



Mount Vernon Christian

Middle School

2019-2020

Theme of the Year

“Rooted & Grounded”

Ephesians 3:17-19

“¹⁷...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith---that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God..”

Mission Statement

Mount Vernon Christian School, committed to education based on the infallible Word of God, seeks to serve God by preparing students to respond in loving service to God and their neighbors. As an extension of the Christian home, we assist parents in nurturing their children in the knowledge of the Lord and His creation, thereby equipping students to embrace biblical values while being Christ's agent of renewal in the world.

This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

STUDENT NO. _____

**Area
current
to this**

**Highlighted
represent
changes made
year's
handbook**



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THE TRADITION OF MVC

As a student enrolled at Mount Vernon Christian Middle School, you are part of a tradition that has blessed the Skagit Valley since the school opened in 1951. The mission of the school has been to lead young people to live as Christ's servants and follow Him. The people who established MVC believed that education was a responsibility of parents rather than the State. As Christians, they understood that all learning was subject to the Lordship of Christ. Therefore, they began an independent Christian day school on this campus.

As a student of MVC, you are part of a unique education program that strives to be distinctively Christian from a Reformed perspective, as you develop a Christian worldview. Mount Vernon Christian Middle School serves as a transition between Elementary and High School. The complete program is intended to meet the needs of our students as they move toward greater independence and ownership of their actions and education. This perspective is demonstrated in our academics, the arts, sports, and service which promotes a journey of faith, excellence and integrity.

It is hoped that you sense the spirit and tradition of Mount Vernon Christian Middle School as you gain a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures, apply Biblical principles in your life, and see God revealed and interrelated in every facet of Creation as you learn and grow.

“WHY HURRICANES?”

The word hurricane brings to mind the sheer force of nature. Behind that force of nature is its source: the power of our mighty God. (Even insurance policies describe a hurricane as an “act of God”.)

In the Bible, storms were used to bring men to realize their vulnerable state and to depend completely upon God. Storms developed faith. God still uses storms in our lives to produce dependence on Him and we are to praise Him in the midst of our storm.

As MVC Hurricanes display powerful physical strength, they represent the strength of the One who creates the storm and the One who calms the storm.

When MVC Hurricanes play in any sport, God wants them to not only represent Him in a Christ-like attitude, but to depend on Him and give Him their all, giving Him glory in the midst of their storm.

IN COMMUNITY

As Christians in community, we need to be very careful about what we say. Words can be so encouraging and uplifting. Most, if not all, of us have been hurt by the words of a classmate or even a teacher. Things that are said to be funny or to provoke laughter often times are not at all humorous. There is definitely a time and a place for joking and laughter, but as Christians we need to be sure that the things we say do not disgrace the name of Jesus and what He stands for. So, think before you speak. Ask yourself....

- What is the purpose of my words?
- Are the words I am about to speak uplifting?
- Am I just trying to be funny?
- Could anyone interpret my statement to be harmful or hurtful?

Do not give anyone the opportunity to question who you are and whose you are.

MAKING DECISIONS

In the New Testament we are told that the mark of the Christian is how we treat each other in Christ's love. This love says that no matter what happens, I, first of all, want to glorify God by what I think, say and do. It also means I must think of others and treat them not only how I would like to be treated, but also how Christ would treat them.

A few things to help you in making decisions:

- If you are certain that what you are about to do would meet with God's approval according to Scripture, go ahead!
- If you aren't sure, stop!
- If you're sure you shouldn't, don't!

GENERAL PROTOCOLS

- Use your Agenda assignment booklet daily. Be sure you have written in all long-term as well as short-term assignments. This is your responsibility.
- Ask relevant and appropriate questions. Be sure that you know what is expected when an assignment is given and when it is due. Be sure you understand what the teacher has said so that you can use the information.
- All assignments must contain a proper heading as explained by the teachers for the Middle School. A standard heading will be on the left side of the paper and include a student's first and last name, date and heading for the class.

- Check your work to be sure that you have spelled everything properly, that grammar is correct, and that you have done what the assignment has asked you to do. The use of the computer to spell check on formal written work is a good thing to remember.
- Keep notebooks and folders organized so that you can easily find assignments and handouts. Please do not leave assignments in textbooks as this will damage the books binding.
- Work consistently throughout each quarter. You will do better on daily assignments and projects. In addition, assessments will go better.
- Turn in assignments on time as explained by the teacher.
- Late work policies for projects, research papers, and other large assignments will be explained to each student and shared on handouts provided by the teacher involved.
- Students may bring bottles containing water into classrooms, except for special occasions as determined and announced by the teachers. This would mean no other beverages are permitted in the classroom for students.
- Pushing, shoving or other forms of roughhousing must be avoided. Too often students are hurt during such activities. Appropriate campus demeanor and behavior is expected at all times.

BEING PREPARED

It is important to always bring basic supplies to class unless told otherwise by the teacher. Some of the basic items that students should have for class are pens, pencils, binder or notebook, Agenda, textbook. Each class will have specific items that are also needed.

Students are expected to use time wisely and to have something constructive to work on in the event that class work is completed before the class period is over. If there are no other assignments on which to work, each student should have a book to read whether or not it is required for a book report.

It is **highly recommended and expected** that students consistently use this Agenda assignment notebook.

BEING RESPECTFUL

We believe and affirm that every student and staff member at MVC is a unique child of God created in His image. As such, every person at MVC should:

- Treat others with dignity and respect at all times, affirming them as image bearers of God.
- Speak to and about others at all times so that they are encouraged and built up. Negative comments of any type are not appropriate.
- Speak and act in ways which cannot easily be misinterpreted in negative ways by others. The telling of inappropriate jokes and/or stories would be examples of violating this principle.
- Work diligently at treating all student and staff members with fairness and love, seeking to include everyone as an important member of our school community by practicing a humble, Christ-like attitude of service even "to the least of these". Go out of your way to invite others into your activities.
- Conduct themselves so that students and staff members are not made to feel uncomfortable by their actions or made to feel in any way that they cannot remain in the same area because of any action that is taking place. Comments related to sexual matters are never appropriate.



Respect

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS AND EXPERIENCE

The focus and commitment of education at Mount Vernon Christian Middle School is to provide you, the student, with a variety of exposures and experiences as you seek to see God revealed throughout His creation. Our Middle School is designed to provide a smooth transition from the elementary to the high school as well as a gradual change from dependence to independence. This transition is often not without stress-filled moments that can be very difficult.

We further believe that for you to mature socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, you will need to work hard on your academics, participate positively in the life of the school, encourage others, engage in prayer, read the Bible, and strengthen your friendship and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Some of the ways in which we support the MVC student and their experience while in Middle School:

Academically

- Agenda – each student receives an agenda that includes the Student Handbook and Calendar for planning.
- Study Sessions – designated after school study time for students struggling academically.
- Flex Class – a semester class designed to further develop areas where testing has shown scholastic weakness.
- Student Services – struggling students may receive Title 1 services or more intense services throughout the year. Assessments may be done in-house, or the school will work with MVSD to assess student needs.
- Google Classroom – a streamlined approach to sharing files with students and teachers, in a central online community. Middle School teachers utilize this suite of applications to better meet the needs of our technological families.
- RenWeb – is our schools information and grading system. Parents should login to monitor student progress.

Socially

- MS Student Council – made up of students voted on by their peers and teachers to serve in leading school sponsored events designed to build community and strengthen friendships.
- MS Athletics – a variety of sports are offered to middle school students and are “no-cut” programs. Fall – Coed Soccer & Girls Volleyball; Winter – Boys & Girls Basketball; Spring – Boys & Girls Track and Field. Per WIAA policy, 8th graders may participate in HS Athletics and often do to sustain programs.
- Middle School Mayhem – a one day retreat in the Fall designed to build connections through experiences early in the school year in order to strengthen classes.
- Field Trips – most are academic in nature, but provide opportunities for students to experience life together.
- Lawn Games – the middle schools end of the year culminating event designed to celebrate the school year and enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

Spiritually

- Devotions – teacher led to start the day.
- Chapel – weekly time of worship, prayer and teaching on Thursday's throughout the school year. Special chapels prior to Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, are led by Elementary, Middle School and High School teachers and students.
- Youth Night – the middle school recognizes Wednesday as Youth Group night. Involvement is encouraged.
- Servant Leadership – there are different opportunities throughout the year for students to serve. Staff seeks to provide students with these opportunities and model what servant leadership looks like as they grow.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Curriculum studies and teacher expectations for each course will be explained to students through a syllabus or general information. Teachers will provide or share handouts with regard to specific projects, assessments and exams. All courses are graded. Satisfactory completion of core curriculum courses is expected at each grade level. A failing grade in a core curriculum course for the semester or year will result in a meeting with the student, parent, teacher and/or principal to determine an educational plan and future placement. Students in the Middle School will receive instruction in the following coursework:

Bible ~ 3 years

Math Course 1 ~1 year (C- or > to progress Course 2)

Math Course 2 ~1 year (C- or > to progress Pre-Algebra)

Pre-Algebra ~ 1 year (C- or > to progress to Algebra)

Algebra ~ 1 year (C- or > to progress to Geometry)

United States History ~ 1 year

World Geography ~ 1 semester

WA State History ~ 1 semester

Ancient World History ~ 1 year

Earth Science ~1 year

Life Science ~ 1 year

Physical Science ~1 year

Literature/Language Arts ~ 3 years

Physical Education ~ 3 semesters

Band or Choir ~ 3 years

Exploratory Classes - 4 quarters per year

GRADES AND GRADING SCALES

Teachers will correct and return student assignments in a prompt manner. Student grades will be posted on-line (via [RenWeb](#)) for viewing throughout the quarter. Students and parents have passwords to access this information. Contact the

Middle School office with any RenWeb concerns. Teachers are not expected to have grades posted immediately following an assignment or assessment. **At three-week intervals, student grades will be used to determine extracurricular eligibility. Report cards will be available on-line one week following the completion of the quarter or semester. Grades will be sent home via email for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter. 4th quarter and final grades will be sent home via mail, and a hardcopy of student grades for the year will be included.**

The following grading scale will be used on daily assignments and most assessments.

95 to 100%	A	74 to 76%	C
90 to 94%	A-	70 to 73%	C-
87 to 89%	B+	67 to 69%	D+
84 to 86%	B	60 to 66%	D
80 to 83%	B-	50 to 59%	F with effort
77 to 79%	C+	0%	F with no effort

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

1. Daily assignments are due at the beginning of the class period or as instructed by the teacher. **Assignments completed online will have a designated turn-in time that you will need to be mindful of.**
2. Late work, in the Middle School, will lose at least 10% each day it is late.
3. Missing daily assignments will be recorded as "m" for missing, and calculate as a zero in the gradebook. They will remain at that mark unless made up in compliance with the teacher's policy.

HOMEWORK, ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMS

Students will be assigned homework in most classes. On average, students will have about an hour of homework a night during the week. The middle school recognizes Wednesday night as youth group night and will shorten assignments to promote attendance and involvement. Assessments will be given in all subject areas. Where necessary, a study guide or review time will be offered by the teacher to assist students with their preparations.

Daily assignments and assessments are graded and returned in a prompt manner by the teacher. In some cases, assessments are to be returned to the teacher after student viewing. Missing assignments will

At the end of each semester, exams will be given in core subject areas for the seventh and eighth grades; teachers have the option at the sixth grade level to hold exams. Exams are given to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, as well as to be an exercise in academic development. They represent 10% of a student's semester grade **(Algebra exams are worth 20%)**. Exams are not returned, but students may meet with the teacher and go over the particulars of their work.

Middle School Exam schedules tend to line up with High School exam week. There will be one exam make-up day offered for students that are ill or miss for family matters. A student leaving school early for a vacation or similar absence will, in most cases, miss the opportunity to take the exam. This will impact their course grade.

ATTENDANCE

There is a strong correlation between attendance and performance in school. Attendance is also a Washington State requirement. Therefore, students are to make an honest effort to attend school. If a student will not be in school, parents or guardians are to contact the main office by phone or email by 8:25 a.m. on or before the day of the absence.

- Excused absences include illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, and those deemed appropriate by the Principal or Administrative Assistant.
- Students may accrue ten excused absences per semester. Students having more than ten absences may be required to meet with the Principal, Education Committee and/or their parents.
- An unexcused absence is when a student misses class for a reason not covered under the acceptable excused absence list. Unexcused absences will result in a before school detention.
- When a student misses class for an unexcused absence, the teacher will have discretion to determine if make-up work, including assessments, will be offered. The absence may affect graded participation.

The student must attend four full class periods to be counted as present for a complete day of school and participate in co-curricular practices and contests.

MAKEUP WORK DUE TO ABSENCES

It is the student's responsibility to arrange for and complete work that is missed due to absences; this is done by speaking with the teacher the day he or she returns to school or before leaving school if they know in advance of the absence. This includes absences for athletics and school sponsored activities.

- If a student misses class for an excused absence, but does not contact the teacher for make-up work, the teacher may treat the missed assignments as not having been attempted.

- One day for each day missed day is given to complete missing work, except where a student has missed class because of athletics or school sponsored activity.
- A student absent on a Friday would have daily assignments due on Tuesday.
- In the case of a planned, pre-arranged absence, teachers have the right to require that all work be turned in before the absent days. Exams are exempt from this provision.

Teachers have the right to expect students to take a quiz or assessments upon the day of their return if the student missed the assigned assessment day. Missing days during a project or research assignment do not fall under this policy as projects and research papers will have their own criteria depending on the teacher.

HAVING PROPER DRESS AND HYGIENE

Students should dress with an emphasis on the fact that we are a Christian school, and the clothes that students wear should reflect a Christ-like attitude. Student dress should be appropriate, neat, clean and modest. Final determination of appropriate dress is left to the administrators. Some of the guidelines are:

- For safety and health sake students are not allowed to go barefoot in school.
- Shorts may be worn throughout the year except when teachers and/or administration may deem shorts to be inappropriate for certain functions or activities. Short length must be appropriate and modest.
- Jeans and pants should not be tattered or have holes.
- No bare midriffs or tank tops, unless over the shoulder, are allowed.
- No hats while in buildings.
- No wearing or displaying of advertisements for rock music, sexual connotation, alcoholic beverages, etc. This applies not only to clothing, but to lockers, books, notebooks, buttons, etc.
- Leggings or yoga pants cannot be worn as pants, but **may** be worn in place of tights.
- Hair is to be neatly groomed and of natural color and hue. Some hairstyles may not be allowed. **Nose piercings are not allowed.**
- Students are expected to bathe daily and use proper hygiene (ie. deodorant). Students should always wear clean clothing.
- P.E. Uniforms **or MVC Logoed shirts**, athletic shorts, and proper foot attire are to be worn for P.E. and should not be worn for other classes.
- On a day designated for chapel, boys should wear collared shirt and girls are asked to wear nice attire as well – no athletic clothing (ie. sweat shorts and t-shirts)

Non-compliance with dress guidelines will result in parent notification by the teacher and/or office. Your student may be asked to wear a t-shirt provided by the office in some cases, or you will be asked to bring a change of clothes to school prior to your student being reinstated into the classroom rotation for the day. Further administrative action will be taken in the case of continual non-compliance. We ask that you partner with us by observing your child's dress and heading off inappropriate attire prior to arriving on campus.

BEING TARDY, CONSEQUENCES AND DETENTIONS

Students are to attend class on time. Students who are late to class will be marked tardy. If a student is substantially late to class, the tardy may be regarded as skipping class. Students tardy to their first period class are expected to obtain a pass from the Middle School office.

Students who are tardy more than 5 times total in a semester will receive a morning detention. Detentions are held in the morning at 7:30 AM by arrangements with the office. Students will receive a detention for every tardy after 5. Multiple detentions may lead to Suspension or Saturday School. Students attending Saturday School are expected to arrive no later than 8:00 AM on the assigned Saturday and will attend until noon. In addition, there is a \$15.00 fee due and payable at the time of attendance. These sessions may include some manual labor and/or monitored study time. The principal will handle chronic cases of being tardy.

REMOVAL FROM CLASS

When required, a teacher may remove a student from class for inappropriate behaviors, lack of focus, continued interruptions or insubordination. A removed student will be sent to the principal for counseling and disciplinary action. Course work missed may be re-assigned at the discretion of the teacher. Depending upon the severity of the matter, repetition of the offense or nature of the incident, the principal may assign detention, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

LEAVING CAMPUS

- Students are not allowed to leave campus during the school day without parental approval.
- Students who leave school with parental approval during the school day must "sign-out" at the office when they depart.
- Students need to "sign-in" at the office at the time of their return. Students not returning that day need only to "sign-out".

It is important for students to follow proper procedure and policy when "signing in" or "signing out" so that accurate records can be kept and students won't be unnecessarily penalized or charged with absences.

CHAPEL AND WORSHIP

School chapels are held weekly for the purpose of corporate worship and praise. Student participation is encouraged by the Chapel coordinators. All people attending chapel should

- Enter the chapel area respectfully and prepare for worship.
- Bring your Bible. Bring paper and pen if instructed to do so.
- Treat the person(s) leading the chapel with respect.
- Understand that you are not in Chapel to be entertained.
- Be considerate of those around you and their desire to worship.
- Focus on the topic being presented and take the opportunity to participate in worship.
- Dress appropriately for Chapel. **No athletic shorts.**

PROPERTY

Respect the property of other students as well as that of the school. If you break or damage the property of another student, teacher or those things that belong to the school, you are responsible to pay for the necessary repairs or replacements. Teachers have the right to make specific guidelines within their classrooms concerning sitting on desks, care and use of school property. Teachers' desks, file and storage cabinets are off limits to students unless specific instructions have been given to the contrary.

SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

Mount Vernon Christian School's commitment to academic excellence and technology means that we provide internet access and associated educational software to support instruction and enhance curriculum. Not only do we desire to be good stewards of the (technological) gifts we have been given but also of our students' time during the school day.

Our concern is for the safety of our students and for the integrity of their characters, therefore we seek to educate students in the efficient, ethical, and appropriate use of these resources to achieve the goals of the MVC curriculum.

With this rationale in mind, the following list of expectations applies to the technology equipment of Mount Vernon Christian School.

- Students are expected to observe Christian standards of behavior, etiquette, and sensitivity toward self and others, including their ideas and property.
- Information (text, music, images) created by another person should be treated as the personal property of the creator. Respect copyrights! Always give proper credit to your sources.
- Equipment should remain in the configuration selected by the school. Students may not install files, games, or programs.
- The school network should not be used for personal profit or commercial purposes.
- The internet or associated technology is never to be used for immoral purposes. This includes viewing, using and/or saving images, sounds, or information that are obscene, pornographic, harassing, racist, malicious, or fraudulent.
- Use of social networks, personal email, chat rooms, blogging, or any other form of communication websites by students is not allowed on school property without permission from MVC personnel.
- Watching movies or other items (You Tube, DVDs, etc) is not allowed without supervision and permission from MVC personnel.
- Food and drink (including water) are not allowed near computers (and specifically not allowed in the computer lab) to avoid possible damage to the equipment.

STUDENT ISSUED CHROMEBOOKS

Students are allowed to take their chromebooks home with them throughout the school year. Each student has been given a chromebook and charger with a specific number assigned to them. Some expectations and consequences regarding student chromebooks are:

- Students are responsible for charging their chromebooks at home and bringing them to school each day.

- If you as a parent do not want your child to bring their chromebook home we can discuss arrangements for keeping it at school but I would like the students to take ownership of the responsibility
- In keeping in line with schools cell phone policy if a student forgets their chromebook or forgets to charge it there will be fees associated with a loaner
 - Everybody gets a free pass the first time
 - 2nd offense will require a \$5.00 deposit for the loaner with \$4.00 being refunded with the safe return of the loaner at the end of the day
 - If the loaner is not returned the entire \$5.00 will be kept and an additional \$5.00 will be charged each day the loaner is not returned
 - Subsequent offenses will see a decreased refund of a dollar per day until it is a \$5.00 flat rental rate.
 - First offense - no charge
 - 2nd offense - \$5.00 deposit with \$4.00 refund
 - 3rd offense - \$5.00 deposit with \$3.00 refund
 - 4th offense - \$5.00 deposit with \$2.00 refund
 - 5th offense - \$5.00 deposit with \$1.00 refund
 - All subsequent offense - \$5.00 per day rental fee
 - Students can pay in cash for the rental or it will be added to their fees statement
- Students are responsible for all major damages to the chromebooks
 - Screens and keyboards cost roughly \$135.00 to replace
 - Replacing the entire machine runs about \$260.00
- Lost or broken keys and any software issues will be covered by the school
 - The main software issue is they will sometimes lose the operating system for no reason.
- The freshmen class all received new chromebooks this year and the plan is for them to keep the same one for the rest of their high school career
- Middle school students will have used chromebooks from previous students.
- All students will be required to turn their chromebooks in at the end of the school year
 - At this point they will be checked for damage, cleaned, and stored for the summer
- Even though they are allowed to go home these are still school owned devices and will fall under our rules and regulations which means:
 - We will still be able to track all activity through GoGuardian
 - Inappropriate behavior will be handled differently depending on whether it happens at school or at home.
 - If it happens at school, we will handle any and all consequences which can include the loss of the chromebook.
 - If it happens at home we will always notify you and work together on an appropriate consequence.

The goal with a 1 to 1 type of program is to better serve the students and give them the best resources. These devices are meant to be used for school related activities only.

INTEGRITY IN WORK AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

Integrity and honesty in work are expected virtues within a Christian academic institution. In the school setting there are opportunities to compromise integrity: copying another student's homework, copying directly from a book or Internet site and passing it off as your own work, looking at another person's work during a quiz or telling another student what is on an assessment you have already taken. There are, of course, variations not mentioned here.

What does plagiarism include?

- Taking someone else's (classmate, parent, teacher, tutor, the Internet, or a book/magazine) work and passing it off as yours.
- Buying papers off the Internet.
- Using someone else's ideas without giving them the credit they deserve.

What does cheating include?

- Directly copying someone else's homework assignment.
- Using summaries or commentaries (ie. Cliff Notes) instead of actually reading and doing the homework assignment.
- Sharing answers with classmates.

How to avoid plagiarism and cheating:

- Give yourself plenty of time to complete your assignment.
- Take plenty of notes and make sure to write down where the information is coming from.

- Be sure that you understand the assignment. If you don't, ask the teacher rather than relying on a friend for understanding.
- When in doubt, cite your source. Make sure that you are always stating where your information is coming from. If you are still unsure, ask the teacher.

What happens when I fail to show academic honesty in my work?

- If this is your first offense, you will have one day to re-write the plagiarized section for half credit.
- If this is your second offense, you will fail the plagiarized section.
- If this is your third or more offense, you will fail the assignment and face further disciplinary action.

Teachers and/or administration will deal with student work that involves any of the items mentioned above. Loss of course credit, detention or suspension may also occur, but more important is damage to your own reputation and integrity.

SNACKS AND LUNCH

- In light of child obesity concerns in America, students are advised to eat healthy snacks during breaks.
- All middle school students will eat lunch in a specified area.
- While eating lunch, students must remain seated.
- No microwaves are available.
- Any perishable food not consumed during the lunch period must be disposed of properly. It is best to not store uneaten food in a locker.
- Pizza is available for lunch on Wednesdays and hot lunch is available on Fridays. Students sign-up and pay for pizza at the beginning of the year or start of the second semester. Hot lunch is purchased on a prepaid basis several times during the school year.

LOCKERS

All middle school students are assigned lockers in their homeroom at the start of the year. Students are responsible for the care and proper use of their assigned locker.

- Nothing is to be applied to the outside of the locker and only things that students can *easily remove* are to be applied to the inside unless instructed by the teacher.
- Pictures, illustration, and symbols to "decorate" lockers are subject to the Christian standards of modesty and decency that are to guide life at MVC.
- Students will be fined for any damage to lockers.
- Respect others by not opening lockers other than yours or taking things from another locker.

Searches may be conducted of a student's person, locker or possessions. See Policy Manual Section III-E-5.

MEDICATION

The school office will not administer any medication unless an authorization form has been completed by a physician and/or parent and is on file in the office. Students are not permitted to possess prescriptions or medications on campus.

BUS RULES

The school provides bus transportation as a service. We appreciate the cooperation of students and parents to make the routes safe and enjoyable to everyone involved. Our speech and actions should always reflect our Christian faith.

On sports or school trips, students will follow school rules, as well as any set by individual teachers or coaches. Students will not sit with the opposite gender in the same seat on these trips.

CLASS TRIPS AND OUTINGS

Class trips and Middle School outings are privileges and students are reminded to behave and act as representatives of Christ and His school. Students earn the privilege of participation in such activities through appropriate daily school behaviors, work qualities, and general cooperation with their classmates and teachers. The teacher(s) and principal prior to the event will determine participation in a field trip or class outing.

Class trips and outings are partially funded from monies raised through the Walk-a-thon. Additional charges will depend on class funds and the nature of the trip or outing.

VISITORS

From time to time, students want to bring a visitor to school. In order to bring a visitor to school you need to follow the procedure below:

- The visitor must be a potential student or be visiting from a considerable distance.

- Permission must be received from the principal twenty-four hours prior to the visitation.
- Guests are required to comply with all school rules.

RECYCLING

Trash can become a problem whenever groups of people get together. It is important for each of us to clean up any mess that we make. It may also be necessary to contribute to the welfare of the whole school by picking up messes you might not have made.

MVC is concerned about the environment and believes in recycling. Students are encouraged to use the provided recycling bins to assist in caring for God's creation and being wise stewards of supplies.

COUPLES

While dating and the development of significant relationships can be an important part of high school, it is strongly discouraged at the middle school level. Related behaviors and physical contact of couples is not allowed in the middle school. Parents will be made aware by school personnel if their child is involved as a "couple" with another student.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students who wish to participate in co-curricular activities need to recognize that they represent Mount Vernon Christian Middle School and what it stands for in a very special way. Participation in these activities carries with it special responsibilities and requirements in areas such as conduct and academics. Students may have the opportunity to participate in events like student council, service work and other activities throughout the school year.

MVC offers the following sports for seventh and eighth graders: Fall~Coed-Soccer and Volleyball; Winter~Boys' and Girls' Basketball; Spring~Track & Field. Sixth graders are able to participate in middle school athletics when numbers allow. For specific guidelines regarding Middle School sports, students should refer to the Middle School Sports Handbook that is issued each season.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility related to academics and citizenship will be enforced.
2. Grades are checked at three-week intervals and at the end-of-the-quarter.
3. A student with a failing grade will be given a week to improve their grade to a passing mark. After a week the student will be ineligible for five school days beginning with the first Tuesday after the end of the grade checks. An ineligible student may participate in practice sessions and will be required to attend After School Study Sessions. An ineligible student will miss a minimum of one athletic contest regardless of where the five school day period falls. They may miss more than one athletic contest during this five school day period.
4. At the end of the initial five-day period, grades will be re-checked. A student who continues to be ineligible in the class (or a new class) will not participate in any practice or athletic contest(s) for five additional school days.
5. If a student remains ineligible at the end of the second five-day period, the student will be removed from further participation for that sport season.
6. Behavior on campus and within classrooms will also be monitored. Where necessary, the principal, in conjunction with the classroom teacher, athletic director and/or coach will provide an appropriate consequence to be used in correcting behavior or attitude.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING

MVC is committed to a safe, educational environment for all students, staff, volunteers, and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying. All reports of this type of behavior are investigated by the administration and a report is issued on action taken. At MVC, bullying, intimidation and harassment are defined as follows:

- Engaging in behavior that results in the embarrassment or disparagement of another person on or off school grounds, including written, verbal, electronic, or physical behavior;
- Physically harming a student or damaging another student's property;
- Behavior that is perceived by the recipient as creating an intimidating, threatening or emotionally harmful environment;
- Behavior that has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's education;
- Behavior that has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Additionally, the student being harassed does not have to actually have the characteristics they are being harassed about (i.e., if a student is called a derogatory name); it is harassment whether or not the student actually possesses that trait.

While MVC does not desire to assume the role of parental disciplinarian while students are not at school, we also recognize that the activities described above may not necessarily occur while school is in session but the results of such activity spills over into the community on campus. Not only is such activity damaging to the individual student but they affect

the entire community and indeed defame the name of Christ and reputation of the school. Based on this, the school may become involved in out-of-school behaviors related to harassment, intimidation, or bullying of MVC students.

The administration of MVC will investigate all complaints of bullying, intimidation, or harassment. Students involved in bullying, intimidation, or harassment face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Participation in online social networks and user-driven sites, similar sites, blogs and messaging, may result in disciplinary actions if the content of the student's entries includes pictures without permission and/or defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students, or school-related members.

See Policy Section II-D-1.a.b. Employee and Student Dignity Policy.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS

Students are not to use cell phones during the school day from 8:15 AM to 3:15 PM. They should be turned off and stored during these school hours. These guidelines include field trips, sports outings or other school sponsored events unless specifically directed otherwise by the coach or sponsor of the activity including bus transportation to and from school. Parents should not expect to have their student violate this policy.

If it is necessary for students to have these items for after school or non-school activities, they should be left in the student's backpack and turned off during the school day.

Items used in violation of this policy will be sent to the school office for the student to claim at the end of the day or require that a parent comes to the office to claim. This policy applies to all electronic items.

Teachers may request that students use hand-held electronics for specific course learning activities. Teachers will also have conversations with students about how to appropriately use these devices as a Christian.

WEAPONS

Firearms, knives, clubs, spray, or similar items are not permitted on campus or at school sponsored activities. Violation of this policy will result in confiscation of the items, school discipline and involvement of civil authorities.

See Policy III-F-6.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND RELATED SUBSTANCES

The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, prescriptions, inhalants (other than authorized inhalers) or controlled substances are prohibited and will not be tolerated by MVC. Violation of this policy will result in school discipline and/or involvement of civil authorities.

See Policy III-F-5.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

MVC desires a relationship between families and teachers. In communicating with the school:

- Please be courteous when contacting a teacher. **Appointments are preferred versus after school drop-ins.**
- Please be certain that your concern does not focus on a teacher's character, but involves the course, your child's development, and/ or how the teacher can assist you and your child.
- When at all possible, please contact a teacher during school hours. The use of email is fine, but please understand that a teacher may not get back with you immediately. Teachers are to be instructing their courses during the school hours.
- Each teacher has a voice mail account that can be accessed.
- Please understand that showing up at school just prior to the beginning of school or at the end of the day to talk with a teacher may not be the best arrangement; a teacher may have other duties or plans. A conference can be arranged, but please contact the teacher to schedule an appointment so they can prepare any necessary documentation or be able to assist you and your child better.
- In addition, teachers and/or the principal will promptly notify parents to alert them to any disciplinary situations or of academic problems.

Our school staff is well trained and working hard for you. We want you to be successful! Have a great year!!