



**HILLCREST**  
CHRISTIAN

**2018 – 2019**  
**PARENT / STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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[WWW.HILLCRESTCHRISTIAN.ORG](http://WWW.HILLCRESTCHRISTIAN.ORG)

WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR  
DEED, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE  
LORD JESUS.  
COLOSSIANS 3:17



Welcome Everyone!

We are excited to begin another year at Hillcrest Christian School. We are overjoyed that you have chosen Hillcrest for your child's education, allowing us to share their lives as we grow together in Christ.

Hillcrest Christian School can best be described as a community of students, faculty, and parents engaged in education that seeks to prepare students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society. We recognize that Jesus Christ is the Lord of that community. In order for this Christian school community to function well together, common expectations and regulations are necessary. While total agreement about each rule is impossible, consistent application is expected. Such responsible implementation is a necessary ingredient to maintain a safe community and an appropriate learning environment. We hope that together we can glimpse a vision of Christ's kingdom in our community here. May we, with God's help, experience success and joy in attaining that vision.

The handbook is expected to be read carefully by both parents and students. This information will help you understand what HCS has to offer you, and in addition, what is expected of students and parents in order to have a successful year which will glorify our Lord Jesus Christ!

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2: 6 - 7 (NIV)

John A. Buchanan, Ph.D.  
Head of Schools

Kristi James  
Lower School Principal



## **FOREWORD**

Hillcrest Christian School is a family of students, parents, and teachers working, playing, worshipping, and growing together. All families and schools need guidelines and rules that make working together possible and enjoyable. It is impossible to cover every circumstance and situation that may arise in a school setting, but the Student Handbook contains guidelines and rules that do apply for Hillcrest Christian School. The administration is charged with and will have the final say in the day to day operations of the school. It is the responsibility of each parent and student to read and understand these guidelines and to inquire of the administration about any matter that is unclear.

The purpose of this Handbook is 1) to translate the policies of the School Board into guidelines and rules to be followed and upheld, and 2) to inform all family members of those guidelines and rules with the expectation that they will follow them.

Please feel free to call upon the administration and faculty to help answer any question(s). An exciting year awaits us! May we remember the admonition of the Apostle Paul . . . . “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Col. 3:17)

Each student contributes to the character development of his/her school, for they are its ambassadors. The opinions which others form of Hillcrest Christian School are based upon the manner in which its students, parents, faculty, and staff conduct themselves.

Being good citizens of the school at all times, at home or away, is the best policy to follow. This is not a difficult thing to do, and there is no substitute for its results.



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## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **John A. Buchanan, Ph.D., Head of Schools**

B.S.E., Delta State University  
M.Ed., Delta State University  
Ph.D., Mississippi State University

### **Kristi James, Lower School Principal**

B.S., Mississippi State University  
Leadership Institute, MAIS

## **COUNSELING**

### **Alethea Massey, School Counselor**

B.S., Mississippi College  
M.Ed., Mississippi College

## **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

**John A. Buchanan, Ph.D.**

## **COUGAR CARE**

**Kasey Cohn, Director**

## **MISSION OF HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Hillcrest Christian School is dedicated to reaching students for Christ, emphasizing academic excellence, and incorporating Christ-like values in all extracurricular activities. We endeavor to operate Hillcrest Christian School on the following Biblical principles found in Colossians 1:9-12:

Operate in a manner worthy of the Lord (v.10)

Seek to please the Lord in every aspect of the school (v.10)

Expect growth in character and knowledge (v.10)

Rely upon the Lord (v.11)

Cultivate an atmosphere of joyful thanksgiving (v.12)

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH OF HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

1. We believe the Bible to be the complete, inspired, and authoritative Word of God, without error in the original writings, the standard by which all knowledge is judged and taught and the final authority in faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Colossians 1:16, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. We believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (John 10:30, Matthew 1:22-25, Hebrews 7:26, 1 Peter 2:21-24, 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4, Acts 1:9-10, Romans 8:34, 1 Thessalonians 4:16)
4. We believe that the salvation and redemption of lost and sinful mankind are possible only by God's grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-9)
5. We believe that children and adolescents should be taught in Christian love. (Hebrews 12:6, Revelation 3:19)
6. We believe that all Christians are called to live Godly lives. (Colossians 1:9-12, Romans 12:2)

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS**

Hillcrest Christian School, Inc. admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin, and the handicapped to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin or the handicapped in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, athletics, fine arts, and other school administered programs.



### **Pledge to the Christian Flag**



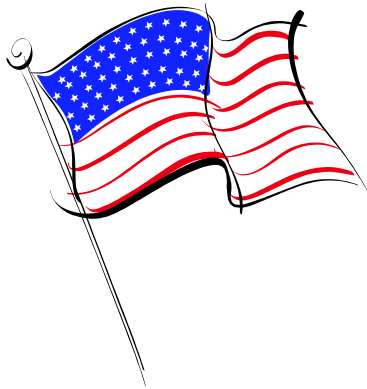
I pledge allegiance to the  
Christian Flag, and to the Savior  
for whose kingdom it  
stands, one brotherhood  
uniting all Christians  
in service and love.

### **Pledge to the Bible**

I pledge allegiance to the Bible,  
God's Holy Word.  
I will make it a lamp unto my  
feet, and a light unto my path,  
and will hide its words in my heart  
that I might not sin against God.



### **Pledge to the American Flag**



I pledge allegiance to the flag,  
Of the United States of America,  
And to the republic for which  
it stands, One nation, under  
God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

## INTRODUCTION

Hillcrest Christian School holds accreditation through the Southern Association of Independent School (SAIS), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MAIS).

Through the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools, the school participates in many extracurricular activities such as spelling bee, Art Competition, Science Fair, Academic Betterment Competition, Youth Legislation and other student activities.

## MEMBERSHIP AND TUITION

Admission to the school will be by membership only. The price is \$650 per membership which is nonrefundable and will enable the children in one family to attend the school. Membership Certificates purchased prior to March 17, 1997 may be donated, transferred, bequeathed or assigned, - but only in accordance with the terms set forth by the Board of Directors. All transactions will be handled through the Business Office.

Tuition payment options are as follows:

**Annual Plan** - Tuition payable in full by June 1.

**Semi-Annual Plan** – ½ of tuition payable June 1, and ½ of tuition payable December 1.

**12-Month Payment Plan /10-Month Payment Plan** (for K-3 ONLY) - Tuition payable in monthly installments beginning June 1, (August 1 for K-3) with final payment due May 1. **Bank draft is required for this option.**

**Quarterly Plan** – ¼ of tuition payable June 1, September 1, December 1 and March 1.

Bank draft information may be obtained in the Business Office of Hillcrest Christian School, 4060 S. Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

Any draft or payment returned by the bank will result in an additional charge of \$40.00 to cover bookkeeping costs. The school will not administer exams and/or issue report cards for any student account that is delinquent. When an account becomes 30 days in arrears, parents / guardians will be notified that within 15 days, their student(s) will be dismissed from school and will remain out of school until the account is current or acceptable arrangements are approved by the School Board. All accounts must be paid in full before final exams and end of year activities in May.

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

The following policies are designed to acquaint all Hillcrest Christian Students and their families and guests with school regulations and policies. These policies apply to any student in the following situations:

1. In attendance at school;
2. On school property;
3. At school sponsored activities; or
4. Involved in any conduct at any other time or place that has a negative effect on maintaining school order and discipline, or protecting the safety and welfare of others, or endangering the reputation of the school. This includes the use or possession of alcohol or drugs, immoral activity, or involvement with law enforcement.
5. Students must attend Chapel each week.
6. Students are required to stand for the National Anthem when played at any function at home or at a visiting school.
7. Students are required to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag each morning.
8. HCS does not recognize a student's right to openly protest any school policy or any cause or issue that occurs in world affairs. Students who openly protest or organize a protest against school policy or issues will face serious disciplinary consequences. This includes student sit-ins or student walk-outs. Students attend HCS to be prepared for college and life. These activities take away valuable instructional time and disrupts the school environment and it will not be tolerated.
9. Students are expected to follow the dress code without exception per the student handbook.
10. Male students are not allowed to have any facial hair. If a male student has a serious skin problem, student must bring a medical doctor note explaining in detail why the student cannot be clean shaven. Mustaches, goatee, and long sideburns are not acceptable.

We have no intention of policing or monitoring students while they are off campus and not engaged in school activities. A student represents Hillcrest at all times and should reflect at all times the character, mission, and purpose stated in these policies.

Attending and being associated with Hillcrest should be an honor and privilege to all of us. Any student who chooses to violate these policies will be subject to disciplinary action or expulsion.

### **CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Hillcrest Christian School has a Crisis Management Plan in effect. HCS is prepared to respond to natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, freezing rain or snow, and fires, as well as man-made disasters, as set forth in the Crisis Management Manual. The HCS Emergency Management Team is in place to ensure a quick response to any crisis that may arise.

### **SAFETY DRILLS**

Fire, lockdown, and tornado drills will be held throughout the year.

## **SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

Information regarding school closings will be primarily communicated by school administration via texts and/or e-mails to those parents/guardians who have signed up for notifications through notifymyschool.com.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER/EMERGENCY SITUATIONS** - In the event of impending inclement weather, please tune in to local radio and television stations for a list of school closings. Information will be provided for broadcast by 6:30 a.m.

In the event of weather emergency or other emergency situations during school hours, the local radio and television stations will be notified when our school will be closing. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible to pick up their child/children.

## **PROBLEM SOLVING PROTOCOL**

It is important that the lines of communication between parent/student and Hillcrest Christian School teachers remain open and positive at all times. If a problem arises, the following protocol will be followed in all situations.

**FIRST STEP** - The parent(s) and/or student should immediately contact the teacher or coach who is directly involved with the problem and allow them to handle the problem.

**SECOND STEP** - (If necessary) When the first protocol has been followed, if the problem is not remedied, contact the immediate administrative supervisor (principal) or Athletic Director.

**THIRD STEP** - (If necessary) After the first two protocols have been followed, the administrative supervisor will consult with the Administrator.

**FOURTH STEP** - (If necessary) The Administrator will consult with the Board of Directors.

This protocol will encompass all situations. Each step must be properly addressed before advancing to the next level. If at any time a step is bypassed, those involved will immediately be sent back to the appropriate level.

## **PARENTAL SUPPORT**

Parental support is required in all aspects of Hillcrest Christian School. HCS reserves the right to dismiss students when parents fail to support the administration, faculty, and policies.

Parental/guardian support is required with regard to all aspects of Hillcrest Christian School and is an integral component contributing to the school's success. We request that parents refrain from utilizing any language and/or technology which would have a negative effect on:

- maintaining school order and discipline;
- protecting the safety and welfare of other students or staff; or
- the reputation of Hillcrest Christian School and its students, faculty, and staff.

This would include, but is not limited to, emails, texts, tweets or social networking sites. Hillcrest reserves the right to dismiss students when parents, through the stated means or any other, fail to support the administration, faculty and the school's policies.

### **PRAYER POLICY**

In keeping with the Hillcrest Christian School Mission Statement and Statement of Faith, we recognize that prayer is a foundational and essential element of the Christian faith and is an integral part of every aspect of school life at Hillcrest, including morning devotionals, assemblies, sports events, student meetings, the beginning of classes each day, and many other activities.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

All participants, players, coaches, and fans in attendance at any extracurricular event or activity should demonstrate good sportsmanship and conduct themselves at all times in a Christian manner. Hillcrest Christian School is dedicated to providing an atmosphere that promotes leadership, teamwork, and comradery among fellow players as well as officials and opponents. Yelling or insulting players, coaches, and referees during tryouts, practice, camps, or games, etc. will not be tolerated. Any actions that discredit or dishonor HCS or our Christian policies are unacceptable. Offenders will be dealt with and appropriate action will be taken by the administration of Hillcrest Christian School. Individuals who are ejected from a game or an event face a penalty from the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools, including but not limited to, a fine, suspension from future MAIS functions, or both. In addition, HCS may be placed on probation or suspended from participating in MAIS functions.

"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity."

Mississippi Association of Independent Schools

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY IN APPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS**

It is the intent of Hillcrest Christian School to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct (including, but not limited to, touching, comments, gestures, etc.) of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited.

Complaints of violation of this policy may be made to the Administrator, or other person designated by the Administrator, without fear of reprisal. All complaints will be investigated thoroughly and promptly. This policy in no way limits or precludes anyone from pursuing any relief afforded by state or federal law.

*Hillcrest Christian School assumes a zero-tolerance policy regarding any form of inappropriate relationships between our staff and students. Further, any allegations of inappropriate relationships or victimization of students will be confronted immediately and reported to appropriate authorities and parents of any students involved.*

*In addition, Hillcrest Christian School will provide training and regular reminders to teachers regarding inappropriate relationships. Also, we will provide clarification and identification of such inappropriate relationships to students who are victims and make counseling available for students relating to any allegations.*

### **THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The use or possession of tobacco or tobacco-like products (including e-cigarettes) is prohibited at Hillcrest Christian School and includes all school property (buildings, fields, and transportation) and school functions on and off campus.

### **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

**Drugs and Alcohol are prohibited at all times.** Hillcrest Christian School is committed to maintaining a distinctive Christian focus. Our desire is that this commitment will have a strong impact upon all school policies and practices, including the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Consistent with our basic principles, Hillcrest Christian School will take advantage of every opportunity to educate students regarding their moral, legal, and ethical responsibilities to refrain from the use of illicit substances. Moreover, we believe that our Drug and Alcohol Policy should demonstrate love and compassion for students who have failed to discipline themselves in regard to the use of the substances; on the other hand, we also intend to uphold strict prohibitions relating to the use of drugs and alcohol by our students. To do otherwise would compromise those standards of morality to which we aspire, neglect the rights and even the safety of other students, and ultimately demonstrate a lack of concern for those individuals who violate the rules.

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs on school property at all times. Moreover, students are prohibited from using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while they are engaged in any school-related or school-sponsored activity, wherever such activity takes place.

Hillcrest Christian School does not approve or sanction the use of alcohol or illegal drugs by students while they are not on school property and not engaged in school-sponsored or school-related activities. While we have no intention of policing or monitoring what students do while they are off-campus and engaged in non-school activities, disciplinary action will be taken if drug or alcohol abuse is confirmed.

**Hillcrest Christian School students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> are subject to random drug/alcohol testing conducted on campus by an independent drug testing facility throughout the school year. In addition to random testing, HCS administration retains the right to request a test for a specific student at its discretion.**

**Parents may request a copy of the school's procedures for random drug testing from HCS administration.**

### **WEAPONS**

NO weapon of any size or type, including, but not limited to knives, firearms, hunting weapons, or any instrument which could be classified as a weapon, will be allowed in the possession of any individual (all ages) while on Hillcrest Christian School property. Possession means: on one's person, or in a purse, briefcase, backpack, desk, vehicle, or any other location on school property.

Any student found with a weapon in their possession will immediately be suspended. Any student displaying, using, or threatening to use any weapon, or any instrument that could be classified as a weapon, will be subject to expulsion from HCS without a release from the membership/tuition contract and may face legal action.

If a parent/guardian or any other visitor on the school campus is found with a weapon in their possession, appropriate action will be taken, which may include contacting law enforcement, legal action, and/or banning violator from coming on campus.

## **POLICIES FOR LOWER AND UPPER SCHOOL**

### **ADMISSION AGES**

The K-3 child must be three years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> for K-3.

The K-4 child must be four years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> for K-4.

The K-5 child must be five years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> for K-5.

The first grade child must be six years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

*(Please note: All children must be potty trained by the time they begin attending school.)*

### **HEALTH CERTIFICATE / IMMUNIZATION**

Upon your child's admission to HCS, we require that you provide an immunization card required by state law, which can be obtained from your doctor. All students in K-3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade must have an up to date immunization record in their files.

### **MARRIAGE AND PREGNANCY**

In our opinion, the environment that is most conducive to the school activities and educational curriculum of Hillcrest Christian School is better maintained with students who are outside of the restrictions and obligations of marriage and parenthood. These are certainly honorable and appropriate parts of adult life; however, we feel that students in our learning environment are growing up and should be segregated from those undergoing these pressures. In this respect, the policy of Hillcrest Christian School is as follows:

1. Students who are or have been married will not be accepted for enrollment. Students who are married before or during the school term will be dismissed from Hillcrest Christian School upon knowledge of such marriage by the administration.
2. Parents (either the mother or acknowledged father of a child or children) will not be accepted for enrollment at Hillcrest Christian School. In the event the Administration suspects that a female student is pregnant and the pregnancy is denied, the Administration may request that the student's parent/guardian provide consent for the student to submit to a pregnancy test to be administered by a physician's office.  
Upon knowledge by the administration of the pregnancy of an enrolled student at Hillcrest Christian School, the prospective mother and acknowledged prospective father will be dismissed from Hillcrest Christian School.

### **WITHDRAWAL**

Requests for withdrawal from school must be submitted to the Business Office in writing and must include the reason for withdrawal. Voluntary withdrawals, as well as withdrawals due to suspension or expulsion, release the person(s) responsible for payment from contractual financial obligations only as set forth in the Enrollment Contract that is in force at the time of the withdrawal. Additionally, tuition or fees paid in advance are non-refundable. Hillcrest Christian School reserves the right to deny readmission to any student who withdraws. No student will be considered for readmission unless they are in good standing academically and behaviorally. Parents and students must demonstrate positive reasons why they should be permitted to be readmitted

### **ATTENDANCE / SCHOOL DAY**

**LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS** (K-3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) will report to the cafeteria if they arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. A teacher will be on duty from 7:10 - 7:30 a.m. for the supervision of students and will be on duty in the afternoon until 2:55 p.m. **STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PICKED UP WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF DISMISSAL TIME WILL BE SENT TO COUGAR CARE AND NORMAL COUGAR CARE FEES WILL BE ASSESSED.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE WELL-BEING OF A STUDENT TO BE AT SCHOOL AT LEAST TEN (10) MINUTES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. EACH STUDENT NEEDS TIME TO "UNPACK" AND GET SETTLED FOR THE DAY.**

**UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS** will be dropped off or must park their cars immediately. Students are not allowed to sit in cars, on or around the campus at any time during school hours. Teachers will be on duty from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day for the supervision of students. **STUDENTS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY, OR THE END OF THEIR LAST CLASS, OR THE END OF THEIR LAST SCHOOL ACTIVITY, WHICHEVER TIME IS EARLIEST. STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STAY ON CAMPUS AFTER THEIR CLASSES OR ACTIVITIES ARE OVER. ANY 7<sup>TH</sup> OR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS THAT ARE NOT PICKED UP ON TIME WILL BE SENT TO COUGAR CARE AND APPLICABLE FEES WILL BE ASSESSED.**



Full-Day class time schedules are as follows:

K3	7:45 – 11:30	Gr 1 - 4	7:45 – 2:40
K4	7:45 – 11:45	Gr 5 - 6	7:45 – 2:55
K5	7:45 – 2:30	Gr 7 - 12	7:53 – 3:10

### **SCHOOL VISITS**

**Parents and guests must request a visitor's pass from the Lower School Office, the Upper School Student Services Office or the Receptionist as soon as they arrive on campus.**

**LOWER SCHOOL** - Parents, please feel free to consult with the school office regarding any problems or questions that concern your child. Should you need to consult with the teacher, please come to the office and the teacher will be notified to come to the office. Also, please do not visit with the teachers before school, during recess or loading duty times without an appointment. You are free to eat lunch with your child on their birthday.

**UPPER SCHOOL** - If it is necessary for a visitor to go to a classroom, a visitor's pass must be secured from Student Services. No teacher may admit a visitor into a classroom without written permission from the Principal. Any campus visitor who has not been properly cleared by the Principal's Office will be considered a trespasser and will be dealt with accordingly.

### **UPPER SCHOOL ABSENTEE POLICIES**

- Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students and is necessary for successful accomplishment in school. It is important that students be in school and on time every day.
- Attendance will be checked daily and can be verified by the parent by 8:30 a.m. through MSP. Although the Principal's office will randomly check students who are reported absent, Hillcrest Christian School cannot be responsible for students who leave home in the morning and do not report to school.
- **The school reserves the right to determine if a student's absence is excused or unexcused.**
- Absence due to personal illness, serious illness in the family, or death in the immediate family, will be considered excused.
- Absences due to college visits, athletic events, off campus student organization meetings, or any activity the Administration deems school related, will be considered excused.
- When a family finds it necessary to be away from school for an extended period of time (up to five school days), parents must submit to school administration a written request for consideration for absences to be deemed excused. The request should be submitted as early as possible, but no later than

five school days prior to said absences. A maximum of five days throughout the school year may be deemed excused for such absences, provided the student has not exceeded the total number of allowed absences.

- A student who is absent from school for any length of time, even for a part of the day, is required to bring a note from one parent or guardian or a physician's excuse to the Student Services office when they return to school. The student must check in with Student Services before attending class. The note must include the student's name, date of absence, and the exact reason for the absence. The administration will determine if an absence is excused or unexcused.
- If a student forgets to bring the parent or guardian note or physician's excuse, an unexcused absence will be issued; however, with presentation of the proper note within two school days of the absence, the unexcused absence will be replaced by an excused absence. Students are responsible for showing the excuse form to each teacher, each period.
- Any student who is absent (excused or unexcused, but excluding absences for school related activities) ten days in any given semester will have his/her absentee records reviewed by school administrators. (This is also interpreted as ten or more absences in a specific subject.) A parent and the student will be required to meet with the administrators to discuss the reasons for the absences.
- Any student who is absent more than twenty days of a full year course or ten days of a semester course may forfeit the right to be promoted and/or may not receive credit for that course regardless of the grades earned. Absences due to school-sponsored activities are not counted in this total.
- Physician documentation will be required when excessive absences are determined by the school.
- Hillcrest Christian School reserves the right to determine if excessive absences warrant dismissing a student.
- Dismissal from HCS will not release the financial responsibilities of the membership/tuition contract.

#### **UPPER SCHOOL MAKE UP WORK POLICIES:**

- **It is always the responsibility of the student to make up missed assignments. Failure to do so will result in zeros for tests and daily assignments.**
- If the student does not have access to the assignments, please call the Student Services Office by 11:00 a.m. so that assignments may be picked up in the Student Services Office between 2:00 p.m. and 3:10 p.m.
- If a pattern of habitual absences during scheduled tests is recognized, a student will be warned, then will forfeit all opportunities to make up the test or tests missed. A grade of zero will be given for each test missed.
- If work is missed during the last week for a reporting period, that work must be made up and graded before report cards will be issued in those subject areas. The principal and teachers involved will

determine the need for an extension of established make up time. It is the student's responsibility to contact each teacher about making up work.

### **FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES DUE TO SCHOOL RELATED EVENTS**

Students involved in these activities know they are going to be absent all day or part of the day prior to the absence. They are responsible for getting their assignments. If a test is assigned prior to the absence and **no additional material is given**, the student must take the test the day he/she returns to school. All other assignments are due when the student returns to school. Failure to do this will result in the student receiving a zero on assignments or tests.

### **FOR EXCUSED EXTENDED ABSENCES**

Students should request any available assignments from his/her teachers prior to the absence; however, teachers will not be responsible for having assignments available for five days, since material covered in classes can vary from day to day and teachers may have to amend their lesson plans. All assignments will be due and tests completed within three days after student returns to school in the case of this type of excused absence.

### **FOR ALL OTHER EXCUSED ABSENCES**

- Students who have an excused absence (non-school related) will be permitted a period of time equal to the duration of their absence to make up missed assignments. For example, if a student misses two days, the student will be permitted two days to complete the missed assignments. Failure to do so will result in zeros for tests and daily assignments.
- For extended excused absences (over a week) due to serious or chronic illness, the teacher may allow additional time

### **FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

- Students who have an unexcused absence will receive a zero-daily grade for that day.
- If a student has an unexcused absence and misses a test, the student must take the test when he/she returns to school **and the final test grade will be reduced by ten points.**

## **LOWER SCHOOL ABSENTEE POLICY**

**Parents are reminded it is their right to dismiss their child; however, the school reserves the right to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.**

Any student who is absent more than twenty days of a full year course or ten days of a semester course may forfeit the right to be promoted and/or may not receive credit for that course regardless of the grades earned. Absences due to school-sponsored activities are not counted in this total. Any student who is absent ten days in any given semester will have his/her absentee records reviewed by school administrators. (This is also interpreted as ten or more absences in a specific subject.) A parent and the student will be required to meet with the administrators to discuss the importance of school attendance

and the reasons for the absences. Physician documentation will be required when excessive absences are determined by the school. Hillcrest Christian School reserves the right to determine if excessive absences warrant dismissing a student. Dismissal from HCS will not release the financial responsibilities of the membership/tuition contract.

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students and is necessary for successful accomplishment in school. Therefore, it is important that students be in school and on time every day. Daily attendance will be checked daily and can be verified by the parent by 8:30 a.m. through MSP. Absences from school are classified as excused or unexcused. Absence due to personal illness, serious illness in the family, or death in the immediate family, will be considered excused. **From time to time, a family may find it necessary to be away for an extended period of time. For these absences to be considered excused, parents must submit in writing a request to the principal at least five school days prior to said absences. A maximum of five days throughout the school year may be excused for this purpose, provided the student has not exceeded the allowed number of absences.**

**LOWER SCHOOL MAKE-UP WORK** - Illness or unexpected absence: If a student misses class work, or homework due to unexpected absences, he can make up the work. The teacher and student will discuss the amount of time allowed for makeup, which will depend on the reason and length of absence. **If a student is out for more than one day, it is the parent's responsibility to obtain assignments from MSP. If an assignment cannot be completed (i.e., study guide, worksheet) because the student does not have access to the work, the parent should call the office and request these assignments by 11:00 a.m. to be picked up at the end of the school day.** In the event of a non-school related planned trip, where a student will be absent for a period of 1+ days, the parent must contact the teacher in advance of the absence in order to make arrangements for work that will be missed to be made up before or during the trip. All make up work must be turned in the first school day following the absence in order to receive credit.

**LOWER SCHOOL MISSED TESTS** - **If a test is assigned prior to an absence and no additional material is given, the test must be made up the day the student returns from the absence.** If a pattern of **habitual absence** of scheduled tests is recognized, a student will be warned, then will forfeit all opportunities to make up the test or tests missed. A grade of zero will be given for each test missed.

### **TARDINESS**

**LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS** will be considered tardy at 7:50 a.m. They must report directly to the office to receive a tardy slip. Excessive tardiness will result in disciplinary action. Evidence of repeated tardies will result in one or more of the following:

- Detention with a student/parent/administrator conference
- In-School Suspension
- Out- of-School Suspension

**Students will be charged with one (1) unexcused absence for every five (5) tardies for each class period effected by the tardies. The resulting unexcused absence carries a daily grade of zero (0).**

**It is imperative that students get to class on time.** If a student or group of students is detained by a teacher or coach and is caused to be late to another class by the detainment, it is the responsibility of that teacher to write a tardy note for the student. **Student Services will not write excuses in those situations.**

**UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS** will be considered tardy at 8:00 a.m. All students are expected to report to school and to each class on time. Students who are tardy to first period until 8:30am enter the class and the teacher will issue a tardy in MSP. Students arriving after 8:30 must report to the Upper School Main Office to receive a tardy and admit slip to first period. Tardies are unacceptable. Evidence of repeated tardies will result in one or more of the following:

- Detention with a student/parent/administrator conference
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension, and
- Loss of exam exemption(s) in every class

**Students will be charged with one (1) unexcused absence for every five (5) tardies.**

**It is imperative that students get to class on time.** If a student or group of students is detained by a teacher or coach and is caused to be late to another class by the detainment, it is the responsibility of that teacher to write a tardy note for the student. **Office will not write excuses in those situations.**

### **DISMISSALS**

**Parents are reminded it is their right to dismiss their child; however, the school reserves the right to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.**

**LOWER SCHOOL** - All students are expected to remain at school until the end of the school day (see school day schedule). Please check out by 2:15 p.m. if necessary for doctor appointments, sickness, or family emergencies. Your child will not be permitted to leave school with anyone other than parents or someone you have designated by note to the school. If your child is going home with someone different, and you know it before he leaves home, please send a note; otherwise, the school must be notified by phone. This is for your child's protection.

**UPPER SCHOOL** - Student Services will issue dismissal slips by written note or phone prior to the beginning of the school day. **No student is allowed to leave school without permission of a principal or his designee.** If a student becomes sick at school, they are to report to the Student Services Office for permission to go home. With the exception of illness and emergencies, no student will be given permission to leave school without a request from his/her parent or guardian. In the event the student does not drive, the student must wait in the high school office for a parent or legal guardian to pick him/her up.

Students who are dismissed and then return to school must sign out when they leave and then back in upon their return to school in the Student Services Office. The dismissal slip should be signed by the parent, guardian, or doctor, and returned to the office when the student signs back in.

These measures are required so that Hillcrest Christian School will be able to give account of where students are at any time during the school day. This information is particularly important in case of

emergency needs within a family or truancy. **We request parental cooperation in helping us enforce this policy by providing valid reasons for dismissal.**

### **PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**In order for a student to compete, practice, or be involved in any extracurricular activity (athletics, band, cheerleading, etc.), the student must be present for all classes on their schedule that day. Circumstances such as school functions, medical appointments or a death in the family are exceptions to this rule. A doctor's excuse which verified the date and time of the appointment must be submitted to the Lower School office or Student Services upon returning to school and prior to participating in any extracurricular activity.**

The following policies will apply to students involved in extracurricular activities:

1. To be eligible for either semester of a school year, a student must have accumulated four major units (credits) or passed four major courses the previous semester or during summer school. (According to MAIS policy.)
2. A student who is ineligible the first semester can become eligible for the second semester provided he/she passes four major subjects during the first semester.
3. Transfer students must meet eligibility requirements immediately upon enrollment in Hillcrest Christian School prior to representing Hillcrest in activities where eligibility requirements apply.

### **ACADEMICS**

#### **LOWER & UPPER SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM / 4 POINT CONVERSION SCALE**

##### **GRADING SYSTEM**

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	65 – 69
F	64 and below

Hillcrest will convert the final numerical average to a 4.0 scale. Hillcrest Christian School will continue to use the 100-point numeric average to determine valedictorian, salutatorian, honor roll, honor societies, and other school organizations that have grade requirements for membership. Students who are in AP will receive a weight of 1.10, and students in advanced classes will receive a weight of 1.05.

	Regular Class	Honor Class	AP Class
A =	4.0	4.5	5.0
B =	3.0	3.5	4.0
C =	2.0	2.5	3.0
D =	1.0	1.5	2.0

## **HONOR CERTIFICATES**

**LOWER SCHOOL** - Honor Roll and Principal's List certificates will be presented to first through fifth grade students at the end of the school year and to sixth grade students at their graduation.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S LIST / HONOR ROLL** - The Administrator's List will consist of those students who have a grade average of 90 or above in each subject area at the end of each nine weeks. The Honor Roll will consist of those students who have a grade average of 80 to 89 in each subject area at the end of each nine weeks.

## **CONFERENCES**

Impromptu conferences, telephone calls to the teacher at home, discussion of grades and/or behavior during class, traffic patrol and campus duty by the teacher do not result in productive exchanges. Conferences should be scheduled as follows:

**LOWER SCHOOL** - **Please do not walk into the classroom before, during or after school and expect to discuss your child with the teacher.** Conferences may be set up by calling the office for a definite day and time, and the teacher will present all grades, papers, etc. to the parents. Please call the office (601) 3720809 at least one day in advance of the desired conference to set up teacher/parent conferences.

**UPPER SCHOOL** - All conferences with parents will be **scheduled** before school, after school, during the teacher's conference period, or during break. Parents are requested to schedule conferences by calling the Counselor's Office at (601) 372-0149.

## **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

The guidance program exists to facilitate the growth and development of students as they progress through school. The counselor confers with parents and students concerning scheduling, academic achievement, test data interpretation, college and career decision making and personal counseling. Guidance services are an essential part of the educational program. The guidance program is designed to complement both instruction and administrative functions. Students are encouraged to see the counselor anytime a need arises.

Conferences will be scheduled with students throughout the school year.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS/ REPORT CARDS**

**LOWER SCHOOL** – Teachers will be required to post all test grades within 3 days of the test. A student's grades may be viewed online at any time on MSP. Parents will receive notice on the school web site at the end of 4-1/2 weeks to check their child's progress. The final 9 weeks grade will also be posted on MSP. Parents will also receive notice on the website when 9 weeks grades are posted.

## UPPER SCHOOL - EVALUATION OF STUDENTS/PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS -

Grades will be determined as follows: Major test grades, which are averaged separately, will count two thirds of the term grade, and daily grades will count one-third. Nine weeks tests will count 20% of the grade for that particular grading period. Exams will count 20% of the semester grade. Teachers will be required to post a minimum of two grades per week and all test grades must be posted within 3 days of the test. Parents may view the student's progress and 9 weeks grades on MSP.

Viewing of online grades may be blocked due to the following: tuition and/or books fines (textbooks and library books); athletic and/or band uniforms that have not been turned in, or other outstanding fines. If unable to access MSP, parents should contact the school immediately.

### CLASS PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

#### **Lower School**

Students who fail one or two major subjects (Reading, Language or Math) for the year will be required to successfully complete and pass a summer program. The summer school program must be provided by or approved by Hillcrest Christian School. Students who fail a minor subject must complete summer work as assigned by administration. Failing any three subjects typically results in the retention (failure) in the current grade.

#### **Grades 7 and 8**

Students who fail one or two major subjects (English, Math, Science, or History) will be required to repeat the course or successfully complete and pass a summer program. The summer school program must be provided by or approved by Hillcrest Christian School. Students who fail a minor subject must complete summer work as assigned by the administration. Failing three subjects typically results in retention of the student in the present grade.

#### **Grades 9 - 12**

If a student fails a major subject, he/she must repeat the subject the following year or repeat the subject in an accredited summer school. **Tutoring will not be accepted for make-up work in courses failed.**

**If a student fails a course for the year but has a passing grade for either of the semesters, he/she must repeat the entire course (not just the semester failed).**

If a student fails a course that is not offered in summer school (i.e., Bible), or cannot be taken online, the faculty at Hillcrest Christian School may assign independent study material to be completed during the summer. This work must be completed to the satisfaction of the faculty member, and he/ she will assign the final grade.

Seniors must be enrolled in academic classes the first five periods of each day. No required subjects for the upcoming year may be taken in summer school without direct permission from the Administrator.



## **STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

Students in grades 9 through 12 will be required to earn ten (10) service hours for each high school year attending HCS to graduate.

Students may begin earning service hours June 1 for the upcoming school year. Students may select their own community service projects and may earn community service hours through services in approved on campus and off-campus activities. HCS will partner with local community organizations to develop service opportunities. HCS clubs and organizations will provide service-oriented projects and supervised off campus activities. Students will be encouraged to select community service opportunities that will be meaningful experiences in a supervised and safe environment. Project Documentation forms must be submitted and approved in order to receive service hours credit. Hours will be awarded as follows:

1. One hour will be credited to each student who serves one hour with any HCS partner agency or any community service organization approved in advance by the Student Community Service Program coordinator.
2. One hour will be credited to each student who serves one hour in an approved on-campus service. Students may earn no more than four hours each year from such activities.
3. Any day long (minimum of six hours) ministry activity associated with a student's church will be credited as two hours for that day.
4. Students may earn credit by participating in short-term mission trips (i.e., one to two weeks in duration). Student will be credited with two hours for each day of the mission trip, subject to a maximum number per trip. Because students must earn their hours through a variety of community service opportunities, students may earn only a maximum of six hours from mission trips.
5. Credit hours for community service opportunities not specifically addressed above will be approved by the Student Community Service Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

All service hours will be approved, authenticated, and documented on forms provided by HCS. Students should contact the Student Community Service Program Coordinator for additional information and forms.

## **BEHAVIOR / DRESS CODE** **HONOR CODE**

The purpose of the Honor Code is to create an atmosphere of trust, honesty, and integrity with mutual respect among administration, faculty, and students. A community can live together only where the basic beliefs of honor are the foundation of the community. These principles are instilled in our students from first grade.

At Hillcrest Christian School, every student implicitly acknowledges an understanding of and a willingness to support the honor system. The Honor Code is in effect during school hours and at all school functions and covers violations of disrespect, dishonesty, and disobedience. A student should understand the seriousness of an infraction of the Honor Code. Infractions include all forms of cheating, lying/

misrepresentation, stealing, disrespect directed toward HCS faculty, students, or staff, vandalism, plagiarism, repetitive dress code violations, and inappropriate language.

**Cheating** - Cheating is defined as giving or receiving help on any pledged assignment. Cheating also includes the passing of information on tests to students who have yet to take the tests.

**Lying/Misrepresentation** - Lying is the intentional misrepresentation of facts to a member of the faculty, administration or fellow student. Forgery is a misrepresentation.

**Stealing** - Stealing is taking or borrowing, without permission, anything that is not rightfully one's own. This includes anything that is another person's or school property.

**Disrespect** - Disrespect is a lack of respect or esteem demonstrated in word, verbal or written, or in behavior.

**Inappropriate Language** - Inappropriate language includes cursing or vulgar language.

**Vandalism** - Vandalism is the willful or malicious destruction or damage of property other than one's own. Destruction or damages caused by pranks are included.

**Plagiarism** - Plagiarism is the act of taking the ideas, writings, and works of another individual and representing them as one's own (copying homework, term papers, etc.)

**Dress Code Violations** - Repetitive violations of the Dress Code is the disregard or failure to comply with Dress Code Policies.

## **HONOR CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**LOWER SCHOOL** – The Lower School Administration works closely with lower school faculty to make sure the established codes of behavior, dress, and honor are communicated to students and are enforced.

**UPPER SCHOOL** - The Honor Council is responsible for enforcing the Honor Code in grades 7 - 12. The Honor Council will consist of Class President's in grades 9-12 and the (Upper School) Honor Council Advisor. The Student Body President will serve as the Chairman for the Honor Council. The president from grade eight (8) will serve as an honorary member. **Honor Council proceedings are held in the strictest confidence. A violation of this confidence is a violation of the Honor Code.**

## **HONOR CODE PROCEDURES**

A student may report an Honor Code violation in one of these ways:

1. A student may report an Honor Code violation by either a) asking the offender to turn himself in to the Honor Council; or (b) by reporting the alleged incident to a teacher, the Honor Council Advisor, or the Principal.
2. A teacher will report the alleged incident to the Honor Council Advisor or Principal.

3. The Honor Council Advisor will report the alleged incident to the Principal.
4. The Honor Council Advisor and/or the Principal will conduct an overview of the alleged incident.

Once sufficient evidence has been collected or the offense has been acknowledged by all persons involved, and proper documentation has been made, the following steps will be taken:

1. An Honor Council Advisor member will notify the student of the incident and the meeting date with the Honor Council. **It is the responsibility of the student to notify his/her parents.**
2. The Honor Council Advisor will assemble the council with all deliberate speed.
3. The Honor Council will review the incident and hold a hearing with the alleged violator.
4. The offender(s) will be given an opportunity to explain the circumstances to the council members, who will ask questions. When the council feels they have a thorough understanding of the facts, they excuse the offender(s) and begin deliberations.

The Honor Council will deliberate, consider, and agree upon a recommendation for corrective measure or penalty. The recommendation must be agreed upon by the council members and will be presented in writing, along with a summary of the situation to the Principal and/or Administrator.

Recommendations by the Council will be reviewed and are subject to approval by the Principal and/or Administrator. The Principal will advise the offender of the council's final decision.

### **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> GRADE DRESS CODE**

The basis for the HCS dress code is the spiritual and moral guidelines of Godliness and cleanliness. Students are expected to observe certain standards of hygiene, sanitation and personal appearance. Student appearance should enhance a Christian's testimony of life, adhering to biblical principles rather than worldly standards. Since our attention is focused on educational pursuits, students will be expected to dress appropriately at **all** school functions. Parents should make a special effort to see that their children conform to the HCS dress code.

The HCS dress code is intended to provide guidelines for students in determining appropriate dress. The dress code does not in any way diminish the discretion school officials have in determining the appropriateness of student attire. In the event a student is "technically in compliance with the dress code," but school officials determine that a student's attire or appearance is immodest or inappropriate, school officials will take appropriate corrective action.

When it is determined that a student is in violation of the dress code, the parents or legal guardian may be called to bring proper clothing or the student may be sent home to make any needed alterations. Students who miss class may receive an unexcused absence, which carries a daily grade of zero for each class missed. Such unexcused absences will also prevent the student from participating in extracurricular activities for that day.

All HCS students are required to wear uniforms from Tommy Hilfiger or Parker Uniforms with approved HSC Logo. There are a variety of uniform clothing items available, as detailed in the HCS Parker brochure. Students may wear a combination of any grade appropriate and gender appropriate approved uniform pieces (pants, shirts, skirts, etc.). The uniform, as adopted may not be altered or changed in any way.

<b>HCS UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE</b>	
<b>BOYS</b> <b>7th-12th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of HCS approved apparel for boys 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• Solid color (white, gray, black, or royal blue) t-shirts (or turtlenecks in cold weather) may be worn under dress shirts or polo shirts. NOTE: HCS polo must be worn under a sweatshirt, jacket, fleece, or any other outer garment.</li> <li>• Plain black or brown belt</li> <li>• Socks must be solid white, gray, black, or blue</li> </ul>
<b>GIRLS</b> <b>7th-12th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of HCS approved apparel for girls for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade or approved boys polo shirts for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• Solid color (white, gray, black, or royal blue) t-shirts (or turtlenecks in cold weather) may be worn under dress shirts or polo shirts. NOTE: HCS polo must be worn under a sweatshirt, jacket, fleece, or any other outer garment.</li> <li>• Leggings must be solid white, gray, black, or blue (no lace)</li> <li>• Socks must be solid white, gray, black, or blue (no lace)</li> </ul>
<b>SHOES</b>	<p><b>SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION WILL DETERMINE IF A PARTICULAR STYLE AND/OR COLOR OF FOOTWEAR IS APPROPRIATE.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heels may be no higher than 2 inches measured at the back of the shoe.</li> <li>• Pointed heels are not allowed</li> <li>• Pointed toe shoes or boots are not allowed</li> <li>• Open toed shoes are not allowed</li> <li>• Five fingered (toed) shoes are not allowed</li> <li>• Fashion shoelaces are not allowed</li> <li>• Sandals are allowed. (No flip-flops, shower shoes, beach shoes, or those resembling said shoes will be allowed.)</li> <li>• Shoelaces must be tied</li> </ul>

### **HCS GENERAL DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS / 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

- All garments must be hemmed.
- All clothing items must be properly fitted.
- **The length of girls' skirts and skorts must be no more than three inches from the top of the knee.**
- Pants, shorts, skirts, and skorts must be worn above the hips
- Approved belts must be worn with all pants and/or shorts that have loops or that are designed to be worn with a belt.

- Boys' shirts must be tucked into pants or shorts.
- Jackets, fleeces, sweatshirts and/or sweaters must have the HCS logo on them.
- Approved athletic team wear will only be allowed on game days.
- Girls' hair accessories must complement the uniform.
- Hair should be neat, clean, well-groomed, not hampering vision. Boys' hair must be cut to a proper length **above the bottom of the ears on the side not to fall below the eyebrows in the front, and** not to exceed the collar of a shirt **in the back**. Unusual hairstyles or coloring are prohibited. Parents will be notified when there is a violation of the dress code related to length of hair, hairstyle, or coloring of hair. If the student does not take corrective action to be in compliance within (5) school days of the notification, the student will be prohibited from attending school and any time missed will be counted as unexcused. Work cannot be made up. Missed work will receive a zero grade.
- Boys are not allowed to wear earring(s) at any time on or off campus at any school function.
- Boys may not wear inappropriate bracelets.
- Male students must be clean shaven. Mustaches, beards, or other facial hair will not be allowed. Sideburns will not extend lower than the bottom of the ear lobe.
- Muscle shirts, sleeveless sweatshirts, fishnet football jerseys, and shirts with printed pictures of rock groups, alcoholic advertisements, or distasteful printings are not allowed.
- Male students are required to wear shirts at all times, except closed athletic practices.
- Body art (i.e. body piercing and tattoos, etc.) is prohibited.
- Neither boys or girls are allowed to wear any head coverings of any type in the buildings. Head coverings include, but are not limited to hoodies, scarves, hats, caps, wraps, and headbands, including athletic headbands.
- Neither boys or girls are allowed to wear any bandana of any color in their hair, in their pocket, or on their person.
- Blankets are not acceptable article of clothing inside the building, classroom, gym, or band hall.
- Homecoming Maids must wear appropriate length dress to school Friday of Homecoming Week.

### **K3-6th GRADE DRESS CODE**

The basis for the HCS dress code is the spiritual and moral guidelines of Godliness and cleanliness. Students are expected to observe certain standards of hygiene, sanitation and personal appearance. Student appearance should enhance a Christian's testimony of life, adhering to biblical principles rather than worldly standards. Since our attention is focused on educational pursuits, students will be expected to dress appropriately at **all** school functions. Parents should see that their children conform to the HCS dress code.

The HCS dress code is intended to provide guidelines for students in determining appropriate dress. The dress code does not in any way diminish the discretion school officials have in determining the appropriateness of student attire. In the event a student is "technically in compliance with the dress

code”, but school officials determine that a student’s attire or appearance is immodest or inappropriate, school officials will take appropriate corrective action.

When it is determined that a student is in violation of the dress code, the parents or legal guardian may be called to bring proper clothing or the student may be sent home to make any needed alterations. Students who miss class may receive an unexcused absence, which carries a daily grade of zero for each class missed. Such unexcused absences will also prevent the student from participating in extracurricular activities for that day.

All HCS students are required to wear uniforms from Tommy Hilfiger or Parker Uniforms with approved HCS Logo. There are a variety of uniform clothing items available, as detailed in the HCS Parker brochure. Students may wear a combination of any grade appropriate and gender appropriate approved uniform pieces (pants, shirts, skirts, etc.). The uniform, as adopted may not be altered or changed in any way.

<b>HCS UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS K3-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE</b>	
<b>BOYS K3-6th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of HCS approved apparel for boys K3-6<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• Solid color (white, gray, black, or royal blue) t-shirts (or turtlenecks in cold weather) may be worn under dress shirts or polo shirts. NOTE: a polo shirt must be worn under a sweatshirt, jacket, fleece, or any other outer garment.</li> <li>• Plain black or brown belt</li> <li>• Socks must be solid white, gray, black, or blue</li> </ul>
<b>GIRLS K3-3rd</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of HCS approved apparel for girls for K3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade or approved boys polo shirts for K3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>• Solid color (white, gray, black, or royal blue) t-shirts (or turtlenecks in cold weather) may be worn under dress shirts or polo shirts. NOTE a polo shirt must be worn under a sweatshirt, jacket, fleece, or any other outer garment.</li> <li>• Leggings must be solid white, gray, black, or blue (no lace)</li> <li>• Socks must be solid white, gray, black, or blue (no lace)</li> </ul>
<b>GIRLS 4th-6th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of HCS approved apparel for girls for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade or approved boys polo shirts for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• Solid color (white, gray, black, or royal blue) t-shirts (or turtlenecks in cold weather) may be worn under dress shirts, or polo shirts, or sweatshirts. NOTE a polo shirt must be worn under a sweatshirt, jacket, fleece, or any other outer garment.</li> <li>• Leggings must be solid white, gray, black, or blue (no lace)</li> <li>• Socks must be solid white, gray, black, or blue (no lace)</li> </ul>
<b>SHOES</b>	<p><b>SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION WILL DETERMINE IF A PARTICULAR STYLE AND/OR COLOR OF FOOTWEAR IS APPROPRIATE.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heels may be no higher than 2 inches measured at the back of the shoe.</li> <li>• Pointed heels are not allowed</li> <li>• Pointed toe shoes or boots are not allowed</li> <li>• Open toed shoes are not allowed</li> <li>• Cowboy boots are not allowed</li> <li>• Five fingered (toed) shoes are not allowed</li> <li>• Fashion shoelaces are not allowed</li> <li>• Shoelaces must be tied</li> </ul>

## HCS GENERAL DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS / K3 – 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

- All garments must be hemmed.
- All clothing items must be properly fitted.
- **The length of girls' skirts and skorts must be no more than three (3) inches above the top of the knee.**
- Pants, shorts, skirts, and skorts must be worn above the hips.
- Approved belts must be worn with all pants and/or shorts that have loops or that are designed to be worn with a belt.
- Boys' shirts must be tucked into pants or shorts.
- Jackets, fleeces, sweatshirts and/or sweaters must have the HCS logo on them.
- Approved athletic team wear will only be allowed on game days.
- Girls' hair accessories must complement the uniform.
- Hair should be neat, clean, well-groomed, not hampering vision. Boys' hair must be cut to a proper length **above the bottom of the ears on the side not to fall below the eyebrows in the front, and not to exceed the collar of a shirt in the back.** Unusual hairstyles or coloring are prohibited. Parents will be notified when there is a violation of the dress code related to length of hair, hairstyle, or coloring of hair. If the student does not take corrective action to be in compliance within (5) school days of the notification, the student will be prohibited from attending school and any time missed will be counted as unexcused. Work cannot be made up. Missed work will receive a zero grade.
- Earrings: Girls - K-3 through 6th grade may wear earrings, no larger than the ear lobe. Grades K-3 through 6th grade girls are not allowed to wear dangling earrings or hoop earrings.
- Boys are not allowed to wear earring(s) at any time on or off campus at any school function.
- Boys may not wear inappropriate bracelets.
- K-3 through 6th grade girls may not wear makeup or eye shadow.
- Muscle shirts, sleeveless sweatshirts, fishnet football jerseys, and shirts with printed pictures of rock groups, alcoholic advertisements, or distasteful printings are not allowed.
- Male students are required to wear shirts at all times, except closed athletic practices.
- Body art (i.e. body piercing and tattoos, etc.) is prohibited.

### COUGAR MANNERS

#### **During Chapel or Assembly Programs:**

1. When coming into the gym or other assembly areas for a program, enter quietly and remain quiet during the entire time there.
2. Give your full attention to the speaker.
3. Do not disturb or distract those around you by making comments.
4. Never boo, whistle, or stomp your feet regardless of your opinion of a program.
5. Do not read or do any type of work during any program.

#### **During Break or Lunch:**

6. Respect the place of others; never crowd or try to get ahead of others.
7. Be refined in your table manners.

8. All students are expected to place trash in the provided containers when completing break and lunch.

**In the Classroom:**

9. Cooperate with the teacher and other students in every class activity.
10. When you need to talk, keep your voice in a conversational tone. Refrain from talking while someone else is talking.
11. Always be prepared when you go to class and maintain the habit of expecting to work.

**In the Library:**

12. Be considerate of others in the library. "*Silence is golden*" for those who are reading and studying.
13. The librarian is in charge.
14. Develop an appreciation for books and more importantly, develop a respect for them as valuable properties of our school.
15. Follow policies and procedures when using the library computers, including the Internet policy.

**In the school generally (the three B's):**

1. BE ON TIME.
2. BE PREPARED.
3. BE RESPECTFUL.

**NETWORK/INTERNET USAGE POLICY**

All of the technological resources at Hillcrest Christian School are to be used in a manner that respects and protects the well-being of the school. All files in the computer labs and library will be reviewed by appropriate school officials without prior notice. This includes checking the history of all Internet made visits on each computer. Computers at the school are to be used for academic purposes only with the following policies:

1. Each computer will be assigned a number and all teachers must have their classes fill out a sign-in sheet with their name corresponding to the computer they are using.
2. No student may use a computer without an authorized teacher present. This includes before school, during break or lunch or after school. If a student does not have access to a home computer and must complete a school assignment, a Computer Usage Form must be completed. The student is responsible for acquiring a signature from the teacher, principal and librarian (no exceptions).
3. Students may not attempt to modify the appearance or operation of any computer. This includes copying or installing software of any type. Every computer must remain in its default configuration.



4. Games that are not related to course curriculum are not allowed.
5. A student using the Internet may visit only teacher-approved sites. The use of the Internet to obtain and view inappropriate material is strictly prohibited.
6. Computer resources are not to be used to copy any copyrighted material or software. Students may not download, install, copy, or remove software from the computer.

A student who fails to abide by these policies will have his or her privileges to use the computers revoked and will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **STUDENTS AND GUEST TEACHERS**

Courtesy to guest teachers is one of the most vital ways to build good school-community relations. Students should treat guest teachers as they would a guest in their home. The guest teacher assumes the role of the teacher and should be treated accordingly. Students who are uncooperative, disrespectful, and/or disturbing to the guest will be disciplined.

### **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

It is important that each student realizes his/her responsibility in helping to keep the buildings and campus clean and attractive as possible. Students who damage any school property intentionally or through neglect on his/her part will be required to pay for the damage. The student will also face additional disciplinary action.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

A book fee is charged for each student to help defray the school's cost of textbook purchases. It is the students' responsibility to take care of their textbooks. Use of book covers is encouraged, the Lower School Office or Student Services receives covers from time to time, or students may purchase book covers. Students will be fined for excessive damage done to the face and contents of textbooks. Any book lost or damaged by a student must be paid for before another book will be issued. The cost of the book will be determined by the cost for the school to replace the book.

### **CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

The purpose of education is to aid young people in preparing themselves to live their adult lives at a maximum level of productivity, self-awareness, happiness, self-control, and in harmony with their community. It is imperative that students develop a perceptive awareness of high standards of behavior. This will enable young people to make an easy transition from childhood into the world of adulthood.

The primary responsibility for the conduct of a student rests with the student and his/her parents. Every effort will be made to impress upon the students and the parents that discipline and order will be maintained. Administrators and teachers will hold students accountable for any disorderly conduct at school and at school-sponsored activities.

Hillcrest Christian School reserves the right to take any disciplinary action that is deemed appropriate to correct disciplinary problems. It should be understood by students that inappropriate behavior will result in some type of disciplinary action. Hillcrest Christian School's philosophy on discipline is based on the following scriptures:

*Proverbs 13:24*

*Proverbs 29:15*

*Proverbs 22:15*

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Proverbs 19:18*

*Proverbs 29:17*

The administrators are authorized to institute appropriate disciplinary action; including, but not limited to the following areas:

### **SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

Students may not use any type of technology at any time or place that has a negative effect on

- Maintaining school order and discipline
- Protecting the safety and welfare of other students or staff
- The reputation of Hillcrest Christian School and its students, faculty, and staff

### **METHODS OF DISCIPLINE**

1. **IN ROOM** - Disciplinary cases will be handled by the individual teacher in harmony with their own methods and abilities consistent with the policies of HCS. **LOWER SCHOOL** methods of discipline will include: time-out, missed recess, corrective writing and/or corporal punishment. **UPPER SCHOOL** methods of discipline could range from reprimands to assignment of detention. These could include, but are not limited to: missing morning break, lunch room clean up, writing an essay, after school detention, and/or corporal punishment. In the event that corporal punishment is warranted, the Principal will call the parents to discuss the punishment. Examples of this misconduct are: chewing gum, excessive talking, coming to class without books/supplies, being out of a desk without teacher permission.
2. **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT:** While the school does not believe that corporal punishment is a method to correct the cause of misbehavior, on occasion it may be used as an alternative for another method of discipline. The Principal is authorized to do so in the presence of a witness and with the permission from a parent or guardian.
3. **DETENTION** - Early Morning Detention and Saturday Detention will begin as assigned. Early Morning Detention will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. Saturday Detention will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will last until 11:30 a.m. **All students will come prepared for work detail.** You will meet your detention instructor in front of the gym. All work assigned will be completed. No one will be allowed to leave before 11:30a.m. Tardiness for detention will result in either/or additional time served or In-School Suspension.

Reasons for detention will include but not be limited to the following: disrespectfulness, tardiness, skipping school, and failure to comply with classroom decorum.

- 4. IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** - Students will be isolated from other students and will be assigned academic work in each subject area. Work should be completed by the end of the school day. “In School Suspension” carries a daily grade of zero, which cannot be dropped. All tests missed may be made up at make-up test times. In-School Suspension (ISS) Rules - An ISS student is to report to the designated in-school suspension area at 7:00 a.m. The student is to bring all assigned textbooks to the ISS area. The student is to remain in the designated suspension area until the monitor comes to get him/her. The student will not be allowed to talk or visit with other students.

Students assigned to ISS will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities for the day or part of a day served. No student will be penalized for two (2) days of extracurricular activities when serving two part-day ISS. In the event that a student needs to serve two (2) part days of ISS, the student will miss the extracurricular activity for the day that the majority of the ISS is served. Failure to follow these rules could result in additional disciplinary action.

Reasons for In-School suspension will include but not be limited to the following: excessive tardiness, cheating, profanity, disruption of school function, disobedience, disrespect, insubordination, insulting language or behavior, obscene language or gestures, malicious mischief (intentional), use or possession of tobacco, or tobacco-like products, indecent display of affection, use or possession of fireworks, explosives.

- 5. BEHAVIORAL PROBATION:** A student who displays continual inappropriate behavior will meet with the Lower or Upper School principal and the administrator. A behavioral contract will be established between the student and administrators outlining the probation period, expected behavior and consequences. This contract will be signed by the student, parent(s) and administration.
- 6. OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** A student may receive an Out-Of-School suspension from an administrator. Absences due to OSS are considered unexcused and will result in a grade penalty. A grade of zero will be given for each class missed during the time of suspension. No opportunity to make up tests will be given. Reasons for Out-Of-School suspension will include but not be limited to the following: extreme tardiness, disrespect of school authorities, fighting, harassment, intimidation or threats, vandalism, theft, damage to property, use or possession of alcohol, and truancy (intentionally being absent from school without a legitimate excuse or skipping a class, whether the student leaves campus or not).
- 7. EXPULSION:** A student may be expelled for the remainder of the year upon recommendation by the Administrator to the Membership Committee of the Board of Directors. A student who has been expelled may be readmitted only by appearing before the Admissions Committee with his/her parents and applying for readmission for the following year. Reasons for Expulsion will include but not be limited to the following: use or possession of drugs, possession of weapons, hitting, striking or threatening school personnel.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

1. Any student involved with law enforcement officials of any kind and found guilty of a misdemeanor other than a traffic violation will be placed on Student Conduct Probation. Student Conduct

Probation means that for the remainder of that semester, misconduct of any kind, including disrespect, by the student involved, will not be tolerated. Misconduct may result in expulsion.

2. A repeat offense involving law officials will result in expulsion.
3. Any student charged with a felony is subject to expulsion by the administration. Any student found guilty of a felony will be immediately expelled from Hillcrest Christian School.

## **THREATS, INTIMIDATION, HARRASSMENT, and BULLYING**

HCS strives to provide a safe, comfortable environment for all students. Our desire is to maintain an environment on our campus where all students feel welcome and safe from threats, intimidation, harassment, and bullying. Mississippi State Law Code Section 37-11-20 addresses intimidation, threatening or coercion of students for the purpose of interfering with attendance of classes. This law can be applied to a student where a student does not want to attend school or is afraid to attend school because they are being threatened, bullied, harassed, or intimidated. HCS will enforce a **Zero Tolerance** policy concerning threats, intimidation, harassment, and bullying.

The staff and administration will evaluate situations that involve threats, intimidation, harassment, or bullying. After a thorough investigation of each situation, the administration will take the necessary steps to maintain a safe environment for all students. The evaluation process will involve talking with all students involved in the alleged threats, intimidation, harassment, or bullying.

Parents of students in grades K-12 are strongly encouraged to talk with their children about actions and words that imply threats, bullying, or harassment. When a threat is made, it will not be taken lightly. Saying, "I'm sorry" or "I didn't mean it" will not be accepted as an excuse. Statements like "I'm going to kill you", or "I'm going to get you", or "I'm going to hurt you" will be taken seriously! Students involved in this type of behavior will be disciplined and could face expulsion from HCS. They should be instructed at home not to act aggressively toward other students or make the statements mentioned earlier. This type behavior is not acceptable will not be tolerated.

HCS has protocol addressing the above-mentioned behaviors and will be followed when necessary. Our goal is to provide a safe, friendly, orderly environment with the assistance and support of our parents.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / ILLNESSES**

All students returning to school after contacting a communicable disease (including, but not limited to, chicken pox, strep, pink eye, etc.) must present a medical release from the doctor's office or health department before they may be admitted to class.

## **SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS / ACTIVITIES**

The administration of Hillcrest Christian School believes in the educational value of school-sponsored trips (field trips) and strongly encourages students to participate. If students are provided transportation to a school activity, the student will ride to and from the activity in the transportation provided. (This might include school-owned buses, vans, or cars, but it may also include rented vehicles or designated parent vehicles.) Students may ride from an activity with parents when cleared with the trip sponsor. However, no students will leave an activity with anyone (including boyfriend, girlfriend, friends, sister or brother) unless their parent or guardian is physically in the vehicle in which they are to travel. All exceptions must be cleared with an administrator.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **LOST AND FOUND**

All unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity at the end of the school year.

**LOWER SCHOOL** - Lost and found articles will be taken to the Lost & Found bookshelf in the main hall. **To eliminate the loss of so many articles, please put your child's name in each of his/her jackets and other items of clothing which may be removed at school.**

**UPPER SCHOOL** - Lost and found articles will be taken to Student Services. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity at the end of the school year.

### **MESSAGES / DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS**

**LOWER & UPPER SCHOOL** - Messages for students are only accepted and delivered when it involves an emergency or a ride home. Hillcrest Christian School does not accept deliveries for students. This includes:  
flowers, gifts, etc.

### **INAPPROPRIATE PERSONAL POSSESSIONS**

Toys, playing cards, spinners, electronic devices (i.e., iPods, MP3 players, handheld video games, computer learning games, etc.) and musical instruments (excluding band instruments) may not be used during school hours anywhere on campus. Such items will be taken from students and kept in the Principal's Office. Hillcrest Christian School is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

## **LOWER SCHOOL POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

The Lower School consists of K-3 through grade 6. The basic program centers on Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Bible, and Social Studies. K-3 through grade 3 are self-contained. Grades 4, 5 & 6 are departmentalized. Throughout the lower school, emphasis is placed on building vocabulary, developing critical thinking skills, and challenging the student to reason logically. Art, physical education, music, computer, and library science enhance the lower school's curriculum. Students gain enrichment from field trips and resource speakers.

We feel we have a very balanced curriculum. While teaching, we also stress language development, visual discrimination, motor skills, and auditory activities.

### **CURRICULUM**

<b>K3</b>	<b>Program encourages social, spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth and development.</b>
<b>K4</b>	<b>Phonics, Numbers, Language Development, Colors, Shapes, Writing, Bible</b>
<b>K5</b>	<b>Phonics, Math Concepts, Time Concepts, Money Concepts, Writing, Bible, Reading</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Reading, Phonics, Math, Language, Spelling, Bible, Science, Social Studies, Handwriting</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Reading/Glossary, Phonics, Math, Language, Spelling, Bible, Science, Social Studies, Writing</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Bible, Language, Math, Reading, Spelling, Social Studies, Science, Writing</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Bible, Language, Math, Reading, Spelling, Social Studies, Science</b>

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are provided to enhance the educational experience of Hillcrest Christian School students:

- |                   |                            |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Class Field Trips | Dance                      | Cougar Kittens & Cubs |
| Assembly Programs | Karate                     | Breakfast with Santa  |
| Special Art       | Holly Jolly Workshop       | Field Day             |
| Sports Teams      | Christmas Charity Projects |                       |

### **P. E. CLASS**

All students are expected to participate in P.E. Class. A doctor's excuse or note from parents should be sent to the P.E. teacher if a student cannot participate in P.E. activities. Tennis shoes must be worn for P.E. class. This is a safety precaution.

### **DAILY PAPERS**

**KINDERGARTEN:** Your child will be given the papers he/she has done each day before going home. Please take time to look at them and discuss these papers with your child. Again, this is a way of enforcing the concept to your child that his/her school activities are important. There may be comments or suggestions on the papers which will help your child. We ask your cooperation in carrying them out.

## **SCHOOL RULES**

1st - 6th GRADE: Weekly papers will be sent home on a specific day of the week as designated by the classroom teachers. These are to be corrected by the student, then signed by the parent and returned to the teacher the following day.

The Lower School introduces the Honor Code and instills the values of trust, honesty and integrity. The Lower School does not function under an Honor Council; however, the principles of the Honor Code still apply.

1. Students are asked to walk when going from one area to another on campus. Running can cause accidents and even serious injuries.
2. Students are not to bring electronic devices to school. Recess will be used for free play and exercise games.
3. Gum chewing will **not** be allowed in any of the school buildings or on campus.
4. If lunch is left at home, put your child's name on it, take it to the office, and it will be given to your child.
5. If a child is to be dismissed early, please send a note to the child's teacher to inform her of the early dismissal. If an emergency need for dismissal arises, please call the office and let us inform the teacher that the student will be leaving early.
6. If your student is to go home with someone else other than his/her usual ride, please inform the teacher of the change in plans. This will help us in protecting the students from leaving school with someone unexpectedly.

## **FIELD TRIPS / MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Field trips will be announced as they are planned. Parents or guardians must complete and sign a notarized medical information form for your child which will allow us to provide medical attention if the need arises.

## **SICK CHILD**

Parents or guardians are urged to keep their child at home if he/she shows signs of illness. This is for his/her own good as well as for the protection of the other children. If your child becomes ill at school, you will be notified. Should he/she have a contagious disease, please notify the teacher immediately so the other parents can be notified. If your child has been absent because of a contagious disease, including strep, please bring a note from the doctor saying that he/she is no longer contagious. Your child must be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.

## **MEDICATION**

Medication cannot be administered to your child by their teacher. Often, if you will explain the situation to your doctor, he will reschedule the medication so that you can give it to him at home.

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

## **TELEPHONE**

Students will not be permitted to use the school telephone except in case of an emergency. The student must have a permission slip from the teacher in order to use the phone. The use of cell phones (including cell phone watches) is not permitted during the school day. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in confiscation of your cell phone or cell phone watch.

## **SNACKS**

Each child will bring a snack for a midmorning break. On birthdays, parents may send cupcakes for the children, but arrangements with the teacher must be made in advance. They will be served at the regular snack time. Do not send party hats or favors. A special napkin is permissible.

## **LUNCH**

Nutritious, affordable lunches are provided by HCS. Students may bring their own home prepared lunch if they desire. Delivering or bringing food from outside retail sources is not permitted at any time unless prior permission has been granted by Administration.

## **PLAYTIME**

We will be going outdoors each day except when the weather does not permit. If there is some reason your child cannot be outdoors, please send a note. Otherwise, all the children will go outside. We encourage the students to participate in outside play.

## **COUGAR CARE/TEEN CARE (DAY CARE / AFTER-SCHOOL CARE)**

Year-Round Cougar Care will be available for Hillcrest Christian students grades K-3 through 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kindergarten students will go to after-school care if they are not picked up at dismissal time. Lunch may be brought from home or can be ordered through the cafeteria. Students in grades 1 -6 may go to after-school care at 2:40 p.m. HCS is a closed campus after 3:30pm daily. 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students not involved in a school sponsored activity must go to Teen Care at 3:10 p.m. A supervised homework study hall will be held Monday through Thursday from 3:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rates for after-school care may be obtained from the school office. Payments for after-school care will be paid directly to the Day Care Office or the business office. Payment for after-school care will not be accepted with tuition payments. Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> students assigned to Teen Care by administration will be charged the appropriate fee.



## **UPPER SCHOOL POLICIES / INFORMATION**

### **ACADEMICS**

The junior high school (grades 7 - 8) provides a transitional period for academic and social growth between the lower and high school. The required courses are English, History, Math, Science, Bible, Computer, Study Skills, Writing Skills, and Keyboarding. Elective courses are offered to enhance the curriculum. Advanced courses may be taught beginning in the 8th grade (requirements must be met before placement is made).

The high school consists of grades 9 through 12. The curriculum is college preparatory. The academic goals are proficiency in written and oral English, the ability to use Math concepts, an understanding of History and Science and an appreciation for the Fine Arts. Advanced courses are available for students of above average ability and motivation. Advanced Placement courses are offered to enable qualified students to work on the college level, with potential of earning college credit. College credit is based upon the score achieved on the Advanced Placement exam given each May. Credit hours vary from college to college.

### **COLLEGE PREPARATION**

The primary academic mission of Hillcrest Christian School is to prepare students for college admission. Students are required to apply and be accepted to at least one college to meet HCS graduation requirements.

Curriculum planning must include one (1) unit of a foreign language, one (1) unit of computer, one (1) Advanced Elective or 2nd year of foreign language, and one (1) unit of fine arts. It is also strongly recommended that collegebound students take a math course their senior year.

Entrance requirements vary at each college and university. The Guidance Office maintains current materials from many public and private colleges and universities. This information is available for the perusal of students and parents. The Guidance Counselor is available to assist you in finding this information. It is the student's responsibility to confer with the Guidance Counselor to keep abreast of entrance requirements for the college/university they plan to attend.

### **COLLEGE DAY FOR SENIORS**

Seniors will be allowed time out of school to visit colleges or universities outside of the greater Jackson area to help them determine their level of interest in attending. Signed forms (by College Officials) need to be returned to Student Services on their first day back to school. Such visits must be cleared by the Counselor at least one week in advance.

## SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

Requests to add or drop a course will only be made during the first week of school. Any change in a student's schedule is subject to space availability and approval from the counselor and principal.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Hillcrest Christian School requires a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits for graduation from the twelfth grade. In order to participate in graduation exercises, all graduating seniors must satisfy all graduation requirements as detailed in the Student Handbook.

English	4 units	9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , & 12 <sup>th</sup>
Math	4 units	Required: Algebra I & II and Geometry + 1 optional math
Science	4 units	Required: Biology I, & Chemistry + 2 optional sciences
History	4 units	Introduction to World Geography/MS Studies, World History, US History, Economics and Government
Bible	2 units	
Foreign Language	1 unit	
Advanced Elective	1 unit	Options: 1. Second year of foreign language 2. Advanced World Geography 3. 5 <sup>th</sup> year Math 4. 5 <sup>th</sup> year Science 5. 5 <sup>th</sup> year English
Technology	1 unit	Required: Computer Applications I for ½ unit + optional computer for ½
Fine Arts	1 unit	Music Appreciation, Art, Survey of Fine Arts, Band
Electives	2 units	
Total	24 units	

To qualify for advanced courses, students are expected to meet the following criteria:

1. Be recommended by their teacher from the previous year in that subject area.
2. Have a "90" academic average **and** scored at the 90th percentile or higher on achievement test in that subject area.

Note: Students who do not meet stated criteria may, along with their parents, appeal to the Guidance Counselor for admission into advanced courses.

## **EARLY GRADUATION POLICY**

Students may earn credit for graduation by taking MAISSnet online courses as long as those courses meet all requirements for Hillcrest graduation. Prior approval of any online course must be secured from the Hillcrest School Administration. To graduate with a Hillcrest diploma, the last two credits earned must be obtained at Hillcrest in accordance with MAIS guidelines.

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT AT APPROVED COLLEGES**

Dual enrollment/dual credit is a program that allows high school students to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a post-secondary diploma at a Mississippi public institution that will also count as a credit toward a high school diploma.

### **Eligibility**

Students must have (Exception: any student who has earned a minimum of 30 on the ACT can participate even if 14 core credits have not been earned):

- Completed a minimum of 14 core high school units
- Earned a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or better on all high school courses as documented on an official high school transcript.
- Obtained an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor. A specific form will be provided for that purpose.

### **Important Facts**

- It is the responsibility of the student to meet admission requirements and pay all required fees required by the college institution for credit. All costs including textbooks are the responsibility of the student/parent. No financial aid is offered to dual enrolled students.
- The student will be expected to follow the attendance policy at the institution and will suffer all financial and academic penalties that accrue for tardiness, absence and/or withdrawal.
- Students are still required to take their full course load at Hillcrest. (Juniors must take 6 classes and seniors must take 5 classes). No class can be substituted for a class currently taught at Hillcrest Christian School. (A student may not take English Composition I in place of Senior English.) The HCS schedule supersedes the college course schedule.
- If a student wants to drop out of the college course, he or she must obtain a signed form for this purpose from the counselor to take to the college where the official drop action will occur.
- The grade earned at the institution will be the grade for dual credit at the high school. The grade shall become a part of the grade point average and affect class ranking.
- A 3-hour class shall be equivalent to 1 credit Carnegie unit applied toward high school graduation requirements.

## **RANKING OF SENIOR CLASS / HONOR GRADUATES**

Senior class rank is based on the numerical grade point average of eight semesters, grades 9 through 12 (8th grade courses which earn Carnegie units, i.e., Algebra I, and a foreign language, will be added to the student's GPA). In order to qualify for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must attend HCS for their entire junior and senior years and must have attended a recognized accredited school (ACSI, Southern Association, or MAIS) while earning Carnegie units toward graduation. They must also have taken three years of high school science (minimum of Physical Science, Biology I, Chemistry I) and three years of high school math (to include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II).

To qualify as an Honor Graduate, a student must have a cumulative numerical average (grades 9-12) of 90 to 94 and above. To qualify as a High Honor Graduate, a student must have a cumulative numerical average (grades 9 - 12) of 95 and above. The Valedictorian will be the Honor Graduate with the highest numerical average for grades 9 -12, and the Salutatorian will be the Honor Graduate with the second highest numerical average for grades 9 - 12. (Numerical average includes grades for 8th grade advanced classes which receive Carnegie units toward graduation)

Hillcrest Christian School students who qualify and choose to enroll in advanced courses will be given extra consideration when determining Class Rank. Advanced course averages will carry extra weight which is figured into the overall GPA and numerical averages at the end of the year. Final grades on report cards will reflect the weighted grade for advanced and for Advanced Placement courses.

**\*\* AP Test Fees are the responsibility of each student.**

### **NINE WEEKS TESTS, EXAMS, AND EXEMPTIONS**

Students in grades 7-12 will be required to take nine weeks tests and semester exams. All nine- weeks tests are comprehensive for the nine-week period. Both semester exams (1<sup>st</sup> semester exam and final end of the year exam) are comprehensive from the beginning of the semester. Students in grades 7 - 11 may be exempt from one (1) final end-of-year exam in any class in which they have a 90 or above average and no unexcused absences for the entire school year. Seniors will be exempt from a semester class exam if they have a 90 or above grade average and no unexcused absences in that semester class and will be exempt from final exams if they have a 90 or above grade average and no unexcused absences. School-related absences will not count against a student in determining eligibility for exemption.

**No student will be allowed to take semester exams or final exams prior to the scheduled exam times.**

### **TEST SCHEDULES**

**Ordinarily, no student at Hillcrest Christian School will be required to take more than two major tests in any given school day period.** However, due to extraordinary circumstances, (i.e. holidays, short weeks, or special occasions) it may be necessary for a student to have more than two tests on a given day. In order to develop continuity in the testing program, a schedule will be developed to ensure certain tests on appointed days. Major tests do not include any test which counts as a daily grade. Remember, proper communication will solve a multitude of problems. **It is the responsibility of students to work with teachers to make up all missed tests.**

## **CLASS OFFICERS, HONOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Students participating or nominated for positions of honor must adhere to the rules and guidelines of the school and each organization, including, but not limited to academic excellence, exemplary behavior, and they must portray the moral and Christian values of Hillcrest Christian School.

Students who seek or are nominated for these positions should not have any disciplinary incidences on their records. Disciplinary action of members may exclude him/her for a period of one year from honors such as Student Council, Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, etc. A second incident shall permanently exclude him/her from these honors.

Each class, grades 8 - 12, will elect a president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. Students must have attended Hillcrest Christian School at least one school year and must carry an overall "B" average to qualify as a nominee. Students who choose to run for office must obtain and complete an application to verify that the above-stated qualifications are met. Class officers will be decided by outgoing Senior Class Student Body Officers. Student Council Sponsor only and announce the results.

No student will be allowed to "try out" or run for cheerleader, Student Council officer, or any position or to participate in any extracurricular activity during the summer months or for the ensuing year unless they are pre-registered for that ensuing year.

To qualify for "Mr. Hillcrest" or "Miss Hillcrest," a student must have attended Hillcrest Christian School for two years and must have maintained a "B" or above overall average through the last grading period of his/her senior year. Since "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Most Intellectual" reflect academic achievement by implication, a "B" overall average is required for nominees who seek these positions. This average must be maintained through the last reporting period of their senior year.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL PURPOSE AND POLICIES**

The purpose of Student Council is to share students' ideas, interests, and concerns with faculty and administration. They often help raise funds for school-wide activities, represent the school at social events, and spearhead community projects and school reform. Administrators and faculty recognize Student Council as the official "student voice." Student Council officers should seek to represent the ideas and opinions the majority of their classmates whenever possible. Planning, decision making, communicating, and working as a team are the most important skills for officers. As the school's leaders, Student Council members establish goals, delegate responsibility, and give directions to their peers in order to execute tasks successfully. In short, Student Council seeks to create a better school experience for all students.

Hillcrest used to hold popular elections for the next year's Student Council officers. However, when students began to elect their representatives based only on who had the craziest slogan or speech, and candidates started to harass and bully one another, school policy was changed. Beginning in 2014, the process for electing Student Council officers was changed to the following:

- Students who want to run for office must be pre-registered for the next school year and must have attended Hillcrest for at least one year.
- Candidates for office must fill out an application and respond to various essay-style questions.

- Students and their parents must sign a form which states their understanding of and agreement to follow expectations regarding behavior and duties.
- Each candidate must be recommended by at least one faculty member.
- The advisor will work with administration to check overall grade average (must be at least 80 or above) and to ensure that candidates have no disciplinary issues.
- Outgoing senior class/student body officers will read student essays and then discuss and vote, choosing the officers for grades 8 through 11. Junior class officers will move into the role of senior class/student body officers for the next school year.

Student Council operates as autonomously as possible. They must learn to succeed or fail on their own, with faculty and administration working primarily to ensure that school rules and community laws are followed and to handle monetary issues. Similarly, Student Council members should only seek the help of parents for the purpose of physical tasks – such as building and decorating; parents should not be consulted for ideas or planning, as they are not always aware of student wants and needs, nor do they understand the limitations and operations of a typical school day.

#### **Officers for each class, grades 8 – 12:**

- President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The senior class will also choose a Chaplain to represent the student body from among students who run for office.

#### **Responsibilities of Hillcrest Student Council in a typical school year:**

- Welcome new families and give tours of the campus
- Presidents of each class and all officers of the senior class serve as members of the Honor Council, and they are responsible for enforcing school rules as stated in the Honor Code
- Choose Homecoming theme and dress-up days, assign and collect class dues, organize float-building times and locations, assist with games and parades
- Organize holiday giving project
- Organize teacher appreciation activities/gifts
- ...and other duties as assigned

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council Officer Additional Responsibilities:**

- Plan and host annual beauty pageant (fund raiser for Prom)
- Plan, organize, and decorate Junior/Senior Prom

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council Officer Additional Responsibilities:**

- Organize choosing of class color, flower, song, etc.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN HCS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

From the Constitution of The National Honor Society (revised July 2008): **“The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.... Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty**

**Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.”**

At the end of each school year, the Honor Society sponsor will calculate overall averages for students in grades 8 through 11. The only subjects counting toward eligibility are the 4 major subjects (English, history, math and social studies) and Bible class; students who have a 90 or better overall academic average will be considered for membership. Furthermore, candidates must have attended the school the equivalent of one semester.

We do not maintain a junior high chapter; therefore, upcoming seventh graders and eighth graders are not qualified for membership. This decision was made due to the fact that they have not yet had the opportunity to join clubs or to hold leadership positions to meet the requirements.

Those students will then be given an Activity Information form at the beginning of the next school year which must be accurately filled out and returned to the sponsor by the required date. **NO STUDENT WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP WHO DOES NOT TURN IN HIS OR HER FORM BY THE DUE DATE.** Personal responsibility is taken into consideration as a condition for membership. Likewise, a student's asking for another form, or not following directions, will be noted and will reflect negatively on consideration for his or her eligibility.

Students must have the recommendation of at least two faculty members. Faculty will be asked to evaluate, based on service, leadership, and character, whether or not students should be considered for membership.

**Service:** This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

**Leadership:** Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

**Character:** The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.

Once all forms have been reviewed by the sponsor and approved by the administration, students will be notified by letter if they have been accepted for membership.

All candidates will sign a regulations sheet, which details requirements to maintain membership status and must also be signed by their parent or guardian and then returned by the date due. Candidates must then participate in an induction ceremony in order to become members of Honor Society.

Each member will be required to pay a small fee so that the Hillcrest Christian School chapter may continue to be part of the National Honor Society. Hillcrest does not maintain membership in the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Honor Society.

### **HOME COMING**

Homecoming maids will be chosen among young ladies who have attended Hillcrest Christian School for at least one semester prior to the current year. The following number of maids will be voted on by the members of each class:

Seniors: 3 class maids + 1 band maid + 1 football maid  
Juniors: 2 class maids  
Sophomores: 2 class maids  
Freshmen: 2 class maids

All maids' dresses (for both the parade and for the ceremony) must be school appropriate and must be approved by the Student Council sponsor.

Maids are responsible for finding their own convertibles for both the parade and pre-game ceremony.

## GENERAL

### CAMPUS AND CARS / PARKING ON CAMPUS

Automobiles (and other vehicles) driven to school by students are to be parked and vacated immediately. All students must park in the Student Parking area. **Do not park in the faculty parking lot.** Students are not to sit in cars, on or around the campus at any time during school hours. **Students may only go to their cars with administrative approval.**

Lockers are provided for students to secure lunches, books, or other items. Do not use your car as a locker. All students must have a valid driver's license, and vehicle(s) must be insured to drive on campus. (A learner's permit is not considered a license.)

**Students should use extreme caution when driving on campus.** Any student observed scratching off, squealing tires, or speeding (above 10 MPH) on campus will be considered a serious violator and will be disciplined. Cars should not be moved after they are parked. If deemed necessary, students who violate driving privileges may not be allowed to bring their automobile on the school campus for a specified period of time.

**Students will not be allowed to place signs or bumper stickers of a derogatory nature on their automobiles. If students place these signs or stickers on their automobiles, they will be required to remove them or not bring their automobile on campus. Students may also face additional disciplinary action.**

## LIBRARY

The Library is an integral part of the educational program of the school. Students may come to the library during break, and/or study hall periods. Students are encouraged to make effective use of the books and materials for both course requirements and recreational reading.

- An atmosphere conducive to study must be maintained at all times.
- Students may have no more than three (3) books checked out at one time.
- Books are checked out for a two-week period, and are renewable for two-week intervals.
- Fines are charged at the rate of \$.10 per day. The fine is not to exceed the cost of the book. Weekends and holidays are not included.
- Overdue books and fine lists are brought up-to-date at the end of each month.
- Reference books and computers may be used in the library for research. These items may not be checked out by students.



- All students must be cleared with the library at the end of both semesters and all materials either turned in or paid for prior to taking exams.
- All meetings to be held in the library should be scheduled in advance with the librarian.

### CHAPEL/ASSEMBLIES

All students and teachers are expected to attend chapel and assembly programs. Teachers will provide supervision. Students who talk or who are disruptive during this time will be disciplined.

### DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students, teachers, parents or organizations desiring to have announcements made should send an email to the student council sponsor by 7:45 a.m. All announcements should be brief.

### LUNCH

Nutritious, affordable lunches are provided by HCS. Students may bring their own home prepared lunch if they desire. Delivering or bringing food from outside retail sources is not permitted at any time unless prior permission has been granted by Administration.

### CELL PHONES / APPLE WATCHES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES / TELEPHONE PRIVILEGES

**Cell phones, Apple Watches, and other electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational environment and are not permitted to be turned on or to be visible at any time during the school day.** If a cell phone, Apple Watch, or other electronic device is seen or heard during the day, it will be taken from the student and may be picked up by the parent in accordance with the policy below. This policy applies to all school functions held indoors including, but not limited to, assemblies, drama performances, class day, graduation, etc. A telephone is available in the lower school office for lower school students and in Student Services for upper school students to use before school, during applicable breaks, lunch, and after school, should they need to use the phone. Students are NOT to be dismissed from class to use the phone.

### **CELL PHONE / APPLE WATCH / ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> offense**

Student violates policy  
 Cell phone/electronic device is taken from student  
 Student receives written warning and parents are notified of violation  
 Parent picks up device

## **2<sup>nd</sup> offense**

Student violates policy  
Cell phone/electronic device is taken from student  
Student receives written warning and parents are notified of violation  
Parent picks up device  
Student receives two (2) days of detention

## **3<sup>rd</sup> offense**

Student violates policy  
Cell phone/electronic device is taken from student  
Student receives written warning and parents are notified of violation  
Parent picks up device  
Student receives three (3) days of detention  
Student chooses one (1) of the following sanctions:  
One (1) day of in school suspension; **or**  
Student will not participate in the next extracurricular event in which they are scheduled to participate (i.e., game, performance, etc.)

Laptops, tablets, or other technological devices that can be used in the classroom for educational purposes will be allowed for those purposes only and must be approved by the classroom instructor. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the device being taken from the student in accordance with the same policies listed above.

## **AHERA COMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION**

In accordance with AHERA regulations school districts are required to perform several activities with regard to asbestos in schools. These activities include an initial asbestos inspection and development of a Management Plan. The Management Plan addresses how identified asbestos containing materials (ACM) will be handled (abated or managed in place).

As part of the Management Plan, schools are also required to provide notification to all parents, teachers, and employees of our ongoing management of ACM's.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months. Any changes are being recorded in a surveillance report as part of the Management Plan.

A copy of this surveillance report, along with a copy of the Management Plan, and all supplementary information is located and is available for review in the Local Education Agency (LEA) Designee Office located at 4060 South Siwell Road, Jackson, Mississippi.

**REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE****JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL****HIGH SCHOOL**

First Bell	7:53	First Bell	7:53
Announcements	8:00 - 8:07	Announcements	8:00 - 8:07
First Period	8:07 - 8:57	First Period	8:07 - 8:57
Break (7th - 8th)	8:57 - 9:16	Second Period (9th - 12th)	9:01 - 9:51
Second Period (7th - 8th)	9:22 - 10:12	Break (9th - 12th)	9:51 - 10:10
Third Period	10:16 - 11:06	Third Period	10:16 - 11:06
Fourth Period	11:10 - 12:00	Fourth Period	11:10 - 12:00
Lunch (7th - 8th)	12:00 - 12:26	Fifth Period (9th - 12th)	12:04 - 12:54
Fifth Period (7th - 8th)	12:32 - 1:22	Lunch (9th - 12th)	12:54 - 1:20
Sixth Period	1:26 - 2:16	Sixth Period	1:26 - 2:16
Seventh Period	2:20 - 3:10	Seventh Period	2:20 - 3:10

**ACTIVITY BELL SCHEDULE****JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL****HIGH SCHOOL**

First Bell	7:53	First Bell	7:53
Announcements	8:00 - 8:07	Announcements	8:00 - 8:07
First Period	8:07 - 8:52	First Period	8:07 - 8:52
Activity	8:56 - 9:25	Activity	8:56 - 9:25
Break (7th - 8th)	9:25 - 9:45	Second Period (9th - 12th)	9:30 - 10:15
Second Period (7th - 8th)	9:51 - 10:36	Break (9th - 12th)	10:15 - 10:35
Third Period	10:41 - 11:26	Third Period	10:41 - 11:26
Fourth Period	11:30 - 12:15	Fourth Period	11:30 - 12:15
Lunch (7th - 8th)	12:15 - 12:41	Fifth Period (9th - 12th)	12:19 - 1:04
Fifth Period (7th - 8th)	12:47 - 1:32	Lunch (9th - 12th)	1:04 - 1:30
Sixth Period	1:36 - 2:21	Sixth Period	1:36 - 2:21
Seventh Period	2:25 - 3:10	Seventh Period	2:25 - 3:10

**CHAPEL BELL SCHEDULE****JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL****HIGH SCHOOL**

First Bell	7:53	First Bell	7:53
Announcements	8:00 - 8:07	Announcements	8:00 - 8:07

First Period	8:07 - 8:50	First Period	8:07 - 8:50
Chapel	8:54 - 9:37	Chapel	8:54 - 9:37
Break (7th - 8th)	9:37 - 9:57	Second Period (9th - 12th)	9:41 - 10:24
Second Period (7th - 8th)	10:03 - 10:46	Break (9th - 12th)	10:24 - 10:44
Third Period	10:50 - 11:33	Third Period	10:50 - 11:33
Fourth Period	11:37 - 12:20	Fourth Period	11:37 - 12:20
Lunch (7th - 8th)	12:20 - 12:47	Fifth Period (9th - 12th)	12:24 - 1:07
Fifth Period (7th - 8th)	12:53 - 1:36	Lunch (9th - 12th)	1:07 - 1:34
Sixth Period	1:40 - 2:23	Sixth Period	1:40 - 2:23
Seventh Period	2:27 - 3:10	Seventh Period	2:27 - 3:10

# PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I have read the policies and procedures set forth in the 2017-2018 Hillcrest Christian School Parent / Student Handbook and that I will support the enforcement of those policies and procedures.

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name

Date:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please print student names and grades below:

_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____