



Parent & Student Handbook

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History

The Tidings of Peace Christian School opened its doors in late August of 1994 with five students from three families. The one full-time and two part-time teachers began sowing seeds of character, wisdom, and Christ-likeness along with academic excellence. Over these short few years, the school has grown.

The school continues to expand its horizons as more families are discovering its unique place among the many educational options in south central Pennsylvania. We invite you to see for yourselves what exciting educational opportunities await you and your child here at Tidings of Peace Christian School.

School Calendar

First Day of School: Tuesday after Labor Day

Christmas Program: First Sunday of December

Last Day of School: Saturday before Memorial Day
(an award picnic for families of the school)

Tidings of Peace Christian School

The Tidings of Peace Christian School is a vision and ministry effort of the Tidings of Peace Mennonite Church to help parents follow their God-given responsibility to “teach their children”. We aim to assist parents by presenting to children both academic instruction and eternal values.

Statement of Faith

We believe:

- ⇒ That the Bible is the holy, inspired Word of GOD and is without error in its origin.
- ⇒ That there is one GOD, manifesting Himself as a godhead consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- ⇒ That Jesus Christ as Emmanuel is “God come in the flesh”. We believe that He lived a sinless life, died on the cross to take away the sins of all who call out to Him for forgiveness, and is coming again to take all who live a godly life “unto the end” to be with Him forever in heaven.
- ⇒ That no man is good enough to go to heaven, and must, through faith, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive the free gift of eternal life.
- ⇒ That all who receive the gift of eternal life become “new creatures” in Christ and will live a life separated from the world, bringing forth good works to the glory of GOD.
- ⇒ That without holiness, no man shall see God.

School Goals and Objectives

Our goals include:

- ◆ Giving families a knowledge of the Bible.
- ◆ Teaching families to fear GOD.
- ◆ Teaching families to worship the one true GOD.
- ◆ Leading students to a personal relationship with Christ.
- ◆ Teaching Christ-like character.
- ◆ Teaching stewardship of life.
- ◆ Becoming dedicated to excellence.

Our objectives include:

- ◆ Getting staff, students, and their families, to obey the Scriptural imperatives of Deuteronomy 6:5-7a and Proverbs 22:6.
- ◆ Giving students and their families an appreciation for the Bible and its principles as the best and final authority for life.
- ◆ Assisting parents by giving children the very best possible academic training.

Enrollment

Enrollment at this school is a privilege and not a right.

While we expect God's Holy Spirit to reform all of us day by day, we are not a reform school, and no parent should enroll their child hoping we will miraculously change an unruly child into an angel.

Every child is enrolled on a 30-day probational basis. At the end of the 30 days, the staff may elect to have a parent-teacher conference to discuss behavior, and jointly decide if this school is the best option for the child.

Parents wishing to enroll their child shall follow these steps:

1. Visit the school for a tour and receive an application and handbook.
2. Parents and children must read through the entire Parent and Student Handbook.
3. Parents shall return the application.
4. After the administrator has reviewed the application, he may request an additional interview with parents and/or child.
5. If the child is accepted, at least one parent will attend a 3-hour Parent Orientation.
6. New students are accepted during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd marking periods.
7. If the school is full, parents may opt to have their child placed on a waiting list for possible consideration in the future.

Changes to This Handbook

The school board reserves the right to revise this handbook without prior notice.

Revised May 2011

Lost and Found

A “Lost and Found” is maintained in the coat hall that contains items found in the school. Students who have lost personal or school items should first be encouraged to look in the “Lost and Found” for their missing items. After a period of about one month, these items are discarded or donated.

Media

We promote our school ministry via local news media, church newsletters, and our internet website. If, for any reason, you do not wish your child to be viewed on television, or photographed by the media, please write a letter stating this and return it to the office for our files.

Snow Delays and Closures

We **DO NOT** always go by the York City schedule for delays and closures due to inclement weather. Parents are responsible to get their child to school on days when school is delayed. Failure to do so could result in fines from the York City schools for illegal absences. Delays and closures will be announced by text messaging to the homes or cell phones.

Transportation

We do not provide transportation to or from school. Parents living outside of York City may request transportation from their local school district.

Use of Telephone

Students will not be permitted to make non-emergency phone calls. In emergency situations, a member of the staff will make any necessary phone calls to parents.

Any calls for after school arrangements such as weather-related issues, tutoring, and other after school activities, forgotten homework, or other items, and after school transportation arrangements, are not considered emergencies. Students will not be permitted to use the school phones for these purposes.

Please note:

- ◆ A child must be five years old by September 30, and pass a kindergarten readiness test in order to be enrolled in kindergarten.
- ◆ A child must be six years old by September 30 in order to be eligible for enrollment in first grade. Exception may be given if there is evidence that a child is ready for school by passing an entrance test.
- ◆ No student is accepted as a student of this school until the parents receive written notice of the same.
- ◆ Students are accepted by the administrator.
- ◆ A student is expelled only by action of the board.

Church Affiliation and Admissions Policy

While we don't discriminate on the basis of age, gender, and national origin, we are a Christian school in the city of York and we give preferential consideration in admission as follows:

- 1) Families attending the Tidings of Peace Mennonite Church.
- 2) Church-attending, Christian families living in York City.
- 3) Other families living in York City.
- 4) Church-attending, Christian families living outside the city.

Therefore, all students shall observe the following guidelines when using the Internet:

- ◆ Only web sites needed for a given assignment may be accessed.
- ◆ No access to Facebook, YouTube or other entertainment sites using the school computers.
- ◆ A student shall not access the internet after school hours unless a school staff member is present and has given specific permission to do so.
- ◆ No student shall change their own password.
- ◆ No student shall EVER erase their own web history.
- ◆ The staff has the responsibility to keep students safe by reviewing their Internet history at any time.

Medical Guidelines

Immunizations for Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus (DPT), Mumps, Poliomyelitis, Measles (Rubeola), Hepatitis B, Chicken Pox (Varicella), and German Measles (Rubella) are required by the state of PA as a condition of entrance to school. Written proof of all immunizations, or a religious exemption form, is required. Children without complete immunizations will be excluded from school.

No staff member will administer any medicines, tranquilizers, aspirin, Tylenol, or other medicine to any student without parental authorization in writing. All medicines must be kept and administered by the staff.

In cases where a student needs medical attention, the staff will attempt to contact the parents. If the parents/guardians are not available, the staff shall call the doctor or hospital of their choosing at the parents' expense.

Field Trips

If a student has an unpaid tuition balance, book fee, or uniform rental charges, they may not participate in field trips until these obligations are met.

For Boys

- ◆ School shirt with logo (available from school store)
- ◆ Navy blue pants that are not form-fitting
- ◆ Shirt tails must be kept inside trousers in the classroom.
- ◆ Students must have a standard, conservative haircut. No “punk”, “bowl”, “block”, or “mod” hair styles.
- ◆ The hair is to be above the ears, off the collar, and with sideburns no longer than the middle of the ears.
- ◆ No jewelry shall be worn.

For Girls

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” I Peter 3:3,4

According to the above Scripture, we ask that girls dress simply and modestly.

- ◆ Jumpers shall be purchased from the school store.
- ◆ A white blouse shall be worn with the jumper. The blouse shall have a collar, and sleeves that cover half of the upper arm.
- ◆ The uniform shall adequately cover the knees while sitting.
- ◆ No jewelry, fake nails, fingernail polish, or cosmetics shall be worn.
- ◆ Girls shall not cut, trim, or dye their hair while they are students of our school.
- ◆ Slacks are permitted only if worn under the uniform to and from school. If worn under the jumper, they shall not be visible in the classroom. We strongly encourage the use of leg warmers, tights, nylons, knee highs, etc., in place of slacks.

Internet

Students will be assigned some or all of their work on the computers and the Internet. The Internet is a great tool, but can also be very destructive to moral and spiritual health.

Parent Section

Parents' Examples

We believe that parents are the biggest influence in a child's life, and while we can teach godliness, we believe that children will learn it best from parents who set a good example by:

- ◆ Attending church regularly.
- ◆ Ridding their home of destructive media such as TV and trash periodicals.
- ◆ Reading God's Word, the Bible.
- ◆ Gaining victory over destructive drug, cigarette, and alcohol addictions in their personal lives.

We will regularly do our part in educating parents in the value of achieving the above items.

Financial Involvement

Each summer the school board will publish the "cost of education". Obviously, it is helpful for each family to contribute that amount if they are financially able to do so.

Because we recognize that most families are not in a position to contribute that amount, we seek student sponsors who supplement the cost for a child to attend this school. Any family who is financially able, is encouraged to become a sponsor of their own child.

If a family determines they are not able to contribute the entire cost of education, or to sponsor their own child, they may apply for financial assistance through the Faith Builder's Educational Scholarship Program.

Any parent applying for assistance will be asked to do two things:

- ◆ Make the minimum monthly contribution of \$30.00.
- ◆ Serve 10 hours of community service each month and record these community hours on a form provided by the school office. Community service is defined as anything you do to serve someone else, that you are not paid for. Any member of the household can serve these hours.

Parents who have not fulfilled their financial and community service responsibility will not be permitted to re-enter their child for the next school year.

Dress Code

A student shall be in uniform from the moment they enter the school door in the morning until they exit the school for the final time in the afternoon. A staff member may give special exception for those leaving school and reporting immediately in a different uniform for a job or service opportunity.

The school has uniforms for sale. These include polo shirts for the boys, and jumpers for the girls.

Sweaters or jackets worn in the classroom must be solid colors of black, blue, white, or gray. They shall not have any other lettering, pictures, or emblems except the *Tidings of Peace Christian School* logo. Sweaters or jackets may not be worn inside out.

On days when the school takes a field trip, does community service, etc., the staff may choose not to require the uniform to be worn. On those days, clothing of the same high standards as the uniform shall be worn. No stretch pants or tight-fitting clothes are allowed.

All students shall wear dress shoes with solid black, blue, white, or gray socks or hose. The hosiery shall at least cover the ankles.

Sneakers shall be limited to recess, lunch break, and Physical Education class. Students enrolling after the school year has begun shall have dress shoes within thirty school days after enrollment.

All students shall at all times keep themselves and their hair in a well-groomed, well-kept, neat manner.

Any student who comes to school without a complete uniform shall rent the needed articles from the school store. Shoes, socks, pants, shirts, and jumpers are available at a cost of \$.25 per item per day. This rate may be adjusted by the staff if it is deemed necessary to help a student to become diligent in remembering their own uniform.

Any child receiving more than three detentions in one marking period may be required to serve subsequent detentions with their parents. If a student does not cease disruptive behavior after verbal commands and demerits/detentions have been given, the staff will call the parents to have them come immediately to remove the child from the school. If the parent is not available to come to school, the staff reserves the right to call the police to remove the disruptive child.

Before the child is allowed to return to school, a parent-teacher-student conference will be held to determine next steps and future enrollment for the child.

Any student who leaves the school property without permission and/or against the command of the staff will immediately be suspended, with a writing assignment that must be completed before returning to school.

Clothing Regulations & Personal Appearance

The highest standard for dress codes is a top quality uniform.

Uniforms prevent youth from being a stumbling block through immodesty or sloppy dress.

Uniforms result in higher discipline and higher academics.

Uniforms help improve a student's self-image.

Uniforms provide distinct difference, being "not conformed ... but ... transformed".

Uniforms give identification for building school spirit.

Uniforms reduce yearly clothing costs.

Uniforms eliminate the daily decision of what to wear.

Uniforms eliminate competition in dress between potential social climbers.

Uniforms standardize and neutralize the external while enhancing individualization in internal values.

All clothing should be clean, neat, and in good repair.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences and fellowships will be held throughout the school year as a way of helping to ensure that the goals of the parents and those of the staff remain in harmony. Parents are expected to attend these meetings. The school reserves the right to ask parents who miss these meetings to withdraw their child from the school.

School Programs

Parents/guardians are expected to help with and attend the annual Christmas program held the first Sunday evening of December, and the school picnic held the last Saturday in May.

Field Trips

Parents will be informed of field trips. Family members are invited to attend such events as space permits.

Communication Envelope

Parents will be informed of school events by way of the Parent Communication Envelope. This envelope will be given to the oldest child in each family, and the parent shall sign it for the child to return the next school day. Failure to return the envelope in a timely manner may result in a detention for the oldest child.

Visits

Parents may feel free to visit the school at any time during the day, but must not interfere with the teachers' ability to maintain educational control of the class room.

Early Sign Out of Students

Occasionally, your child may need to leave school early for a doctor or dentist appointment. In such cases, if you will be sending another adult to take your child to the appointment, please send us a written note granting us permission to release your child to that adult's care.

Please help us extend protection to your child by providing the school with names and telephone numbers of the persons who have your permission to take your child from school, and update it as your family situation changes. Student Dismissal Information is kept on file in the office.

Emergency Information for Students

Please keep Emergency Contact Information current in the office. If you move or your telephone number changes, please alert the office so the office staff can make appropriate changes. This way, we have current information on file any time an emergency arises and we need to contact you.

Relationship to Home Scholars

The school will work with Tidings of Peace Church families who choose to educate their children at home. The school library, science labs, and other equipment will be available to such families. In addition, field trips and other special assemblies/projects will be made available.

Financial contributions will be expected from these families to cover additional expenses incurred by the school due to the addition of home scholars for any given activity.

Home scholars will be expected to wear appropriate attire and abide by all school rules while they are participating alongside our students.

Annual ear and eye tests, as well as achievement tests, will be available to home scholars.

Boy-Girl Relationships

Boyfriend-girlfriend relationships are not allowed at this school. The “hands-off” rule (no physical affection) shall be observed between male and female students. Siblings are encouraged to show their affection at home, not at school.

In keeping with Biblical standards, any student that is involved in immorality will face suspension, and possible dismissal, if there is no repentance.

Student Pledge

Each student shall agree to abide by the standards of conduct and regulations expected of each student enrolled in this school. At no time shall any student give the impression to others that they are not in harmony with the goals, aims, and standards of the school.

Each child age 12 and older will annually sign a student pledge agreeing to strive to be of unquestionable character in dress, conduct, and attitude.

Profanity, obscenity in word or action, dishonor to the Trinity and the Word of God, or disrespect to the personnel of the school will not be tolerated.

Discipline

We use verbal reminders of poor behavior. Since this is not a reform school, we strongly request that no child be enrolled that is not able to respond immediately to verbal commands.

Demerits are given to remind students to improve their behavior. After three demerits, a detention is given equal to five minutes per demerit. The staff at their sole discretion will decide if the detention shall be served during or after school. The staff may also choose to hold a child back from breaks for demerits given.

Because of their potential for disruptions in the classroom, the following items shall also be left at home:

- ◆ iPods, MP3 players, and other musical devices
- ◆ Comics, pornography, and other ungodly material
- ◆ Any form of tobacco and drugs
- ◆ Electronic games and toys
- ◆ Toys having to do with TV characters
- ◆ Dice and card games
- ◆ Jewelry of all kinds
- ◆ All other items which the staff interprets as disruptive

The staff will confiscate any of the items on the above list that are brought to school. Depending on the nature of the violation, the circumstance of the discovery, and the attitude of the offender, the staff may, at their discretion, keep the item for a week, month, or the whole year. The staff may decide to return the item(s) to the student, his parents, or give the item(s) to the police.

Note: The staff has the right and responsibility to inspect book bags, lockers, desks and other personal areas, with or without the consent or presence of the student.

If you don't want the staff to see it, LEAVE IT AT HOME.

Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards

Bikes, scooters, and skateboards are not allowed on school property unless advance permission is granted.

Cell Phones

Many students have cell phones and other electronic communication devices. We recognize that many parents feel safer if their child walks to school with a phone. However, we do not see a need for any child to have these during the school day. Therefore, all such devices shall be turned in to the teacher upon arrival at school each day, and picked up at the conclusion of the school day.

Failure to turn in electronics may result in them being confiscated and returned to the parents. All students who have a cell phone shall give the number to their teacher. Staff may choose to allow cell phones for field trips.

Student Section

Arrival

Our school starts promptly at 8:15 am. Students should report to the door at the rear of the building between 8:00 and 8:15 am. The staff reserves the right to require a tardy student to pick up trash at the rate of 10 pieces of litter for each minute tardy.

Attendance

Daily attendance is vital to success in school. It is very important for students to come to school on time. Students should be in their classrooms to begin instruction PROMPTLY at 8:15 am. Unlawful absences are unacceptable and do not promote continuity of learning. All absences and tardies require a written note from parents/guardians or doctor.

Parents/Guardians are required to write an excuse note for their child each and every time their child is absent or tardy. The excuse note must be given to your child’s teacher within 5 school days. If the excuse is not received within 5 days, the absence or tardy will be marked unexcused. Three unexcused tardies will also be counted as an unexcused absence.

We are required by state law to report unexcused absences to the York City School District for possible legal action, including fines and possible jail time.

Please be advised that if your child has 10 excused absences, your child will be placed on a “doctor’s note only” basis. After being placed on “doctor’s note only”, the appropriate paperwork from the doctor must be supplied in order for the absence to be excused.

Dismissal

All students are dismissed daily at 3:00 pm. Parents must have students picked up by 3:10 pm. Staff may charge a “babysitting” fee for students in our care after 3:10, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Actions

It has been said that actions speak louder than words. Therefore, all students enrolled at this school shall strive to obey 1 Corinthians 1:31, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

We believe that the following does not glorify God and shall be avoided:

- ◆ Kicking, punching, and all forms of fighting
- ◆ Name calling and all prejudicial statements
- ◆ Profanity
- ◆ Disregard for those in authority in the school, home, and community.

Language

Students, staff, and parents shall only use language that glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone doing otherwise may face dismissal from the school.

Because we believe the numerous studies that show that television is a destructive force in the home, students are to refrain from talking about inappropriate television shows, and/or movies.

Additionally, students shall not talk about or engage in:

- ◆ Cheating
- ◆ Swearing
- ◆ Obscene gestures
- ◆ Dancing
- ◆ Rock, rap, pop, country western, or other secular music
- ◆ Drinking alcohol or using drugs.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Tidings of Peace Christian School maintains a zero tolerance policy with regards to guns, knives, matches, lighters, and other dangerous objects being brought into our school. A school is not a place for such items, and students bringing these things to school will have the items confiscated and will be immediately suspended from our school. This policy also applies to toy guns, and knives, which are brought to school by students either on their person, or in their book bags. Students possessing such items on school property will immediately be suspended from school. Students may also be referred to the school board for an expulsion hearing.

If you bring any of these items to school by accident, or find them in your coat, book bag, or clothing, you should immediately give the item to the teacher or another adult in our school.