



VCA
VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

School Handbook

Vision

Valley Christian Academy is a homeschool cooperative with an *emphasis on academics and family*. As parents we are called to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Valley Christian Academy is dedicated **to equip and empower parents and students to fulfill their purpose in Christ** by providing structure, edifying relationships, a rich foundation of Biblical truth and encouragement to walk in Spirit-filled service. Our goal is to provide a financially viable learning environment for all parents who value a Christ-centered upbringing for their children.

Philosophy

God-given parental authority, Scripture and Biblical method, which takes into account the true nature of a child, is the foundation at Valley Christian Academy.

Ephesians 6:4 says, *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”*

2 Timothy 3:16 says, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

Jeremiah 6:16 says, *“Thus says the Lord: “Stop by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls...”*

Statement of Faith

The Bible – It is God’s word to man. It is living and active. It is inspired, infallible, and authoritative (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Jesus Christ – Jesus is the Messiah prophesied, the one and only begotten Son of God, the exact representation of God, fully human and fully God. He was born from a

virgin, lived a sinless life, and He died and rose again to reconcile all people to God and to free them from the power of sin and the devil. He will return again to reign over His Kingdom (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13).

Sin – Sin was introduced into mankind through Adam, the first man. His sin enslaved the world and mankind to the power of the devil. All of mankind has sinned and the penalty is death, separation from God. Jesus Christ, God's son, paid the penalty of sin to reconcile mankind to God. Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus for forgiveness of sin is forgiven and free from the curse of sin and death (Romans 5:12-21, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-5).

Salvation – Salvation is a free gift that comes from God through belief in Jesus; His finished work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Salvation is freedom from the power of sin & death for body, soul, & spirit (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

God – The Godhead is Triune in nature manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (John 1:1-2, 14; John 4:24; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

The Holy Spirit – Jesus baptizes the believer with the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit sanctifies and purifies the believer. He draws believers to God and empowers them to be the witnesses of His Kingdom and resurrection (John 1:33; Acts 1:8; John 16:5-15; Titus 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 8:16, 23, 26, 27; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31).

Miracles/Healings – Miracles and healings were the works Jesus and His disciples demonstrated to confirm the good news about God's Kingdom making its advance against the dominion of the devil. All believers today are empowered to demonstrate these works and thereby advance His Kingdom (Matthew 4:17, 23, 12:28, 28:19-20; John 9:4, 10:37; Mark 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 12:9-10).

Ordinances - Jesus and the early church gave us two ordinances: Baptism and Communion. We hold fast to these ordinances and practice them in accordance with the truth.

Baptism - We believe water baptism is a physical representation of a spiritual reality where the believer identifies with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Being raised into Newness of Life, Dead to Sin and Alive to God through Jesus Christ. We baptize believers in water into the name of Jesus according to Acts 2:38 - "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 6:3-4, 1 Peter 3:21-22).

Communion - Every Month as a Body we partake of communion, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ as way of remembering the New Covenant we have been born into through the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. We believe that the Blood of Jesus was offered for mankind for the forgiveness of sins and that the broken Body of Jesus was offered for the salvation and healing of mankind. As we partake in this holy ordinance it is important to judge ourselves rightly in light of the forgiveness and healing that is offered through His meal (Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:14-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

Gospel of the Kingdom of God - As prophesied by Daniel, God's rule, authority, and realm was inaugurated by the incarnation of Jesus, our king. When He came, he preached a message about the coming of His Kingdom and demonstrated its advancement against the Kingdom of the enemy by healing the sick and casting out devils. He left the advancement of His Kingdom in the hands of the disciples with the expectation that this Gospel be taken all throughout the earth until the day He returns to

receive His Kingdom (Daniel 2:44; John 18:36; Matthew 4:17, 23, 12:28; Revelation 11:15, 12:10).

Second Coming - In the ever-increasing government of God and in the hope, which is the return of Jesus Christ for believers. Heaven and hell are real places. There will be a resurrection of the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting death (Isaiah 9:7; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 20:11-15; John 6:40; Luke 23:43; John 14:3).

Honoring the Biblical Family Unit

God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together, reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Although sexual education is not part of the curriculum at VCA, we believe, in order to preserve the function and integrity of the community, and to provide biblical role models to families and students, it is necessary that all employees, volunteers, parents and students who participate at VCA adhere to the biblical design of marriage, gender, and sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; I Thess 5:22).

Educational Program

Curriculum for grades K-12 can be found on the Curriculum Plan Spreadsheet that is updated annually.

Grading on Progress Reports

Teachers will be grading students with the following guidelines:

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

E = Excellent (exceeds goals)

P = Praiseworthy (meets goals)

S = Satisfactory (making progress, likely to reach goals)

N = Needs Improvement (not enough progress to reach goals)

U = Unsatisfactory (not making progress)

6th – 12th Grade

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

Parent-Teacher Meetings will be held once a semester. This will be announced so that parents/guardians have a chance to schedule time with the teachers.

Progress Reports will be given out at the end of each quarter.

Discipline: To follow Jesus is to submit to Him and His authority. We want to raise our students in a safe and fun environment. This will help us to be able to cultivate the gifts, talents and calling that is on our students. Discipline cultivates faith and strength. It is necessary to live a life of worship (service).

At VCA, the focus of all discipline is to maintain an orderly environment conducive to learning in the classroom. When a student understands and loves a standard, he cheerfully and willingly submits to it. It is not about conforming to a set of rules. Rather, it is about seeking God's heart – out of which righteous acts will flow. Because stewardship and safety are a top priority, we intend the following guidelines to help parents understand the expectations at Valley Christian Academy so we can be an example of Godly behavior in our community.

Expectations of Students:

1. Respect for adults: Students are to respond to adults with respectful speech and behavior. It is unacceptable to defy instruction or correction.
2. Respect for Others: We encourage children to find encouraging things to say to others. Unkind or crude speech will not be tolerated. Pushing past adults or other children, overpowering others vocally or physically, and disregarding others around them is discouraged.
3. Respect for Property: Children are expected to respect the facility and property of others.
 - Walk – don't run inside.
 - No roughhousing inside.
 - No climbing on furniture or staircase.
 - Outside the building children are expected to be aware of others, acting appropriately to the situation. Energetic play and running is encouraged as long as the activities do not harm others, cause damage or leave a mess.
 - Leave everything cleaner than you found them, including restrooms.
 - Eating or drinking should only be done in designated areas and with permission.
4. Classroom guidelines:
 - Students should not interrupt the teacher or speak out of turn. Raising their hand is the appropriate way to get the teacher's attention.
 - Bad language or any unkindness toward others will not be tolerated.
 - Disobedience or delayed obedience will be corrected.
 - Hitting, spitting or any other similar actions will result in removal from class.

Repeated disregard of others, disobedience, harm to others, destruction of property, lying, cheating, or bad language will result in dismissal, suspension or expulsion from VCA. Administration will meet with parents to help parents resolve problems first before suspension or expulsion. Dismissal from the school day may occur without notice depending on the infraction. Parents will need to get their student immediately if this happens.

Parents, Concerns, and School Improvement: As we work together to improve our school environment, we value parent insight. With that being said, we ask parents to involve themselves in a way that resolves concerns Biblically. If parents have concerns, please follow these guidelines:

1. Address the issue or concern with the parent or teacher or whomever is directly involved. This is the Biblical process of resolving conflicts, even though it may

seem uncomfortable. Going to administration before addressing the conflict directly hinders relationships. It's better to speak directly with those who have first-hand knowledge of the situation, as a Principal rarely does.

- Matt 18:15-17 says, "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses'..."
- Prov 18:2 says, "The first to present his case seems right, until another comes forward and questions him."

2. Once the teacher (or other person) has had sufficient time to respond to a concern, contacting the Principal would be the next step. The Principal will ask if you have spoken with the other party.

3. Please do not discuss the problem with other parents unless they are directly involved. Although this may be done with the best of intentions, it is important to avoid gossip and to promote unity by honoring others in the same way you would like to be honored.

When to Come Directly to Administration:

1. If you observe clearly unethical or illegal acts.
2. If your concern is an issue of policy, not the teacher...ex: dress code concerns.
3. If you observe a dangerous situation or a security issue.
4. If the issue is personal and not suited for the teacher or others to know, like an impending divorce.

Correction as a Community: Discipline should be positive. We encourage those working with children to be quick to give positive encouragement for good behavior. A firm, gentle attitude is expected when dealing with bad behavior. As a community, we ask parents to support adults who are correcting their children in this way. During school events, please do your part to help monitor students when they seem unsupervised. When you see behavior that is concerning, please intervene and seek out the child's parents.

Admission Process: Valley Christian Academy was established to provide a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, biblically based, education for families that desire this kind of education for their children. If parents agree with the *Vision, Statement of Faith*, and the *policies of VCA*, they may follow the steps below to enroll their students.

Admissions Procedures

1. Read and understand the policies and procedures in the "School Handbook."
2. Schedule an interview and tour by contacting the Principal at 208-459-9133. Parents and students must attend.
3. Complete Online Admissions Application along with registration fee before deadline.
4. Complete placement tests if requested.
5. After acceptance, parents must attend the parent orientation meeting.
6. If your student is not accepted, you will be notified.

Basic Qualifications for Admittance: All students must be able to function independently in the classroom environment. VCA is not equipped to provide one-on-one instructional support throughout the day for students with special needs.

Kindergarten: Children around 5 years old capable of following directions, with good fine motor skills, and some understanding of the alphabet and numbers will be considered. An interview may be needed to gauge readiness for our learning program.

Levels 1 – 12: Children’s ages may vary but all children must have a basic knowledge of reading according to their level. Reading, Writing, Math and English placement tests need to be completed to determine class level.

TUITION AND FEES: Tuition is to be paid by the last Thursday of the month upon receipt of invoice.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100.00 per family (non-refundable) to be paid with Debit or Credit Card.

SUPPLY FEE: \$125.00 per student

CURRICULUM FEES are as follows:

K-2nd \$350.00

3rd-5th \$450.00

6th-8th \$550.00

9th-12th \$650.00

YEARLY TUITION: K – 12th Grade: \$4,000

Additional Children Discounts:

1st Child \$4,000

2nd Child \$3,600

3rd Child \$3,200

4th Child \$2,800 (and any additional children)

Yearly tuition paid in full receives a 5% discount.

(Contact us if an alternate payment plan is desired.)

Non-refundable registration fee of \$100 is due with the Online Application. Supply fee and Curriculum fee are due May 23, 2024.

Payments: Tuition payments are due in full on the last Thursday of each month. There is a \$25 late fee for payments that are not received by the 10th. If the account becomes delinquent at any time during the school year, please communicate with the Principal about financial issues. If your account becomes 30 days past due, we may require you to take your child out of VCA until your account is paid in full, unless other arrangements have been made.

Late Pick-Up Fee: There is a \$5 charge for every 15 minutes for children who are picked up late after school dismissal without notice or communication.

Field Trip Fees: We will go on a variety of field trips throughout the year. Parents will receive information about the field trip and any applicable costs before the trip.

Early Withdrawal: Parents who withdraw their students before the end of the year will be responsible for the next month's tuition. Refunds will be prorated accordingly.

Schedules and Calendar: The annual calendar will be posted online.

On-Campus Days: VCA on-campus days are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00-3:00.

At-Home Days: VCA at-home days are Monday and Friday. Homework assignments for Mondays and Fridays will be given to students each Thursday. Recommended at-home work time per day for each grade level are as follows:

- Kindergarten: 30 min
- 1st - 3rd: 1-1.5 hrs
- 4th - 5th: 2 - 3 hrs
- 6th - 12th: 3 - 4 hrs

Assembly: We will have one assembly each year to enjoy the Christmas Program.

Chapel: Chapel will be on the last Tuesday of every month. Worship will be led by our worship pastor, Pastor Christie and a short message by a Staff Pastor or a special guest.

Holidays: We do not acknowledge or celebrate Halloween as a school.

Snow Days/School Closures: VCA attempts to follow the same Snow-Day policy/criteria as Caldwell School District. If school is cancelled because of an unusual or emergency event, parents will be notified.

Absences: Absences need to be excused. When a student misses class, it is the parent's responsibility to obtain homework so the student can keep up with the class. Please contact the teacher to make arrangements for assignments and to pick up any books the student needs. When the students are out for more than 2 days we are asking for a written note to be brought in when they return to class.

Health Policy

Students should be kept home if:

- Fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within last 24 hours
- Severe coughing or runny nose
- Other symptoms of a contagious disease
- Head lice, nits or bugs present on head

Students with minor cold symptoms may attend class. If a student's symptoms prevent him from being able to focus, parents will be called to come get him early.

Vaccinations

VCA is not an accredited school. Instead, we are a home school cooperative, run by parents and funded by tuition, donations, fundraisers, and the gracious support of Valley Church. Therefore, we are not required to keep vaccination records. It is the responsibility of parents to research the risks and benefits of any medical procedure suggested for their children and their right to make such decisions. We will not require documentation of vaccinations nor inform anyone of vaccination status of students.

Drop Off/Pick Up & Parking Lot Guidelines

Driving High School students and VHSM students may park in the East Parking Lot and enter in the Southeast Gym Door. This will decrease traffic congestion during arrival and dismissal.

Drop off: Children are to be dropped off at the first double doors after you enter the roundabout. Please do not stop and get out of your car. That location is for drop off only. If you need to park, please park in the parking lot.

Pick up: After school, line up in front of main church doors under carport. Please do not stop and get out of your car. That location is for pick up only. A staff member will escort your student to your vehicle. If you need to park, please use the parking lot.

Visitors: VCA welcomes adult family members to the classroom. If parents, grandparents, or other adult relatives want to visit, they should notify the teacher in advance. Non-relative adults will be allowed to visit on a case-by-case basis with permission from the parent and the teacher.

Personal Belongings/Electronic Devices

Students may not bring the following to school: Electronic devices, toys, games (except approved for lunch time), gum, or any other items restricted by the teacher. If a permitted personal item (jewelry, hair accessories) becomes a distraction, the teacher may ask the students to put them away. Cell phones are not allowed during school. If they are observed, they will be confiscated and given to a parent after school. If problem persists, further disciplinary action will be considered.

Modesty Policy

“Consider others interests above your own.” The heart of modesty is humility. Humility sets aside one’s freedoms for the sake of another’s weakness. Therefore, if your conscience is free to engage in any of the below activities, please limit your activity to outside of school hours.

- No clothing that accidentally or purposely exposes undergarments or portions of undergarments.
- No spaghetti straps or muscle shirts.
- No clothing that accidentally or purposely exposes cleavage or any part of the midriff, small of the back or lower.
- No clothing or any accessories with foul language, coarse words, or wording that is intended to be offensive.
- No clothing or any accessories with pictures/graphics denoting violence.
- No clothing or any accessories with wording, pictures/graphics that denote heresy against our Lord.
- Shorts/skirts/dresses should end at fingertip length or mid-thigh while standing.
- Skirts and dresses should have shorts, leggings, or tights underneath. Leggings are not considered pants and should only be worn under skirts or dresses.
- Any appearance that is considered extreme or offensive (i.e. clothing, piercings, hair coloring) is not acceptable.
- No foul language or coarse talk.
- No electronics or music with content that has foul language, coarse talk, or violence.
- No exclusiveness with peers.
- No public displays of affection between members of opposite sex, (except, of course, affection expressed amongst family members.)
- Yes to whatever is good, whatever is pure, whatever is noble.

NOTE: Please pay attention to the activities you will be engaging in during the school day. Some clothes that meet the modesty policy while seated in a classroom may be problematic while dancing or playing games.