

# MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

DISTINCTLY ACADEMIC. UNDENIABLY CHRISTIAN

## High School Parent/Student Handbook

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**A Ministry of Maranatha Chapel  
Established 1991**

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[www.maranathachristianschools.org](http://www.maranathachristianschools.org)

**We believe** in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**We believe** that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is fully God and fully man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead and ascended to heaven, where, at the right hand of God the Father, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.

Our supreme desire is to know Christ and to be conformed into His Image by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**We believe** the Bible, God's Holy Word, is our foundation.

Therefore: it is authoritative as the rule of faith and is the standard for living.

**We believe** worship is Spiritual.

Therefore: we remain flexible and yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our school.

**We believe** worship of God should be inspirational.

Therefore: music is an integral part of our spiritual development.

**We believe** worship of God should be intelligent.

Therefore: chapel services and education programs are designed with great emphasis on the teaching of God's Word.

**We believe** worship of God is fruitful.

Therefore: we look for His love in our lives as evidence that we have truly been worshipping Him.

As a church sponsored school, we neither support nor do we oppose other denominations. We do not, however, agree with the over emphasis of the doctrinal differences that lead to divisions in the Body of Christ. We believe that the true basis for Christian fellowship is God's [Agape] love, which is greater than the differences we possess and without which we cannot claim to be Christians.

## MCS' Mission Statement

Maranatha Christian Schools is a Christ-centered learning community where students experience God's love, are equipped to fulfill God's unique call and purpose, and excel in their God-given potential through academics, arts, and athletics.

## General Standards of Conduct and Discipline

Students enrolled at MCS are expected to conduct themselves in such a way as to show at all times they understand and accept the school policies and rules that regulate student behavior. We endeavor to provide a safe, orderly and nurturing environment that honors our Lord Jesus Christ. This environment is conducive to learning and growth for each student and teaches them personal responsibility for their choices/decisions. Students accepted to MCS have agreed to forego specific behavior and attitudes identified fundamentally against the culture of the school and a relationship in Christ and agree that while attending MCS they will endeavor to follow the principle of honoring Christ in all of their actions and attitude.

Obedience, respect, and responsibility are key virtues that students must develop. Obedience to rules and guidelines is essential to the development of maturity (Luke 2:51, Hebrews 5:8). It results in genuine freedom in life (John 8:32). Respect is necessary for all successful and meaningful relationships (Luke 10:36-37, Romans 12:18). In addition, the building of personal responsibility fosters a sense of achievement. Both responsibility and achievement are necessary ingredients to the development of self-worth (1 Corinthians 10:31, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Romans 14:12).

The MCS Administration prayerfully seeks to discipline in a way that is Biblical and pleasing to God, collaborating with parents, as they are able. Since we teach the students to obey and submit to their parents, it is imperative that parents maintain that continuity by upholding and teaching the principles taught at school. The school administration reserves the right to address unique, individual situations that may not be described in the Parent/Student Handbook in a manner that it deems appropriate. Attendance at MCS is a privilege not a right. The administration makes all disciplinary decisions prayerfully and reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding discipline to include

dismissing any student who disrupts the tranquility of the school culture or who fails to meet any of the standards and policies set forth.

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# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome

Welcome to Maranatha Christian Senior High School. We are genuinely thankful for the privilege and opportunity to participate in educating your children along with caring for their spiritual needs. We have established a rigorous college preparatory program that meets the academic needs of your child, while providing a diverse range of courses in the arts along with interscholastic opportunities. Partnering with parents, we can provide an experience that will equip students with the tools they need to reach their academic potential as they grow spiritually in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that God has called us here for that purpose above all others.

We trust this school year will be very rewarding both academically and spiritually for you and your child(ren). Please remember to pray for our students and the school staff as we work together with you to equip young men and women for service to our Lord Jesus Christ and the communities where they reside

May the Lord truly bless you and your family.

## Accreditation/Affiliations

Maranatha Christian Schools is fully accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) & Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). MCS is a member of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), and Educational Records Bureau (ERB), and the College Board. As a member of the College Board, AP Classes meet Board guidelines and approval processes. Most course offerings meet the University of California “a-g” college preparatory requirements. As such, each of those courses has been approved by the UC system. MCS also registers classes with the NCAA Clearinghouse for the benefit of those students intending to pursue athletics at the collegiate level.

## Admission Policies and Procedures

We believe the Bible mandates that the primary responsibility of each student’s education rests with the parents. We view the role of the school as one of partnership with the parent(s) in this endeavor. In order to establish and maintain a successful relationship it is essential that parents be in agreement with and support the philosophies and intentions of the school as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. Attendance at MCS is a privilege and not a right. MCS reserves the right to deny enrollment to any student applicant who does not meet the enrollment requirements of this school.

Maranatha Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at this school. MCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, or any other basis prohibited by federal and state law, in administration of its admission policies, educational policies, athletics, and any other school-administered programs.

## Athletics

MCS is a member of the CIFSDS, based on that relationship MCS staff cannot recruit athletes. Prospective students or parents cannot be solicited to become a part of our school, but instead should turn in an application to the school and talk with admissions office. All inquiries about athletics have to be referred to the admissions office, without exceptions.

## Building Elevator

Except for those students requiring assistance due to medical or physical restrictions or limitations, students are **not** to use the building elevator for any purpose without permission from a teacher or school administrator. Students who require the use of the elevator may have another student assist them if necessary.

## Changes in Policy

Maranatha Christian Schools reserves the right to amend the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook and will provide reasonable notice of change. This handbook is not an all-inclusive manual. Sometimes new situations will occur or circumstance will arise not covered specifically by this handbook. The administration reserves the right to exercise its administrative prerogative in responding to these situations.

## Health Office

The health office is staffed by a registered nurse. The school nurse renders immediate first-aid to injured or ill students during the school day. The nurse evaluates students who are ill before they are released from school to go home. Students are only released to parents or other persons specifically designated on the school emergency form. **Students who are sick should remain at home until they are symptom-free for a period of 24 hours prior to returning to school.**

It is the policy of the State of California that the administering of medicine to students during school hours is discouraged unless absolutely necessary for the critical health of the student. Medications will only be administered to students with written permission from parent(s) or guardian(s).

Prescription and non-prescription medications will only be issued as directed by a physician's note. All prescription medications must be brought to the school nurse's office in the original container clearly identified with the student's name, prescribing physician's name and administering instructions. At the end of year, parents should pick up any unused medications from the nurse's office. Any medication left in the nurse's office after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be properly disposed of by the school.

Any MCS high school student having an immediate need for asthma inhalers during school may carry the necessary medication on their person when certain conditions are met. Anyone wishing to carry his or her own inhaler may pick up an Authorization for Self-Carry from the office. This form will need to be completed and returned to the school nurse. Otherwise, inhalers must be kept in the office and administered as prescribed.

In the event of an accident or serious injury (requiring attention beyond basic First-Aid) MCS will call emergency medical personnel (911). Any cost for emergency medical care will first be billed to the family's personal medical or accident insurance.

## History

Maranatha Christian Schools is a ministry of Maranatha Chapel. This educational ministry was established in 1991. As a ministry of Maranatha Chapel we continue to support the vision statement of Maranatha Chapel.

## Parent (or Legal Guardian) and Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all parents and students to be current with information presented from a variety of sources, including MCS website ([maranathachristianschools.org](http://maranathachristianschools.org)), student RenWeb accounts and email, Eagle Express, the Parent/Student Handbook, and other social media.

It is the responsibility of all parents and students to be current with information presented from a variety of sources, including the MCS website (maranathachristianschools.org), student Ren Web accounts, parent directed email, and the Parent/Student Handbook.

## Parent (or Legal Guardian) Commitment signed at time of enrollment

At the time of application/enrollment all parents/guardians agree that they will adhere to the terms set forth in this Parental Commitment for the duration of their student's attendance at Maranatha Christian Schools. We encourage parents to review this commitment and the handbook with their students so that they can work in partnership with their parents to honor this commitment.

Maranatha Christian Schools have been established on the Biblical principle that God has given parents the primary responsibility for educating their children. MCS enters into a partnership with parents, as Christian professionals and educators hired to teach students academics and Biblical values.

It is our hope and desire that all students and families have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Since this is our purpose, we encourage both students and families to have a daily time of personal Bible study, to exhibit brotherly love toward one another, the school, and the community, and to attend a Bible believing church on a regular basis.

- I agree to support the pursuit of academic excellence and the development of Christ-like character at MCS, by being actively involved in our children's educational experience.
- I agree to support the school to the best of my ability through attendance and participation in the various school activities and through prayer, time, and financial gifts.
- I understand the school's standard of conduct which honors God and grants authority to the teacher or administrator to discipline our child when necessary. (The school does not administer corporal punishment.)
- I also agree to abide by and fully support the school's disciplinary policy as outlined in the handbook.
- I understand that attendance at MCS is a privilege and not a right; and that this said privilege could be revoked at any time for unacceptable work or conduct.
- I understand and recognize that the administration has full authority for grade placement and course assignment.
- I agree to support the school by timely payment of tuition and fees as set forth by the tuition and fee schedule.
- I understand and recognize that if our child is participating in the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or other intoxicants she/he may be expelled from the school.
- I agree to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem when dealing with issues of the moral, spiritual, and social growth of our child at the school. If a problem or concern should arise, we will take our concern directly to the person involved.
- I also agree to follow the "complaint procedure" as outlined in the handbook for any concerns related to this school relationship. (Matt. 18) I understand that decisions made by the school superintendent on the foregoing topics are final and binding.

## Philosophy of Education

We believe that God uniquely gifts all children and has an abundant plan for their lives. We also believe that God entrusts parents with the primary responsibility of training their children to know Him and enjoy a relationship with Him. At MCS, we partner with parents to help them fulfill this God given role by offering a challenging and diverse educational environment that honors God and enables students to excel in academics, arts, and athletics. Students are encouraged to explore and

cultivate their unique talents, preparing them to follow His lead in transforming the world around them. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

## Schoolwide Learning Goals- “The MCS 4C’s:

### **MCS Students will S.O.A.R. with 4C’s**

Servant leaders who are

One in Christ:

Achieving Excellence in

Reaching their world through:

Communication

Collaboration

Critical Thinking

Creativity

## School Traditions

School Verse: Isaiah 40:31

Colors: Navy, Carolina Blue and White

Mascot: Eagle

## Special Education Services

Maranatha High School does not provide special education services or formal accommodations of any kind (i.e. 504 plans, IEPs)

## Values

As we experience God’s unique love for us, we learn to love one another and to:

### **Live Biblical Truth:**

Holding to and living out the unchanging Word of God in an ever-changing world  
(Matthew 24:35)

### **Honor Relationships:**

Valuing and cultivating relationships, recognizing everyone's unique role in the body of Christ  
(1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

### **Model Sonship and Servant Leadership:**

Living as God's sons and daughters and leading by Christ's example as shepherd, placing the interests of others before our own. (Romans 8:14-17, 1 Peter 5:2-4)

### **Seek Unity:**

Pursuing oneness of spirit through humility and selflessness, as Christ modeled for us  
(Philippians 2:2-11)

### **Pursue Excellence:**

Whole-heartedly seeking excellence in everything (Colossians 3:23)

## Vision for Maranatha Christian Schools

Transformed lives... Transforming the world

## Vision Statement for Maranatha Chapel

The simple and yet powerful truth of Jesus' statement in John 14:6, "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me."

**Evangelism** Showing the Way, **Discipleship** Teaching the Truth, **Mission** Living the Life.

# General Information

## Introduction

It is the responsibility of all parents and students to be current with information presented from a variety of sources, including MCS website (maranathachristianschools.org), student RenWeb accounts and email, Eagle Express, the Parent/Student Handbook, and other social media.

## Change of Account Information

If you change the account number from which your automatic payment is deducted for any reason, you must provide FACTS with the new account number as soon as possible. Please allow ample time (**one business week**) for processing so that your next payment will be deducted or charged to your correct account. If you do not notify FACTS of a new account number and the payment is rejected, you will be subject to the terms described in “*Late Payments/Returned Checks*”. *If your payments are repeatedly returned to FACTS unpaid for any reason, we reserve the right to take appropriate action to prevent further loss to the school.*

## Parent/Visitor Sign-In

In order to provide authorized visitors the opportunity to visit classrooms and to ensure the safety of our students and their right to an uninterrupted teaching-learning environment, the following procedures are to be followed:

- Parents, guests, visitors, and prospective students (accompanied by a parent) are welcome to visit MCS provided they have prior approval from the administration.
- All visitors including those with Level I and Level II clearance must check in with the front office to sign in. Visitor badges for adults are to be worn while on campus and should be returned to the office prior to leaving.
- The length of all visits will be 20 minutes or less except for prospective student shadow days, or a longer visit which has been preauthorized by a staff member.
- No children under the age of five will be permitted to visit the classroom.
- The instructional process must not be interrupted. If a visitor wishes to speak with a teacher, or staff member an appointment will be arranged.
- Student shadow visitations are limited to prospective students only and must be pre-approved and arranged in advance by Administration.
- Visitors are expected to go to and from their location of appointment and are not allowed to wander about the campus unescorted.

## Philanthropy and Annual Fund Support

Your financial gifts to Maranatha Christian School are an investment in our present and our future. They are also an act of Christian service, as the Bible tells us that, “God loves a cheerful giver,” 2 Corinthians 9:7. Scripture also tells us that we are to “honor the Lord with our wealth” Proverbs 3:9. The Capital Campaign and Annual Eagle Funds are critically important parts of the financial plan for nearly every private school, as its fundamental purpose is to provide financial support for ongoing initiatives. Your gift has direct impact in every classroom on the campus, and each family is asked to give prayerful consideration to the needs of our students and the benefits they will receive through your donation. Please direct all questions about donating to MCS to the Development Department.

## Restrooms

High school students are to use the restrooms located in the high school building ("H" Building) and may also use outside restrooms and those located in the Gym, which are open to all students as needed. High school students are prohibited from using any "C" building restrooms, which are reserved for elementary and Junior High use. Students are not allowed to use restrooms reserved for "Adults/Staff".

Loitering and horseplay are not allowed at any time in the restrooms. If a student causes damage to any restroom equipment, that student and his/her parents will be liable for the cost of the repairs or replacement of the damaged item(s).

## School and Office Hours

Before School Care	7:00-8:15 am
School Office Hours	7:15-3:30 pm
Campus 6 – 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:25-3:00 pm
ASCP/Quiet Zone	3:00-6:00pm

## School Contact Information

The school telephone number is (858) 759-9737 The school fax number is (858) 759-4001 After School Care telephone number is (858) 354-5727 You may leave voicemail messages 24 hours a day. The teacher or staff member's e-mail address is their first name. last name@maranathachristianschools.org The school website is [www.maranathachristianschools.org](http://www.maranathachristianschools.org)

## Tuition

Maranatha Christian Schools is a self-supporting ministry of Maranatha Chapel. MCS pays all of its financial obligations out of registration and tuition payments, capital campaign and annual funding commitments.,

The tuition at Maranatha Christian Schools is based on an annual rate. Therefore, the amount of each monthly installment has no relationship to the number of school days in each month. Tuition is divided into ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12) monthly payments for the convenience of the parent or guardian. No financial adjustment can be made for absences due to illness, holidays or other causes. Facts Tuition Management Company will bill tuition. Failure to fulfill monthly obligations will result in removal from school.

### **Late Payments/Returned Checks**

It shall be the responsibility of each school family to keep the school office informed of any changes in their preferred tuition payment plan or adjustments in the amount of tuition to be paid. Without such information the following policy will apply when tuition payments are received late: A late fee of \$30.00 from FACTS will be automatically debited from the account in the event of an NSF. If a second check is returned, you will be required to make all future payments by cash, money order or credit card. The missed payment will be communicated and reattempted by FACTS at a later date in the same month. School families, who have missed the second payment reattempted by FACTS, must contact the school business office within 5 business days to make suitable arrangements. MCS requires that a student be dismissed from school when an account becomes 30 days past due. To re-enroll your child at the school all past due tuition and associated fees need to be current and your FACTS account needs to be active.

### **Returning Student Fees**

The enrollment fee is the non-refundable fee due when a current student enrolls for the next school year. This is usually due sometime during the winter months and temporarily reserves

a space for the student for the following school year. This fee also helps cover the administrative costs of re-enrolling these students.

The returning student registration fee is the non-refundable fee due every spring along with all the required registration forms and paperwork for the following school year. This fee helps to cover the costs of administrative duties for creating & processing all of the returning student's registration paperwork and enables the school to better plan and provide for teacher and classroom needs. Enrollment status will be compromised if these payments are not made on time.

## Withdrawal during the School Year

When a student withdraws from MCS, the student's parent must submit a written notice **one week prior** to withdrawing a student and turn it into the school office. If tuition is prepaid, a full refund will be given for all months that the student does not attend any days of school. One half of the monthly tuition will be charged if your child is withdrawn during the first week of the month. NO refund will be given if a student is withdrawn after the first week of any month

# Attendance Policies and Procedures

## Introduction

We take our responsibility for our students' welfare and whereabouts seriously. Regular attendance in all classes is one of the greatest contributing factors to success in school. Please keep this in mind and whenever possible schedule all outside activities after the regular school hours. Although we are a private school, we must follow the guidelines set by the State of California in regards to attendance.

## Absences

Regular school attendance is required by law and is necessary for good scholarship. A student's success is directly related to his/her attendance in school. In addition, effective communication between the school and the parents in regards to a student's attendance is vital. Parents are encouraged to schedule their child's necessary appointments outside regular school hours. Any student arriving late or leaving early must be signed in/out through the school office by a parent, guardian or responsible adult designated by the parent. Students who are 18 years old, must provide written consent from their parent when leaving during regularly scheduled class periods.

All absences must be reported to the school office by the parent, legal guardian, or host family before noon on the day of the absence. Absences reported to teachers or staff in lieu of the school attendance office will be unexcused. We discourage parents from taking their student out of school for vacation, celebrations, shopping, business appointments, etc. No refund or credit will be given for extended absences due to illness or family vacation. Any absence not specifically excused or described, as an "excused absence" will be considered unexcused. Students with unexcused absences will be allowed to make up missed school work according to established policies pertaining to the nature of the unexcused absence.

### *Excessive Absences*

A student who has an excess of 5 absences (excused or unexcused) per semester will receive parent notification. **A student's grade can be reduced by 10 per cent (one letter grade) for each increment of 12 absences per semester, regardless of the status of those absences.** Special factors will be considered by the administration in consultation with the parents, especially in relation to absences related to chronic or prolonged illness.

### *Excused Absences*

According to state law, the only legitimate reason for absences is: Verified illness of the student, bereavement, verified dental, medical, or chiropractic appointments (the school may require a doctor's note), students legal or court appearance. MCS also excuses pre-arranged absence and/or a planned and approved missions trip.

A note or Pre-Arranged Absence Form, dated and signed by a parent explaining the specific reason for the above absence is **required** in order for the student to receive an "excused absence." Students are required to make up all work missed during an excused absence. Parent or students should refer to RenWeb for work assignments as soon as they realize that class will be missed. Extended illnesses will be handled on a case-by-case basis by school administration.

### *Pre-Arranged Absences*

Family vacations that conflict with a student's school attendance should be avoided. In order to be classified as an excused absence, planned absences require a student to obtain and complete the Pre-Arranged Absence Form. The form must be signed by student, teacher(s),

parent and the appropriate principal prior to the planned absence. When completed, the form signifies the school's knowledge of the student's absence. Missed assignments will be the responsibility of the student, according to policy pertaining to make-up work. However, completion of assignments cannot fully compensate for teacher-directed classroom instruction and guided practice.

**No pre-arranged absences will be granted during mid-term/finals week; students missing scheduled exams will receive a score of zero with no opportunity for make-up (exceptions may be granted in the case of documented illness or prior approval from the high school principal).**

### *Truancy*

Truancy is being absent without the knowledge and consent of parents and school officials. A student is truant when he or she stays out of any part of or all of a scheduled class and/or leaves campus without permission. Parents will be notified of all trancies. Truancy is considered an unexcused absence with no opportunity to make up work. All missed assignments and tests will result in a zero. Truancy is a serious offence and will result in disciplinary action.

Please be advised that students who become ill during the school day are required to report to the nurse's office if they are missing any portion of a scheduled class. The school nurse will assess the situation and contact parents whenever necessary. Students do not have the prerogative to miss class, and absences without the knowledge of the teachers, nurse, and/or administration will be handled as truancy. Absence from scheduled classes without the knowledge of school personnel presents significant health and liability risks and is not permitted at student discretion.

### **Closed Campus Policy**

Maranatha Christian Schools operates under a closed campus policy. Only seniors and Eagle Academy students may leave the campus once a student's school day begins. Valid student identification must be presented at designated areas in order for a student to be released. Of course, students with free periods at the beginning or end of their day are not required to be on campus during those free periods.

The parent/guardian must "sign out" any student (including age 18+) leaving campus during their regularly scheduled class times, or otherwise provide written notification to the attendance office. All students leaving campus at the end of their school day, but before regular dismissal must sign out in the front office. Upon the student's return to the school campus, parents are required to "sign in" their child in the school office and/or the student must provide documentation of their absence (e.g. note from a doctor, dentist, etc.)

Seniors will be allowed to go off campus for lunch during regular school hours, or when their schedule provides extended non-class periods of time (e.g. free block period). A school day is defined as those hours when a student begins and ends their regularly scheduled classes. Students are required to follow California laws regarding student driving and transporting passengers. A student with more than three (3) tardies per semester due to off campus departures may have their off-campus privileges revoked. The Administration reserves the right to revoke off-campus privileges at its discretion and with notification to the parents.

Occasionally, MCS will conduct meetings or assemblies where attendance by the entire student body or student groups (e.g. seniors) is desired and reserves the right to suspend off campus privileges in the event of a special schedule, school assembly or other lunch meeting pertaining to relevant school business.

## Tardiness

Excused tardies are limited to the following events: family emergency with parent note, automobile breakdowns, verifiable traffic incidents or accidents, and extreme personal emergencies. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student arrives to their first class of the day on time. Students who are late to school must report to the school office prior to attending class and receive a "Tardy Slip" for admission to class. A student is considered tardy to class when they are not in their seat when the bell rings. Teachers are not expected to make accommodation for students with an unexcused tardy in regard to assignments due, or tests, quizzes, projects, or other work in progress. MCS high school utilizes period attendance. The school administration reserves the right to determine the classification of the tardy.

**MCS utilizes an automated parent notification system for attendance. With each unexcused tardy, parents will receive a Ren Web email notification. As these are automatically generated by the system, according to the attendance record, it is not necessary to reply to such communications. The school administration will contact you at set intervals (see below) when attendance becomes a significant concern.**

Sanctions for unexcused tardies per period each semester are as follows:

- First three unexcused tardies **per class/period** result in a verbal warning from the teacher to the student and an automatically generated Ren Web notification. Please be sure to address the matter with your child.
- The fourth unexcused tardy requires that you take specific corrective action with your child and contact the high school administration to discuss solutions.
- The fifth unexcused tardy requires that you take specific corrective action with your child and contact the high school administration to discuss solutions.
- The sixth unexcused tardy will result in a written notification from the Principal, requiring the parent to confer with the Assistant Principal.
- Any unexcused tardy following the conference with the Assistant Principal may result in disciplinary consequences to include suspension or expulsion.

# Dress Code Policies and Procedures

## Dress Code Introduction

Representing the school in a positive manner is an expectation in all areas of student life, including modesty in dress and grooming. Uniforms are a distinct indication of a student's connection to the school. Handbook regulation concerning the uniform are applicable at all times. It is both the parents' and the school's responsibility to instill this mindset in the student body. It is expected that the uniforms will be neat, clean and in satisfactory condition. **The administration is the final authority on interpretations of the dress code.**

## Dress Code Parameters

Maranatha Christian Schools desires to create an educational environment that honors God and enhances learning. Rules of modesty for uniforms, athletic wear, and free dress apply at all times while on campus. MCS staff works diligently with students to encourage them to be compliant to the dress code by reviewing the handbook with students, handing out modesty cards, and through counseling and verbal warnings when needed. While on campus as well as when students are participating in school sponsored events, such as field trips and end of the year trips, students must adhere to the established daily dress code/uniform standards. We base our dress code upon the following principles: Modest and Clean (Romans 12:1; I Timothy 2:9) and Pleasing the Lord (I Corinthians 6:20, 10:31 and 14:26b)

**Boys** – Modesty is defined for boys as wearing pants that are at the waistline and are secured to the waist so as to prevent under garments from being exposed. Tank tops and/or sleeveless shirts are not allowed.

**Girls** – Modesty is defined for girls as wearing clothing so as not to reveal the upper torso, cleavage, or under garments. Girls are also not to wear form fitting, sheer or tightly fitted clothing in the chest or hip areas, tank tops and/or sleeveless shirts.

All uniforms must be purchased from Sue Mills or Lands' End. Refer to the web links on MCS' website for approved school uniform styles and colors.

## P.E. Uniform

A physical education uniform will be required for all boys and girls enrolled in the P.E. program. P.E. uniforms may be purchased from the Front Office or athletic department. Sport uniforms are not allowed instead of P.E. uniforms. Students must wear appropriate footwear approved by the PE coach.

## Specific Requirements for Boys:

In Timothy 4:12 we read, "Let no one despise or think less of you because of your youth, but be an example (pattern) for believers, in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

In consideration of this Biblical standard, the appropriate attire for boys while on school campus or while participating in MCS sanctioned events is as follows:

- Approved school uniform is to be worn as intended by the manufacturer. All clothes must fit properly. Frayed, dirty or ripped uniforms are not acceptable.
- Students have the option of wearing any solid blue, black, or khaki/tan slacks or jeans along with the uniform Polo shirt (which must bear the MCS logo). Blue, black, khaki/tan Chino or Docker style shorts may also be worn. However, athletic wear (including "joggers" and

sweat/stretch pants) may not be substituted at any time for these uniform requirements. Pants must be worn at the waist and cannot be altered to change the style. If worn with a belt, it must be modest in design and without ornamentation.

- Shirts may be worn either in or out. Stomach and back must be covered at all times.
- Long and short sleeve T-shirts in any school approved uniform colors may be worn under the polo shirt. T-shirts may not have any visible markings, designs, writing, or lettering.
- Hair should be neat and clean and a natural color. No extreme hairstyles (Administration's discretion). Facial hair must be kept well groomed.
- Hats or sunglasses may only be worn outside.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Socks with simple designs (e.g. "athletic socks), appropriate to our Christian principles and values, may be worn in addition to solid socks in school approved uniform colors. Outlandish designs with vibrant colors will not be acceptable, unless worn in conjunction with specifically themed dress days. For liability reasons, certain footwear is prohibited, including: Flip-flops, open-toed sandals, boots, and shoes with no back strap.
- Tattoos (temporary or permanent), earrings or piercings are prohibited.
- Outerwear must include the school logo or MCS club/athletic identification. Outerwear may be worn in lieu of polo shirts but must be worn in such a manner as to completely conceal t-shirts if polo shirts are not worn.
- Jewelry and accessories must be modest.

### Specific Requirements for Girls:

In consideration of this Biblical standard, the appropriate school attire for girls while on school campus is as follows:

- Approved school uniform is to be worn as intended by the manufacturer. All clothes must fit properly. Frayed, dirty or ripped uniforms are not acceptable.
- Students have the option of wearing any solid blue, black, or khaki/tan slacks or jeans along with the uniform Polo shirt (which must bear the MCS logo). However, only school approved uniform shorts and skirts may be worn. Also, sweats and form fitting apparel such as jeggings, tights or leggings may not be worn, except with shorts, skirts, or dresses. However, athletic wear (including "joggers" and sweat/stretch pants) may not be substituted at any time for these uniform requirements. Pants and skirts must be worn at the waist, and cannot be altered or hemmed to change the style. If worn with a belt, it must be modest in design and without ornamentation.
- Shirts may be worn either in or out. Stomach and back must be covered at all times.
- Long and short sleeve T-shirts in any school approved uniform colors may be worn under the polo shirt. T-shirts may not have any visible markings, designs, writing, or lettering.
- Length of dresses, skirts and shorts must not be higher than 3 inches above the middle of the knee. Failure to comply with the standard set forth in this section may result in the loss of this uniform option.
- Hair should be neat and clean and natural in color. No extreme hairstyles (Administration's discretion).
- Hats or sunglasses may only be worn outside.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Socks with simple designs (e.g. "athletic socks), appropriate to our Christian principles and values, may be worn in addition to solid socks in school approved uniform colors. Outlandish designs with vibrant colors will not be acceptable, unless worn in conjunction with specifically themed dress days. Tights or leggings may only be worn with shorts, skirts, or dresses. For liability reasons, certain footwear is prohibited, including: Flip-flops, open-toed sandals, and shoes with no back strap. "Flat soled" or regular heeled boots are permitted.
- Tattoos (temporary or permanent) or piercings (other than ears) are prohibited.

- Outerwear must include the school logo or MCS club/athletic identification. Outerwear may be worn in lieu of polo shirts but must be worn in such a manner as to completely conceal t-shirts if polo shirts are not worn.
- Earrings, other jewelry, and accessories must be modest. Solid colored and patterned scarves in school approved colors may be worn any day of the week. Scarves with designs, markings, insignias, or writing may be worn on Casual Fridays, Spirit Days, or other designated non-uniform days, as long as any markings are consistent with biblical principles and the school's code of conduct and moral perspective.

## Spirit Days and Dress-Up Days

All dress code standards regarding the principles of modesty apply on spirit days and dress-up days. Students choosing not to participate in spirit/theme days must wear the school uniform.

### *High School Casual Fridays*

Students may wear their class T-shirt, spirit wear t-shirts, official University/Collegiate T-shirts and sweatshirts, MCS club shirts and sweatshirts, and Senior Class sweatshirts in lieu of MCS polo shirts and MCS outerwear.

### *Costume – Theme Days*

Students are invited to wear clothing appropriate to a specific theme as determined and published by the school administration and ASB.

If a student or parent is not sure about any aspect of the dress code or any article of clothing, they are advised to ask the principal directly for clarification before the student chooses to wear an item in question to school. The administration reserves the right to make decisions on all dress code issues and interpretations.

## Dress Code Violations

Students in violation of the MCS dress code will be asked to come in to compliance. If the student is unable to comply immediately, a BEN will be sent by the teacher/staff member to the parent/guardian and school administration, notifying them of the infraction.

A BEN will be generated with each infraction to inform the parents. Students committing a subsequent violation will be summoned by the Administration for consultation with referral to the parent/guardian for correction. Repeated disregard for dress code standards may result in more severe consequences, including the possibility of suspension or expulsion.

# Disciplinary Policies and Procedures

## Introduction

“Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.” Proverbs 19:20 The Bible exhorts us to discipline our children because of our great love for them. One of the most important lessons to be learned is the proper response to authority. To accomplish this task, we set disciplinary guidelines that are enforced consistently, fairly, and lovingly. Listed below are the guidelines for dealing with matters ranging from daily classroom situations to major problems. Maranatha High School reserves the right to handle each individual discipline situation uniquely as the Lord should lead, as well as individual situations which may fall outside of the guidelines of this handbook. All disciplinary decisions will be made prayerfully.

## Basic Disciplinary Guidelines

The Bible exhorts us to discipline our children because of our love for them. This philosophy should be a hallmark of Christian education. One of the most important lessons that students can learn is the proper response to and respect of authority. We recognize that “equipping students to fulfill God’s purposes in their daily lives,” will include circumstances that involve student discipline.

The purpose of discipline is to train/teach students according to God’s Word and is intended to bring about corrected behavior, or what the Bible calls the “fruits of righteousness.” Discipline is instruction that molds, shapes, corrects, and inspires appropriate behavior. It is one of the tools God uses to help develop Christ-likeness. It is therefore, our desire to maintain loving, yet firm disciplinary procedures that will encourage growth. Proverbs 13:24, 22:6; John 8:11, Hebrews 12:5, 9, 11; I Tim 4:12, and Gal 6:1.

Therefore, students enrolled at MCS, are expected to conduct themselves in such a way as to show at all times they understand and accept the school policies and rules that regulate student behavior. We endeavor to provide a safe, orderly and nurturing environment that honors our Lord Jesus Christ. This environment is conducive to learning and growth for each student and teaches them personal responsibility for their choices/decisions. Students accepted to MCS have agreed to forego specific behavior and attitudes identified fundamentally against the culture of the school and a relationship in Christ. Students accepted to MCS have agreed that while attending MCS they will endeavor to follow the principle of honoring Christ in actions and attitude. Those students choosing behaviors and actions contrary to the school culture are telling us by their actions they are no longer desirous of attending MCS.

The school administration reserves the right to handle unique individual situations that might not be described in the Parent/Student Handbook in a manner that it deems appropriate. MCS reserves the right at any time to dismiss a student from school who disrupts the tranquility of the school culture. Attendance at MCS is a privilege not a right. All disciplinary decisions are made prayerfully and the school administration reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding discipline.

The following are the guidelines for addressing day-to-day classroom situations, general violation of school policies, and major problems. Teachers are responsible for communicating and enforcing all classroom rules as well as MCS handbook rules and policies to students. Teachers will address all classroom infractions as well as minor infractions pertaining to the guidelines of discipline set forth by school policy. Habitual behavior problems require parental involvement. Students referred to the office for behavior offenses are subject to one or more of the following disciplinary options: 1. Parent notification (via behavior event notice (BEN), telephone call, e-mail or Referral), 2. Student

detention, which may include Saturday work details on MCS campus 3. Parent and student conference with administrator to develop a plan for changing the student's behavior; 4. Student suspension and/or student expulsion.

## Basic Disciplinary Procedures

### *Verbal Warning*

A teacher or school official will talk to the student(s) regarding a particular infraction.

### *Parent Communication/Email*

A Behavior Event Notice (BEN) will be emailed to inform the parent/guardian of the problem.

### *Detention/Saturday Work Detail*

Detention is designed to correct "minor" behavior and attendance violations. Parents will receive a BEN notifying them of the date, time, location, and the reason for the student's detention. Attendance at the assigned detention is mandatory. Detentions are usually held after school for one hour, though some teachers choose to utilize the lunch period.

### *Parent Conference*

A parent conference may be scheduled with the parent, student, teacher and an administrator, as determined by the nature of the issue.

### *Behavioral Probation*

MCS does not tolerate students who disrupt the school's academic program. Any student can be placed on behavioral probation for habitual misconduct or anytime that is deemed necessary in the best interest of the student and school.

The school administration will determine the length of the probationary period. A contract for improvement in the student's behavior will be developed at a parent/student conference with a school administrator.

Behavioral probation may last any period of time as deemed appropriate by the school administration, but typical probation terms will be an appropriate period of time, as determined by circumstances and the school administration. The student and his/her parent must meet with the principal and agree to the conditions of probation. Any violation of school rules or the conditions of probation as set forth in the contract during the period of probation will automatically result in a review of the status of the terms of probation and may result in suspension or expulsion. A progress report will be issued at established intervals as deemed appropriate while the student is on probation.

If desired improvement is not apparent throughout the probationary period, the student may receive more severe disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the school.

Any additional incident involving a student who has already been on a behavioral probation contract (including the preceding school year) that requires intervention by a school administrator may also result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the school.

### *Suspension*

Suspension is the removal of a student from participation in the normal course of school activities. MCS considers suspension to be a serious disciplinary action, which is imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about responsible behavior or when the student commits a major infraction that requires discipline measures beyond routine procedures.

Suspensions may be out of school or in-school usually for a period of one to five school days. The school principal will determine the terms of the suspension based upon the severity and frequency of the issue. All work assigned or due during the time of suspension will receive a zero with the exception of major projects and tests which must be made up immediately upon return. Students are responsible for identifying work assigned during their absence due to suspension. The student is not allowed to participate in any school activities from the date and time of parental notification through the date of suspension; this includes attendance at any school event as an observer or non-participant. A student who is suspended may also be placed on behavioral probation.

### *Dismissal*

Dismissal from MCS represents the most extreme form of disciplinary action. Dismissal will occur when it becomes apparent that a student is not able to meet the requirements of the school or the student's behavior is preventing classroom instruction.

Dismissal is at the discretion of the Discipline Review Committee which consists of the Superintendent and the divisional Principals, the Vice Principal and / or Academic Advisor, and any other members that the Superintendent deems appropriate. The Discipline Review Committee will interview the student and family faced with serious discipline issues and determines whether or not the student will remain enrolled at MCS. Depending on the severity of the misconduct, a student may be dismissed from school whether or not there has been any prior misconduct of record. Dismissal is the final disciplinary action taken by the school for that school year.

A student who has been dismissed from Maranatha Christian Schools may reapply for the following academic year provided the student has successfully completed a semester of work in an approved educational program, complied with all conditions established by the Discipline Review Committee at the time of dismissal, met all standard requirements for admission, and receives unanimous approval by the Discipline Review Committee.

Students and parents may meet with the principal reference any discipline assigned to a student for the purpose of understanding or to discuss the validity of the discipline; however the MCS administration reserves the right to make final decisions reference discipline. Students and parents are expected to comply with administrative decisions.

## Major Infractions – Office Referral

Major infractions include but are not limited to:

- Excessive classroom disruption
- Removal from class (students removed from class must go directly to the Principal's office)
- Defiance of Authority
- Destruction of Property/Vandalism/Graffiti/Pranks
- Fighting, physical harassment/threats
- Sexual misconduct
- Any illegal activity
- Obscene Act/Profane/Vulgar Language
- Stealing/Theft, possession of stolen property
- Venturing outside of approved areas
- Leaving campus without permission
- Violation of any State-Mandated Harassment Policy

Committing any of the infractions listed above may result in immediate suspension or dismissal.

## Reconciliation Process

The entire Bible is about reconciliation. The administration reserves the right to evaluate situations regarding student issues on a case by case basis. It is our goal that through this disciplinary process the student will grow and become more Christ-like through this restorative process.

## Respect and Addressing School Staff

Students should be prepared to follow directions given by any of the school staff. Students will show respect by addressing all adults on campus by appropriate titles, such as Pastor, Mr., Mrs., or Miss, prior to the staff member's last name.

## Zero Tolerance

Under no circumstances are illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or weapons of any kind allowed on campus or during any school activity. Offenders will be dealt with in a harsh manner including possible dismissal and criminal action. Maranatha Christian Schools will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of the law and reserves the right to conduct random searches to ensure the safety of our campus and protection of our students.

# Academic Policies and Procedures

## Introduction

Maranatha High School offers a curriculum based on a Christian perspective. We feel it is important to integrate scriptural principles into each area of the subject matter. It is our goal to teach students the basic knowledge necessary for today's world. The methods and content of each course are taught from a Biblical worldview and alternative views are evaluated and analyzed through the lens of scripture.

## Academic Honesty

It is the desire of Maranatha Christian Schools to create an educational atmosphere that encourages personal responsibility and integrity that honors God. (Colossians 3:23) Therefore, honesty is a character trait we expect from all our students. Several specific types of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to possession or use of Teacher Edition textbooks, cheating, forgery, and plagiarism, violations will result in disciplinary action, which includes:

### First Offense

- Student will receive a zero on homework, quiz, paper, test or project with no make-up permitted.
- Teacher will contact the parent(s) via a Behavior Event Notice (BEN) and notify Administration.

### Second Offense

- Student will receive a zero on homework quiz, paper, test or project with no make-up permitted.
- Parent and student conference with teacher and Administration; conference will be documented in a BEN
- Letter explaining the incident will be placed in the student's permanent file.
- Disciplinary action may include suspension.

### Third Offense

- Student will receive a zero on homework quiz, paper, test or project with no make-up permitted.
- Parent and student conference with school Administration.
- Letter explaining the incident will be placed in the student's permanent file.
- Student will be suspended pending consideration for dismissal from MCS.

## Academic Probation

Students may be placed on academic and athletic probation if the student's grade point average (GPA) is below a 2.0 (a "C" average) or if the student receives or an "F" in any course at the conclusion of any specifically identified grading period. The terms of the probation will be clearly stated in writing and discussed in a conference with both the student and parent(s). Terms of probation can include athletic and co-curricular ineligibility. Students who fail to meet the terms of the probationary period may be asked to withdraw from the school. The school administration reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding a student's academic probation.

## Class Schedule Changes

Class placement is prepared by the administration from the Course Selection Form submitted by the student(s). The primary focus is college-preparatory requirements with full consideration given to

elective choices. Any student failing to submit a Course Selection Form will be assigned to class(s) by the school administration. Schedule changes may be made with Administration's approval during the first two weeks of the semester for academic reasons only. A schedule change request form must be signed by the parent/guardian; students cannot facilitate changes without parental/guardian consent.

## Course Withdrawals

Withdrawals made during the third through the eleventh week of a semester will result in a "W" on the permanent transcript. This will not affect the student's GPA. Withdrawals after the eleventh week of the semester will result in a "WF" grade on the student's transcript, which will affect the students' GPA. The parent(s), teacher and the Administration will determine if a withdrawal is in the best interest of the student.

## Citizenship Grades

Conduct grades are given by each classroom teacher in the areas of social conduct, classroom conduct and work habits. The conduct codes are: O=Outstanding; S=Satisfactory; N=Needs Improvement; U=Unsatisfactory.

## Community Service Requirements

Our philosophy of community service is based upon God's Word. Our scriptural reference is clearly stated in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." We believe that it is God's will that each student gives of their time and talents to serve others. It is our desire to help students develop a mature Christian worldview and experience a closer walk with Jesus Christ through serving others. 10% of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester Bible grade is earned through completion of community service requirements.

All service projects must be approved by the Bible department and meet the following minimum hours of service each year. Failure to complete the required hours will result in a zero for the service component of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grade. The student must turn in a Service Requirement Form signed by the Bible teacher and the adult supervisor or agency. Forms will be retained by MCS for one year. Requirements per year by grades:

- Freshman 15 hours
- Sophomore 20 hours
- Juniors 25 hours
- Seniors 25 hours

The summer preceding the school year may be used to satisfy service hour requirements. Suggestions for satisfying service requirements can be provided by the Bible teacher. MCS provides many community services opportunities throughout the year ~~on occasion~~, but it is not the responsibility of the school to generate opportunities.

## Cumulative Records

Pursuant to California Education code, Section 49063, parents and students are hereby given notice of their privacy rights. Federal and state laws grant students over the age of 18 years, natural parents, adoptive parents, and legal guardians of minor children certain rights of privacy and rights to access to view all personally identifiable written records maintained by MCS.

Parents may view their child's cumulative record by making a written request to the school administration, upon which an appointment to view records will be scheduled. Information that is

alleged to be inaccurate or inappropriate may be removed with administrative review upon written request by parents/guardians. Copies of a student's records are available to parents upon request.

When a student moves to a new school, records will be forwarded upon written request from the new school. MCS cannot give files to the student or parents. A copy of the withdrawing student's transcript will be provided to the parents upon request and processed within two business days.

## Curriculum

The High School instructional program at MCS is designed to prepare students for college. Graduation requirements are designed to meet the University of California "a – g" admission requirements for academics and courses conforming to these standards have been submitted to the University of California System for approval.

## Failing Grades

Any High School student receiving a failing grade for a course that is required for graduation must repeat the course and earn a passing grade. We strongly encourage students to repeat any class in which a "D" is earned. Any High School student required to complete remedial work, must complete the remedial work prior to or concurrent with the next semester of work. Any failed class will require remediation through a credit recovery process.

## Grade Values

The school's grading scale is as follows:

A+	98-100	C+	77-79
A	94-97	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
		F	below 60

Students enrolled as a student-aid (TA) for a class period will receive a pass/no pass from the supervising teacher or staff member. Only one year may be completed as a TA; consistent attendance is required. This grade will not affect the GPA but will serve to inform the parents and administration of the student's contribution and will earn elective credit.

## Grading Policies

### *Homework/Late Assignments*

All assignments must be completed by the due date specified by the teacher, unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the teacher. All assigned work (except in cases of an excused absence) is due on the due date, no matter how minor or major the assignment. Students handing in assignments after the due date will receive a lower grade, including a "zero" grade, as determined by the teacher. Teachers will consider extreme circumstances beyond the student's control on an individual basis.

### *Incomplete*

An Incomplete semester grade ("I") will be issued when a circumstance beyond a student's control prohibits him or her from taking a final exam or completing any course work by the conclusion of the semester. A student will be required to make up an incomplete grade within two weeks of the end of the term. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher(s) to obtain a list of all missed assignments required to complete the course work. If course requirements are not completed within two weeks, a "zero" will be given for the incomplete work and a final grade will be determined and recorded. Students may request a "change of grade" form from the Guidance Coordinator.

### Make-Up Work

A student who is unable to turn in or complete any work (e.g. homework, tests, quizzes, etc.) due to an excused absence on the due date will be required to complete that work by the next class meeting. Make-up work for excused absences from more than one sequential class meeting will require arrangement and approval by the teacher.

Generally, it is understood that each class session missed due to excused absence will provide the student with an equal number of class meetings in order to make up the work. For example, a student who is “absent excused” on a Monday and Thursday when assignments are due would be required to make up all missed work before the end of the next two sessions attended by the student. The responsibility for identifying any missed assignments, making any arrangements with the teacher, and completing make-up schoolwork, rests ultimately with the student. Students who miss schoolwork due to truancy, suspension, or excessive absences will be subject to the policies pertaining to those conditions.

- **Make-up Policy UnExcused Absence:**
  - *Students may make-up any work at 50% of the original value of the assignment.*
- **Make-up Policy Truant:**
  - There is no opportunity to make-up work due to Truancy.
- **Make-up Policy Suspension:**
  - Students serving suspension may only make-up Tests and Major Assignments due on the date of suspension.

### Mid-Term & Final Exams

Exams, projects, or presentations will be administered to all high school students at the conclusion of each semester. These exams will count for a minimum of 10% up to 15% of the final semester grade. **No pre-arranged absences will be granted during mid-term/finals week.** An exam schedule will be published each semester prior to the testing period. These exams ideally represent a cumulative representation of the entire body of content presented during a given semester.

### HONOR/AP POLICY

These courses reflect college level rigor and seek to challenge students academically, and they provide a more demanding curriculum. Some of the benefits include developing a higher level of cognitive skills, improving analytical and writing skills, increasing reading comprehension, and helping develop strong study skills and work habits. Students wishing to enroll in Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses must be academically qualified and receive teacher recommendation.

Honors and AP courses are weighted classes. For example, an Honors or AP class is worth 5 points rather than the 4 points on a 4.0 GPA scale. Honors courses which do not have the AP designation are only weighted internally and will not be considered on a 5.0 scale by universities and colleges.

	A	B	C	D	F	
AP/Honors Scale	5	4	3	1	0	
Academic Scale		4	3	2	1	0

### Repeat Courses

Students may repeat the identical course to improve knowledge or grade; however, credit may only be earned for a course once, with the exception of those specifically noted as repeatable. The effect of a lower grade will be removed from the cumulative GPA with the higher grade being calculated in lieu of the lower grade. The first course will remain on the transcript as a matter or record and will be shown as a repeated class. The repeated course with the lower grade will be designated with a # on the transcript. For admission purposes, colleges may calculate a repeated grade at their discretion.

## MCS High School Graduation Requirements

A student will need a total of 250 required credits to graduate. Of these credits, 150 comprise required UC “a-g” course work. Five (5) credits are given for successful completion of each semester course. Students who have transferred to MCS from another high school will have their transcripts evaluated on an individual basis to determine how credits completed at another institution apply to MCS credit requirements. Most MCS courses are year-long courses; please confer with the Guidance Office prior to considering dropping any course.

MCS has developed its graduation requirements and curriculum, which are college preparatory, to help students meet the academic admissions criteria of the University of California system as well as the California State Universities and private colleges and universities. Students are required each year to take a sufficient number of credits to fulfill graduation requirements within four years. Typical course load is six or seven classes per year. Seniors are required to take at least 40 credits (four on-campus classes) but are encouraged to maintain a typical course load.

## MCS High School Graduation Ceremony Participation

Students who have not fulfilled MCS graduation requirements will not be allowed to take part in the High School graduation ceremonies without written administrative approval. A diploma will not be issued unless all graduation requirements have been met. The development of alternative academic paths with administrative approval may allow students to graduate without conforming to the “a-g” standards. Exceptions are granted rarely and only with the approval of the high school Principal, typically due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.

## Off Campus Courses

Prior approval by the Guidance Office and/or Principal must be obtained before any off-campus course will be accepted for course credit at MCS. All courses must avoid time conflict with regularly scheduled MCS classes - MCS will not make concession for off-campus courses taken during our regular school hours unless facilitated by the student schedule. No more than two off-campus classes will be authorized (including courses taken for remedial work) throughout a student’s four year career.

## ParentsWeb

Maranatha high school considers it a priority to communicate with parents regarding their student’s academic progress. ParentsWeb by RenWeb is a valuable tool that allows parents and students to be connected in the academic process and make informed decisions correlated to their students’ specific needs.

Parents are strongly encouraged to establish a ParentWeb login and make it a priority to utilize this as a significant source of information on: class grades, homework and lesson plans, report cards , progress reports and attendance.

## Physical Education

P.E. grades will be based equally on participation, uniform compliance, and the instructor's classroom curriculum requirements.

## Privacy

Access to pupil records is in accordance with Education Code Sections 49063 and 49013 through 49077.

## Report Cards and Progress Reports

The school year is divided into two semesters. Each semester includes two six-week Progress Reports and a final semester Report Card. Report Cards indicate the student's academic performance during the term. They may contain comments designed to advise students and parents of areas of excellence and or need. Semester reports will show grades, GPA, excused and unexcused absences and tardy record.

Two Progress Reports are issued during each semester at approximately six-week intervals to inform parents of the child's progress. Reports are typically issued following the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> week of each semester. Parents can view their child's grades at any point during the term through RenWeb. MCS encourages parents to communicate with teachers and to initiate conferences when the need arises throughout the school year.

Progress Reports will be distributed via email through Ren Web; Report Cards will be distributed within two weeks following the end of the semester. Delays may occur due to holidays.

**It is the responsibility of all parents and students to be current with information presented from a variety of sources, including MCS website (maranathachristianschools.org), student RenWeb accounts and email, Eagle Express, the Parent/Student Handbook, and other social media.**

## Special Recognition and Awards

### *Honor Roll*

At the end of each semester, students achieving certain academic levels of performance during the entire semester are recognized. A list of students who have achieved this academic distinction will be published in selected mediums as deemed appropriate by the administration.

- Principal's Honor Roll 4.0 GPA or greater in all subjects
- Honor Roll 3.5 to 3.9 GPA

### *Salutatorian*

Salutatorian status is awarded to the student who earns the second highest total weighted grade point average through the 12-week grading period of the spring semester. Individuals must be enrolled at MCS during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and complete three full years of study at MCS to be eligible for this award. In the case of a GPA tie, objective measures will be used to select the Salutatorian. Co-Salutatorian status may be awarded to each student. Citizenship is also an important component of this status and students may be disqualified from this honor if they possess an unsatisfactory behavior record.

### *Valedictorian*

Valedictorian status is awarded to the student who earns the highest total weighted grade point average through the 12-week grading period of the spring semester. Individuals must be enrolled at MCS during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and complete three full years of study at MCS to be eligible for this award. In the case of a GPA tie, objective measures will be used to select the Valedictorian. Co-Valedictorian status may be given to each student. Citizenship is also an important component of this status and students may be disqualified from this honor if they possess an unsatisfactory behavior record.

### *Year-End Awards*

Barnabas Award – Given to two students from each grade level who exemplifies outstanding Christian character during the school year. (Acts 4; 36: 11:22b – 23)

### *Superintendent's Award*

This award is given to one senior who best demonstrates excellence in academics, spirituality, school spirit and citizenship. This award is voted on by the faculty and administration.

Throughout the school year students are periodically recognized for a variety of efforts and activities, such as athletics, Art Festival, Math Club, etc.

## Summer School

Summer school is designed to provide students with options for enrichment, remedial work or credit advancement. Prior approval must be obtained from the Guidance Officer before any summer school course can be taken for MCS credit.

## Transcripts

Students may request up to ten transcripts free of charge. Any transcripts ordered over and above ten will cost \$5.00 each. If a transcript needs to be mailed internationally, a fee of \$10.00 will apply per transcript. Typically, official transcripts are submitted via Naviance through the Guidance Office.

## Transfer Credits

Each student's transfer credits from a previous school must be evaluated by the school Guidance Office and/or Principal to determine how those credits apply to the MCS graduation requirements. In addition, the Guidance Office and/or Principal must give prior approval before a student takes any outside (i.e. off-campus) course(s), even if it is to make-up an "F" or an "Incomplete" grade.

# STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Introduction

At MCS, we believe in the safety of every student, staff member and visitor on campus. It is our duty to protect our students as they are on our campus every day.

## Bicycles, Skateboards and Rollerblades

Bicycles are not to be ridden on campus. Students are to walk bicycles at all times while on the school grounds. Bicycles are to be parked and locked only in designated area. Students are not allowed to go to the bicycle parking area during school hours without permission. The school is neither liable nor responsible for damage to or loss of bicycles. Students riding bicycles on the school grounds or otherwise violating the bicycle rules may lose their privilege to park a bicycle at school. Skateboards, roller blades, scooters, razors or other similar equipment are not permitted on the school property at any time.

## Bullying Prevention

### *Bullying*

Bullying is the repeated actions or threats of action directed toward a person by one or more people who have or are perceived to have more power or status than their target in order to cause fear, distress or harm.

### *Cyberbullying*

Cyberbullying is the intentional and repeated mistreatment of others through the use of technology, such as computers, cell phones and other electronic devices, and social media.

Maranatha Christian Schools (MCS) prohibit any discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, gender; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with people who share any of these characteristics. Prohibited discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying includes physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on one of the categories listed above that is so severe and pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities or ability to participate in school sponsored programs or activities.

Students and parents are encouraged to notify school staff when they are being bullied or suspect that another student is being victimized. When the circumstances involve cyber-bullying, individuals with information about the activity are encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyber-bullying.

Reasonable efforts will be made to keep a report of bullying or harassment and the result of the investigation confidential. The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any student who files a complaint or report regarding an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Intentionally false reports, use of the complaint process, or statement to defame a fellow student or staff member for any illegitimate reason, will result in disciplinary consequences.

MCS High School takes a very proactive, positive approach to generate a campus culture of Christ like behavior that promotes unity and voice within the student body. The promotion of a Biblical World View in all aspects of student life, from the class room to co-curricular activities all contribute to a safe secure environment for everyone on campus. Students are educated and trained to contextualize information through this Biblical World View and to make practical, discerning decisions about the world in which they live which may not always share their values. Using information such as the chart below, parents are encouraged to help teach their students to distinguish between what is and is not considering bullying and appropriate ways to address it.

Rosalind Wiseman, best-selling author and bullying prevention expert presents the distinction between conflict and bullying.

<i>What Bullying is...</i>	<i>What Bullying is Not...</i>
Repeated aggressive behavior	Not liking someone
Intended to cause harm (physical or emotional)	Accidentally bumping into someone
An attempt by one or more individuals to gain power over another	A single act of telling a joke about someone
Physical: Hitting, kicking, pushing, destroying property	Expression of unpleasant thoughts or feelings regarding others
Verbal/Written: Threatening, name-calling, teasing, taunting	Arguments or disagreements
Social/Emotional: Terrorizing, spreading rumors, intimidating, humiliating, blackmailing, isolating	Being excluded from a game or group on the playground (unless being done regularly and with intention to hurt the feelings of another)
Cyber-bullying: Using technology to bully others verbally, emotionally and/or socially	Isolated acts of harassment, aggressive behavior, intimidation or meanness

## Child Abuse Reporting

The state of California requires childcare providers and teachers to report any suspected incident of possible child abuse or neglect. We are legally obligated to comply with these guidelines.

## Communicable Disease

When a student is found to have a disease, which is considered to be communicable, he/she will need a written consent from a physician or the County Health Department before returning to school.

## Disaster / Emergency Preparedness

MCS recognizes its legal and moral responsibility to provide for the safety of its students and staff, especially in disaster situations. The school is also aware of its role to work cooperatively with other community agencies to prepare for and effectively deal with a disaster situation in our community. Consequently, it is the intent of the school to assure the optimum safety and welfare of the students and staff. We have developed an effective disaster/emergency preparedness plan and provided the appropriate instruction and practice to carry out that plan. We provide opportunities throughout the school year to practice these plans to make all aware of how to respond during the occurrence of an emergency. Copies of the Emergency Preparedness Plan as well as the Incident Command System Plan are located on the MCS Intranet.

## Health Verification

Sports physicals are required for junior and senior high school students wishing to participate in interscholastic sports. If your child has a special health issue or a medical history, which may affect school performance, please notify the school nurse and the administration so that we may work together in the event an emergency should arise.

## Parking Lot and Drop-Off Procedures

### Morning Drop-Off Procedures

1. Morning drop-off traffic flow begins when turning onto Maranatha Drive, Northbound.
2. Single file traffic moves along Maranatha Drive to the North parking lot entrance.
3. Once you have turned into the parking lot, there are two options.

Option a): TURN LEFT FOR PARKING: Once you have parked your vehicle, elementary students must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian to the drop-off point located at the school front gate. Please do not stop to drop students off until parked in the parking lot. Failure to comply with this directive endangers students exiting vehicle, and slows the normal flow of traffic. To maintain safety and order, walk only in the yellow crosswalks.

Option b): TURN RIGHT FOR DROP-OFF: Once you turn right, stay in the drive through lane. This end of the parking lot is designated for staff parking only. The flow of traffic moves through the parking lot to the designated drop-off zone. Always follow the direction of the MCS Attendants. The drop off zone is located along the Red Fire curb in front of the courtyard. It is a designated area in which cars must come to a complete stop to off load students safely.

Once stopped in the drop off zone, students may exit your vehicle and walk directly onto the school campus. ***Please do not park or drop off your student anywhere before you enter the drop off zone. Once again, follow the directions from the MCS Attendants.***

### Afternoon Drop-Off Procedures

1. Junior High and High School students are allowed to leave the courtyard pick up area and walk out to waiting vehicles once you have parked in a designated parking space.
2. Do not stop, park, or pick up students at any time along the RED FIRE CURB or in the parking lot drive- through lanes for Afternoon Pick-up. Please do not park in handicap parking spaces at any time unless you have a Handicap Sticker or placard.
3. If a student has stayed after school for sports practice, After School Care Programs or tutoring, please follow all parking lot procedures for Afternoon Pick-up.
4. Please do not park in specially designated stalls, those reserved for Seniors as evidenced by painting or other indicators, and those reserved by signage.

The following procedures are included for reference only, as they pertain to Elementary students, and for safety reasons it is important to be aware of their pick-up procedures.

1. When picking up Elementary and Kindergarten students, park your vehicle in a designated parking space, walk to the court yard pick-up area, then back to your car with your student. On-duty teachers will sign out students as they leave with their designated guardian or parent.
2. Once you have picked up your student, they are under your supervision. They are not allowed to run around, play games, throw or kick balls, etc. during this time. Students are not allowed to wander around the campus or the parking lot. Please be considerate of others and the school property.

## Parking Privileges

Student parking at Maranatha Christian School is a privilege and requires compliance with all parking and traffic regulations. Regardless of grade or age, written parental consent is required for a student to park on MCS property. A parking application must be filled out and on file with Administration.

Student vehicles must be parked in the designated areas at the south end of the parking lot. A maximum of 5 mph speed limit must be obeyed while driving in the parking lot. Abuse or carelessness when operating a vehicle on campus may lead to disciplinary action; including restriction of the student's parking privileges.

Vehicles are to be driven only on paved roads and parking lots, not on open areas, sidewalks, or athletic fields. If at any time an adult reports your name or vehicle due to a violation mentioned in the parking application guidelines, consequences may be administered. The school is not responsible for damage to vehicles parked in the lot or for lost or stolen items left in the car.

## P.E./Restriction of Physical Activities

A note from a parent is required if a student is to be excused from P.E. for 1-2 days. A physician's note is required if a student needs to be excused from PE for more than 2 days

## Problem Solving Procedures

MCS desires to handle all concerns in a Biblical manner, through the principles of Matthew 18:15-17 and Philippians 2:14. Please help us handle concerns effectively and in a Christian manner by following these scriptural guidelines. We want to satisfactorily handle each problem, and we realize this can only happen through proper communication and support.

When we follow these procedures, if effectively builds positive relationships and communication. In the event of a concern, problem or misunderstanding, here is the step by step procedure to follow:

- All concerns should go directly to the Teacher, Coach or Staff member involved. If the situation persists, approach that individual a second time; sometimes issues and concerns need clarification and time.
- If attempts to resolve the issue with the appropriate personnel are unsuccessful, contact the respective department head, Assistant Principal, or Principal to schedule a meeting with all parties involved.
- The Principals bare responsibility for resolving conflicts that occur within their divisions. A meeting may be scheduled with the Superintendent only after the Principals have been given an opportunity to address the concerns.
- If the Superintendent is unable to resolve the situation, the concerns may be submitted to the MCS School Board in a letter specifically stating the issues and the individuals involved. The MCS Board, at the next regularly scheduled meeting, will consider the written correspondence and a response will be given accordingly.

## State-Mandated Harassment Policy

In order to be in full compliance of state law, MCS must distribute the following Student Harassment policies to each family enrolled.

MCS is committed to providing an academic environment in which all individuals treat each other with dignity and respect and which is free from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, bullying, both verbal and electronic harassment, including sexual harassment. This policy prohibits harassment/bullying, including verbal, non-verbal and physical harassment. MCS believes that students have the right to learn in an atmosphere, which is most conducive to the achievement of their fullest potential. As such, guidelines have been established to help students discern when the line between playful interaction and disrespectful behavior has been crossed.

A student who feels they have been harassed should immediately contact a school employee or administrator. Students who observe harassing conduct are encouraged to report the matter to a school employee or administrator promptly. All complaints will be investigated promptly and appropriate corrective action will be taken. Every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the parties involved in any complaint. However, MCS reserves the right to fully and completely

investigate every complaint, and to notify the student's parent/guardian and appropriate law enforcement agencies as the circumstances warrant. It is against the school's policy to discriminate or retaliate against any person who has filed a complaint.

## Student Life

### After School Care Program

High school students are expected to leave school property following their final class of the day unless they are involved in school sponsored co-curricular activities (e.g. performing arts, athletics, & clubs). When students must stay after dismissal due to transportation arrangements with younger siblings, they must stay in areas designated specifically for high school students (e.g. lunch tables, student lounge, etc.). After school care is not provided for high school students, except through their co-curricular activities.

### Announcements/Advertisements/Signs/Banners

All posters, bulletins, signs, banners, or other items of information posted on our campus must be approved by a program advisor, director, or administrator before posting. Advertisements about events not relating to our school will not generally be approved by the Principal for posting. Spirit posters and campaign materials may be posted on railings and fences by string or other approved materials. Advertisements cannot be posted on any buildings (including the gym or any stucco buildings), doors, or on trees.

### Associated Student Body

The Associated Student Body (ASB) is a student service-oriented organization that has been established to promote leadership and improve communication among students, staff, parents and community. ASB officers will be given opportunities to gain experience in self-government and fiscal responsibility. Officers build school spirit while serving the school and fellow students.

ASB officers and class representatives are given opportunity to apply for positions in the spring semester and are expected to attend regular ASB meetings and participate in ASB activities. In order for a student to be an ASB officer or a class representative, the student must have a 2.5 GPA for the semester preceding the application and selection process.

ASB representatives must maintain a 2.5 GPA during all grading periods in which they hold an office. Should a student's GPA fall below 2.5, the student shall be given notice and provided the opportunity during the next grading period to raise the grade to the required level. Should the student fail to raise their grade by the next progress grade report, the student may no longer participate in student council. Students must obtain teacher recommendation as part of the application process.

ASB students successfully fulfilling their responsibilities will receive 2.5 credits per semester of service and a "Pass" on the corresponding semester Report Card." It is possible to receive a Fail for not fulfilling the responsibilities of the office or position held. Students taking ASB class are awarded 5 semester credits for successful completion using the standard grading letter grade system.

### Back to School Night

The school hosts this important evening at the start of the school year designed for parents to come to school and meet their child's teachers. At that time, they are available to "meet and greet", but this is not a time to confer on personal issues. No childcare is provided – parents are encouraged to leave their children at home.

## Carpool Information

MCS does not coordinate any carpool opportunities; it is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to ensure reliable transportation to and from school. RenWeb/ParentWeb is a digital resource to assist in the identification of other families living in your area who are willing to be contacted for ride sharing.

## Chapel

Chapel will be held each Wednesday according to the published bell schedule time. Chapel is mandatory for all students, regardless of individual class schedules and is considered an integral component of the school program. Parents are welcome to attend at any time (though seating is limited). However, you must sign in at the front desk, as required by all visitors.

## Co-Curricular Activities

Activities are important aspects of the total school program. School activities enrich the curriculum and some of the most important learning experiences result from participation in such activities. School-sponsored activities must have a faculty sponsor, adequate number of chaperones and administrative approval.

Some of the school-related activities include:

Interscholastic Athletics	ASB/Student Council
Cheer Squad	Worship/Praise Band
Drama and Musicals	Clubs
Mission Trips/Service	International Space Station

## College and Career Guidance

MCS offers college and career guidance to assist students and families who are seeking information regarding educational opportunities, financial aid information, and career opportunities. The school endeavors to provide each student with the appropriate information and guidance toward high school graduation, career options, or college entrance goals.

Each October, during regular school hours, MCS administers the PSAT to all Sophomore and Junior students, at no additional cost to parents. The PSAT is a preparation test for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The SAT assesses a student's critical reading, math and writing skills and should be taken during the 11<sup>th</sup> and/or 12<sup>th</sup> grade year of high school.

MCS is committed to preparing students for post-secondary opportunities, and partners with outside entities to provide sufficient resources to meet the needs of our community.

## Communication

Healthy relationships are maintained through good communication. Parents are expected to read several publications in their entirety in order to remain apprised of developments at the school. The school cannot be held responsible for the inconvenience caused (to the parents) when properly published information goes unnoticed. **It is the responsibility of all parents and students to be current with information presented from a variety of sources, including MCS website ([maranathachristianschools.org](http://maranathachristianschools.org)), student RenWeb accounts and email, Eagle Express, the Parent/Student Handbook, and other social media.** MCS strives to keep communication lines open in all areas.

## Dance Guidelines

1. No immodest or sexually suggestive dancing such as front to back dancing or “sandwiches” will be allowed
2. All students must maintain an upright position, but we acknowledge that exceptions (e.g. “break dancing”) can be acceptable forms of dance expression that would be a deviation from this guideline.
3. No dancing, which could cause harm to one’s self or others, or otherwise poses a safety risk (e.g. “Slam Dancing, “moshing”) will be permitted.
4. Dance Dress Attire – Students and their guests will be expected to dress modestly for dances. Those with inappropriate clothing will be required to leave or wait with a staff member until proper attire is brought. Low fronts, bare midriffs, or short shirts and shorts are not permitted. MCS generally publishes guidelines before each event.
5. Junior High students, those not yet attending high school, may not attend MCS dances, whether as guests from another school, or as current MCS Junior High students.
6. Students who are over the age of 18 are not permitted as guests, unless they are alumni with advance approval by the High School Principal.

The administration of MCS recognizes that dance events are intended to be fun, expressive events through which students can engage socially. Due to evolving terminology and dance moves, these guidelines are not intended to be a comprehensive list of approved or disallowed dances, as that list will be always be changing. The general operating principles should be modesty and safety, and the intent behind these guidelines is to provide a safe, wholesome, socially engaging opportunity for our students. Any student who demonstrates by their actions that they are unwilling to abide by these guidelines will be excused from the event with no opportunity for refund.

## Division Coordinators

The Division Coordinator’s volunteer role is to partner with MCS’ Junior High & High School Principals, acting as liaisons between MCS’ administration and MCS’ families on a broad spectrum of issues and activities in support of MCS’ Mission, Vision, and Core Values. As active, involved members of the MCS community, Coordinators represent a unique perspective on the perceptions, attitudes and sentiments of our families. Coordinators’ unique role with the administration allows them to conversely convey the position of the school in such a manner that encourages unity and healthy relationships. Meetings will be held as appropriate to address the needs of the organization.

## Field Trip Policy

Our teachers conduct well-planned field trips. All students are expected to participate in field trips which are required components of our academic curriculum. Permission slips are required for students to participate. The Administration/staff will notify parents in advance of scheduled trips.

MCS provides bus transportation for most school field trips though the vast majority of athletic events rely on parent volunteers for transportation. Students attending field trips are required to ride the bus, unless special arrangements and permission is given by the school administration. All drivers and chaperones must by comply with established chaperone and field trip policies. Chaperones must submit a Volunteer, Level II Application and receive live scan clearance. Forms should be submitted 30 days prior to any needed clearance. A copy of the driver’s license and proof of insurance must be filed with the school office **before** transporting any MCS student.

**Chaperones must leave with the school, remain with the group, and return with the school for every field trip.** Parents are not allowed to meet up with the class at the field trip location or join in while a trip is in progress. **All students must leave with the school as well as return with the school.** No siblings or family members can join the field trip in progress.

**Note:** The Administration/staff has the final word in all parent/chaperone assignments, instructions for, and participation in the field trip and any other matters pertaining to the field trip. (Please refer to the Athletic Handbook for policies pertaining to students driving students to and from athletic events).

## Food and Drinks

Students are not allowed to bring food and drinks inside the school buildings, except for school sponsored events or by prior approval from the teacher.

## Fundraising by Student Organizations

Any class, club or other school-related groups (e.g. athletics, performing arts, ASB, etc.) involved with fundraising must collaborate and coordinate efforts with the Director of Development and the Principal to ensure that its projects comply with the overarching fundraising philosophy adopted by the school. Final authority on all fundraising efforts resides with the Superintendent. Accounting procedures must be followed in all cases involving the collection and payment of money.

## General Concerns, Ideas, and Suggestions

Concerns, ideas or suggestions that involve the whole school or a particular department can be given to the department leader or complete a suggestion form and return it to MCS school office. Please sign your name so we can adequately solve the problem or follow through properly. Anonymous letters will be disregarded.

## Gum

Chewing gum is not allowed at any time on the school campus.

## Inter-Scholastic Athletics

Students interested in playing sports should contact the Athletic Director for specific details related to cost and eligibility. An Athletic Handbook will be published with specific program information. Academic eligibility will be determined at the end of each grading period. In order to be eligible, any student, including those entering from the 8th grade, must have achieved an unweighted 2.0 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) with no fails in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period. A student who does not achieve these requirements in the previous grading period may remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. A grading period, as defined by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), is that period of time in which all students receive grades. MCS' academic year is divided into six six-week grading periods (three per semester). All students must maintain a 2.0 GPA, with no failing grade, to establish and maintain athletic eligibility. A student who falls below 2.0 or who has a failing grade will be placed on athletic probation for one grading period. If after that time the student does not meet the described academic standards, that student will become ineligible for athletics. They will remain ineligible in subsequent grading periods until they satisfy the academics requirement set forth by CIF regulations and MCS. Other terms of probation will be communicated in writing and discussed in conference with the parent(s) and student(s).

## Library Policy

As of this time, MCS does not operate a school library. Resources have been distributed to the various departments (content areas) and may be available through the teacher. Any questions about available reading materials should be directed to the respective teachers.

## Lockers

With the onset of digital curriculum and the one-to-one iPad program, the need for school issued lockers has diminished. At the outset of each school year, students have the option of acquiring use and access to a school locker. Students must provide locks for the school issued locker; only school-issued locks may be used on school lockers.

Students are responsible for the condition and contents of the locker assigned to them, and lockers are subject to inspection by administration at any time without notice; because of this, students are discouraged from changing or sharing lockers with other students. Students should not affix stickers or contact paper to lockers as it may damage the surface. MCS is not responsible for loss or damage to items left in lockers, especially when the locker has not been locked as required.

P.E. students will be issued separate locks and lockers for regular PE classes and interscholastic athletics.

## Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles should take the article to the lost and found location or front office where it can be identified and claimed by its rightful owner. Unclaimed items will be donated to a charity on a periodic basis. Parents/Students are strongly encouraged to label clothing and other personal items to help in the restoration of lost and found items.

## Lunch Program

All students are encouraged to eat a nutritious lunch either brought from home or bought from the MCS lunch program. Students may purchase a hot lunch from MCS. The school office will send out information regarding this program at the beginning of the school year. It is expected that students arrive on campus prepared with lunch. It is difficult for our front office to facilitate delivery of forgotten lunches to students. Under no circumstances are students allowed to use delivery services or to receive lunch/food by anyone through the perimeter fence.

## Messages to Students in the Classroom

The office will not deliver non-emergency messages or allow unexpected classroom visits to students during instructional time. These are distracting and disruptive to the learning environment. Class will only be interrupted during instruction time for emergencies. Please do not text or call your child's cell phone or pager during the school day, as student use of cell phones is prohibited during class time.

## Off-Campus (Non MCS) Activities

Maranatha Christian Schools does not endorse, promote or encourage students to attend "after parties" following the Junior Senior Prom. Parents who permit their children to attend must understand these events are not school sanctioned and should take all precautions necessary to educate themselves as to the level of adult supervision, type of activity, safety/security of facilities, MCS assumes no responsibility for such events.

## Parent Action Committee (PAC)

The purpose of PAC is to establish a working relationship with parents that unite the spiritual and educational aims of the school with the home.

- To foster deeper relationships with MCS parents
- To become a volunteer force behind school events, activities, and fundraising
- Help communicate important school information throughout the year
- Most of all, to glorify God in the process

## Social Conduct Parameters

MCS encourages the development of healthy, God-glorifying relationships. Students involved in relationships should maintain a Godly example in speech, conduct and purity at all times. Students are to refrain from inappropriate public displays of affection on campus and/or at school-sponsored activities. Kissing, hugging, handholding, and other forms of personal affection are not permitted on campus or at any school-related activity. It is important to remember the influence that high school behavior (positive and negative) can have on the younger students.

Interpersonal relationships should be above reproach and should draw people closer to God, not cause them to stumble and fall away from Him. Each student should be personally responsible for the integrity of his/her relationships. The staff and administration will deal with inappropriate behavior on an individual basis.

## School Directory

The school publishes an all-school directory on Renweb.

## School Property

The materials and facilities at Maranatha Christian Schools are dedicated to God and His service. Each individual is responsible for what he or she is issued. The student's family must pay for any misuse of the school's buildings, equipment, and lost/damaged books or materials. Students will be financially responsible for replacement of any books owned by the school that are lost, stolen or returned in unusable condition. All school property is subject to inspection by authorized school personnel at any time without prior notice.

## Student Electronic Device Policy

High school students may only use cell phones prior to the first bell, during break and lunch, and after school. Use of cell phones at any other time is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their phones are silenced and stored out of sight while in class.

Due to advances in technology, cell phones include a multitude of functions, which can provide students access to a variety of inappropriate materials. Students who use their cell phones in a manner counter to Christ-like behavior, or principles or policies defined in the "Code of Conduct" will have the privilege of possessing, accessing, and/or using the cell phone on campus revoked. Examples of inappropriate use of cell phones can include, but are not limited to: viewing or sharing pornographic material, sexting, misuse of camera and video functions, music with obscene or offensive lyrics, any form of academic dishonesty, etc. The Administration reserves the right to evaluate and determine the appropriateness of all matters relevant to this policy.

### *iPad Use*

- Students must abide by all school rules as outlined in the MCS Student/Parent Handbook.
- Students must attend an iPad orientation before they may use an iPad on campus.
- Students are responsible for their iPad. MCS is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged iPads.
- Students and parents understand that if an iPad is confiscated for misuse and the student has work on the iPad that needs to be turned in or presented, the student will receive a zero on that work.
- Students and Parents acknowledge that any staff member at MCS may review the contents of any iPad at any time. If a student has a passcode on their iPad, the passcode must be

provided at the request of any staff member. Students and parents acknowledge that MCS may and will conduct random iPad checks and check any type of information on the iPad.

- Parents agree to monitor iPad content and to monitor student use of the iPad while not on campus.
- MCS reserves the right to block any website or app from being visited or used while on campus, for any reason.
- Students are responsible for bringing their charged iPad to school each day. Participation or preparedness grades will be lowered for students who do not have their iPad or are not able to use their iPad when directed.
- iPads are treated as electronic devices as described in the Parent/Student Handbook, and therefore may be used before school, at break and lunch and after school. Downloading non-school apps, streaming video or audio or playing internet connected games on school property is prohibited as wireless access is a privilege shared among all members of the MCS community. Use of a VPN is prohibited.
- All iPad wallpaper and backgrounds must be school-appropriate. The student's name must be readable on the lock screen wallpaper.
- All iPads must be in a case while on school property.
- iPads will be used in classes at the teachers discretion, but must be put away or turned off at teacher direction.
- Students are responsible for updating their apps and the iPad software on a regular basis.
- It is the responsibility of the student to back up his/her files. Best practices and procedures will be covered at the iPad orientation.
- Only iPads which have been brought to the iPad orientation may connect to the school's wireless network. Any attempt to connect other devices to the wireless network will be blocked. **Connecting or attempting to connect to any MCS network other than the student designated network will result in an immediate iPad check and potentially other disciplinary actions.**
- Phones and other devices may not be used as wireless hot spots on school property.

#### *Digital Citizenship and activities strictly prohibited for all iPads*

All students attending Maranatha Christian Schools are expected to be responsible and use discernment in matters of digital citizenship, whether using a personal cell phone, electronic devices, an iPad or one of the school computers or electronic devices. Student show good digital citizenship by not:

- Bypassing (or attempting to bypass) the MCS web filter
- Gaining access to other students' accounts, files, and/or data
- Cheating
- Illegally installing or transmitting copyrighted materials
- Installing inappropriate apps or media
- Sending, accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing materials that are offensive, threatening, profane, obscene, or sexually suggestive
- Using technology to threaten, bully, or harass others, physically, sexually, or verbally. Harassment may be a one-time event or persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person
- Viewing or showing others or distributing inappropriate material (such as material containing lewd, sexually suggestive, or graphically violent images or demeaning, derogatory, or hateful speech)
- Using lewd, obscene, profane, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, abusive or disrespectful language online or in emails
- Knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization
- Taking photos and/or recording sound or video in class unless it is part of a class or lesson

- Taking photos, recording sound or video without permission of all people involved
- Posting information that could interfere with the educational process or cause a danger of disruption
- Posting private information about yourself or another person online
- Reposting private messages without permission of the person who sent the message
- Posting photos or videos or sending them to others without the permission of all people involved
- Using the iPad to play games, text, or attempt to access any social networks during class time without teacher permission
- Using technology in any way that disrupts any classroom activity or school function

### *Consequences:*

Students and Parents agree that any inappropriate use of the iPad will result in school discipline as outlined:

- **First offense** - Verbal warning
- **Second offense** - Confiscation of iPad for remainder of period and BEN sent home
- **Third offense** - Confiscation of iPad for remainder of period, BEN sent home, and detention or lunch detention
- **Fourth offense** - Confiscation of iPad for remainder of period, BEN sent home, and detention or lunch detention
- **Fifth offense** - Confiscation of iPad for the rest of the day with iPad sent to the Principal's office, BEN sent home, and email to staff
- **Sixth offense** - Confiscation of iPad for the rest of the day with iPad sent to the Principal's office, BEN sent home, email to staff, and conference between parents and administration.

**Maranatha Christian Schools reserves the right to amend the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook with reasonable notice.**

## Student Technology Use Policy

MCS is committed to providing students with opportunities to develop and use technology skills that are essential for learning, working and living. Therefore, it is our goal to educate students about efficient, ethical and appropriate use of those resources. All technologies are used to meet curriculum objectives such as the ability to access resources for reference and research; reference up-to date primary sources; conduct searches and evaluate resources, consult with experts in a variety of fields, or communicate with students from other schools on situations or areas of interest.

It is important that students understand the privileges and responsibilities of using the Internet and MCS computer networks and resources. Internet use is a privilege, not a right. All users and parent/guardian will be required to read and sign an agreement, which will provide detailed information on acceptable and unacceptable use of the Internet and network and associated devices. Our school adheres to our Code of Ethics and the biblical principle of Philippians 4:8.

The student is held responsible for their actions whenever using the schools computers or Internet. Inappropriate uses of the school resources may result in the suspension of these privileges. The following examples of unacceptable use are not exhaustive:

- Conduct any activity that is prohibited by law.
- Access sites that the school would deem inappropriate (pornographic, unlawful, obscene or otherwise objectionable material).
- Use the service to interfere, disrupt and or modify the performance of our system, equipment and services.
- Violate copyright or other intellectual property rights.
- Illegally store, use distribute or copy software.

- Transmit threatening, obscene or offensive materials.
- Downloading viruses or attempting to circumvent virus protection programs.
- Posting personal information about yourself or others. This includes information such as home address, telephone number, financial information, etc.
- Load, attempt to load or use any unauthorized discs, programs or files.
- **Students are not permitted to use faculty/staff computers.**

## Social Media

Social media is defined as any form of online publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including, but not limited to, social networks, blogs, internet websites, internet forums, and wikis. (Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Google+, and Flickr.)

Social media is part of our current day culture and utilized by students, parents and staff on a regular basis and for a variety of purposes. Although it is often used after school hours and/or off campus, in keeping with our desire to be Christ- like in all areas of our lives, students are expected to use social media in a positive, responsible manner.

In order to maintain a professional and appropriate relationship with students, MCS employees will not communicate with students who are currently enrolled in schools on personal social media sites. This provision is subject to the following exceptions: (a) communication with relatives and (b) if an emergency situation requires such communication, in which case the employee should notify his/her supervisor of the contact as soon as possible, c) the staff member is communicating with groups of students simultaneously; it is recommended that parents be included in such communications.

When a student or minor wishes to link to an employee's personal social media site, they will be directed to a school approved social media account. Accepting invitations (friend requests, etc.) to an employee's personal social media sites from parents, alumni over the age of 18, or colleagues may be done at the employee's discretion. Accepting invitations to an employee's personal social media sites from current students (regardless of age and division) and current or former students under the age of 18 is prohibited.

MCS employees who choose to engage in professional social media activities will maintain separate professional email addresses and social media accounts for this purpose. The professional social media presence will utilize a professional email address that is completely separate from any personal social media presence maintained by the employee.

**Professional Social Media** is a work-related social media activity that is school-based (e.g., MCS establishing a Facebook page for the school or a teacher establishing a blog for his/her class).

## Use of Professional Social Media Sites

The following guidelines will be followed for students and parents on MCS Professional Social Media Sites:

- Professional social media sites that are school-based should be designed to address reasonable instructional, educational or co-curricular program matters;
- Each school year, parents will be notified about the professional social media activities their children will be invited to participate in. The originator of the professional social media site will inform parents of the purpose and nature of each professional social media account their children will access and will instruct parents to contact the originating employee with any questions or concerns;

- Supervisors and their designees are responsible for maintaining a list of all professional social media accounts within their particular school or office; and
- Professional social media sites should include language identifying the sites as professional social media sites. For example, the professional sites can identify the school division, department or particular grade that is utilizing the site.
- Students should treat professional social media space and communication like a classroom and/or a professional workplace. The same standards expected in professional settings are expected on professional social media sites. If a particular type of behavior is inappropriate in the classroom or a professional workplace, then that behavior is also inappropriate on the professional social media site;
- Students should exercise caution, sound judgment, and common sense when using professional social media sites;
- Employees will make every effort to maintain appropriate privacy settings to control access to their professional social media sites to ensure that professional social media communications only reach the employees' intended audience. However, employees should be aware that there are limitations to privacy settings. Private communication published on the internet can easily become public. Furthermore, social media sites can change their current default privacy settings and other functions. As a result, employees have an individual responsibility to understand the rules of the social media site being utilized; parents and students are expected to do their part to support and maintain privacy related issues when participating on a professional social media site.
- Professional social media communication should be in compliance with existing regulations, policies and applicable laws, including, but not limited to, prohibitions on the disclosure of confidential information and prohibitions on the use of harassing, obscene, discriminatory, defamatory or threatening language; and
- Personally identifiable student information including names, videos and photographs will NOT be posted by employees, students or parents on professional social media sites, without the written, informed consent of the child's parent/legal guardian/site originator; and
- Professional social media sites for JH students will be private networks, unless there is a specific educational need for the site to be a public network (for example, it is limited to a particular class or particular grade within a school); and
- The Professional social media site originator or MCS administrator will remove inappropriate posts or comments and may block such users from future access to prevent further inappropriate communication; and at their sole discretion may close a professional media website at any time.

## Students in Classrooms without Staff

Students are not permitted inside school buildings, the gym, classrooms, or the strength and conditioning room when there is no MCS staff present.

## Telephone Use

Telephones in the school office and the classroom are to be used only by the staff of Maranatha Christian Schools. **Students will not be permitted to use office phones to contact parents in the event of forgotten books, homework, field trip passes, or lunches.** Students will only be permitted to make emergency calls. If you wish to get in touch with your child's teacher, please call the office and leave a message. The teacher will return your call at their earliest convenience.

## Transportation for School Activities

MCS provides bus transportation for most school field trips though the vast majority of athletic events rely on parent volunteers for transportation. Students attending field trips are required to ride the bus, unless special arrangements and permission is given by the school administration. All

drivers and chaperones must by comply with established chaperone and field trip policies. Chaperones must submit a Volunteer, Level II Application and receive live scan clearance. Forms should be submitted 30 days prior to any needed clearance. A copy of the driver's license and proof of insurance must be filed with the school office **before** transporting any MCS student. (Please refer to the Athletic Handbook for policies pertaining to students driving students to and from athletic events)

## Volunteer Opportunities

It is the goal of Maranatha Christian Schools to have parents involved with their child's education as often as possible. Prior to the start of school, parents are given the opportunity to sign up to assist with the organization of school functions. All volunteers must submit a volunteer application and receive clearance for either Level I or Level II volunteering. Details may be found in our Volunteer Application online.

All volunteers who would like to participate in any MCS overnight activity or any off campus activities, such as transporting students to sporting events or extended-stay school field trips will be required to have a background check clearance through Live Scan. Maranatha Christian cannot accept background checks completed from other organizations. The cost will be paid by the volunteer.

## Work Permits

Permits will not be issued to students on academic probation. Permits may be obtained from the Guidance Coordinator after completion of the "Intent to Hire Form" by the prospective employer (also available from the Guidance Coordinator). State and Federal laws will be followed regarding hours authorized for a student to work.

## Yearbook Guidelines

A yearbook is such a wonderful, life-long keepsake of memories and blessings. The tradition of "signing yearbooks" is an important part of this. We encourage MCS students to make permanent comments that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper following the Philippians 4:8 guidelines:

*"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things."*

### Parents

- Please monitor your child's yearbook. It is not wise for this to be private and unavailable to you.

### Students

- In taking this yearbook I agree to uphold the Philippians 4:8 guidelines. I understand that if I choose to write in anyone's yearbook, I am responsible to follow these standards. I understand that inappropriate language or destructive marking of another student's yearbook will not be tolerated, and may result in suspension, loss of my yearbook, and/or replacing another's yearbook.

*Transformed Lives...*  
*Transforming The World*



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