

Shawnee Mission Christian School

**Parent / Student
Handbook**

2009 - 2010

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SHAWNEE MISSION CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
4901 Mission Road
Westwood, KS 66205
(913) 384-4434
PARENT / STUDENT HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

Olivet Academy began in 1975 under the direction of Pastor Floyd Davis with about 25 students, Kindergarten through the fifth grade. Mr. Jerry Kramer was the first principal.

In 1978, Olivet Academy became Shawnee Mission Christian School, choosing the colors red and black with a warrior mascot. Five years later in 1983, SMCS graduated its first group of seniors.

In 1996, Olivet Baptist Church and Oak Grove Baptist Church combined their school to form Mission Oaks Christian School. This cooperative venture operated until the spring of 2001.

Olivet Baptist Church reopened Shawnee Mission Christian School in the fall of 2001. The "Mustangs" was chosen for the mascot and the new colors are navy blue and light blue.

Other men who have led Shawnee Mission Christian School are: Dr. T. Reynolds Hall, Dr. Dan Griffin, Sr., Mr. John Carver, Mr. George Buckley, Mr. Alan Dicks, and Mr. Jeff Bunjer. Current leaders are Dr. Bruce Anderson, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church and Mrs. Marlena Zink, administrator.

ASSOCIATION

The Shawnee Mission Christian School is a member of the American Association of Christian Schools. Shawnee Mission Christian School encourages teachers and staff to take classes and/or complete in-service work yearly to prepare them for better classroom performance.

PHILOSOPHY

MISSION

It is our belief that the Lord gave parents the responsibility to train their children in the way they should go. (Proverbs 22:6). Parents have a great responsibility of guiding and disciplining their children in thinking and behaving like their Savior.

The primary goal of Shawnee Mission Christian School is to assist the families of Olivet Baptist Church and other local fundamental churches in the education and nurture of their school-age children by providing a Christ-centered, academically sound Christian School environment. It is therefore our purpose to assist Christian parents in their responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph.6: 4) by providing a Christ-centered academic environment. We are an extension of the Christian home so Christian parents can fulfill their God-given responsibilities to their children. Proverbs 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Proverbs 19:27; Jeremiah 10:2.

The basis of our school is the Word of God (also see statement of faith). Our Christian School has the responsibility to provide the best academic education that integrates the Word of God throughout the complete curriculum (Proverbs 1: 7 "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"). With this in mind we work toward our students developing a personal relationship with Christ as well as a Christ-centered worldview. The standards, policies, and curriculum have all been developed to provide growth in the following areas: spiritual, social, physical, as well as intellectual (Luke 2:25).

Education is the realization and application of God's truth. Parents and teachers function as agents to reveal God's truth to the students (Deut. 6:1). The final realization of education is when students apply God's truths to their own lives.

The desire of Shawnee Mission Christian School is to be a place where Christ is the center. The teachers and staff work toward Christ-likeness, to model before the students the principles of Christ (found in Philippians 2) as an example of daily life. The environment we strive for is one of excellence in all we say and do because we belong to Christ Jesus and want to exalt Him.

Shawnee Mission Christian School realizes that these Christian ideals can only succeed where parents are involved with their children, these principles are honored and practiced in the home, and church is attended regularly.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. *We believe the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament are verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.*
2. *We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
3. *We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.*
4. *We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and, thereby, incurred not only physical death, but also that spiritual death which is eternal separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, manifest themselves as sinners in thought, word, and deed.*
5. *We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.*
6. *We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate.*
7. *We believe in "that blessed hope," the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*
8. *We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and, thereby, become the children of God eternally.*
9. *We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting conscious joy of believers, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.*
10. *We do not participate with the ecumenical movement or the charismatic movement; nor do we hold to a King James only position, although that is the primary translation that we use.*

We understand that the above Statement of Faith is believed and will be taught at Shawnee Mission Christian School.

RECONCILIATION PRINCIPLES

*We realize that over the course of the year there may arise problems or conflicts between individuals or with the school. We expect these conflicts to be resolved according to Biblical principles laid out in Matthew 18:15-17. **"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church."***

If a conflict arises, we ask that the following guidelines be observed:

- * Go directly to the individual first and share your concern.*
- * If you feel that the problem was not resolved in an acceptable manner, go to the administrator.*
- * If after working with that individual and administrator, the issue is still not resolved, please contact the school board chairman.*
- * Please keep the conflict only between the parties involved. Gossip only breeds more divisiveness and problems.*
- * Remember that everyone make mistakes. Once a conflict is resolved, it is our responsibility to forgive, as our Father forgives, and go on.*

If you come to the board or administrator with a problem with an individual, you will be asked if you went first to that individual. Please remember that we have a common goal and purpose, to bring honor and glory to our Lord, Jesus Christ, in all that we do.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Shawnee Mission Christian School is a distinctly Christian School. All qualified applicants will be accepted regardless of race, color, national and ethnic origin and are entitled to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission, tuition assistance programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Parents and students alike must be in agreement with the philosophy, principles, goals, rules, and discipline of the school.

Requirements for admission are (1) agreement with the above, (2) an interview, (3) a review of academic ability, (4) the completion of all application forms, (5) payment of non-refundable registration fee, and (6) paying applicable tuition and book fee by the scheduled due date.

ADMISSION POLICY

- 1. At least one parent must be a professing Christian who is actively involved and is in regular attendance at a Bible-believing church.*
- 2. Student(s) must have a record of satisfactory academic performance and appropriate school behavior in the school previously attended.*
- 3. Family must be able and willing to meet financial obligations to the school.*
- 4. Consistent efforts in the home to establish Christ as Lord of the family.*
- 5. Family must be able and willing to contribute time and energy to the running life of the school.*

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES FOR NEW FAMILIES

Read and consider the Philosophy and Doctrinal Basis of Shawnee Mission Christian School as outlined in the Parent/Student handbook and enrollment forms.

Interview

All new applicants must schedule an appointment with the Administrator and a School Board Member for an interview. Appointments should be made through the school office. We encourage the student to accompany the parents to the interview; for Junior and Senior High students, it is required. Upon completion of the interview, the School Board will meet and prayerfully act to approve or deny enrollment. A letter will be sent to the family with the Board's decision. In some cases testing will be required before a decision of acceptance to Shawnee Mission Christian School is final. It is important to note that application to the school does not guarantee enrollment.

Registration Fee

*A \$35.00 (per student) registration fee is to be paid at the time of final acceptance to SMCS.
A \$25.00 (per student) registration fee for returning students is to be paid at reenrollment. These are non-refundable fees.*

Tuition Fee

Payment plan is based on 10 months starting with August and ending in May. Payment is due on the first day of the month. If paid after the 15th of the month, there will be a late fee of \$20.00.

Book Fee

Book fees: Elementary student - \$175.00; Jr./Sr. High student - \$190.00. Fees are to be paid by August 1st. This fee covers the cost of the core curriculum and some of the electives. Some elective courses may incur separate charges that will be explained at the time of enrollment for those courses.

Registration Information

The following forms are to be signed and completed at the time of registration:

1. *Application form – Please make sure this form is filled out completely and be sure **that both parents sign BEFORE** submitting to the school office. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 1.*
2. *Statement of Cooperation – Both parents and students: please read this form over carefully. **Both parents as well as students entering grades 6-12 must sign this form BEFORE** submitting to the school office.*
3. *Statement of Faith – Both parents and students: please read this form over carefully and keep for your reference.*
4. *Pastor's Reference Form – Needs to be completed by student's Pastor for all students. Please submit this form to your Pastor and he will return this form to the School Office.*
5. *A copy of the student's academic report card and standardized test score will need to accompany the application form. Students who do not have a current SAT test score are required to take an assessment test. Testing fee must be paid prior to testing.*

Birth Certificates

All new students must furnish a state or county copy (not a hospital copy) of their birth certificate for our files. We will be glad to copy your original certificate in the school office.

Medical Information

New students must have a Certificate of Immunization form on file with the school office before the start of the school year and this must be kept current. New students and students entering Kindergarten, 4th, 7th, and 10th grades must have a current Health Assessment form on file with the school office. These forms are available in the school office and at your physician's office.

RE-ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

The following forms are to be signed and completed at the time of registration:

1. *Application form – Please make sure this form is filled out completely and be sure **that both parents sign BEFORE** submitting to the school office. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 1.*
2. *Statement of Cooperation – Both parents and students: please read this form over carefully. **Both parents as well as students entering grades 6-12 must sign this form BEFORE** submitting to the school office.*
3. *Statement of Faith – Both parents and students: please read this form over carefully and keep for your reference.*
4. *Pastor's Reference Form – Needs to be completed by student's Pastor for all students. Please submit this form to your Pastor and he will return this form to the School Office.*

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

*The first month's tuition must be paid before students start school. All monthly tuition payments should be paid in a timely manner. If the tuition obligation is one month and 20 days in arrears and financial arrangements have not been made with the school, children will not be allowed to attend school until such payments **and/ or** financial arrangements have been made. Should a student attend classes any part of the month, the entire month is due. There is a \$25.00 check charge for checks returned from the bank marked "Insufficient Funds".*

Shawnee Mission Christian School is a private school under the auspices of Olivet Baptist Church. The school receives no state or federal funds. Income from tuition and fees are insufficient to fully cover the cost of operating the school. Interested individuals or corporations are invited to contribute to the operation of the school via gifts for general expenses or by providing scholarships for deserving students who would otherwise be unable to afford such training.

In case of withdrawal from the school, all accounts must be current and paid through the month of withdrawal. Please notify the office in person and in writing of withdrawals from the school. Fees are not refundable. Refunds, if applicable, will be determined by the administration.

STUDENT CONDUCT

ATTITUDE AND CONDUCT CODE

As Christians, we are to maintain a Christ-like attitude at all times. Constant or repeated complaining or griping does not build up the body of Christ. It can also be very discouraging to other students and parents. There are biblical ways to handle problems and real spiritual maturity develops when these ways are practiced. (Matthew 18)

All Christians are to have a standard of behavior showing forth Christ in their lives (Galatians 5: 22 – 26 and Ephesians 5: 1 – 10). Students will be expected to be helpful, friendly, polite, quiet, respectful, obedient, sportsmanlike, and not weary in well doing.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Bible teaches us that Christians should conduct themselves at all times in such a way that the Lord would be honored (I Corinthians 10:31). A Christian's actions and language should always be in good taste. Physical expressions of affection between male and female students are not permitted on school property or at any school event. Students in the JH/SH must follow the 6" rule. Dating among secondary students is at the parent's discretion; however, SMCS feels that this practice is not in the best interest of JH/SH students and will not allow dating to hinder the spiritual and academic growth of our students. The Bible also teaches that any sexual activity is designed for and limited to the marriage relationship. Therefore, SMCS will not tolerate any type of improper sexual activity or any type of related behavior on or off campus. This includes, but is not limited to, being sexually active, homosexuality, pornography, and the like.

RESPECT FOR FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The building and property belong to the members of Olivet Baptist Church. The educational equipment belonging to SMCS should be used for God's glory and treated with respect and care. Each student is expected to assume responsibility for the care of all church and school property. Students who damage property accidentally are responsible for paying for the damage. Damage done in a malicious manner will be dealt with decisively.

MUSIC

Shawnee Mission Christian School takes a very conservative stand regarding Contemporary Christian Music. We will only teach music that meets the standards of Christian excellence (Phil. 4:8), which exalts Christ and edifies believers (I Cor. 3:16), and which would be appreciated in conservative, Bible-believing churches (I Cor. 10:32). Only music that meets this standard would be allowed at school or at any of the school's functions.

Though there is latitude in the area of music preference, we do take a strong stand against music that comes from the "Christian Rock" idiom, and could not condone our students' playing in bands that use that style.

LOCKERS

Hall lockers are assigned to students in grades 7 through 12. It is the student's responsibility to properly care for his/her locker. Any damage to or defacing of the locker will result in the loss of locker use and a subsequent charge for repairs. Since the lockers are considered school property, access may be gained at any time the administration or staff determines an inspection is necessary. Please do not display items not in agreement with the school's standards. Pictures of friends, relatives, and family members are fine, as well as appropriate calendars, and assignment sheets. No open food or drink containers are to be left in the locker.

ARTICLES AND ITEMS THAT ARE PROHIBITED

*Tobacco, alcoholic beverages, tattoos, questionable magazines, drugs, narcotics or any chemically controlling substance, pornographic material of any type, knives, firearms, explosives of any kind (including ammunition), radios, CD's and players, hand-held video games, and tape players are not permitted on school property. Hats **are not** to be worn in the building. There should be no gum chewing as well.*

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4: 17

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

Proper respect is to be shown to all faculty and staff members at all times whether in or out of school. A student is expected to answer any inquiry of a faculty or staff member, or anyone acting in an official capacity courteously, fully, audibly, and with a proper title (Mr., Mrs., or Miss).

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE

The State of Kansas requires school to be in session for 1116 hours. It is important for students to be in school on time each day. More than ten (10) absences per semester or twenty (20) per year may result in days made up at the end of the semester or during the school year. Students who miss more than 20 days during the school year will either: (a.) be required to make up these days during the summer months, or, (b.) be required to take the previous school year over again.

ABSENCES

*Regular attendance is necessary for a student to gain the most from school. Excused absences should be for (1) sickness, (2) death in the family, (3) medical and dental appointments, (4) emergencies, or (5) pre-approved administration requests by the parent or guardian. Anything other than the above mentioned reasons are considered unexcused absences. (i. e. school suspension and other non-approved absences.) When your child arrives to school at lunch time or later, they will be considered absent for one half day. **When your child is absent, please call the school office as soon as possible; otherwise we will be calling you.***

Elementary/JH/HS

*A student must return the next day with a written excuse slip as to the absence. Students are responsible to get their missed assignments from their teachers immediately upon returning to school. **Elementary students:** When a student has an excused absence, they will have two days for every day absent to make-up the assignments. If a student is going to be absent two or more days, the parent will need to contact the school office. The office will notify teacher and will ask for the student's assignments. The parent may pick-up assignments and books after school that day.*

***Junior and Senior High students:** When a student has an excused absence, they will have one day for every day absent to make-up the assignments without penalty. If a student is only absent one day on the day an assignment is due, that assignment is due the day the student returns to school. Likewise, if they are absent one day only and miss a test, the student will be required to take the test on the first day the student returns to school. The **student**, not the teacher, is responsible to find out, complete, turn in any missed assignments, or take any missed tests due to absences. If a student is going to be absent two or more days, the parent may contact the school office to request student's assignments. The parent may pick-up assignments and books the following day. Students, of course, are expected to keep up with current assignments given as well as complete their missed work.*

Planned absences, in most cases, will not result in extra time allowed. If an absence is planned, arrangements with the teacher must be made ahead of time. In case of an unexcused absence a student will receive a zero grade on any missed assignments or test and cannot make up the work. Students involved in extra-curricular activities must be in attendance at school during the entire school day to practice or play. Any exceptions will be determined by the administration.

ELEMENTARY TARDY POLICY

Tardies impede academic progress for the student. They are also an interruption to the teacher and the rest of the class. Parents should make every effort to insure that their children are in attendance and on time. We realize that tardiness on the elementary level is not the fault of the student. The student is at the mercy of their parent/guardian. A tardy is defined as arriving to school after the 8:15 A.M. bell. After 3 unexcused tardies, the parent will be contacted for a phone conference to see how we can work together to put a stop to tardiness. After 3 more un-excused tardies, the parent will be contacted for an administrative in-office conference. At this time we will discuss tardiness as a pattern and what to do to stop the pattern before it becomes a problem. If the tardiness continues and we feel that we cannot reach an agreement in this area, the family may be asked to leave Shawnee Mission Christian School. When a student is tardy to school, the parent must sign the student in at the office. When it becomes necessary for parents to take a child out of class, parents must sign a release for the student in the school office.

JR./SR. HIGH TARDY POLICY

Tardies impede academic progress for the student. They are also an interruption to the teacher and the rest of the class. Parents and student drivers should make every effort to insure that they are in attendance and on time. A tardy is defined as arriving to school after the 8:15 A.M. bell. After 3 un-excused tardies the student will receive a detention (to be served after school or on Saturday, this is up to the administration's discretion). After 3 more un-excused tardies the student will be required to conference with the administrator resulting in the following possibilities: loss of driving privileges, sports suspension, and substantial loss of points. A continued pattern of tardiness will require the student and parents/guardian to conference with the administrator. This conference will result in the following possibilities: sports suspension, in-school suspension, or Saturday work detention. If we cannot seem to get cooperation in this area, the student may be asked to leave Shawnee Mission Christian School. When a student is tardy to school, he or she must sign in at the office.

DRESS CODE

Students of Shawnee Mission Christian School will abide by the following guidelines and requirements for school dress. Although dress style and other personal standards in and of themselves do not denote spirituality, no aspect of the Christian testimony is as obvious as that which relates to appearance. While we realize that the Bible does not specifically tell us how we should dress or how our hair should be cut, it does give us some principles to apply. In light of these principles, we are setting the institutional standards for our school. It is not our intention to say that a Christian who does not meet our standards is sinning, but only that our students must meet the standards in order for us to be consistent in our enforcement. General Scriptural guidelines for dress are:

- *Modesty (I Timothy 2:9; II Timothy 2:22)*
- *Distinction (Deuteronomy 22:5; I Corinthians 11:14 – 15)*
- *Identification with the Lord and not with the world (I Timothy 4:12; Romans 12: 1 –2; I John 2: 15 – 16)*
- *Appropriate dress for the occasion.*

GENERAL GUIDELINES

*Clothing should be neat, clean, in good repair, and modestly fitted. **Clothing with inappropriate writing, advertising, slogans, or designs is not allowed.***

Students will be counseled privately about violations in dress code and will be sent home to change into acceptable attire or be required to call home for parents to bring a change of clothing. An unexcused absence will be issued for time away from school to make necessary changes.

Parents have the prime responsibility in teaching students to live by standards of Scripture. Parents are responsible to send their children to school with correct dress and grooming. Because of rapidly changing fashions, the administration reserves the right to adjust dress standards as necessary. The administration reserves the right to determine if dress or appearance is not appropriate and acceptable as per established standards.

ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten girls and boys are permitted to wear slacks, jeans, or sweat pants. Students will be allowed to wear shorts only on designated field trips. Girls may wear skirts, dresses, or jumpers that are knee length and should wear shorts under their dresses for modesty's sake. Tennis shoes are allowed.

Girls: All young ladies in grades 1 through 6 should wear skirts or dresses to the knee. Some tolerance concerning this regulation will be given, understanding that girls are growing quickly during these years. However, girls in grades 5 and 6 need to be as consistent as possible with this regulation. Please try to purchase skirts or dresses with hems that allow for growth. Denim jean skirts and jumpers are permitted. Slits and buttoned skirts should not be higher than the normal length allowed. In severe weather, slacks may be worn under their dress to and from school, and at recess. Girls may wear shorts under their dresses for modesty's sake on the playground. Shirts – a scooped necked, polo style, or button-up dress shirt in any solid color, stripes, or a floral print (no pictures, photos, etc.). Excess make-up is discouraged. No low cut or see-through garments. Tennis shoes are allowed.

Boys: Dress shirts or polo shirts with collars are to be worn. A polo style or button-up dress shirts in any solid color, stripes, or plaid, (no pictures, photos, etc.). Clothes that are excessively baggy are

not allowed. Shirts are to be tucked in. All buttons should be buttoned except the top one. Dress slacks and neat denim jeans are allowed. Belt loops require belts. Conventional hairstyles should be kept trimmed, neatly combed, out of the eyes, off the ears, and off the collar. (No extreme hairstyle or hair coloring) No earrings, neck jewelry, or bracelets, unless needed for medical reasons. Tennis shoes are allowed.

***Note: Neat jeans are clean and fit properly. They are not to be faded, ragged or baggy.**

JH/HS

Young Ladies:

- a. Skirts – Hemline must be below the knee in length, in the following color choices: navy blue, khaki, black, or a jean skirt.
- b. Slits should not be higher than the knee.
- c. Clothing should not be tight fitting.
- d. Shirts – A polo style or button-up dress shirt in any solid color, stripes, or a floral type print. The shirts may be short sleeve, ¾ sleeves, or long sleeve.
- e. Make-up should be worn with discretion. Excess is to be avoided. (Glitter is considered excessive.)
- f. Multiple earrings (more than two pair) or excessive jewelry is not allowed.
- g. Backless shoes are acceptable, but no strap between the toes (flip-flop style). No excessive height on heels.
- h. In cold weather a navy or light blue cardigan or pullover sweater may be worn OVER the collared shirt.

JH/SH

Young Men:

- a. Dress pants only – Bugle Boy or Dockers type casual slacks; (no jeans or cargo style pants) in the following color choices: navy blue, khaki, or black. They are to be clean, neat, not faded, not tight fitting, not too baggy, and must be the appropriate hem length (cannot drag the floor). Extremes are not acceptable.
- b. Belts are to be worn.
- c. Shirts – collared shirts are required. The shirt may either be a polo style or a button-up dress shirt in any solid color, stripes, or plaid. The shirts may be short sleeve or long sleeve.
- d. In cold weather, a navy or light blue cardigan or pullover sweater may be worn OVER the collared shirt.
- e. All shirts are to be tucked in and buttoned appropriately.
- f. Hair must be off the ears, collar, and eyebrows.
- g. Young men need to be clean-shaven. No beards or sideburns beyond the bottom of the ear.
- h. Jewelry (necklaces, earrings, and bracelets) is not to be worn unless needed for medical reasons and pre-approved by the administration.
- i. Socks must be worn. (No bare feet.)

Both Young Ladies and Young Men:

- a. Hair is to be kept neatly combed and clean. Extremes in styling, dyeing hair, etc. should be avoided.
- b. When a sweatshirt is worn, it must have a fold over collared blouse/shirt under the sweatshirt.
- c. Low top dress or low top casual shoes are to be worn. Tennis shoes are not to be worn except for PE classes.
- d. The dress code still applies after school when students are on campus until 4:00 pm.
- e. You should leave school in dress code.

DRESS CODE FOR CHAPEL

- a. Young ladies: Skirts as stated in uniform dress code and dress shoes.
- b. Young men: Dress shirts, tie, slacks, and dress shoes.
- c. Students may not wear hooded sweatshirts to chapel.

DRESS CODE GAME DAYS

For those participating in sports.

- a. *Young ladies: Skirts as stated in uniform dress code and dress shoes.*
- b. *Young men: Dress shirt, tie, slacks, and dress shoes.*
- c. *Students should remain in game day dress code for the entire school day.*

DRESS CODE FOR ATTENDANCE AT GAMES

Young ladies – Dresses, dress slacks, and nice jeans are permissible. They should not be sloppy and they should be clean and in good repair. They must be modest and appropriate. Shorts are not acceptable.

Young men – Collared shirts are required. Dress slacks and nice jeans are permissible. They are to be clean, in good repair and not sloppy. Shorts are not acceptable.

ACADEMICS

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

Class hours are 8:15 A.M. until 3:15 P.M. The school building is open to student at 8:00 A.M. and closed at 3:30 P.M. unless the student is enrolled in the before or after school program. Students are not permitted to leave the campus during those hours without being signed out at the school office by a parent, legal guardian, or a staff member. Kindergarten class hours are 8:15 A.M. –12:00 Noon.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports show academic achievement by the student. They report outstanding work as well as deficient academic achievement. Progress reports are issued at each mid-quarter and will be mailed to parents.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be issued at the close of the 9 weeks. Report cards will be given to the parents at the parent/teacher conferences or mailed.

GRADING SCALE - Elementary and JH/HS

<i>A+ = 100</i>	<i>C+ = 84 – 82</i>
<i>A = 99 -96</i>	<i>C = 81 – 78</i>
<i>A- = 95 -94</i>	<i>C- = 77 – 76</i>
<i>B+ = 93 -91</i>	<i>D+ = 75 – 73</i>
<i>B = 90 -87</i>	<i>D = 72 – 69</i>
<i>B- = 86 -85</i>	<i>D- = 68 – 67</i>
<i>F = 66 or below</i>	

JH/HS

GPA DETERMINATIONS

<i>A+ = 4.33</i>	<i>C+ = 2.33</i>
<i>A = 4.0</i>	<i>C = 2.0</i>
<i>A- = 3.66</i>	<i>C- = 1.66</i>
<i>B+ = 3.33</i>	<i>D+ = 1.33</i>
<i>B = 3.0</i>	<i>D = 1.00</i>
<i>B- = 2.66</i>	<i>D- = .66</i>
<i>F = 0</i>	

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC EARLY RELEASE POLICY

Daily early dismissal is not permitted except for juniors and seniors attending collegiate classes or for work-study programs. To participate in the early release program a student must plan his class credits to that he will have sufficient class credits to graduate.

Early Release to attend college classes

In order to be considered for early release the student must meet the following criteria:

- *be a junior (minimum of 12 required credits) or a senior (minimum of 18 required credits)*

- have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- must demonstrate leadership ability (class officer, team captain, taking responsibility for activities, etc.)
- demonstrate good Christian character
- receive faculty and administrative endorsement

Early Release to work

In order to be considered for early release the student must meet the following criteria:

- be a junior (minimum of 12 required credits) or a senior (minimum of 18 required credits)
- have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
- must demonstrate leadership ability (class officer, team captain, taking responsibility for activities, etc.)
- demonstrate good Christian character
- receive faculty and administrative endorsement

The student must request permission from Shawnee Mission Christian School in writing. The form is available in the school office and must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Students involved in early release from the school must still be visibly involved in the school in some way. (Part time classes on campus, playing sports, being involved in drama, etc.)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to meet the needs of our diverse student body and to pursue excellence in education for all of our students, SMCS offers the following three diplomas:

- 1) General Diploma
- 2) College Preparatory Diploma
- 3) Vocational Preparatory Diploma

Credits: Dual credit (high school and college) will be given for courses taken through the Quick Step program (JCCC) or similar programs from area colleges.

	Number of Credits needed in each Subject		
	1) General Diploma	2) College Prep Diploma	Notes
<i>Bible</i>	4	4	<i>1 credit for each year enrolled at SMCS</i>
<i>English</i>	4	4	
<i>Math</i>	2	3	<i>Including Algebra I</i>
<i>Science</i>	2	3	<i>Including Biology</i>
<i>Social Studies</i>	3	3	<i>Including KS,US History, and Government</i>
<i>Speech</i>	½	½	
<i>Computer</i>	1	1	
<i>Foreign Lang.</i>	--	1	
<i>Phys. Ed.</i>	1	1	
<i>Electives</i>	6 ½	3 ½	
Total Credits	24	24	

3) Vocational Preparatory Diploma

In addition to the General and College Prep Diplomas, SMCS offers a Vocational Prep Diploma. This course of study is intended for the student who, because he/she began his/her high school years at an academic functional level below 9th grade, does not appear likely to complete the required high school course of study within four or five school years. High school credit will be given for all courses completed from the time the student was in 9th grade even if they are not high school level courses. It is required that the student in this program complete a minimum of four course levels in each of the five core subjects, except where the student succeeds in completing the requirements as listed above.

Transcripts for this type of diploma will contain the disclosure statement, "Student not recommended for college unless first passes G.E.D. test or successfully completes courses in community college."

If the student completes part of the General Course of Study, his/her transcript will be stamped "General-Vocational Diploma".

Number of Credits needed in each Subject		
	3) Vocational Prep Diploma	Notes
Bible	4	1 credit for each year enrolled
English	4	Courses at a level where the student can be successful and make progress
Math	4	
Science	4	
Social Studies	4	
Computer	1	Basic Skills
Phys. Ed.	1	
Electives	2	
Total Credits	24	

Transfer Students are considered separately.

PARTICIPATION IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

For a student of SMCS to walk at the graduation ceremony with the other class members, he/she must have completed the academic requirements for graduation as outlined in this handbook by the date of graduation, or be able to and commit to finishing them in summer school (up to a maximum of one credit to be completed or in any combination up to one credit.) The diploma will be withheld until all academic requirements and financial obligations are met. Any exceptions to this policy due to extenuating circumstances would be at the discretion of the school board. (i.e. extreme discipline problems)

QUALIFICATIONS for VALEDICTORIAN and SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian:

- minimum cumulative GPA (including all courses taken in high school) of 3.5 on a 4-point scale
- displays consistent Christian character
- must have attended SMCS at least two years
- must be receiving a College Prep Diploma

Salutatorian:

- minimum cumulative GPA (including all courses taken in high school) of 3.0 on a 4-point scale
- displays consistent Christian character
- must have attended SMCS at least two years
- must be receiving a College Prep Diploma

SENIOR CLASS TRIP

Participation in the senior class trip is a privilege and not a right. To allow for proper logistical planning the determination for participation in the senior trip will need to be made by the end of the first semester of the senior year. Therefore, the student must be within 3.5 credits of graduating by the end of the first semester to participate in the senior class trip. Any exceptions to this policy due to extenuating circumstances would be at the discretion of the school board. (i. e. extreme discipline problems)

TRANSCRIPTS

Either another school or a college may make a request for a transcript. All financial obligations must be met before a transcript will be mailed.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Textbooks, with the exception of Alpha Omega LifePacs, are the property of SMCS and must be treated properly. It is expected that students will cover their textbooks to help save wear and tear on them. If a textbook shows excessive wear by a student or if a textbook is lost, the students will be charged for the cost of replacement.

It is the responsibility of the parents to see that each student has his needed supplies (paper, pencils, pens, etc.). Some of these things are available in the school office at a nominal fee.

BIBLE

All students participate in a Bible class daily and need to have a copy of the King James and New King James Version of the Bible for memory and reference work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Each student in the physical education program is required to participate unless excused by a physician's note. The instructors will give our dress code for physical education classes.

HOMEWORK

Homework is considered an extension of the regular classroom instruction. Students can expect to spend some time each school evening on homework. Homework will not routinely be given on Wednesdays, holidays, and during SAT testing week.

Suggested maximum time for each grade level:

Grades 1 - 2 20 to 30 minutes

Grades 3 - 4 30 to 45 minutes

Grades 5 - 6 45 to 60 minutes

Grades 7 - 12 75 to 90 minutes

Each teacher will communicate in writing to the parents his/her own classroom policies concerning expectations, class rules, homework, and grading. The missed assignment make-up policy for excused and unexcused absences is listed on page 5 under "Absences".

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an excellent time to enrich and enhance learning. Teachers plan each trip with an educational purpose in mind. Classroom dress code is the standard unless the administration states otherwise. Classroom behavior also applies on field trips.

Parents who drive for field trips should submit a valid driver's license and proof of insurance for copies to be on file in the School Office. It is suggested that parents follow the student dress code for field trips.

HONOR ROLL

An honor roll is prepared after each grading period. Honor roll is determined by averaging all of a student's grades according to the following standards:

"A" Honor Roll - 3.66 - 4.33 GPA

"B" Honor Roll - 3.00 - 3.65 GPA

A student may not have a "D" or lower and still make the honor roll.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Comprehensive school-wide achievement testing will take place every other school year, using the Stanford Achievement Test of Basic Skills.

Testing will be scheduled for the spring and is considered a helpful tool in evaluating the overall school teaching program as well as its students. The results of standardized achievement tests are generally acceptable indicators of relative educational quality or achievement. Parents and teachers should be reminded, however, that educational testing is not an exact science, and scores are not to be thought of as

exact measurements, like body temperature or blood pressure. Rather, these tests are a one-time 'picture' of the student's relative ability, one that can often change under an ever-changing educational program.

AWARDS

Awards are based upon a student's abilities and efforts. Students should be encouraged to perform at the peak of their abilities. Most elementary awards are presented at an Awards Chapel held the last day of school. JH/SH sports awards are presented at the ceremonies following each sports season. Academic awards are given at an Awards chapel the last day of school. The Honor Roll will be published following each grading period. Perfect attendance will also be awarded at the end of the year.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We have recently opened Shawnee Mission Christian Wee Care. As a part of Wee Care, we will be offering before and after school care for children ages 6 to 12 years of age. Information and price list is available in the school office.

EXTRACURRICULAR

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. All students in extracurricular activities at SMCS must maintain an average in all of their subjects of at least a "C" (76%) while participating in an extracurricular activity.
2. No student with a failing grade "F" (66%) in any of his subjects will be allowed to participate in an extracurricular activity.
3. No student with two (2) or more "D's" (75%) in his/her core subjects will be allowed to participate in an extracurricular activity.
4. All ineligible students must practice and travel with the team/group, but may not participate in the activity or game.
5. Ineligibility checks will be made on a weekly basis. (Deadline for student work to be submitted for consideration is Friday at the end of the school day and declaration of ineligibility to be made on the following Monday at the end of the school day.)
6. Students who have received an incomplete for a grade will have two weeks to get their work completed. If the work is not completed by that two-week period, the student will be deemed ineligible until the work is completed.
7. A student may be deemed ineligible for one- or two-week periods when his/her attitude falls below an acceptable level in the classroom. The Principal and/or Administrator may make this determination of ineligibility with or without recommendation from any teacher.

8. *Appeal Process: Appeals based upon a student deemed ineligible but doing his/her very best work will be based upon the following criteria and process:*
 - a. *The faculty must be in unanimous agreement that this student is doing his best work and thus would be exempt from ineligibility.*
 - b. *The request for appeal must be made in writing to the administrator.*
9. *A student may be deemed ineligible to participate in a game or activity because his/her parent(s) demonstrate a lack of control at the previous activities or games.*
10. *Students involved in extra-curricular activities must be in attendance at school during the entire school day to practice or play. Any exceptions will be determined by the Administration.*
11. *Players who miss classes or school the day of the game will probably not be able to play in the game that day. Exceptions will be granted by the Administration for funerals, family health, etc.*

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Drams, JH/SH Sports, and Yearbook

EXPENSES

Uniforms, referees, equipment, and bus expenses are just a few of the many expenses of operating an athletic program. Coaches do not receive any compensation for all of the hard work and many hours they put in. Shawnee Mission Christian School is attempting to have an athletic program that is funded exclusively by the athletic fee as follows:

Varsity Sport - \$ 75.00 per enrolled student, per sport.

\$100.00 per home schooled student, per sport.

SPORTS PHYSICALS

All students interested in participating in sports must have a current Interscholastic Athletics Physical Form or Health Assessment form on file in the office before the student starts practices. The forms may be obtained from the school office for the physical exam with your physician.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

The relationship of parents and Shawnee Mission Christian School needs to be one of trust and cooperation. It is the parents' responsibility to train their children (Deut. 6). When parents delegate to SMCS the responsibility for the formal education of their children, parents are expected to continue to be involved with their students. SMCS is an extension of the home. The home and school must work together to obtain spiritual, academic, athletic, and social growth for the child. This relationship between parents and SMCS requires an open relationship and good communication between parents and teachers.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are their children's first teachers, and your continued support throughout your child's educational career makes a vital difference in his or her achievement. That is why several dates are set aside for parent/teacher conferences. These meetings give parents and teachers the opportunity to meet one-on-one and team up to help their children realize the greatest possible benefit from their education. A teacher or a parent may request a conference to discuss a student's needs at any time.

PARENT VISITS

Shawnee Mission Christian School encourages and welcomes parents to visit their children's classrooms at any time. However, we ask that you stop in at the school office before going to a classroom so that we can monitor who is in the building for security purposes.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Shawnee Mission Christian School parents are expected to be involved. We want you to feel free to be involved wherever you are able. There are many ways in which parents can help and you will be

given opportunities throughout the year, such as: chaperones, lunch helpers, classroom helpers, custodial helpers, etc. Families are asked to volunteer at least 8 hours during the school year.

The school encourages parents to follow the same standards of dress and conduct as is required of the students. **“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...if it is serving, let him serve...”**
Romans 12:4-7

COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOME

Report Cards – issued at the close of the 9-week quarter and will be given out at parent/teacher conferences or mailed to parents.

Progress Reports – issued at each mid-quarter and will be mailed to parents.

School Calendar – issued prior to the start of the year. Extra copies available in the school office.

Monthly Newsletter – mailed out to parents at the beginning of each month.

Parent/Teacher Conferences – Two conferences scheduled per school year, one in the fall and one in the spring. See school calendar for dates.

DISCIPLINE

PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE

Children are made in the image of God and therefore are to be treated with dignity and respect (Ephesians 6:4). They are also fallen and have a sinful human nature, and thus need structure and guidance. Discipline is a prerequisite to learning (Proverbs 13: 24; 19: 18; 22:15 and Psalm 125: 3).

Discipline teaches the child personal responsibility and respect for people and property. Rules teach the boundaries of freedom and show that there is a penalty to be paid when these are violated. The correction will be in accord with the gravity of the offense.

Attending Shawnee Mission Christian School is a privilege. The school may deny that privilege to any student whose conduct or performance does not conform to the standards outlined in this handbook.

The purpose of discipline is to train toward maturity. Discipline is an integral part of the classroom and of the school. Good discipline provides an organized atmosphere in which learning can take place. All students are expected to obey the rules of the school and all persons in a supervisory capacity. They are to live above reproach in all areas of their lives, at school and away from school.

The teacher is the primary manager of the classroom, and therefore may exercise a variety of disciplinary interventions to manage student behavior.

Should verbal warnings not yield the desired improvement in behavior; a detention can be issued which will be served at the end of the following school day. Detention is from 3:20 until 4:20 P.M. on designated days.

If the wrong behavior continues, the student may be suspended for a minimum of one day. Should the wrong behavior persist in spite of counseling and disciplinary efforts, the student may be expelled from school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL OFFICE

School office hours are from 7:45 A.M. to 3:45 P.M., Monday through Friday. Visitors coming to school for any reason should come to the office. Please, do not go directly to the classroom. Lunches, homework, books, and other items may be left in the office to be delivered or picked up.

TELEPHONE USE

The church and school telephones are primarily for business use. Students must receive permission from the school secretary to use the telephone. Students will not be called out of class, except in emergencies, to receive a telephone call. **There are to be no personal electronic devices on the**

premises during the school day. Cell phones should remain off during the day. Permission to use cell phones needs to be obtained from the teacher. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the loss of privileges and the cell phone will be taken to the office to be returned to the student at the end of the day.

LUNCH

All students and staff may bring lunches and or beverages. Milk, juice, and water are available for purchase. Vending machines are available and some sandwich items are available in the office. Please send-eating utensils with students. The high school classes will be offering a meal each day of the as part of their fund raising for class funds. The monthly menu is sent along with the newsletter at the beginning of each month.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of emergency school closing, determined by the administration, families will be notified by phone. When school must be closed because of inclement weather, the administrator will notify area television stations. **“Snow day”** announcements are made on television stations **WDAF channel 4, KCTV-5 channel 5, and KMBZ channel 9** by 6:30 A.M.

PARKING

Parents will drop off and pick students on the south side of the rope in the parking lot. Please follow **ONE WAY** and **DO NOT ENTER** traffic signs when entering and exiting the parking lot. During inclement weather, parents will be allowed to drive past the rope to drop off or pick up students.

STUDENT DRIVERS

Any student with a valid driver’s license and his parent’s permission must request approval to drive to school. The school’s primary concern is to assure the safety of each student. All drivers must adhere to the following rules:

1. Upon arriving at school, all students must report to their designated areas, not stay in their cars.
2. Students are not allowed to return to their cars during the day without permission.
3. No reckless driving, speeding (exceeding 5 MPH), or showing off on school property.
4. Students may not carry passengers without the specific permission of the parents of both parties.
5. Student drivers are to park in designated areas only.
6. **Student drivers and parents must complete the student driver form which is available in the school office.**

Any student driver who violates these rules is subject to having his driving privileges on church/school property suspended or revoked.

SOLICITATIONS PROHIBITED

Solicitation is forbidden at the school without specific approval of the administration. This includes the selling of tickets, candy, distribution of political material, or petitions.

PARTIES

Permission is required for any parties held at school, including birthdays and special events. As a general rule, the cafeteria should be used for all food consumption. Parents are encouraged not to bring excessively “sweet” treats, as many students have a restricted diet.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at Shawnee Mission Christian School. All visitors must abide by the dress and behavior codes of the school. Visitors must report to the office before they go to class. We will make every attempt to invite prospective students to a sample day at Shawnee Mission Christian School **upon request.**

MEDICAL INFORMATION

IMMUNIZATION

All students Pre-Kindergarten – 12th must have a current Certificate of Immunization form on file with the school office before the start of the school year, and this must be kept current. These forms are available in the school office and at your physician's office. Reminder: Immunization records need to be reevaluated at 4th, 7th, and 10th grades.

FEVER FREE for TWENTY-FOUR HOURS

Before your child returns to school after an illness, he/she must be free of fever for 24 hours. If your child runs a fever at any time during the school day, you will be asked to come and get him. This is important to the health and well being of others in the school.

STUDENT HEALTH CARDS

All students must have three Student Health Cards on file yearly concerning action to be taken in case of serious illness or accident. The Student Health Cards will be given to each student on or before the first day of school and **MUST** be returned during the first week of school. The cards provide emergency contacts, authorization to receive medication at school, insurance information, and authorization for activities on and off the school grounds. One card will stay in the school office; the others will travel on field trips and/or with coaches for games.

MEDICATION

Shawnee Mission Christian School will not hand out medication of any kind without parental permission. If a student needs medication, it should be brought in the original container (no plastic Ziploc bags, etc) and clearly labeled with the student's name. A note must accompany medication from the parents giving permission and instructions for taking the medication. All medication brought by students is to be left in the school office.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Shawnee Mission Christian School has an Infection Prevention and Control Policy on file. Copies are available in the school office.

SPORTS PHYSICAL

See Extracurricular page 12.

APPENDIX

Computer User Policy

Computers are used to support learning and enhance instruction. Computers allow teachers and students to interact with each other and the world through the use of the school's network and the Internet. It is a general policy that all computers be used in a responsible, efficient and legal manner.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to pursue intellectual activities, seek resources, access libraries and pursue international ministries. We want students to explore this new 'cyberspace' and discover what is available there.

Users are expected to:

- Respect the privacy of others (Don't try to get into someone else's files.)
- Respect the integrity of SMCS's computing systems. (Don't try to hack something you are not supposed to; don't try to bypass any virus protection or firewall.)

- *Respect the legal protection provided by copyright and licenses. (Do not copy any of our software; do not install any copies of your software on the computers.)*
- *Respect the finite capacity of the system. (There is only so much space on each computer.)*
- *Respect the procedures established to manage the use of the system. (Read and understand this policy.)*
- *Report any violation of these guidelines to any staff member.*

Users may not:

- *Send or receive messages or store files that indicate pornography, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, or inappropriate language. All of the rules in the SMCS code of conduct, found in the Parent/Student Handbook, apply when on the network*
- *Use the network or its computers for commercial or for-profit purposes*
- *Attempt to access or modify any computer configuration settings*
- *Attempt to enter a chat session*
- *Download any file without prior permission*
- *Install any program, utility, screen saver, or other executable code*
- *Set up or access an e-mail account*

NETWORK SECURITY

The most secure computers are the ones that can't be used. This is not a reasonable solution. Our security measures are to keep you from accidentally changing settings. Consistency and reliability are paramount for SMCS' s computer network to serve you optimally. The following are issues of security concern:

Passwords: *Do not give them out and keep good passwords. A poor password or sharing your password is the most common way computer systems are compromised. A good password is at least 6 characters long, containing at least 2 numbers and 2 letters, and does not contain a readable word. No one needs to know your password. If you feel your password has been compromised let a teacher or the school administration know. Students are responsible for the integrity of their passwords. If a password is knowingly shared, the password owner is responsible for any damage inflicted to the computer or network. Sharing your password is giving someone else permission to pretend to be you, and accepting responsibility for everything they do. The one exception to this restriction is that you must share your password with the school administrator.*

Messaging: *The use of any messaging service (such as MSN Messenger, AIM, ICQ, IRC, Win-Popup, etc.) is not allowed. Messaging is not necessary to your work. Any student using any messaging service/program will be subject to the same consequences as cheating.*

Masquerading: *Pretending to be someone else is forbidden. This includes sending out e-mail in someone else's name for any reason.*

Hacking: *Attempting to break into or go around any of our security measures is considered a major violation of school rules. This includes servers, workstations, networks, shares, routers, and other people's resources.*

INTERNET ACCESS AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF IT

Internet Access is a valuable tool for the teacher and the student. There is no limit on the amount of research or information you can gather. Internet access is a great asset to any school; however it can also cause many problems. SMCS realizes that it cannot safeguard every computer with access to the Internet 100% from areas (web pages, e-mail, etc.) that are offensive in nature. Our network has blocked certain objectionable sites and a record is kept of every site that is accessed to insure accountability.

Students or teachers cannot hold SMCS accountable for the willful and deliberate attempt to access offensive material through the Internet access.

SMCS students will only be allowed internet access with permission, usually under staff supervision. This will be primarily in the context of a class (either computer, or academic class with the teacher of that class present).

Failure to follow any of the SMCS guidelines may result in one of the following:

- *Suspension or revocation of Internet access*
- *Suspension or revocation of computer access*
- *School suspension*
- *School expulsion*
- *If your actions are a violation of law, you may be reported and subject to prosecution.*

Users of the network will understand that there are no second chances when they tamper with the network system and/or computers. They will be held responsible for any cost incurred to have the computer and/or network fixed due to a violation of this policy. It should be understood that the network administrator is monitoring the files of students and that the files should be deleted at the end of the school year on all student accounts.