

Parent Commitment

Parents are expected to read and affirm the following partnership principles:

- We have read and understand the Veritas Christian Academy distinctives of an education that is Christ-centered and classical. We are in agreement with the purpose and philosophy of Veritas Christian Academy.
- We have read and understand the Veritas Christian Academy Statement of Faith and agree to demonstrate a respect for the truths stated therein. We recognize that these truths will be unapologetically taught in various ways through all grade levels at Veritas Christian Academy. We recognize that the substance of these truths is that which will be considered primary doctrine at Veritas Christian Academy.
- We, as parents, accept the challenge to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6), and we do state that this training will be carried on in the home. We authorize Veritas Christian Academy to extend that training to the school setting.
- We have made a thorough investigation of the school’s program, curriculum, discipline, dress code, etc., and we agree to make them our glad-hearted choice for the coming school year.
- We understand that we have an obligation to be actively involved in the education of our children. We agree to uphold and support the high academic standards of Veritas Christian Academy by providing a place at home for our child to study and to give our child encouragement in the completion of assignments.
- We will faithfully support the school through prayer and a positive attitude, and in keeping with Matthew 18:15, we are committed to giving a good report by sharing complaints only with the people involved. Unresolved issues will be taken care of by using the school’s grievance policy.
- We understand that the standards of Veritas Christian Academy do not tolerate profanity, obscenity in word or action, dishonor to the Holy Trinity or the Word of God, disrespect to the personnel of the school, or continued disobedience to the established policies of the school.
- We acknowledge that discipline is necessary for the benefit of each student as well as for the entire school. We give permission to the teachers and administration to make and enforce school regulations in a manner consistent with Christian principles as set forth in the Scriptures. We further agree that we will cooperate and discipline our child in the home as needed.
- We pledge that if, for any reason, our child does not respond favorably to the school, we will do everything in our power to cooperate with the school to help our child make the necessary adjustments (a one-quarter probation period is usually adequate for new students). If these adjustments cannot be made, we agree to graciously withdraw our child.
- We understand that assessments will be made to cover damages to the school, including book damage and abuse of property.

- We will support the school through involvement in Parent/Teacher Conferences, Community Open Houses, PTF activities, work days, and other school-sponsored meetings and activities.
- We give permission for our child to take part in all school activities, including sports and school-sponsored trips away from the school premises.
- We understand and will punctually fulfill our financial commitment to pay for the educational services the school is providing for our child. We understand that report cards and standardized test results are not released if the account is in arrears for any reason.
- We, as parents of the student applicant, do sincerely give our pledge to the above items. We understand that failure of the parents or child to comply with the established regulations and discipline, parental commitment, or failure to meet financial obligation will forfeit the student's privilege of attending.

Parent Involvement in Veritas Christian Academy

Below are just a few of the more common ways this can be accomplished. Please feel free to ask if you would like to try additional ideas.

- Visit the school/class with notice and approval.. (Please call the Main Office ahead of time to let us know you are coming and check in at the office upon arrival.)
- Assist in the classroom, regularly or infrequently. (Arrangements should be made with the teacher concerned.)
- Volunteer to serve as a chaperone on field trips, library visits, etc.
- Serve as a story-reader, song-leader, or guest artist; offer your special talents.
- With permission and arrangements with the teacher, present your vocation to the class or invite them to your place of business.
- Share your experiences, trips, vacations, as they may relate to an area of study in a class.
- Volunteer your help for the many tasks related to fundraising events.
- Help host class parties.
- Attend all Parent/Teacher Conferences formally conducted after the first and third grading quarters each year. Informal conferences may be held any time at the parent's request.
- Closely monitor and praise your child's progress by reading all teacher notes and student papers sent home.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Communication between home and school is vitally important to a student's success. Parents are encouraged to request conferences with teachers as needed and expected to attend conferences requested by teachers. To facilitate communication, two conference seasons (fall and spring) have been designated during the school year. Parents will be contacted by the school regarding instructions for scheduling conferences during these times.

If a parent wishes to schedule a conference with a teacher at any other time during the school year, the parent should email the teacher. The teacher will respond within 24 hours to schedule a conference if needed.

Veritas Christian Academy faculty members and administrative staff are eager to address any matters to discuss as soon as they arise. If we feel there is any cause for concern regarding your child, you will be contacted immediately in order to address the issue.

Parent Comportment

Veritas Christian Academy expects Parents and Related Individuals (defined as parent, student, or other person associated with the student) to treat all faculty and staff members respectfully and professionally. If the Headmaster concludes, in their sole discretion, that the parents' or other family members' behavior, communications, or interactions on or off campus (including social media and during school-sponsored events) is disruptive, intimidating, overly aggressive, or reflects a loss of confidence or disagreement with the academy's policies, methods of instruction, or discipline, the school reserves the right to suspend, expel, or otherwise remove a student from the School; or to decline to re-enroll the student. In addition, the academy reserves the right to place restrictions on parents' or other family members' involvement or school activity, on property, or at school-related events for reasons that the Headmaster deems appropriate.

Parents with concerns about the school or with decisions made by the administration or faculty are required to follow the grievance policy and ultimately if necessary, to discuss those concerns with the Headmaster, but they should not expect the Board of Trustees to act as an appeals board.

Parents best support a school climate of trust and respect by communicating concerns openly and constructively to the teacher or administrator closest to the problem. Efforts by parents to lobby other parents (by any means, directly or anonymously) will be viewed by the Headmaster as counterproductive and in violation of the Parent Comportment.

As a support and extension of the family unit, Veritas Christian Academy considers the family to be of first importance to a child. God, through His Word, the Bible, indicates that the family is the most important human institution He designed, since He compares it to the relationship believers have with Christ and the Father. Therefore, at Veritas, we are continually seeking ways to actively involve the parents, siblings, and grandparents of our students in the programs of the school.

Comprehensive Grievance

These guidelines are to be followed whenever there is a dispute or grievance concerning any aspect of Veritas Christian Academy's operations or between any two parties connected in a direct way to the school. This includes students, parents, staff, volunteers, administration and the Board of Trustees.

Definitions

Dispute: Any disagreement that results in broken fellowship or trust between the parties or that disrupts the lines of authority in the school, or which (in the judgment of either disputant) threatens the successful implementation of Veritas objectives and goals.

Grievances: Any concern about any decision made by one in authority, where the concern is large enough to appeal the decision beyond that authority to the next level.

General

- It is understood that if any disputes arise which are not covered by this policy, the Board will decide what procedures to follow based on a process of reasoning from those procedures established by this policy.
- It is also understood that, especially during the attempted resolution of concerns, the principles of Matthew 18 and James 3 will be followed.

Students/parents to teachers

- All matters about the classroom must first be presented to the teacher by the parents, or if the student is mature enough, by the student himself. If the parent or student would like a Principal to be present, contact the appropriate Principal and he or she will be happy to be present. If the parent or student presents the concern, a respectful demeanor is required at all times.
- If the problem is not resolved, the parents or student may bring the concern to the appropriate Principal. If the student brings the concern, he must have permission from his parents to do so.
- If there is still no resolution, the parents or student may request a meeting with the Headmaster.

Parents/patrons to Headmaster

- If parents or patrons have a grievance or dispute about the general operation of the school (apart from the operation of the classrooms), they should bring their concerns to the appropriate Principal.
- If the situation is not resolved, they should present their concerns to the Headmaster.

Staff to Administration

- All concerns about the standards of the school must first be presented to the appropriate Principal. A respectful demeanor is required at all times.
- If the problem is not resolved, the staff member may appeal the decision in writing to the Headmaster, followed by a meeting to discuss the matter.

Volunteers to Staff/Administration

- If any volunteer has a concern about the volunteer work, he/she will present that concern to the staff member responsible for his/her oversight (Teacher, Principal, Headmaster, etc.).
- If the problem is not resolved, then the concern should be presented in writing to the appropriate Principal or Headmaster (if the Principal was the one consulted in Step 1 above), followed by a meeting with him to discuss the concern.
- If the situation is not resolved, they should present their concerns to the Headmaster.

Family Dismissal Policy

- In light of Ephesians 4:29-32, conversations and actions within the Veritas Family will be conducted in a civil manner. Outbursts of anger, cursing, shouting, physical assault, and any other rude and/or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. If a parent or guardian violates this policy, the family will be asked to withdraw from the school.
- There are circumstances that may occur during the course of the year that may violate our guidelines and to which we do not want to expose the Veritas Family, including but not limited to: child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, occult activity, illegal drug activity, alcoholism, commission of a felony, etc. Such actions will result in the removal of the family from the school.

Volunteers

- All volunteers who are in a position of authority in a Veritas Christian Academy sponsored program (such as; Chess Club, Wrestling, etc.) will complete an Application for Volunteer Service to be reviewed by the appropriate supervisor.
- Following approval of the application, the Director of Human Resources will conduct a *background check* on the applicant.
- Upon completion of the above actions and approval by the appropriate supervisor, the applicant may begin volunteer service.
- Volunteers must remain at their assigned area and may not interact with students outside of their volunteer duties.
- Volunteers should not bring other children with them when they volunteer.

Volunteer Drivers and Field Trip Chaperones

Like many schools, Veritas Christian Academy depends upon the willing parents who graciously volunteer to drive on field trips, to athletic events, and other student outings. In order to ensure the safety of all of our students, the following procedures must be followed.

- Parents who wish to drive or chaperone a field trip must complete the Volunteer Driver Information Form. (Hereinafter, VDIF)
- To serve as a Volunteer Driver, an applicant must be an immediate family member of a current Veritas student. (parent, grandparent, legal guardian)
- The VDIF is returned to the office.
- A background check will be conducted on each applicant. Applicants who have received a speeding ticket for exceeding the speed limit by 20 mph or more within the past 24 months will not be permitted to drive on school field trips. Applicants who have received two or more speeding tickets within the past 24 months will not be permitted to drive on field trips.
- No applicant who has been convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Impaired (DWI), Reckless Driving, any other driving infraction involving unsafe operation of a vehicle or any felony conviction involving driving within the past seven years will be allowed to transport students on Veritas Christian Academy field trips or events.
- Any applicant who has been convicted of any criminal act involving children will not be permitted to drive for any VCA events or trips.
- Any parent or volunteer who transports students for any school outing/function including athletics must be on the approved drivers list on file in the Main Office.
- Field Trip chaperones are assigned by the Registrar. Teachers are not able to make changes to assignments. All inquiries should go to the Registrar.
- Only parents assigned as chaperones by the school may accompany a field trip. Assignments are trip-specific. Parents may not meet students at field trip destinations.
- Students will be assigned a transportation vehicle and driver and must travel to and from the field trip venue in the assigned vehicle. Exceptions to this will require written permission from the appropriate principal.
- Younger siblings are not permitted on field trips.

Bus Drivers

The following requirements must be met in order to serve as a Bus Driver for Veritas Christian Academy:

- All Bus Drivers must complete a Volunteer Application which includes the Veritas Christian Academy Statement of Faith and permission to perform a background check.

- All Bus Drivers must have or be willing to obtain (at the school's expense) a North Carolina CDL Driver's license of Class B or higher and a Passenger (P) endorsement.
- All Bus Drivers must be willing to submit to random drug/alcohol testing as requested by the Random Drug/Alcohol Testing Consortium and must submit to drug/alcohol testing within 48 hours of the request.
- Bus Drivers must arrive promptly and allow time for the required Pre-trip Bus Inspection.
- Bus Drivers must follow all volunteer guidelines for class trips and field trips as directed by the Faculty or Staff member who is supervising the trip.
- Bus Drivers must fulfill commitments made to Veritas Christian Academy and call immediately should an emergency interfere with his or her ability to arrive on time or drive on a field or class trip.
- Bus Drivers must observe all Bus Safety and driving regulations as stipulated by North Carolina and Federal law.
- Bus Drivers are prohibited from using their cell phones while behind the wheel of the bus.
- Bus Drivers agree to the Alcohol and Drug Use Policy listed below and agree to abstain from drinking any alcoholic beverages for at least 12 hours prior to the pre-trip inspection.

Alcohol & Drug Use Policy for Volunteers and Bus Drivers

Veritas Christian Academy has a "No Tolerance" view on the use of alcohol while on the premises of Veritas Christian Academy, when supervising or traveling with students, when in the presence of students, when attending school sponsored events, when chaperoning students on a school sponsored trip, or when representing the school in any capacity. The use of or possession of any such items shall constitute immediate disciplinary action up to termination.

Veritas Christian Academy prohibits any use of illegal drugs. Violations of this policy will result in immediate disciplinary action up to termination.

Any employee or bus driver presenting reasonable suspicion to be under the influence while on the campus or while representing Veritas Christian Academy will be subject to testing provided by a certified testing facility under the operation of a Medical Review Officer. The Headmaster or Director of Human Resources shall transport the employee or bus driver to the facility immediately for the testing procedures. The Medical Review Officer of the facility will provide a detailed report of the findings to the Headmaster with his/her determination.

Visitors

- All visitors to Veritas Christian Academy are required to sign in at the Main Office and receive a visitor badge.
- Immediate family and clergy are allowed to visit during the school day with prior approval of the respective principal. All other visitors must visit during non-school hours.
- Prior to leaving campus, visitors will report to the Main Office to sign out.
- Visitors on campus for a special event may sign students out in the classroom; however, siblings must be signed out in the front office. Parents should not enter classrooms to retrieve students.