

North Georgia Christian Academy Discipline Policy

In the Bible, discipline had a positive and essential place in the lives of God's people. They had to learn how to be obedient. The process by which God's people learned obedience was the "chastisement of the Lord" (Deut. 11:2). In the Old Testament, God led His people through praise and correction. The goal was to bring His people to a kind of maturity where obedience was the rule rather than the exception. Parents, judges, kings, prophets, and wise men worked with God in teaching His people. Successful discipline resulted in a life pleasing to God. The earliest setting for discipline was the family (Deut. 6:20-25). In the New Testament, Paul wrote a letter to the Hebrews admonishing the Ephesians to bring their children up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4b). Paul instructed, "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath" (Ephesians 6:4a). Discipline, biblically understood, results in blessing. God's people learn how to serve Him. Through praise and correction, their lives are shaped into a pattern of consistent obedience and love. Within the "chastisement of the Lord," expressed in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, one can live the kind of life that is pleasing to God and of benefit to others. Our school seeks to use discipline, measured with love, in a manner as to enhance the lives of our students as well as our ministry.

Attendance at North Georgia Christian Academy is a privilege and not a right. Any student who does not conform to the standards and regulations of the school may forfeit this privilege. The school may, at any time, request the parents to withdraw a student, who, in the opinion of the administration, does not fit the spirit of the school, regardless of whether or not he conforms to specific rules and regulations of the school.

North Georgia Christian Academy is not an institution to reform children, nor do we seek to take the place of the parents who have had difficulty fulfilling their God-given role; therefore, we ask that parents do not enroll their students with the idea that we will reform them. Students and parents are reminded that the Lord Jesus Christ expects us to be disciplined in all of life. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers." (Romans 13:1a). When parents enroll their children at NGCA, they are placing their children under our authority with the expectation that we will exercise authority for the benefit of their children. Parents are therefore expected to be supportive of those they have chosen to serve in positions of authority over their children. Parents can expect their children to receive caring discipline.

Discipline Procedures

There are times when students will need to be disciplined. The Bible tells us that he who loves his children will chasten them. No student is allowed to disrupt the class with words, actions, or a negative attitude. North Georgia Christian Academy will use one or more of the following options when it becomes necessary to show our students that we love them:

- Verbal discipline – admonition, correction, warnings, and rebukes. Students will be reprimanded for their actions and asked to repent.
- Denial of privileges – Students may lose privileges such as recess, seating preference, etc., appropriate to the misbehavior. Additional work assignments may be given when a student is denied recess privileges.
- In-School Suspension – The student may be temporarily removed from the rest of the class for certain misdeeds. This is often done for students who are seeking to gain attention by misbehaving, or who are distracted from doing their work by the presence of other students.
- Suspension – Certain breaches of the school's standards for conduct may result in out-of-school suspension. Suspension from the classroom is usually preceded by a history of conduct problems. The Administrator, in these cases, will contact parents. Work missed during any suspensions will be completed, but any quizzes or tests missed during this

time will be an automatic zero. Any student who receives three suspensions in one school year will be considered for dismissal.

- Restitution – This is used in cases of theft or destruction of property. It is expected that anyone found guilty of an offense of this nature will return what has wrongfully been taken or replace what has been lost or damaged.
- Expulsion – Expulsion is used in rare instances where a child is consistently antagonistic to school standards/authority and is non-responsive to other forms of discipline. It is also used when a child is having a significant negative influence on the school or other students. As with suspension, expulsion is usually preceded by a period of behavioral probation, which reflects a history of conduct problems. The school board, upon recommendation of the Administrator, decides if and when expulsion is warranted.

North Georgia Christian Academy personnel will not administer corporal punishment. We believe that spanking is a biblical parental option. If you, as a parent, choose to use this means of discipline we ask that you carry it out at home and not on school property.

Each incident of inappropriate behavior is unique in terms of situational variables. Similarly, disciplinary action will reflect consideration of a number of factors specific to the student involved in the misbehavior such as, but not limited to the following: the history of student problems, the severity of the offense, unique factors preceding the misbehavior, and the degree of involvement by the student.

The administration has the right to adjust the discipline to meet unusual circumstances and situations.

Standards of Conduct

1. Students must display an attitude of reverence for God and the things of God.
2. Students must show respect during the pledge of allegiance to the American flag, Christian flag and Bible.
3. Students must exhibit respectful obedience to authority (parents, teachers, etc.) and school regulations, even when the person in authority is not immediately present. Such obedience should be willing and immediate, and is to extend to any member of the school staff, even if that person is not the student's own teacher.
4. Students should develop responsibility in doing assigned or expected tasks, such as homework.
5. Students should never leave their classroom, assigned area, or the school campus without permission from a teacher or office personnel.
6. Conversations held within the classroom and on the playground are not to infringe on the rights of others, and they are to relate constructively to the time and place. Within class discussion a student may speak when he/she has been properly recognized and "has the floor." At other times he/she should remain quiet, attentively and respectfully listening to the contributions of others. Conversations, private or public, are expected to be positive, constructive, and respectful. Foul, dirty, or suggestive language, drawings, or stories, pornography of any sort, gossip, misuse of God's name or spiritual terms, suggestive "sign language," "degrading names," "putting others down" by telling them to "shut up," "get lost," etc., even if "done in fun," are examples of conduct which are unacceptable at North Georgia Christian Academy (NGCA) and are causes for immediate disciplinary action.
7. Unnecessary bodily contact, whether it is affectionate, playful, or hostile, is not acceptable conduct while at school. Such incidents, which may seem harmless, often expand rapidly and tend to detract from the development of proper relationships and a constructive educational atmosphere.
8. All property, personal or other, is to be treated with due respect. Damaged or destroyed property belonging to others is to be replaced by the student or students responsible. Each student is personally responsible for cleaning up after using a table or study area.

9. Students are to refrain from bringing or listening to secular music while on campus or attending school functions.
10. Tobacco or alcohol in any form is not allowed at school, school functions, or while on school sponsored field trips. **NGCA is a smoke and tobacco-free campus.** Possession of these or of illegal drugs on campus or at school functions is cause for immediate suspension and/or expulsion. In addition, misusing legal substances like nail polish, paint, or any other substance in an attempt to “get high” is grounds for expulsion.
11. No note passing between students (whether on paper, via email, or electronic device) is permitted during school.
12. Internet usage is a privilege that will be removed if abused. Any student caught trying to access websites with pornography, foul language, etc. will be subject to loss of all internet privileges and suspension from school. We greatly encourage parents to use filtering devices for their computers at home, and suggest that no computer be in an unmonitored location.
13. Weapons are not allowed on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. The term “weapons” includes, but is not limited to, rifles, shotguns, handguns, pellet guns, BB guns, paintball guns, bow and arrows, stun-guns, blank pistols, knives (including Bowie, switchblade, pocket, hunting), razors, chemical defensive devices, martial arts devices, or other items which school staff could reasonably conclude as being a violation of the intent of this restriction. Students shall not have any explosive device, including bullets, spent cartridges, other ammunition, fireworks, smoke bombs, matches, lighters, paint bombs, paint balls, or any item which gives the appearance of these. Possession of weapons is grounds for immediate suspension and/or expulsion.
14. Cheating or plagiarism in any form is not tolerated at NGCA. In elementary school, cheating results in a grade of “F” (60 or lower) on the assignment/test and communication with the parents. In Grades 4 and up, cheating results in a grade of “F” (60 or lower) and may be cause for immediate suspension and/or expulsion.
15. In order to best promote the goals and purposes of the school, students are asked to leave all toys, electronic games, non-educational magazines, questionable books and squirt guns at home, unless requested by the teacher. If the above items are found on school premises, the school reserves the right to keep the item until the end of the school year. Cell phones are allowed on campus, but must be kept in the student’s bookbag and turned off. Students are not to use cell phones during the school day without permission from faculty or administration.
16. Students must not steal, which includes borrowing without permission.
17. Student actions must not include assault and battery, intimidation or bullying, coercion, other behavior detrimental to learning, verbal and / or physical abuse.
18. Each student is expected to come to class prepared. This includes bringing the correct books and materials to school/class, completing assigned homework and projects on time, and participating in class discussions.
19. Students are expected to follow the school dress code policy.
20. It should be remembered that the school not only hopes to contribute much to the student, but the student is expected to contribute much towards the school. A student who counteracts the goals and purposes of the school by indifference or overt action, or intentionally damages the reputation of the school, may be asked to seek his/her education elsewhere.

It is impossible to list every behavior that would go against the spirit and goals of North Georgia Christian Academy. Therefore, the school reserves the right to establish additional standards and guidelines as needed to maintain a proper Christian school environment.