

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
(Series 700)

710	Belief Statements	Page 2
720	Technology Responsible Use	Page 4
730	School Calendar	Page 7
740	Severe Weather Procedures	Page 7

710 BELIEF STATEMENTS FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- a. GRCS provides its students with clear performance and behavior expectations and assists students in seeing these expectations as appropriate responses to God's saving love.
- b. GRCS prepares its students for lives of learning, with a recognition of their own gifts and strengths.
- c. GRCS expects its students to be active participants in their learning, managing their school time and work, learning independently or working with others towards a learning goal, and giving their best efforts towards developing a strong academic background for lives of service.
- d. GRCS chooses teaching strategies, learning tasks, and assessments that reflect its students' various backgrounds, multiple intelligences, learning styles, and cognitive and developmental needs.
- e. GRCS provides a variety of learning experiences in which its students actively apply their learning to real life problems and products.
- f. GRCS chooses lesson contents which reflect continuity of curriculum design, emphasize inter-relatedness of all things, and apply knowledge of the learning process.
- g. GRCS expects its students to demonstrate knowledge of Christian perspectives and to use this discernment as they are challenged to make decisions, raise questions, and examine problems across the curriculum.
- h. GRCS provides its students with the best climate for learning: a safe, structured, and supportive school environment.
- i. GRCS staff interact with students in a way that affirms the students' dignity and worth, reflecting the truth that all children are made in God's image and therefore are of equal worth.
- j. GRCS provides learning experiences for both individual exploration and interaction in group settings.
- k. GRCS provides its staff with professional growth experiences and resources which enhance their efforts to teach effectively.
- l. GRCS continues to revise its school curriculum, instructional strategies, and structure in order to improve student learning.

711 Curriculum Development

The Board of Trustees recognizes its responsibility for the quality of the educational program of the schools. To this end, the curriculum shall be developed, evaluated, and adopted on a continuing basis.

For purposes of this policy, curriculum shall be defined as the courses of study, subjects,

classes, and organized activities provided by the school. The Board directs that the curriculum of GRCS:

- a. provide instruction in courses required by statute and State Department of Education regulations;
- b. ensure, to the extent feasible, that special learning needs of students are provided for in the context of the regular program or classroom and provides for effective coordination with programs or agencies that are needed to meet those needs that cannot be dealt with in the regular program or classroom;
- c. be consistent with GRCS' Christian philosophy and goals and ensure the possibility of their achievement;
- d. incorporate State-recommended performance standards for students as the basis for determining how well each student is achieving the academic outcomes for each area of the core curriculum;
- e. allow for the development of individual talents and interests as well as recognize that learning styles of students may differ.

As educational leader of GRCS, the superintendent shall be ultimately responsible for the development and evaluation of curriculum and the preparation of courses of study. The superintendent shall make periodic progress reports to the Board.

712 Classroom Resource Selection Guidelines

- 712.1** Classroom teachers increasingly select resources that supplement or replace the textbook. Many of these resources are novels or children's stories; others are videos or films or other classroom resources that present a story. When selecting such resources, teachers should consider the following guidelines.
- 712.2** Since good literature involves emotions and imagination as well as intellect, it has great potential in shaping beliefs, attitudes, and values. The best examples of literature offer not only artistic excellence or entertainment, but also relevance to universal human problems. Realizing this power of literature, GRCS teachers will recognize that literature has potential either for good or for harm. Teachers will select for classroom study literature that is calculated to help students become intelligent Christian adults who understand the world and themselves, who are able to face the world's ethical issues, and who can act decisively from Christian convictions.
- 712.3** Teachers must choose carefully, selecting books which will make young people sensitive to good and evil in the complexities of modern life, without enticing them to experiment in evil.

720 TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

721 Preamble

Our world belongs to God. Technology resources are powerful tools, and teamed with skillful teachers, can be used to effectively prepare students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society. The use of school provided technology is a privilege, not a right, and staff and students at Grand Rapids Christian Schools (GRCS) are expected to use the technology to support and enhance education and communication. In order to facilitate a safe and functional Christian educational environment, members of the GRCS community are expected to adhere to the policy as outlined below.

722 Scope

Individuals (“users”) covered by this policy include all authorized users including but not limited to staff, teachers, students, subcontractors and visitors. It includes all GRCS technology resources such as servers, desktops, laptops, tablets, printers, projectors, cameras, software, apps and internet access. As responsible caretakers of all that God has entrusted to us, we expect users to apply this policy to the use of technology resources both on GRCS campuses and off-site, including the use of personal devices when at GRCS sponsored activities.

723 Responsibilities

- a. All users are expected to engage with GRCS technology resources in ways that are God-honoring, responsible, ethical, and legal. Use of technology resources must be in compliance with federal and state laws.
- b. As children of God created in His image, all users are expected to avoid unethical internet usage and inappropriate use of social media such as cyberbullying. Users should report such behaviors observed to GRCS staff.
- c. All users are required to use technology resources in accordance with the GRCS code of conduct in addition to any other relevant GRCS guidelines. Violations include but are not limited to harassment, defamation, threatening or discriminatory behavior, and accessing obscene material.
- d. Plagiarism and copyright infringement through technology resources is strictly prohibited.
- e. Attempted or actual modification of restrictions or protections without authorization from technology staff is strictly prohibited.
- f. Users are permitted to download and install relevant and appropriately licensed programs provided they have received approval from technology staff.
- g. Unsolicited mailings (e.g. spam, forwards) are prohibited.
- h. Business activities, such as advertising or buying and selling of goods and services using GRCS technology resources are prohibited.

- i. Users agree to take reasonable precautions to maintain and to protect their technology resources. Users agree to abide by care instructions as outlined in any guides, manuals or verbal instructions that come with technology resources given by technology staff.
- j. Users agree never to attempt to damage, destroy or otherwise physically abuse GRCS technology resources.
- k. Users agree to manage their individual use of technology resources in ways that do not detrimentally affect other users (e.g. not streaming music, not monopolizing printers, etc).
- l. Users agree never to connect unapproved devices to the GRCS network.
- m. Users agree not to hold GRCS liable for losses or damages incurred by failure or malfunction of technology resources.
- n. Users agree not to hold GRCS liable for losses or damages incurred by failure or malfunction of technology resources.
- o. Any damage to or malfunction of technology resources, whether accidental or not, is to be reported promptly and with full disclosure to technology staff.

724 Safety and Privacy Considerations

- a. Users agree to use only approved logins to access accounts and to keep their own login information secure.
- b. Users agree not to share any GRCS login/account data with any person or organization unless approved or requested by administrative or technology staff.
- c. Users agree to protect and maintain their accounts by logging out or locking the computer. Users will monitor and report unusual activity on their technology resources.
- d. Users agree not to, access, modify or destroy other users' information.
- e. Users agree not to allow use of GRCS technology resources by unauthorized persons such as family and friends.
- f. GRCS will provide education and training to students on (1) safe and appropriate online behavior, such as interacting with other individuals on social networking sites, and (2) cyber-bullying awareness and responses.
- g. Users agree that all electronic files stored on school resources, including e-mail messages, are property of GRCS

- h. Users agree that GRCS administration and technology staff reserve the right to monitor and inspect files stored on school resources for conformity with policies, licensing standards and state or federal law. Users understand and agree that any files accessed, created, or stored on school resources are not private.
- i. Users understand and agree that GRCS has implemented technology measures that block/filter internet access to visual images that are obscene, illegal or otherwise harmful to minors. Users (and their parent/guardians) are nevertheless advised that users may gain access to unauthorized websites, and GRCS cannot guarantee that users will not access websites that they (or their parents/guardians) would find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Users (and their parents/guardians) agree not to hold GRCS liable for any such material that they may find as a result of using GRCS's technology resources.
- j. To promote student safety and ensure compliance with this policy, internet, network and other technology-related activities will be monitored or restricted using filtering, passive supervision technologies and periodic checks by technology staff.

730 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar shall be annually approved by the Board of Trustees.

740 SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE

741 Tornado Watch/Warning

- a. Should severe weather occur during school hours, students will not be sent home. Should a TORNADO WATCH occur, students will remain in session with necessary precautions taken and dismissed at the regular dismissal time. After school childcare remains open until normal closing hours during a Tornado Watch. Students will remain indoors during scheduled recess periods when a Tornado Watch is posted. Should a TORNADO WARNING occur, students will be sent to designated refuge areas within the school building, and will not be dismissed until the ALL CLEAR is given.
- b. No after-school activities will be conducted if a TORNADO WATCH is in effect at the site of the scheduled activity at 3:00 P.M. If a TORNADO WATCH is in effect at the site of a scheduled evening activity one-hour before the beginning of that activity, the activity will be canceled.

742 School Closings/Delays

The superintendent in consultation with the Transportation Director will determine if it is necessary to close or delay the start of school. If it is decided to close or delay the start of school, the announcement will be made on the GRCS website and appropriate local radio and television stations. No after-school activities will be conducted on days on which school is closed.