

## 1.10 Parent Partnership

At Covenant, we believe that the school exists to assist parents in their God-given responsibility to train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Therefore, our school unites with the family to form a culture in which our studies, relationships, and activities are centered on Jesus Christ.

CCS is committed to the principle of *in loco parentis*. This Latin phrase means “in place of the parents.” We believe that CCS administration, teachers, and staff partner with parents to teach and disciple CCS students. We operate with delegated authority and acknowledge that parents are directly responsible before God for their children’s education. In order for parents to partner effectively with the school, parents should agree with the core values, beliefs, and educational goals of the school. We encourage CCS parents to be actively involved in the everyday activities and special events of the school. Parents are welcome in our classrooms and are invited to volunteer, serve, and assist in the wide variety of events, programs, and classes that happen at CCS. Volunteering helps foster a closer, caring community at CCS, while allowing the teachers to focus on academics. We encourage CCS parents to engage with their children’s education. This is accomplished by connecting with the material being taught and the people in the classrooms. Children need to know that their parents are truly interested in what they are learning and experiencing at school. We encourage CCS parents to model for their children a consistent, winsome, authentic, and compelling life of virtue. Children are keen observers and are quick to spot hypocrisy, double-standards, and inconsistency. We encourage CCS parents to model for their children a life of humility. We all sin and must seek to honor the Lord with the acts of repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. Modeling the daily living-out of a growing faith is a tremendous gift to give children.

### School

Teachers and school personnel are expected to collaborate with families to serve the needs of their children. Therefore, all employees of the school will strive to be Christ-like in our partnership with parents by:

- Listening and thinking before we speak (Prov 18:3, 15:28; James 3:3-8)
- Speaking the truth (Prov. 12:22)
- Recognizing the priority of the family
- Welcoming communication with parents on issues related to their children
- Collaborating in executing the mission of the school
- Praying for and with families

### Parents

CCS encourages parental involvement. This covenant between CCS and its parents is intended to create a collaborative effort towards serving the children. Some ways that the school encourages parents to be involved include:

- Visit and/or assist in the school or classroom
- Serve as a Contact Parent/Room Parent or assist a Room Parent
- Drive and/or chaperone for a field trip
- Volunteer to help at school functions
- Attend all special school events
- Provide financial support to the school
- Monitor your child’s academic progress by checking papers, newsletters, FACTS, Google Classroom, etc.
- Maintain open and constructive lines of communication with teachers
- Attend monthly prayer meetings with other parents

### *Expectations for parents in partnering with the school:*

- Parents agree to work with the teacher to help maximize growth in character and intellect
- Parents agree to pray for their children and school regularly, especially for their children’s teachers
- Parents agree to provide a quiet time and place for homework
- Parents agree to read with their children and develop a family love for literature
- Parents agree to donate time (schedule and circumstances permitting) to assist the school

- Parents concur with the classical and Christian philosophy of education
- Parents accept financial responsibility for a full year's tuition
- Parents agree to abide by the policies and procedures of Covenant Christian School

### **Questions and Concerns**

Graciousness, respect, and a refusal to gossip should characterize the relationship among our faculty, staff, students, and parents. Questions and concerns inevitably arise even in a well-run school. To complain or gossip about an issue with anyone other than the person involved is unhealthy, unfair, and unbiblical. Every parent must be willing to seek proper resolution to conflict. The overarching Biblical principle that guides conflict resolution at CCS is found in Matthew 18:15-16: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses."

Faculty, staff, parents, and students are expected to follow these steps for conflict resolution:

*Parent to Parent:* If an issue arises between families, the families should seek to make peace with one another directly.

*Parents/Students to Teacher:* If an issue arises in the classroom, the parents should speak to the teacher before discussing the matter with those in authority over the teacher or with other parents. If the issue remains unresolved, the parent and teacher should meet together with the Head of School.

*Parents/Students to Head of School:* If an issue arises regarding school procedures, curriculum, student misconduct, unresolved issues, or accommodation requests, the parents should conference with the Head of School. Cases of serious misconduct of CCS students or faculty should be reported directly to the Head of School.

*Parents to School Board:* If an issue remains unresolved after meeting with the Head of School, parents should address their concerns in writing to the Board Chairman through the Head of School.