



## **Briarwood Christian School Parent and Community Standards**

As a ministry of **Briarwood Presbyterian Church**, Briarwood Christian School exists to glorify God by partnering with Christian families to provide a Christ-centered, biblically based education that nurtures students in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. In support of this mission, the behavior of parents and guardians in our school community must align with biblical values, reflect Christ, and promote unity and grace.

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### **1. Parent Social Media Policy – Christlike Communication**

*(Ephesians 4:29; Philippians 2:14; Matthew 18:15–17)*

Parents and guardians are expected to honor Christ in all forms of communication, including social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, GroupMe, or others. Posts and comments should reflect grace, encouragement, and unity. Parents must not use social media to share negative, critical, or divisive content related to:

- The school, its leadership, operations, curriculum, events, or assignments
- Faculty, staff, or administration
- Students or other school families

Concerns should be directed privately to appropriate school personnel following the biblical model of reconciliation outlined in Matthew 18. Public or private online behavior that is defamatory, divisive, or harmful to individuals or the reputation of the school is inconsistent with Christian witness and may result in disciplinary actions, including dismissal of the family from the school community.

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### **2. Parent Expectations**

*(Philippians 2:14–16)*

We strive to cultivate a positive, Christ-honoring school culture built on mutual trust and clear expectations. When a parent's conduct undermines this culture, it may jeopardize their child's continued enrollment. Examples of unacceptable behavior include and are not limited to:

- Hosting student gatherings where alcohol, drugs, or inappropriate behavior is present
- Possessing alcohol or drugs at school events and functions
- Speaking disrespectfully to or about school personnel
- Demanding the dismissal of employees

- Undermining disciplinary measures taken by the school
- Spreading criticism or negativity within the school community
- Becoming unduly involved in classroom operations or staff responsibilities
- Refusing to follow the Matthew 18 conflict resolution process
- Treating other parents, students, or staff members with disrespect

Concerns will be addressed individually with the Superintendent and/or Division Principal. Group meetings, protests, or town halls intended to air grievances or resolve problems are not permitted. If a parent of a current student files a lawsuit—or threatens to do so—against the school, the student will be dismissed until the matter is resolved. A critical spirit, ingratitude, and failure to pursue biblical reconciliation threaten the spiritual health of our school community.

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### 3. Parent Communication

To support a healthy work-life balance and maintain professionalism, faculty and staff are not expected to respond to communications before 7:00 a.m., after 7:00 p.m., or on weekends. All communications with school personnel should be respectful, constructive, and timely.

**Email is the primary mode of communication** for school-related matters. Parents are asked **not to call or text teachers or staff directly**, especially during instructional hours, as teachers are focused on teaching and may not see these messages promptly.

For urgent or time-sensitive matters such as student dismissal changes, after-school plans, or transportation updates, parents should **contact the school office directly**. The office staff is best equipped to ensure this information reaches students and teachers quickly and efficiently.

Parents are also asked to carefully **read all communications sent by the school** to avoid unnecessary emails to teachers regarding information that has already been shared through official channels. This helps reduce the volume of emails teachers receive, allowing them to focus on their primary responsibility—teaching and caring for students.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping keep teacher email inboxes manageable and enabling our staff to serve your children effectively.

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### 4. Conflict Resolution

Conflicts and concerns should be addressed according to the biblical process in Matthew 18—beginning with those directly involved. Email and text are discouraged for conflict resolution. Face-to-face conversations are the preferred and expected method.

- The Superintendent, respective head of campus or divisional Principal manage conflicts involving parents.
- The BCS Executive team manages conflicts among staff. Church and BCS Executive team work collaboratively with communications professionals during crises or public relations matters.

Our goal is to preserve a Gospel-centered environment marked by kindness, joy, and gratitude.

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## 5. Church and School Communications

We are thankful for our strong relationship with **Briarwood Presbyterian Church**. The church empowers the Superintendent to lead Briarwood Christian School, supported by the School Board. The Board sets tuition, reviews financial reports, supports strategic planning, participates in fundraising, and approves policy but is otherwise not involved in the day to day operations of the school.

Parents who bring school-related concerns to the church will be redirected to the Superintendent to ensure proper and unified resolution.

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## 6. Campus Unity and Expectations

*(Romans 13; Hebrews 13:7)*

Adults in the school community—faculty, staff, and parents—model the values we seek to instill in our students. Unity on campus is preserved when we:

- Avoid divisive or negative conversations and social media posts
- Speak respectfully about fellow parents, staff, church leadership, and the school itself
- Support school and church leadership publicly and privately
- Follow Biblical teachings regarding lifestyle and relationships

We all answer to God-ordained authority and are called to support those He places in leadership over us.

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## 7. Controversies and Campus Protests

We welcome civil, respectful dialogue led by Christian educators, but **campus protests, political demonstrations, and divisive behavior are not permitted**. Political apparel, accessories, or promotional materials are not allowed at school or school-sponsored events.

Classroom discussion of differing viewpoints is allowed at the discretion of the teacher and respective Head of Campus. However, behavior that stirs controversy or disrupts learning will not be tolerated. Our mission requires us to maintain focus on Gospel-centered teaching and student well-being.

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## 8. Parent Conduct at School Events and Activities

*(Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31)*

Parents represent **Briarwood Christian School** and **Briarwood Presbyterian Church** not only on campus, but also at school-sponsored events, athletic competitions, fine arts performances, field trips, and travel activities. Whether in the stands, on the sidelines, or at student gatherings, we expect parents to reflect Christ and model exemplary behavior at all times.

**To honor Christ and support our school culture, parents are expected to:**

- **Demonstrate Christlike behavior** in words, actions, and attitude at all events, both home and away
- **Respect referees, officials, coaches, judges, and staff**—never arguing, confronting, yelling at or displaying anger publicly
- **Support all students and teams** with encouraging words and attitudes
- **Follow chaperone and supervision guidelines** during school travel or trips, ensuring student safety and appropriateness
- **Avoid engaging in negative conversations** about coaches, staff, students, or other schools during or after events
- **Set a positive example** for students, opponents, and spectators by prioritizing sportsmanship, respect, and grace

Out of respect for students and the Christ-centered environment we uphold, **parents are expected to refrain from smoking, vaping, consuming alcohol, or using any substances that are inappropriate in the presence of students** at any school event, competition, or trip—whether on or off campus. This includes team celebrations, travel events, and informal gatherings where students are present. Such behavior compromises the safe, healthy, and morally responsible atmosphere we seek to maintain for all students.

Our behavior at events and in the community reflects directly on our school and, more importantly, on the name of Christ. Let us do all things in a manner worthy of the Gospel, seeking to glorify God and uplift one another.

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## 9. Student Supervision and Safety at Athletic Events

*(Proverbs 4:6–7; 1 Corinthians 14:40)*

Briarwood Christian School is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all who attend our athletic events. As our community gathers for Friday night football games and other evening competitions, we ask parents and guardians to partner with us in supervising student behavior and reinforcing expectations for safety and respect. We also ask that you review these guidelines with your child before attending an athletic event.

### **Student Supervision**

To ensure the well-being of all children during athletic events, **students in 6th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult**. Lower School students should not be dropped off without appropriate supervision. Parents are responsible for knowing their child's whereabouts throughout the event.

### **Respect for Property and Space**

Students should refrain from climbing on fences, tampering with equipment, or damaging landscaping or school buildings. The grassy hill leading to the shelf area is not a play zone and not to be accessed.

### **Off-Limits Areas**

During evening events, all unlit areas on campus are off-limits. This includes:

- Tennis courts
- Cross-country trails
- The wooded area behind the shelf
- The grass banks beside the home stands
- School hallways and spaces not used for a specific event
- Baseball and softball dugouts or stands (unless the field is lit and students have parental permission)

Even when field lights are on, these areas are not officially supervised by school personnel. For their safety, students found in restricted or unsupervised locations will be referred to an administrator for follow-up.

### **Consideration for Others**

We ask that students be mindful of their surroundings, especially when tossing balls, running, or playing games in crowded areas. It is essential to consider the safety of younger children, older adults, and fellow attendees.

### **Sportsmanship and Conduct**

Students are expected to be respectful, encouraging fans who reflect Christ in both words and

actions. Poor sportsmanship, disrespect toward players, coaches, officials, or spectators will not be tolerated and may lead to the offer of the privilege to watch games being withdrawn.

These guidelines apply to all athletic events. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and Christ-honoring atmosphere at Briarwood Christian School events.

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## **10. Anonymous Complaints and Feedback**

We welcome parents respectfully raising concerns and meeting to talk these over. Feedback is received without retaliation from faculty, staff and coaches. As a clear and safe pathway is available for sharing concerns, anonymous feedback is seen as divisive and cowardice and contrary to the principles outlined in Matthew 18. Accordingly, anonymous feedback is discarded without any consideration.

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**Thank you for partnering with us to build a school community that honors Christ in every word and deed.**