



FAMILY HANDBOOK: Policy & Procedures 2007/2008

New Hope Christian School & Learning Center
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Section I

General Information

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Handbook: Policies and Procedures

2007-2008

SECTION I

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & EARLY LEARNING CENTER FAMILIES

G.1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Family Handbook is intended to serve as a convenient source of information about New Hope Christian School & Learning Center. Please study it carefully together as a family upon receiving it, and keep it ready for reference during the year.

The following policies and procedures represent the most recent expression of the leadership of New Hope Christian School & Learning Center in order to provide for equitable and consistent treatment of students and families. To assure that New Hope achieves and maintains the purpose of this policy manual and to assure the organization's continued ability to meet its needs and those of its students and families under changing conditions, New Hope reserves the right to modify, augment, suspend, or revoke any and all policies, procedures, practices, and statements contained in this manual at any time.

Questions about policies or procedures should be directed to the appropriate school administrator. It is the goal at New Hope Christian School & Learning Center to create an environment where Christ is honored every day and where there are few distractions to learning.

May God bless our school family as we work together to serve our Lord and Savior.

G.1.1 About New Hope Christian School & Learning Center

The dream of a Christian school for Pickaway County began in the minds of some community and church leaders. They began to discuss the process of moving forward in the spring of 1992. In February 1993, the Circleville Church of the Nazarene assumed leadership for this new venture by starting a small Learning Center and preschool program, opening August 31, 1993, at Pickaway Street, with 17 children, licensed by the Ohio Department of Human Services. Carol Barnhart was hired as administrator.

Fall 1994

- Added our first Kindergarten class of 7 students, Laurie Rickel, teacher, and a combined 1, 2, 3 class of 8 students taught by Janice Rennick.
- Pre-kindergarten enrollment of 35, with teachers; Lenore Humble, Krista Justus and Patty Ratliff.
- Added food service & school age Learning Center.

Fall 1995

- Kindergarten of 7 students.
- Grades 1 - 4, 15 students.
- Special classes with outside instructors for music, art, P.E, Spanish and Computer classes.
- Became members of the Association of Christian Schools International
- Organized an expanded School Board, led by Harry Canfield.

Fall 1996

- Added Grade 5.
- Adopted a school mascot and logo, "New Hope Navigators"
- School colors, royal blue and white
- Kindergarten enrollment - 16 students
- Grades 1 - 5 - 22 students
- Added a school office manager, Krista Justus.

Fall 1997

- Kindergarten enrollment of 24 students
- Grades 1 - 6, 34 students
- Added instrumental music instruction
- Administered the Stanford Achievement Test to all grades
- Graduated two sixth grade students

Fall 1998

- Completed the State Charter process with the Ohio Department of Education
- Adopted Bob Jones Social Studies and Black History curriculum
- Formed a steering committee to begin a Parent Teacher Fellowship
- Held first Fine Arts Evening

Fall 1999

- Fall Spiritual and Science Emphasis with “Answers in Genesis”
- Began to work with Ohio Department of Education on relocation to new facility
- Worked with the Building Committee on classroom arrangements and furnishings
- Added a part-time tutor to the staff

Fall 2000

- Moved out of Pickaway St. School on Friday and began to operate at the Walnut Creek location on Monday.
- Adopted the ABEKA curriculum for preschool and elementary grades
- Opened a computer lab and expanded library

Fall 2001

- 30% increase in elementary enrollment
- Additional office staff to set up and manage data base
- Started honoring Student of the Month.
- Participated in meetings for new State Educational Standards

Fall 2002

- Added a small Seventh Grade class
- Started rotation of classes for middle and upper elementary grades in math, science, social studies, and Bible
- Relocated and increased the size of computer lab
- Completed new classroom addition to the building and new office space

Fall 2003

- Reorganized the School Board
- Participated in “Forty Days of Purpose” with the school staff
- Developed a new Mission Statement, “Building a Foundation of Truth”
- Held our first Science Fair
- Adopted the ACSI Math curriculum

Fall 2004

- 50% increase in elementary enrollment
- Child Care enrollment 54
- Part-time Pre-K enrollment of 42
- Hired new school administrator, Mr. Mike Fluhart
- Opened our second Kindergarten class

Fall 2005

- Enrollment of 87 in K-6th
- Part-time Pre-K enrollment of 47
- Child Care enrollment of 84
- Added Spanish
- Team Teaching

Fall 2006

- Enrollment K-7 – 103
- Part-time Pre-K – 41
- Child Care- enrollment of 108
- Change the name of the Child Care to Early Learning Center to better reflect the change in our academic emphasis in Child Care
- Added Band as part of the Curriculum
- Added summer enrichment program called Nuggets at New Hope

G.1.2 New Hope Christian School & Early Learning Center

The New Hope Christian School & ELC is an alliance of Christian programs having a philosophy, mission, and commitment to providing quality Christian education in a Christ-centered environment. However, these programs differ in that each reflects the needs and desires of the Christian community it serves. The school offers families a Christian education for their children in grades Kindergarten through 7th grade, with a vision to add 8th grade next school year. The school also offers a summer learning program called “Nuggets at New Hope”.

Our Learning Center is open 6:15am to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. Daycare classes are offered for children starting at 18 months of age. New Hope provides on-site school age child care and a Summer Day Camp for in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. A three-day preschool is offered for children preparing to go to Kindergarten the next year, as well as a two-day program for three-year olds.

For additional enrollment information, please call the office during office hours, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You are welcome to visit the school at any time.

G.1.3 Statement of Faith

WHAT WE BELIEVE

In essential beliefs – we have unity. “There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs – we have liberty. “Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will be an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs – we show charity. “...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains – but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” I Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. In one God, the creator of all things, who reveals himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. In Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man at the same time, who became like us to bring about our salvation.
3. In the Holy spirit, who is active in the world, bringing us to salvation and assisting in our growth and service.
4. The Bible is the word of God, giving us all we need to know about how to be saved.
5. We have all sinned and need God=s forgiveness and cleansing.
6. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and only by trusting in him can we be restored to a right relationship with God.
7. Each person is free to choose whether or not to follow Jesus.
8. To receive the salvation Jesus offers, we must repent of our sins and trust him.
9. Putting faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins changes us from being spiritually dead to being spiritually alive. The old life’s record is wiped clean. Various terms are used to describe this, including conversion, regeneration, and being born again..
10. As a part of growth in God=s grace, every believer is called upon to yield complete direction of his life to Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit. This brings cleansing of our selfish nature and power to follow Christ as we ought.
11. The Church is the family of believers charged with continuing Christ=s redemptive work on earth.
12. Baptism and the Lord=s Supper are symbols of our salvation, and means by which to witness to our faith and strengthen our faith.

13. God can heal the body miraculously or through medicine. When God chooses not to heal physically, he heals spiritually, mentally, and/or emotionally.

14. Jesus will one day return to put all things under his control.

15. Everyone will face judgment at the end of life; believers in Jesus will be eternally with Christ; those who have rejected him will face eternal punishment.

G.1.4 Mission Statement

The mission of New Hope Christian School & Learning Center is to provide a Christ-centered environment, based on the literal interpretation of the Bible, where the New Hope family is challenged to strive for personal growth, academic excellence, and spiritual maturity.

Guiding Principles:

- To uphold Jesus Christ as the model for all actions at all times
- To prayerfully seek God's will
- To regard the Bible as God's holy and reverent word
- To honor and respect each person as a creation of God
- To provide quality education in a Christ-centered environment
- To commit to excellence in leadership by example
- To cultivate positive attitudes
- To promote partnership in Christian education among staff, faculty, parents and students

G.1.5 Philosophy and Goals of New Hope Christian School & Learning Center

PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS

New Hope Christian School & Learning Center was established as a ministry of the Circleville Church of the Nazarene in Circleville, Ohio, to provide opportunity for the highest possible academic achievement in a pleasant, wholesome and distinctively Christian atmosphere. Specifically, it is the purpose and goal of New Hope to provide our students with the very best education with caring, qualified Christian teachers. The school provides curriculum, activities, methods and materials centered in and upon the eternal principles of God's Word and His Son, Jesus Christ. Small class size provides a high degree of individual interaction.

We believe that the education of our students is important because it not only deals with their present lives, but it also affects and shapes their future. The student's home, church and school experience should be a preparation for life; a life of walking daily with God and service to man.

New Hope is founded on the premise that education is Christian when it is Christ-centered. Our studies expand our knowledge of God and His world. We believe that the thrust in Christian education should be the development of a complete concept and understanding of God and His creation and the development of Christian stewardship practices in daily life; teaching children to perform at their highest level of capability.

The purpose of New Hope is to provide a Biblically-integrated instructional program in a disciplined environment that encourages spiritual commitment and academic excellence. Additionally we believe that every child can learn. It is our responsibility as educators to insure every child is successful.

We believe, therefore, it is the responsibility of the school to be dedicated to:

- 1) Leading each student to a vital, personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ;
- 2) Assisting each student in the development of a Christian mind and a Christian lifestyle;
- 3) Promoting a Biblical integration of faith and learning;
- 4) Developing a comprehensive educational program, including state standards, that helps each student achieve full academic potential;
- 5) Maintaining a diverse extracurricular program designed to assist each student in the development of social skills and the expression of individual personality;
- 6) Preparing and encouraging each student for effective service for Christ in whatever career he/she chooses;
- 7) Supporting and assisting the Christian home and the Bible-teaching local church.

To fulfill these responsibilities it is the goal of New Hope to:

Christian Faith and Values

- 1) Help each student increase their knowledge of God and accept Him as the source of knowledge and wisdom.
- 2) Encourage each student to accept Christ their as personal Savior and to grow and develop in the knowledge of Christ so as to become more like Him. (Ephesians 4: 13)
- 3) Help each student understand the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, who lives in each believer, and guides each believer in the understanding and application of Biblical principles. (John 14:26, John 16:13,1 Corinthians 6:19)
- 4) Help each student gain knowledge of, appreciation for, and confidence in the Bible as the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, and encourage each student to be consistent in personal Bible study.
- 5) Help each student understand the significance of the local Bible-teaching church and the necessity for regular attendance and involvement.
- 6) Help each student identify and develop his/her unique gifts and abilities, and the importance of using them for the benefit of the entire Christian community. (I Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4: 16)
- 7) Help each student with the development of personal Christian convictions and values, and encourage commitment to them during times of pressure and adversity. (Ephesians 6: 11-13)

Christian Missions and Service

- 1) Encourage each student to be sensitive and responsible to the needs of others. (Philippians 2:4)
- 2) Help each student develop the abilities and skills needed to effectively communicate the Gospel of Christ. (Romans 1:16)
- 3) Help each student develop a knowledge of and spiritual concern for other people and cultures, and assume the responsibility each Christian has in the area of world missions. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Intellectual Development

- 1) Assist each student in recognizing that each area of instruction: scientific, historical, mathematical, literary, or artistic, must be understood, within the pattern of God's truth as revealed in the Bible.
- 2) Assist each student to acquire proficiency in the basic skills necessary to intelligently meet the demands of life.
- 3) Help each student gain a thorough command of the fundamental processes used in communicating with others.
- 4) Challenge each student to strive for excellence and maximum achievement in every area of the instructional program.
- 5) Prepare each student to pursue independent study, to reason logically, and to develop a life-long interest in learning and intellectual development.
- 6) Prepare each student with the knowledge and skills necessary for further study and occupational competence.
- 7) Assist each student in the development of creative and critical thinking skills, using Biblical principles and criteria as the basis for evaluation.

Physical Development

- 1) Assist each student to understand that the body is the temple of God and is to be kept clean and pure, capable of responding to God's direction.
- 2) Encourage each student to accept personal responsibility for achieving and maintaining physical fitness and practicing good health habits.
- 3) Develop in each student an awareness that a healthy physical body contributes significantly to a sound mental, spiritual, and social state.
- 4) Assist each student in recognizing the dangers inherent in the use of substances harmful to both physical and spiritual well being, and in accepting responsibility to avoid the use of such substances.
- 5) Assist each student to develop an interest in the skills needed for life-long involvement in physical activities.

Social Development

- 1) Encourage each student to develop Christian attitudes, accept principles of behavior, and base decisions on the spiritual, moral, and ethical values of the Bible.
- 2) Prepare each student to assume the responsibility and privileges of citizenship.
- 3) Teach each student the Biblical principles regarding marriage and family life and the personal commitment needed to establish and maintain Christian families.
- 4) Assist each student to acquire the attitude and skills essential to effective interpersonal relationships.

Career Development

- 1) Assist each student to acquire a basic knowledge of the economic system, to develop attitudes and skills needed to be a competent consumer, and to apply Biblical principles to the use of personal resources.