



2020–2021

**Kindergarten through 12th Grade
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Rev: 8/10/2020

2020–2021 Parent/Student Handbook

Welcome to North Valley Christian Academy™!

We are delighted that you and your child will be part of a Lutheran Education experience. Maintaining a safe school where your child can thrive and grow is the most important job we share. We are grateful you have entrusted us with your child, and we are dedicated to confirm the wisdom of your decision.

As you review this handbook, keep in mind our mission to *“develop Christ-centered students who aspire to excellence and impact their communities for Him.”* We seek to instill an attitude of excellence in academic performance, emotional maturity, social interaction, physical health, and spiritual wisdom. We are committed to preparing our graduates to maximize the use of their God-given gifts and talents for the betterment of His kingdom and our world.

As we journey through this process together, we ask your support of our teachers and staff as they strive to deliver on our mission. Your words of encouragement and prayers are essential to develop the kind of learning and caring community we all desire for NVCA™. Partner with us as we work together to be an advocate for your child following God’s counsel to “train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6, ESV).

Thank you again for allowing North Valley Christian Academy the opportunity to be a part of your child’s growth and development.

Blessings,



Chris Schoenle
North Valley Christian Academy
Head of School

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Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the NVCA K–12 Parent/Student Handbook (Handbook) is to establish the parameters of an orderly, Christian learning environment and to communicate the expectations of each member of the NVCA family. In this Handbook we seek to strike a balance between discipline and grace. As a Christian school, NVCA strives to maintain high standards for decorum and behavior while teaching our students the wisdom of decisions based on biblical principles. Policies within this Handbook serve to define an environment where our students, your children, can learn and grow into knowledgeable, mature Christians. Although we will apply these Handbook policies with both truth and grace, they do not contractually bind NVCA. North Valley Christian Academy reserves the right to revise these policies at any time without notice.

History

In 2010, North Valley Christian Academy (NVCA) became an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) system of schools. While NVCA serves families from all faith backgrounds, as a Lutheran school, all programs, activities, and curriculum reflect the tenets and beliefs of the LCMS.

Originally housed on the campus of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, in 2012 NVCA moved to 42101 N. 41st Drive, Anthem, AZ. However, as the new location offered limited opportunities for growth, after much prayer and discussion, the NVCA Board of Directors (Board) purchased land at 27th Drive (just off Carefree Highway) and contracted for the construction of a twenty-first century learning facility. At the start of the 2017–2018 school year, NVCA's new school opened its doors to students from preschool to the tenth grade. The following year, a junior and senior class were added making NVCA a preschool–12th grade program. In May 2019, the first graduates of NVCA received their diplomas. The expected enrollment for 2020–2021 school year is close to 350 in preschool through 12th grade.

Preparing Graduates for Life

NVCA Parents

As a parent/guardian of an NVCA student, you play a vital role in helping us maintain a well-rounded environment for your child's mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual growth during the crucial formative years in her/his life. This Handbook describes how you, along with your child's teacher and the NVCA staff, will work in partnership to achieve this goal.

Mission

The mission of North Valley Christian Academy is to “**develop** Christ-centered students who **aspire** to excellence and **impact** their communities for Him.”

Vision

To be the most trusted PS–12 Christian school in the Valley.

Our Values

We establish and maintain a Christ-centered culture by holding the following values inviolate:

Excellence - In the way we perform our roles as leaders, teachers, and students;

Integrity - In the way we handle the truth;

Respect - In the way we treat one another;

Responsibility - In the way we understand and complete our duties; and

Reverence - In the way we keep God first in our lives.

As we are accountable to God, NVCA provides a Christ-centered culture for our students and their parents. Every teacher and staff member at NVCA is required to sign North Valley Christian Academy's Statement of Faith. Although NVCA parents are not required to sign a statement of faith, parents can confidently trust that NVCA teachers are committed to nurturing a Christ-centered community and teaching students the tenets of the Christian life.

Our NVCA Promise

Steadfast in faith, NVCA is committed to a Christ-centered education that can transform lives and touch communities. Our role is to help define and reinforce a deep sense of God-given value, purpose, and meaning in the pursuit of knowledge and growth in Christ for a transforming influence on the world. An NVCA education forms the foundation upon which all academic pursuits are built thereby enabling students to reach their full educational potential.

Spiritual Emphasis and Foundational Beliefs

Because NVCA operates from a biblical perspective, it considers admission of students from families willing to support NVCA's philosophy of Christian education, student conduct requirements, and a culture rooted in LCMS traditions. Parents must be willing to allow their children to be educated and influenced in an LCMS school. Continued enrollment at NVCA is contingent upon this same understanding and support.

NVCA Statement of Faith

NVCA adheres to LCMS beliefs, which are more fully described at [lcms.org](https://www.lcms.org).

- We believe the Bible to be the one inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 20:31; Matt. 25:35, ESV).

- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His personal return in power and glory (Matt. 1:20-21; John 10:30-38; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:14; 1 Peter 3:22; Phil. 2:9; Rev. 19:11-12).
- We believe that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is necessary for salvation of the lost and sinful man (Rom. 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18; Rom. 10:9-13; 1 John 1:9).
- We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for men's sins according to the Scriptures, and all who believe in Him have the forgiveness of sins through His blood (1 Cor. 15:3; Eph. 1:7).
- We believe an individual becomes a child of God by being born of the Holy Spirit by the word of God through a personal faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:16).
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 1 Cor. 3:16).
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (Heb. 9:27; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev. 20:12; Ps. 96:13).
- We believe that heaven and hell are definite places (Luke 11:12; Acts 7:49; John 14:2-4; Heb. 11:10).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:23; Eph. 5:30; 2 Cor. 11:2; Deut. 14:2).
- We believe God wonderfully and immutably creates each person male or female, reflecting in these two distinct genders the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejecting one's biological sex is rejecting the image of God within that person.
- The Holy Scriptures teach that God, in creating the world, gave marriage to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24), a gift to be held in honor and kept pure (Heb. 13:4; 1 Thess. 4:2-5). As a man and woman freely commit themselves to one another, God Himself joins them as one. Marriage is far more than a social contract or a mere interpersonal bond. It is an act of God the Creator. So, our Lord Jesus says in Matt. 19:4-6: "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife and the two shall become one flesh'?"
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and

dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of NVCA.

- We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of NVCA as a body of believers in Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the families and staff of our school, it is imperative that all persons employed by NVCA in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, pledge a commitment to abide by the NVCA Statement of Faith.

The NVCA Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. It is the sole and final source of all we believe. For purposes of school doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our NVCA Board of Directors is the school's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Philosophy of Education

Consistent with our name, we strive to teach students to view the world and their lives through the lens of the Bible and to make decisions and responses accordingly. We seek to provide an excellent academic program permeated with Christian love and faith. Each person affiliated with the school is capable and well trained for her/his particular task while maintaining a deep concern for the spiritual development of the students.

We encourage the growth of personal faith in Christ, the building of Christian character, and the development of a distinctively biblical worldview. We prepare students to succeed in college academics and the workplace, but more importantly we prepare them to go forth as servants of Christ.

The Bible declares, *"the knowledge of God is the beginning of wisdom"* (Prov. 15:3). NVCA seeks to integrate the knowledge of God's creation with training in righteous living to develop true wisdom and character in students. As His children, we believe life makes sense only when we recognize that Jesus is Lord of everything. *"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things"* (Rom. 11:36).

Nondiscrimination Policy

North Valley Christian Academy does not discriminate against any child or family on the basis of national or ethnic origin, race, color, religious preference, or gender (in accordance with the North Valley Christian Academy Statement of Faith).

Partnering with Parents

Our faculty and staff partner with NVCA parents to establish, nurture, and maintain a community of commitment and caring. The dismissal of traditional values in today's society presents many parenting challenges. NVCA's role is to unite with parents and help them meet those challenges. Our partnership is "parent-led" meaning that it relies on parental involvement and leadership. We believe that the role of the parent is paramount and cannot

be filled by the teachers or the administration. In that context, we encourage our NVCA parents to be involved by:

- Praying regularly and fervently for the school, faculty, students, and administration;
- Cooperating fully with the educational functions of the school and volunteering when available;
- Attending meetings and parent functions regularly;
- Paying financial obligations on time;
- Supporting the school with gifts in addition to tuition and fees;
- Recommending the school to other families as opportunities arise;
- Seeking to resolve any issues should you become dissatisfied with the school in any way;
- Promoting the advancement of the school in every area: spiritually, academically, and physically;
- Providing a healthy, happy home environment for your child(ren);
- Supporting good habits such as completing homework, limiting screen time, and going to bed early;
- Cooperating fully with school policies and disciplinary actions;
- Assuming the responsibility for on-time arrival and consistent attendance; and
- Reading weekly classroom and monthly administration team newsletters to stay informed.

Other key ways in which parents can help their children succeed in school include:

- Sending them to school in a good frame of mind;
- Encouraging them often for their efforts;
- Building up their confidence with positive affirmations: “I am proud of you.”; “I know you will do well.”; “You are a hard worker.”;
- Showing them how to improve upon unsatisfactory work;
- Supporting the teacher and school. If you have a complaint, talk to the teacher when children are not present;
- Allowing them to experience setbacks and help them learn from disappointments and mistakes;
- Taking what you hear with a grain of salt, avoiding gossip, investigating on your own, and asking questions;
- Encouraging a regular reading time and providing them with reference materials and educational websites;
- Keeping their school supplies well stocked on a regular basis;

- Showing real interest in school and attending meetings and class functions whenever possible;
- Reviewing their homework, graded papers, and encouraging them to complete all work carefully; and
- Encouraging them to inquire, look things up, and figure things out for themselves.

To facilitate parental involvement and leadership, NVCA sponsors SERVE, an organization dedicated to promoting a culture of caring, community involvement, and Christian fellowship. Comprising parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and other friends of NVCA, SERVE is led by a Leadership Team, which superintends SERVE events and activities carried out by event coordinators and volunteers within the SERVE/school community. The organizational structure, policies, and procedures governing SERVE are listed in Appendix C of this Handbook.

Policies and Procedures

To establish and maintain a culture consistent with our mission and standard of decorum, NVCA requires that every member of the school community establish a knowledge of, and support for, the policies that govern our actions and behavior. Listed below are the policies and procedures that every community member must confirm. Their purpose is to provide consistency, uniform standards, and set a tone for coming to school. **Families attending NVCA must sign a statement declaring they have read, are in agreement with, and are willing to abide by the established standards of the school as outlined in the Handbook.** Handbook policies do not contractually bind NVCA, and the school reserves the right to revise its policies at any time without notice.

For ease of reference, the policies applying to all grades, K–12, are listed in alphabetical order below. Policies relating only to high school students are listed in Appendix A. School Schedules are contained in Appendix B. The SERVE Handbook comprises Appendix C.

Absences and Tardiness

NVCA Attendance Philosophy

Our high standard of excellence includes the expectation that all students attend classes daily to achieve full educational benefits. Absences may occur only when unavoidable circumstances arise. NVCA abides by state attendance laws.

Reporting Absences

Parents must notify the school office of a student's absence as soon as it is determined she/he will not be at school. This notification must be done no later than 8:15 a.m. on the day of the absence and on each consecutive morning of the student's absence. To report an absence: provide the student's full name, grade, and the reason for the absence. Extenuating circumstances resulting in more than three days of absence may require documentation. If a parent is reporting a planned absence that is two or more consecutive

days in length (e.g., vacation, college visit, or travel to a family funeral) the student must follow the protocol below under “Other Absence Information.”

Maximum Number of Absences

The number of allowed absences (excused or unexcused) is 10 per semester or five per quarter. As a school, we expect a maximum of 10 absences to be reached only under unusual circumstances. Please schedule doctor’s appointments throughout the day so they don’t always fall on the same class period. As a rule, any absence from school other than school activities or college visits would count towards the maximum 10 absences. Absences with parental permission still count toward the maximum of 10. The following are some examples of circumstances that would apply toward the maximum number of absences:

- Personal illness
- Doctor’s appointment
- Family vacation
- Truancy

Elementary Absence Policies

Students absent more than 15% of the year risk not being promoted to the next grade level.

Middle School/High School Absence Policies

- A student more than 15 minutes tardy to a class will be counted as absent;
- NVCA allows juniors and seniors to take two days per year for college visits. Students must submit proof of college visitations to the front office. These absences do not count towards the maximum of 10. Any visits beyond two count toward the maximum of 10; and
- If a student receives 10 or more absences during one semester in a specific class, her/his record will be reviewed as to whether or not credit will be given for that semester.

Other Absence Information

- **NVCA Activity Absences:** Certain NVCA school activities require students to be absent from one or more classes. Examples include athletics and field trips for school related clubs/electives. These activity absences do not count towards the maximum of 10 absences.
- **Planned Absences:** These are absences not related to NVCA activities of two or more days in length. Some examples are family vacations, college visits, or mission trips. If a student anticipates taking a planned absence, the student’s teacher(s) must be emailed and any work or assignments that may be missed must be obtained. If possible, work is to be turned in to the teacher in advance, unless other arrangements are made.

- **Medical Absences:** Long-term, documented medical absences will result in a conference with the administration, teacher(s), parent/guardian, and student.
- **Truancy/Unexcused Absences:** Students who purposefully miss class without parent or guardian permission are considered truant/unexcused.

Making Up Work Missed During Absences

1. All work missed during absences must be made up, including tests and homework assignments.
 - a. The student is held responsible for obtaining work missed due to absences of any kind.
 - b. Homework assigned prior to an absence, whether due on the day of an absence or on the day the student returns, must be turned in the day the student returns to school. Upon their return, students must also be prepared to take any tests scheduled before the absence.
 - c. Teachers may allow extra time to complete work assigned during an excused absence, but no more than double the number of days absent. Work not turned in during this period will be considered late work. NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to check with teachers regarding their specific make-up work policies.
 - d. Homework assignments/tests/projects assigned before an all-day activity absence must be turned in or taken the day the student returns from the activity or prior to the absence.
 - e. If the student is at school before an activity absence, he/she must turn in any work due that day or it will be considered late. Students are responsible for checking RenWeb for assignments given that day. Any work due the following day must be turned in on time.
 - f. Students who will be out for one day or more due to a school activity (e.g., tours, tournaments, club activities, etc.) need to get the work they will miss before they go. The assigned work is due the day they return unless other arrangements are approved with the teacher.
 - g. Due dates for assignments requiring online submissions are due the day a student returns, as stated above (middle school/high school only).
 - h. Suspended students must complete all daily work, tests, and quizzes on the assigned day.

Tardy Philosophy

In order for students to maximize their classroom experience including self-discipline and responsibility, NVCA requires students to arrive on time and fully prepared for class. Tardiness is defined as failing to be in the classroom and ready to learn when the tardy bell rings. We are training our students in academics and encouraging successful habits for life. Parents can help reduce tardiness by developing daily routines where arrivals at school are

well ahead of class time. Tardiness is disruptive to the teacher and the class. Penalties for excessive tardiness will be imposed by the administration.

Elementary Tardy Policies/Discipline:

Tardies are accumulated on a semester basis.

- Students arriving at school after 8:15 a.m. must sign in at the front office before attending class.
- Students who arrive after 11:30 a.m. or leave before 11:30 a.m. will be marked absent and will not receive credit for the full school day.
- Parents must provide a doctor's note for the tardy to be marked as excused.

Discipline:

Step 1: On the 5th tardy, the student and the parent will receive a warning email.

Step 2: On the 10th tardy, the student and the parent will be required to meet with the principal.

Step 3: Starting with the 12th tardy, the parent will be required to meet with the principal and an attendance contract will be issued.

Middle School Tardy Policies/Discipline:

Tardies are accumulated from all classes on a semester basis.

- Students arriving at school after 8:30 a.m. must report to the front office before attending class to sign in.
- If a student is tardy to class because of another teacher, the student must bring a pass from that teacher explaining the situation. If the first teacher marked the tardy as excused, it will not be recorded as a tardy.
- Students more than 15 minutes tardy to class will be considered absent unless they have a pass from a school authority specifically stating that they should only be marked tardy.
- If a student receives a pass from the front office when arriving late to school, this does not necessarily mean that the tardy is excused; the pass will be marked excused or unexcused accordingly.
- If a student's parent informs the office that a student will be late, this does not automatically deem a tardy excused.

Discipline:

Step 1: On the first through ninth tardy, the student will receive a "no" on his/her PRIDE Card and must attend an after-school study hall from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Students who provide a doctor's note will be excused.

Step 2: On the 10th tardy, the student will be given one (1) day of in-school suspension.

Step 3: Students who accumulate beyond 10 tardies will be dealt with by administration and risk being placed on an academic/behavior contract.

High School Tardy Policies/Discipline:

Tardies are accumulated from all classes on a semester basis.

- Students arriving at school after their designated start time must sign-in at the office before attending class.
- If a student is tardy to class because of another teacher, that student must bring a pass from that teacher explaining the situation. If marked excused, it will not be recorded as a tardy.
- Students more than 15 minutes tardy to class will be considered absent unless they have a pass from a middle school or high school authority specifically stating that they are to only be marked tardy.
- If a student receives a pass from the front office when arriving late to school, this does not necessarily mean that his/her tardy is excused. The pass will denote an excused or unexcused tardy.
- If a student's parent informs the office that a student will be late, this does not necessarily grant an excused tardy.
- Students who provide a doctor's note will be excused.

Discipline

- Every 3rd tardy will be recorded as a single absence.
- Students who continue to accumulate tardies beyond 10 will be dealt with by administration, risk being placed on an academic/behavior contract, and potentially lose course credit.

Academics

NVCA must maintain academic standards in line with the best practices to adequately prepare students for a successful educational experience. Our educational program is rooted in a well-rounded, traditional, liberal arts curriculum while focusing on the incorporation of a biblical worldview across the curriculum.

Academic Integrity

NVCA is committed to creating an ethical environment. We achieve this goal by incorporating biblical values into our curriculum and holding ourselves and our students to high standards of academic integrity. We expect students to conduct themselves honestly, which means taking responsibility for producing their own work and respecting the intellectual property of others. Specifically, students will refrain from the following unethical academic behavior.

Cheating

Cheating, during and exam or on daily student assignments/homework, is behaving in a dishonest or unfair way to gain an advantage. In an academic setting, cheating includes unauthorized use of information, materials, devices, or sources and sharing information with or taking information from another student during an exam; using notes during an exam (when the use is prohibited); using technology or electronics to obtain information during an exam (when use is prohibited); obtaining exam questions before a test; altering academic records; or sabotaging another student's work.

Citizenship Marks

First through fifth grade students will be given a citizenship mark on their grade reports for each class. NVCA expects students to behave in a Christ-honoring way and believes this an important part of educating students in the light of God's Word. Citizenship marks will be determined by the following rubric:

Values and biblical Reference	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
Respect for God, Others, and Self Luke 10:27; Ps. 86:12; Peter 2:17; Lev. 19:18; Ps. 8:3-5; Ps. 19:14; Prov. 12:22; Eph. 4:25	Always follows classroom rules, including those related to food, drink, class preparations, distractions, and disruptions. Always works to the best of her/his ability.	Consistently follows classroom rules, including those related to food, drink, class preparation, distractions, and disruptions. Consistently works to the best of her/his ability.	Frequently disregards classroom rules, including those related to food, drink, class preparation, distractions, and disruptions. Frequently does not work to the best of her/his ability.	Consistently disregards classroom rules, including those related to food, drink, class preparation, distractions, and disruptions. Consistently does not work to the best of his/her ability.
Respect God's Facility I Chron. 9:11; I Cor. 4:2	Always respects school buildings, grounds, desks, etc.	Consistently respects school buildings, grounds, desks, etc.	Frequently disrespects school buildings, grounds, desks, etc.	Consistently disrespects school buildings, grounds, desks, etc.
Encourage Others I Thess. 4:18; Heb. 3:13	Always encourages others through actions and words.	Consistently encourages others through actions & words.	Frequently inconsiderate to others through actions & words.	Consistently inconsiderate to others through actions & words.
Do When Asked Phil. 2:5	Always complies with directions, requests, or corrections.	Consistently complies with directions, requests, or corrections.	Frequently does not comply with directions, requests, or corrections.	Consistently does not comply with directions, requests, or corrections.

Grades and Academic Honors

Questions about Grades: Grades are recorded in RenWeb, and parents are encouraged to monitor their child's progress. Questions about a specific grade must be addressed within one week of the grade being posted or released.

Grade-Point Average (GPA)

A student's GPA is based on final semester grades with all courses included in accordance with the table below.

Grading Scale (3–12th grades)

Grade	Percentage	Weights for Calculating GPA @ Middle and High School Levels	
		Regular	Honors/Dual Enrollment
A	100–90	4.00	5.00
B	80–89	3.00	4.00
C	70–79	2.00	3.00
D	60–69	1.00	2.00
F	59 and below	0	0

Late Assignment Policy

The NVCA Late Assignment Policy is an important part of our educational mission. Students are encouraged to come to class prepared and establish a habit of turning work in on time. This policy allows NVCA to maintain high academic standards and integrity.

Elementary school: Students will be given two days to make up assignments for each day absent.

Middle school/high school: If an assignment is not submitted on the date due, the student has two weeks to submit the assignment for credit. If a student turns in an assignment after the due date, he/she will receive an automatic deduction of 30% off the final grade. If a student does not submit the assignment within two weeks of the due date, the student will not receive any credit.

Missing Assignments Due to Absences

If a student misses an assignment due to illness, he/she must submit the assignment upon returning to class. If the assignment is not submitted upon the student's return, it will be subject to the Late Assignment Policy.

If a student misses a test due to illness, the student must make arrangements with the teacher to take the test within two weeks of returning to school or risk receiving a zero on the test.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using someone else's ideas or words and claiming them as your own. Incorporating someone else's ideas or language into your writing without acknowledging or properly citing the source also equals plagiarism. Using a writing service or having another person complete an

assignment for you amounts to plagiarism as well. Plagiarism equals a serious academic offense and can be cause for suspension or expulsion.

Accreditation

NVCA carries accreditation with Cognia and National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA), while pursuing Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) accreditation in the fall of 2020. As affiliated members, NVCA has the support of these associations and is provided early-education programs and elementary/secondary certification of curricula. Accreditation recognizes and validates NVCA's clear vision and purpose—the commitment to improving curricula, quality of learning and instruction, and the goal of helping all learners reaching their full potential.

Admissions/Reenrollment/Withdrawals

NVCA desires to partner with families who understand and support the overall philosophy and mission of the school. Enrollment at NVCA is a privilege, not a right, and not all applicants to the school will be accepted. NVCA admits students of any race, religious preference, color, gender, national, or ethnic origin granting them all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. NVCA will evaluate students upon their individual needs, teacher and administrator recommendations, behavior reports, report cards, and standardized tests. In addition, an interview will be conducted with the family before any offer of admission will be given. NVCA has a right to withhold admission of any student it believes will not be best served by the school.

Reenrollment

Families desiring to reenroll for the subsequent school year must have a current account and pay a reenrollment fee. Payment of this fee implies intent to attend NVCA the following school year and is nonrefundable. Returning families have a one-month period to reenroll after which new applicants will be offered openings. NVCA desires to meet the needs of every student enrolled; however, if it is determined that we cannot meet the educational needs of a student, or if a student's conduct is inconsistent with the school's behavioral guidelines, we reserve the right to deny reenrollment.

Withdrawal

If for any reason, parents choose to withdraw their child from NVCA, a written letter of withdrawal must be provided to the school office. Student transcripts will be forwarded to the student's next school after the full tuition obligation is paid (as outlined in the signed tuition contract). There are no tuition refunds.

In the rare occasion that a family crisis necessitates withdrawal from the school, the family may request a waiver from the remaining tuition obligation. To do so, a parent must provide a written explanation to the NVCA Head of School (Head of School) at the time of withdrawal. The Head of School, in consultation with the NVCA Board of Directors, may or may not elect to

approve a waiver from the remaining tuition obligation as set forth in the signed tuition contract.

If the annual tuition obligation has been paid in full, any excess beyond the tuition contract obligation will be returned within 30 days.

Please note that NVCA desires to work together with parents. If it is determined that the parent cannot communicate with staff in a respectable manner, or if the administration determines that NVCA cannot meet the parent's expectations, NVCA reserves the right to deny reenrollment or expel the family from NVCA at any time.

Bicycles/Skateboards/Roller Blades and Shoes/Skates/Razors

Bicycles, skateboards, roller blades/shoes, hover boards, skates, and razors, etc. are not to be used at school at any time. All of these items, brought to school for use as an after-school activity, must be checked in at the front office. The school is not responsible for injury or loss of equipment on the school grounds.

Birthday Celebrations (preschool through fifth grade)

Plans to celebrate your child's birthday at school must be coordinated with the classroom teacher prior to your child's birthday. A simple treat may be brought to school for the occasion. Treats must honor the NVCA Nut Sensitivity Policy. Check with your child's teacher for any allergies or special dietary needs within the class. The teacher can offer suggestions for alternative, allergy-friendly treats. Birthday celebrations will take place during lunch or the last 10 minutes of the school day.

Celebrating Your Child's Birthday Outside of School

If your child is having a birthday party outside of school, please follow these courtesies:

- If you plan to invite all of the students in the class (or all the girls/all the boys), invitations may be handed out at school.
- If your child prefers to invite a select few classmates, please mail, email, or hand-deliver the invitations outside of school. It is very difficult for a child to be excluded, especially in front of other children. We would encourage you to keep your guest list smaller, rather than inviting "all of the boys except one."
- Be prepared to explain to your child that the birthday child may be able to invite only a group of three or four children and that he/she may or may not be included.
- Be aware that the most successful, well-adjusted, and "friendly" classes are those in which the parents lead the way in activities/parties by including a whole group—boys, girls, or both.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

These items can easily become distractions to learning and school activities. Recent studies have shown that prolonged use and abuse of cell phones has negative consequences on students' emotional and physical health, as well as their intellectual abilities and character. Some families may feel a need for their child to have these devices in order to communicate during off-campus or after-school activities. However, the distraction and temptation they provide require such items remain securely stowed in backpacks. NVCA is not responsible for any personal items that may be lost or stolen at school or school events.

Consistent with of NVCA's mission, the following policies will be in effect:

Elementary School

- No electronic communication devices of any sort are permitted.
- All technology usage for academic purposes will be provided by NVCA.

Middle School

- No cell phone usage at any time during school hours. If a parent desires for a student to have a cell phone on campus, the phone must be turned off and stored in his/her backpack.
- Laptop computers may only be used for academic purposes.
- Usage of electronic devices, including laptops, will not be allowed during passing periods or lunch time.
- Usage of Airbuds, AirPods, headphones, Bluetooth devices, etc. are not permitted during the school day. Any listening devices needed for academic purposes must be approved by the classroom teacher.

High School

- No cell phone usage at any time during class.
- Airbuds, AirPods, earbuds, headphones, Bluetooth devices, etc. are only permitted during lunch time. Any listening devices needed for academic purposes must be approved by the classroom teacher.
- Cell phones or other devices may not be used to take photos or videos without the express written permission of NVCA.

Middle School/High School Discipline for Failure to Comply with Policies

First Incident:

Cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated and held in the front office. The student may collect the device at the end of the school day.

Second Incident:

Cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated and held in the front office until the student's parent collects the device at the end of the school day.

Third Incident:

Student will be placed on a behavioral contract, which may include a 1-day suspension.

Chapel

Students participate in weekly chapel services, daily devotions, and regular prayer. Separate chapel services are held for preschool/elementary, middle school, and high school students. Chapel serves to develop heart for worship. The collection of chapel offerings is designed to teach the students the value of Christian stewardship both locally and worldwide and will be used to help further the work of the Church. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend weekly chapel services. The Ministry Development Team is responsible for planning the weekly chapel services. Students' behavior in chapel should demonstrate a reverent attitude and heart. Special chapel assemblies may also be held on occasion.

Classroom Roster

Should more than one classroom or teacher be available for a specific grade level, NVCA reserves the right to determine student classroom placement. Classroom rosters are determined based on a balanced classroom and the total educational process.

Communication

Clear and consistent communication between parents and the school is essential to establishing and maintaining the parent/school partnership. Many channels of communication, both formal and informal exist. Our website at northvalleyca.org contains a wealth of information about the school, such as school news, upcoming events, recognition of achievement, and changes in the school calendar.

For informal communications, first contact your child's teacher—especially if your questions and concerns are about the classroom, the instructional program, or any issues relating to your child's educational experience.

General Information

The NVCA office staff is available to answer questions and connect you to the proper person to address your needs. Feel free to call or email at any time. General schoolwide and classroom information can be found online and in The Weekly Pride newsletter (emailed every Friday during the school year). Up-to-date information can be found on the NVCA Facebook page.

"Remind" Communication App

Join the NVCA Remind App to receive communication via text message or email throughout the school year. Below are the instructions to sign up:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/nvcae

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @nvcae to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @nvcae to (770) 212-2091.

* Standard text message rates apply.

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/nvcae on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

***Note:** Remind is used by many of the NVCA clubs, activities, and teachers to communicate with families. Each specific teacher will provide instructions to sign up for his or her class information.

Conflict Resolution and Grievances

Although we are a Christian community, we are not immune from misunderstandings or disagreements that arise between parents and the school. In those situations, we are committed to seek resolution in the spirit established by Holy Scripture. In Matthew 18, we are given principles that govern the process by which we resolve differences. Accordingly, although we outline the grievance process in a series of steps, we expect that every NVCA communication will be conducted in the spirit of Matthew 18.

Informal Process: Parents seeking resolution of a grievance must first discuss it informally with their child's teacher(s) or other involved persons. Request a meeting with the teacher via email sending a copy to his/her supervisor. Initiate the request within 10 school days of the incident prompting the grievance. You should receive a reply with 48 hours. Please keep the matter confidential to avoid unnecessary and unconstructive escalation.

If the concern is not adequately addressed through an informal discussion with the teacher and/or staff involved, request via email a meeting with the appropriate principal or supervisor of the staff involved (hereafter labeled principal/supervisor). Avoid dueling emails or texts. Most grievances are resolved civilly in a face-to-face meeting.

Formal Process: Should the informal meeting with the principal/supervisor not result in a satisfactory solution, parents may initiate a formal grievance process via a written request to the principal/supervisor. Include in the request:

- a succinct description of the grievance;
- the policy, rule, or law purported to have been violated; and
- a description of the informal meetings with the teacher or those involved as well as the meeting with the principal/supervisor.

The formal request must be filed within fifteen (15) school days of the last informal attempt to resolve the grievance. Following receipt of the written request, the principal/supervisor shall, whenever possible, conduct a conference with the aggrieved parent(s) within ten (10) school days. Within five (5) school days following the conference, the principal/supervisor will communicate in writing to the parent his/her decision regarding the grievance.

If the parents do not accept the decision of the principal/supervisor, they may appeal the decision in writing to the Head of School. The appeal must:

- be received by the Head of School within five (5) school days following receipt of the written response from the principal/supervisor;
- include a timeline of the attempts to resolve the grievance;
- attach communication pertaining to the grievance; and
- include the reason why the decision of the principal/supervisor warrants an appeal.

The Head of School will review the grievance, conduct an investigation and/or meet with the parents, and communicate his decision in writing within ten (10) school days following receipt of the written appeal.

The decision of the Head of School is final and not subject to appeal except for decisions that:

- involve an alleged violation of a contractual right;
- involve an alleged violation by the school policy or state or federal law; or
- are based on allegations of misconduct by the Head of School.

If any of the above exceptions apply to the decision of the Head of School, parents may appeal the decision to the Executive Committee of the NVCA Board of Directors. The appeal must be addressed in writing to the NVCA Board Chair (Chair) and must:

- be received by the Chair within five (5) school days of the receipt of the decision by the Head of School;
- identify the basis for the appeal, citing one of the exceptions; and
- explain why the appeal should be granted.

If the Board's Executive Committee determines that the decision by the Head of School warrants an appeal, it will within ten (10) days of receiving the written appeal:

- review the events leading to the decision;
- consider additional relevant material if appropriate;
- consider meeting with the parents; and
- issue its findings in writing.

The decision by the Executive Committee is final.

Delivery of Student Items

It is the responsibility of each student to remember all books, lunches, assignments, etc. Students should not depend on parents to correct the omission. However, when parents need to bring items for their child, they may leave them at the front office and the student's teacher will be notified.

Note: Delivery of food from UberEats, DoorDash, etc. will not be accepted and will not be delivered to students.

Dress Code (NVCA Uniform)

NVCA's dress code is designed to provide a standard that eliminates the distraction of competition and emphasis on dress. Students are expected to be in uniform during school hours, except when special dress days are formally identified. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child follows the uniform dress code for daily and special events.

Basic Uniform

Uniforms shirts must be purchased from Gregory Design or Dennis Uniform, while khaki and navy-blue uniform bottoms (shorts, skorts, skirts, and pants) may be purchased from other vendors such as Lands' End, Target, Walmart, Amazon, etc.

- **Dennis Uniform**
 - Phone: (602)220-0302
 - Dennisuniform.com/schools/QNV
 - (NVCA plaid: RR 201-545 & School Code: QNV)
- **Gregory Design**
 - Phone: (602)625-3862
 - Gregorydesign.com/t/nvca

The following is a list of school uniform items:

Girls may wear:

- Navy-blue, light-blue, or white polo shirt (long or short-sleeved) with logo
- Navy-blue, khaki shorts, skorts, or pants

- Approved plaid jumpers (may be worn through fourth grade) and skirts (see Dennis Uniform)
- Navy-blue, khaki, or approved plaid jumper (see Dennis Uniform)
- Navy-blue, black, brown, or khaki belt
- Navy-blue monogrammed sweatshirts or navy-blue jackets with logo
- Navy-blue cardigan sweaters with logo
- White, navy-blue, tan, or black socks or tights

Boys may wear:

- Navy-blue, light-blue, or white polo shirt (long or short-sleeved) with logo
- Navy-blue or khaki shorts including cargo shorts, or pants
- Navy-blue, black, brown, or khaki belt
- Navy-blue monogrammed sweatshirts or navy-blue jackets with logo
- White, navy-blue, tan, or black socks

Fridays and Casual Days: Fridays are casual days. Students may wear plain denim pants, capris, Bermuda shorts (no short shorts), and denim skirts (slightly above the knee). Students may wear an optional, current year Friday t-shirt, ordered through Gregory Design, or a uniform polo.

Special Occasion Attire, K–12: (to be worn for special events and programming) **Girls:** must have one navy skirt and one monogrammed white polo. **Boys** must have one pair of navy-blue pants and one monogrammed white polo. Shoes must be blue, brown, or black.

Formal Attire: The following standards will be adhered to at all student events where formal wear is required.

Girls must wear dresses that meet the following criteria:

The back of the dress may not fall below a standard bra line.

1. Dresses and jumpers must have straps.
2. Dresses should not expose excessive cleavage or the midriff; lace, netting/tulle, or other see-through materials are not acceptable to cover these areas.
3. The length of the dress, or a slit in the dress, may be no more than three (3) inches above the top of the knee when standing.
4. Exceptionally tight-fitted skirts or dresses are unacceptable. Material that causes the apparel to rise more than three (3) inches above the knee when walking, etc. is unacceptable.

5. Lace, netting/tulle, overlays, or other see-through materials will not be considered for the three (3) inch guideline.

Boys must wear the following:

1. A tuxedo, dress suit, or blazer with dress slacks
2. A long-sleeved, dress shirt, with or without a tie
3. Dress shoes

NOTE: If students are unsure whether their formal wear meets these guidelines, they are encouraged to bring the item into the administration for approval. If the student's attire does not meet these standards, he or she will not be admitted into the function. The guidelines also apply to guests of NVCA students.

General Appearance

- Sweatshirts and sweaters must have an approved NVCA logo.
- Hats are to be removed upon entering the school building.
- The bottom of shorts, skorts, and jumpers must not be higher than slightly above the knee.
- Shorts must be worn underneath skirts and must not be seen.
- Girls in kindergarten through fifth grade may not wear makeup. Girls in grades six through twelve may wear light, modest makeup.
- Boys in kindergarten through fifth grade must not allow hair to fall below the collar and be of natural style and color.
- Boys in sixth through twelfth grade must wear hair in a modest cut and length with natural style and color.
- Girls in kindergarten through twelfth grade must have hair of a modest style and natural color.
- Shoes must fit securely on the child's feet and allow him/her to run and jump safely on the playground and in the gym. Shoelaces must be tied. Heels/soles of shoes cannot exceed one inch. Shoes with characters (including skulls), flashing lights, or wheels are not allowed. Boots, flip-flops, and high heels are not allowed.
- White, navy-blue, tan, or black socks must always be worn with shoes. No-show socks for girls are allowed as long as they cover both toes and heels.
- Tights and leggings worn under skirts must be solid white, navy-blue, tan, or black and have no designs on them.

- Tattoos are highly discouraged. Students with tattoos may be asked to cover their tattoo if it is deemed inappropriate by the principal. Coloring or drawing on body parts is not permitted. Also, boys are not permitted to color their fingernails.

Accessories/Jewelry

- Girls may wear barrettes, bows, ribbons, or traditional style headbands of any color. (No “cat ears,” “unicorn horns,” etc.)
- If jewelry is worn, it must be tasteful. Earrings may only be worn on the ear and on no other body parts (small nose studs are permitted at high school level only). Jewelry from facial piercings and other non-ear piercings must be removed.
- Excessive jewelry (necklaces, hoops, rings, etc.) is not allowed. Chokers, choke chains, spiked collars, and wallet chains are not allowed.
- Elementary students: Kindergarten through fifth grade girls are only permitted to wear small stud earrings.

Note: Jewelry/accessory guidelines are in effect during casual dress days.

Dress Code Violations

Disciplinary Process for Students in Violation of Uniform Policy at the Elementary Level:

- First Offense: A written note and a call home to remind parents.
- Second Offense: Parents are called to bring the correct attire, while the child waits in the office.

Disciplinary Process for Students in Violation of Uniform Policy at the Middle School Level:

- First Offense: Student will receive a “NO” stamp on their PRIDE form and the “P” will be circled for the student not being properly prepared for school and class.
- Second Offense: Student must call home to have parents bring in the correct attire and a “NO” stamp will be issued on the student’s PRIDE form.

Disciplinary Process for Students in Violation of Uniform Policy at the High School Level:

- First and Second Offense: Student will be sent to the office with a Dress Code Violation Form and be asked to call home to have parents bring in the correct attire if the student is unable to borrow needed items. The student’s telephone will be confiscated for the day and returned after school.
- Third Offense: Student will be sent to the office with a Dress Code Violation Form and be asked to call home to have parents bring in the correct attire if unable to borrow needed items. The student’s telephone will be confiscated for the day and returned only to a parent/guardian. The student will also need to attend a Saturday Service Day.

NOTE: Students who are not in compliance with the dress code will be excluded from class and/or events until the problem is corrected. Repeated offenses will be considered in defiance of school policy. This will result in a parent conference with appropriate action taken by the administration.

Extended Care

Extended Care at NVCA offers an exciting opportunity for children of busy parents to thrive in a safe before and after school environment. Designed for preschool through fifth grade students, Extended Care provides supervised activities Monday–Friday from 7–8:15 a.m. and 3:15–6 p.m. during the school year; however, Extended Care is not available during school holidays and certain early dismissal days.

- Morning Extended Care (7–8 a.m.) preschool through fifth grade children will:
 - Begin their day in the company of adults and fellow students in a relaxed atmosphere
 - Use the time for ongoing academic work and studying
- During after school Extended Care (3:15–6 p.m.) PS3s/PK4s will enjoy:
 - Healthy snacks (per state licensing). *You will need to provide a snack for your child if he/she has dietary restrictions.*
 - Imaginative play
 - Reading
- In kindergarten through fifth grade after school Extended Care (3:15–6 p.m.) your child will enjoy:
 - Healthy snacks (per state licensing) *You will need to provide a snack for your child if he/she has dietary restrictions.*
 - Outdoor play in fresh air while exercising large muscle groups and strengthening the physical body
 - Quiet study/homework completion—with advisors available
 - Reading for fun or as homework
 - Making new friends

State ratios limit the number of students enrolled in Extended Care. Applications accompanied by registration fees are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register, visit RenWeb.com to be directed to your Parent Portal or contact the Director for more information regarding our program.

Note: If a student is involved in after-school sports or activities and is not picked up by the ending time, he/she will be checked into Extended Care. Students may not wait unsupervised on campus. Preschool through fifth grade Extended Care students must always be under appropriate supervision while on campus. The parents will be billed accordingly.

Field Trips

At NVCA, field trips are an integral part of the learning experience. Each teacher arranges field trips to enrich the curriculum for that particular grade level. Parents are invited to chaperone on field trips. Due to the restrictions imposed upon us by the sponsoring field trip agencies, siblings are not allowed on classroom field trips. To participate in a field trip, students must have an emergency card and signed Assumption of Risk form on file. Parents must have a current background check on file in the NVCA office to chaperone. Parents will be notified as to the time, location, cost (if any), and other pertinent details of all field trips well in advance of the trip.

Flag Salutes

In recognition and reverence to God and our country, NVCA includes a salute to both the American flag and the Christian flag each morning with the exception of days beginning with chapel services.

Salute to the American Flag

Students turn to face the flag with right hand over the heart and recite:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Salute to the Christian Flag

I pledge allegiance to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the faith for which it stands, one Savior, eternal, with mercy and grace for all. So, help me God.

Governance

NVCA is an independent private Christian school led by an elected board of directors, which employs a policy-based governance structure based upon sound principles and best practices of nonprofit governance. Fundamental to this model is the board speaking with one voice in writing, maintaining focus and direction through a strategic planning process, and clarifying the roles of the board as governors and the Head of School as the chief executive officer. The NVCA Board Policies Manual (BPM) documents all NVCA Board policies, including the structure of the Board, the requirements of its members, the relationship between the Board and the Head of School, and other policies that make clear how the Board will carry out its strategic role of governing. The BPM is frequently updated to add new policies or modify current policies. It can be accessed on the NVCA website under the tab "Our School," "Board of Directors."

Grandparents and Extended Family

NVCA values and honors the important role that grandparents play in the lives of our students. We encourage grandparents and other extended family members to volunteer on campus,

attend special programs such as Grandparents Day, and to support the mission of NVCA through special grandparent projects each year.

Guests/Visitors/Siblings

Closed Campus

In general, NVCA has a closed campus policy. No student is to leave the campus during school hours without permission from the administration. Exceptions to this policy include:

- Any adult picking up an NVCA student, provided he/she is on the emergency pick-up list or has written permission from the parent.
- Juniors and seniors with a 2.0 or higher average (with no D's or F's), who have a signed "off-campus" form, have obtained a car sticker, and are wearing their student identification, may leave campus at lunchtime. The campus may be closed to juniors and seniors at lunchtime if the open campus policy is abused.
- Those who have dental, doctor, or other such appointments with prior parental consent and NVCA approval.
- Cases of emergency illness where students may leave with permission from the office.
- Students not enrolled in a class the last period of the day who may have an early release time are expected to leave campus promptly. Those students with early release time who repeatedly do not leave campus promptly will be required to enroll in a class.

Note: When arriving/leaving campus during regular operating hours students must sign in/out of the office.

Visitors

Students wishing to visit NVCA for any part of a day (including lunch) must meet the following criteria:

- At least 48 hours before the scheduled visit, communication must be received from the visiting student's or host student's parent(s) stating the reason for the visit and assurance the visiting student will comply with all school rules. Written permission for the visit must be received from the principal in advance. Student guests must have an emergency form filled out by their parents in order to stay on campus.
- Guests will be approved for a visit upon such written request if the guest's parent(s) have indicated an interest in enrolling their child for the following year.
- Guests will be expected to comply with all of the school rules while visiting.

When a parent brings younger siblings to school, those children must be attended by an adult at all times. Playground activity and equipment that is meant for older children, can be

dangerous to toddlers. Younger siblings who are visiting the school with a parent must also wear shoes at all times.

Classroom Visitation

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom to help with school parties, to have lunch with their child, or to volunteer and assist the teacher with prior permission. Parents may not visit the classroom during instructional time. Any parent visiting campus on a regular basis during school hours is required to undergo a volunteer background check. For student safety and parent protection, guest parents and volunteers must never be alone with a student in a restroom, classroom, or other confined space.

Health

Illness at School

When a student is not feeling well at school, he/she must report to the teacher in charge of the class or activity. When necessary, the student will be sent to the nurse's office, and the parents will be notified as deemed appropriate. The school is not equipped to provide extended care for sick children. Students must be picked up within 30 minutes of parent notification. In the event that parents cannot be reached by phone, persons authorized on the emergency card will be contacted to pick up the child. Arrangements for the care of sick children must be made in advance by working parents. When a student has had a fever, he/she must be fever free for 48 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) before returning to school. When your child is picked up due to illness, he/she must be checked out at the front office.

Note: When both parents will be out of town, it is important the school be notified in writing of those dates, as well as the names and phone numbers of caregivers/carpool drivers.

In order to ensure that sick children have their needs met and to minimize the spread of illness, you are expected to keep your child home when the following conditions exist:

1. **A temperature of 100 degrees or higher**—Child must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 48 hours before returning to school.
2. **Vomiting or diarrhea**—Child must be free from these symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.
3. **Significant symptoms of respiratory illness**—Child must not be experiencing thick-colored mucus from eyes or nose, serious cough, wheezing, runny or crusty eyes, sore throat, or an earache.
4. **A rash of unknown cause**—If your family physician can identify the rash as noncontagious, we will admit the child to school, providing the rash is not making him/her sick or excessively uncomfortable. You must provide a note from your doctor clearing him/her to return.

5. **Conjunctivitis (pink eye)**—Symptoms include red, itchy eyes, with crusts that form on the eyelids.
6. **Contagious conditions**—These include untreated ringworm, head lice, impetigo, etc. Child may not return without a doctor's written clearance.
7. **Head injury**—This includes any brief loss of consciousness, severe headache, or visual disturbances.
8. **Any suspected fracture**—Unless the parent requests the student be allowed to stay at school. Obviously displaced fractures must be sent home.
9. **Cuts, gashes, or open sores**—Conditions that appear to require medical attention or visible bleeding that cannot be controlled within five minutes.
10. **For infections**—If the infection requires a doctor's prescription, keep your child home 48 hours after beginning the antibiotic.

For all other illnesses, the child may return to school if free from symptoms for 48 hours, providing the child's behavior indicates that he/she is feeling well. **Note:** Contact the NVCA Administration Office immediately if your child contracts a communicable disease, such as, but not limited to: COVID-19, strep throat, scarlet fever, head lice, chicken pox, impetigo, ringworm, fifth disease, hand-foot-mouth disease, pink eye, or mononucleosis.

Immunizations

All students must meet the Arizona State immunizations requirement before attending school. A copy of the child's current immunization record from a health care provider must be submitted at the time of application. Immunization records must be kept up to date. Submit records of immunizations to the school nurse. Alternatively, parents may submit a Religious Beliefs Exemption Form, in lieu of an immunization record. This form is available in the front office.

Student Injury at School

If a child is injured at school, they will be given appropriate first aid by the teacher and/or the school nurse, who will determine the proper treatment. In the event the nurse considers the injury serious, the child's parents will be contacted immediately. If the parents cannot be reached and the student's condition merits, paramedics will be called during continued attempts to reach the parents and/or others listed on the emergency contact card. Until the arrival of: a parent; the doctor; an ambulance; or the paramedics; the school nurse, or their designee, will be in charge and make all decisions about the care of the child. An accident report will be completed by the teacher or staff member who was on duty when the accident occurred.

Payment for emergency medical services will be the responsibility of the student's parents or private insurance.

Injury—First Aid Treatment

If a student is injured at school, he/she is given appropriate first aid, depending on the type of injury. Although staff members are certified in first aid and CPR, treatment by the school staff is limited to:

- Applying ice packs
- Washing injured area with soap and water
- Applying antiseptic to wounds
- Providing bandages

Liability Insurance

NVCA maintains general facility liability insurance. Evidence of insurance coverage is on file in the NVCA Business Office. Accidents involving injuries to children, parents, or visitors must be reported immediately to the school office.

Medication

If a child has a prescribed medication, his/her parents are expected to:

1. Complete the Parent Release for Administration of Physician Prescribed Medication by School Personnel form. These authorizations, which are filed in the school office, must be renewed whenever the prescription changes and at the beginning of each new school year.
2. Provide medication that is prescribed for the student to whom it will be administered in the original container. The medication's attached label must contain the following information:
 - a. Student's name
 - b. Physician's name
 - c. Name of medication
 - d. Dosage, schedule, and dose form
 - e. Expiration date of medication
 - f. Prescription number
3. Cooperate with the physician to develop a schedule to limit or eliminate the necessity for taking medication at school.
4. Assume full responsibility for transporting the supply of all medications to and from school.

Medication Administered by School Personnel

1. The school nurse will assume responsibility for placing medication in a locked cabinet.

2. Students will be assisted and observed by the school nurse when taking medications according to the physician's instructions.
3. The school nurse will record each dispensing of medication on a medication log at or immediately following the time of its administration.
4. All prescription medication must be held in the nurse's office. Serious disciplinary action, up to expulsion, may be taken against students who do not follow this rule.

Restroom Standards

Students are expected to use only restrooms designated for student use. Students are expected to:

- Wash their hands after using restroom facilities;
- Keep restrooms clean and quiet;
- Refrain from playing in the restrooms;
- Refrain from taking food into the restrooms;
- Use the restroom that is designated for their biological sex;
- Leave playground equipment outside when entering restrooms; and
- Go directly to and from the restrooms when dismissed from class.

Lunch/Snack (Nutrition Break)

Children who begin each morning with a nutritious breakfast are better equipped mentally and physically to deal with the demands of a workday at school. Make sure your child has a nutritious breakfast to get him/her through the morning. A nutrition break is given each day either before or during morning recess time. We encourage each student to bring a nutritious snack to sustain him/her until the lunch hour. You may check with your child's teacher for a list of appropriate snack items. **Note:** See the Peanut/Nut Sensitive Policy.

At NVCA, students may order a hot lunch or bring their own sack lunch. Milk is available for purchase. Clearly label your child's lunch bags or lunch boxes with her/his full name and grade level. Lunches brought to school by parents, after the school day begins, are to be left in the front office. Note: Students do not have access to a refrigerator. Food must be ready to eat without the need for cooling.

Lunch Behavior

While in the lunch area, students are expected to:

- Talk in low voices and only to immediate neighbors;
- Refrain from throwing food, papers, or objects;
- Clean up lunch trash after eating and wipe down tables; and

- Sit at assigned tables until excused.

Lunches may **ONLY** be eaten in the cafeteria or in designated outside areas on campus. Teachers are assigned to monitor the lunchtime activity.

Personal Property/Lost and Found

Students must assume sole responsibility for loss or damage to any school or personal property (issued to or belonging to them) such as garments, equipment, books, and materials, or electronic devices. The school is not responsible for personal items. To ensure identification, label all personal items brought to school with your child's full name and grade level including lunch boxes, backpacks, clothing, and supplies. Lost articles will be placed in a lost and found area which parents are encouraged to check frequently. Small valuables are held at the front office. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity periodically.

Recess

Kindergarten through fifth grade students have two breaks during the day. These breaks are designed to give the students social connections and relaxation time while allowing them to play games.

Games: There are no closed games. Students may join any game or activity already in progress, provided he/she is willing to abide by the rules already set by the group who started the activity and take turns on games with a wait time. For playground safety rules, refer to the "Playground Standards" in the "Safety" section.

Safety

Emergency Preparedness

NVCA will do everything possible to ensure the safety of our students in the event of a disaster/emergency situation during the school day. We have a detailed emergency plan and conduct drills on a regular basis. In the event of a disaster, remain calm and be assured that our teachers and staff will care for your child in your absence. Several faculty members are first-aid and CPR certified. Please:

- Keep the office informed of any changes of telephone numbers. If your child takes daily medication, provide the health office with a three-day emergency supply; and
- All visitors including parents are required to sign in and out at the front office and wear a visitor's badge while on campus so that they can be accounted for should a disaster occur.

In Case of Fire

- All students will be evacuated;

- No student will be allowed to return to any classroom until the all clear has been given by the proper authorities; and
- Parents will be notified to pick-up their children if necessary.

In the Event of a Disaster

- Students will be taken to a safe location for supervision;
- There will be a clearly visible student release center for students to be reunited with their parents or guardians. In the event that a parent is unavailable, the child may be released only to those adults named as authorized on the child's emergency card.

Conduct During Disaster Drills

Students are to remain silent, file out of the building in an orderly manner, and follow the teacher's instructions explicitly. Parents on campus during a drill are to follow the same procedures as the students and check in with the Command Center. All visitors and parents must be accounted for during drills and actual emergencies.

Playground Standards

For the safety of everyone, all children on the playground must adhere to the following rules:

- Keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself;
- Refrain from fighting or wrestling;
- Use equipment properly and safely at all times;
- Use good sportsmanship, obeying game rules;
- Return all equipment to its designated area at the end of recess;
- Refrain from going after a ball that has rolled under or bounced over the gate or fence without permission; and
- Remain within playground limits.

Each year the teachers will instruct the students on the proper use of specific playground equipment and standards for various activities and games.

Threats of Violence/Weapons

Our number one concern is the safety of students and staff members. When dealing with threats of violence involving students, the administration will quickly determine the threat's credibility, specificity, and severity. Credibility will be determined through information gathered via interviews of the individuals involved. The administration will determine if the threat was made against a specific person or a broad number of individuals. Finally, the administration will determine the severity of the threat and enact consequences commensurate with the threat.

In cases involving a claim that a weapon will be brought to school, school administration will contact the police immediately. In cases involving a weapon on campus, school administration will contact the police immediately and call for a schoolwide lockdown. The school will follow the directions of the responding officers until order is restored. Statements about, or actions involving, weapons at school will be treated as credible until proven false.

Threats involving weapons or statements made related to bringing weapons to school will result in immediate suspension. If a subsequent investigation supports the credibility of the threat, the offending student(s) will be immediately suspended and may be expelled. In cases where a threat is determined to be credible and specific, the administration will inform all threatened individuals and their families.

Child Abuse Reporting Requirements

In accord with A.R.S. 13-3620, school personnel are required to report to a peace officer or to child protective services any reasonable grounds to believe a child is the victim of physical or sexual abuse. The law is clear on the duty of school personnel to report. There is no legal alternative. The school will not contact parents before making a report to authorities.

Special Programs/Events for the Whole Family

Through our special programs, parents have an opportunity to learn about their child's classroom and teachers, as well as to see the God-given talents of our students. Special programs at NVCA include:

- Celebration of NVCA and Lutheran Schools Week
- Christmas Program
- Curriculum Showcase
- Evening of Excellence
- Fine Arts Night
- Open House
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Spring Production
- And more

Check the school calendar and website for details regarding exact dates and times.

Student Services

B.E.S.T. Program (Believe, Excel, Strengthen, Tailor)

The B.E.S.T. Program aims to support, nurture, challenge, celebrate, encourage, and love students that need support and enrichment. The program meets students from where they are and moves them forward. B.E.S.T. is about partnering with our students and helping them see their potential. The partnership helps them gain confidence, overcome obstacles, and stretch for even higher goals because they know that they have someone committed to supporting them. Most of the students in the B.E.S.T. program work under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504, which focuses on students with disabilities. For these students, B.E.S.T. staff use Care and Support Teams to tailor the academic and social programs to individual needs. The B.E.S.T. program also works with gifted and talented students using its Accelerated Team. In this way, B.E.S.T. reaches students at both ends of the academic and social spectrum. The B.E.S.T. acronym and its basic principles are described below.

B.E.S.T. Program Inspiring Future Leaders

1. **Believe**—I can do anything! *“I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me”* (Phil. 4:13).

We want our students to believe that there is nothing that can keep them from impacting the world.

2. **Excel**—I will work hard and will do my best. *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as for the Lord”* (Col. 3:23). Working hard and achieving goals is how you grow. Whether a small group or an individual, B.E.S.T. students feel good about trying their best and working hard to achieve their goals.

3. **Strengthen**—I have many strengths and will use those to help and support and serve others. *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matt. 5:16).

B.E.S.T. aims to find and develop the student’s strengths. Staff and families are encouraged to build on this daily. Students also learn to encourage and support others. This builds relational skills, a servant’s heart, and provides fellowship opportunities. Students learn to understand and encourage differences and accept all peers.

4. **Tailor**—I know how I learn best. I am me! *“I am the light of the world”* (John 8:12).

We discover how each student learns and what type of academic environment works best for her/him. Students will also become aware of how they learn best, embrace their individuality, and understand that we all learn differently and that is okay. I am me! I have a purpose!

B.E.S.T. Document of Understanding

NVCA is a private, Christian school that offers a student success program to eligible students with disabilities through the B.E.S.T. Program. Although we follow the best practices and procedures with regard to evaluation and IEP development, we do not provide a “free and appropriate public education (FAPE)” as guaranteed by law in a public school. Therefore, the procedural safeguards that are provided to students with disabilities and their parents through Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IDEA do not apply. We do, however, commit to providing a safe, strength-based, research-based positive intervention strategy plan and faith-based educational experience for your child.

The Role of a B.E.S.T. Coach:

The role of a B.E.S.T. coach is to act as supplementary support to the faculty member in engaging the student academically and emotionally. The B.E.S.T. coaches help to reinforce subjects taught by the faculty member by implementing modified work, utilizing additional resources, and teaching methods to help support the student.

B.E.S.T. coaches work diligently to develop a rapport with their students. This aids in building the students’ confidence to conquer tasks and assignments. B.E.S.T. coaches support and mentor the student in academics, organizational/study skills, as well as work to instill self-control and social skills.

B.E.S.T. Application and Rights

The B.E.S.T. program application involves information provided by the parent to the Director of Student Success. The process is designed to accurately evaluate all incoming students and ensure quality care and support services can be offered. The B.E.S.T. team will collaborate, review, and accept only students who are determined to be a proper fit for the program. Applications and all documentation will be due prior to enrollment.

Student Conduct

We expect that all students of NVCA will abide by the school’s core values:

- Excellence:** In the way we perform our roles as leaders, teachers, and students;
- Integrity:** In the way we handle the truth;
- Respect:** In the way we treat one another;
- Responsibility:** In the way we understand and complete our duties; and
- Reverence:** In the way, we keep God first in our lives.

LIONS Expectations

The LIONS acronym represents the behavioral expectation of all NVCA students, providing a foundation to support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of our students. As members of the NVCA family, students are expected to be LIONS, in the following sense:

Live with integrity

Impact through a positive example

Others focused

Nurturing and compassionate heart

Serving with excellence

Overall, LIONS are expected to be people of responsibility, redeemed children of Jesus Christ, who value integrity, service to others, and respect for God and His Word.

NVCA Schoolwide Behavior Philosophy

Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)

One of the foremost advances in schoolwide discipline is the emphasis on systems that support positive behaviors. Such systems include strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. Instead of using a piecemeal approach of individual behavioral management plans, a continuum of positive behavior support for all students within a school is implemented in areas inside and outside the classroom setting (such as outside, hallways, cafeteria, gym, and restrooms). Our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) is a systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to establish healthy environments in which teaching and learning occurs.

Research has shown that the implementation of punishment is ineffective when used inconsistently and in the absence of positive strategies. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step in a students' educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of our schoolwide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

An organization is a group of individuals who behave together to achieve a common goal. Systems are needed to support the collective use of best practices by individuals within the organization. The schoolwide PBIS process emphasizes the creation of systems that support the adoption and durable implementation of evidence-based practices and procedures, and fit them within on-going school reform efforts. An interactive approach that includes opportunities to correct and improve four key elements is used in schoolwide PBIS focusing on 1) outcomes, 2) data, 3) practices, and 4) systems. These key elements work together to build a sustainable system of:

- **Outcomes:** Academic and behavior targets that are endorsed and emphasized by students, families, and educators. (*What is important to each learning community?*);
- **Practices:** Evidence-based interventions and strategies. (*How will you reach the goals?*);

- **Data:** Information used to identify status, need for change, and effects of interventions. *(What data will you use to support your success or barriers?); and*
- **Systems:** Supports needed to enable the accurate and durable implementation of the practices of PBIS. *(What durable systems can be implemented that will sustain this over the long haul?).*

Schoolwide Positive Reward Program

At NVCA, we utilize a card reward system known as LION cards to reinforce the behavioral expectations throughout the school. These cards reward students for eliciting positive behavior that aligns with our core values not only in the classroom but also in common areas as well. Consistently recognizing students' accomplishments improves the chance they will continue to improve and accomplish. This fosters a habit of hard work and positive achievements. The LION cards can be used to purchase incentives within the classroom and school events.

Middle School Accountability Program—Personal Responsibility in Daily Efforts (PRIDE)

Students demonstrate strong character at NVCA by working diligently and treating others respectfully. NVCA assists its students to develop strong character by encouraging positive behavior and discouraging negative behavior. At the middle school level, we call this program PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in Daily Efforts). PRIDE is designed to motivate and challenge students in positive directions. PRIDE also recognizes and rewards students who meet certain goals. Here is how it works.

At the end of each quarter (October, January, March, and May), NVCA middle school students will be recognized as members of PRIDE if they achieved the following standards during the nine weeks:

- 1) No more than six days absent (including family trips, doctor/dentist appointments, and partial days);
- 2) No behavioral referrals/in-house referrals; and
- 3) All "Yes" stamps on the student's PRIDE card for the nine-week period (maximum of two grace stamps given each nine-week period).

Students who become members of PRIDE will receive recognition and an invitation to a planned celebration for their accomplishments. Students need to take four or more classes on campus or take a minimum of three core classes to be eligible for PRIDE. The PRIDE program works in conjunction with the NVCA schoolwide positive behavior intervention system (PBIS).

High School Accountability Program

At the high school level, there are three primary contextual influences taken into consideration when implementing our PBIS program: size, culture, and developmental level. Research has demonstrated that for high schools to adopt the implementation process of these contextual influences, they must focus on key foundational systems (data, leadership, and

communication). Through these systems we can successfully implement the core PBIS features to achieve desired student outcomes (Flannery, Frank, & Kato, 2012).

Disciplinary Policies

While we have achieved great success with PBIS and its subsidiary programs and practices, we realize that they do not guarantee only positive behavior. Accordingly, we have in place policies that link consequences with negative behavior. These disciplinary policies are intended more to restore than to punish. On one hand, we want young people to appreciate and even experience the consequences of poor judgment. On the other hand, we want them to see how there is a way to recover from poor decisions and be restored to fellowship within the community.

Student Rights and Due Process

Inherent in the discipline process is the following:

- Students and parents will be treated in a manner that is safe, dignified, biblical, and handled with appropriate confidentiality;
- Attendance at NVCA is a privilege, not a right;
- Christians are to follow the format laid down in Matt. 18:15–17 to resolve complaints or problems; and
- Students or parents who disagree with a decision or practice at NVCA, may follow the established grievance policy (available in the office), which sets forth the specific steps that may be taken.

Means of Discipline

By teachers: Teachers, for the most part, will handle discipline cases in their own way in harmony with school policy. Such discipline may range from a reprimand to detention and may include conferences with parents.

By Administration: The administration will handle cases referred to them by faculty and staff, as well as cases occurring outside the classroom, and may use a wide range of disciplinary means.

Reflection Form

A reflection form may be issued to a student after a verbal warning has been given and inappropriate behavior has not been resolved. The student will be asked to fill out this form, which involves questions to assist in redirecting a student with the proper behavior and walks him/her through the process of resolving any misbehavior that may have occurred. The reflection form also serves as a forgiveness process.

Probation

Probation may be academic or disciplinary or both. Probation is a period of time during which the student is expected to make significant academic or behavioral progress in order to show that he/she has changed sufficiently to allow him/her to remain at NVCA. During

this time, the student will be placed on a behavior and/or academic contract and must demonstrate a real change in behavior and personal growth. Probation may include the loss of privileges, such as attending certain extracurricular activities for a period of time. A student who successfully completes probation may be restored to full student privileges.

Detention

Detentions are issued for minor infractions and offenses by the students. Using the detention system allows teachers to alert parents of infractions. Failure to show up to detention or showing up without a signed detention slip may result in a suspension. If students ride in a carpool or play after-school sports, they must make the necessary arrangements to serve their detentions as assigned.

Service Time

Service time may be issued to a student as a means of discipline for an action involving misrepresentation of the core values of NVCA, such as excessive tardies, skipping class, or a conflict with another individual.

Suspension

In the unusual event that efforts to give instruction and direction fail, and a student is unable to correct disobedient or disruptive behavior, he/she may be placed on suspension for one to ten school days. While students serving a suspension will not face additional academic penalty, during a suspension it is their responsibility to make up any and all schoolwork missed to ensure that they have the information needed to return to class in a productive manner. Any and all assignments, including any work given during the suspension, must be handed in at the end of each school day. This includes having to take any tests missed the first day back.

Expulsion

Forgiveness, grace, mercy, and restitution are fundamental to NVCA's mission. However, sometimes expulsion from the school community is the only appropriate response both for the health of our community and for the potential restoration of the offender. A student who persists in disruptive and disobedient behavior will be considered for expulsion only after multiple attempts to achieve repentance and restoration through classroom intervention, in-school sanctions, and suspensions.

Behaviors that may warrant expulsion include but are not limited to the following **on campus** behaviors:

- Use, possession, distribution, or transactions involving alcohol
- Use, possession, distribution, or transactions involving illegal substances/drugs
- Misuse, illegal possession, or distribution of prescription or mood-altering drugs
- Illegal use or possession of a weapon of any kind

- Physically destructive behavior, including vandalism, hazing, and assault
- Threats of harm to any student, parent, faculty, or staff member
- Sexual harassment, including improper comments, contact, and/or groping
- Sexually immoral behavior: any inappropriate contact with oneself or another
- Possessing, viewing, sharing pornographic sexually oriented material
- Sexually immoral words/actions/images via email, cell phones, etc.
- Any online impersonation of student, faculty, or staff member
- Hacking into NVCA database or website
- Any action deemed a violation of the law

Behaviors that may warrant expulsion include but are not limited to the following **off campus** behaviors:

- Threats of harm to any student, parent, faculty, or staff member by a student or his/her parent
- Sexual promiscuity
- Cyberbullying or other inappropriate social media behavior
- Having an abortion or aiding in an abortion
- Any online impersonation of a student, faculty, or staff member
- Hacking into NVCA database or website
- Refusal to submit to a drug test
- Any action deemed a violation of the law

The NVCA administration and Board realize that the expulsion of a student is a very serious matter and should be carefully dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Empowered by the Board with the responsibility and authority to make such decisions, the Head of School will expel a student only after much prayerful deliberation and discussion in consultation with the Board, administration, and faculty.

Students expelled from NVCA will not be considered for readmission until after a waiting period of at least one semester from the day of the expulsion. Following this time, the student and family will need to reapply for admission and go through the normal application process, providing evidence that the behavior that led to the expulsion has been corrected. Application for readmission does not guarantee acceptance. A student's prior disciplinary record may be ground for denying that student's readmission. Moreover, expulsions are added to a student's permanent file as they cannot be revoked or expunged from a student's record. Finally, the parents of a student expelled from NVCA must fulfill their contractual and financial obligations to the school regardless of when in the school year the student is expelled.

Parental Cooperation

We value our partnership with families as we work together to educate students. To this end, all communication and interactions are expected to be professional and respectful. Normally a student will not be deprived of a Christian education or otherwise be held responsible for the actions of parents. However, the administration may recommend withdrawal or deny reenrollment of a student as a consequence of a parent displaying any of the following behaviors:

- Demonstrating a lack of concern for and insensitivity to the safety, rights, needs, and feelings of others in the NVCA community;
- Persistent and overt uncooperative interaction with teachers or school staff; and
- Display of attitudes, speech, or behavior contrary to the mission and values of NVCA.

Lifestyle Behaviors

The school bears the name of Jesus Christ; therefore, a high standard of conduct is expected of staff and students. Public conduct is to be consistent with our basic concept of life. Since we profess to love God above all and our neighbor as ourselves, we are expected to reflect that love in all of our actions, as well as in our attitudes toward each other and our work.

The Bible teaches that parents are responsible for the training and instruction of their children. The Christian school stands ready to assist parents in their God-given responsibilities. NVCA seeks not to assume a task that God bestowed to parents, but rather seeks to serve as the parents' appointed and authorized representatives in the training process. The school expects parents to support the administering of discipline. The administration determines compliance with policy and has the final word in all instances. Parents and students agree that enrollment in NVCA, and presence on school property, suspends the expectation of privacy for personal items brought or stored on school facilities, and therefore, they agree to issue consent to be searched at any time.

- **Substance Abuse:** Students who possess, use, or appear under the influence of mood or mind-altering chemicals interfere with the school's responsibility of providing a safe and healthy environment for all students. The use of such substances impairs the ability to learn, thus limiting the ability of the school to educate the student and accomplish our mission. Should the school administration suspect a student possesses an illegal substance, or something that may cause physical or emotional harm to other students, NVCA reserves the right to search and inspect the student, the student's personal belongings, and automobile.

NVCA students are forbidden consumption or possession of: alcoholic beverages, tobacco, vaping paraphernalia or products, and mood or mind-altering chemicals for their entire school career on or off campus (including during vacations or breaks). A

student who distributes or sells mind-altering chemicals will be reported to the police and is subject to an immediate expulsion from NVCA. A student who possesses illegal substances on campus or at school events risks punishment including expulsion.

Drug testing may be required by request of the administration. Results indicating drug use by a student or refusal to submit to a drug test will result in a suspension or expulsion. The cost of the drug test is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian as well as the student involved is required to abide by any administrative decision.

- **Cheating:** Any dishonesty in schoolwork will be reported to the parent(s) and the administration by the teacher. Dishonesty will result in a grade of “zero” for that assignment. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the administration. Students who continue this behavior face possible expulsion. If a student is using or appears to be using an electronic device during a test or quiz without the teacher’s permission, it will be considered cheating.
- **Bullying, Harassment, Hazing:** NVCA recognizes that a safe and civil environment is necessary for student learning and to achieve high academic standards. Bullying, sexual harassment, and hazing like other disruptive or violent behavior, impedes both a student’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to educate its students in a safe environment. These are unacceptable behaviors that violate our core values and will not be tolerated.

Definitions

“**Bullying**” means systematic, repeated, or recurrent conduct committed by a student or group of students against another student or group of students that causes measurable physical harm or emotional distress. Verbal expression, whether oral, written, or electronic, is included within the definition to the extent that such expression is (1) lewd, indecent, obscene, advocating for illegal conduct, intended to incite an immediate breach of peace, or the severe and pervasive use of threatening words that inflict injury or (2) the school administration reasonably believes that such expression will cause an actual, material disruption of school work.

“**Harassment**” means conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a student that:

- Has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment;
- Has the effect of interfering with a student’s academic performance; and
- Has adverse effects on a student’s academic opportunities.

“**Sexual harassment**” means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, where (1) submission to such

conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's evaluation, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions affecting such student, (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Including, but not limited to:

- Unwelcome sexual flirtations or propositions
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body
- Sexually degrading words used to describe an individual
- Display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures

"Hazing" means any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization or team, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or another person. Such conduct includes but not limited to whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, forced consumption of any food, beverage, or other substance, or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any student or another person. Conduct that subjects a student or person to extreme mental stress, including deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation is also considered hazing.

"School Premises" means any building, structure, athletic field, sports stadium, or other real property owned, operated, leased, or rented by NVCA.

"School-Sponsored Functions or Activities" means a field trip, sporting event, or any other function, or activity that is officially sponsored by NVCA.

"School-Sponsored Transportation" means a vehicle owned, operated, leased, or subcontracted by NVCA.

Prohibition

Unacceptable behavior such as hazing, bullying, and harassment of any kind based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or for initiation into memberships, or anything constituting teasing/taunting consistently, is strictly prohibited. NVCA prohibits such behavior that takes place on or immediately adjacent to school premises, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, or off-campus. NVCA also prohibits such behavior that takes place through the use of the school Internet system or the use of a personal digital device on campus or off-campus. This policy applies to behavior that occurs before, during, or after school hours; and including vacations and breaks.

- **Improper Use of Social Media and Personal Communications** – NVCA expects its students to portray a Christ-like character on and off its campus. This includes the area of social media. It is impossible to identify all the inappropriate or offensive behaviors related to social media; however, following is a list that includes actions

considered inappropriate or offensive. If a student chooses to participate in them, appropriate disciplinary action will take place, including possible expulsion.

Personal electronic devices must not contain any content of a sexual or graphic nature. Photos, videos, online content, text/picture messages, links to websites, tweets/retweets, comments, images, or posts that deal with any of the following areas: The personal use or possession of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products, or items that condone drug-related activity. This includes any drug paraphernalia.

- Actions that might be considered cyber-bullying, including content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, or threatening toward any individual or entity. Examples of these include comments regarding NVCA, another school, coaches, or students.
- Content that depicts or encourages unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities. Examples of these include hazing, sexting, sexual harassment/assault, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, stalking, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug/alcohol use.
- NVCA seeks to help our students build a positive legacy. We remind students that in a digital world they create digital footprints with anything they do online. The Internet is permanent. College admissions counselors and future employers read online profiles and make decisions based upon the information they find. Students must be careful about sharing personal information online and about building a positive the digital reputation, one that models Christ through their online activities.
- **Pregnancy**—Although a pregnant student will not be allowed to continue classes on campus, we will take extra measures to assist and counsel each student to encourage right choices and continue their education off campus.
- **Theft**—Theft of personal property or of school property is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Theft will usually draw a suspension and may require police notification. Continued violations may result in administrative withdrawal or expulsion.
- **Sexuality**—We believe that God has prohibited intimate sexual activity outside of a marriage. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (e.g., adultery, fornication, homosexual acts, bestiality, incest, pornography, and attempts to change one's biological sex) or advocacy of sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God. If a student advocates or practices lifestyles outlined in this paragraph, they risk suspension and even expulsion.
- **Transgenderism**—Biological sex means the biological condition of being male or female as assigned at birth. Student restrooms, locker rooms, and showers that are designated for one biological sex shall only be used by members of that biological sex. In any other school facilities or settings where a student may be in a state of

undress in the presence of other students (that is, changing costumes during school theatrical productions and so on), school personnel shall provide separate, private areas designated for use by students according to their biological sex.

- **Felony**—A student will not be retained without Board approval if he/she has committed a felony.
- **Defacing or Damaging School or Staff Property**—Malicious or careless acts which result in damage to or destruction of school, students', or staff members' property will result in both appropriate disciplinary action and the replacement or repair of such property by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).
- **Fighting**—Fighting among students is absolutely prohibited. Students involved in a fight risk being suspended regardless of "who started it."
- **Disrespectful and/or Disruptive Actions, Language or Attitudes**—Disruptions in class, unruly behavior, and defiant conduct will not be tolerated.
- **Musical Devices, Cell Phones, or Other Electronic Devices**—Any listening devices such as radios, iPods, cell phones and the like may be played before school, during lunch, and after school at the high school level, if (1) their use does not disturb normal activities, and (2) they are listened to with earbuds or headphones. Due to the disruptive effect on classes and the susceptibility to theft and loss, these devices, including cell phones, must be on silent and are not allowed to be visible during school hours. These devices will be confiscated if the rules are violated. Multiple violations result in the student losing the privilege of having such devices on campus.
- **Hazardous Items**—Matches, lighters, fireworks, firearms, knives, items that simulate weapons, and other such items that expose students, school personnel, or property to danger are forbidden.
- **Obscene Behavior**—Obscene behavior, which includes cursing, lewd, offensive, or vulgar language or gestures, whether physical, written or spoken, is not permitted.
- **Public Display of Affection**—Inappropriate public display of affection will not be tolerated.
- **Display or Possession of Sexual Paraphernalia**—The possession or display of sexual paraphernalia is a violation of school policy.

Supplies

School supply lists may be found on the school website, northvalleyca.org, under Community & Resources. Parents are asked to send their child to school during Meet the Teacher Night with

the appropriate materials and supplies. All personal and uniform items, especially sweatshirts and sweaters should be labeled.

Technology

NVCA has a Mac lab available for K–12 students. Two sets of iPads travel between the preschool through fifth grade classrooms. All high school and middle school students are required to have their own laptop computer in order to take advantage of a twenty-first century learning environment.

NVCA enrollment creates an agreement that we have permission to use images of your child taken at school events or activities. These images could be used for classroom documentation, portfolios, displays, the NVCA website and/or advertising purposes. If you do not want your child's photograph to be used, you must sign an Opt-Out form that is available in the front office.

Laptop Requirements: 6th–12th Grade

Students in 6th–12th grade are required to bring their own laptop to school every day. Students will use the laptops to access online textbooks, email teachers, create products using Microsoft Office tools, and gather research. The Responsible Use of Technology Agreement must be reviewed and signed by each student and parent for the laptop to be allowed to join our Wi-Fi network.

Laptop specifications:

- Minimum four GB of SDRAM (eight GB preferred)
- Windows 10, 64-bit
- Minimum 64 GB hard drive
- Minimum eight hours of battery life
- Antivirus software (Windows Defender comes with Win10)

Suggestions:

The devices below are suggested for dedicated school use only. Since many of these devices can have limited hard drive space and RAM memory, they will not run high-end graphics games effectively.

Under \$500

- Lenovo IdeaPad
- Acer Aspire
- HP EliteBook Folio or HD Notebook
- Dell Inspiron

If you own a MacBook, your child may use it at school. Contact the IT Department with any questions about its use.

Technology Use Guidelines

NVCA educates students about efficient, ethical, and appropriate uses of the latest resources. Technology is used to meet many curriculum goals. Students enhance their learning via access to a wealth of resources for reference and research. We provide instruction on utilizing technology correctly and accessing resources appropriately. We ask parents to work with us to develop good habits for our students' technology use.

Home Use

Parents are encouraged to establish clear home policies regarding Internet usage. Some parameters to consider are:

- Time of use (establish electronic curfew hours)
- Place of use (consider limiting usage to a public space in your home)
- Monitor use of apps and websites
- Established disciplinary actions when the home policy is violated

Every child is different, and every family has its own structure of discipline. Depending on the situation in your home, you may want to consider using home monitoring software such as Circle® Home Plus.

NVCA Technology Use

This policy defines the boundaries of acceptable use of NVCA computing and communication resources, including computers, electronic devices, electronic data, computer networks, internet services, information sources, communication services, and other communication resources.

NVCA's computing and communication resources are the property of NVCA. They are to be used for the advancement of NVCA's spiritual, educational, service, community outreach, administrative, and business purposes. Computing and communication resources are provided for the use of faculty, staff, currently admitted or enrolled students, and other properly authorized users.

Requirements for the Use of NVCA Resources

1. Users must comply with NVCA policies as well as all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
2. Users must be truthful and accurate in personal and computer identification.
3. Users must respect the rights and privacy of others, including intellectual and personal property.

4. Users must (1) not compromise the integrity of electronic networks, (2) avoid restricted areas, and (3) refrain from activities that may damage the network or transmitted or stored data.
5. Users must maintain the security of their accounts and are to protect their account passwords.

Prohibited Uses of NVCA Resources

1. Unlawful posts or communications, including threats of violence, obscenity, pornography, and harassing communications.
2. Any alteration of addresses, uniform resource locator (URL), or other action that masks any NVCA domain as a host site unless authorized by the NVCA Technology Department.
3. Unauthorized anonymous or pseudonymous communications. All users are required to cooperate with appropriate NVCA or other authorized personnel when investigating anonymous messages.
4. Misrepresenting or forging the identity of the sender or the source of an electronic communication.
5. Unauthorized acquisition attempts to acquire and use of others' passwords.
6. Revealing passwords or permitting the use by others (by intent or negligence) of personal accounts for computer and network access without authorization by the NVCA Technology Department.
7. Unauthorized use or attempts to use the computer accounts of others.
8. Altering the content of data or communications originating from another person or computer with intent to deceive.
9. Unauthorized modification of or deletion of another person's files, account, or communications.
10. Use of NVCA computer resources or electronic services without authorization or beyond one's level of authorization.
11. Making NVCA computing resources available to individuals not affiliated with NVCA without the approval of the NVCA Technology Department.
12. Interception or attempted interception of data or communications by parties not authorized or intended to receive them.
13. Compromising the privacy or security of electronic information.
14. Infringing upon the copyright, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property rights in computer programs or electronic information, including plagiarism and unauthorized use or reproduction.

15. The unauthorized storing, copying or use of audio files, images, graphics, computer software, data sets, bibliographic records, and other protected property except as permitted by law.
16. The act or attempt to circumvent, alter, interfere with, disable, or disrupt any computer or network accounts, applications, communications, services, systems, or equipment.
17. The propagation of computer “worms,” “viruses,” “trojans,” or “malware.” The sending of electronic chain mail and inappropriate “broadcasting” of messages to individuals or hosts.
18. Failure to comply with requests from appropriate NVCA officials to discontinue activities that threaten the operation or integrity of computers, systems, or networks.
19. Altering or attempting to alter files or systems without authorization.
20. Scanning of networks, networked devices, or applications for security vulnerabilities without specific authorization by the NVCA Technology Department.
21. Attempting to alter or connect any computing or networking components/services (including, but not limited to, bridges, routers, firewalls, DNS servers, DHCP servers, wireless access points, switches, and hubs) on the NVCA network/campus without approval of the NVCA Technology Department.
22. Installation or alteration of wiring, including attempts to create network connections, or extension or retransmission of computer or network services without approval of the NVCA Technology Department.
23. Conduct leading to disruption of electronic networks or services.
24. Conduct leading to the damage of NVCA electronic information/data, computing/networking equipment, and resources.
25. Unauthorized use of NVCA trademarks or logos and other protected trademarks and logos.
26. NVCA and department webpages may link to commercial websites, but any link that generates, or has the potential to generate, revenue to NVCA or to any individual or company, including click trade or banner advertising, must be approved by the NVCA administration.
27. Use of NVCA computer resources for private business or commercial activities, fund-raising, or advertising on behalf of non-NVCA organizations.
28. The unauthorized reselling of NVCA computer resources.

Confidentiality

Because confidentiality of communications and other network transmissions cannot be assured, all users must be careful when sending personal, financial, confidential, or sensitive information electronically.

Routine Logging and Monitoring

Certain electronic and network activities are routinely logged and monitored. These activities include but are not limited to:

- Use of passwords and accounts accessed
- Time, duration, and amount of activity
- Access and use of NVCA equipment and services
- Access and use of webpages and Internet services
- Access and use of electronic resources and services

Detailed Session Logging

In cases of suspected violations of NVCA policies, especially unauthorized access to computing systems, the NVCA Technology Department or school administration may authorize detailed session logging. This may involve a complete keystroke log, screenshots, application use, and transaction details of an entire session. In addition, the Technology Department or school administration may authorize searching of user files to gather evidence on a suspected violation.

Responsibility for Data Security

Software and physical limitations, computer viruses, and third-party intrusions can compromise the security of data storage and communications. NVCA takes reasonable precautions to minimize risk. NVCA is not obligated to maintain backups of any file/data for any particular length of time.

Right to Examine Computers and Equipment

NVCA-owned computers and equipment may be examined to detect illegal content and to evaluate the security of the network. Networks, networked devices, and applications may be scanned for vulnerabilities as authorized by the NVCA Technology Department.

Violations and Reporting

Any actual or suspected violation of the rules listed above should be brought to the NVCA Technology Department.

NVCA Response to a Reported Violation

Upon receiving notice of a violation, NVCA may temporarily suspend a user's privileges and move or delete the allegedly offending material pending further proceedings. A person accused of a violation will be notified of the charge and have an opportunity to respond before NVCA imposes a permanent sanction. Cases will be referred to the suitable NVCA disciplinary authority appropriate to the violator's status (e.g., school administration) or to proper law enforcement authorities.

In addition to sanctions available under applicable law and NVCA and Board policies, NVCA may impose a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of access privileges to computing and communication accounts, networks, NVCA-administered computing rooms, and other services or facilities. If NVCA believes it necessary to preserve the integrity of facilities, user services, or data, the school may temporarily suspend any account, whether or not the account user is suspected of any violation. NVCA will provide appropriate notice to the account user. Servers and computers that threaten the security of NVCA systems will be removed from the network and allowed to reconnect only with the approval of the NVCA Technology Department.

Restricted Use of NVCA Services

When a user's affiliation with NVCA ends, NVCA will terminate access to computing and communications resources, electronic services, and accounts. The user will have one week to request access to any user-generated documents or stored communications. After that time, the user's data will be deleted. NVCA may, at its discretion, permit the user to have access to accounts and have communications forwarded or redirected for a limited period of time. NVCA may keep select files as examples to assist with future classes.

Students without Computers (Middle School/High School) in Class

- Students who arrive to class on a test/quiz day without their computers will either take the test/quiz on another laptop/iPad or be sent to the media center to take the assessment on a desktop computer. If a teacher has a paper version of the test, with the teacher's permission, the student may take the paper version in the original classroom.
- During a "regular" class period, students without computers will remain responsible for classroom activities. At the teacher's discretion, individual students may share a computer with another student, miss a class activity, even one with a grade attached, or the assignment will be given as homework.

Consequences

First time—noted by the administration, informational email sent to parents/student (any assignments not turned in because iPad/laptop was not in class are considered “late assignments”).

Second time—noted by the administration, student counseled by administration, and email with prevention tips sent to parents/student.

Third time—noted by the administration, email sent to parents/student, possible detention for student,

Fourth time—noted by the administration, email sent to parents/student/teachers, student receives 50% credit on all work turned in that day in classes where laptop/iPads were used.

Fifth time—noted by the administration, email sent to parents/student/teachers, detention for the student, student receives 0% credit on all work turned in that day in classes where laptop/iPads were used.

Telephones/Messages

NVCA desires to help students learn to be responsible and accountable. Phone calls are not to be made without permission from the appropriate staff member. If students need to use the school phone, they must go to the front office. At the high school level, cell phones may be used between classes and during lunch but must be turned OFF and out of sight during classes. Cell phones can be used during crisis situations.

Parents wishing to contact students must call the school office. Parents are encouraged to address any family logistical details prior to their child leaving for school in the morning.

Parental Rights

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (“FERPA”), a student’s official educational record is accessible by that student’s parents or legal guardians. These rights transfer to the student upon reaching the age of 18. Items included in a student’s official educational record include records, files, documents, and data directly related to a student, including transcripts or other records obtained from a school in which a student was previously enrolled. Certain other documents, which may be in the possession of the school, fall outside the purview of FERPA, as they do not fall within the definition of educational records. Items that are not available to parents include:

- Sole-possession records or private notes held by educational personnel, which are not accessible or released to other personnel (which may include school counselor records if they are not accessible or released to other personnel);
- Law enforcement or campus security records which are solely for law enforcement purposes;

- Records relating to an individual's employment by the institution (under employment is contingent on student's status); and
- Records on a student who is eighteen years of age or older, or is attending an institution of postsecondary education, which are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional, which are made, maintained, or used only in connection with the provisional treatment to the student, and are not available to anyone other than the person providing such treatment, except that such records can be personally reviewed by a physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice (e.g., psychotherapy records of a college counseling center).

Please note that NVCA has the right to withhold transcripts if a family's financial status is in question. Transcripts will not be released if a family has failed to fulfill their obligation for tuition payments, late payments, overdue fees, or missing equipment that a student has signed out but never returned.

Peanut/Tree Nut Sensitive Campus

To protect our students and adults who have life-threatening peanut or tree nut allergies, NVCA maintains a peanut/tree nut sensitive campus. Parents of children with peanut or tree nut allergies must notify the school in writing so teachers and lunch monitors are aware of the children who need protection. Students whose lunches include peanut products, or products containing traces of peanut or tree nuts, must eat at designated tables in the cafeteria.

If a child or staff member is nut-sensitive, the classroom will become a nut-free zone.

Pesticide Application

At least 48 hours prior to a pesticide application on our campus, NVCA will post notices on our premises that contain (1) the date/time of application, (2) the concentration of each specific pesticide used, (3) the name and number of the pesticide business licensee, and (4) the name of the specific applicator. The business licensee can make available the pesticide label and the material safety data sheet. Posted notices remain for at least 48 hours after the application.

Appendix A

High School Specific Information

Extracurricular Activities

As a participant in extracurricular activities, students represent Christ and NVCA. Participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege extended to students in good standing with the school. The administration reserves the right to determine whether a student is in good standing.

Behavioral Rules Associated with Extracurricular Activities

1. If a student violates the NVCA substance abuse policy, she/he will be subject to the discipline listed under the policy. Should a student remain at NVCA, the following will apply to those involved in extracurricular activities. Violations that occur during an off-season apply to the next extracurricular activity. The penalty for violating this rule is as follows:

First violation—suspension from games/events for two weeks.

Second violation—removal from extracurricular participation.

2. Behavior in school must be exemplary. An extracurricular participant involved in any administrative disciplinary action, such as excessive tardies, unexcused absences, or misbehavior in class, will be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled event. Continued violation of school rules by a student will result in dismissal from the team/activity.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct and language at any time is cause for disciplinary action, including dismissal from a team. The severity of the incident will be taken into consideration before a decision is made with regard to any penalty. Normally the following action will be taken:

First violation—Student will be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled event.

Second violation—Student will be ineligible for the next four regularly scheduled events.

End of season violation—If the penalty is imposed after the end of the season, the penalty is to be enforced at the beginning of the student's next extracurricular activity.

4. A student participant must be in attendance a minimum of two periods at school in order to be eligible to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity on that day. If the student is in attendance less than two consecutive periods, he/she may observe the practice or event, but may not participate. Students absent on Friday may not be eligible to participate in Saturday competitions.
5. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of equipment checked out to them. They must pay for any equipment lost or unnecessarily damaged.

6. Students are expected to be well-groomed and appropriately dressed on all extracurricular outings.

Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities normally require significant amounts of time outside of school, which may reduce time available for academic work. Students must maintain satisfactory progress in their studies and display good conduct in order to participate in extracurricular activities. Students falling below academic standards will be encouraged to spend their time on academic efforts. To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities (including, but not limited to, athletics and performing arts) students must meet these standards:

- maintain a grade-point average of 2.00 or better;
- receive no academic failing grades (F's);
- receive no unsatisfactory conduct grades (U's); and
- make adequate progress towards graduation.

Quarter grade checks will occur. Students not meeting academic requirements are placed on probation. During probation, a student may continue to participate in extracurricular activities including practices. Achievement and eligibility requirements will be monitored for improvement. If the student meets the eligibility requirements at the next grade check, they will be taken off probation. Students not meeting the criteria will move to ineligible status. While ineligible, the student may not participate in games, productions, or school outings. The student may continue to participate in practices and rehearsals. Achievement of eligibility requirements will be monitored for improvement. If the student meets the eligibility requirements at the next grade check, they will resume eligible status and exit the process. If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria at the next grade check, they will remain ineligible. The process will repeat at the next progress report or quarter grade check. Ineligibility from fourth quarter carries over to first quarter activities the following year.

Note: Extreme or unique cases will be evaluated by the administration. Coaches and activity sponsors have the prerogative to enforce a stricter eligibility policy with the approval of the administration.

Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Policies

Eligibility Rules for Transfer Student

After enrolling and attending one or more classes, students changing enrollment to/from one school to another school shall be considered a transferring student. If this is the first transfer, a student shall be ineligible to participate in the interscholastic competition at the school to which he/she transferred for the first 50% of all competitive events. The student will

be eligible for the second half of the season and all postseason events. Subsequent transfers will require a period of ineligibility of one year prior to being able to participate in interscholastic competition. This rule is intended to and shall encompass any and all transfer situations and shall apply to any and all member schools, be they public, private, or parochial.

Forms

All athletes must complete and turn in the following documentation before they will be allowed to practice or compete. Completed forms should be turned in to the athletic director's office.

- Health physical—An annual physical must be completed by a physician and documented on the proper AIA form. The health physical form, 15.7-B, is found on the school website.
- Health questionnaire—Located on the school website, form 15.7-A must be completed by the parents and the athlete.
- Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MTBI)/Concussion Acknowledgement Form—This AIA Form 15.7-C is found on the school website.
- AIA Brainbook Concussion Course—This is a one-time webinar that educates athletes in the area of brain injury including learning to recognize signs of a concussion. This course will be administered at the school, usually by a coach or athletic trainer. After completion of the training, an athlete will print a certificate from the website. This certificate must be submitted to and filed in the athletic director's office.

High School Academics

Academy Endorsements and Credits

Beginning in a student's sophomore year, NVCA is pleased to announce the launch of new Academy Endorsements:

- Arts Academy
- STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- Ministry Academy
- FEBA Academy (Faith and Entrepreneurial Business Academy)

Academy Endorsements, which effectively serve as a school within a school, offer personalized learning opportunities by:

- Providing increased options and opportunities for student ownership and educational success in terms of achievement and personal satisfaction;

- Inspiring student learning through the opportunity for depth in a specific area of strength, interest, and passion;
- Challenging and strengthening students while providing a balanced approach to learning and the high school experience through specific guidelines, parameters, and expectations;
- Preparing students for college by providing them with an endorsement that serves as a unique distinction for their college resume and the competitive application process. The endorsement announces that the student has accomplished a well-rounded and rigorous program in a specific area of concentration;
- Helping students develop resiliency and personal accountability through internships, collaborative experiences, and Capstone project requirements; and
- Strengthening students for a Christian life of service in a global society.

Refer to the NVCA High School Course Description Catalog for complete description and requirements for each academy endorsement.

B.E.S.T. Program Graduation Requirements

Most students in the B.E.S.T. program will complete the standard requirements for graduation. However, graduation requirements may be modified depending on the special needs of the individual student. This modification requires written approval of an administrator. The NVCA B.E.S.T. Director will present graduation requirement modification proposals to the administrator and the guidance counselor by November 1 of each year for all students in grades 10–12. This will include a review of previously approved modification proposals.

Christian Service

Requirement—25 hours per year

All Christian service hours for the school year will be recorded throughout the year and then finalized the Friday before final exam week in May. Any service completed after that date will count towards the following school year. All service hours will be monitored and submitted to the student's theology teacher. Christian service hours will be integrated into all Bible courses and count as 10% of the student's second semester Bible grade.

Dual Enrollment College Credit (DE)

NVCA currently utilizes Grand Canyon University, Arizona State University, and Huntington University for DE courses. These courses are taught by college-certified NVCA instructors using a college-approved curricula and text or current college professors at Grand Canyon University or Huntington University. It is the student's responsibility to contact potential colleges

regarding the acceptance of DE credits. Students must register with the applicable college and pay that school's tuition and associated fees. The colleges will grant students three or four college credits (amount varies per course) if a "C" or higher is earned for the semester. Upon successful completion of these courses, it is the student's responsibility to send transcripts from the originating institution to the college or university of their choice.

Fine Arts Elective Credit

Each student must complete one (1) credit of a fine arts elective or one (1) Career and Technical Education (CTE) elective which are chosen from the courses listed in our course catalog.

NVCA Online

NVCA Online leads the way in Christian online education and offers a selection of courses in all departments. This allows students to broaden their academic experience while customizing their learning schedules. We currently offer several classes including core courses that are NCAA approved, numerous electives, and dual credit options. Our courses are designed with a biblical worldview, meeting or surpassing the national standards for quality online courses and are taught by our own highly trained teachers.

NVCA Online offers several schedule options. Students may take all courses online or select a "blended" schedule consisting of four campus classes and three online courses.

NVCA Online dual credit classes offer our students an opportunity to demonstrate the pursuit of a passion outside the confines of the master bell schedule. Electives are the focus of these selections. Three or four college credits can be earned over a 15-week semester or 7-week semester, as well as a year of high school elective credit. The college credit is directly applicable to the university where the course was taken and may be transferable to other colleges.

Graduation and Fees

The NVCA graduation ceremony marks the final school event for students successfully completing all requirements. To participate in the ceremony students must:

- Wear NVCA sanctioned caps and gowns;
- Refrain from adding adornments and/or decorations to caps or gowns; and
- Adhere to school dress code policy including following guidelines for jewelry and hair style.

Additional graduation information:

- A fee will be charged to cover graduation expenses such as flowers, speaker, diplomas, caps, and gowns.
- Graduation announcements may be purchased separately.
- Graduation is a formal ceremony focusing on the accomplishments of the graduate using their God-given gifts. Participants are expected to respect the atmosphere and the spirit of the occasion.
- Students who have not met graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.
- Students and their parents receive regular updates regarding the student's academic status.
- The graduation ceremony is a worship service and a formal occasion. Therefore, the baccalaureate service is part of the graduation service.
- All graduates will be required to turn in all books and pay all fees before they are eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a diploma.

Graduation Requirements

The following table lists the graduation requirements, which are specific to North Valley Christian Academy and not a matter of state law. Only under extenuating circumstances will the administration waive requirements.

Curriculum Area	North Valley Christian Academy Graduation Requirements	Arizona University Entrance Requirements
English	4 credits	4 credits
Math	4 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	3 lab science credits: One credit in each of three different laboratory sciences selected from the following: chemistry, physics, or biology. An integrated laboratory science or an advanced level laboratory science (Human Biology, Biotechnology, and Investigative Science) may be used to substitute for one required course.
Social Studies	3 credits World History/Geography, Economics, American/AZ History, US/AZ Government	2 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 fine art or CTE* credit *Career and Technical Education
World Language	2 credits	2 credits Two years of the same language
Physical Education	½ credit	0 credit
Health	½ credit	0 credit
Theology	4 credits	0 credits
Senior Capstone Project (Required)	1 credit	
Language Arts (starting with Class of 2022)	Oral Communications Foundations of Writing Digital Citizenship	One (1) half credit course
Elective Courses	5 credits	0 credits
Total Required Credits	28 credits	16 credits

Placement Testing

To assess student needs, incoming freshmen and other new students will be given placement tests. Prior to enrolling at NVCA arrangements must be made through the school office to take these placement tests.

Semester Exams

Semester exams are a major factor in determining semester grades. These exams reflect the learning that occurred over the 18-week semester and account for 10% of the semester course grade. Exams should be taken seriously, as the grade will factor into the overall course grade and be reflected on permanent high school transcripts. Planned absences are not allowed during exams. Students missing an exam due to illness will be required to arrange to take the exam during the make-up period. A student who does not show up for a scheduled exam without administrative approval will receive a 10% reduction of their semester exam grade.

Capstone

Capstone is a comprehensive research project and NVCA graduation requirement. This project begins the second semester of a student's junior year and extends through April of their senior year. Capstone allows NVCA high school students to apply their acquired knowledge and skills to the investigation of a future career or interest. The Capstone project requires students to demonstrate skills in research, oral and written communications, creativity, and interpersonal interactions. This project aims to promote independent thinking and increase student awareness of career and social opportunities within the community. The experience provides an understanding of the paths available to our NVCA graduates as they begin their post-secondary journey. Capstone comprises three phases:

- **Phase 1—Introduction/Proposal**
A topic is selected, and a written proposal is submitted. In this stage objectives are identified, sources of data and supporting materials are described, and a potential plan for working with leaders in the student's profession of choice is outlined. Students gain a realization of how this project will benefit college/career selection and how this experience will help the student impact the community for Christ. This phase ends with an oral defense before the Capstone Panel. The proposal must be approved before the end of the student's junior year.
- **Phase 2—Research and Data Collection**
Within the first six weeks of the student's senior year, a formal research plan is prepared according to guidelines specified within the Capstone Handbook. This research plan includes a listing of source materials, data identification such as interviews or surveys, planned fieldwork, and a timeline for task completion.

- **Phase 3—Written Report and Oral Communication**

The final phase of the Capstone project is a formal written and oral report completed according to specifications within the Capstone Handbook. The written component must include visual schematics, a listing of the subject-matter experts involved in the fieldwork, and a log of the fieldwork activities associated with the project. The oral presentation is presented to the Panel and must be supported by visual aids such as PowerPoint slides. The written and oral reports are graded using a Writing Rubric and a Presentation Rubric.

Academic Probation

A student who is not on track to graduate may be placed on academic probation at the discretion of the administration. The administration may also ask the student to leave the school when this becomes apparent. Criteria for this decision may include coursework deficiencies, lack of effort, and failure to cooperate with authority or school rules.

Some students may be accepted to NVCA on academic probation. This is an alert to the student and parents that academic progress will be monitored, and the student will be expected to apply diligent attention to their academic progress in order to remain in the school. Students who fail to meet the school's eligibility requirements will also be placed on academic probation.

Incompletes

Students who receive an "incomplete" in a course must complete the work within two weeks of the end of the semester. Incompletes are only used in rare situations where a student has suffered a significant hardship preventing him/her from submitting a portion of the required work for a class. The two-week grace period allows the student to recover from the hardship. If the student does not make up the incomplete work, then the grade will be calculated with zero credit for the missing work.

Grade Replacement

All courses that are being repeated, for whatever reason, need to be taken at NVCA. It is up to the student and parent to notify the administration regarding what course needs to be placed in the student's schedule for make-up. If the student's schedule does not permit this, the student will be notified and will be given permission to take the course through NVCA's online program.

- Students will be allowed to retake a maximum of two credits.
- Students who have never taken the class before are given priority in scheduling. Final decisions regarding entrance to a class will be made by the administration.

- Students will receive only one credit for the retaken class. Both classes will appear on the transcript and the higher grade will be used when calculating their GPA. In the case of courses that are available for repetition (e.g. choir, weight training, drama, etc.), taking the class for the second time does not remove the grade earned the first time.
- Classes taken outside of NVCA are entered on the transcript with the name of the institution from where the course was completed and are not counted as part of the student's GPA at NVCA.
- Any religion class taken outside of NVCA must be preapproved by the high school principal.
- Once a class is completed outside of NVCA the student must have a transcript sent to NVCA in order for the course grade to be placed on the NVCA transcript.

Failures

Should a student fail a required course, they must meet with the guidance counselor and make immediate plans to satisfy the failed course requirement. A senior failing a required first-semester course, must complete an approved equivalent course by May 1 to participate in graduation ceremonies. Should a senior fail a required second-semester course, they will not participate in graduation ceremonies. The student must complete an approved equivalent course by August 1, in order to receive an NVCA diploma.

Honor Roll

Each semester three honor rolls will be published: White Honor Roll, Navy Honor Roll, and the Principal's List. The purpose of the honor rolls is to recognize achievement and to encourage greater achievement. A student is named to the White Honor Roll if an unweighted GPA of 3.5 to 3.74 has been achieved. If an unweighted GPA of 3.75 or higher has been achieved, a student is named to the Navy Honor Roll. A student is named to the Principal's List if an unweighted GPA of 4.0 has been achieved.

Seniors with an unweighted cumulative average GPA of 3.5 to 3.74 will be recognized with a navy-blue cord at graduation. Seniors with an unweighted cumulative average GPA of 3.75 to 3.99 will be honored with a light-blue cord whereas a student with an unweighted cumulative average GPA of 4.0 or higher will be honored with a grey cord at graduation. For graduation honor rolls, the GPA will be rounded 2 places to the right of the decimal. Note: National Honor Society members will be recognized at graduation with a gold tassel in addition to the honor roll cord.

Junior Marshalls

Junior Marshall is an honorary designation given to selected 11th graders. At the end of the first semester each year, the administration shall designate two Junior Marshalls who will be ushers and flag bearers at graduation. The following criteria shall be used when making this determination.

- Cumulative weighted grade-point at the end of the first semester of the junior year. A maximum of 20 credits will be considered with no transfer credits accepted. If a student takes nine classes in a year, the classes used to calculate the grade-point will be the eight classes that afford the highest grade-point.
- On track to graduate with distinction, normally the two students with the highest weighted grade-point will be considered for Junior Marshalls. The senior class has the option to invite two additional students to become Junior Marshalls.
- In good standing with the school in terms of Christian testimony and deportment.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) began in 1921 as an organization that honors and recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in four areas: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Seniors, juniors, and sophomores, who have completed their second semester and are in good standing with the school, are eligible for membership if they have earned and maintained an unweighted cumulative grade-point average of 3.75 or higher. NHS students complete ten hours above the school requirement of Christian service and participate in several important service projects throughout the school year.

Scheduling

It is important that students choose their high school courses wisely, as these choices will impact their future education and work experiences. Obtaining a broad base of educational experience is essential in our rapidly changing society; therefore, students are encouraged to select courses from all areas of the curriculum. Wise planning will allow a student to adequately prepare for college, pursue career interests, and take courses for personal enjoyment and enrichment of life in general. Students and their parents are encouraged to seek the advice of teachers and staff as they make plans for registration.

Schedule Changes

All schedule changes must be coordinated through, and approved in writing by, the guidance counselor. Schedule changes must be initiated in writing within seven school days of the beginning of the semester. Requests for specific teachers, sections, or to be with friends will not be considered. Teachers and/or administrators may initiate a student schedule change to

improve student placement. Withdrawal from a course two weeks after the start of each semester is done only when there are extenuating circumstances and must be approved in writing by the teacher, parent, and administrator. Withdrawal after six weeks will result in an "F." The goal is to have a final class roster by the end of the second week of the semester.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credits are credits taken outside of NVCA and will normally be accepted at full value for students who transfer to NVCA. For currently enrolled students, transfer credit will not be accepted without pre-approval from administration. Keep in mind, if a class is offered at NVCA, it is unlikely that credit will be accepted from another school.

School Fines/Fees

1. Lost or damaged textbooks—Students must check-in their textbooks at the end of the year and are responsible for turning in the specific textbooks assigned to them (by barcode) at book pick-up. Any textbook not returned or damaged beyond repair will result in a lost/damaged book fee, which is the replacement cost of the book. We do not allow students to purchase replacement books online, all books are purchased by NVCA. Book related concerns must be resolved by the last day of school since book orders for the upcoming year are placed July 1. Books returned after the last day of school will not receive a credit.
2. Lost athletic uniforms—All uniforms not returned to a coach at the end of that season will be charged a replacement fee.
3. Seniors must have all fines/fees paid prior to graduation. All other outstanding student fines/fees will be charged to the individual student's account.

School Hours

Regular high school hours will be from 8:45 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. with Period A starting at 8 a.m. The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vehicles/Student Driving

The use of a vehicle at NVCA is a privilege that requires responsible behavior from students. In general students must be cautious and careful when driving their cars on and around school property. The speed limit in the NVCA parking lot is 5 mph. The first violation for careless driving may result in fines and notification of parents. For the second violation, temporary loss of car privileges on the school campus may occur, as determined by the administration. The school is not responsible for accidents or damages occurring on school property. Stereos must not be heard on campus.

Students may not be in or around vehicles during the school day, including lunchtime, without permission from the office. Vehicles are to be used only for transportation. With

the purpose of safeguarding all vehicles from intentional or accidental damage, the school requires all students to stay clear of the parking lot. The school retains the right to inspect any vehicle at any time for any reason.

Students who drive a vehicle to school must park in assigned areas and purchase an NVCA parking pass. If there are no parking spots available in our main parking lot, a student must still contact the school office to receive a parking pass and park where school administration has designated.

Appendix B

NVCA™ School Schedules Elementary School Schedule K–5 Daily Schedule

Commented [M&RF1]:

8:15–8:25 a.m.	K–5	Good Morning Gathering (morning meeting)
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K–2		3–5	
Morning Academic Block	8:30–10:50 a.m.	Morning Academic Block	8:30–11:15 a.m.
K–2 Lunch	10:50–11:15 a.m.	3–5 Lunch	11:15–11:45 a.m.
K–2 Specials	11:20–11:50 a.m.	3–5 Specials	11:50 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
K–2 Specials	11:55 a.m.–12:25 p.m.	3–5 Specials	12:35–1:15 p.m.
K–2 Afternoon Academic Block	12:30–3:15 p.m.	3–5 Afternoon Academic Block	1:20–3:15 p.m.

Dismissal	3:15 p.m.	Dismissal	3:15 p.m.
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Early Release Days at noon

NVCA™ Middle School Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30–8:55	Homeroom MS LION Academy	Homeroom MS LION Academy	Homeroom MS LION Academy	Homeroom MS LION Academy	Club Time
9–10:20	Period 1	Period 2	Chapel 9–9:30 Period 1 9:30–10:40	Period 2	Period 1 9–9:40 Period 2 9:45–10:20
10:25–11:45	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3 10:45–12:10	Period 4	Period 3 10:25–11:05 Period 4 11:10–11:45
11:45–12:25	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH 12:10–12:40	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30–1:50	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5 12:45–2:05	Period 6	Period 5 12:30–1:10 Period 6 1:15–1:50
1:55–3:25	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7 2:10–3:25	Period 8	Period 7 1:55–2:35 Period 8 2:40–3:25
3:30–4	Required Study Hall ONLY REQUIRED for those students receiving a “no” on their PRIDE cards				

NVCA™ High School Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:20–8:45	Period A	Period A	Period A	Period A	Period A
8:45–10:05	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1 8:45–10:05 Chapel 10:10–10:40	Period 2	Period 1 8:45–9:25 Period 2 9:30–10:05
10:05–10:20 10:25–11:45	Devotion Period 3	Devotion Period 4	Period 3 10:45–12:10	Devotion Period 4	Devotion Period 3 10:25–11:05 Period 4 11:10–11:45
11:50–12:30	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5 12:10–12:45	Period 6	Period 5 11:50–12:30
12:30–1:10	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH 12:45–1:15	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:15–1:55	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5 1:20–2:05	Period 6	Period 6 1:15–1:55
2–3:25	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7 2:10–3:25	Period 8	Period 7 2–2:40 Period 8 2:45–3:25
3:30–4:20	Period Z	Period Z	Period Z	Period Z	*No Period Z on Fridays

Early Release Schedule for Middle School and High School

Students attend even or odd classes depending on the day of the week the early release falls on.
e.g., Monday = odd, Tuesday = even, etc.

1st Period or 2nd Period	8:45–9:30 a.m.
3rd Period or 4th Period	9:35–10:20 a.m.
5th Period or 6th Period	10:25–11:10 a.m.
7th Period or 8th Period	11:15 a.m.–noon

Commented [M&RF2]: Jason, should this schedule remain? Are the times accurate if so?

Appendix C

NVCA™ SERVE Handbook (Handbook)

Strengthening the Body, Extending its Reach

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul compares the human body with the Body of Christ, pointing out that *“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ (1 Cor. 12:12).* He goes on to speak of the various parts and their roles in maintaining a healthy body. At NVCA we have adopted Paul’s metaphor of the body and applied it to accomplishing our mission of “developing Christ-centered students who aspire to excellence and impact their community for Him.” In a real sense, the NVCA community is a body within the Body of Christ. Its members include teachers, parents, staff members, Board members, and other family members such as grandparents. Within our community resides a variety of gifts. When they are identified and utilized, these gifts can provide strength and sustainability to our school. This is where NVCA SERVE (SERVE) comes in. SERVE is a volunteer organization made up of all parts of the NVCA community with a shared purpose of strengthening the community leveraging the gifts of its members. It is designed to promote a culture of caring, community involvement, and Christian fellowship. SERVE activities include:

- Sponsoring events
- Encouraging communication among community members
- Disseminating information
- Enlisting volunteers for class and school functions
- Hosting other activities and events as identified

Meeting this challenge requires a sound organizational structure and reliable operating policies to ensure clarity of roles, processes, and communication. This Handbook contains the policies that relate to organization and process. They govern how SERVE will be structured and how it will carry out its duties. The SERVE leadership as well as all SERVE volunteers are expected to abide by the policies in this Handbook.

Part 1: Introduction and Administration

This Handbook contains all the current standing (ongoing) policies of NVCA SERVE, a volunteer organization supporting the culture of North Valley Christian Academy™ (NVCA). SERVE has been granted authority by the Head of School to carry out the functions in Section 3.5 of this Handbook in order to accomplish its mission of promoting a culture of caring, community, and Christian fellowship.

1.1 Reasons for Adoption: The purposes of this Handbook are to:

- Clearly communicate the functions of SERVE, how it is organized, and the processes it will use to accomplish its mission;
- Provide a single source of all ongoing SERVE policies;
- Eliminate redundant or conflicting policies over time; and
- Efficiently review current policy when considering new issues.

1.2 Consistency. Each policy in this document must be consistent with policies of the NVCA Board of Directors and the Head of School, including the NVCA Parent/Student Handbook. Unless it is included in this document or incorporated by reference, a verbal statement or written statement in a different document shall not be recognized as SERVE policy.

1.3 Transition. As soon as a policy is approved by the Leadership Team (Team), that policy becomes a part of the Handbook and supersedes any past policy.

1.4 Changes. The policies are reviewed on an on-going basis as new issues are addressed or existing policies need refinement. When language is recommended for deletion or modification, it is shown in a “tracked change” format, showing how the new language replaces the old. Any change to this Handbook must be approved by formal action of the Team, i.e., a majority of Team members during a properly called meeting or conference call. Whenever changes are adopted, a new document is to be printed, dated, and quickly made available to the Team, NVCA administration, and appropriate SERVE members. The previous version is to be kept for future reference.

1.5 Specificity. Each new policy will be drafted to fit in the appropriate place within the Handbook. Conceptually, policies are drafted from the “outside in,” i.e., the broadest policy statement being presented first, then the next broadest, etc., down to the level of detail that the Team finds appropriate.

1.6 Maintenance of Policies. The Secretary of SERVE shall maintain the Handbook and provide updated copies to the Team and the NVCA administration whenever the policies change, or upon request.

Part 2: Organization Principles

2.1 Mission. To promote at NVCA a culture of caring, community, and Christian fellowship.

2.2 Accountability. SERVE reports to the Head of School and is accountable to the students attending NVCA, their parents, and their teachers.

2.3 Values: In carrying out its mission, these principles will be honored:

2.3.1 Excellence – in the way we organize, plan, communicate, and implement

2.3.2 Collegiality – in the way we work together as a Body of Christ

2.3.3 Responsibility – in the way we understand and complete our duties

2.3.4 Reverence – in the way we keep God at the center of our activities

Part 3: Team Membership, Organization, and Processes

3.1 Team Membership. The organization shall be governed and managed by four officers, i.e., Director, Deputy Director, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus other members selected by a majority vote of the officers. The officers and other members of the Team shall serve for one-year terms commencing July 1. Although there are no limits as to the number of terms for members of the Team, in the annual election process there is no assumption of preference for sitting Team members.

3.2 Team Member Criteria. Each member of the Team shall be a committed member of the community, known for her/his integrity, professionalism, and demeanor. Nominations for Team membership shall be based on the perception of the Nominating Committee as to the qualifications of the individual for the position for which she/he is being considered. In selecting additional Team members, the officers shall consider members who bring diversity to the team in areas such as the age of their children at NVCA, their experience and skill set, their interests, their availability, and other factors to be considered in order to form a Team comprising multiple perspectives.

3.3 Nomination, Election Process, and Terms. Members of the Team shall be selected by a Nominating Committee comprising (1) a member of the Board of Directors, selected by the Board Chair, (2) an NVCA parent selected by the elementary school principal, and (3) a staff or faculty member selected by the elementary school principal.

3.4 Leadership Style. The Team will approach its task in a professional and collaborative manner that encourages input and participation from the entire community. As such, the Team will:

3.4.1 Enforce upon itself and its Team members whatever reasonable discipline may be needed to govern with excellence. Discipline shall apply to matters such as attendance, respect for individual roles, speaking with one voice, and working within the governance structure and processes adopted in these SERVE policies.

3.4.2 Be accountable to the NVCA community for conscientious and effective accomplishment of its purpose.

3.4.3 Monitor and regularly discuss the Team's own processes and performance, seeking to ensure the continuity of its governance functions by orientation, training, and evaluation.

- 3.5 Team Job Descriptions.** The job of the Team is to lead the organization toward the desired performance and ensure that it occurs. Consistent with the authority granted by the Head of School, the Team shall:
- 3.5.1** Plan and present events and activities that support its mission and the mission of NVCA
 - 3.5.2** Enlist volunteers as needed and manage their involvement wisely.
 - 3.5.3** Set appropriate limits within which the lead coordinators are expected to honor.
 - 3.5.4** Maintain and constantly improve the policies in this Handbook.
 - 3.5.5** Collect fees for activities and special events and maintain a separate account for support of SERVE activities.
 - 3.5.6** Approve expenditures from the SERVE account.
 - 3.5.7** Ensure financial solvency and integrity of SERVE accounts.
 - 3.5.8** Establish and maintain a separate section of the NVCA website for communication to the SERVE community.
 - 3.5.9** Maintain a register of all SERVE members.
 - 3.5.10** Work closely with the NVCA administration to ensure a continuity of programs, clarity of communication, and scheduling of events.
- 3.6 Director's Role.** The SERVE Director (Director) shall manage the organization in a manner consistent with these policies. The authority of the Director consists only in making decisions on behalf of the Team that are consistent with any reasonable interpretation of the policies in this Handbook. The Director or her designee shall be the spokesperson for SERVE and shall also:
- 3.6.1** Preside at all meetings of the Team.
 - 3.6.2** Foster a spirit of collegiality and commitment from members of the Team as well as from other SERVE volunteers.
- 3.7 Deputy Director's Role.** The SERVE Deputy Director shall assist the Director in carrying out her/his duties and assume the role of Director when the Director is unavailable.
- 3.8 Secretary's Role.** The Secretary shall maintain administrative records associated with SERVE, including minutes of Team meetings, a list and contact data of SERVE members, a list of volunteers with background check and fingerprints, any documents relating to events, current copies of the SERVE Handbook, archival material, and other records as needed.
- 3.9 Role of Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall maintain financial records associated with SERVE activities and events and shall be responsible for collecting and dispersing funds in

accordance with the policies established by the NVCA Board, the Head of School, and the Team.

3.10 Team Meetings. Policies for planning and running meetings of the Team are as follows:

3.10.1. The preliminary schedule for meetings shall be set at the first Team meeting of the fiscal year, subject to reasonable modifications that may be required.

3.10.2 The Director shall conduct meetings to encourage open, honest discussion and fair consideration of the views of each Team member. If a Team member challenges a procedural decision by the Director, it will be resolved by a majority vote of the Team.

3.10.3 The Secretary shall record the meeting minutes and send them electronically to all Team members within one week after a duly called Team meeting.

3.11 Lead Coordinators and Event Coordinators. The Team shall establish a roster of Lead Coordinators, who will be responsible for programs, activities, and events as assigned by the Team. Lead Coordinators shall ensure their assigned programs, activities, and events are appropriately planned, communicated, and executed. The Team shall delegate authority to lead coordinators commensurate with their responsibilities and necessary to carry out their duties. The Team shall also identify any limitations on that authority through policies governing communications, collecting fees, spending funds, and other policies specific to a program or event. Lead coordinators may appoint event or program coordinators to plan and execute specific activities and events. The following are the lead coordinator positions and primary duties:

3.11.1 Community Outreach and Hospitality: Supports the Admissions Director by attaining new family information; creating an outreach system to connect new families; building a family “white pages,” and other activities/functions that support the health and growth of the NVCA community. Event coordinators reporting to this lead coordinator include:

3.11.1.1 Lunch Room

3.11.1.2 New Family Dinner

3.11.1.3 Uniform Resale/Lost & Found

3.11.1.4 Service Days

3.11.2 Fine Arts: Supports the Fine Arts Department (music, theater, art). Event coordinators reporting to this lead coordinator include:

3.11.2.1 Christmas Program

3.11.2.2 Fine Arts Night

3.11.2.3 Drama/Musicals

3.11.3 Hospitality: Directly supports all faculty and staff with regards to specific in-school events. Event coordinators reporting to this lead coordinator include:

3.11.3.1 Graduation

3.11.3.2 Birthdays/Special Events

3.11.3.3 Teacher Appreciation Week

3.11.3.4 Christmas Spirit Week

3.11.4 Events: Extra-curricular events occurring throughout the school year. Event sub-coordinators reporting to this lead event coordinator include:

3.11.4.1 Merry Market

3.11.4.2 Daddy/Daughter Dance

3.11.4.3 Grandparents Day

3.11.4.4 Mother/Son Event

3.11.4.5 Movie and/or Bingo Night

3.11.4.6 Book Fair

3.11.4.7 Thanksgiving Feast

3.11.5 Prayer Chain

3.11.6 Classroom Coordinator: Assist teachers at all grade levels by providing liaisons for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school, as well as room parents for each grade of K–5. Coordinators reporting to this lead coordinator include:

3.11.6.1 Preschool

3.11.6.2 Elementary

3.11.6.3 Middle School

3.11.6.4 High School

3.11.6.5 Prom

3.11.6.6 Promotions

3.12 Calendaring SERVE Events: All SERVE programs, activities, and events must align with (1) the mission of NVCA to develop Christ-centered students who aspire to excellence and impact their community for Him and (2) with the purpose of SERVE to promote a culture of caring, community, and Christian fellowship. All

SERVE events must be approved by the Team in order to be placed on the school calendar.

3.13 Managing SERVE Events: Our SERVE-sponsored events are expected to be well planned and efficiently implemented. To that end, the following are essential steps in the planning and execution of SERVE events:

3.13.1 For those events listed in Section 3.11, the event coordinator shall prepare a plan and budget for the event in accordance with the requirements set by the superintending lead coordinator. The plan and budget shall include tasks to be accomplished and the deadline for their accomplishment along with the funds needed to support the event, any related fees expected from the event, and process by which fees are collected and accounted for.

3.13.2 For those events not listed in Section 3.11, but proposed to be placed on the school calendar, the lead coordinator shall prepare a proposal for the event, including a rationale for its support of the SERVE purpose, the proposed date and time of the event, the estimated budget, and the timing of the tasks necessary to plan and conduct the event.

3.14 Clearance to SERVE: To ensure the safety and security of our students is given the highest priority, all SERVE volunteers must be fingerprinted and receive a background check. The Secretary shall maintain a qualified list, i.e., a list of volunteers who meet these criteria. Event coordinators shall ensure that volunteers working on their events are drawn from the qualified list.

3.15 Financial Authority and Accountability. To support SERVE activities and events, the NVCA Business Manager (Business Manager) shall establish a separate financial account, which shall contain deposited fees from activities, direct contributions, and other revenues designated for the account. Expenditures from the account shall be made by the NVCA Business Manager according to the following policies:

3.15.1 All expenditures must be supported by a completed Purchase Requisition form with appropriate signatures.

3.15.2 Expenditures of less than \$500 require only the approval of the Treasurer or a designee.

3.15.3 Expenditures of \$500 or greater require the approval of the Treasurer and the Director.

3.15.4 Any delegation of approval authority must be made in writing.

3.15.5 The Treasurer shall maintain records sufficient to satisfy requirements set by the Business Manager including documentation needed to support an external audit of accounts and accounting practices.

Appendix D

NVCA™ COVID-19 Policy

North Valley Christian Academy (NVCA) is delighted to inform you that school will resume its on-campus instructional program and extra-curricular activities for the 2020–2021 academic year. Since we place our highest priority on the health and safety of all students in our care, school will resume with some changes in place to assure, to the fullest extent possible, that students, faculty, and staff may safely attend. In this document we wish to inform you of our efforts to do so.

Upon your review of this document, please know that your child will be attending NVCA voluntarily with the understanding that, notwithstanding our best efforts, NVCA cannot guarantee that it will remain free of the COVID-19 virus or that you or your child will not contact this virus, or any other infection, at school. Additionally, please know that subsequent events, such as a secondary resurgence of COVID-19 cases, or a renewed shelter-in-place order, may require NVCA to suspend its face-to-face instructional program and/or extra-curricular activities. In that case, the school will continue its instructional program virtually, and prorated refunds will only be provided for: such extra-curricular activities that are unable to continue and after school programs that are no longer available.

Overview of School Sanitation Procedures and Daily Routine Changes

The following procedures have been put in place to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus at school:

- Establishing school bubbles, by keeping cohort groups isolated from other cohort groups;
- Restricting all nonessential visitors;
- Wearing a mask when 6-feet of separation cannot be maintained by someone outside a given cohort;
- Wearing of masks by middle school and high school students during passing periods to prevent exposure between bubbles;
- Checking temperatures at the beginning of the day and prior to using school transportation;
- Washing hands frequently;

- Implementing physical distancing guidelines¹;
- Staggering class schedules during the day to minimize student contact during passing periods;
- Wearing face masks and/or face shields by staff members when physical distancing cannot be maintained between student and teachers/aides;
- Reminding students of procedures with posted signage in the restrooms and classrooms;
- Implementing dedicated restrooms and water bottles;
- Disinfecting desks and all high-touch surfaces throughout the day;
- Clean materials that are shared before and after student use;
- Disinfecting shared preschool materials daily and as needed (e.g., blocks).
- Disinfecting bathrooms throughout the day;
- Disinfecting the entire school after each school day; and
- Disinfecting the playground after every use.

Everyday Prevention Mechanisms

Wristbands:

Gold wrist bands will be available for students in grades 6–12 who are unable to wear a face mask.

Students will be expected to:

- Wash their hands and use hand sanitizer regularly. This includes after coughing, nose blowing, or sneezing, as well as upon campus arrival, before meals, and after meals;
- Have their temperature checked midday each school day;
- Use hand sanitizer frequently and when directed to do so;
- Use face masks on a voluntary basis in all classrooms;
- Properly wear facemasks in middle school and high school during passing periods to prevent infection between bubbles;
- Stop using masks during physical education classes, recess, and other activities when they are exercising;
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or elbow if no tissue is available;
- Refrain from sharing school supplies, food, and other personal items;

¹ Please be aware that it is not realistic for children to regularly practice physical and social distancing guidelines. By allowing your child on the NVCA campus, you are assuming any and all risks associated with contracting COVID-19 that could originate from another child or adult participating in activities being held at NVCA. These risks are not limited to contraction from persons mentioned above but could also include persons from the general public and/or transmission from active germs inside and/or outside buildings on the campus.

- Disinfect surfaces touched by the student with a disinfecting wipe when necessary (supplies will be provided in each classroom);
- Clean materials that must be shared before and after student use; and
- Adhere to middle school and high school athletic guidelines to be issued by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA).

In order to maintain a safe environment for our school community, students and their families are encouraged to avoid large gatherings outside of school and to observe all national, state, and local health mandates. Students and families should avoid contact with individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Visitor Policy during COVID-19

Preapproved or scheduled volunteers will be permitted on campus on a limited basis.

The following protocols will be in place for all volunteers and nonessential visitors:

- Temperature check
- Completion of a health screening form
- Wearing a mask on campus
- Wearing gloves, if they will be in contact with any materials that will be touched by students

Illness

Staff/students who have a fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, or other respiratory symptoms should stay at home, and not return to school, until they are free of fever and other respiratory symptoms for at least 72 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication). Chronic medical conditions, like allergies or controlled asthma, do not require exclusion from school.

If a student displays a fever or other concerning symptoms at school, parents will be called, and the student will be placed in a designated isolation area until they are picked up. The student must be asymptomatic (without medication) for 72 hours before returning to school.

Symptoms for COVID-19 include:

- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 48 hours
- Fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Chills
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain or aches
- Nasal drainage or congestion
- Coughing or sneezing
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Headache
- Fatigue

Note: The local medical community has observed that children with COVID-19 often experience diarrhea and rarely have a cough.

Reporting and Monitoring COVID-19 Symptoms

Students or their parents/guardians must report COVID-like symptoms as soon as possible to their teacher or a staff member.

Individuals Confirmed or Exposed to COVID-19

1. Any individuals including teachers, staff, students, or other campus visitors who (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (see above) must remain at home throughout the infection period. These individuals cannot return to campus until school screening determines that any of the below conditions for campus reentry have been met:
 - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school only when all three of the following criteria have been met:
 - At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. In the case of an individual who has a fever, and additional symptoms suspicious for COVID-19, but who has not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual must be fever-free for 72 hours before returning to campus.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors, who have had close contact with an individual receiving a lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis

will not be permitted on campus until they have quarantined for 11 days without being tested and 8 days if they test negative. Test results taken earlier than 6 days after initial exposure will not be accepted. Close contact is defined as:

- Spending 15 minutes or more within six feet of someone who has COVID-19;
- Sharing food or drinks with them;
- Having direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them); or
- Being in direct contact with the infected person's sneeze, cough, or respiratory droplets.

School Communication and Closure Protocols

1. If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, NVCA will inform parents and staff members of possible exposure and the grade level(s) where the exposure has occurred. Confidentiality required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be maintained unless written permission is given by the individual or parents/guardian of the infected student.
2. NVCA only notifies parents and staff when an exposure has occurred on campus or at a school event. No notification is given when a student/staff member has been exposed outside of NVCA.
3. If a class experiences multiple verified COVID-19 cases, the class may move to emergency online education protocols on NVCA learning management systems.
4. Class, bubble, and school closures are subject to determination by the school administration in consultations with the Maricopa County Health Department and other appropriate health agencies.
 - The length of closure will be determined on a case by case basis.

Check In and Drop Off

- For the safety of all students and staff, all persons entering the building will have a temperature check. Students with a temperature higher than 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted to attend school for the day.
- The reception area of the school office will be closed from 7:55–8:35 a.m. **Please Note: the receptionists will not be able to answer telephone calls during check-in times.**
- Preschool/pre-kindergarten (PS/PK) students will enter the building with their parent through the main atrium doors where greater physical distancing can be maintained during check in.
 - Preschool students will be escorted by a staff member to the classroom at drop off.
 - Starting at 2:45 preschool students can be signed out and released at the preschool playground gate on the northwest corner of Building A.

- Only PS/PK families and students who need special assistance are permitted to enter the building through the atrium.
- K–12 students must be dropped off in the circular drive or walk through the sidewalk gate where their temperature will be taken.
- High school students who drive themselves to campus must enter the campus through the sidewalk gate next to the circular drive where their temperature will be taken by a staff member.
- Students can be dropped off no earlier than 15 minutes prior to their first class. Older siblings who are dropped off with elementary students must report directly to the designated bubble for their cohort group. Common and recreational areas will be closed before and after school. Students must never be left unattended. If you arrive early, please stay in your car until a staff member opens the door and takes your child's temperature.
- Only the first two cars may unload at any given time.
- Help keep our students safe, and do not pass in line.
- Please do not park and leave your car unattended in the car line.
- Once students enter the building, they will go immediately to their designated classroom area.

Tardy Arrival

Students arriving after their designated start time are considered tardy and must check in with the front office to have their temperature taken and receive a tardy slip before going to class.

Facilities

- Students will not be allowed to drink from the water fountains. Therefore, all students must bring their own filled water bottle daily. Students may not share bottles. Students may refill water bottles, as needed, from the water refilling station.
- Playground time will be staggered by bubbles. There will be no more than one cohort group at a time on the playground equipment, and sharing of equipment will be limited.
- Student desks will be spaced apart, and classrooms will be arranged to maximize distance between students where practical.
- Railings, door handles, and other common areas will be disinfected during school and during night-time cleaning.
- HVAC air filters will be changed regularly, as per NVCA common practice.

Specials

Specials are an important part of a student's education. Classes in music, dance, art, STEM, and physical education help students explore their talents and the gifts that God has given them. NVCA will continue to offer specials for all grade levels.

Specials classes are often held in a separate building or outside for approximately one hour. Students from different bubble groups will be using the same space over the course of a day. Thus, the following safety protocols will be enacted for these classes:

- The classroom space will be sanitized after each class.
- Materials, such as sporting equipment, will be wiped down after each class.
- Classrooms will be sprayed with disinfectant after each use.
- Students will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the classroom space.

Worship

Chapel services play a key role in the education of students at NVCA. Research has shown that "children learn values, dispositions, morals and issues connected to their self-esteem, reflection, prayer, and spirituality" when they worship together.²

To enhance health safety and increase physical distancing, four separate chapel services (PS/PK, elementary, middle school, and high school) will be held on Wednesdays. Unfortunately, parents and visitors will not be permitted to physically join the services, but they will be able to participate by viewing online.

Bubbles will be established within the chapel services; classes will be separated by a minimum of 10 feet to give students the opportunity to worship in song.

Lunch

- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- Special seating arrangements will be made in order to maintain physical distance between students.
- Lunch times will be separated by cohort groups.
- Students ordering a hot lunch will line up at 6-foot intervals. Masked and gloved cafeteria staff will serve their food.
- The tables and eating area will be wiped down and disinfected after each cohort group has left the cafeteria.
- HS juniors and seniors are permitted to leave campus for lunch but must have their temperature taken when they return to campus and sign in at the main office.

² Imran Mogra (2017) Learning through observations: the potential of collective worship in primary schools, *Pastoral Care in Education*, 35:1, 3-12, DOI: [10.1080/02643944.2016.1269361](https://doi.org/10.1080/02643944.2016.1269361)

Locker Rooms

- Students who leave clothing in the locker room should pack it in a gym bag or plastic bag and place it in a locker.
- Clothing left in the open or left overnight in the locker room will be placed in a special lost and found area where it must be disinfected before being released.
- Students using the locker room must wash their hands every time they exit the room.
- Surface areas of the locker rooms will be regularly disinfected throughout the day.

Discipline

The health and safety of our school community depends on adherence to these policies and any amendments or supplements. As a result, students who deliberately violate the health policies related to COVID-19 will face disciplinary action.

Parents must also abide by these policies with regards to safe carpooling, reporting incidences of illness, and reporting positive tests for COVID-19 in a student's household.

Vaccinations and Testing

- Any staff member or student who takes a COVID-19 test is not permitted on campus until the test results are issued regardless of their health condition.
- Due to accuracy issues with rapid tests, staff and students are highly encouraged to take a PCR test, especially if they are not experiencing symptoms. Rapid test results from asymptomatic persons may not be accepted by Please visit the following Food and Drug Administration update for further information about testing accuracy: (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/potential-false-positive-results-antigen-tests-rapid-detection-sars-cov-2-letter-clinical-laboratory>)
- NVCA will not require students or staff to take a COVID-19 test or vaccination.

Notification of Changes

These policies are subject to modification at any time. Changes will be communicated to the school community.