

DESERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

2025/2026

General Handbook

Families who enroll agree with the terms and provisions set forth
in the Desert Christian Schools handbook.



Desert Christian Schools Administrative Team

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School Administrator

Jamie Baker
Ministry Operations Executive

Caleb Smith
High School Principal

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Learning Tree Preschool Director

Hannah Gibson
Home Education Programs Director

Heather Welch
Office Manager/Admissions

Maria Williams
Peach Factory Director

Kathryn Dimmitt
Gym Center Director

Heather Shreves
Business Manager



Dear DCS Families,

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in your child(ren)'s education. We exist to glorify Jesus Christ in all that we do by educating with excellence the whole student: spiritually, intellectually, relationally, and physically. By choosing DCS, your child will be surrounded by teachers and staff who are committed to providing a safe and loving environment conducive to learning. Not only will they receive excellent academic instruction, but your child will also be trained to understand the world around them through a biblical worldview.

We are committed to partnering with parents to provide an exceptional and comprehensive biblically-integrated education to equip students to excel, to impact their world for the glory of Christ, fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. Our school's theme verse summarizes the heart behind our educational environment with this valuable reminder:

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15-18).

It is our deepest desire with that perspective in mind for every student to be closer to Jesus Christ on the day they graduate than the day they started with us. This is only possible by the grace of God as we endeavor to prepare students to be **READY WITH THE TRUTH**. May the Lord use the ministry of our school to encourage and support your family as you strive to raise children who shine brightly as positive contributors to their communities and the family of God in the midst of a broken world. We are honored to have you part of the DCS family!

Partnering with you in Christ,

Josh DeVore
School Administrator
Desert Christian Schools



Table of Contents

GENERAL HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

Mission	1
Vision	1
Strategy	1
Core Values.....	1
Statement of Faith.....	1
Philosophy of Christian Education.....	2
Philosophy of Teaching and Learning.....	2
Philosophy of Creation	3
Statement of Human Sexuality	3
Philosophy of Missions.....	3
Expected Schoolwide Learning Results	3
History	4
Accreditation	4
Affiliations.....	4

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The Learning Tree	4
Desert Christian Elementary School.....	5
Desert Christian Middle School	5
Desert Christian High School	5
Desert Christian Home Education Programs.....	5
Peach Factory	5
Enrichment Programs.....	5
Summer School.....	5
School Library	5

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Newsletters	6
DCS and Family Partnership	6
Summer Participation.....	6
Nondiscriminatory Student Policy.....	6
Right to Terminate and Refuse Service	6
Demonstration of Religion	6
Lifestyle Purity	6
Harassment.....	7
Sexual Harassment	7
Concern Resolution Process	9
Release of Student Directory Information	10
Volunteer Guidelines.....	10
Logo Use	11
Acceptable Use Policy for Student Computer Usage	12
Acceptable Guidelines for Technology	12
Social Media Policy	13

Artificial Intelligence Guidelines	13
Cyberbullying	14

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Admissions and Enrollment for New Students	14
Orientation	14
Additional Admissions Criteria	15
FACTS Family Portal	15
Re-enrollment.....	15
Student and Family Changes	15

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition and Fees	15
Family Accounts.....	16
Payments	16
Financial Aid.....	17
Pastoral Discount.....	18
Military Discount	18
Fundraising Events.....	18
Sports Team Fundraising	18
School-wide Fundraising.....	18

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Teaching Staff	18
Standard Course of Study	18
Textbooks and Materials	18
Additional Teacher Assistance.....	19
Bible Version	19
Standardized Testing Program	19

CAMPUS PROCEDURES

Office Hours.....	19
Communications - FACTS.....	19
Inclement Weather.....	19
DCS Alert System and Calls to Home	20
Campus Security	20
Security Cameras	20
Smoke Free Campus	20
Student Supervision Responsibility	20
Before and After School Care (Peach Factory)	21
Lost/Stolen Items Responsibility	21
Crisis Management and Security Plan	21
Student Lunch Program	22
Food Allergies	22

Table of Contents

HEALTH INFORMATION

Student Wellness.....	22
Health and Safety Procedures	23
Immunizations	23
Insurance Responsibility.....	23

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Traffic Plan.....	24
Bicycles	24
DCS Vehicles	24
Bus Referral Process	24

STANDARDS FOR DRESS	25
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NON SCHOOL DAYS CALENDAR.....	26
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WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Desert Christian Schools (DCS) exists to glorify Jesus Christ in all that we do by educating with excellence the whole student; spiritually, intellectually, relationally, and physically.

1 Peter 3:15-18 “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”

VISION

Partnering with parents to provide an exceptional and comprehensive Biblically-integrated education to equip students to excel, to impact their world for the glory of Christ, fulfilling God's purpose for their lives.

STRATEGY

We strive to provide the tools necessary for our students to think clearly and listen carefully with discernment and understanding; reason persuasively and articulate precisely; understand life from a Biblical worldview; and do all with joyful submission to God. We teach our students to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love others as much as they love themselves. Our students are taught to be socially graceful and spiritually gracious, desiring to grow in understanding of God and Christ-likeness; to have a heart for the lost and a commitment to share the Gospel and their lives with those around them. We train our students to possess all of these characteristics with humility and gratitude to God.

CORE VALUES

SPIRITUAL

- Glorifying God in everything we do.
- Engaging regularly with Scripture, prayer, and belonging to a local church

INTELLECTUAL

- Inspiring excellence in academics.
- Applying biblical truth to everything we do.

RELATIONAL

- Partnering with families in their child(ren)'s education
- Edifying communication and commitment to unity
- Treating everyone with gentleness and respect

PHYSICAL

- Maintaining a safe environment conducive to learning
- Striving for our best stewardship of the resources God has given us

STATEMENT OF FAITH

As a school, we commit ourselves to the following statement of faith, which will be the basis of our instruction:

We believe . . .

In one God, Creator of all, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of God, He is our High Priest and Advocate.

That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ, convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, and indwell, guide, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

The Bible to be the only inspired Word of God, without error in the original, the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men, and the final authority for all Christian faith and life.

That all people are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God. Only by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.

That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for redemption and only those who receive Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and are the children of God.

That the true Church is composed of all who have been regenerated by saving faith and are united as the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.

In the personal, imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

In the bodily resurrection of the dead: the believer to eternal joy with the Lord and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting punishment.

PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We believe that there are two overarching worldviews: a man-centered worldview and a God-centered worldview. It is from these two opposing worldviews that man contemplates his existence and finds value and purpose in life.

We believe God is the center of His creation. Man can only be understood in the context of a God-centered worldview. Our potential, our reason, and our purpose are enveloped in the fact that man is the centerpiece of God's creation.

God's inspired, sufficient, and inerrant Word, the Bible, is His divine revelation to man. The daily lives of God's people are changed as a result of knowing and studying God's Word. Absolute truth and objective reality are found only in a worldview focused on God.

Education must comprehensively address the needs of the "whole man." A Christian approach to education ensures sensitivity to the unique needs of each individual. The imparting of God's knowledge and wisdom is the goal of Christian education. The desire to be a life-long learner of His truth is the mark of a maturing disciple.

The education of a child must be a cooperative effort with the family, because God has established that parents are fully responsible for raising their children as the primary and ultimate authority in their lives. This responsibility of parents includes the task of ensuring that their children are taught a proper understanding of the world around them. Thus Christian education becomes a partnership between parents, the church, and the school in this important task of exploring and discovering a God-centered worldview.

Education itself is not the answer to man's problems. It is only as we start with the knowledge of an all-knowing and loving Creator that we can successfully educate. In this process of education, we will not only

impart wisdom and knowledge for this world but also prepare man for eternity!

PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

At DCS, we believe there are two important principles that facilitate academic excellence in a learning program. The first principle is "age-appropriate academics." This means that subject matter and learning concepts are carefully reviewed to be presented at the most advantageous time in a child's or young person's maturation process. In doing this, teaching and learning can take place with maximum efficiency. For example, Six- and seven-year-old children easily grasp concepts that may take weeks for the four- or five-year-old child.

We also know that effective learning is sequential. Learning is most effective when it is built on a strong foundation of well-understood supportive concepts. Moving too quickly through foundational concepts will create a base of understanding that is simplistic and will not support more advanced thinking skills.

The second principle of our learning philosophy is "the involved learner." We believe that the most effective learning takes place when the child or young person is a participant in the learning process. This principle has very specific application to the early childhood and lower elementary child who understands concepts on the concrete rather than the abstract level. It is our goal to involve all students in the learning process in order to create excellence in the learning experience.

These two principles of learning are exemplified in Jesus' teaching. He always waited until the appropriate time to teach a concept. He also involved His learners with the world around them (e.g. a fig tree, a coin, and a net). Jesus' role as the "Master Teacher" was not to pour all the knowledge He had into the heads of His followers, but instead He carefully waited until the appropriate time and circumstances to teach His truth. In doing this, His followers were participants in the learning process and eagerly waited for the next installment of learning from the Lord.

We want to nurture and train our students in the truth of God's Word. By presenting academics in an age-appropriate time frame and involving the learner in the learning process, young people will develop

into eager lifelong learners.

PHILOSOPHY OF CREATION

At DCS, we feel a strong duty to teach creation-based science as the foundation for understanding our origins with an emphasis on the intelligent design of a loving God. We believe that God created all that we know *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). All life is a wonderful gift from God to be respected and cared for.

A true understand of the present world requires starting with the Bible as our primary source, framework, and authority for understanding the origins of the world. The data of science should be interpreted through the lens of Scripture.

The approach to understanding creation includes teaching special creation of all things that occurred in six literal days, and the historical event of a universal flood evidenced by both Biblical and geological records.

STATEMENT OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, and pornography are sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

PHILOSOPHY OF MISSIONS

At DCS, missions education and involvement have been identified as an important part of the program. Fostering an environment committed to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is carried out in two specific ways: classroom and chapel content, as well as church and community partnerships.

Our classroom curriculum supports systematic exposure to the whole of Scripture that naturally emphasizes the importance of local and international missions at various times throughout the school year. Thanks to the support of our curriculum, teaching staff benefit from natural rhythms in the year where evangelism and missions are referenced. This offers them the opportunity to highlight the significance of

missions in the life of the church and believers in their class lessons. In addition, once each year the school dedicates one week of chapels to the topic of missions with effort to schedule a current or former missionary to speak to the student body from a personal perspective whenever possible.

Church and community partnerships are also an important part of supporting missions in the life of our school. Each of our student programs is encouraged to partner with organizations like Grace Resource Center, Teen Challenge, Communities of Christ, Operation Christmas Child, World Vision, or a local church to coordinate a food or resources drive where students have the opportunity to tangibly support missions by donating items toward targeted ministries during the months of November and December. These ministries involve a variety of local and international exposure to a variety of missions-based organizations in our own backyard and across the world (Acts 1:8).

The school's administration also does its best to support staff and students when they have opportunity to participate in a short-term missions trip by making special accommodations for them whenever possible. This may look like approving time off for a staff member during a busy season or approving excused absences for a student during the school year. These approvals are evaluated on a case-by-case basis with a shared foundational belief that short-term mission opportunities are formative in developing a higher view of God and understanding of the breadth of His Kingdom on earth!

EXPECTED SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING RESULTS

Students at Desert Christian Schools will -

Develop physically by:

- participating in activities that promote fitness and health

Develop socially by:

- maintaining respectful and caring interpersonal relationships within and across all cultures
- participating in the community as responsible citizens

Develop spiritually by:

- considering the invitation to accept Jesus Christ

as Savior and Lord

- seeking a deeper relationship with God through prayer, Bible study, and other disciplines of the Christian life

Develop intellectually by:

- applying critical thinking skills in all academic disciplines
- communicating effectively through the written and spoken word

DESERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS' HISTORY

In 1977, First Baptist Church (now known as Grace Chapel) opened the Family Learning Center as a ministry of the church. It consisted of one kindergarten class, several preschool classes, and an after-school care program for community school children called Peach Factory. In 1979, first and second-grade classes were added, expanding it into a grade school. The school continued to add grades until a kindergarten through eighth grade program was fully established. In 1985 a physical enrichment program was introduced that included gymnastics, dance, and baton.

A major step was taken in 1988 with the change of name to Desert Christian Schools and the opening of the Desert Christian School High School, which grew by one class per year, yielding its first graduating class in 1992. A home education program for parents who wished to teach their children at home was established in 1991 as an extension of the Desert Christian Schools' ministry.

First Baptist Church released the leadership of the school in 1998 to form a separate non-profit corporation that would assume responsibility for Desert Christian Schools and develop new ministries to accomplish its mission. In the ensuing years, the main campus and the high school campus were purchased, the home education program expanded to include independent study classes, the gymnastics center opened classes to the community, the preschool opened two new campuses located on the east side of Lancaster and the west side of Palmdale, the Runner Student Activity Center and a state-of-the-art gymnastic center were built on the main campus, an international student program was established, and athletic and academic programs expanded to meet the growing needs of the school community.

In July 2015, Desert Christian Ministries was dissolved, and Desert Christian Schools again became a ministry of Grace Chapel. This put both the school and church in a stronger position in all areas of ministry.

God has richly blessed Desert Christian Schools in many ways. Attendance has grown from 94 students in 1977, to a current enrollment of over 1,600 students. Additionally, the ministry has expanded from one campus to programs at four locations.

In 2025, the High School campus relocated to City Church and an Infant Care Center was added at the same location.

The faculty, staff, and administration praise God for the opportunity to partner with parents in providing a Christian education experience for children and youth in the Antelope Valley.

ACCREDITATION

Desert Christian Schools has been accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) since 1988. The current renewal will run through 2031.

AFFILIATIONS

DCS is affiliated with the Association of Christian Schools International. ACSI provides teacher certification, leadership seminars, teacher and administrator conferences, and representation of Christian schools in state and national issues concerning Christian education.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL

The Learning Tree Preschool is a year-round preschool program that offers full-day and half-day care for children 18 months through five years old, and an Infant Care Center for children eight weeks through 32 months. Social, educational, and spiritual development, including a variety of enrichment experiences, are the heartbeat of this ministry to our community. The preschool operates in four locations, one on the main school campus, one at 43260 Challenger Way at Life Church in East Lancaster, one located at 39625 20th St., W. in Palmdale at the Highlands Church, and the Infant Care Center at 44514 20th St., W. at City Church in West Lancaster.

DESERT CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Elementary School is a kindergarten through fifth grade program that is designed to evangelize, educate, and equip children for godly living. Through the nurturing of our dedicated and professional educators, as well as close partnership with our families, DCES is a place where children grow both academically and spiritually, developing into all that God created them to be. The elementary school is located on the main school campus.

DESERT CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School is designed to provide a caring, student oriented, Christ-centered setting for students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. It is a foundational program that prepares students for high school while inspiring them to appreciate learning and explore personal interests. The middle school is located on the main school campus, adjacent to the elementary school.

DESERT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The High School is designed with a philosophical shift from the evangelistic focus of elementary and middle school into a rich discipleship emphasis preparing students to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ in preparation for graduation. The high school emphasizes college prep, but also offers high school diplomas for professions and jobs requiring specific training. Students are challenged to develop and mature in their faith, academics, interpersonal relationships, individual talents, leadership, and service. The high school campus is located at 44514 20th Street West at City Church in West Lancaster.

DESERT CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Home Education Program exists to provide support and encouragement to families who have chosen to educate their children at home. DCS assists families in educating their children by honoring God's Word and parents, providing opportunities, providing mentorship from veteran homeschool moms, and encouraging families through community. DCS provides record keeping, oversight, standardized testing, and academic support. Preschool through eighth grade is provided with an independent or a co-op option. High school is provided with an independent or Fusion option, along with additional academic support and opportunities.

PEACH FACTORY

The Peach Factory provides before and after-school care for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. Peach Factory is available from 6 a.m. until school begins and continues after school until 6 p.m. Supervision and planned recreational activities, including crafts and games, are provided. All-day Peach Factory is available on most school holidays during the school year and during the Summer for students entering first through eighth grades in the fall.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

The Enrichment Programs offer enrichment experiences in gymnastics and cheerleading. The main campus program of beginning recreational gymnastics and cheer is offered for Desert Christian students in preschool through fifth grade. The beginning recreational gymnastics experience emphasizes basic skills for the development of strength, flexibility, and coordination. Basic gymnastic routines are also taught. The beginning cheerleading program teaches partner stunts, pyramids, jump techniques, tumbling, music routines, and cheers.

The Desert Christian Gymnastics Center is also open to the community and offers gymnastics for every age and ability.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School is available for first through eighth-grade students. Classes are offered in the mornings primarily during the month of July. High School offers Summer School for credit retrieval only.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The main campus library will be open posted hours after school for students and families to check out books. It is the student's responsibility to return library books on time. Students are charged the cost of replacing books that are lost or damaged. Report cards are withheld until books are returned or paid for.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Families who enroll at DCS agree to the DCS Parent Handbook in its entirety including all changes and amendments that may be made throughout the

school year. A current handbook with amendments is accessible on FACTS under Resource Documents.

It is agreed that Desert Christian Schools shall not be liable for any delay or failure in performance resulting from a force majeure event resulting from acts beyond reasonable control, including but not limited to, acts of God, war, governmental action, acts of terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, state of emergency, or any other event beyond Desert Christian Schools' control. The duties and obligations in this agreement may be postponed for a period of time or terminated depending on circumstances.

NEWSLETTERS

DCS publishes a newsletter, *Knightly News*, which is e-mailed. The *Knightly News* includes information about upcoming programs and special events, and is one avenue of communication with parents. Parents are requested to thoroughly read each newsletter.

DCS AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

DCS believes in partnering with families to deliver a quality education that includes helping students develop intellectually, spiritually, relationally, and physically. Parents are informed and responsible for financial arrangements, discipline, absences, tardies, and grade reports.

Administrators have the right to design and limit the participation of parents and students to ensure harmonious cooperation among families, faculty, staff, and students. (This includes but is not limited to parent classroom visits, providing distance between students, and preventing detrimental parent behavior.)

SUMMER PARTICIPATION

Students must be fully enrolled or re-enrolled prior to participating in any school associated summer activities. This includes, but is not limited to, athletic practices (e.g., football, cross country, volleyball, or soccer); camps or retreats (e.g., yearbook or leadership); and rehearsals (e.g., drumline or worship team).

NONDISCRIMINATORY STUDENT POLICY

DCS admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded or made available to students

at the school. It does not discriminate based on color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its policies.

RIGHT TO TERMINATE AND REFUSE SERVICE

DCS reserves the right to terminate service to a student at any time. There are two basis for this. As a Christian school, DCS has educational and religious objectives, as well as beliefs, which guide its actions and efforts. First, it is reasonable to expect a student to cooperate with these objectives and beliefs. Secondly, it is reasonable to expect parents to cooperate with the school as they understand these rules and objectives, and have signed a document to certify their agreement. Therefore, when a student or family refuses to cooperate with and support DCS, the right to terminate enrollment will be reserved.

As DCS has no obligation to provide service, it also reserves the right to refuse service. If a potential student is not believed capable of meeting academic, belief, or behavior standards, service may be refused. Similarly, if a parent is not believed to be cooperative and supportive or willing to meet financial obligations, service may be refused.

DEMONSTRATION OF RELIGION

DCS is a Christian school with a Christian mission and statement of faith. As such, its purposes and practices are decidedly Christian.

Therefore, all students, regardless of religious affiliation or lack thereof, will be required to participate in teaching and practices such as chapel, Bible classes and times of prayer. In addition, demonstrations of other religions will not be permitted on campus.

LIFESTYLE PURITY

Because there are many different views in the world regarding sexual practice, and because students are confronted on a regular basis with sexual images, it is understandable that students may be confused about the Biblical standards to which he or she should adhere. Students are expected to live by standards of conduct that are consistent with Scripture.

The school believes that God's design for intimate sexual conduct is reserved for marriage between one man and one woman and that He has forbidden certain behaviors according to Scripture. This includes

sexual contact between those who are not married, whether heterosexual or homosexual. Prohibited sexual contact includes, but is not limited to, heavy petting, physical contact with or without clothing with another person for sexual gratification, sexual intercourse, oral sexual activities, public exposure of one's genitals or breasts, and the use of pornography (Leviticus 18). Moreover, students should make every effort to avoid compromising situations that might give the appearance of being involved in such activities.

The school also desires for each student to develop a Biblical understanding of his or her sexual nature as a young man or woman. This development is especially meaningful when students face conflicting ideas of acceptable cultural norms. The school believes that, in God's providence, He created human beings as male and female in His own image (Genesis 1:27); that the character of each person as a man or a woman (sometimes referred to as "sex" or "gender" or "gender identity") is determined by God at the individual's conception and is revealed in physical form at the individual's birth (Psalm 139:13-16); and that the character of the individual as a man or a woman is not open to change later in life. Deuteronomy 22:5 states, "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God." Students must not dress in clothing that does not reflect their own gender.

For these reasons, the school regards confusion over one's sexual identity, and identifying oneself as homosexual, gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, or other similar classification, as contrary to God's design and a mark of the sinful nature of mankind. The school believes it is important that a student not adhere to or use such a classification to identify him or herself, but rather, remain open to understanding his or her sexual nature in the context of Scripture and the work of the Holy Spirit. The school, therefore, will not permit a student to classify him or herself as such, or to condone, promote or advocate the use of such classifications by others, believing that to do so is inconsistent with Scripture and God's creation for healthy sexual development (Genesis 19:4-5, Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and Jude 7). Students who violate these

standards may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the school.

HARASSMENT

The following section addresses all forms of harassment including sexual harassment.

DCS is committed to maintaining a work and academic environment in which all individuals, both employees and students, treat each other with dignity and respect and which is free from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, and harassment including but not limited to verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic. Any form of harassment, including harassment based on race, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability, veteran status or any other legally protected characteristic, or age is absolutely prohibited.

The use of email, voicemail, or other electronic messaging systems, or the internet may give rise to liability for harassment. Employees and/or students may not generate, should not receive, and must not forward, any message or graphic that might be taken as offensive based on sex, gender, or other protected characteristic. This includes, for example, the generation or forwarding of offensive "humor" which contains offensive terms, verbiage, or pictures.

It is the intention of DCS to protect all employees and students. DCS is prepared to take action to prevent and correct any violations of this policy. Anyone who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination or expulsion.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

DEFINITION

"Sexual Harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, online, or physical conduct of sexual nature, made by someone from or in the work or education setting, under any of the following conditions:

- Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic status, or progress.
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the

individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual.

- Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through this school.
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work performance, academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

EXAMPLES

Unwelcome sexual conduct of this type can include a wide range of verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Among the types of conduct, that would violate this policy are the following:

- Unwanted sexual advances or propositions;
- Offering employment or academic benefits in exchange for sexual favors;
- Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances;
- Visual conduct such as leering, making sexual gestures, display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters;
- Verbal conduct such as making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, and jokes;
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes, or invitations;
- Sexually motivated physical conduct such as touching, assaulting, impeding, or blocking movements;
- Any use of social media or electronic communication that includes any of the aforementioned behaviors is prohibited and subject to discipline;
- Employee-employee sexual harassment is prohibited;

- Employee-student sexual harassment is prohibited;

- Student-student sexual harassment is prohibited.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE OR OBSERVE HARASSMENT, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Employees and/or students who feel that they have been subjected to conduct of a harassing nature are encouraged to promptly report the matter to their supervisor or one of the school officials designated below.

Employees and/or students who observe conduct of a sexually harassing nature are also encouraged to report the matter to their supervisor or one of the school officials designated below.

All complaints will be promptly investigated.

WHERE TO REPORT HARASSMENT, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The following individuals are specifically authorized to receive complaints and to respond to questions regarding harassment, including sexual harassment:

Josh DeVore
School Administrator
948-5071, Ext. 2019

Jamie Baker
Ministry Operations Executive
948-5071, Ext. 2219

Caleb Smith
HS Principal
723-7441

Lisa Costello
MS Principal
723-0665

Shannan Case
ES Principal
948-5071, Ext. 2006

Noelle Heflebower
Preschool Director
948-5071, Ext. 2010

Heather Shreves
Human Resources
948-5071, Ext. 2212

CONFIDENTIALITY

Every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the parties involved in any complaint. However, the school reserves the right to fully investigate every complaint, and to notify the appropriate government officials and/or a student's parent/guardian as the circumstances warrant.

PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION

It is against the school's policy to discriminate or retaliate against any person who has filed a complaint concerning harassment including but not limited to sexual harassment, or has testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in any investigation, proceeding, or hearing concerning harassment including but not limited to sexual harassment.

PROCEDURE FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE COMPLAINT AND FOR TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION

When one of the school officials designated in this policy receives a complaint, he or she shall immediately inform the School Administrator. The School Administrator will direct an investigation. If the investigation confirms the allegations, prompt corrective actions shall be taken. The individual who suffered the harassing conduct shall be informed of the corrective action taken. In addition, any employee or student found to be responsible for harassment, including but not limited to sexual harassment, in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment or expulsion. The severity of the disciplinary action will be based on the circumstance of the infraction.

CONCERN RESOLUTION PROCESS

In any large institution, even with the best of intentions and efforts, disagreements and misunderstandings may occur. The test of that institution is not that problems arise but how they are handled. As a Christian organization, it is important to resolve matters as outlined in the Bible by taking the concern directly to the person involved. Matthew 5:22-24, 18:15-20

It is therefore agreed that concerns will be resolved in

the following manner. The person with the concern will go first and only to the other party. If the matter is not resolved, the principal or supervisor of the involved employee will be contacted. If an administrator or supervisor is approached with a concern that has not been first presented to the staff member involved, they will redirect the individual with a concern to the staff member.

If the matter is not resolved there, the person may take the matter to the School Administrator. Pursuing the matter beyond the School Administrator requires the aggrieved party to place their concern in writing for consideration by School Board of Desert Christian Schools. The school board's decision will be final.

The parties to this agreement are Christians and believe that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian community in conformity with the Biblical injunctions of 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Matthew 5:23-24, and Matthew 18:15-20. Therefore, the parties agree that any claim or dispute arising out of or related to this agreement, including claims under federal, state, and local statutory or common law, the law of contract, and the law of tort, shall be settled by Biblically-based mediation. If the resolution of the dispute and reconciliation do not result from mediation, the matter shall then be submitted to an independent and objective arbitrator for binding arbitration.

The parties agree for the arbitration process to be conducted in accordance with the Christian conciliation Rules of Procedure contained in the Peacemaker Ministries booklet "Guidelines for Christian Conciliation." Consistent with these rules, each party to the agreement shall agree to the selection of the arbitrator. The parties agree that if there is an impasse in the selection of the arbitrator, the Institute for Christian Conciliation (hereafter ICC), a division of Ambassadors of Reconciliation, Montana (844-447-2671), shall be asked to provide the name of a qualified person who will serve in that capacity. Consistent with the rules of procedure, the arbitrator shall issue a written opinion within a reasonable time.

The parties acknowledge that the resolving of conflicts requires time and financial resources. The issue of final responsibility for such costs will be an

agreed issue for consideration in the mediation or arbitration.

The parties agree they will endeavor to exchange information with each other and present the same at any mediation, or, if to arbitration pursuant to the ICC Rules of Procedure, with the intent to minimize costs and delays to the parties. They will seek to cooperate with each other and may request the mediator, case administrator, and/or arbitrator to direct and guide the preparation process so as to reasonably limit the amount of fact-finding, investigation, and discovery by the parties to that which is reasonably necessary for the parties to understand each other's issues and positions, and to prepare the matter for submission to the mediator and/or arbitrator to inform the mediator and / or arbitrator. In addition, the parties agree that in the event of an arbitration, they will use a single arbitrator who is experienced in the relevant area of law and familiar with Biblical principles of resolving conflict.

The parties to this contract agree that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of the employment relationship or this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit against each other in any civil court for such disputes, including any class action proceeding, except to enforce a legally binding arbitration decision. The parties acknowledge that by waiving their legal rights to file a lawsuit to resolve any dispute between them, they are not waiving their right to employ legal counsel at their own expense to assist them in any phase of the process.

RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Student directory information consists of student name, address, telephone number, email address, date and place of birth, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous public or private school attended by the student. Information will be released according to the following guidelines:

- Photographs, videos, or other physical likenesses of a child for purposes of sharing school announcements, marketing, advertising, publicity, and other promotions in print, DCS

websites, social media pages, or on public displays related to promoting the school.

- Press, television, and other organizations: Information concerning participation in athletics, other school activities, the winning of scholastic or other honors and awards, and other such information.
- Colleges and universities: Transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Private business or professional schools or colleges: Names and addresses of graduating seniors.
- Official recruitment representatives of private industry; federal, state, and local government agencies; and the military forces of the United States: Career guidance information including names and addresses of graduating high school seniors.
- Another school district in which pupil intends to enroll or has enrolled: School records and/or transcript of grades and credit.
- Families within DCS: Names for elementary school children may be released in order to include an entire class in a social event (e.g. birthday party). Records marked "Do not release information" will be kept confidential.
- Name and contact information for other students or parents may be released for school related purposes with the approval of a school administrator.
- Parents and legal guardians: All student directory information on file for their child.

For Learning Tree Preschool, in compliance with Title 22 and the Department of Social Services, all information and records obtained from or regarding children enrolled in Learning Tree Preschool shall be confidential. Records are only open to inspection by the child's authorized representative, Department of Social Services personnel, and law enforcement officials.

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

Desert Christian Schools loves its volunteers! The DCS Volunteers Program allows our school to tap into

skills, experiences, and talents beyond what our excellent faculty and staff already bring to DCS.

As part of our commitment to including our DCS family in all aspects of our school life, our faculty and staff continually look for ways to involve volunteers in their work. Through various volunteer opportunities at DCS, volunteers can add value to our campus and programs and lead by serving.

Due to licensing requirements, volunteers are not utilized in Learning Tree classrooms.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

- Assist in classrooms
- Athletic Coach, Assistant Coach
- Club Advisor
- Library assistance
- Field trip chaperones/drivers
- Assist with fundraisers
- Assist in offices
- School events
- Community Relations and marketing events

REQUIREMENTS

All volunteers who will supervise children, will be alone with children, will be volunteering at an overnight event, or will be providing bathroom assistance for children on field trips must meet the following requirements:

- Complete an Application to Volunteer
- Provide three references
- Provide current TB test results (good for four years)
- Complete two interviews with school administrators
- Pay for Live-Scan fingerprints, which are kept on file and cleared with the Department of Justice and FBI and remain effective during the attendance of the student or until revoked by the volunteer or the government agency.
- Complete a Volunteer Directory Questionnaire

- If driving, fill out an Application to Provide Transportation to DCS Activities.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A VOLUNTEER

- All classroom and office volunteers are screened in advance to ensure they are qualified for the duties performed. In the case of large school-wide activities, volunteers are supervised by the school personnel in charge of the event.
- Volunteers are provided with training and/or information (policies, procedures, dress code, etc.) appropriate to the task to ensure that the task is performed in alignment with the standards of the school.
- Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is in keeping with the Christian Role Model statement and professional standards.
- Volunteers are under the direct supervision of the staff member in charge. Volunteers may not be with individual students in an area that is not openly observable.
- Volunteers may correct students in keeping with the discipline guidelines of the program in which they are volunteering. Any serious disciplinary actions should be referred to a staff member.
- When volunteers fail to perform a task satisfactorily or there is a problem of any other nature, the program director will be informed.

As a reminder, our goal is placement for volunteers into a service opportunity that best suits their interests and schedule within the DCS campus.

LOGO USE

In an effort to increase unity and brand awareness across all programs, DCS has developed a set of approved logos and logo use specifications. A version of an approved logo is to be included on all uniforms, spirit wear, practice gear or other items ordered by any DCS team, club, class, or support group, and must be authorized by the DCS Graphic Designer prior to use. The approved logo may be incorporated into artwork that is individualized for the team or group according to the specifications laid out in the logo use spec sheets. Spec sheets are available in hard copy or

electronic versions. Approval forms are available the DCS Graphic Designer.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENT COMPUTER USAGE

Students at DCS have the opportunity to use computers with Internet access in labs, libraries, and classrooms. This opportunity offers the ability to research information, investigate issues and correspond on school-related matters. The potential benefits of this kind of information to each student, their class, and the school as a whole, are immense.

Along with the benefits of this information access comes potential risks to everyone involved. Not all of the information available on the Internet is truthful, accurate, or beneficial.

However, DCS believes by building a partnership with families, it is possible to enjoy the benefits of electronic information while avoiding the potentially harmful effects. This partnership is a shared responsibility of the school, each student, and their parents.

It is the responsibility of the school to provide safe, filtered Internet access through hardware and software that is current, to enhance the learning process. Included in this is the basic functioning and security of the network as well as adult supervision of students.

It is the responsibility of each student to make responsible and ethical choices while accessing electronic information. It is also the responsibility of each student to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in this Acceptable Use Policy. Students will use the Internet to gain information but will not copy and plagiarize another person's intellectual property without the author's prior approval or proper citation.

It is the responsibility of parents to provide guidance and oversight of students during the information gathering process and by evaluating their students work upon completion.

DCS will provide computer workstations for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Usage of these computers is a privilege and not a right. Students who do not follow the Terms and Conditions as set forth below may lose their privilege

of computer access and may be subject to school or legal disciplinary action.

Given sufficient evidence or reasonable suspicion of misuse of the computer network, school administrators may review files, video recordings and/or communication logs to maintain system integrity and to ensure responsible usage. Users should not expect that communications and/or records of usage would be private.

ACCEPTABLE USE FOR TECHNOLOGY GUIDELINES

Technology plays an important role in the academic process, and it is the goal of Desert Christian Schools to effectively integrate its use into daily educational activities. To maximize the benefits provided by technology and minimize any potential risks, DCS has developed a comprehensive Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). This document applies to all students and defines what is both acceptable and unacceptable behavior related to the use of computers, electronic devices, information systems, and the Internet.

Before being allowed to use any technology at school, all parents and all students (fourth through twelfth) must carefully read and agree to abide by all parts of the AUP.

Examples of acceptable usage will include but not be limited to the following: completing classroom assignments; conducting on-line research; using reference materials; communicating with individuals or businesses regarding school issues; accessing appropriate websites.

Examples of unacceptable usage will include but not be limited to the following: purposely attempting to access inappropriate websites; conducting commercial or personal business; using games without the knowledge and permission of the supervising adult; distributing personal contact information; attempting to access or accessing DCS network servers (except to retrieve documents).

Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network behavior. These include but are not limited to the following: being polite, using appropriate language, not using swear or other offensive words, not substituting symbols for inappropriate words, not revealing personal contact information, not harassing, insulting, or defaming another individual.

All students will be given a Desert Christian Gmail account in order to utilize Google Classroom during the current school year. G Suite for Education will be used in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

COPYRIGHT

DCS students and staff will observe all copyright laws. Students will not place copyrighted material on any computer workstation without the permission of the supervising adult. Students may not download copyrighted data, including digital music, software or photos without permission of the copyright holder.

SECURITY

The security of the DCS computer network is a high priority. Students who identify a security problem are to contact an adult immediately and must not demonstrate this problem to other students. Passwords must be kept private. Students must not attempt to bypass or change system settings.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OR DATA

Students shall not misuse any school hardware to destroy data belonging to someone else.

PENALTIES

Students who do not follow this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

First and foremost, students are encouraged to always exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media or online communications, both within the DCS network and beyond.

Students who participate in online interactions must remember that their posts reflect on not only themselves, but also their families and the school. As such, actions in the social media realm are subject to the same behavioral standards outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Technology is a neutral force and people choose whether to use it for right or wrong. One handbook can not spell out all possible uses or abuses but generally speaking, students need to know that what they say or do online is subject to the same guidelines as if the act took place in person.

The proliferation of technology has made access to inappropriate material prolific. As an emphasis, students should avoid accessing and/or sharing inappropriate material at all costs.

In addition to the regulations found in the Acceptable and Unacceptable Usage Guidelines, students are expected to abide by the following:

- To protect the privacy of DCS students and faculty, students may not, under any circumstances, post the names of other students.
- Students and parents may not use social media sites to publish disparaging or harassing remarks.
- Students who choose to post editorial content to websites or other forms of online media must ensure that their submission does not reflect poorly upon the school, including but not limited to:
 - Making disparaging remarks about the above stated
 - Using profanity or inappropriate language
 - Divulging confidential information about DCS students.
- Students and parents should not create a social media account on behalf of DCS or other entities of Grace Chapel without explicit consent of the DCS Administration.

Failure to abide by this Policy, as with other policies at DCS, may result in disciplinary action as described in the Student Handbook, or as determined by Administration.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

Our school recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) is a valuable and important resource that will play a significant role in our technological era. However, a kindergarten through eighth education is the training ground designed to develop critical thinking skills. Our primary goal is to equip students with the ability to think for themselves, so they can use their own ideas and intellect to leverage AI as a tool in the workplace and in life. Therefore, the use of AI in assignments is generally prohibited unless specifically requested by a teacher. This policy is similar to how a calculator is used in math class – it is a tool only to

be used when a teacher directs it. Unless otherwise noted, the maximum amount of AI that may be used in any submitted assignment is 15%. Any assignment that is found to have more than 15% AI-generated content without the teacher's explicit permission will be considered a form of plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is defined as mistreating others through the use of technology or any electronic device. Typically, these devices are, but are not limited to, computers, cell phones, and text messaging devices and displayed as, but not limited to, writing, images, and sounds that are defamatory, violent, abusive, profane, and/or sexually-oriented. Cyberbullying is to be reported to the Administration immediately and is not acceptable in any form.

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT FOR NEW STUDENTS

All students will be accepted and enrolled in the school following these procedures.

- 1) STARTING POINT
 - a) Tour recommended
- 2) APPLICATION
 - a) Complete the online application at www.desertchristian.com under the admissions tab
 - b) Upload required documents. Requirements vary by program.
 - c) Documents may also be faxed to (661) 948-0858 or emailed to admissions@desertchristian.com within seven days.
 - d) Pay the online application fee. The application fee is non-refundable.
- 3) ENROLLMENT
 - a) Families new to DCS - Create a FACTS family account (See directions below)
 - b) Complete the online enrollment packet, which includes reading and signing the handbook agreement and setting up an automatic payment plan.
 - c) Pay the enrollment fee for the selected program. The enrollment fee is non-refundable unless a student is not accepted.

4) ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATIONS, AND STUDENT INTERVIEWS

- a) Learning Tree Preschool
 - i) Consultation with the Site Director
- b) Elementary
 - i) Kindergarten screening
 - (1) All incoming kindergarten students will have a kindergarten screening to determine the best academic placement for the student.
 - ii) Grades first through fifth Academic Assessment
 - iii) Grades kindergarten through fifth Family Consultation with Principal
- c) Middle School
 - i) Academic assessment
 - ii) Family and Student Consultation with Principal.
- d) High School
 - i) Academic assessment
 - ii) Student Interview with Principal
- e) Home Education
 - i) Interview with the DCHEP Director

5) ACCEPTANCE

- a) Notification of acceptance is given promptly following completion of the application and enrollment process, receipt of all required documents, payment of enrollment fees, and completion of all assessments, consultations, or interviews.

6) FINALIZATION

- a) Following acceptance, family payment plans will be finalized and provided by email.

Accepted students will be placed in a principal's waiting pool when a grade level is filled. When a space is available, our protocol allows for student selection which benefits the needs of each classroom and the student body as a whole. An effort will be made to enroll students who are accepted earliest, but this is not guaranteed.

ORIENTATION

To facilitate a smooth transition to DCS programs, a variety of orientation opportunities are scheduled. Each program will provide orientation information by email or in weekly updates. Families are expected to participate in these orientations.

ADDITIONAL ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades and credits transferred from other institutions or homeschool are not merged with grades from DCMS. Grades and credits start to accumulate when the student begins. A student must complete at least two quarters of school at DCMS to graduate with the class.

Students entering DCMS from our elementary school are not automatically accepted. Selection for all middle school students is based on their effort to do their best in academics and citizenship.

HIGH SCHOOL

After the student interview, an additional assessment may be required of applicants to determine acceptance. An official transcript will be requested from the previous school when the student is officially enrolled.

Students who are considered for enrollment into high school are people who:

- Have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- Are members or actively involved in a Bible-believing Christian church whose doctrinal position supports the DCS statement of faith.
- Have demonstrated on a standardized test that they are adequately prepared to achieve well in high school.
- Have a satisfactory citizenship record in the school they are presently attending.
- Are achieving at least an average of a "C" grade in the present school year.
- Desire to attend Desert Christian High School and are willing to comply with the school's standards as printed in the handbook.

Students entering DCHS from our middle school are not automatically accepted. Selection for all high school students is based on their effort to do their best in academics and citizenship.

FACTS FAMILY PORTAL

FACTS is the Portal that DCS uses for enrollment. Student, family, and financial information from the Facts Portal is available on demand.

- Go to your internet browser and type in the address www.desertchristian.com
- Click the icon in the right corner
- Click the Login button, and the login page will pop up
- Click Create a new account
 - District Code DCS-CA
 - Type in the email address you provided to the school
 - Click the "Create Account" button (A link will be emailed to you.)
 - Click on the link to create a username and password. For security purposes, this link will only be active for 15 minutes from the time it is sent to you.

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS

Re-enrollment for the following school year begins in November. Family accounts must be current prior to completion of re-enrollment. The school year is defined as July 1 through June 30. Start dates may vary by program.

Re-enrollment into all DCS programs will be completed online. Families will receive an email with instructions on accessing the online re-enrollment packet. Enrollment fees for all programs will be released in November for the following year. Enrollment fees will be due at the time of packet submission. Families will be asked to sign the financial and handbook agreement and select a payment plan for the coming year as part of completing the re-enrollment process. Once paid, re-enrollment fees are non-refundable. An "early bird" discount on enrollment fees for returning families may apply when families enroll by an early bird deadline.

STUDENT AND FAMILY CHANGES

Parents need to inform the school office of any changes that occur during the school year regarding addresses, telephone numbers, or alternate emergency contact persons.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION AND FEES

Enrollment fees are due as the family enrolls.

During the enrollment process, families will be prompted to pick a payment plan. Tuition can be paid

over 12, 11, or 10 months. Availability of the number of payments (12, 11, or 10) will be determined based on enrollment date. There are no discounts for payment by cash or payment in full. Textbook payments are due July 31.

Tuition for other immediate family members living in the same household and enrolled in elementary school, middle school, or high school is reduced by the sibling discount.

Tuition is based on a yearly amount and will be billed to your family account upon enrollment using FACTS Management. Tuition will not be prorated for days absent or vacation periods. Students leaving during the year will have their tuition prorated for that month. The July 1 tuition will not be prorated. Students who withdraw after August 15 are still responsible for August tuition. Students enrolling later than September shall have tuition established with regard to the portion remaining in the school year. For withdrawals after May 1, families will be responsible for the balance of the annual tuition.

All account balances are due by the scheduled due date on your account. Accounts with a past-due balance are subject to a \$50 late fee.

LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL EXCEPTIONS

- Each child in the Learning Tree program will be granted three weeks without tuition for family vacations each year (July - June). This vacation time must be used; it cannot be carried over into the next school year. One week's prior notice must be given to the school office. At the discretion of the director, we reserve the right to fill your child's spot if you do not return by your requested return date.
- Temporary drops are considered and granted for extreme circumstances (i.e., surgery, hospitalization, death in the immediate family, or loss of a job). Temporary drops are required to be three weeks or more in duration and are only granted once during a school year with director and business office approval.
- Two weeks' notice must be given by parents/guardians when service is terminated. If the business office does not receive advance notice, the family may be subject to paying an amount equal to two weeks' tuition.

FAMILY ACCOUNTS

Family accounts may be viewed on FACTS (under Financial/Financial Home). All correspondence from the business office regarding account balances is sent via email. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and review their family accounts. Students can be assigned to multiple accounts only under certain circumstances. In the situation of split parents, if the tuition is to be divided between parents, both parents will need to sign a financial agreement. These agreements will hold parents liable for all fees, including but not limited to tuition. The business office must receive completed financial agreements from both parents prior to any division of financial obligations.

Family accounts are considered delinquent when 30 days past due. Families with delinquent accounts will be subject to the following:

- Prevented from attending school
- Prevented from participating in extracurricular activities
- Prevented from year-end graduation
- Prevented from re-enrollment
- Re-enrollment is being placed on hold

Being delinquent five or more times throughout the school year will result in exclusion from re-enrollment for the next school year.

FACTS access will be disabled for any family account with a past due balance as of May 31.

PAYMENTS

Payment plans for tuition through the FACTS Family Portal are required and will be established during the enrollment process. A payment method is required when creating your payment plan. A payment method can be a debit/credit card or an electronic check. Debit/credit card payments are subject to the current processing fee regulated by FACTS and paid directly to FACTS when your automatic payment is processed. Electronic checks (e-checks) can be used at no additional charge. If you prefer to pay by cash, check, or money order, payment must be received four business days before your scheduled automatic payment to ensure proper processing. All checks and money orders must be made payable to Desert Christian Schools with the name of your student and the program it covers on the check's memo line.

Incidental billing is used for all other fees. These fees include but are not limited to, athletic teams, elective courses, class fees, textbooks, etc. Automatic payment for incidental billings can be set up through your FACTS Family Portal. Students will only be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities if fees are paid in full by the due date assigned.

If you prefer to pay by phone, please call FACTS directly at 866-441-4637. DCS cannot process debit/credit card payments.

A late fee of \$50 will be charged to your account upon the return of the second attempt of any scheduled automatic payment.

RETURNED CHECK POLICY

There is a \$25 returned check fee for all checks and echecks returned by the bank due to non-sufficient funds (NSF). FACTS will attempt to collect the echeck NSF fee in 5 days and then will attempt to collect payment in 15 days. FACTS will communicate with all families via email. DCS will charge your family account the NSF fee of \$25 for any check returned.

When a family has three checks or e-checks returned by the bank, the business office will place the family on a cash-only status for any payment. Once a family is placed on a cash-only basis, the only accepted method of a payment is cash, money order, or credit card for any balance due including tuition, sports fees, school prep day fees, field trips, and clubs. The family will continue on cash-only status until their situation changes and the business office releases the family from cash-only payments.

When a family is placed on cash-only status, the business office will notify the main school office and the appropriate program offices so checks from that family will not be accepted.

If a returned check or e-check causes the family to become more than 30 days' delinquent on their student account, they will be notified that lock-out procedures will start immediately until their account is current.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available to both new and returning students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grades to help with the cost of tuition. Financial aid is not available for the preschool. The primary goal of

the Financial Aid Program is to assist existing families who are experiencing a temporary reduction of income due to job loss or illness. Any remaining funds may be awarded to additional families who demonstrate a financial need depending on available funds. Aid is issued annually and a new application must be submitted each year. Financial aid is awarded for tuition only and does not cover registration and material fees, books, sports, or activity fees. If the reduced rate of tuition is not kept current, the discount becomes void each month and full tuition may be charged.

To apply for financial aid, returning families need to be enrolled for the upcoming school year. New families do not need to be enrolled to apply for financial aid. Applications for financial aid are submitted online at FACTS through the DCS website only. FACTS is a third party vendor used by DCS to process financial aid applications and collect financial data from applicants. Re-enrolling families must apply for financial aid from February 1 through April 30 each year. Award decisions are not made by FACTS, but by the DCS Financial Aid Committee. FACTS requires a \$45 application fee and will request additional documentation which will need to be uploaded, mailed, or faxed. In general, families are limited to a maximum of four years of financial aid. Once financial aid is given, a student is expected to maintain a minimum of 2.5 or higher GPA. New students must also have a 2.5 GPA to qualify for financial aid.

In addition to maintaining a 2.5 or higher GPA, students must conduct themselves in a way that is consistent with the policies of Desert Christian Schools. Financial Aid awards will be forfeited if your student does not adhere to standards of conduct in this Handbook for Parents. Students must contribute to the positive Christian culture of the school. Families awarded financial aid will have 10 days to sign and return their Financial Aid Covenant. Aid will not be applied to family accounts until the covenant has been returned.

To apply for or to review the FAQs, please visit www.desertchristian.com (Admissions/Financial Aid). For further assistance, please contact the DCS Financial Aid Secretary, Heather Welch at (661)948-5071, Ext. 2017.

Child Care (Learning Tree) families are encouraged to apply at Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) for tuition assistance.

PASTORAL DISCOUNT

It is the policy of DCS to give kindergarten through twelfth a tuition reduction for those families serving in full-time pastoral ministry. All pastoral discounts are totally volitional and at the discretion of DCS. Applications are available at the front desk of the main campus and are completed and turned into the Financial Aid Secretary for screening. The School Administrator will meet with all families applying for a pastoral discount. After this meeting, a decision is made, and a response email is sent to the applicant. If approved, a notification is sent to the business office for the tuition reduction. Pastoral discount is applied to tuition only and does not include enrollment, material fees, books, sports, or activity fees. If the reduced rate of tuition is not kept current, the discount becomes void. Pastoral discounts are issued annually and a renewal application must be submitted each year.

MILITARY DISCOUNT

In an effort to honor our United States active military and their service, Desert Christian Schools offers a 20% tuition discount for students in grades kindergarten through twelfth whose parent or guardian actively serves in any branch of the United States Military. A Military Discount Application must be filed each year with current military orders or active duty ID.

FUNDRAISING

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Throughout the school year, school-wide fundraisers may be held. Your voluntary participation in student fundraisers is welcomed.

SPORTS TEAM FUNDRAISING

Athletic teams wishing to engage in fundraising activities must submit a group fundraiser application for each fundraiser. Applications are available from the Athletic Director. The application must be complete, signed by the Principal, Athletic Director, and submitted to the School Administrator for approval at least two weeks prior to the proposed

activity. Students and advisors should be careful to avoid any conflict with DCS school-wide fundraisers in timing and/or type of activity. Priority will always be given to school-wide fundraising activities and only 1-2 fundraisers per sport are typically approved each season.

SCHOOL-WIDE FUNDRAISING

The DCS Fund Development program consists of opportunities that allow supporters to partner with Desert Christian in financial support of the school's vision and mission. Parents, friends, staff, and community members are warmly welcomed to take part in supporting campus improvements and program enhancements.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

TEACHING STAFF

The teaching staff is made up of qualified, committed Christians. Elementary, Middle School, and High School Program teachers are required to hold a Bachelor's Degree and maintain teacher certification with the Association of Christian Schools International. They participate in education conferences, professional development training, and continuing education courses.

STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY

DCS follows the basic curriculum guidelines required for study in the State of California for public schools. While specific subject material may be taught at different times, the objective is to provide the same opportunities that exist in public schools, plus augment those with other valuable knowledge. The goal is to do this from a Biblical perspective so that each student realizes the importance and relevance of the never-changing Word of God.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

DCS believes in what we call the "living curriculum." This means that we are committed to employing teachers who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ making true Christian education possible and powerful! Most of the textbooks and curriculum used by DCS are from Christian publishers, however, at times the school agrees that a secular textbook and/or piece of literature supports a learning

objective more effectively than an alternative Christian publisher's resource. In such cases, we are confident that our commitment to Christian education and a Biblical worldview is not hindered by selecting a secular resource, because the teacher using that secular resource is filled with the Holy Spirit and committed to using that resource as a vehicle for excellence in that subject matter while promoting a Christian worldview.

Some additional considerations include our perspective that students need to be guided by their parents and Christian teachers in the development of critical thinking skills and discernment. The use of thoughtfully selected secular textbooks and/or literature during a student's time at DCS promotes opportunities to grow in critical thinking skills and discernment in a Christ-centered environment. After all, a proper discussion of a God-centered worldview includes an analysis of variety of worldviews, including those that are false. This helps prepare students for future educational experiences.

Further information about specific topics is addressed in the curriculum overview of each school section of this handbook. It is required that parents obtain all textbooks and have them available the day the student starts school each year. During the summer, families will be emailed the book list. Additional information and instructions are also found in each school section of this handbook.

ADDITIONAL TEACHER ASSISTANCE

Students sometimes need help with a subject. The first place to turn for help is the teacher of the course. Teachers at the school are willing to give extra time to students who are conscientiously trying to improve. In some cases, a tutor may be recommended. A recommended tutor list can be obtained at each school office.

BIBLE VERSION

Beginning in first grade, each student is required to have their own hard copy of the New International Version (NIV) 2010 Bible for study and memorization.

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM

DCS utilizes assessments and standardized testing to monitor students' progress to help inform administrative decisions like curriculum sequencing.

IOWA, Let's Go Learn, IXL, Accelerated Reader, and PSAT are examples of the assessment utilized.

CAMPUS PROCEDURES

OFFICE HOURS

The main school office is open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every business day. The elementary office is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the school year. The middle school office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during the school year. The high school office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the school year. HEP office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vacation, holiday, and summer schedules may vary.

COMMUNICATIONS

FACTS is the main way DCS communicates student and financial information to families. Parents are required to regularly check FACTS to monitor students' grades and behavior (found in the Student Information section).

In addition to the many other ways of tracking student achievement, DCS families can view some student information online. FACTS offers families on-demand access to their child's assignments, grades, report cards, discipline, account balances, cafeteria purchases, library check-outs, etc.

If, for any reason, parents cannot receive school emails or other FACTS information, they may request a hard copy from the school office. A computer is also available in the main campus library and office for parent use, if needed.

DCS-CA is the district code and the primary email provided to the school is your user name.

To access FACTS Family Portal:

- Go to your internet browser and type in the address www.desertchristian.com
- Click the  icon in the right corner
- Click Login button, the login page will pop up
 - District Code DCS-CA
 - Type in your Username and Password
 - Click "Login"

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the case of inclement weather, check FACTS, www.desertchristian.com, Facebook, and/or expect

a text, email, or automated message for information on school closure. Peach Factory and Learning Tree childcare will remain open even when DCS school closes, except in extraordinary circumstances.

DCS ALERT SYSTEM AND CALLS TO HOME

From time to time DCS will send a text message, email, or an automated text message to parents' home or cell phone number. This message may include school closing status due to inclement weather, information regarding student-specific school programs, or instructions in the event of a natural disaster. The system is completely confidential and does not use any information for advertising purposes. Parents are requested to not use the opt-out feature at the end of the phone call or text message, as it could prohibit the school from contacting them in case of an emergency. Messages will be sent to the cell phone number or email of the custodial and correspondence contacts provided in your family account.

CAMPUS SECURITY

DCS is committed to maintaining a safe environment conducive to learning. To enhance campus safety and security, DCS has a Safety Coordinator on campus during school hours. The Safety Coordinator's primary role is overseeing all aspects of campus safety and security, including parking lot safety. Other duties include monitoring and oversight of all emergency drills conducted on campus.

The Safety Coordinator has parent and community volunteers who assist with morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Volunteers monitor student's arrival and departures at designated gates and doors throughout the campus. Volunteers walk the campus to ensure classrooms are secure and that there are no unauthorized persons on campus. If interested in becoming a volunteer for the safety team, please contact the Safety Coordinator at (661)948-5071, Ext. 2273 for more information.

Parking lot safety is an important priority for DCS and requires parents to adhere to parking lot rules.

During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, crosswalk monitors will direct vehicular traffic in and out of the parking lot and direct pedestrian traffic at designated crosswalks. Drivers and pedestrians are to obey the directions of the crosswalk monitor at all times. When walking your child to and from the

parking lot, you must use the crosswalks and obey the direction of the crosswalk monitor. This ensures that you get to your destination safely. There are traffic cone patterns and signage to direct you to designated drop-off locations.

DCS operates under a closed campus policy. The campus is closed to the public and allows limited access to parents at designated dates and times. Upon arriving at school, students are to remain on the grounds until properly dismissed from school. All visitors must enter through the school office and stop at the front desk for instructions.

All gates are to remain closed at all times, except for designated drop off and pick up times. All doors are kept locked when students are inside.

No simulated or real weapons may be brought on campus whatsoever.

SECURITY CAMERAS

Our campuses are equipped with security cameras in strategic locations throughout the campus. The video surveillance system records events in public areas, the main office, the high school office, the middle school office, outside lockers, court yards, Learning Tree classroom hallways and hallways where there is not an expectation of privacy.

These cameras do not replace direct teacher supervision in the classroom or for any playground activity. The cameras are designed to record events that can assist the school or law enforcement authorities in conducting investigations into events at the school.

SMOKE FREE CAMPUS

For the health and safety of students and staff, DCS is a smoke-free campus, including parking lots. This includes smokeless tobacco, electronic and vapor cigarettes, any nicotine substances, and marijuana.

STUDENT SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITY

DCS has the responsibility to supervise students while they are on school property, participating in school sponsored off-campus activities, and while using school transportation.

DCS releases elementary students from their campus at the end of the school day to authorized pick-up people. Elementary school students may be released to a middle school or high school sibling with written

parent approval submitted to the elementary office. In addition, students who need special release arrangements must be approved by administration. Middle school and high school students are released from their campuses on their own.

DCS dismisses students from activities on campus after normal school hours and after school-sponsored off-campus activities and expects parents to arrange for prompt pick-up. Staff will not leave students unsupervised.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE (PEACH FACTORY)

This on campus program is available every school day and all holidays except the following: Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, and the observed Fourth of July holiday. For the 2025/2026 year, Christmas holidays will be observed on December 24 and 25. New Year's holiday will be observed on January 1, 2025. All day Peach Factory is available during the Christmas and Easter breaks, during the summer, and any time distance learning occurs for Desert Christian Schools. Tuition is separate for the summer session and all day extended care.

The doors open at 6:00 a.m. for morning care and children are dismissed to their classrooms in time for school to start. The children return after school and must be picked up prior to 6:00 p.m. If a child is not picked up by 6:00 p.m., an additional \$15 for any portion of the first ten minutes plus \$1 for every minute after that will be billed to the family account. Any parent who is consistently late in picking up their child will lose the privilege of having their child in the Peach Factory program.

In order to attend the 25/26 Peach Factory program, each child must be registered as either a regular or an occasional user. Regular users attend Peach Factory weekly and tuition is paid by the month. Occasional users attend on an as-needed basis and tuition is charged for the days attended.

Monthly tuition for regular users is set at a lower rate by averaging in all school days, holidays, and in-service days. Because of this, no tuition adjustment needs to be made during single-day holidays or teacher professional development days. Months with

holiday weeks may be charged additional fees. Daily rates for all-day Peach Factory are available for occasional users and those students who need child care only during holidays, holiday weeks, or teacher professional development days.

All students must be signed in and out by an adult listed on the student's emergency pick-up list, or otherwise authorized by the parent. If this adult is unknown, then an I.D. will be required. During the morning hours, students are to be signed in at the Knight's Café or the morning check-in location.

On minimum days, Peach Factory is available for students who need care and is included in the monthly rate. Afternoon rates will apply for occasional users.

LOST/STOLEN ITEMS RESPONSIBILITY

DCS is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Items are taken to the lost and found and kept for a maximum of two weeks at which time items are donated to charity.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY PLAN

The objective of the Desert Christian Schools Crisis Management and Security Plan is to provide the maximum practical protection for students and staff in the event of a crisis.

To meet this objective, students and staff are prepared and instructed through student drills and staff trainings. The complete Crisis Management and Security Plan is available for parent review at the Main School Office.

Since no two emergencies are the same in nature, scope, or magnitude, the school's plans are basic, flexible, and subject to modification as the need arises. Modification is at the discretion of the administration or law enforcement personnel. However, in any emergency, the following priorities shall apply:

1. Protection of life.
2. Prevention of injury.
3. Protection of property.
4. Preparation of the campus for extended stay or evacuation.

In an effort to help keep our campus secure, there

are designated DCS staff performing security duties during the day and at special events.

STUDENT LUNCH PROGRAM

Knight's Café is the in-house food service department that serves our Learning Tree Preschool and Elementary School programs. Kindergarten through eighth grade families are encouraged to pack lunches, snacks, and drinks for their students daily, or they may choose to pre-order a lunch provided by Knight's Cafe on campus. For more information, please contact your child's school office.

Sixth through eighth grade: Middle School students will have daily access to the Snack Shack, and can pre-order and purchase hot lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays provided by local vendors.

Food delivery services such as Uber Eats, Grub Hub, etc. will NOT be allowed for kindergarten through eighth grade students at DCS. High school students may utilize delivery services for lunch.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

If a student forgets their lunch, parents may bring food in and drop it off at the main office for students. Please be sure to label your child's lunch. Lunches must be fully prepared and may not include open containers or fountain drinks. Canned or bottled drinks may be included. If it is determined that a student unexpectedly did not bring lunch to school, the student may be given an emergency lunch. The charge will be placed on the student's account in FACTS.

FOOD ALLERGIES

It is a parental obligation to provide the school, prior to the start of every year, with documentation from their child's physician supporting a diagnosis of food allergy, and any risk of anaphylaxis (if applicable) identifying any food to which the child is allergic. Providing a list of substitute meals would also be helpful. Food substitutions will not be made for personal preference.

HEALTH INFORMATION

STUDENT WELLNESS

Every parent must cooperate fully with the school health program. Regulations are designed to protect the well-being of all children and to guard as much as

possible against avoidable absences for health reasons.

When there are symptoms of illness or other indications that a child is not well enough for school activities, other arrangements must be made for their care. A child with a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, yellow nasal discharge, COVID-19, or COVID-19 symptoms is to remain at home.

When a child becomes ill at school, he/she will be isolated and the parent will be called at work or home, to make arrangements for the student to be picked up within the hour.

The school has no provisions for the care of children who are ill. Proper care at the beginning of an illness can often shorten its duration.

Exposure to communicable diseases and any infectious illnesses of other family members, such as pink eye, chicken pox, COVID-19, and head lice, should be promptly reported to the school nurse so that the school is alerted to watch for early symptoms and provide families with helpful information. The school will send home a notice with helpful information when made aware that children have been exposed to an infectious disease.

Children who return to school after an illness, need to complete a health check by the school nurse or health clerk BEFORE going to their classroom. Students MUST be 24 hours free of flu symptoms and fever without fever reducing drugs, before they are eligible to return to school.

If the absence is due to a communicable disease or unexplained rash, a doctor's note releasing the child to return to school is required.

The school will not administer any form of medication to students without a signed Medication Authorization form, which may be obtained in the school office. All prescription medications must be in a labeled prescription bottle and all over-the-counter medication, including homeopathic medicine, must be in its original container. All medication will be kept in the health or program office. Students may not carry prescription or non-prescription drugs around campus or have them in their possession at any time. Students who need to carry an inhaler must have written authorization from their doctor in addition to a signed release from parents.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

Student and staff health and wellbeing are a priority at Desert Christian.

Parents should complete a health screening before bringing students on campus. Students who are not feeling well should not attend school and should remain home until they have been fever free without medication for a minimum of 24 hours. Students will NOT be allowed on campus if they have a temperature or show symptoms of illness.

IMMUNIZATIONS

By California State Law (Health and Safety Code 120325-102380), no child will be allowed to attend school until a legally acceptable immunization record is presented.

Families who desire to waive immunizations for medical reasons, must see their health care provider. The only persons authorized to grant medical exemptions from state-mandated vaccinations will be licensed M.D.s and D.O.s (Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine).

Medical Exemptions: Under Senate Bills (SB) 276 and SB 714 (Pan, 2019), all new medical exemptions for school and child care entry must be issued through CAIR-ME beginning January 1, 2021. Medical exemptions can only be issued by MDs or DOs licensed in California and must meet applicable Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) criteria.

CA SB 277 allows that those families who have a PBE signed by a health care provider in effect prior to January 1, 2016 will still be exempt from required immunizations until entering the next grade span. Grade spans are as follows: (A) Birth to preschool (B) Kindergarten to sixth grade (C) seventh grade to twelfth grade.

A student who has not completed all mandatory immunization requirements must become fully immunized against all diseases for which immunizations are required. A complete list of immunizations are provided at <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-231.pdf>. Students can be admitted conditionally as long as all

immunizations are completed within the established time period addressed in Section 6035 of Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 8 of the California Code of Regulations. Students who fail to comply within the required time periods will be excluded from further school attendance. DCS Health Clerk will be periodically reviewing the records of all students admitted conditionally to ensure that such students become fully immunized against all diseases for which immunizations are required, within the established time periods.

All first grade students must have a physical examination including the California form filled out and signed by a doctor within 18 months of entry into first grade. As part of this CA state physical examination for children entering first grade, health providers will screen students for TB and test them only if a risk factor for TB is present. This TB screening must be documented on the immunization record.

All seventh grade students who have been vaccinated starting as an infant must have two MMR and a Tdap booster before entering seventh grade.

The law provides that if DCS has good cause to believe a student has been exposed to a disease for which he/she has not been immunized, that student may be temporarily excluded from attending school until the local health officer (i.e. the local County Department of Public Health) is satisfied that the student is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease. (Health and Safety Code Section 120335(b).

Questions can be addressed to the school nurse, health clerk, or Heather Welch at 661-948-5071, Ext. 2017, or email hwelch@desertchristian.com. Learning Tree families may contact Noelle Heflebower at nheflebower@desertchristian.com. Home Education families may contact Hannah Gibson at hgibson@desertchristian.com. You may also visit <http://www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/> for more information.

INSURANCE RESPONSIBILITY

Should a child become injured at school or at a school function and require medical attention, the parents' health insurance carrier is responsible as the primary insurer for the child.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Only DCS staff and approved volunteers may provide transportation for students to and from DCS activities. Staff and volunteer drivers must have an approved “Application to Provide Transportation to DCS Activities” on file. In addition, high school student drivers must have authorization from their parents. DCS, its staff, and volunteer drivers are held blameless in the event of accident.

It is the responsibility of the parent to communicate to their child any special transportation arrangements related to whom they may or may not ride with and it is the student’s responsibility to follow those directions. Individuals who provide transportation must do so in a safe manner.

Desert Christian Schools values the safety of your child and because of that; students are not allowed to take UBER, LYFT, or any other ride service to and from school. These drivers are not supposed to transport passengers under the age of 18 without an accompanying adult.

TRAFFIC PLAN

Parents of all students need to provide transportation for their children to and from school. All drivers transporting students must adhere to the designated traffic plan and obey the direction of the school-designated traffic monitors.

The speed limit on campus is 10 mph at all times.

BICYCLES

Students from sixth through twelfth may ride their bicycles to and from school. They must adhere to all safety standards of the California Highway Patrol. They need to provide a lock to secure their bike in the designated area. The school is not responsible for theft of bicycles.

DCS VEHICLES

Any concerns or questions concerning school bus or vans should be directed to the transportation coordinator or the office manager.

SCHOOL VEHICLE RIDER GUIDELINES

In order to assure the safety of all school vehicle riders, the following guidelines are set forth by DCS.

It is expected that all riders be familiar with and follow these rules.

REQUIRED ON SCHOOL VEHICLES

- Riders are to board and exit in a controlled manner.
- The driver is in charge at all times and his/her authority is to be respected in every situation.
- When the rider boards the vehicle, he/she is expected to choose a seat and stay seated in it, facing forward. The driver may assign seats.
- Talking is to be kept at an acceptable level.
- If the bus is equipped with seatbelts, they must be worn at all times.
- In the van, seatbelts must be worn at all times.
- Students may use cell phones while on school buses for receiving and making telephone calls only if permission is given by the bus driver.

NOT PERMITTED ON SCHOOL VEHICLES

- Standing up, switching seats, or facing backward.
- Shouting, whistling, or other disturbing noises.
- Destruction of the vehicle or throwing of any objects, such as rubber bands, paper wads, etc.
- Pushing or shoving on or while waiting for the bus or van.
- Aerosol cans.
- Eating food or drinking beverages.
- Gum chewing.
- Using cell phones or electronics to play games, listen to music, or surf the web.
- Placing feet on the back of the seat.
- No wearing of cleats or spikes on school vehicles.
- Animals are not allowed on school buses. California law states “No animals except those specified in Civil Code Section 54.2 shall be transported in a school bus, SPAB, or youth bus.”

BUS REFERRAL PROCESS

To help students follow the guidelines, bus drivers will alert students when a guideline has been violated on

the bus. If the behavior is not corrected, a referral will be issued.

On the first referral, the student will be referred to an administrator.

On the second referral, an administrator will contact the parent.

On the third and fourth referrals, the student may be restricted from riding the bus for a specified period as

determined by the administrator.

On the fifth referral, the student may no longer be allowed to ride the bus for the remainder of the school year.

STANDARDS FOR DRESS

Please refer to Standards of Dress in each program's section.

DESERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

2025/2026 MINIMUM AND NON-SCHOOL DAYS CALENDAR

Dates subject to change.

Calendars in DCS newsletters will have changes and addition

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day, **ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED**
- 2 **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

OCTOBER

- 13 Teacher Professional Development,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 31 Teacher Professional Development,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available

NOVEMBER

- 11 Veterans Day, **ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED**
- 24 Teacher Professional Development,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 25-26 Thanksgiving Break,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 27 Thanksgiving Day,
ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED
- 28 Thanksgiving Holiday,
ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED

DECEMBER

- 19 **MINIMUM DAY K-12**
- 22-23 Christmas Break,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 24 Christmas Eve, **ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED**
- 25 Christmas Day, **ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED**
- 26-31 Christmas Break,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day, **ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED**

JANUARY, CONTINUED

- 2 Christmas Break Continued,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 5 Teacher Professional Development,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 6 School Resumes
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available

FEBRUARY

- 16 Presidents' Day,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available

MARCH

- 16 Teacher Professional Development,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 30-31 Easter Break,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available

APRIL

- 1-3 Easter Break,
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available
- 6 Teacher Professional Development
NO SCHOOL, Peach Factory Available

MAY

- 1 FUNd Run, **MINIMUM DAY K-12**
Peach Factory Available
- 25 Memorial Day, **ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED**

JUNE

- 5 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, MINIMUM DAY**
Peach Factory Available

MINIMUM DAY RELEASE

ES K - 1	8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
ES 2 - 5	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
MS 6 - 8	8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
HS 9 - 12	7:45 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.

SCHOOL START AND END TIMES

ES K - 1	8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
ES 2 - 5	8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
MS 6 - 8	8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
HS 9 - 12	7:45 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Revised 08/27/25