



# MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2011-2012

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Christian Academy. This handbook contains information specific to middle school. We encourage you and your parents to thoroughly read this handbook as well as the Family Handbook as you begin this new school year. Both handbooks are intended to be a continuing aid to you and your parents.

MISSION STATEMENT

Academic Excellence  
in a  
Christ-Centered Environment

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Address: P.O Box 2250, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578  
Phone Number: 843-839-5855  
Fax Number: 843-839-5856  
E-Mail Address: [office@ChristianAcademyonline.org](mailto:office@ChristianAcademyonline.org)  
WEB Address: ChristianAcademyonline.org

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Communication with parents is very important in establishing and maintaining a positive and supportive working relationship. Please do not hesitate to contact the teachers at school by calling the office and leaving a message. The teacher(s) will return your call as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact the teacher(s) after school hours at his or her number listed below. You may also contact the teachers via e-mail. The e-mail addresses are available on the school's website, christianacademyonline.org, under the faculty listing.

Gary & Ana Assadourian – Home phone 843-272-3678  
Julia Boatwright - Home phone is 843-340-7283  
Nancy Cook – Home phone is 843-293-4105  
Rebecca Cramer – Cell number is 803-645-4646  
Jamie Eagerton – Cell number is 843-222-8685  
Scarlet Fowler - Cell phone is 843-997-0893  
John Markley – Cell phone is 843-267-8751  
Morina Martin – Cell number is 843-424-6019  
Michelle Owens – Cell number is 843-457-6611  
Joy Perry - Cell phone is 843-421-4786  
Robin Rexroad – Cell number is 843-222-7809  
Eva Shaw - Cell phone is 843-283-2581  
Lea Ann Williams - Cell phone is 843-283-6894

### WEEKLY COMMUNICATION

Christian Academy recognizes the value and importance in having open communication among the teacher, the student, and the parent. Teachers will communicate weekly to provide an update on the progress of each student through RenWeb. Parents can set up a RenWeb account through the link provided on Christian Academy's website, christianacademyonline.org. RenWeb allows parents to view student progress reports, daily lesson plans, and homework assignments. Our goal in the middle school is to have all communication via e-mail. Parents are encouraged to contact the teachers regarding any questions or concerns. Each teacher's e-mail address will appear on our school's website. Papers will be sent home at the teacher's discretion. Teachers may request that papers be signed and returned. Parents may request that papers be sent home at any time.

### CHARACTER

It is our goal at Christian Academy to help each student acquire a sense of values and virtues such as honesty, compassion, self-discipline, courage, responsibility, respect for authority, loyalty, perseverance, hard work, courtesy, fidelity, persistence and commitment.

### DISCIPLINE POLICY

It is our desire that Christian Academy Upper School students "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18) We anticipate that our students will filter their decisions, words and deeds through a Biblical lens. Teachers will discuss student behavior and growth with the Upper School team each week. Discipline at the Upper School level will be handled primarily by the teachers. Administration will be involved when deemed necessary. Christian Academy's Discipline Policy and Procedures will be followed. These are explained in the Family Handbook.

The upper school rules are as follows:

1. Follow instruction the first time they are given.
2. Be seated and ready on time.
3. Show respect in word and deed.  
...When in doubt, follow Christ's example.

Poor discipline choice will result in:

1. Warning
2. SMAC (see me after class)
3. 10 minute detention, behavioral journal & parent communication
4. 30 minute detention to be determined by the teacher, behavioral journal & parent communication

For repeated offenses: The student will be referred to the Principal for appropriate disciplinary action.

Severe or repeated infractions may result in accelerated actions taken.

BREAK TIME

Break time is intended as time for having a light snack and going to lockers and restrooms. **Snacks are allowed only in the gymnasium or cafeteria area.** Snacks should not have to be prepared or microwaved, and should be healthy in nature. Students are expected to pick up their trash when break is over. Students are allowed to have a water bottle with them throughout the day. **NO OTHER DRINKS ARE TO BE IN THE CLASSROOMS.** Students are responsible to report to 3<sup>rd</sup> period on time.

**Students should not go into the kitchen without teacher permission.**

ACADEMICS

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

1 <sup>st</sup> period	8:00-8:55
2 <sup>nd</sup> period	9:00-9:50
Break	9:50-10:00
3 <sup>rd</sup> period	10:00-10:50
4 <sup>th</sup> period	10:55-11:45
Lunch	11:50-12:10
Recess	12:10-12:30
5 <sup>th</sup> period	12:35-1:25
6 <sup>th</sup> period	1:30-2:20
7 <sup>th</sup> period	2:25-3:15

FRIDAY CHAPEL SCHEDULE

1 <sup>st</sup> period	8:00-8:50
2 <sup>nd</sup> period	8:55-9:40
Break	9:40-9:50
Chapel	9:50-10:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> period	10:40-11:25
Lunch	11:30-11:50
Recess	11:50-12:10
4 <sup>th</sup> period	12:15-12:55
5 <sup>th</sup> period	1:00-1:40
6 <sup>th</sup> period	1:45-2:25
7 <sup>th</sup> period	2:30-3:15

GRADING

The grading policy for each class is up to the individual teacher. Each teacher will send home his/her grading policy. Understanding each grading policy will help your child understand how to make improvements in grades. If you have questions about how grades are computed, please contact the teacher.

GRADE SCALE

93-100	A
85-92	B
77-84	C
70-76	D
0-69	F

## HOMEWORK

Homework may be assigned by teachers to reinforce and enrich learning. All homework assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on time. Students should plan to study each evening in preparation for the next day of school. The amount of time necessary to complete homework assignments will vary according to the grade level and the ability of the student. Greater amounts of time will be necessary in order to prepare for tests. Students are expected to do their own work and take the responsibility for it. While students are encouraged to work together on certain assignments, it is not expected that they will share their homework with the intent of someone else copying it. This will result in a zero for the assignment.

## TEST POLICY

All tests will be announced at least two days in advance. A teacher may cancel or reschedule a test on or before the end of the school day preceding the scheduled date of the test and must announce this to the students. No more than two major tests will be scheduled in a day. Students are expected to make up a missed test at the earliest possible date. If a student misses a scheduled test due to arriving late, the test must be taken before the end of the day. Students who are absent when a test is given should be prepared to take the test upon their return. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule a time with the teacher to take the missed test. Exceptions will be made for lengthy absences.

## EXAMS

Eighth grade students taking Algebra I and Spanish I will be required to take semester exams. The exam grade will count as 20% of the semester average. Successful completion of Algebra and Spanish I may result in earning high school credit. A grade of “B” or above or teacher recommendation must be obtained to proceed to Geometry and Spanish II.

## CALCULATING GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

Eighth grade students taking Algebra 1 and/or Spanish 1 will earn Carnegie units which will be calculated in their High School grade-point average. The grade-point average is calculated according to the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy. The grade-point average is figured from the conversion table shown below. The conversion table assigns “quality points” to each numerical grade depending on the grade earned and the category of weight assigned to the course taken (honors or CP). The formula for figuring the Grade Point Ratios (GPR) is:

$$\text{GPR} = \frac{\text{Sum}(\text{quality points} \times \text{Carnegie units earned})}{\text{Sum of Carnegie units attempted}}$$

### Grade Point Conversion Table

Average	Grade	College Prep/ Tech Prep	Honors	Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate
100	A	4.875	5.375	5.875
99	A	4.750	5.250	5.750
98	A	4.625	5.125	5.625
97	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
96	A	4.375	4.875	5.375
95	A	4.250	4.750	5.250
94	A	4.125	4.625	5.125
93	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
92	B	3.875	4.375	4.875
91	B	3.750	4.250	4.750
90	B	3.625	4.125	4.625
89	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
88	B	3.375	3.875	4.375
87	B	3.250	3.750	4.250
86	B	3.125	3.625	4.125
85	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
84	C	2.875	3.375	3.875
83	C	2.750	3.250	3.750
82	C	2.625	3.125	3.625
81	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
80	C	2.375	2.875	3.375
79	C	2.250	2.750	3.250
78	C	2.125	2.625	3.125
77	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
76	D	1.875	2.375	2.875
75	D	1.750	2.250	2.750
74	D	1.625	2.125	2.625
73	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
72	D	1.375	1.875	2.375
71	D	1.250	1.750	2.250
70	D	1.125	1.625	2.125
69	F	1.000	1.500	2.000
68	F	0.875	1.375	1.875
67	F	0.750	1.250	1.750
66	F	0.625	1.125	1.625
65	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
64	F	0.375	0.875	1.375

63	F	0.250	0.750	1.250
62	F	0.125	0.625	1.125
0-61	F	0.000	0.000	0.000

### HONOR ROLL

Students are eligible for honor roll if they meet the following criteria.

**Principal’s Honor Roll.** The student must have a cumulative average of no less than 93 with no grade below an A(93) for the school year.

**“A” Honor Roll.** The student must have a cumulative average of 93 or higher with no grade less than a B(85) during the quarter.

**“B” Honor Roll.** The student must have a cumulative average of 85 or higher with no grade less than a C(78) during the quarter.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### ***Middle School Language Arts***

Students will further develop their ability to comprehend, apply, analyze, and evaluate what they read. Students will become familiar with works included in the canon of English Literature and works of highly acclaimed children’s literature. Students will demonstrate mastery in expository, research and creative writing. Students will expand their vocabulary, knowledge of spelling rules, and root word derivations. Students will improve their knowledge of English grammar and usage and apply their knowledge in written work. Students will learn how to work cooperatively in reading groups/clubs throughout the year. They will be exposed to the many types of young adult literature as well as the timeless classics.

#### ***Middle School Mathematics***

Students are to develop self-confidence in their ability to do mathematics. Within this confidence, each student will have a tool chest filled with basic skills, technology, integration of biblical principles, communication and higher level thinking abilities. The student will also learn self-work habits and discipline to use their tool chest to be successful in our ever-changing world.

#### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math***

Sixth grade math involves building upon the basic skills and applications through higher level thinking skills. It will be taught through a series of non-consumable booklets called Connected Mathematics. The concepts are presented through games, investigations, or situations in which the students work together in cooperative groups. Each booklet revolves around a mathematical topic. The topics include but are not limited to number theory, two-dimensional geometry, area and perimeter, understanding and computation of fractions, and understanding and computation of decimals.

### *Pre-Algebra (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)*

Students will develop a confidence in their ability to do mathematics while creating an active learning environment. They will expand on their basic skills with an abstract approach thus preparing them for Algebra. Topics to be covered will include integers, solving equations, number theory, ratios, proportions, percents, and Algebra in geometry and measurement.

### *Algebra I CP (8<sup>th</sup> grade)*

The Algebra I CP course involves solving simple to complex equations from the concrete level to the application level. Students will be introduced to the graphing calculator to enhance their learning experience. Throughout the year, students will cover a wide variety of topics such as matrices, probability, inequalities, polynomials and exponents. Algebra 1 CP is a high school level course. Students must earn a “B” or better and/or receive teacher recommendation in order to move forward in the math program at Christian Academy. Any student receiving a grade below “B” may be required to repeat Algebra 1 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Text Book: Algebra I, Prentice Hall

Prerequisite: A grade of “B” or above in Pre-Algebra or teacher recommendation

Credit: 1 unit

### *Algebra I Honors (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)*

The core of the Algebra I Honors course involves solving simple to complex equations from the concrete level to the application level. Students will extensively use a graphing calculator to enhance their experiences and to take learning from the classroom to the real-world. Other concepts covered are matrices, probability, inequalities, polynomials, systems, exponents and quadratics. The pace and level of application will be taught at the honors level. Algebra 1 is a high school level course. Students must earn a “B” or better and/or receive teacher recommendation in order to move forward in the math program at Christian Academy. Any student receiving a grade below “B” may be required to repeat Algebra 1 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Text Book: Algebra I, Prentice Hall

Prerequisite: A grade of “B” or above in Pre-Algebra or teacher recommendation

Credit: 1 unit

### ***Middle School Social Studies***

Students will develop and learn responsible citizenship through the study of and appreciation of our Christian heritage, our American Republic, and world cultures.

Each student will understand the nature of patriotism and develop respect for the freedoms we have. Students will be challenged to seek out his/her role in preserving these freedoms and be a good citizen. The study of world cultures in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, geography in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and American History/South Carolina History in 8<sup>th</sup> grade gives a basic background to understand the complexities of current events.

### ***Middle School Science***

A variety of topics will be covered during the school year to help students develop an understanding that science is the study of man's observations of the world God creates. Each of the relevant areas of science: earth, life, physical, and environmental, will be covered. The sixth grade class will begin the year with a study of Ecology followed by a close look at the Planet Earth. Other topics the sixth grade will study include electricity and magnetism and animal and plant classifications. The seventh grade will start out the year investigating weather. An emphasis will be placed on hurricanes and their effects of our area. The other seventh grade topics are sound and light, matter, cells, and human biology. Eighth grade will begin the year with a study of heredity. The other areas of study for eighth grade are chemistry, motion, forces and energy, the universe, and the dynamic earth. Students in grades 6-8 will also spend time talking about life's changes to help them better understand their physical health, mental health, social health and spiritual health. A wide range of teaching techniques such as classroom activities, labs, demonstrations, written reports, projects, and class discussions will be used to help enhance the subject and promote a greater understanding of this wondrous world God had given us.

### ***Middle School Bible***

#### ***Sixth/Seventh Grade Bible***

Middle school years are a time when young people begin to make more and more decisions for themselves. This increasing freedom is accompanied by greater responsibility and higher expectations in many areas of life. The study entitled "Wise Up!" will focus on the wisdom from Proverbs and will help young people master the principles that will help them live wisely and become more like Christ.

#### ***Eighth Grade Bible***

This course is designed to challenge young people and to help them apply biblical principles to their daily lives. Students will learn that their God-ordained goal is to glorify God in everything. Students will understand that God has given us His provision for our holiness.... Through the Father's planning, the Son's providing, and the Holy Spirit's performing in us.

Textbook: Behold Your God: Magnifying His Majesty, Positive Action For Christ

### ***Sixth and Seventh grade Grammar/Latin***

The grammar courses will provide students with a basis for a clear understanding of English grammar and increase proficiency of its usage. The emphasis will be on the orderliness of the language. Language is a gift of God and reflects His orderly nature. The writing process will be used during writing instruction to take students through different formats of writing.

Students in sixth grade will also develop comprehension in reading and skill in writing Latin. Students will increase their proficiency and understanding of English vocabulary derived from Latin.

### ***Spanish I (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)***

Students will develop skill and comprehension in using Spanish as a second language. This course is designed as an introduction to oral and written Spanish with emphasis in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a contemporary cultural context. Activities in cuisine, customs and culture will enhance students' understanding of the spirit and soul of Hispanic people.

\*Basic sentences and phrases are used to teach vocabulary and simple grammatical patterns.

\*The student will be able to comprehend and respond to spoken or written messages and commands.

\*The student will be able to write to meet practical needs.

Spanish I is a high school level course. Students must earn a "B" or better and/or receive teacher recommendation in order to move forward in the Spanish program at Christian Academy. Any student receiving a grade below "B" may be required to repeat Spanish I in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Textbook: Realidades 1, Prentice Hall

Credit: 1 unit

### ***Special Classes***

Physical Education (grades 6-8)

Personal Health & Fitness (grades 7 & 8)

Art (grades 6-8)

Computer (grades 6-8)

Music (grade 6)

Musical Arts (grades 7 & 8)