not be tolerated. A student may receive a "0" on his assignment for cheating. These behaviors will result in disciplinary action.
18. All aspects of the Honor Pledge and Code of Conduct will be enforced.
19. Scoffing, scolding or disrespectful remarks or behavior are not acceptable and will result in disciplinary action including expulsion. This includes physical or verbal "bullying".
20. Involvement in witchcraft, the occult, astrology, or other beliefs not consistent with Christianity and Biblical teachings are grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Other policies may be added throughout the school term if it is deemed in the best interests of the school and/or students.

Cars on Campus – All students driving automobiles to school must register the vehicle in the school office and have a car tag. Driving on campus is a privilege that can and will be revoked for disciplinary reasons including, but not limited to, being tardy too many times or having too many unexcused absences, careless or reckless driving, or failing to maintain passing grades in all classes. No student is to leave with another student in an automobile without written permission on file in the office. Students drivers are to exit their cars and go to class immediately upon arrival at school. Take your keys, lock your car, and do not loiter in your car or the parking lot.

## **SOMERSET CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CELL PHONE POLICY**

Recognizing that cell phones can be disruptive to the instructional process, test security, and the privacy of individuals but are a useful and sometimes necessary piece of technology, the following **CELL PHONE POLICY** is recommended for adoption by the Somerset Christian School Board of Education:

At no point after arriving on school grounds is a student to leave the school before end of day dismissal without signing out through the school office.

Students skipping school or class face serious disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Parents who come to pick up students are required to sign them out in the school office.

Student End of Day Pickup – Students (grades K-5) are to follow these guidelines:

- a. Wait quietly so you can hear instructions.
- b. Listen for your name to be called to load up.
- c. Watch for the vehicle you will ride home.
- d. Do not move until you hear, "Let's load up!"
- e. On the direction, "Everyone still we are moving!" do not move (even on the sidewalk) until "Let's load up" is announced.

High school students will be released to the parking lot by the soccer field.

Parents, pick up time is not an appropriate time for a teacher conference. Everyone needs to be totally focused on student safety. Conference after students have been dismissed or before school starts in the morning.

After School Care – Students who must remain at school after 3:15 pm will be taken to our supervised after care program. This service is available for all SCS children until 5:00 p.m. each evening. Parents will be billed \$6.00 per hour in quarter-hour increments.

Absent/Tardy – When a student is absent from school, in order to be considered an excused absence a phone call or note from the parent or guardian to the office by 9:00 am that day (if possible) is required giving the following information:

1. Parent or guardian's name
2. Student's name
3. Grade
4. Reason for absence
5. Estimated date of return

If a student receives four tardies in one semester, disciplinary action will be taken. Parents will be notified at that point. This will be monitored by the office. According to Kentucky State Law, a student who receives three or more unexcused absences or is tardy three or more days in a year without a valid excuse is truant. If tardiness is not corrected, a student may be dismissed from SCS or reported to county juvenile authorities for truancy.

Appointments will be excused for the time of the appointment and travel time only.

**Upon returning to school after an absence, all students will furnish (within 2 days) a written note from their parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence, days of absence, and signature of the parent or guardian. If notification is not received within 2 days of return, the absence will remain unexcused. In the case of an absence requiring a physician's attention, students must furnish the office with a medical excuse from the attending physician.**

## CONDUCT POLICIES

**KENTUCKY STATE LAW** requires that students be in attendance. A student who misses 12 or more days of school during one semester risks failing for the semester, unless there are extremely extenuating circumstances and an extraordinary effort has been made on the part of parent and student to keep the administration informed and make up all missed work.

Excused Absences – Excused absences are still charged as absences. What follows is a list of acceptable excused absences:

1. Personal illness with signed statement from parent or guardian.
2. Appointments with doctors and dentists made in advance of the school day. We encourage these appointments to be made during school vacation or after school. A signed doctor's excuse must be submitted to the school office at the time of return.
3. Death in family.
4. Special absence request.

Early Dismissal – Student check out before 12:30 pm is considered ½ day absence. Check-out after 12:30 pm is counted as an early dismissal (counts the same as a tardy). **Either must meet guidelines for excused absences.** There will be no early dismissals after 2:45 pm to keep traffic lanes open for school dismissal. Please keep early dismissals to a minimum so your child's education will not suffer.

Perfect Attendance – Perfect attendance is defined as no absences – excused or unexcused – and no unexcused tardies.

Make Up Work - Students with excused absences will have the same number of days to complete work as were missed. If a student missed work due to an unexcused absence, no makeup work is permitted. The student will be allowed to take missed tests or quizzes. **The grade will be lowered 10%.** Grades may be lowered for late assignments. Projects/tests announced in advance should be completed and submitted on the date due even if the student was absent the preceding day. This includes tests, essays, displays, etc. Quizzes and homework are to be submitted within one day of the student's return to school. Call to find out what work is being completed during your absence. Any student suspended from school for disciplinary reasons (in house or out) will make up work but receive no credit.

Release from classes – When it is necessary for a parent to take a child out of class for a doctor's appointment or other reason during the day, release of the student must be made through the office. Students who leave before 12:30 pm and fail to return will be marked absent for one half day. Students are accountable for all work missed. The absence will be counted as part of the State of Kentucky attendance law. If a student needs to ride home with or be checked out by someone other than the normal, designated driver, the office must receive dated and signed written notification from the parent/guardian. Students who drive may not check themselves out without authorization from a parent/guardian.

School Closing – School will be dismissed in the event of a severe weather warning. Students will be released to go home when parents arrive. Announcements regarding delays or school closing prior to the start of the school day will be announced beginning around 6:30 am on Lexington television stations 18, 27 and 36 and on radio stations 93.9, 91.7 and 102.3 FM as well as 1240 AM.

### General Conduct –

1. All students are expected to arrive at and leave assemblies, chapels, and classes on time and in an orderly fashion.
2. Pupils who use, write, distribute, or possess profane, indecent or obscene language, literature, writing or pictures shall be subject to disciplinary action including corporal punishment, suspension, or expulsion.
3. Smoking or the possession of smoking paraphernalia (cigarettes, lighters, matches, etc.) as well as drugs and alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
4. Gum chewing is not permitted on the school campus.
5. Running in the hallways is strictly prohibited. Horseplay and loud noise will not be permissible in the school building, on the school grounds or while riding in school vehicles. Students are required to wear seatbelts if they are provided.
6. Radios, MP3 players, I-Pods, hand-held games, DVD players, etc. are not to be brought on campus unless authorized for a class project by the teacher. Items brought for a class project can only be used for that project. Music and games must meet the standards outlined in this handbook.
7. Students in Pre-K through grade 5 may not use cell phones. All calls should be placed through the school office after obtaining permission from a teacher. Grades 6-12 see cell phone policy.  
  
Phones/pagers will be confiscated if found in use, including text messaging, during instructional time and may only be released to the offending student's parent.
8. Students will wear only prescribed glasses inside (no sunglasses.)
9. Students on lunch break must remain in the cafeteria. They are allowed to use the drinking fountains and to use the bathrooms. Students are allowed on the playground only under the supervision of a teacher.
10. Any student who assaults another student, either physically (fighting) or verbally, will be subject to disciplinary action by the administration.
11. Students at Somerset Christian School should reflect the high standards of Christian morals and principles. It is therefore expected of each student to refrain from the public display of affection (such as kissing, embracing, etc.) while on campus or at school sponsored activities including sporting events away or at home. Any involvement in sexual immorality with result in disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion.
12. No gambling on school property.

I will practice good health habits and regularly participate in wholesome physical activities. (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; Romans 12:1.)

I will abstain from the appearance of evil. (1 Thess. 5:22.)

I will yield my personality to the healing and molding power of the Holy Spirit. (James 5: 14-16; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4).

I will endeavor to faithfully give heed to the call of God on my life and develop the gifts and abilities God has given me. (1 John 2:20; 1 Corinthians 12:18-31; Ephesians 4:11, 12)

I will seek to practically share the love of Christ through personal witness and specific ministry on a regular basis in an area of Christian service. (Matthew 23: 19, 20; Matthew 10:8; John 15:17; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 9:22).

I will learn to accept all school policies with a positive attitude because discontentment can become nothing more than a bad habit, a costly attitude that can rob me of the pleasure of being a positive student.

I will refrain from being selfish, disrespectful, irreverent, irresponsible, demanding, discourteous, or destructive with my attitude toward fellow students or teachers.

I will at **ALL** times refrain from the use of profanity, offensive slang, vulgarity, envious rivalry, and foolish jesting.

I will not lie, cheat, or steal nor tolerate those among us who do. I am not only expected to adhere to this policy but also to promote and encourage my peers in following it.

I will submit myself to the leadership of Somerset Christian School and/or any rules or regulations that may be adopted or changed from time to time. I realize that my attendance at Somerset Christian school is a privilege and not a right. I determine to give my best and prayerfully support SCS and its philosophy of providing a quality education without compromising the Word of God. This pledge will become part of my permanent file.

Failure to follow this Code of Conduct will result in one or more consequences, some of which may include theme writing, removal from the classroom, corporal punishment, suspension, or dismissal. We expect to follow Scriptural guidelines for giving correction in order that our children will become self-disciplined individuals. At times, corporal punishment may be required. Following this Code will require courage, consistency, conviction, diligence, and a genuine enthusiastic effort.

## ADMISSIONS

Parents wishing to obtain information about the school and its programs or to enroll their children in the school should contact the school office at (606) 451-1600 or visit our website at [www.somersetchristian.com](http://www.somersetchristian.com)

### Requirements

1. **Immunization** - Kentucky state law requires that parents, or guardians of all minor children in grades k-12 for all public, parochial, or private schools, present a certified copy of required immunizations upon school enrollment. To be in compliance with this law, the student must have received or be in the process of receiving immunization for DPT/DT, oral polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (for students seven and under who have not had chickenpox). No child shall be considered officially admitted to Somerset Christian School until he has proven that he has received these immunizations.
2. **Birth Certificate** - A copy of the student's birth certificate must be submitted with the admissions application. Those enrolling in kindergarten must be five years old on or before October 1.
2. **Report card** - Or school record of progress from previous school.
4. **GPA** - Must be 2.0 or above.
5. **Completed application** – and all corresponding documents.
6. **Pastor's Recommendation letter** – for family.
7. **Registration fee paid** – non refundable.
8. **Agreement with the Vision** – for the school. Applicants are selected from those whose attitude, lifestyle, academic history and moral and behavioral characteristics are compatible with Somerset Christian School.

Transfers – Transfer students are not accepted the last nine weeks of school unless moving from another state or city outside the Somerset area. Students who transfer from other Christian schools in the Somerset area must have all previous accounts paid. SCS requires at least a 2.0 GPA, pastor's recommendation, two personal recommendations, and discipline records from the school the student is transferring from. Parents will be required to sign a release of information form so we can receive records from the sending school.

Placement – Grade placement for all students will be determined by the administrative staff. Acceptance is based on academic standing at the student's previous school and/or an assessment test by a member of the school staff.

Address Changes – Whenever there is a change of address or telephone number, please call the office and notify us of the change. The same is true for changes in doctor, office, and/or emergency numbers, as well as numbers of persons authorized to pick up students.

Re-enrollment – Re-enrollment applications for the upcoming school year will be accepted for students in good standing. Registration fees are non-refundable.

#### **FINANCIAL**

Tuition and Fees – Registration fees are payable when students are registered. Payment of this fee reserves a place on the class list. It is therefore, non-refundable. All other fees must be paid on or before the opening day. Once school begins these fees are non-refundable. Parents may pay tuition by full cash payment by the first day of school or by authorized automatic monthly withdrawals from a bank account for ten months beginning August 3 and ending May 3 each year. For parents choosing the full payment plan, full payment must be made to the school office before school begins. Two other options are available: a 12 month payment plan or a semester payment plan.

Delinquent Accounts – Accounts are considered delinquent **after the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month and are assessed a \$25 late fee.** If an account remains outstanding after 30 days, the student will not be allowed to return to school until the account is made current. Additional fees may be assessed after 30 days. For additional detailed information on delinquent accounts, see page 29. **For those paying by semester, there will be a \$125 late fee assessed if not paid the 1<sup>st</sup> day after Christmas break.** If the account is not paid by Jan. 31, the student will be withdrawn unless a delinquent payment plan is developed. (See Delinquent Accounts.)

Returned Check Policy – There will be a \$25.00 service fee assessed on each returned check. The check amount plus the \$25.00 is to be paid in cash or money order at the school office. Uncollected checks will be turned over to the County Attorney's office.

Student Withdrawal – A student is not classified as withdrawn until the school business office receives an official school withdrawal form. This form can be obtained in the school office. All school books, material, equipment and other school-related business, including tuition, must be finalized and turned in before withdrawal can be completed. If a student withdraws after the first of the month, the parent remains responsible for the complete month's tuition. All obligations, including financial, must be cleared before final withdrawal.

Insurance – Student accident insurance is included as part of the student fee. This coverage is limited and secondary in nature. It is recommended that all families have their own family accident insurance.

Gifts and Memorials – Presently, tuition is not tax deductible, but cash gifts are deductible. Also, from time to time parents may like to donate books, classroom equipment, and other items in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of a special birthday or graduation. Anyone who desires to make a donation may check with the school office. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Fundraising – Tuition payments do not cover all the costs. Somerset Christian School endeavors to keep tuition rates low to make Christian education affordable to as many Christian families as possible. We, therefore, depend on your support and God's blessing to keep our program operating. Fundraisers may be conducted on limited occasions throughout the school year.

#### **CONDUCT**

Discipline – We believe that discipline is necessary for the welfare of the student as well as the entire school. Each teacher is required to make and enforce classroom regulations in accordance with Christian principles, administrative directives, and discipline as set forth in the Scriptures. Somerset Christian School expects full cooperation from both student and parents in its educational efforts. If, at any time, the school feels that this cooperation is lacking, the student may be requested to withdraw. Also, if a student's behavior indicates an uncooperative attitude, the student may be dismissed. Biblical principles used by Somerset Christian School for guiding children to predetermined discipline goals include: (1) Instruction (2) correction (3) exhortation (4) rebuke and (5) chastisement (rod of correction). Items 1-3 will occur as rules are established in the classroom and handbook are reviewed. Items 4-5 occur when students ignore items 1, 2, or 3. Our goal is to assist you in developing a disciplined character in your child. Discipline and learning work hand-in-hand in a successful Christian school environment. It is expected that students at SCS will put forth a quality effort to listen and obey the voice of their "inner man" (spirit) and to exemplify Christ-like character.

#### Classroom Code of Conduct

I will do my best to obey those that have authority over me for this is right in the sight of God>

I will, at all times, follow the classroom rules:

- 1) Be in class on time and prepared.
- 2) Stay in my assigned seat. Gal. 5:22
- 3) Be quiet. Matt 19:19
- 4) Face to the front of the class. 1 Cor. 14:40
- 5) Work independently. 1 Thess. 4:11, 12; 2 Cor. 8:21
- 6) Behave in a way that will not disrupt the attention and/or activities of my teacher or another student. John 13:35
- 7) Be responsible. Matt. 25:23

Honor Code Pledge – Secondary students will be required to sign a pledge to follow the School Code of Conduct and Honor. In signing this pledge, students are committing to a 24 hour lifestyle on and off campus that honors God.

Recognizing Jesus as the Author and Finisher of my faith, and the Word of God as the supreme standard for all wisdom and knowledge, it is my aim to develop myself accordingly, realizing that as I seek first His kingdom and righteousness, all these things shall be added. (Hebrews 12:1, 2; James 1:5, 6; 1 Peter 1:24; 1 John 2:5, 6; 1 John 5:3-5.) I will endeavor to follow the will of God for my life and to exemplify Christ-like character through daily personal prayer and consistent study of the Word of God, and through faithful group worship both at school and at church. (Matthew 7:7-11; James 1:22; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Peter 1:10-11; Galatians 4:7.)

I will apply myself to my studies and endeavor to develop the full powers of my mind in Christ. (Luke 2:52; Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 1:5).