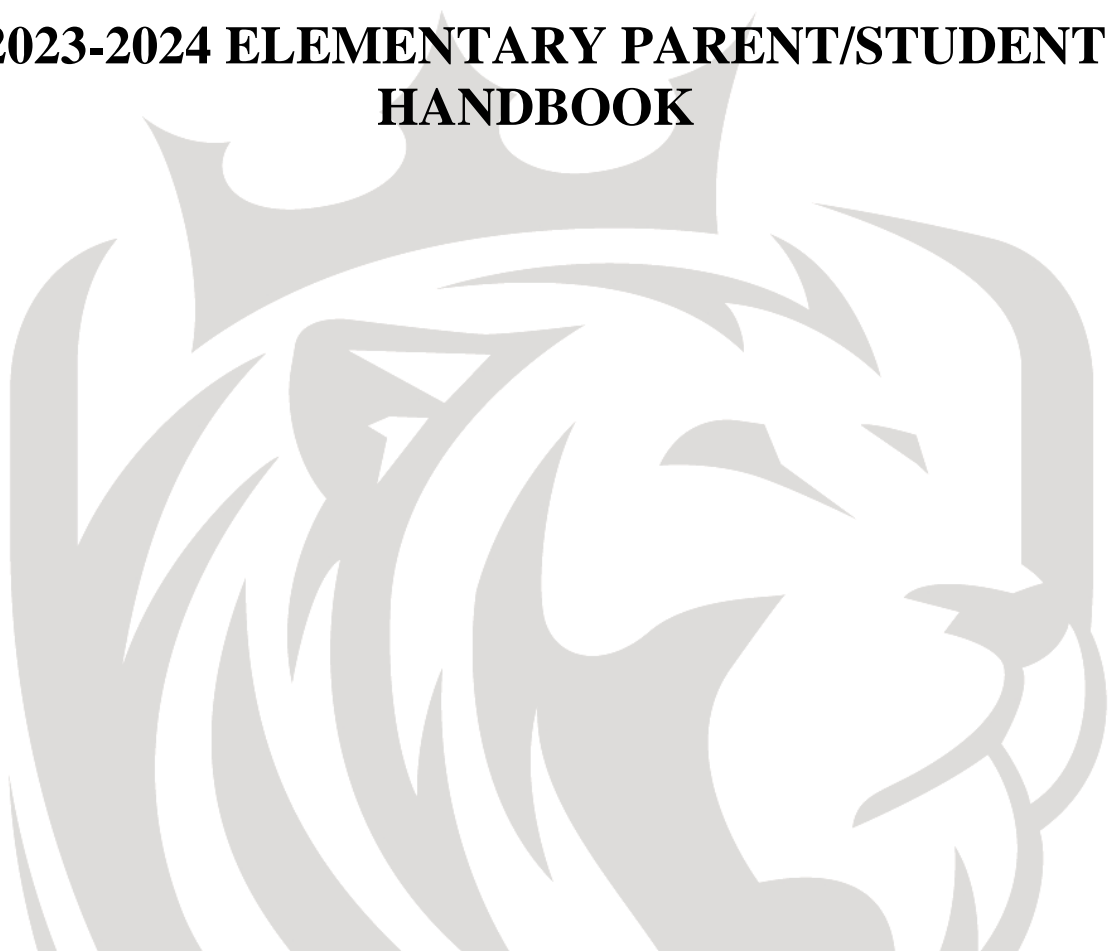




2023-2024 ELEMENTARY PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



LINCOLN
2023 **CHRISTIAN** 2024

THIS
IS
**OUR
GOD**
1 JOHN 15-6

*This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.
If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

The bottom section of the cover features a dark, textured background with a golden cross in the center. The cross is composed of multiple overlapping lines, creating a geometric pattern. The text "THIS IS OUR GOD" is centered within the cross, with "1 JOHN 15-6" below it. At the top of the section, "LINCOLN CHRISTIAN" is written in a golden font, flanked by "2023" and "2024". At the bottom, a quote from 1 John 1:9 is written in a small, italicized white font.

LINCOLN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

As the 2023-2024 school year begins, I want to welcome you to Lincoln Christian School! We are prayerfully committed to serving you and your child as they grow intellectually, physically, socially, and spiritually, all to the glory of God. Our desire is that through the opportunities and experiences that this school year holds, each student would grow in their knowledge and love for Jesus Christ. We look forward expectantly to the ways in which the Lord will move as He uses Lincoln Christian.

Our staff is deeply dedicated “to teach the Truth, through learning about God’s world in the light of God’s Word.” This is done by anchoring instruction and activities to the all-power, life-changing Word of God. It is our goal to partner with you in pointing each Lincoln Christian student’s heart towards God’s truths.

The pages of this handbook outline the policies, procedures, and expectations that allow us to keep God at the forefront and pursue excellence in all that we do. The items established in this handbook are vital to helping your child function as well as flourish in our Christ-centered learning environment. Please take time to become familiar with the different parts and if you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us. By God’s grace and provision, we are excited for a fantastic year!

In Christ,

Mr. Matt Huseman, Elementary Principal

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MISSION

To teach the Truth, through learning about God’s world in the light of God’s Word.

VISION

Every student will experience a life-changing Christian education which intentionally integrates the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into every aspect of intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual life.

CORE VALUES

Lincoln Christian School is guided by our Core Values.

TRUTH

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. We train students in a Biblical worldview by learning about God’s world through the light of God’s Word.

We anchor all instruction and activities at Lincoln Christian School in God’s Truth.

RELATIONSHIPS

We partner with parents in pointing students towards a personal relationship with Jesus, continually encouraging them to recognize their identity in Christ.
We serve as an extension of the family in partnership with the local church in training up the children entrusted to our care.
We build deep personal connections through grace-based relationships as we model the love of Christ.

EXCELLENCE

We pursue excellence in everything we do – all to the glory of God.
We provide opportunities for students to maximize their God-given potential.
We encourage and celebrate the development of our students’ unique gifts and talents.

TRANSFORMATION

We seek continued transformation in the lives of our staff, families, and students as we surrender daily to the leading of the Holy Spirit to become more like Christ.
We equip and empower students to be transformational influences as they engage the culture to expand God’s Kingdom.
We prayerfully commit Lincoln Christian School as a “light” in the community, through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, to impact countless lives for Christ.

Ends Statement

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, students reach their God-given potential spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically, becoming transforming influences in the world for Jesus Christ.

1.0 Spiritually - Students trust Jesus Christ as Savior and embrace their identity in Him. (Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:3, 5-8, 16, Romans 3:23, 6:23; 5:8, Matthew 16:15-16, 1 John 2:15-17, John 15:5, Galatians 5:22-23)

1.0.1 Students abide in Christ. 1.0.2 Students articulate and defend a biblical worldview understanding how this defines their identity, values, beliefs and personal choices.

1.0.3 Students identify and utilize their unique spiritual gifts bearing fruit as part of the body of Christ.

1.0.4 Students are disciples of Christ and disciple others.

2.0 Intellectually - Students achieve their God-given academic and creative potential.

(Colossians 3:1-3, 3:23, Proverbs 1:7, 2 Timothy 2:15, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 12:4-28)

2.0.1 Students are measurably proficient in all academic disciplines.

2.0.2 Students think critically and discern truth.

2.0.3 Students develop their God-given talents and independently steward their gifts, talents, time and resources to glorify God and further His kingdom.

2.0.4 Students affirm the gifts and talents of others.

3.0 Socially - Students exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 22:37-39; 28:19, Proverbs 27:17, Colossians 3:12-17, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

3.0.1 Students uphold the dignity and respect due everyone as God's image bearers.

3.0.2 Students serve in their family, church and community.

3.0.3 Students boldly share the Gospel.

3.0.4 Students demonstrate a Christ-like attitude toward sportsmanship and competition.

4.0 Physically - Students steward their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20)

4.0.1 Students embrace biblical purity.

4.0.2 Students value physical discipline and nutritional health.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe that Salvation is by Grace alone through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.
- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth and 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.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe in God's design for marriage and the family and the parents' role in educating and equipping their children.
- We believe in the sanctity of human life.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Lincoln Christian School partners with families in their calling to train up their children in the way of the Lord. We equip students in a Biblical worldview by learning about God's world through the light of God's Word, so in return, they can go out into the world and become transforming influences for God's Kingdom.

We build deep personal connections through grace-based relationships as we model the love of Christ; recognizing that each individual is fearfully and wonderfully made by God with unique gifts that impact the Body of Christ.

We strive to prepare each student to make a defense to anyone who asks them for a reason for the hope that is in them. **1 Peter 3:15.**

We provide opportunities for each child to maximize his or her God-given potential, and we believe that we honor God by striving for excellence in everything that we do -all to the glory of God.

SCHOOL PROFILE

SCHOOL BOARD

The school is controlled by a Board of individuals elected by the members of the Lincoln Christian School Association. They make all the policies of the school and have final authority in all matters. Members of the Board clearly demonstrate spiritual leadership in their homes and work place and have a working knowledge of good educational practices.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Each person who works at Lincoln Christian School is a Christian who has exemplified Christian living and has a concern for the academic and spiritual growth of the children. Each teacher is certified to teach where that is required and is competent in his/her area of teaching.

ACCREDITATION

Lincoln Christian School is accredited by the State of Nebraska and the State Department of Education as an educational institution. Credits earned at the school are transferable to any other school. Lincoln Christian School is also a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.

ENROLLMENT

A student who wishes to enroll must complete an online application form. This is followed by a parent interview. In some cases, an entrance test is required. All applications must be approved. No applicant will be seriously considered as a prospective student who has had a serious scholastic or discipline problem. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

PRESCHOOL

Lincoln Christian School's Preschool program is for students at least three years of age. Information is available through the Preschool Handbook.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

TERMS OF ANNUAL INSTRUCTION

1. The annual school calendar of Lincoln Christian School shall include enough days to meet the statutory requirements set forth for each grade level.
2. The annual term of instruction for each student attending Lincoln Christian School shall be held between July and June 30, the following year.
3. Annual instruction time will meet all criteria that is necessary to comply with NDE Rule 10 requirements. All students will be enrolled in a Bible class each semester. Accommodations may be made at the administrator's discretion.

Lincoln Christian School is not a recipient of federal funding and therefore does not have to function under federal regulations, not limited to but such as Special Education Services, Rule 51, IDEA, FERPA, etc.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

PROMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

To be promoted to the next grade, a student must make satisfactory progress in mastering the material presented during that year of study. Children will only be allowed to repeat a grade based on the determination of school administration and the LCS Student Support Team. In most cases, repeating a grade level will not be allowed as educational and developmental research does not support this strategy under most circumstances. Specifically, it is highly unlikely that a kindergarten student will be allowed to repeat kindergarten.

GRADING

4	3	2	1
Exceeding Standard	Meeting Standard	Approaching Standard	Below Standard
Student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates mastery of skills and knowledge that exceed grade-level expectations • Demonstrates advanced knowledge 	Student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has proficient understanding of subject area • Meets grade-level expectations 	Student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a basic understanding of subject area • Meets grade-level expectations in some areas but not all • Understanding basic concepts or skills 	Student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a minimal understanding of subject area • Is not meeting grade-level expectations.
Student has demonstrated mastery and is able to apply knowledge and connect beyond the grade-level standard.	Student has demonstrated proficiency and is on target and meeting the grade-level standard.	Student is able to demonstrate some understanding of the grade-level standard with teacher support.	Student is not demonstrating an understanding of the grade-level standard yet.
<u>Percentage Conversion:</u> Demonstrate proficiency above grade level standards <u>AND</u> scores 90-100% on grade-level assignments.	<u>Percentage Conversion:</u> 80-89%	<u>Percentage Conversion:</u> 70-79%	<u>Percentage Conversion:</u> >69%_

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are sent home to the parents at the end of each nine-week period. These grades are recorded on the student's records. Progress may be monitored through FACTS. Grades should be updated at a minimum of every other Friday.

HONORS

The Presidential Academic Award

The **Gold** award is presented to each sixth grade student who has earned a 90% average or higher in all subjects and has an average percentile rank of 90% or higher on the most recent Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) score in reading or math.

The **Silver** award is presented to each student who has earned an average grade of 85% or higher in all subjects and has displayed growth, improvement and work ethic.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

All students starting in second grade are given the MAP® Assessment each year to measure their academic progress. Results are available to parents after scoring has been completed.

HOMEWORK

Homework may be assigned to further the learning of students and/or to complete work not

finished at school. As a general practice, homework will not be assigned on Wednesday nights. Students utilizing the time provided in the school appropriately should have limited homework, however, this can vary dependent upon extenuating circumstances: special projects, special needs, etc.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Individual student supplies such as paper, pencils, ruler, etc., are to be provided by the student. A student supply list is available online or by request.

Textbooks are loaned to the student by the school. It is important that these books be used respectfully and with care because they are used for several years. Book covers may be required for use on textbooks. If a book is damaged or lost, the students will be required to pay for it.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Search and Teach is an early intervention, research-based program that is developed to help young learners before they experience frustration in school. **SEARCH** is a 20-minute individual test designed to identify 5 and 6-year-old's strengths and weaknesses in the readiness skills necessary for reading success. **TEACH** is a program of 55 learning activities (tasks) designed by Archie Silver, M.D. and Rosa A. Hagin, Ph.D. that address the individual needs revealed by the **SEARCH** scan. These tasks are organized into visual, visual-moto, auditory, body-image, and intermodal skill clusters which relate to the results of the **SEARCH** scan. All Kindergarten students are given the **SEARCH** scan in the fall and results are shared with the parents. Parents of children who qualify will be given the option to enroll their student in the **TEACH** program at no cost to them.

RX for Reading builds success and confidence through directed reading instruction in small peer groups. It includes activities for phonological processing, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension development. A student can be referred by a parent or a teacher after a Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and/or Measures of Academic Progress (MAP®) score that indicates below grade level performance. After meeting with parents, the Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA-3) will be given. This intervention is provided at no cost to the family aside from a fee of \$120 for first year Reading RX students and \$50 for second or third year students for consumable student materials and KTEA testing.

RX for Math builds success and confidence through math instruction in small peer groups. It includes activities for strengthening number sense, math fluency, math vocabulary, and problem-solving strategies. A student can be referred by a parent or a teacher after a Measures of Academic Progress (MAP®) score that indicates below grade level performance. After meeting with parents, the Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA-3) will be given. This intervention is provided at no cost to the family aside from a fee of \$40 each year for consumable student materials.

RX for Writing Language, higher-level thinking skills, and written expression are developed as students implement grammar, spelling, and usage rules when editing their own written work as well as the written work of others. The Kaufman Test of Education Achievement (KTEA-3) will be given. This intervention is provided at no cost to the family aside from a fee of \$40 each year for consumable student materials.

NILD Educational Therapy / Brain Abilities is a partner program with Lincoln Christian School. This intervention is for students from grades 3-12 with average to superior intelligence who continue to struggle in the classroom due to one or more difficulties in perception, cognition, processing speed, working memory, fluency or academic skills. Educational Therapy differs from tutoring in that the cognitive and perceptual weaknesses are strengthened to support independent and individual learning. An educational battery of formal and informal tests are used to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses and to identify the presence of specific learning difficulties. The goal of Educational Therapy is to move the student toward independence and success in the regular classroom and to realize his/her God-given abilities. Parents who are interested in this program may contact Beth Rexilius for more information.

LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY

Resources in the library are available for the student's use. Books may be checked out. Lost or damaged books and materials must be replaced by the person responsible.

The mobile labs are available for use by students under the supervision of their teachers, for research, keyboarding instruction, and other uses. Unsupervised use is not permitted.

Dismissal Times

	Normal Dismissal	Half Day Dismissal
Kindergarten:	3:15 PM	11:50 AM
First Grade:	3:18 PM	11:53 AM
Second Grade:	3:18 PM	11:53 AM
Third Grade:	3:21 PM	11:56 AM
Fourth Grade:	3:21 PM	11:56 AM
Fifth Grade:	3:25 PM	12:00 PM
Sixth Grade:	3:25 PM	12:00 PM

FIELD TRIPS

Educational trips are occasionally planned to various museums, businesses, government agencies, or other locations which enhance the teaching going on in the classroom. The school bus may be available for transportation. Sometimes parents are requested to drive.

Below are Screening Requirements for ALL Volunteers:

- Be sponsored by a school employee.
- Be able to present a form of current government-issued photo identification.
- Complete and submit volunteer forms and application.

- Sign in at the school office on the “Volunteer/Visitor” sign in forms.
- Be required to display a volunteer identification badge to be returned at the end of the day’s volunteer activity.
- Volunteer drivers for field trips must have a current driver’s license and provide proof of liability insurance. Volunteer drivers are encouraged to notify their insurance agent of the general nature of providing volunteer school transportation to ensure appropriate coverage is in place. Lincoln Christian School reserves the right to request higher coverage limits in order to adequately protect students and staff from potential risks when traveling with a volunteer.

CURRICULUM

The purpose of Lincoln Christian School is to teach the truth by studying each subject from the viewpoint of God’s Word.

Teachers are committed to this purpose and desire to have each student see that God created and sustains all things, and that He controls and works in the affairs of people. True wisdom can only be obtained through God’s truth as He is the Truth. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth and the life.”

Textbooks are chosen from a variety of publishers, Christian and secular, that best meet the goal of agreeing with God’s Word and also being strong academically.

LCS CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOK PUBLISHING COMPANIES

Subject	Grade	Company
Language Arts <i>Language/Reading</i> <i>Spelling</i>	K-6	Daily 5
Mathematics	K-6	ACSI (Purposeful Design)
Science/Health	K 1-6	Variety of resources BJU Press
Social Studies	K 1-3,5-6 4	Community Helpers BJU Press- Heritage Studies Gibbs Smith- <u>The Nebraska Adventure</u>
Handwriting	K 1-6	A Beka Zaner-Bloser
Bible	K 1-6	Child Evangelism Fellowship & Selected Bible Stories Deep Roots Bible

MORNING PROCEDURES

Students may be dropped off for the day starting at 7:45 AM. Students must then go to their designated waiting areas until the first bell rings at 8:05 AM. Kindergarten through 3rd grade will wait in the library. 4th through 6th grade will wait in the activity room.

ABSENCES/TARDIES/LEAVING CAMPUS

All Absences require a call, note, or email from the parent or guardian. Notification from the student or siblings is not permissible. Calls should be made prior to 8:00am and may be made through the voicemail system at any time of night or weekends, (402) 488-8888 x 1.

Regular attendance is essential for student success. Establishing clear routines and procedures (regular attendance) helps students enjoy school, reduce anxiety, and flourish academically. Lincoln Christian School requests that all parents make an intentional effort to reduced missed school time. Parents will be notified when there are excessive absences.

If a child will be taken from school during school hours, the parent needs to notify the teacher and school office by phone or a note ahead of time. A student who arrives after 10:30 a.m. or leaves before 1:30 p.m. will be considered absent a half day.

Health Office

The Lincoln Christian School Health Services Office makes the students' health a priority. The State of Nebraska provides Guidelines and has state laws and regulations governing medical record-keeping. Provided services include but are not limited to: Health screening and immunization monitoring, controlling the spread of communicable diseases, nursing consultations, a system for dealing with medical crisis situations, medication administration, and evaluation of the health program.

The State of Nebraska requires certain health records to be on file for the enrolled student:

- Immunizations: All students will have a current immunization record updated as needed. Kindergarteners (and 1-6th graders) are required to have: 3 DTP (at least 1 after 4 years old), 3 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hepatitis B, 2 Varicella (chicken pox). Exemptions may be Religious or Medical in nature, but must either be notarized or signed by a physician.
- Physical exams: All incoming kindergarteners must have a physical exam signed by a physician, PA-C; APRN. This also must include a vision exam, as well as a dental report. Any student that transfers in from out of the state of Nebraska must also comply with the above.
- Health Screenings. The student Health Services will conduct a health screen for students Pre-K through 6th. All will have height, weight, BMI, and dental screens performed and selected grades will also include audio screening and vision screens for distance and near acuity.

Illness

If a child is ill, parents should call the school by 8:30 AM to let the administrative assistant know of the absence. Students shall be “symptom-free” for 24 hours before returning to school. If there are questions regarding a student’s attendance at evening activities in the event (s) he is absent due to an illness, please understand that if the student is home for the school day with a communicable disease, they are not allowed to participate in the afterschool activity due to the risk of exposure to others to potentially contagious or communicable diseases. Return to school means temperatures are < 100 degrees F without fever-reducing medication, no vomiting, or diarrhea episodes of <2. If the child becomes ill at school, the teacher will refer the student to the school nurse for assessment. No self-texting or calling home for pick-up is allowed without the school nurse’s assessment and referral. The nurse will notify parents as necessary if an injury needs follow-up by a medical practitioner, an illness with temp > 100, evidence of contagiousness, or no improvement in condition. Emergency contact information is to be current for these notifications. A cot is available for the child to lie down on and wait for pick-up.

Any medication either over-the-counter or prescribed must be kept in the health office with a request form signed by the parent. If prescribed and on-going, further paperwork is required and will be submitted to the health office.

If your child should not participate in PE or Recess due to a specific physical problem, a note should be sent to the teacher and school nurse stating the reason.

Concussion

Return to Learn: A “Return to Learn” protocol is available for students who have experienced a concussion. This protocol involves the Health Services Office, Principal, teachers, and families working in collaboration to monitor symptoms and allow the student a safe way to ease back into the learning/classroom environment. Students who are suspected of having a concussion should immediately notify the Health Services Office or Athletic Trainer.

Leaving Campus

Students are not allowed to leave the school building during the day unless directly supervised and permission has been granted by a school employee.

Planned Absences

Planned absences should be cleared with the teacher and the school office ahead of time. Assignments should be completed before the absence. If the absence is for several days, the student should take books and assignments along to avoid falling behind in schoolwork.

Tardies

Parents should make every effort to get children to school on time. Students arriving late should stop at the office. Frequent tardies will be addressed by the teacher and principal.

COMMUNICATION

FACTS Directory

FACTS directory information is for school purposes only and is not to be used for personal/professional business and/or gain.

The first step in addressing concerns should always start in the classroom with the classroom teacher.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

These are held at least twice a year for the purpose of evaluating each student's work and progress. Throughout the year, parents and teachers are encouraged to have conferences as needed.

Weekly Communication

Classroom teachers will communicate classroom specific information each week of the school year.

Crusader Newsletter

LCS sends out an online newsletter every Friday with important announcements and school information. The newsletter can be accessed online through the school website or can be delivered to your email. You can sign up for the newsletter on the school website under the "resources" tab. <https://lincolnchristian.org/newsletter-signup/>

LCS Administrative Software/Email and Web Site

Information about the school can be obtained by going to the school's web site: <http://www.lincolnchristian.org>

VISITORS

All visitors are required to sign in at the office upon arrival, wear an identification lanyard while in the building, and sign out when leaving.

Parents are welcome to visit classrooms. It is encouraged that all visitation is arranged in advance with the teacher and elementary office. Parents and other visitors are welcome to join students for lunch during the student's designated lunch period. Visitors may bring food or have the student order a school lunch. Lunch visitors must sign in at the office upon arrival.

Students from other schools may visit only upon prior approval of the administration or teacher.

PHONE / WATCH USAGE AND PERSONAL DEVICES

It is not recommended to bring personal electronics to school. Personal phone and watch calls may be made by the student with permission from the teacher. Cell phone and watch use is not allowed unless directed by the teacher.

Cell phones and watch use will not be allowed before or during school unless school issued or directed by the classroom teacher. After school they may use their phone to contact a parent for transportation once they leave the building.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

TEACHERS

All teachers are Christians who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior from sin. Their desire is to see students grow in their relationship with Christ. They are available for help and counsel.

INSTRUCTION

All subjects are taught from the viewpoint of God's Word. Bible classes are taught to both increase a student's knowledge of the Bible and also to encourage growth in faith and obedience.

CHAPEL

Weekly chapel programs provide opportunity for student participation. They provide a means of group worship and spiritual challenge.

PRAYER TIMES

Teachers meet regularly for prayer times. Students have regular prayer times in the classrooms. Mothers of students also meet weekly for prayer at the school.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DRESS

CONDUCT

God tells us in His Word, "Let no man despise your youth; but be an example of the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (I Timothy 4:12)

It is the goal of Lincoln Christian School to maintain high standards of behavior. It is important that students show respect toward spiritual things, as well as to teachers and others in authority. Students should be courteous and respectful toward each other.

Profanity and abusive or unwholesome language must not be a part of a student's vocabulary. Our goal must be: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

The Bible speaks of our body as the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19, 20). Nothing should be put into the body that could harm it. Therefore, the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and harmful drugs shall not be a part of a student's life, either on or off campus, and will be considered serious misconduct.

Conduct in the building, halls, restrooms, and classrooms should be quiet and orderly. When entering the building, students should become quiet and move in an orderly manner to their classroom or activity.

Bicycles are to be parked in the designated parking areas. There is to be no riding, sitting on, or meddling with them before, during, or after school except to arrive and to go home.

Damage to or loss of school property must be paid for by the student responsible.

Other procedures may be added if the need arises. These standards apply to any school-related activity.

STUDENT HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING

It is the desire of Lincoln Christian School to maintain a safe learning and work environment that is free from sexual harassment and/or bullying. Students, parents, and staff are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is glorifying to God, to demonstrate respect and love for each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:11, John 13:34-35)

Any form of sexual harassment and/or bullying is absolutely prohibited. Any incident of possible sexual harassment and/or bullying should immediately be brought to the attention of a teacher and/or principal, who, if deemed necessary, will notify the superintendent. A thorough investigation shall be made by the superintendent and/or his designee. Parents will be notified immediately. After reviewing all the facts, upon the recommendation of the principal, the superintendent will make a determination concerning whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that harassment has occurred. Disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion will be taken against any student found to have engaged in harassment. In addition, local law enforcement will be notified to investigate if the administration believes that a criminal offense may have been committed. The superintendent may, in his discretion, suspend the alleged perpetrator during the course of the investigation, if he deems such action is in the best interests of all parties.

Any party who reports a complaint of alleged harassment and/or bullying in good faith may do so without fear of harassment or retaliation. The confidentiality of the complaint will be protected to the greatest extent possible, however, subsequent information which may be reasonably revealed as part of a thorough investigation and the privacy of the individuals involved cannot be guaranteed.

Bullying occurs when a person or group is intimidated, frightened, excluded, hurt, or suffers mental distress as a result of a pattern of behaviors directed at them by others. The following is a list of behaviors that may fall within the boundaries of what constitutes bullying:

- Physical aggression – including hitting, punching, shoving, biting, hair pulling, scratching, spitting, touching, or kicking.
- Teasing or verbal abuse – including putdowns, insults, names, racial and sexual remarks.
- Exclusion from activities, groups, conversations, and shunning.
- Gossip or slander.
- Setting up humiliating circumstances and experience.
- Damaging a person's property/possessions or taking them without permission.
- Threatening gestures, actions, or words.
- Retaliation for reporting bullying behaviors to adults.

- Written or electronic (cyber) messages that contain threats, insults, teasing, or put downs.

Sexual harassment includes:

- Unwanted sexual advances.
- Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances.
- Visual conduct: leering, making sexual gestures, display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters.
- Verbal conduct: making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, and jokes.
- Verbal sexual advances or propositions.
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes, or invitations.
- Transmitting or posting of any harassing comments or other allegations of a sexual nature, or inappropriate pictures or graphic images via text, email, social media, or the internet.
- Physical conduct: touching, assault, impeding, or blocking movement.
- Any conduct of a sexual nature which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

This policy shall be reviewed not less than annually to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

DRESS STANDARDS

Lincoln Christian School requests the parents' support by instructing their children in Christian modesty and appropriate dress. Our personal appearance reflects on our Lord as well as the name of Lincoln Christian School. Our appearance can relate to our personal testimony for Jesus Christ. Therefore, each student is expected to evidence Christian discernment in this area (I Timothy 4:12).

Simply put, a student's appearance should be neat, clean and modest. Tight-fitting and/or extremely loose garments are not appropriate.

HAIR

- No unnatural hair colors or highlights of unnatural colors.
- No extreme hairstyles will be allowed.
- Additionally for boys:
 - Hair length in back should not extend beyond the collar.
 - "Extreme hairstyles" include ponytails, buns, and/or shavings/ designs in the hair.
 - Hair length in front and on top should be styled and not excessively long.

All of the dress code standards will be enforced during classroom hours, as well as when students participate in school activities, exempting athletic uniforms and costumes approved by the activity director and activity sponsor.

As objective as we would like to make the dress code, it is an area that some subjectivity will always exist. Our goal is to partner with parents in helping to provide an environment in which they can be confident that “dress” does not become a distraction or create contention. The administration reserves the right to make discretionary judgment regarding the appropriateness of student dress, hair, and fashion not explicitly covered in this dress code. We appreciate your support in this area.

The final interpretation of this code remains the responsibility of the administration.

Overarching Standard: Question on dress not specifically addressed in these standards will be clarified by administrators as they arise.

Writing and Graphics: Any writing or graphics worn to school on any article of clothing or accessory, must represent a message that promotes Godly character and is in-line with school values.

Shirts: Skin on the stomach and back must be covered at all times. No undergarments (slips, camis, etc.) may be worn as shirts.

Sleeveless dresses and tank tops are permitted for girls. Straps should represent a shirt and not an undergarment. A two finger width is a good guideline. Tank-tops are not allowed for boys.

Shorts & Pants: Shorts and pants must have a hem, rips and holes are not allowed.

Athletic shorts may be worn, but the student must be able to place their palm so that their index finger touches their knee and their wrist touches their shorts. If the hand can't reach both, the shorts are too short to be worn in school.

Cotton sweat pants may be worn to school as long as they are neat, clean and modest.

Tight clothing must be worn under something. We encourage the concept of “layering.” Such clothing items that would require layering are leggings, yoga pants, etc.

Tighter fitting, non-transparent pants are allowed with long shirts that are a length that promotes modesty by extending fully below the waist line and fully covering the buttocks.

Skirts & Dresses: When standing, students must be able to place their palm so that their index finger touches their knee and their wrist touches their skirt or dress. If the hand can't reach both, the skirt or dress is too short to be worn in school. Students are encouraged to wear shorts or leggings under dresses and skirts in order to be modest while sitting and on the playground.

Hats and or head coverings may not be worn during school.

Extremes – No extremes are allowed such as hair color, piercings, etc. as they can quickly turn into areas focused on challenging accepted standards or seeking individual attention. Earrings are not permitted for boys.

All requirements of dress (other than offensive clothing and clothing that is not modest) may be subject to change on a particular day or special event.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is designed to teach. High expectations and standards will be in place. These are desired and justified. While there are certainly consequences for sin, Lincoln Christian School takes a grace-based approach as our Lord and Savior did for all of us!

The atmosphere of the school must be conducive to learning, safe for each student physically and emotionally, and encourage respect toward God and His Word. When student behavior or attitudes dishonor God and are harmful to the atmosphere of the school, appropriate teaching will take place along with the appropriate consequences.

Students who exhibit negative behavior or attitudes will be counseled regarding their response to God's standards, and encouraged to grow in their relationship with God and their obedience to Him.

Enforcement Procedures

Actions which show evidence of disobedience to school rules, disrespect, lack of courtesy, general disturbance, and other such misconduct will be first handled by the teacher. Situations which are chronic or flagrant will be referred to the administration.

Each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis. No two situations are exactly alike. Proper teaching and discipline require great discernment and wisdom based on all factors of each situation. Consequences will be applied as appropriate, ranging from simple one-on-one counseling all the way to expulsion from the school.

Discipline for Misconduct

Category I

Category I involves activities that create minor disturbances, prevent classroom order and instruction. Repeated Category I offenses will move to Category II and eventually Category III.

Response to Category I Violations:

Each situation will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Typical consequences for Category I Violations include but are not limited to the following: parent contact, loss of privileges, parent-student conference with teacher, etc.

Category II

Category II includes activities and attitudes that are not God honoring and lacking of respect for authority, for other students, and/or for Lincoln Christian School. Repeated or frequent Category I violations will constitute a Category II or III violation. Repeated Category II violations constitute a Category III violation.

Response to Category II Violations:

Each situation will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Typical consequences for Category II Violations include but are not limited to a combination of the following: parent contact,

loss of privileges, parent-student conference with teacher/administrator, detention, etc. The administration may determine the behavior warrants a separation from other students including but not limited to being sent to the office, in-school suspension or sent home (suspended). Repeated Category II Violations may constitute a Category III violation.

Category III

Category III involves any substantial disruption to the school day including but not limited to any violation of U.S., Nebraska, or local laws; activities that threaten the physical, emotional or spiritual safety of the student or other students and staff; activities that show a consistent lack of respect for authority or property; and/or activities that violate Biblical moral codes of conduct. Repeated Category II violations also may constitute a Category III violation.

Response to Category III Violations

Each situation will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Typical consequences for Category III Violations include but are not limited to a combination of the following: Parent Conference with teacher and administrator, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, financial compensation, probation, school service.

Referral Procedure for Misconduct

Category I

This type of misconduct will be dealt with by the teacher in charge and/or other staff members, including the giving of consequences. If the misconduct is flagrant or continues, the principal and/or school counselor should be notified.

Category II

This type of misconduct should be dealt with by the teacher in charge and/or other staff members, who should notify the principal of the misconduct. The teacher and principal shall work together, but the principal will determine the necessary consequences if the child was removed from the learning environment. The teacher should notify the principal, counselor, and parents for a category II violation if it requires the removal from the learning environment or any substantial loss of privileges.

Category III

The principal shall be notified immediately of this type of misconduct. The principal, with input from the teacher, will choose the necessary and appropriate response to this violation(s).

Parents shall be notified by the principal if there is a student/principal conference.

PARENT-TEACHER RESOLUTION

When a dispute or complaint arises, the aggrieved should first go to the source of the grievance in an effort to resolve the grievance. Many times grievances can be resolved at this level; students/parents should speak with a teacher about classroom/activity issues; teachers should speak with the Principal, Principal should speak with the Superintendent about a policy problem.

Other than situations involving exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the aggrieved will be directed to the appropriate point of contact.

PROCEDURES

LUNCHESES

Due to rising costs lunch has increased for the 2023-2024 school year.

- All lunches include a drink and are \$5.00.
- Chick-fil-a original, includes a drink - \$5.00
- Chick-fil-a Spicy, includes a drink - \$5.50
- Chick-fil-a Gluten free/Grilled, includes a drink - \$6.00
- Milk/juice/water – \$.50

FOOD DELIVERIES

Due to safety and security concerns, the elementary office will no longer accept food deliveries during school hours. This includes during the lunch periods. Families/Students should not make purchases through UberEats, DoorDash, Grubhub, Pizza Hut, etc. These services will be turned away at the door and you will be out the money. Thanks for your understanding.

Monday-Thursday we will be offering Kinder Bites. Fridays we will have assorted vendors including: pizza and Chick-fil-a. Two Friday's per month will be Sophomore Pizza Lunch, which helps support the sophomore class. The monthly lunch calendar can be found on the school website.

STUDENTS SALES

The sale by students of fund raising items for groups outside of school is discouraged. However, permission may be granted by the office under extenuating circumstances.

WRITTEN INVITATIONS TO STUDENTS

If a student wishes to invite classmates to an activity outside of school, and the invitations are given at school, they must be for the entire class (or their fellow boys or girls).

USE OF GYM AND COMPUTERS

Students should not play in the gym or with computers or devices before or after school unless permission has been granted and supervision is provided.

STORM AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The school will be closed if weather makes it dangerous or impossible to travel. Cancellations will normally be made the morning of school or the night before. On such days, announcements will be made to local outlets. An email will be sent to school families. We will typically follow Lincoln Public Schools in regard to school cancellation, but at times there may be exceptions.

If a storm occurs during the day, parents are encouraged to come and get their children when they feel it necessary to do so. If the school closes during the day, it will be announced through the same media outlets.

A staff member will stay until the last student is picked up.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers such as room mothers, teacher-aides, and drivers/sponsors for field trips are a vital part of our school. We welcome and encourage this participation. We ask that no preschool-age children be with you when you volunteer in the classroom and on field trips. We ask that you follow school dress code as a volunteer. All volunteers must complete the necessary paperwork which can be found in the office or on the school website.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Class Parties

Parties celebrating Christmas, Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day may be held. All activities should be honoring to the Lord, and include all students. No emphasis should be placed on Santa Claus, the Easter bunny, Halloween, or other secular concepts. Each teacher may determine the most appropriate time to celebrate birthdays.

Competition Opportunities

Students in grades four through six may compete in contests involving knowledge in geography, handwriting, and spelling.

Open House - August 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM

On a designated day prior to school starting, students will have an opportunity to briefly visit their classroom, meet their teachers and drop off school supplies.

Curriculum Night – August 22, 2023 6:00 – 8:00 PM

One evening is scheduled in the fall for parents to meet with the teachers in the classrooms to discuss the operation and procedures of the classes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GRANDPARENTS DAY – Friday, October 6, 2023 1:00 PM dismissal

Grandparents are invited to spend a day at school, visiting their grandchild's classroom, and eating lunch with him or her. This typically occurs in the fall.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC PROGRAMS

All of the students have the opportunity to participate in a larger public performance in music & drama, at Christmas and/or in the spring.

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| • Thursday, December 7, 2023 | 1st-6th Grade Christmas Concert |
| • Thursday, December 14, 2023 | PreK-K Christmas Concert |
| • Thursday, May 2, 2024 | 1st-6th Grade Spring Concert |

K for a DAY - TBD

Interested families with kindergarten-age children are invited to meet the teachers and visit the classrooms, in order to become acquainted with our kindergarten program. K for a Day takes place on various days in February and March.

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION – Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00pm

A special program is presented to honor the kindergarten students for completing their first year of school. This program is usually presented during the last week of school.

FIELD DAY/ALL SCHOOL PICNIC – TBD

All of the elementary students take part in a morning of activities, followed by an all-school picnic. This event takes place in May.

SIXTH GRADE RECOGNITION – TBD

This program is presented by the sixth-grade students when they are recognized for completing their elementary school years. Awards are presented at this time. The program is usually followed by a social event for the class.

