

SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2009-2010



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Good Shepherd's Lutheran School is owned Good Shepherd's Lutheran Church. The school has been in operation for over 80 years. We pray that this handbook is a helpful resource for parents, students, and teachers as we work together.

Mission

The mission of our school is that under blessing and guidance of God's Word the students and families of our school will grow in faith that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of the world and share this good news with others.

Purpose

To share the good news of salvation by

- Assisting parents in the spiritual training of their children
- Teaching all subjects in light of the source of truth and wisdom, God's Holy Word
- Training the children for continuing lives of service for their Savior

Enrollment

The school exists to assist parents as they provide Christian education for their children. All children whose parents are members of the church are eligible for enrollment.

Children whose parents are not members of the church are accepted under guidelines established by Good Shepherd's. Additional information is available through the school office.

Children who enroll in the Kindergarten must be five years of age by September 1.

Enrollment in K4 is open to children who are four years old by September 1.

All students are expected to participate in all classroom activities, including attendance at worship services and all religion classes.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Good Shepherd's Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

SCHOOL HOURS

Kindergarten – grades eight	8:15 – 3:15
K4 (4 year old kindergarten)	8:15 – 11:15

School doors are open to admit students at 8:00 am.

Students who have not left school by 3:30 pm are sent to childcare.

Church Attendance

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
(Psalm 122:1).

Worship and praise is the Christian’s response to all the blessings that come to us from our Heavenly Father – especially for the salvation we have through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Faithful attendance at worship services is a crucial part of the spiritual training that home and school provide for our children and students.

Good Shepherd’s Church and School is dedicated to the spiritual training of your child. We encourage an active worship life on the part of the parents and child.

Singing at Worship Services

The classrooms are scheduled to sing for worship services. The schedule is available at the beginning of the school year. Children should dress appropriately for church.

When a child cannot be present, please call or send a note to the teacher in advance informing him/her your child cannot sing with his/her class. Non-member’s children are expected to be present in Good Shepherd’s Church each time the class is scheduled to sing as well as other services where children are present as a group (opening and closing services, Christmas Eve, etc.). When children are scheduled to sing for a worship service, it is required they dress in God pleasing attire appropriate for church.

Pupil Progress Reports and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week period. A final report card and/or diploma will be issued only upon satisfactory completion of all assigned work.

Parent-teacher consultations are held at the end of the first and third quarters. Teachers and parents are encouraged to contact one another throughout the school year just to maintain cordiality – and, of course, when there is a question or a concern.

School Newsletters

A school newsletter is sent home to each family on Tuesday. Deadline for submissions is Monday mornings at 8:00am.

School Attendance

Absences

Regular attendance is expected of all students. If your child will be absent from school, please call the school by 8:15 AM and leave a message.

Excusable absences are: illnesses, funerals, medical appointments, and emergencies. To be excused for other reasons, make prior arrangements with the teacher.

When a child is absent for more than thirty days during a school year, the child’s status in the school will be evaluated by the Board of Education with input from the teacher and principal.

Tardiness

Pupils should be in their classrooms at 8:10 AM to prepare for the school day to begin at 8:15. Students who are not in their classroom by 8:15 are considered tardy.

Leaving School Grounds

Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds during the day without the notification to the teacher from the parent.

Emergency School Closing

On days when classes are cancelled due to weather conditions the announcement is made by 6:00 AM except in unusual circumstances.

When weather conditions deteriorate after the class day has begun, Good Shepherd's School remains open until 3:15 PM. However, parents may still choose to pick up their children early from school.

Whenever Milwaukee, West Allis, or Wisconsin Lutheran High School are closed because of weather conditions, our school will also be closed.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S MAY CLOSE BEFORE THESE SCHOOLS, SO BE SURE TO MONITOR SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS ON MILWAUKEE TV STATIONS.

Dress Code

Parents are expected to assist their children to make good choices in the clothing that the students wear for school. We expect the students to promote a Christian image of themselves and their school in the clothing that they wear. Clothing, make-up, and hairstyles that detract from the learning atmosphere in the classroom are to be avoided. Neatness, cleanliness, and *modesty* are stressed in choices of clothing.

Excessive make-up, extreme hairstyles and unnatural hair dyes, torn clothing, and inappropriate messages or pictures on clothing are examples of clothing that are not allowed.

The principal is the ultimate authority in making decisions regarding the appropriateness of clothing and appearance.

Immunization Requirements

Students must have up-to-date immunizations. The school is required to maintain a record of each student's immunizations.

DISCIPLINE

Jesus Christ is the Lord of all. His Word is the guide and rule in all matters of our faith and life, including at school. The love of Christ motivates his children to

- Show reverence for God and His Word
- Show respect for those in positions of authority, for they are God's representatives
- Show respect for one's own property and the property of others
- Help keep the school grounds, building, equipment, and books free of litter, graffiti, and damage
- Show cooperation in establishing an orderly and safe environment that is conducive to learning
- Take personal responsibility for one's own learning and conduct

The love that God has shown to us guides our relationships of teachers and students.

Most issues are resolved between student, teacher, and parent. When a disciplinary issue is ongoing or serious the principal becomes involved. The board of education and pastor may also become involved with persistent or serious situations.

It is an unfortunate result of the sinful world in which we live that circumstances arise where special effort is required on the part of parents and school. Special plans, after-school detention or suspension from school may be necessary depending on the issue.

The Board of Education will make the final determination on expulsions from school.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and other Drug Use

Students who have in their possession or use tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs and/or paraphernalia at school or school activities will be suspended from school. This includes coming to school “under the influence.” Parents will be notified immediately. The school will contact civil authorities as required. Continued violation of this policy will result in expulsion from school.

Weapons

Students may not at any time bring or possess a weapon on school property or at any school activity. Weapons are not limited to firearms; look-alike weapons, pocket knives, chains, ninja stars, and brass knuckles are some examples of weapons. The school will contact civil authorities as required. Students may be suspended or face expulsion for violation of this policy.

Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices

If a cell phone is brought to school, it must be turned off and kept securely in the student’s backpack. It cannot be taken out of the backpack between 8:00 and 3:15 or at other times as directed by school personnel.

Students who violate this policy will lose the privilege to bring the device to school.

Entertainment devices, toys, and other items

Electronic and digital entertainment or communication devices are not allowed at school except on a rare occasion when the teacher requests it. Examples of such devices and toys include but are not limited to electronic games, music players, playing cards, and trading cards.

LIBRARY

All pupils of our school are permitted to borrow books from our library. Books may be kept for one week. Books may be renewed for an additional week, but must be brought in for renewal.

We ask that parents do not attempt to repair a damaged book at home, but that needed repairs be called to the attention of the librarian.

Library Rules:

1. Fines (late returns): .25 cents per book per week.
2. Lost books: \$5.00 per paperback book and \$10.00 per hardcover book.
3. Renewals: Books may be renewed, but must be brought in for renewal.
4. Books may be requested, (You will not be able to renew a book if someone else has requested it).
5. Kindergarten: One book per week.

Grades 1 - 8: Two books per week (only one may be a cartoon book).

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons are available at school for a fee. Information is distributed at the beginning of each school year.

Band Program

An instrumental music program is offered through the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Music Department. A teacher comes to our school once each week for lessons during the school day. The students are able to rent or buy their instruments. Information is provided by the High School each fall. An ensemble program is offered to all band students for joint instruction and rehearsal.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Academic studies must come before the privilege of extra activities. Therefore, the student must maintain a C minus in each area of academic work to be eligible to play. Maintenance of grades and behavior is of primary importance, for it reflects utilization of those gifts which God has accorded. Special consideration may be given on the basis of effort and/or improvement.

Our Good Shepherd's School Panthers participate in the Wisconsin Lutheran Grade School Basketball League, The Lutheran Softball League, Cross-Country, Soccer, and in the Track Program.

Students are expected to attend all practice sessions, unless they have been excused for their absences before the practice.

The girls participate in the Lutheran School Volleyball League, Softball League, Girls' Basketball League, Track,

Cheerleading and Cross-Country. Eligibility requirements are the same as for the boys.

The athletic program is under the supervision of the Athletic Director in consideration with the Principal.

An athletic handbook contains more detailed information.

Uniform Policy

The following will be considered uniform sports:

A-Team Girls' Basketball	B-Team Girls' Basketball
A-Team Boys' Basketball	B-Team Boys' Basketball
A-Team Girls' Volleyball	B-Team Girls' Volleyball
A-Team Cheerleading	B-Team Cheerleading
Boys Soccer	Boys' & Girls' Softball
Boys' & Girls' Cross Country/Track	

A \$5 user fee will be collected for each uniform activity that a child is involved in. A limit of \$25.00 will be set per family. The fee will be collected before uniforms are issued.

If a student quits before the season begins, he/she will not be charged. However, if they play in one game, they will be charged.

Any articles brought to school are the responsibility of the student if damaged or lost.

Guidelines for Co-curricular Activities

The term co-curricular is to include all additional educational opportunities i.e. choir, band, piano lessons, forensics, math meets, spelling contests, science fairs, social studies fairs and art fairs, athletics and other similar activities which may be made available to our students.

1. Any student in trouble with the authorities; will have his eligibility reviewed by the Administrative Staff. Their decision may lead to probation, suspension, or removal from the team.
2. Dress Code;
The school code applies. The coach may have additional requirements depending on the sport.
3. Academics
A student must maintain a "C-" average to be eligible for participation.
4. Any student receiving three detentions will be removed from all co-curricular activities for a period of two months. Eligibility to be reviewed the athletic director in consultation with the principal.

(Good Shepherd's Board of Education, 10/18/06)

Consideration of Participants

Goals

- A. To promote Christian Attitude: Whatever we do -- do to the Glory of God. Participants are to be ambassadors-- of God, the school, and parents.
- B. To teach fundamentals: The goal here is to teach the basics of the individual activity in order to prepare for future activities.
- C. To make the program enjoyable.
- D. Competition in a Christian environment.
- E. To encourage self-discipline.
- F. To apply Christian attitudes and principles in real life situations.