



**Parent-Student
Handbook
2016-2017**

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WELCOME TO FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

REV. RAYMOND WILLIAMS

Pastor

Welcome to Faith Christian Academy. You have enrolled in a school that is well known for quality Christian education. We are so honored that you are part of a journey toward excellence.

God is calling churches across America to build Christian schools. Faith Christian has accepted this call, acknowledging a great price to pay, but believing the reward will be well worth the effort. The next generation will be different if the people of God today will point a new direction.

The vision of Faith Christian Academy is an extension of our vision for the entire ministry (see page 3). We believe FCA should be an atmosphere of “truth and grace that effectively and authentically communicates Jesus.” In practical terms, students will attain academic tools in a spiritual atmosphere by which they may become outstanding leaders in our society.

The solemn responsibility of partnering with parents for the nurturing of young people is one, which we fully realize. Under God, we will do our best to serve your educational needs in an uncompromising spiritual format.

The guidelines offered in this handbook are helpful to establish the environment in which the educational and moral values can most effectively be imparted. These pages establish the parameters and expectations by which parents and educators may meet the needs of students.

I am confident that your decision to enroll at Faith will result in a wonderful advance for your family. Have a joy-filled year.

WELCOME TO FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MRS. NICOLE L. WILLIAMS, ED. S.
Head of School

It is a pleasure and a blessing for us to present our school to you. The Lord has given us a mandate to teach our children based on God's Word and according to godly principles. Our desire is to see our students grow according to Psalm 1:3, "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season [...] And whatsoever he does shall prosper."

Our young people are a gift from God, and we at Faith Christian Academy are endeavoring to provide excellence in every area of our school. From our academics, to our Fine Arts and chapel we are challenging our students to be all that the Lord has meant for them to be and to do it for His Glory. It is our desire that if you share in this vision for your young person, you will allow us the privilege to partner with you in preparing your student for tomorrow's world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Faith Christian Academy provides excellent Christian education to all of our students with the highest standards of citizenship, honor, and honesty. Faith Christian Academy will deliver education with high moral standards, passion in education and through a demonstration of understanding Biblical principles.

VISION STATEMENT

- To form a partnership with believing parents in order to establish our children with a total biblical worldview
- To help train up a generation of godly leaders who love learning and are sought after for their wisdom
- To inspire, teach and minister to the needs of the children and families on the love of Jesus Christ through education.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following truths are held in common agreement by members of Faith Christian Academy:

- I. We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible authoritative Word of God. It gives a true history of the creation of the earth and of mankind.
- II. There is only one God: the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and of all mankind. That this one God is Father in creation, Son in redemption, and Holy Ghost in regeneration and activity. He is the First and the Last and beside Him there is no God.
- III. Salvation consists of deliverance from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through repentance from sin, water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. This is called the New Birth (John 3:5 and Acts 2:38); and continuing in the apostles' doctrine with a holy and consistent life.

PHILOSOPHY

We present, without apology, the whole truth about Jesus Christ as He is revealed in His Word in every area of the program.

We strive for the full development of each student, drawing from resources within and without the school.

We believe learning is a natural, exciting process involving struggle and discovery, disappointment and satisfaction.

We value the hard work and extra effort needed to lead a student to excellence not otherwise attained.

We teach a complete educational experience in a spiritual atmosphere integrated with the aesthetic, physical, and spiritual which includes a fine arts department.

We seek committed and caring professionals for our faculty and staff.

We seek students with intellectual promise from diverse backgrounds and value energy, enthusiasm, imagination, curiosity, creativity, and a sense of humor.

We emphasize the value and dignity of individual spiritual needs, understanding and respecting the diverse beliefs represented in the FCA community while exposing students to the Christian tradition.

HISTORY

Founded in 2011, Faith Christian Academy is the newest and smallest Christian school in Plant City. FCA was founded by the Faith Christian Board of Trustees who had a vision to provide the finest liberal arts education in a Christian environment to the youth of our community. For over twenty years, the school has remained true to the goal of its founders. Our doors are open to families in the surrounding communities who desire their children to learn and grow in harmony with the Word of God. FCA is a nonprofit organization governed by a board of trustees from our sponsoring church.

Being a Christian school means we assist parents in fulfilling their divine responsibility to thoroughly train each child to obey God in every area of life and make him or her true disciple of Jesus Christ. The program is designed to challenge students of good moral character who are in the middle to upper range of academic ability.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Students are considered tardy at 8:05 a.m.

Unless otherwise notified, Faith Christian Academy is not responsible for students on campus at other times.

CAMPUS CLOSING POLICY

The FCA campus officially opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Before or after that time, there should be no students on campus. The only exception will be students participating in sponsor-led school activities, i.e., athletics, cheerleading, band, extended care, etc. These are the only options available that will provide reasonable security and safety for students.

ANY STUDENT, PreK-12TH ON CAMPUS BEFORE 7:30 OR AFTER 3:15 WILL BE ESCORTED TO EXTENDED CARE, AND PARENTS WILL BE BILLED.

OFFICE HOURS

The school offices are open from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TELEPHONES

The following policy has been implemented to relieve confusion and interruptions in the school offices. The telephones in the school office are not available for student use. If a student is ill, the appropriate staff member will assist the student in reaching his/her parent. If athletic schedules have been changed or cancelled at the last minute, students will be allowed to use the office phone in order to contact their parents.

Parents needing to communicate with their child should contact the main office. Cell phones are not permitted for students.

LIBRARY

The library is to aid students and teachers by providing resources that enhance a complete educational experience.

The library hours are posted by the librarian. FCA students have weekly library visits and may check out one book each week. Books may be renewed for one more week, unless reserved.

A fine of 10 cents per school day, per book is charged for late returns (weekends & holidays are not fined). Damaged or lost books must be paid for a replacement cost plus a \$5.00 processing fee per book. If the lost book is found after the payment for replacement is made, the money cannot be refunded.

LUNCH

All students are required to bring their own lunch. On Fridays, FCA offers the option to order lunch out. A cafeteria menu is sent home at the beginning of the month for all grades. A copy of the menu is also available in the Main office. Lunches may be purchased on a weekly basis and can be purchased through Financial Services in the Main Office. Please make checks payable to FCA. Parents may pay for lunches in advance and each student's account will be debited as meals are purchased. Prices are subject to change during the school year.

All parents are allowed to join their children for lunch after receiving a visitor's pass from the main office. No food may be brought to students except by their parents/guardians.

VISITORS

Any person coming on campus during office hours (7:30-3:30) to visit or observe a class must check in at the school office. Visitors must have a visitor's badge before entering the classroom. We ask that visits be no more than 30 minutes. The times for parties and special events are set by the classroom teachers.

No visitors or parents may smoke inside or around any school building.

We ask that no pets be brought on campus unless pre-arranged.

Adult visitors must dress conservatively and modestly.

Student observations are permissible if:

- The Head of School receives 24-hour notice
- The Head of School feels there is a legitimate reason
- The Head of School feels their presence will not disturb the classes
- The student dresses neatly and modestly so as not to offend.

PARENT CONFERENCES

The parent-teacher conference is an important means of communication with the home. Conferences are held in the fall and spring and may be scheduled throughout the year as needed. Conferences may be scheduled by parents, teachers, or the Head of School. All conferences are scheduled directly with the teacher unless other wise indicated.

Parents are to check in at the school office before going to the classroom for a conference with the teacher.

STUDENT INFORMATION

In order to maintain accurate communication between home and school, it is vitally important that parents notify the school immediately of any changes in address, phone, custody, etc. Please note that Student progress is released only to the persons having legal custody.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a parent and faculty/staff volunteer support organization established to serve the needs of FCA. The purpose of the PTO is to assist the school in its mission to

train Christian leaders. The involvement by parents in the education of their children is vital. All parents are encouraged to support and participate in the PTO. Elections for officer positions of the PTO are held yearly at the end of the current or beginning of the next school year.

SAFETY

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The Head of School will make a determination as to school closings or delayed openings due to inclement weather by 5:00 a.m. The following TV and radio stations will be notified:

- TV Channel 13 (FOX)
- TV Channel 8 (NBC)
- TV Channel 28 (ABC)
- TV Channel 10 (CBS)
- Joy FM Radio (90.5 FM)

FIRE DRILLS/TORNADO DRILLS/LOCK DOWN DRILLS

Fire, tornado, and lock downs drills will be conducted for all grade levels on a regular basis.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Admission to FCA is open to any young person who meets the entrance requirements regardless of race, color, national origin, or ethnicity. All students must conform to the Christian standards set forth in this handbook in order for FCA to provide an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning.

Admission to FCA will be determined by the following:

- Previous school records (i.e. academic performance, discipline records)
- Pastoral reference
- Educational reference form (when applicable)
- Standardized achievement test (when applicable)

HEALTH RECORDS

In accordance with state law, parents are required upon admission of their child to submit an immunization record, a listing of special health needs, and the name of the child's physician.

ACCEPTANCE

After review of the enrollment application and entrance evaluation results, an interview will be scheduled with a school administrator. No interview can be scheduled until all the following have been completed in full and submitted along with the appropriate registration fees:

1. Completed Application Packet with appropriate fees
2. Birth Certificate
3. Immunization records
4. Previous school records
5. Pastoral reference

The interview will be held with at least one parent and the prospective student(s). **The student is not enrolled until all interviews, test results, and previous school clearances are completed. Final decisions regarding acceptance will be made after the interview.** Each student applying for admission will be considered on his/her own merit and not according to religious affiliation, race, or ethnic background. Parents will be notified by letter of their student's acceptance status within a week of the interview.

Attendance at FCA is a privilege, not a right.

RE-ENROLLMENT

Students who are presently enrolled in the school are given first opportunity to re-enroll for the following school year. Eligibility to return will be evaluated each year. Re-enrollment is not complete until the student is approved by the administration and has received written notification of acceptance.

Administrative decisions will be based on the following:

- No more than one "F" in a core subject as a year end average
- Acceptable conduct
- Acceptable attendance

ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

At Faith Christian Academy, young children are exposed to a variety of skills and learning experiences. The school realizes that children absorb and acquire the skills for which they are developmentally ready and respond to educational experiences that stimulate learning in all developmental areas – physical, social, emotional, and cognitive. The curriculum prepares children for the academic expectations of the middle and high schools by providing the following academic and enrichment classes*:

Bible	Social Studies	Music*
Reading	Science	Art*
Phonics	Math	Physical Education*
Spelling	Penmanship	Spanish*
Language	Computers*	

All classroom teachers are degreed and hold state, ACSI, or ACTS certification.

COMMUNICATION PLANNERS

Communication planners are required for students in grades K-12th and are provided by the classroom teachers. These folders are designed to give students and parents an outline of what material will be covered in the upcoming week and are especially useful if a student must miss school. Communication planners are the primary means of communication between the school and home regarding a child's homework, tests, and general progress.

GRADING

Grades K and Electives

E – Excellent
G – Good
S – Satisfactory
N – Needs Improvement

Grades 1st – 12th

100 – 90	A	Excellent
89 – 80	B	Good
79 – 70	C	Average
69 or less	F	Failing

Grades for 1st -12th are calculated as follows:

Daily grades – 45%
Homework grades – 10%
Tests/quizzes/major projects – 45%.

Late Work

The following is the school-wide policy for late work regarding homework, projects, and papers:

1st day – 25 points deducted
2nd day – 50 points deducted
3rd day – No credit

Any exception to this policy must be cleared through the classroom teacher.

REPORT CARDS

Mid-quarter Progress Reports are sent home for each student in grades K-12th. At the end of each nine week period, report cards are sent home in communication planners for grades K-12th. **Financial accounts must be current in order to receive report cards.**

Honor Roll

- “A” Honor Roll – All A’s.
- “A/B” Honor Roll – All A’s and B’s

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic probation is designed to give notice to both students and parents that the student’s performance is sub-standard and that enrollment at FCA is in jeopardy because of the lack of academic achievement. An Academic Review Committee consisting of faculty and administrators reviews all candidates for academic probation.

- Students earning two or more failing grades for a quarter will automatically be placed on academic probation until the end of the next quarter. Parents will be notified by letter regarding their student’s probation status. At the end of the next quarter, all previous quarter’s grades will be averaged to see if the student is currently passing for the year.
- Students continuing with failing grade averages in two or more subjects will be recommended by the Head of School to the Academic Review Committee.

- This committee will make recommendations regarding the status of the students at FCA. If an appeal is made, a letter to the Head of School must be submitted within three school days of the decision.
- When the student has earned a cumulative passing average in all classes the student will be removed from academic probation. Parents will be notified by letter when a student has been removed from academic probation.
- If a student is withdrawn from FCA for academic reasons, he or she may re-apply for enrollment after the student has attended another accredited school or academic program for at least one semester and has not received a grade lower than 75% in any class while completing a full academic load.

In grades 1st-11th, if one core subject (math, English, or reading) is failed for the school year, we recommend that the student take that subject in summer school or summer tutoring. If more than one subject is failed for the school year, the Academic Review Committee will make recommendations regarding the future status of the student at FCA.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Each spring, the Stanford Achievement Test is given to all students in grades K-12th.

TUTORING

Teachers are available for tutoring with students before and after school. Teachers announce their individual tutoring schedules.

ATTENDANCE

In order to receive the full benefit of an education, a student must attend class. Students who miss class also miss out on first-hand instruction from the teacher and class discussion. It is impossible to make up for missing this interaction and the student's education suffers. Without a doubt, regular and punctual attendance is the greatest single factor in school success. A student who is frequently absent handicaps himself/herself in being successful in school. Students with good attendance are more apt to achieve higher grades, enjoy school, and learn the responsibility necessary for independence and success later in life. Parents are encouraged to make sure their students are faithful in attending school.

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED FOR CREDIT

K-12th grade students may miss no more than 9 days per semester in order to receive credit and/or be considered for promotion. This total includes excused and unexcused absences for the semester. This does not include a class absence because of a school activity. The Administrative Committee will review every case of excessive absences and may recommend to the Head of School that credit be granted for the course. Credit will only be given for unusual circumstances and where the student has met the other requirements for the class. Parents of students who have excessive absences will be contacted for a conference to address this problem.

ABSENCES

Students arriving after 10:00 a.m. or departing before 2:00 p.m. will be considered absent for half a day.

If a student is absent three or more consecutive days, a physician's note will be required by the office before returning to class. If a student is absent from school for more than 10 days, it is the discretion of

the school Head of School to decide if that student is allowed to be promoted to the next school grade at the end of the school year.

If it is necessary for a child to leave school for a dental or doctor's appointment, a parent must send a note in advance to the school office. It is the responsibility of the parent to confirm that the classroom teacher has received notification of the absence. Parents will need to sign their student out at the Main Office.

Family trips will be excused if prior arrangements have been made with the classroom teacher.

If a child is to be excused from participation in physical education class or outdoor recess for a day, he/she must present a dated, signed note from a parent requesting this exclusion and stating the reason for the request. A note from the doctor will be required to excuse a child from physical education for one week or more.

TARDIES

- Tardies will be recorded in the teacher's records
- Three tardies will constitute one absence.

MAKE UP WORK

It is the **student's/parent's responsibility** to see the teacher about all tests and assignments to be completed. It is also the **student's responsibility** to complete make up assignments within the specified time limit or zeros will be automatically given for work not completed.

Textbooks and assignments will be available to **parents upon request**.

***A detailed attendance/tardy policy will be provided by the classroom teacher on the first day of school.**

DISCIPLINE PLAN

It is our belief that discipline is not to be punitive but restorative. At the elementary level every attempt is made to create a warm and nurturing environment. At the secondary level every student is to learn consequences from their behavior. Our objective is to teach the skills that will enable the students to become self-controlled and self-motivated individuals. A detailed discipline plan will be provided by the teacher on the first day of school.

2016/2017 FINANCIAL POLICY

Important Points:

- All tuition and extended care payments are due on the 1st of each month and are considered past due if not received on the 6th of each month.
- A \$50.00 late fee will be charged per invoice per student.

- Non-receipt of a statement does not release you from your obligation to make all payments in a timely manner.
- Students will NOT be allowed to attend class if account is not current.
- Release of records/reports are subject to all accounts being current.
- Note your ID # on your check or money order to ensure that your payment is recorded correctly.
- If my child(ren) are withdrawn during any month, I am responsible to pay that total month's tuition.
- If I am under contract for Extended Care, I am responsible to pay the monthly contract amount whether I utilize the extended care services or not.

Registration Fees

All appropriate registration fees and documentation must be received with the completed application and will be processed upon receipt. Registration fees are **Non Refundable**, with the following exceptions:

- a) Those families, who have applied for, but were not awarded, financial aid. The registration fee will be refunded, upon request, only if the family does not receive the requested aid and does not elect to allow the student to attend.
- b) Those families where the student is not accepted by Administration. The registration fee will automatically be processed for refund. This is only permissible at the beginning of the enrollment period.

Signed Tuition Contracts:

- Twelve (12) month contracts must be submitted by May 15 & payments are to begin on June 1.
- Ten (10) month contracts should be submitted no later than July 15 & payments are to begin on August 1.
- Payment-in-full contracts should be submitted by July 15 & payment must be made by August 1.

All signed contracts are to be submitted to the registrar's office. Please submit all money due with contract (i.e. If you do not turn in your 10-Month contract until after July 15th - you will need to submit your first monthly payment when you submit your contract.). If you have any questions concerning this procedure please call. Remember— all accounts must be current prior to your student(s) being admitted to class.

Financial Aid

Completed applications, along with required documentation and registration fees, must be received by deadlines that will be published. Financial Aid applications cannot be submitted if the student's account is not current.

Discount & Financial Aid Awards

Awards for discounts and financial aid will not be applied until all applications are submitted with required documentation and awards are not retroactive.

Statements

The "Billing Date" on the statement reflects the date the charges are applied, not the actual date the statement was printed. Statements are usually printed and emailed on the 25th of each month. Non-receipt of a statement does not release you from your obligation to make all payments in a timely manner. All invoices are due on the 1st of each month. After 11:59 p.m. on the 5th of each month,

or 11:59 p.m. the preceding Friday if the 5th falls on a week-end, a late charge of \$50.00 per invoice per student will be assessed to all accounts with a past due balance.

Student Removal From Class

Accounts not current by 12:00 a.m. on the 6th of each month, or by the end of the month school day as in the case of after school late pick-up and drop-in fees, will result in the generation of a list of students who will be refused admission to their respective classes. As a courtesy, a removal slip will be sent home by the student informing the parent/guardian that the account is past due and the student may not attend until the account is current.

Important Note: The removal slip is a courtesy only and does not excuse sending a student to class when the account is past due. You should stay informed on the status of the account.

Students sent to school in disregard of this “no attendance” policy will be kept in the school office or other area deemed appropriate by the administration. An additional charge of \$ 15.00 per hour will be assessed to your account as a “drop-in” fee until arrangements are made to pick up the student. These charges will be added to the balance that must be paid prior to re-admittance.

The student must have a return slip from the school office to present to their teacher before they will be allowed to attend class. Be sure to request this return slip, one for each student, when you make your payment.

Returned Checks

You will receive notification after a check has been presented twice for payment and has still been returned for any reason. A \$30.00 fee will be added and payment will be received only by money order or cashier’s check within five (5) days of notification. A student’s account will be placed on a “Money Order or Cashier’s Check Only” status for the remainder of the school year when one (1) check has been returned for NSF or other non-payment reasons.

Returned Automatic Draft Payments

You will receive notification after an automatic draft has been returned for any reason. A \$35.00 fee will be added and payment will be received only by money order or cashier’s check within five (5) days of notification. A student’s account will be placed on a “Money Order or Cashier’s Check Only” status for the remainder of the school year when two (2) automatic drafts have been returned for NSF or other non-payment reasons.

After School Late Pick-Up and Drop-In Fees

Students picked up after 6:01 p.m. are considered late pick-ups and will be charged \$5.00 for the first minute and \$1.00 per additional minute, per student. All fees for late pick-ups and drop-ins must be paid on a daily basis at the time of pick-up or, at the latest, the following morning when the student is brought to school. Please refer to the section entitled “Student Removal From Class”, which also applies to the non-payment or late payment of these fees.

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HEALTH SERVICES

In the summer, parents are told to anticipate the following forms and, if possible, have them completed by the start of school.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

This form provides for a student to be medically treated in an emergency situation when away from the Plant City area, or when the parent is otherwise not present. Parents are required to submit an annual Emergency and Field Trip Permission Form.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

Parents are encouraged to discuss any specific needs personally with the Health Services Coordinator.

If your child has a specific health need (hypoglycemia, seizures, asthma, diabetes, insect allergy, sickle cell anemia, etc.) that information must be identified on the medical release form as well as specific measures to follow in the event an incident occurs. If the measure to counter the illness involves the administration of medication, (Glucagons, Adrenalin, Benadryl, etc.) please send this medication, properly identified, with the physician's instructions. It will be refrigerated for the school term and returned at the end of the year. If a mid-day snack is necessary, please alert the school secretary so that necessary arrangements can be made.

Any student or employee with a major communicable disease, for which immunization is required by law or is available, shall be temporarily excluded from school while ill and during recognized periods of communicability. Students and employees with a communicable disease for which immunization is not available shall be excluded from school while ill and during recognized periods of communicability. If the nature of the disease and circumstances warrant the school may require an independent physician's examination of the student or employee to verify the diagnosis of major communicable disease. FCA reserves the right to make all final decisions necessary to enforce its major communicable disease policy and to take all necessary action to control the spread of such diseases within the school.

ACUTE ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT

Parents should not send their student to school if they:

- Are Regurgitating
- Have temperature of 100 or above
- Have and suspected to have a minor contagious condition, such as, impetigo, ringworm, pinkeye, lice, flu, etc.
- Have not sufficiently recovered from an illness.

If a child becomes acutely ill at school, parents will be notified to pick up their student from school. If the parents cannot be reached, those individuals identified on the emergency medical data sheet will be

contacted. Please make sure that all pager, cell phone, work numbers are current on your Emergency and Field Trip Permission Form. In the event of an emergency, FCA will attempt to call parent first, then notify proper medical assistance.

A student who has a temperature of 100° or above is considered too ill to attend class and the parent will be notified. He/she will be allowed to stay in the school office until they can be picked up, however due to lack of facilities to care for a large number of students, we ask that the child stay no longer than one hour. Occasionally a child will sustain injury, which may continue to manifest symptoms after the school day. When these are noted, a call may be placed to the parent to let them know to continue to observe the child at home.

MEDICATIONS

All medication, prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only if the medication is in its original container and the Main Office has a written request from the parent. If the student will be on the medication longer than a 10-day period, the school must also have a statement from the doctor to keep in the school files.

The prescription medication container must have this complete data:

- Name of student
- Name of MD, DO, or Dentist
- Medication name and number
- Instructions for administration

This policy is based upon state law and requires your cooperation for compliance. Please do not send the medication in an unlabeled plastic bag. Your child needs the required medication, and in order for them to receive it, it must be labeled as specified. When you purchase your medication at the pharmacy, request an additional container, and then send the medication that will be required for the school period in the labeled container.

Students are not permitted to keep medications of any kind at school. Any exceptions to this must be discussed and approved through the Main Office.

VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

State law requires that vision and hearing screening be conducted for 1st, 3rd, 5th, and all new students. This must be done within the first semester of enrollment. If your student has not already been screened by a physician, school screening will be performed during the month of October.

STUDENT LIFE

CHAPEL

Attendance and participation in a weekly chapel service is an integral part of student life at Faith Christian Academy. Students are encouraged to explore their gifts and talents by participating in dramas, worship groups and other facets of the chapel worship experience. All students must be dressed in chapel attire and bring their bible. Chapel services are conducted by FCA staff, board members, and pre-approved persons.

PRIVACY

About Your Privacy

Faith Christian Academy has established the following policies to protect the privacy of student's personal, educational, and financial information.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Public Law 93-380, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 establishes that the educational records of students attending or having attended the school are confidential and can be released only with written permission from the student. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 also authorizes the school to routinely release directory information. Information which may be released without written permission from the student includes: student name, degree or certificate awarded, dates of attendance, athletic statistics, scholarships received, membership or office in FCA Student Government or Honor Society, part-time or full time student status, and previous schools attended. No other information may be released without the student's written permission except as provided for in school policies. Students who are concerned about the confidentiality of their records should contact the business office.

FCA students and their parents (if the student is less than 18 years of age) have the right to review their own records and to petition for correction of erroneous information in their records. Basic information is shown on a student's transcript, an unofficial copy of which can be requested from the business office. The business office can provide a list of the types and locations of educational records available at the school. Requests to review the records should be made in writing to the office.

Annual Notification

FCA will provide students annual notification of their rights as defined by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), by publication in the Student Handbook, School Catalog and posting it in the Main Office.

Primary Rights of Students

1. To inspect and review educational records.
2. To request amendment of educational records.
3. To have some control over the disclosure of information from educational records.

Procedure to Inspect Educational Records

Students may inspect and review their educational records upon written request to the Head of School by identifying the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The Head of School will make the needed arrangements for access within forty-five (45) days from the date of receipt of the written request. If the records are not maintained by the office of the Head of School, the Head of School shall forward the request to the appropriate school official. If the records contain information about

more than one student, the student may inspect and review only the records which relate to him or her.

Limitation of Right of Access

FCA reserves the right to refuse to permit a student to inspect the following records:

1. The financial statement of the student's parents.
2. Letters and statements of recommendations for which the student has waived his or her right of access, or which were maintained before January 1, 1975.
3. Records connected with an application to attend FCA if that application was denied.
4. Those records which are excluded from the FERPA definition of educational records.

Refusal to Provide Copies

FCA reserves the right to deny copies of records, including transcripts, not required to be made available by FERPA in any of the following situations:

1. The student has an unpaid financial obligation to the school.
2. There is an unresolved disciplinary action against the student.
3. The educational record requested is an exam or set of standardized test questions.

Types, Location and Custodians of Educational Records

The following is a list of the types, locations, (length of time record is kept by the school), and custodians of records that the school maintains. Mail requests should be addressed to FCA, 905 W. Terrace Dr., Plant City, FL 33563 to the custodian and location indicated.

Disclosure of Educational Records

The school will disclose information from a student's educational records only with the written consent of the student or his/her parent (if the student is less than 18 years of age), except the following records may be disclosed without consent when the disclosure is:

1. To school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records.
 - a. A School Official is:
 - i. a person employed by the school in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position, including health center staff.
 - ii. a person elected to the Board of Trustees.
 - iii. a person employed by or under contract to the school to perform a special task, such as the attorney or auditor.
 - iv. a person who is employed by Campus Security.
 - v. a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or who is assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

- b. A School Official has a legitimate educational interest if the official is:
 - i. performing a task that is specified in his or her position description or contract agreement.
 - ii. performing a task related to a student's education.
 - iii. performing a task related to the discipline of a student.
 - iv. providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health education, counseling, advising, student employment, financial aid, or other student service related assistance.
 - v. maintaining the safety and security of the campus.
- 2. To school officials of another school, upon request by that school, in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- 3. To certain officials of the U. S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, and State and local educational authorities, in connection with audit or evaluation of certain State or federally supported education programs.
- 4. In connection with a student's request for or receipt of financial aid to determine the eligibility, amount, or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
- 5. To State and local officials or authorities if specifically required by a State law that was adopted before November 19, 1974.
- 6. To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school.
- 7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions.
- 8. To parents of an eligible student who is claimed as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- 9. To comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena.
- 10. To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency.
- 11. To individuals requesting directory information so designated by the School.
- 12. The results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by the School against an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence to the alleged victim of that crime.

Directory Information

FCA designates the following items as Directory Information, which may be disclosed without prior written consent, unless the school is notified in writing to the contrary by September 15 of the academic year:

- 1. Student's name
- 2. Student's e-mail address
- 3. Dates of attendance at FCA
- 4. Degrees, certificates, and awards received by the student
- 5. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- 6. Weight and height of members of athletic teams

Correction of Educational Records

Students have the right to ask for records corrected that they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights. The following are the procedures for the correction of records:

- 1. A student must ask the Head of School to amend a record. The student should identify the part of the record to be amended and specify why the student believes it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of his or her privacy rights.

2. FCA may comply with the request or decide not to comply. If FCA decides not to comply, the school will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing to challenge the information believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights.
3. Upon request, FCA will arrange for a hearing and notify the student reasonably in advance of the date, place, and time of hearing.
4. The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer who is a disinterested party; however, the hearing officer may be an official of Faith Church. The student shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in the original request to amend educational records. The student may be assisted by one or more individuals including an attorney.
5. FCA will prepare a written decision based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The decision will include a summary of the evidence presented and the reasons for the decision.
6. If FCA decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right of privacy, the school will amend the record and notify the student, in writing, that the record has been amended.
7. If FCA decides that the challenged information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right of privacy, the school will notify the student that he or she has a right to place in the record a statement commenting on the challenged information and/or a statement setting forth reasons for disagreeing with the decision.

The statement will be maintained as part of the student's educational records as long as the contested portion is maintained. If FCA discloses the contested portion of the record, the school must also disclose the statement.

Tips for Protecting Your Personal Information

All Web browsers will keep your personal data in memory until you exit the browser completely. We **strongly recommend** that after you complete any transaction using FCA online services, you log-off and close the Web browser completely, especially when using a public computer.

FCA POLICY REGARDING PROHIBITED PROPERTY

1. Policy Regarding Illegal Drugs, Substances, Stolen Property and Unauthorized Items

a. Program Objectives

FCA has always had and continues to have a commitment to provide a safe workplace for its students, faculty and staff and to reduce the risk of injury to FCA visitors and the general public. Further, FCA has worked to establish programs, which promote a high standard of student, faculty and staff health, safety and well being. In keeping with those commitments, FCA continues to develop a policy regarding prohibited property. Our goal is to establish and maintain an environment free of illegal drugs and alcohol for the benefit of all.

b. FCA Premises

The term "FCA Premises," as used anywhere in this Handbook includes all property, facilities, land, platforms, buildings, structures, fixtures, installations, automobiles, trucks, and all other vehicles and property owned, leased, or in use by FCA, as well as any other location at which any student, faculty or staff member are acting or appearing formally or informally as a FCA representative.

c. FCA Policy

It is the policy of FCA that the use, possession, concealment, transportation, promotion, or sale of the following items or substances is strictly prohibited at all times while the student, faculty or staff member is acting or appearing as a formal or informal FCA representative anywhere, and on all FCA Premises (including athletic events and vehicles):

- Illegal drugs, controlled substances (including trace amounts), look-alikes, designer drugs and alcoholic beverages
- Firearms, weapons, explosives, and ammunition
- Stolen property or drug paraphernalia
- Unauthorized prescription drugs-except under the following conditions:

Students, faculty and staff must inform the school nurse prior to using prescribed drugs while on FCA Premises. Each vial will be in the student, faculty or staff member's name. Each prescription will be no older than one (1) year from the date issued. Parents of students and/or students must deliver the vial to the school nurse immediately upon arrival on FCA Premises. The faculty or staff member may only possess enough medication for that normal school day.

FCA, at all times, reserves the right to have a physician determine if a prescription drug or medication produces hazardous effects and may restrict the use of any such drug or medication accordingly. This may also include restricting the student, faculty or staff member's activity.

As stated above, no one is authorized to possess a weapon on FCA Premises. If the faculty or staff member is authorized by the State of Texas to carry a concealed handgun, the faculty or staff member shall provide a copy of the license to the Head of School. However, the above policy shall still apply to all FCA employees and no employee is ever authorized to carry a handgun on FCA Premises or to carry a handgun at anytime the employee is acting or appearing formally or informally as a FCA representative.

d. Searches and Inspections

FCA reserves the right, at all times, while any student, faculty or staff member is on FCA Premises or is otherwise on duty, to have FCA Head of Schools or authorized search and inspection specialists conduct searches and inspections of students, faculty, staff members, or other persons and any of their personal property, including without limitation, their locker, backpack, baggage, purse, desk, clothing, and vehicles, for the purpose of determining if such persons are in possession, use, transportation or concealment of any of the prohibited items and substances of this policy.

The Head of School has the right to conduct an on-the-spot search and inspection of the students, faculty and staff members and their personal effects as described above if a FCA faculty member has a reasonable suspicion that the student, faculty or staff are in direct violation of any part of this policy. All searches and inspections conducted by outside authorized specialists will be in the presence of representatives selected by FCA.

e. FCA Position for Policy Violators

A student, faculty or staff member who is found in possession, use, or transportation of any illegal substances, contraband, stolen property, or any of the above mentioned drugs and unauthorized items, will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the handbook, including immediate dismissal.

SECURITY

In order to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, FCA will provide regular monitoring of certain areas of our school campus through man patrols and/or video equipment.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE

GRADES Pre K – 12th

The Uniform Dress Code at FCA is intended to be a positive contributing factor to discipline and safety. Furthermore, uniforms foster a spirit of teamwork in our school community. We ask that parents support all policies in regard to the school uniform. Items bought from the FCA Spirit Store may be worn on Fridays, except P.E. uniforms. Otherwise, student must adhere to the dress code policy.

All school uniforms must be purchased from designated uniform store. A brochure is available in the school office.

Chapel uniforms must be worn on Wednesdays.

Girls: Pre K – 12th Grades

- **All girls must be in a skirt/skort at all times that comes to or below the knee**
- **Sleeveless shirts are NOT permitted at any time.**
- **Any dress shoe (heel less than 2.5 inches) or tennis shoe (tied and laced; socks must be visible at all times) are allowed. Jellies, flip flops, or sandals are NOT allowed. Socks must be worn at all times.**
- **Hair must be clean, neatly styled, and combed.**
- **No extreme hairstyles or makeup. Nails and Hair color must be one modest color – no bright colors allowed.**
- **Any item may be worn from the official FCA clothing line each day however chapel attire is required on Chapel day.**

Girls Pre K – 12th Grades Chapel Dress

- **The White Peter Pan blouse along with the required plaid chapel jumper or skirt.**
- **Faith cardigan or Faith pull-over sweater, but NO SWEATSHIRTS allowed on Chapel day.**

- **Fifth-Tenth grade girls may wear the plaid skirt and FCA oxford instead of the plaid jumper.**

Boys: Pre K –12th Grades

- Boys must wear pants or shorts to the knee
- Any dress shoe or any tennis shoe (tied and laced; socks must be visible at all times) may be worn. Sandals, house slides and flip-flops are not permitted.
- Belts must be worn with pants secured at the waist (no sagging or hanging belts).
- Hats are not to be worn in the building.
- Hair must be clean, neatly trimmed, and combed.
- No extreme haircuts or colors.
- No earrings
- Any item may be worn from the official FCA clothing line each day however chapel attire is required on Chapel day.

Boys: Chapel Dress

- White or blue oxford shirt with the Faith crest
- Belted navy pants from the uniform store
- Black or dark blue closed toe shoes are to be worn

COATS/JACKETS

Only official Faith Christian Academy outerwear may be worn in the classroom. Other coats or jackets may be worn outside only.

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS APPLY AT ALL TIMES:

- Students who stay on campus after school must remain in complete uniform.
- Students must never be barefoot on campus.
- FCA students are required to dress modestly at all school-sponsored events.

**DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES
Pre K – 12th Grades**

School Hours:

Pre K – 12th grade 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Morning Drop-off

K – 12th grade students will be dropped off at the main school office no earlier than 7:30 a.m. *This area is for drop-off and pick-up only. Let your student out of the car, and they will be guided to the appropriate classroom.*

Afternoon Pick-up

K – 12th

You must attach the name card with your student's last name and teacher to the window of your vehicle. An attendant will call your child's name and personally place him/her in your car. You may park your car, walk in the building, and personally escort your child to your car. At 3:15 p.m., any student remaining will be retained in After School Care. You may pick up your child in After School Care in the cafeteria or library.

A detailed map for the drop-off and pick-up of your child will be provided for you before the beginning of the school year. Additional copies of the procedures may be picked up in the school office.

Parking any vehicle along the red fire line is prohibited by the Fire Marshall.

Before School Care Pick-up and Drop-off

K – 12th

All Before School Care services will begin at 7:00 a.m. each morning. Students are to be dropped off in the Shiloh Preschool Building.

All After School Care will conclude at 6:00 p.m. each evening. Students in the After School Care program will be picked up in the Shiloh Preschool Building.

Faith Christian Academy of Plant City
2016-2017 School Year

I hereby affirm that I have read this parent student handbook and will abide by the information included in this document.

Student Printed Name

Student Signed Name

Parent Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date