

ALAMANCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

7th – 12th Grade Code of Conduct (From ACS Student Handbook) June 2010 ed.

For the 2010-2011 School Year

7th – 12th Grade Code of Conduct

8.4 Junior/Senior High (Grades 7-12)

8.4.1 General: ("Clothes and company tell true tales about character." Written by J.C. Ryle in the 1800's) Standards for dress are always open for debate whether in the home, church or school. Some will look upon the group standards as too restrictive and complain that they infringe upon their personal rights. Others will view the standards as being too loose and complain that they foster license. No matter where the standards fall on the continuum between "conservative" and "liberal, the standards of any institution are part of what make it distinct and effective. Believers from both perspectives must practice the non-judgmental love of Romans fourteen as they focus on glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and edifying brothers in Christ with whom they may differ on non-essential issues. **Parents are asked to keep in mind that our young people are a "captive audience" all day long throughout the year. They cannot always "flee youthful lusts."** It is with that sobering truth in mind and with the desire to foster an academic and moral atmosphere that Alamance Christian School asks for your cooperation in the following areas:

- Clothing should be modest--of adequate fit and not too tight.
- Clothing should not be of a nature that it may be related to unwholesome associations.
- Clothing should present an "image" befitting a Christian.
- Clothing should be attractive and not overly casual.
- At the end of the regular school day, students should depart from school in classroom attire. Seventh-hour P.E. students may leave in P.E. attire ***provided they do so right after class and do not go to the front hall or on front campus.*** Those involved in official school practices may wear their practice clothing home provided that they do not loiter on campus once their practice is finished. These guidelines are an effort to guard against teens lounging around in practice attire.
- The above guidelines are applicable at all school functions and activities unless specified otherwise.

8.4.2 Girls attire and grooming

- Skirts and dresses must reach at least to the middle of the kneecap when standing.

- Girls may wear nice looking casual pants to school on Monday, Tuesday and Friday only. These may not include jeans of any color, wind pants, capris, or sweat pants. Pants should not be made of "stretch" material that makes them form fitting. Please help us keep our girls looking modest and also in keeping with the generally accepted norms in Christian homes and churches represented in our student body.

- Blouses, dresses, and skirts must not be too tight (pinch an inch of loose cloth on both sides at the same time) or draw unwholesome attention (Matt. 5:27, 28; I Tim. 2:9, 10; I Peter 3:1-5)
- Faded jean skirts, or other faded, worn-looking apparel are not suitable for the classroom.
- Slit skirts and dresses are permitted as long as the slit opens no higher than the **middle** of the kneecap when standing. Slits above this guideline must be sewn before being worn to school--absolutely no pinning of slits. (They invariably come undone.)
- Low-cut, scooped or loose-fitting necklines (front or back) that draw unwholesome attention are unacceptable. Low cut tops must have a tank top (not a camisole) worn underneath for modesty. Neck lines should not be more than the width of the hand below the bottom of the collarbone.
- Tops should have a sleeve – no sleeveless tops, crop tops, tank tops or loose-fitting armholes that reveal undergarments.
- No imprinted tops are to be worn which glorify the world (TV or movie stars, rock or country singers, questionable establishments or products, etc.).
- Thin, "transparent" blouses can only be worn with a camisole or full slip.
- Shorts and culottes or other casual apparel are not suitable for the classroom.
- Jewelry may be worn with moderation (I Peter 3:3, 4).
- Footwear should be feminine.
- Hair should be neat, well-groomed, conservatively styled (I Cor. 11:15) and of a natural looking color.
- Hair should require a minimum of care during school hours.
- Make-up, if used, should present a natural appearance and should not be ostentatious.

Clothing that does not fit into the spiritual and educational atmosphere of ACS should not be worn. The administration reserves the right to make judgments concerning styles and clothing not specifically addressed in the handbook.

8.4.3 Boys

- Trousers should be of a casual, (including blue jeans) or dress type—no faded worn-looking material or extreme fads for classroom attire.
- Trousers should fit comfortably and not tightly.
- Shirts should be dressy polo-type shirts with a collar, oxford-style button-up shirts. Sweaters or neat sweatshirts may be worn over a collared shirt. Sweatshirts may be worn over a collared shirt. **No T-shirts.** No imprinted tops which glorify the world (TV or movie stars, rock or country singers, questionable establishments or products, etc.). All shirts are to be tucked in.
- Button-up shirts should be buttoned except for the *top* button.
- Pants must be worn at the waistline and not slung low where they will drag on the ground. Belts must be worn.
- Socks are to be worn and shoes shined (if applicable).
- Multi-cleated turf shoes, hiking boots and army boots are not suitable for the classroom. (They leave black marks on the floors.) NEAT low-top or high-top tennis shoes are fine. Flip flops are not appropriate attire.
- Boys are to refrain from wearing earrings, etc. Necklaces are permitted as long as they hang no longer than one hand width below the collar bone and have no pendants or ornaments. "Senior keys" are permitted for seniors.
- Hair should be kept cut and trimmed off the ears, off the collar, above the eyebrows and tapered to the natural hairline on the sides and in the back.
- Hair should be styled in a conservative manner that is not shaggy or unkept (no "whitewalls," "sidestripes," or "bowl" cuts), and of a natural hair color.
- Sideburns are to be no longer than the bottom of the ear and neatly trimmed to present a "clean-cut" appearance.
- Boys are to be cleanly shaved (if applicable)--no mustaches or beards.

**At the discretion of the administration, boys may be permitted to wear other attire for specific activities.*

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Ball Game Attire: Boys may wear shorts that come to the top of the knee or *neat loose-fitting pants* for games. Girls may wear pants, including jeans that are modest and loose fitting (avoid stretch material), skirts, dresses, capris, knee length shorts, sweat suits and wind suits. Hip-huggers, crop tops, tank tops and bare midriffs on girls are not acceptable at ACS. Students violating these guidelines will be given demerits.

9. Behavior and Discipline Guidelines

Some keys to being "a cut above the crowd--"

- Be on time.
- Treat authority figures with respect.
- Do your very best.
- Dress "up" and not "down."

9.1 Philosophy

ACS students constitute a school family. Every family must have guidelines to ensure orderliness, direction, cooperation and accomplishment (I Cor. 14:40). The behavior of individual students affects others and also reflects favorably or unfavorably upon the family name of the school (Prov.22:1). We, therefore, request the help of parents to ensure that their child refrains from any conduct away from school which may bring a reproach upon the Lord, his family or his school.

9.2 Boy/Girl Relationships

We make no apology for doing what we can to guard the purity of our students. Boys and girls are expected to maintain Biblical standards of moral conduct. Immoral or indecent behavior in private or in public, whether at school or away from school, will subject the student to expulsion. In addition, hand-holding, embracing or other such physical contact between the sexes is not permitted at school or at school-related functions. Couples are not to be alone at any time while under the school's supervision (Romans

13:14; I Thes. 5:22). Students who marry during the school year will automatically be required to withdraw from ACS.

9.3 Conduct

9.3.1 Entertainment: Everything that we receive visually or audibly, especially what we voluntarily take in as entertainment, works to create the moral climate for all our thinking and behaving. For this reason, it is vital that the moral absolutes of God's holy law as summarized in the Ten Commandments be conscientiously applied as the standard by which all entertainment is measured to determine its moral value. Even though God's law can neither justify the ungodly nor condemn the justified, it stands as the final standard of what is right and what is wrong. Furthermore, it is God's purpose that the righteousness of the law be worked out in the lives of His children by the enablement of the Holy Spirit (Rom.8:3,4). It is crucial that believers judge each aspect of their living by God's law. This is particularly essential with respect to entertainment because of the availability of questionable material in movies, cassettes, and television. Any presentation which either violates the principles of the Ten Commandments or which portrays their violation in a favorable light is itself sin against God and must be avoided (I Jn. 3:4). This covers such common evils as taking God's Name in vain, making light of God's holy things, physical violence, vengeful attitudes (Matt. 5:21, 22), fornication (including words, music, gestures, and dress which suggest fornication--Matt. 5:27, 28), thievery, deceit, and all which makes for covetousness. Video and audio presentations are not necessarily evil; however, all that violates the moral law of God is evil and is forbidden (I Thes. 5:22; Rom. 12:21; 13:14). The close application of God's holy standard often results in painful *self-denial* in areas that may be *naturally appealing*. Dying to sin and living for God are results of that repentance and righteousness which belong to God's great salvation (Rom. 8:13; Eph. 4:20-24). **Let us never forget that Christ came to save us from our sins and to make us holy** (Matt. 1:21; Rom. 6:2, 4, 6, 22; I Jn.3:5-10). Therefore, in accord with all which God commands in Scripture and all which Christ has accomplished, it is required that the use of all forms of video entertainment (and audio as well) be regulated by the Word of God. With these Biblical principles in view, we simply ask parents to make careful moral judgments as to the entertainment which they approve for their children (I Cor. 10:31; Psalm 101:2, 3). The discovery of consistent violations of God's law in this or any other area will be construed as willful rebellion against God and for that reason must result in discipline (Prov. 28:13; 19:25; 21:11; 22:10; II Thes. 3:14, 15).

9.3.2 Attitude: Students are expected to manifest a submissive attitude. A critical, sarcastic, flippant, generally uncooperative or destructive spirit will not be tolerated. Students exhibiting such negative influences, or who are found to be out of harmony with the general school atmosphere, will subject themselves to dismissal.

9.3.3 Honesty: No cheating, stealing, or other forms of dishonesty will be allowed. Any offender will be subject to discipline including expulsion.

9.3.4 Music: Worldly music--whether rock, country, or popular--that has immoral, degrading, violent lyrics or rhythms is to be avoided (Phil. 4:8; II Cor. 7:1; Col.3:1-3; Titus 2:12-14; James 4:4; I Peter 2:9).

9.3.5 Procedural Guidelines

- Students should not be out of their seats without permission (I Cor. 14:40).
- Students must not speak out during class without advance permission (I Thes. 4:11).
- Students must always respond to authority with respect (I Thes. 5:12, 13)
- Students should maintain Christian standards in courtesy and kindness (Phil. 2:3-5; Matt. 7:12; I Thes. 5:11).

9.3.6 Property and Horseplay: Student respect for the appearance and care of our school property is very important; therefore, sitting on desks or tables, defacing school property, throwing objects, littering, etc., is not permitted. Disorderly conduct (running, shoving in the classrooms or hallways, rough-housing or horseplay) is not conducive to self-control and can lead to destruction of property and/or injury; therefore, it cannot be tolerated.

9.3.7 General Expectations Alamance Christian School expects our students to refrain from illegal activities including but not limited to the use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and any form of tobacco products. In addition, we strongly encourage our students to avoid bars, lounges, night clubs, rock concerts, and any other activities that may present the appearance of evil or put them in a position of being associated with evil doers. Other activities unbecoming a Christian such as disorderly and boisterous behavior, gambling, and indecent language or physical gestures should be avoided at all times. A student involved in the afore-mentioned activities may be subject to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from Alamance Christian School at the discretion of the school board.

9.4 Demerit System (Grades 7-12)

The demerit system is a guide for discipline in grades 7-12 at ACS and is designed to foster consistency in administration and clarity of expectations. A secondary purpose is to indicate the level of cooperation and self-control that a student has as well as to determine if any undesirable *patterns of behavior* have developed. Students who wish to appeal demerits respectfully are welcome to talk with the Principal who will then call the Discipline Committee if needed. Every year a number of ACS High School Students go through the entire term with no demerits at all. Most of the following guidelines for decency and order will have little impact on the majority of our high school students:

Guidelines and penalties.

Infraction #	1	2	3	4
Loitering	05	05	10	10
Gum, food, drink	05	10	10	
Pestering	05	05	10	10
Horseplay	05	05	10	10
Off limits area	10	10	10	10
Chapel infraction	10	10	10	10
Leaving class w/o permission	10	10	10	10
Misuse of pass	10	10	10	10
Misuse of off-campus permission	10	10	10	10
Computer Infraction	10	10	10	10
Dress code	5	5	10	10
Failure to report to D-Hall 10	10	20	20	
Unauthorized materials	10	10	20	20

(The item may be confiscated. *Some* examples: fire works, mace, smoke bombs, stink bombs, I PODS, MP3 Players, CD Players, Cell Phones, etc.) (Electronic devices will be confiscated and kept one, three or five days, depending on the infraction)

Social infractions	10	10	20	20
Direct disobedience	10	10	20	20
Skipping class	10	10	20	20
Skipping day care	10	10	20	20
Defacing school property	20 and financial restitution			
Intimidation/bullying	5	5	10	20
Disrespect/attitude	20	20	20	20
Unacceptable music	10	10	20	20
Truancy	40	40		
Defiance	40	40		

Language (verbal or written)

Crude or inappropriate	10	20	20	20
Vulgarity	20	20	40	
Profanity	40	40		

Fighting

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Forms of dishonesty

Leaving campus w/o permission	20	20	40	
Lying	20	20	40	
Forgery	20	20	40	
Cheating on class/homework	20	20	40	
Pretense of cheating	20	20	40	
Cheating on test, project, or quiz	40	40		
Aiding someone to cheat	20	20	40	
Indecent Exposure	40 to expulsion			
Sexual Harassment	40 to expulsion			
Willful destruction of property	40 and repair or replacement			
Stealing	40 to expulsion			
Pornography	40 to expulsion			
Use or possession of tobacco	40 to expulsion			
Use or possession of alcohol	subject to expulsion			
Use of or possession of illegal drugs or any pretense thereof	subject to expulsion and arrest			
Immorality	subject to expulsion			
Weapons on school property	subject to expulsion			
Criminal offence	review by board			

Every possible offence cannot be anticipated; therefore, any matters not listed will be decided by the Discipline Committee Review Board.

Students who *accumulate* the following demerit totals anytime during a semester will receive the corresponding penalties in an effort to focus them on the seriousness of their offense or pattern of offenses:

20 – one day of In-School Suspension (no academic penalty) Forfeit any class or student body officer position.

40 – two *additional* days of In-School Suspension and a meeting with the parents

60 – one *additional* day of Out of School Suspension and probation for 45 school days. This carries an academic penalty as well since OSS is considered an unexcused absence.

80 – Subject to expulsion

Students who receive in-school suspension will be required to pay a \$20 fee per day to compensate a substitute teacher who will monitor them.

Probation: Students who receive 60 demerits during any one semester will be placed on disciplinary probation for 45 school days with the following stipulations: (See Table of Contents under Discipline—Probation)

- Duration of 45 school days from the day the student reached 60 demerits. In an effort to be fair to all, this could carry over into the next school year.
- No class or student body leadership positions
- May not be a teacher's aide
- May not go on any class or field trip
- Must be counseled once per week or as deemed necessary by the counselor and administration while on probation. *The objective is restoration..* If a student is involved in an ACS sports team he/she must sit out the next five (5) regularly scheduled games. If he/she is in fine arts he/she must miss the next major production.
- A student who accumulates 60 or more demerits in either semester will not be permitted to reenroll without approval of the administration, faculty and board.
- Demerits are tallied on a semester basis. Everyone's demerit totals revert to 0 demerits at the beginning of second semester.
- To ensure that parents are kept informed, each time demerits are given, the parent will be sent a form to be signed and returned to the office.
- The administration and the Discipline Committee reserve the option of other forms of discipline including corporal punishment for those who do not respond to rebuke or demerits with a change of behavior.

Two objectives of our discipline are individual self-control and the insurance of an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual and academic growth.

9.5 Detention Hall

The following offences will be dealt with by 15 Minute Detention Halls.

- Tardy to Class – A student must have a written excuse from a teacher or the office.
- Unprepared for Class – If a student fails to bring the necessary books, writing implements or other required materials to class. This does not mean not having homework complete.
- Disorderly Conduct in class – If a student is caught talking out of turn, passing notes, making unnecessary noise/distractions, not paying attention, sleeping, etc.
- Dress Code – Shirt untucked or skirt slit too high. Other problems will be dealt with by the Demerit System.
- Failing to Return Signed Papers – This includes anything a teacher or the office sends home to have signed as well as not bringing an excuse for a Tardy or Absence.

15-Minute Detentions must be served on the school day assigned from 3:05 – 3:20 in the assigned room. Students must be there on time with the D-Hall notice signed by a parent. They will not be allowed to phone parents instead of getting signatures on detention notices. Failure to do so will result in One Hour of Detention being assigned. A student may choose to reschedule a detention once for a fee of \$2. Requests to reschedule detentions must be received and the money paid by 3:00 P.M. the day it was to be served. Only for sickness, a doctor's appointment, or excused absences will a student be excused from serving on the day assigned.

If a student receives more than one 15 Minute D-Hall on one day he/she will be assigned D-Hall on the following basis:

- 2nd 15 Minute D-Hall – One Hour Detention
- 3rd 15 Minute D-Hall – One Hour Detention plus 15 Minute D-Hall
- 4th 15 Minute D-Hall – 2 Hours of Detention

Repeated offences in the same class period by younger students may result in alternative discipline such as paddling.

The following penalties will be enforced for those whose lack of self-control cause them to accumulate 15-Minute D-Halls in a *Nine-Week Period*:

- 5th 15 Minute D-Hall – Student will forfeit student body of class officer position.
- 10th 15 Minute D-Hall – One day of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- 15th 15 Minute D-Hall – One day of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- 20th 15-Minute D-Hall – One day of Out of School Suspension (this includes further penalties since OSS is an unexcused absence.)

Hour Detentions:

If a student receives six hour detentions in a Quarter he will be placed on probation. All of the probation limitations will apply. A student may re-schedule a detention once for a \$5 fee. Requests to reschedule detentions must be received and the money paid by 3:00 P.M. the day it was to be served. Only for sickness or excused absences will a student be excused from serving *on the day assigned*. Home or away games DO NOT constitute an excuse for not serving detention.

At the end of each Nine-Week Period the cycle will begin again with everyone's D-Hall at 0.

9.6 Passes (Grades 7-12)

In an effort to foster orderliness in the high school, ACS uses a pass system. Students who need to use the restroom, or who need to go to their locker, the library or the office are issued a pass. This system limits the number of students who are in the hallways at any given time. Misuse of a pass results in demerits.

9.7 Probation (Disciplinary)

Students are placed on disciplinary probation for a specific period of time when the school administration deems it is appropriate for a student's infraction of a school rule. When a student is on disciplinary probation, he is then vulnerable to expulsion at any time for any repeat of that rule infraction or for any other major or minor infraction of a school rule. While on disciplinary probation, a student cannot continue to retain any student leadership positions he may have held prior to his probation. (See demerit system)

9.8 Stealing

In addition to receiving demerits/tallies, students found guilty of stealing will make reasonable restitution (Exodus 22:1-4). Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. If it is necessary to bring more money than is needed for lunch, consider leaving it with the teacher, or, in the case of high school students, with the office. Although we will do our best to protect students' property, the school cannot be held accountable for unattended items that have been stolen.

9.9 Suspension

Suspensions are given out for accumulation of demerits or detentions. In-School Suspensions do not carry an academic penalty, nor will they be counted as an absence from class. The student will work on assignments during the ISS. Out of School Suspensions are counted as an unexcused absence and therefore carry an academic penalty of two points off each grade for the nine weeks. Out of School Suspensions will count towards the five-day maximum allowed per quarter. (See Section 5) *Suspensions will be noted in the student's permanent record and on his transcript.*