

Community Covenant

Preface

Greater Atlanta Christian School (GAC) is a K-12 school and a community that takes seriously the growth of students intellectually, physically, in service to others, and in favor with God. To fulfill the school's mission, and to be models for her students and families, all entrusted with responsibility in the GAC Community – the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty and staff – also commit to live by and in accordance with the principles found in this Community Covenant.

The GAC Community recognizes and respects that there is diversity within the body of Christ on some issues and behaviors. The GAC Community makes no attempt to say that every statement within the Community Covenant is necessarily the rule of order for all believers in all places (although some items, based verbatim on scripture, are universal for all disciples). Rather, this Community Covenant fosters common cause and direction for GAC, in our collective ministry to children, teens, and families, and guides us together to walk in deeper discipleship.

Our Community Covenant

The biblical foundation of Christian community is expressed in Jesus' two great commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (*Matt. 22:37-40*).

Acknowledging our dependence on the power and grace of God, the members of the GAC Community pledge to strive to live according to this ideal.

1. We will to live under the Lordship of Christ, in all of life and thought (*Deut. 6:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 1:18; 3:17*).
2. We will pursue holiness in every aspect of our thought and behavior (*2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:7; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:15-16*).
3. We pledge to exercise our Christian freedom responsibly within the framework of God's Word, humbly submitting ourselves to one another and with loving regard for the needs of others (*1 Pet. 5:5; Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3-11; Rom. 14:1-23; 1 Thess. 4:9*).
4. We will honor God's church by our active participation in weekly worship and activities of a local church that submits to the Lordship of Christ and views the Bible as the sole revealed and authoritative word of God (*Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:25; 1 Tim. 3:14-15*).

5. We strive to show evidence of the Holy Spirit living within us, by demonstrating "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (*Gal. 5:22-23*).
6. We will seek righteousness, mercy and justice, particularly for the helpless and oppressed (*Prov. 21:3; 31:8-9; Micah 6:8; Matt. 23:23; Gal. 6:10*).
7. We will uphold the God-given worth of human beings, from conception to death, as the unique image-bearers of God (*Gen. 1:27; Psalm 8:3-8; 139:13-16*).
8. We will promote and uphold chastity among the unmarried, and the Biblical model of marriage between a man and a woman; we will avoid all forms of sexual immorality (including pornography and sex outside the covenant of marriage) (*Gen. 2:22-24; 1 Cor. 6:9-10,18, Eph. 5:31-33; Rom 1:21-27; Heb. 13:4*).
9. We will live consistently with the sex and gender God chose for us at birth, recognizing that both wonderfully and immutably, "in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." These two distinct complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (*Gen. 1:26-27*) We will honor God's choice as Father and Lord, far above our own human choice (*Luke 9:23*).
10. We will be people of integrity whose word can be fully trusted (*Psalm 15:4; Matt. 5:33-37*).
11. We pledge to protect ourselves from sin including:
 - a. pride, dishonesty (such as stealing and lying, of which plagiarism is one form), injustice, prejudice, immodesty in dress or behavior, slander, gossip, vulgar or obscene language, blasphemy, and the taking of innocent life (*Prov. 16:18; 1 Cor. 6:10; Exod. 20:7; Rom. 13:9; Col. 3:8-9; Gal. 3:26-29; Rom. 13:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:8-10*).
 - b. hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and legalism, understood as the imposition of extra-biblical standards of godliness by one person or group upon another (*Acts 15:5-11; Matt. 16:6; 23:13-36*).
 - c. sinful attitudes and behaviors such as "impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like" (*Gal. 5:19-21*).
12. We strive for humility, modesty, generosity, and wisdom in our community with respect to money, seeking to avoid greed, covetousness, and materialism (*Heb. 13:5-6; James 2:1-13; Matt. 19:34*).

13. We will treat our own bodies, and those of others, with the honor due the very temple of the Holy Spirit. Of particular concern are issues related to the illegal use of drugs, alcohol, and other addictive behaviors (*1 Cor. 6:17-20*).
- a. No member of the GAC Community may illegally use drugs, whether prescription drugs or those banned by law, at any time.
 - b. No member of the GAC Community may use tobacco in any form at any and all school-related events on or off campus, or otherwise in the presence of a GAC student (other than one's own children).
 - c. The Bible requires moderation in the use of alcohol, but does not require abstinence. Yet, because alcohol is addictive to many, its dangers clearly warned against in Scripture, and because impressionable students are the core focus of the GAC Community, there is the need for great caution and responsibility in this area.
 - 1) The GAC campus, properties and vehicles, and all GAC school-related events whether on or off campus, will be alcohol free at all times.
 - 2) In personal activities, members of the GAC Community will live within an ethic of high responsibility and unquestionable moderation in any private use of alcohol. For the sake of providing a good example to GAC students, abstinence in the presence of GAC students (other than one's own children) is required.
 - 3) Members of the GAC Community will not attend any event on the GAC campus or in which GAC is participating if they have consumed alcohol in the hours prior to the event.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, . . . And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

(Colossians 3:16-17)
