

*Grapeville  
Christian  
School*

*2023~2024 Handbook*

*I have no greater joy  
than to hear  
that my children  
walk in truth.*

*III John 4*



*School Board*

*Barry Blenis*

*Norman Channing*

*Charles Gardell*

*Administrative Staff*

*Mrs. Marianne DeDeo, Administrator*

*Mrs. Linda Gardner, Administrative Assistant*

*Guiding our students to develop ~  
Strong Character  
Academic Competence  
Self-mastery  
And  
Confidence in whom they are in Christ.*

*To accomplish our mission, we help students...*

*develop a biblical worldview.*

*grow in Christian character and service.*

*develop a deeper understanding of current issues and culture.*

*learn to think carefully and critically.*

*become more skilled communicators.*

*prepare for a vocation or college study.*

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Our **statement of faith** is as follows:

We believe the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings, and they are the final authority in faith and life. (II Tim 3:16, II Pet. 1:20-21, Rev. 22:18-19)

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:1, Deut. 6:4, Matt 28:19, II Cor.13:14, Rev. 20:11)

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth and sinless life, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of God the Father, and His future personal return in power and in glory. (Matt. 1:18-20, Luke 1:31, Rom. 5:8, Eph. 2:8-9. Phil.2:5-11, I Tim. 2:4-6, Heb. 9:22, 10:1-14)

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit whose work is completely in conjunction with those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and to indwell, baptize, and seal into the Body of Christ. (John 16:13-15, Rom. 8:9, Eph 5:27, Rev. 22:17)

We believe Satan is real and the source of all evil. (Gen. 1:26-27, 3:1, Rom. 1:18-32, Rom. 5:18:19)

We believe all persons are sinners, and those who are not saved by grace are lost and condemned to Hell. (Rom. 6:23, 17:18-32, Rev. 20:15)

We believe that salvation is received through faith, with repentance, by receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Eph. 2:8,9)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost –those who are saved to the resurrection of life, and those who are lost to the resurrection of damnation. (Rev. 20:6)

We believe strongly in the local Church. (Heb. 10:25)

We are opposed to the one-world church, and our Bible curriculum reflects our non-charismatic position, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial position. (I Cor. 15:51-57, I Thess. 4:13-18, Titus 2:13, Rev. 4:1-2, 18:11-16)

We hold the state of marriage to be an expression of a biblical standard and the union between a man and a woman. Violations of this sacred trust include areas such as fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and co-habitation prior to marriage (Genesis 1:27, 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5; Romans 12:1; Romans 12:2; Romans 12:26; Romans 12:27; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3).

## **Purpose of School/Philosophy**

Grapeville Christian School is a ministry of the Grapeville Baptist Church. Its primary purpose is to work with the Christian home and church to provide a Christ-centered spiritual and academic foundation in a nurturing environment to produce young people who will be a transforming influence in their world.

Grapeville Christian School was founded in 1994 by Grapeville Baptist Church to educate K-12 grade students in the context of Christian values, so that they would live godly lives in service to others. Today the school serves students from K-12. The 10-acre campus is in Grapeville, New York, in the township of New Baltimore. Housed on the property of the Grapeville Baptist Church, the school's physical plant includes a gymnasium and athletic field.

Grapeville Christian School meets all the mandated health and academic requirements of the New York State Board of Education and is listed as a registered member of the University of the State of New York. Grapeville Christian School became a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) in 1996.

The philosophy of the Grapeville Christian School is based on the divinely inspired, inerrant Word of God.

- ❖ God is sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things.
- ❖ We are to submit ourselves to His written Word.
- ❖ God's ultimate purpose for everyone is to develop to his fullest capacity - spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally to the glory of God, and to enjoy Him forever. (I Cor. 10:31, Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- ❖ Rebirth is by faith in Jesus, which gives true meaning and value to life in His person, purpose, and work.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is in the world today convicting mankind of sin and judgment, bringing men to Christ, and guiding them in the new birth.
- ❖ All truth is God's truth, and His truth is the foundation of all knowledge and wisdom.

### ***In all its activities, Grapeville Christian School seeks to:***

Guide students in their understanding of God's creation.

Help students recognize the distortion and brokenness caused by sin.

Challenge students to make a personal commitment to Christ to live in the transforming power of His redemption.

Care for each student as an image-bearer of God, viewing everyone as a valued and unique member of the body of Christ.

**Code of Conduct** - The school strives to make the school environment a healthy place where children can learn, grow, and develop Christian character. To achieve this goal, the administration, staff members, and parents are asked to set a model of Christian behavior in both word and deed. Expectations and good modeling include, but are not limited to the following:

- No threatening of employees, children, or parents.
- No physical punishment to children on Grapeville Christian School grounds.
- No smoking anywhere on school grounds or fields, or during school-sponsored events.
- No swearing or cursing on the school grounds or fields, or at school-sponsored events.
- Handle all confrontational issues appropriately.
- Hold to confidentiality standards.
- Lift each other up in prayer.
- Encourage and love one another.
- Good sportsmanship on the team or as a spectator with respect for referees, coaches, and players.

**Admissions Procedures and Policy** - To be a school of the highest quality, Grapeville Christian School must continually establish policies which enhance the Christian educational process. Grapeville cannot allow one student, either because of discipline or disability, to hinder the education of other students. For this reason, only those students whose academic, physical, and emotional needs can be met by Grapeville will be accepted.

In a Christian environment, Grapeville promotes a high level of literary and academic achievement for students. The Grapeville administration also reserves the right to positively affect the climate and peer influence in each class by limiting admission to, or removing from class, any student whose influence would be detrimental to the goals of the school.

The school is offered to families who have affirmed that they have read our Statement of Faith and agree to their children being educated according to its principles.

**All applicants must:**

- Be five years old by November 1<sup>st</sup> for enrollment in kindergarten.
- Complete and return Enrollment Form. (Exceptions for Pre-K)
- Remit \$125.00 fee.
- Submit a copy of a current report card, as well as the most recent standardized test results.
- Arrange for a parental interview with the administrator/staff.
- Complete financial and book contracts.

**To qualify for admission, students:**

- Will take achievement tests in writing, reading, and math to determine grade level.
- Will be interviewed by the administrator/staff.

**Nondiscrimination Policy** - Grapeville Christian School does not discriminate against students of any race, color, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin in its administration or educational policies; this includes scholarship, athletic, or other school administered programs.

## Physical examinations and immunizations

Each student is required to have a physical examination prior to his/her entrance into kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades. These may be obtained up to 12 months before the beginning of school. NYS Department of Health requires that any student entering grades 7 or 12 must have the meningococcal vaccine or they cannot start school.

NYS statutes require that school children be adequately immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, pertussis, Hepatitis B, and varicella.

The school office has the appropriate health forms for your doctor which are to be turned in to the school office before the school year begins.

**Tuition** - The cost to parents of sending a student to Grapeville Christian School is determined by tuition and fees. All payments should be made payable to FACTS. Tuition is recommended by the Administration and approved by the School Board.

Terms for Tuition Payments:

Full payment first week in August OR

Twelve-month payment plan beginning July 20

Eleven-month payment plan beginning August 20

If payments are not received by the above dates, a late charge of \$35.00 will be automatically charged to your school account. If payment is more than 30 days delinquent and arrangements have not been made with the administrator, your child will not be allowed to come to school after the first of the following month.

A student will not be allowed to go on special field trips (D.C., Leadership conference, senior trip, etc.) if his/her school account is not current. (Tuition has priority over the expense of special trips.)

*\*Tuition payments are not tax deductible.\**

**Re-enrollment** - For returning students, the new contract must be completed by the end of June; otherwise, there will be a late fee of \$50. This is necessary so that planning for the upcoming school year can be accomplished. Also, each family's FACTS account must be set up or renewed by July 1 or a \$50 late fee will be charged.

**Required Parent/Guardian Volunteer Hours** - Each parent/guardian must give six hours of service work annually or pay a fee of \$10.00 per hour in lieu of any unfulfilled service hours. This fee will be added to the tuition payment at the end of the year if not fulfilled.

**Withdrawal Policy** - Students who leave before the end of the school year for any reason (either voluntary withdrawal or expulsion), will owe tuition for the remainder of the year. In the event of the said termination, transcripts or school records will not be released until full payment is received. The administrator must receive a letter two weeks in advance of withdrawal, stating the reason.

**Withholding Report Cards** - Report cards and transcripts will not be released if the family is in arrears

on tuition and fees.

## Attendance Requirements

Regular and prompt attendance is a vital pattern to develop because:

The pattern formed in early life is usually closely related to that of adulthood, i.e., a student's relationship to school an employee's relationship to the quality of his work. Regular attendance helps develop a pattern of structure and routine in young children and gives them security.

Most pupils find it difficult to learn when they are excessively absent. Consequently, there may be a need for remediation and grades repeated for those pupils who are excessively absent.

Excessive absence may be symptomatic of a problem that needs attention (i.e., physical, mental, social, etc.).

Pupils who are excessively absent tend to act up in classes when they do attend, as a way of covering up their academic deficiencies.

**Absences** - Legitimate reasons: sickness, death in the family, doctor or dental appointments, and emergencies. If your child is absent, please call the school office by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. If we do not hear from you by this time, we will be calling home.

A note from the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence must be presented upon the student's return, or it will be counted as a non-excused absence.

***Please do not send your child to school if they have exhibited any signs of communicable diseases within the past 24 hours. If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be notified and expected to pick up your child or arrange to have them picked up as soon as possible.***

**Students who visit** colleges will be considered present for the day provided they acquire a note from the admissions office and a parent calls the school office to inform GCS of the absence.

**Students in grades 9-12** may sign themselves in and out at the office if arriving or leaving during school hours, but a note or phone call from the parent is required. Students in grades K-8 must have their parents/guardians sign them in or out if arriving or leaving during school hours.

**A student must be in** attendance for at least **five** periods to receive credit for a full day. A half day is when the student is in attendance for **two** periods.

*"It is required in stewards that he be found faithful." Corinthians 4:2*

## Course Credit

Any student missing *20 or more* days will not receive course credit.



All absences, excused or non-excused, count toward the 20 days.

**If an extended absence is known ahead of time, a homework slip needs to be filled out. Completed work is expected upon the student's return.**

If a student cannot participate in music, physical education or sports, a note of explanation from the parents must be presented to the teacher. **For extended periods of non-participation, a note from the child's physician must be provided.**

**Make-up Assignments** -When a student is absent, it is the **student's duty** to make up the work missed. The student will be given twice the number of days missed, up to three days.

For absences longer than three days, make-up work must be arranged with the teacher. Work turned in within the time limit set by the teacher will be graded at full credit. Work assigned prior to an absence should be submitted upon return. Assigned tests and quizzes **MUST** be taken within the time limit set by the teacher.

**Tardy** -Absence without the parents' and/or school's knowledge and permission, is considered truancy. Discipline and academic penalties will be administered.

Excused tardy days include traffic accidents, doctor or dental appointments, and personal emergencies (approved by the administrator). Unexcused tardy days include late carpools, running out of gas, oversleeping, traffic in general, missing school supplies, etc.

**Students who have unexcused** tardy days per semester risk losing driving privileges and other school privileges. Students will also incur consequences for unexcused tardiness.

**School Hours**    **K-12 school day** 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.                      **Office** 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Inclement Weather** - School may be canceled due to stormy weather. Every effort will be made to air an announcement by 5:30 a.m. on TV channels 6, 10, & 13. Announcements will also be sent out via email and text messaging.

Delayed openings may be announced; we could possibly delay the opening of the school for one to two hours depending upon weather conditions. Please continue to check email, text messages, or TV.

**Closed Campus Policy/Visitors** - Grapeville Christian School operates under a closed-campus policy. Once a student arrives on school property in the morning, he is not to leave until he is dismissed from school in the afternoon. This closed-campus policy covers assemblies and school programs as well.

**Parents in the Building** - We welcome parents to come to our office at any time if we can be of assistance.

If you desire to have a conference with the administrator or a teacher, please call for an appointment so that we can be sure that person is available. Please do not *show up* in hopes of catching a teacher or the administrator for an *impromptu* conference.

*\*Parents are invited and welcome to attend weekly chapel services.*

## Dress Code

### Why a Dress Code:

*seeks* to highlight some of the issues related to modesty.

*is intended* to encourage virtues like humility, simplicity, and respect for others and to discourage vices like pride, materialism, and sensuality.

*reminds students* of the seriousness of scholarly work.

*begins the process* of learning to honor guidelines for work attire that are different from our own preferences of casual dress.

**Modesty is** - Modesty means “orderly and decent.” Paul associate’s modesty with decency.

(I Timothy 2:9). The modest person is one who voluntarily limits his or her own freedom as an expression of self-control and moderation. Above all, modesty is ultimately a reflection of the heart. Our outer appearance should reflect the inner reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ and our desire to honor Him.

**Please note:** Footwear, clothing items, accessories, (water bottles, lunch boxes, notebooks, etc.) depicting questionable or double meaning slogans, inappropriate music artists, groups, pictures, designs, or words are not to be used or worn. **Jackets, hoodies, hats, sweatshirts, etc. are to be logo free.**

## General Dress Code Guidelines

Should a faculty or staff member question a student’s dress, the student is to give that person all due respect since he or she is acting for the administration.

If necessary, the student may be asked not to attend class until a change of clothing can be made.

The administration will make the final decision on the appropriateness of a student’s dress and appearance.

The following items of dress are not permitted at school: wearing of hats during school hours, visible tattoos, permanent or temporary.

Uniform to be worn upon entering the school building.

Shoes must always be worn in the classroom and on school grounds. If designed for lacing, they must have laces completely laced and tied.

Students will not be warned of dress code violations. Fines are levied for breaches of dress regulations - \$1.00 per offense.

Though we allow more casual dress in out-of-school events, modesty and neatness must be observed.

## Girls’ Dress Code

### Daily Uniforms

Long or short sleeve polo shirts – navy, white, or dark green.

Classic navy, khaki, or classic navy/evergreen plaid (*skirt hems must be to the middle of the kneecap or longer when walking or standing.*)

Fleece jacket or cardigan sweater for outerwear. Outerwear can be navy or dark green.

**NO SWEATSHIRTS.** *Sweatshirts are for gym class only.*

Skirt hem must be to the middle of the kneecap or longer when walking or standing.

Shoes: Closed leather like shoes or dress boots, sneakers, or sandals with back strap and having good support with a heel no higher than 2” are permitted. Please remember this is a school environment, and we consider our students’ safety more important than fashion.

White, navy, black, or grey tights/leggings are acceptable - no printed leggings or tights.

Avoid excessive cosmetics and jewelry.

Hairstyles should not attract undue attention to one’s overall appearance - no unnatural hair colors nor should hair impair one’s vision in any way.

It is a violation of the uniform policy to show underwear, bare midriff, bare back, or cleavage at any time (including when leaning over or raising one’s arms).

Students in grades K-6 need to have extra shoes and boots for outdoor use (recess, gym class, etc.)

Also, please remember to **label** all clothing items.

## Gym Uniform K-12

Classic navy, dark green, or grey Tee with **GCS Logo. (To be purchased at Land’s End.)**

Classic navy, dark green, or grey crewneck or hooded sweatshirt(**girls’ crew sweatshirt, hooded pullover sweatshirt or zip-front sweatshirt**). School Sweatshirts are to be worn with gym uniforms only and are needed when gym class is held outdoors.

Recommended –

Classic boys’ **mesh or nylon athletic shorts (close to the knee in navy or grey) for spring and fall only.**

Classic boys’ **mesh or nylon athletic, or wind pants (in navy or grey) for winter season. Pants and shorts may have a white stripe only and no printing.** (*Boy’s pants are recommended because the girl’s style is too tight and too short*).

Classic navy or pewter heather girls’ sweatpants (if fit is not too tight or too short).

## Boys’ Dress Code

In the interest of neatness and appropriateness, we expect our gentlemen to:

**wear** long or short sleeve polo shirts in classic navy, white, or evergreen.

**wear** classic navy, khaki, or grey casual dress pants with a neutral tone belt.

**wear** a fleece jacket or cardigan sweater for outer wear. No Sweatshirts! *Sweatshirts are for gym class only.*

**be** clean shaven.

**keep** shoes/sneakers tied.

**wear** clean clothing in good condition.

**have** the top button *only* of their polo shirts unbuttoned.

**have** pants pulled up to the waistline (able to stay up without a belt), not baggy, frayed, touching the floor, or bunching on the top of the shoes. Pants must be hemmed to the proper length.

**Undershirts or T-shirts** may be worn under polo (white, navy, or black with no decals)

**Earrings** are **not** allowed.

**Hair** is expected to be clean, neat, and not impair one’s vision. Hair should not be longer than to the

bottom of the earlobe and to the top of the collar; spiked hair must be 1" or shorter.  
Hairstyles should avoid extremes that call undue attention to a student's appearance. For example:  
unnatural hair colors. No hair accessories.

***Having a dress code helps to create a sense of community.***

**Field Trip/Community Service Day Dress Code** - Most field trips will require our students wearing their gym T-shirt or sweatshirts. Faculty will communicate appropriate dress standards for trips outside the classroom.

## **Scholastic/Academic Experiences**

### **Girls may wear:**

Any dress, skirt, top, or black **dress** pants that meet dress code requirements.  
The skirt must be to the middle of the kneecap or longer.  
Slits or any opening may not be higher than the required hem length when walking, standing, or sitting.  
Attire must be modest (not tight/form fitting.)

### **Boys may wear:**

Polo or dress shirt (button-down)  
Dress pants that coincide with the dress code (tucked with belt)

### **Friday Dress Guidelines for Seniors**

Seniors may wear a class shirt.  
Seniors may wear any school-issued outerwear (i.e., sports sweatshirts).  
Seniors must wear uniform pants or skirts.

### **Dress-up Events (more formal dress)**

Christmas Program, Fund-raising Dinner, Award Ceremony, etc.

**Boys** - Buttoned-down collared (not tight/form fitting) shirt, tucked with belt, dress pants, and dress shoes. (Flannel shirts are not considered dress up).

**Girls** - may wear any dress, skirt and blouse that meets dress code requirements.  
Black dress pants are allowed. No jean skirts.

*\*No spaghetti strap or halter type dresses without a cover-up. No strapless dresses.*

## **Banquet and Graduation Dress - grades 11 & 12**

The banquet and graduation dress guidelines must be followed by all students and guests. Banquets and graduations are formal events and students should dress accordingly.

## Girls Banquet and Graduation Dress Guidelines

The dresses must be modest and...

Not having a back that is lower than shoulder blades.

Not extremely tight fitting

Not having a low-cut front.

Not have slits that are higher than the top of the kneecap.

Have length that is to the top of the kneecap or longer.

*If spaghetti strap or halter top, a shawl, scarf, or shrug is required. No strapless dresses.*

**Please remember our policy: It is a violation to show underwear, bare midriff, lower back, or cleavage at any time. All dresses need to be approved; please keep your receipt.**

## Boys Banquet and Graduation Dress Guidelines

Suit, collared shirt, and tie with dark dress shoes and socks (suit not necessary for Graduation)

Hair must conform to established dress code.

No earrings, other visible piercings, or tattoos

**General School Regulations** -To maintain a proper learning environment, procedures of conduct have been established. The following are general school rules necessary for the orderly and safe operation of the school.

**Personal Cell Phones** and other electronic devices will be collected in homeroom each morning.

Exceptions will be at the teacher's discretion.

**If parent-child contact is necessary**, parents can contact their student by calling the school office. Other electronic devices may not be used during school hours except with permission from the teacher.

**Any violation and/or disruption** of the learning process through one of these devices will result in confiscation of the device and a \$25.00 fine.

**Prohibited Items** - videos/DVDs, magazines, or books that promote ungodly philosophy or sensuality (Gal. 5:19-25), laser pointers, knives, or any type of gun or ammunition will be confiscated immediately.

**Medication** - All prescribed medication must be brought to the office for storage and will be dispensed when appropriate.

**No staff/administrative** person will administer prescribed medicine without a physician's order on file, which must be updated annually.

**No staff/administrative person** will administer PRN's (over-the-counter medications) without prior written approval from a doctor.

**Food and beverages** are not allowed in the church sanctuary - clear water only.

**Students are responsible for** asking for a late pass. Junior high and high school students must have a pass from the classroom teacher when leaving the classroom.

**Gum chewing** is permitted for grades 7 -12.

**No writing** or drawing **on bodies**. Students will be fined \$1.00 for each occurrence.

**Ball Use** - Batting, catching, kicking, and throwing balls is allowed on the **back field** only. Please make sure all balls are returned to their proper storage site.

**Throwing snowballs** is not permitted.

**Students are not permitted** to leave the building unless permission has been granted by the office.

**Hands off policy** - All students should keep their hands to themselves and on their own property. A repeated violation of this policy will result in a meeting with the principal.

**Afterschool Pick up** - Parents and carpool members are asked to pick up their children **at 2:45** p.m. and no later than 2:50 p.m.

*\*A fee of \$10.00 will be charged for the first 15 minutes past 2:45 p.m. dismissal.*

*\* One dollar will be charged for each additional minute thereafter.*

**Damage to Property** - Students causing damage to any Grapeville Baptist Church property, school property, or property of another, must pay the cost of repair or replacement.

**Lockers** -Lockers are the property of Grapeville Christian School and are subject to inspection by authorized personnel at any time without notice. Students have access to **their** assigned locker only. Nothing is to be posted on the outside of the locker door. Students may hang approved items inside with magnets only.

**School Trips** are to be attended by approved chaperones and enrolled students only. Field trip policies will be provided at the time of the trip.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Church Attendance** - Because fellowship within the church is so prominent in the New Testament, and because it is so important to spiritual accountability and growth, we expect students and parents to maintain the discipline of weekly corporate worship at a local church.

**Resolving Conflict - The Matthew 18:15 - 17** We believe the Matthew 18 principle should be used when any problem or misunderstanding occurs. When you go to the person(s) directly involved, you can generally solve most problems. The Administration should be brought into the issue only after involved parties have discussed the situation.

**School Business Hours** - The office will be open from 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M., Monday- Friday. Please call or come in during these times. The office is closed for the month of July.

**Building Hours** - Students are admitted to the building at 7:45. During inclement weather, students may be admitted earlier. Students who need to see a teacher or attend an after-school activity may do so if, after dismissal, they go promptly to the designated location.

## **Lunch Program -**

Students are to bring their lunches from home.

Microwave use is available for seniors only.

Various hot lunches will be offered on designated days. Detailed information will be sent home.

There will be no credit given for lunch “snacks.”

**Parent Volunteers** -We could not get along without the numerous people who help us in so many ways. Thank you for your selfless and untiring devotion to the Lord, the school, and our children. **If you choose to volunteer, we request that you sign our volunteer statement and follow the teachers’ dress code in the classroom and on field trips. Background checks are required for all volunteers.**

**Student Drivers** -Students who drive to school must buy a \$5.00 parking permit. This permit may be used throughout high school. Students must park in the area designated for student parking. Improper driving and parking will not be tolerated. Student drivers will be dismissed after buses have left. Violators of the rules can be charged a fine of \$10.00 for each violation and driving privileges may be temporarily or permanently revoked.

*Violations include:*

Remaining in cars after arrival on campus.

Playing music at a level that can be heard outside.

Driving in an unsafe manner on school grounds

Exceeding 5 mph in the school parking lot

Screeching tires

Tardiness

Improper parking

**Student Drivers/Tardy Regulations** -Unexcused tardy days *per semester* will be handled according to the following procedure:

**3 tardy days** - a warning letter to the student and parents from the administrator.

**5 tardy days** - **telephone conference with parents/guardians, and the student will receive a probationary contract.**

**7 tardy days** - **Loss of driving privilege.**

**Transportation to and from school and school-sponsored activities** - The legal responsibility for the safety of each student being transported in a private vehicle rest with the registered owner of the vehicle.

The vehicle owner/driver must complete a Volunteer Driver Form prior to an activity or field trip. Drivers must show proof of adequate liability insurance.

Drivers must be 21 years or older.

*\*No student is allowed to drive another Grapeville student to school or to home, or to school sponsored activities.*

(Sibling situations are excepted).

The number of students in a vehicle shall not exceed the number of seat belts available.

Permission slips must be provided to ride with any approved Volunteer Driver, and verbal permission given over the phone must be followed by a note to the office.

**Fund Raising** - Only those fund-raising activities approved by the administration will be permitted. No fund raising by outside groups or individual students will be allowed unless approved by the administration.

## Academics

**Requirements for Graduation and Credit Hours Distinguished** - In the fall of 2015, the Grapeville Christian School Board of Education passed a motion stating that the school will no longer administer regents to its students due to the Common Core standards which conflict with our academic and moral stance.

As a registered school of New York State, we are required to keep to NYSED standards and requirements for conferring Regents Diplomas to our students (local diplomas). In accordance with NYSED we need to administer regents or assessments which are at the same rigor or higher than the regents. We have opted for the latter.

*Therefore, we declare the following measures for our students to have conferred upon them a diploma keeping with NYSED:*

### Mid-Terms & Finals

All students 7-12 are required to take mid-terms and finals for their four core subjects.

Students in 7-8 may have project finals as alternatives to regular finals.

Students 9-12 must have mid-terms and finals administered by their core subject teachers that are above the standards required by the NYS Board of Regents.

Passing will be determined by a score of 70 or better.

Failure to pass a final will result in the re-taking of that final.

### Community Service

Students in grades 9 -12 are required to participate in community service during the school year.

Community Service is a requirement for graduation.

9-10 grades: 10 hours per year

11-12 grades: 15 hours per year

### Attendance

Excellent attendance will be required of all students. Twenty or more absences will result in the failure of the grade or class, but there may be options given to acquire the credit hours missed due.

Students over twenty days may be asked to make up hours via summer school.

Options for summer school will be determined on a case-to-case basis.

There will be a \$100 administration fee for summer school in addition to the tutor's fee.

**Transcripts** - There will be a \$5.00 fee for each personal copy requested. Copies will be available at the beginning of August.

**Senior Projects** - Seniors must formulate, execute, and complete a senior project portfolio. This is a requirement for graduation.

**Gym Requirements** - Gym is a requirement in NYS for all grade levels. Proper gym attire is required.

Students not in the required uniform will not be allowed to participate in gym class which will result in a zero grade for the day; and students will be required to make up the gym class.

12 or more missed gym classes will result in a loss of credit.



**Students attending Questar/BOCES/NCOC** -Students attending Questar will be given the option of participating in Multiple Pathways as determined by administrator and guidance counselor at Grapeville Christian School and the guidance counselor at Questar.

These students will be held to the same standards of passing as their peers for all course work completed while at Grapeville Christian School. Questar students are required to take Bible classes.

**Graduation Tracks** -In order to graduate, all students will fulfill the required amount of unit credits or more as determined by NYSED.

**High School Graduation Requirements**

<i>Bible</i>	units	*2
<i>English</i>	units	4
<i>Mathematics</i>	units	3
<i>Science</i>	units	3
<i>Social Studies</i>	units	4
<i>Foreign Language</i>	units	1
<i>Physical Education</i>	units	2
<i>Health</i>	units	.5
<i>Electives</i>	units	3.5
<b><i>Total</i></b>	units	<b>22</b>

*\* One Bible course for each year enrolled at Grapeville Christian School*

**GRADE SCALE**

A+ 98, 99, 100

C+ 80, 81, 82

A	95, 96, 97	C	77, 78, 79
A-	92, 93, 94	C-	74, 75, 76
B+	89, 90, 91	D	70-73
B	86, 87, 88	F	0-69
B-	83, 84, 85		

**Class Rank** - Class rank is determined at the end of the junior year and upon completion of graduation requirements. All graded subjects are included.

**Valedictorian: Must...**

- Have attended Grapeville Christian School in grades 9-12.
- Have a 90 overall GPA.
- Be in Honors Classes.
- Be nominated by two teachers/staff members.
- Demonstrate good character and have a teachable spirit.
- Have never failed any class.
- Regularly attend church.

**Salutarian: Must...**

- Have attended grades 9-12 at Grapeville Christian School
- Have an 85 or better overall GPA.
- Demonstrate good character and have a teachable spirit.
- Be nominated by two teachers/staff members.
- Have never failed any class.
- Regularly attend church.

**Grade Point Average** -A cumulative grade point average (GPA) is calculated for academic subjects on the basis of grades earned in grades 9-12. Class rank is derived directly from the GPA with equal weight given to all subjects of equal unit value.

**Grade placement is determined by the following:**

0.0 - 5.5 credits earned	Freshman
6 - 11.5 credits earned	Sophomore
12 - 17.5 credits earned	Junior
18+ credits earned	Senior

***\*Juniors must take the SAT or ACT to fulfill requirements.***

**Mid-quarter reports** - Progress reports are issued mid-quarter on a Wednesday. Parents must sign and students must return the progress report to the home-room teacher on Friday.

**Report Cards** - Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Parents are to sign and return them to the office within one week after they are received.

**Course Failure** - If an elementary student fails a core subject for the year, the administrator and guidance counselor will decide what course of action is to be taken before the student is promoted or retained.

Junior high (7 & 8) students must pass all six academic subjects (Math, English, History, Bible, Science and Gym) or make them up in summer school.

If a senior high (9 - 12 grade) student fails a required course, it must be repeated or taken in summer school.

**Homework** - Each student will have varying amounts of work to complete outside of school hours. This may be unfinished class work, extra projects, or memory work. Parents should regularly check their student's progress by asking to see homework papers, projects, etc.

While parents should assist by seeing that the homework is done, the work **must be done by the student**, and he must take the responsibility for it.

**Field Trips** - From time to time, various classes take local trips to interesting and educational places as a vital part of the instructional program. Parents will be notified of trips beforehand. Fees may be charged to cover expenses. Each field trip will have an appropriate dress code. Students are expected to attend and participate in field trips.

**Study Halls** - Study hall periods are for the purpose of providing students with extra time for completing classroom work and/or homework assignments.

**Classroom Ethics** - Ethics in the classroom are an extension of Biblical principles of honesty and courtesy in the classroom situation. Cheating in any form is not tolerated. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

Copying from another student's test or assignment or receiving/giving unauthorized help on assigned work.

Unauthorized use of notes or other helps on a test.

Changing answers after a test or assignment has been graded.

Reporting false information about the completion of an assignment.

Plagiarism - Copying or **imitating** the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and passing off the same as one's original work.

Students should not consult teacher editions or test banks for textbooks that are used at Grapeville.

Students are expected to be attentive in class. Talking, reading, studying other materials, writing letters, and/or sleeping are inappropriate and unacceptable.

*\*A student who has been absent must take the initiative to contact his/her instructor about the work he/she has missed.*

## **Bullying & Cyber-bullying policy**

Bullying" is a deliberate negative action from one person(s) toward another person(s) that is repeated over time that is designed to frighten, intimidate, or injure the person it is directed toward. Research has shown that boys are more

likely to experience physical bullying and girls are more likely to be targets of indirect victimization (social exclusion).

Bullying may involve but is not limited to actions such as: hitting or punching, unwanted teasing or name calling, intimidation, cyber bullying, public humiliation, rumor or spreading falsehood, destruction of personal property or social exclusion, including inciting and/or coercing others.

*Cyber bullying*, sometimes referred to as online social cruelty or electronic bullying, is defined as the willful and repeated harassment and intimidation of a person through electronic media. It can involve, but is not limited to sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images.

As mentioned earlier in our handbook, our school strives to make the school environment a healthy place where students can learn, grow, and develop Christian character. “Bullying” violates our school’s code of conduct and will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for disciplinary action.

## **Discipline**

Character building is an integral part of our program. We operate on the premise that living lives based on Biblical standards enables us to glorify and please God.

### **Why Discipline: Proverbs 4**

Discipline has a protective function.

Discipline has a redemptive function.

Discipline has a punitive function.

Discipline has a restorative function.

**Accepting Correction** - A distinctive mark of a maturing Christian young person is his/her ability to receive correction graciously. Proverbs 12:15 mentions this as a characteristic of a wise person. The presence or absence of wisdom often shows up in a person’s response to discipline.

**Parent cooperation** and support are essential to help students grow in good behavior and to accomplish classroom success.

Discipline is generally progressive in nature, starting with personal warnings and moving on to more serious penalties, such as probation, in-school suspension, or dismissal. We do not allow corporal punishment.

## **Lines of Authority**

**Classroom Discipline** - Teachers are the first in the line of authority for discipline. Students are expected to be respectful, responsive, and reflective when correction is needed. Discipline may range from cleaning up a mess that

was created, to removal of free time privileges, to parental contact. Referral to the principal's office may occur in circumstances of habitual negative behaviors, extremely dangerous behaviors, or bullying. Any circumstance involving threats, violence, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or defiance will be immediately referred to the principal's office.

**Principal** - The principal is the second in the line of authority. The principal will become involved at a parent or teacher's request in all matters involving serious or extreme negative behaviors.

**Administrator** - The Administrator is the third in the line of authority. The administrator will become involved in matters of school discipline in the following:  
Absence of the principal.  
Matters concerning student probation or suspension.  
Matters concerning illegal substances or violent behaviors.

## **Disciplinary Methods**

**Removal of privileges** - Students who find it difficult to participate successfully in classroom life may have their privilege of free time removed. Students who are giving up recess or other free time will still be supervised by school personnel, but not allowed to participate.

**Correction of the problem** - Students may be given consequences which address correction of the problem. For example, a student who defaces his/her locker will be asked to clean lockers. One who is deliberately littering will be instructed to collect litter.

**The discipline process** - When students are referred to the principal's office, several things occur. First, when two or more students are involved in conflict that could not be resolved at the classroom level, the principal will ask each student to write (or dictate) his/her perspective of the problem. Students will be counseled in the Biblical process of responsibility and conflict resolution. The two perspectives will be compared and discussed. Each student will need to take responsibility for his/her part in the conflict. Once responsibility is assumed, appropriate consequences will be given. The student is counseled about how to return to class and relationships are restored. Scripture references will be made throughout the process so that students may see the practicality of instruction from the Bible.

**Suspensions** - Suspension will be recommended by the administrator in habitual or serious disciplinary circumstances. Suspension results in parents removing the child from school for a specified period and providing supervision for them. Work that is due during a suspension period will not be considered for credit. The student will not be invited to re-enter school until a parent conference can be arranged and held.

Suspension will be given for violations such as: stealing, playing with matches or fire, fireworks at school, cheating, use of profane or obscene language, disrespect, defiance, defacing or damaging school property, fighting, habitual disciplinary. Problems in conflict with school policies, use, sale, or distribution of illegal substances including drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or over-the-counter medications, promiscuity, misuse of the internet, or threats of violence or bullying. If students maliciously damage or deface school property, parents will be billed for repairs and labor costs for replacement of destroyed materials.

**Probation** - Students will be placed on disciplinary probation when:  
There is evidence of antagonistic attitudes toward the school mission and beliefs.  
There is deliberate and continued disobedience of school rules and behavioral guidelines.

There is a serious breach of conduct, which endangers others. This includes evidence of bullying. *Probation* is a serious step and can lead to the dismissal of a student from the school. When probation is recommended as a correction for chronic behavioral problems, students will be removed from all extracurricular activities, field trips, and positions of trust and responsibility. When probation periods are up, the student's progress will be assessed, and he/she may be restored to full student status. If there is no improvement of behavior during probation, the student will be asked to extend the probation or will be recommended to the principal for expulsion. A parent conference will be arranged and held before a student goes on probation and as the probation period ends. Probationary students' circumstances will be discussed by the administration.

***Withdrawal/Dismissal*** - Attendance at Grapeville Christian School is a privilege. Considering a lack of progress in correcting a student's behavior or attitude, they face the possibility of withdrawing or being expelled. Such offenses include drug abuse, confirmed sexual immorality, felony, continued serious offenses, failure to correct deficiencies specified in academic or behavioral probations, failure of parents to cooperate with the school concerning the misconduct of the student, etc.

Students whose conduct and behavior outside of school reflect poorly on accepted Christian behavior, may be subject to school probation or loss of enrollment. Any student who is dismissed will not be permitted on school grounds for the remainder of the school year.

The principal and the administrator will prayerfully confer and issue the expulsion decision after meeting with the student and his/her parents.

**Junior High & High School** - The administration and teachers use the "Prayerful Consideration Process" for removing students. Prayerful Consideration is a process that depends on the Holy Spirit to pinpoint and help students who are hindering the Holy Spirit's work in the school. The process involves teacher evaluations of the student's spiritual condition and effect on other students in the school, discipline committee recommendation, parent/student conference, spiritual counseling, and probation, if necessary.

**Elementary, Junior High and Senior High** -Our discipline system establishes rules for the classroom that promote Christian character, quality education, and safety. These are encouraged by instruction, motivation, and classroom discipline.

In the Elementary grades discipline is left to the discretion of the classroom teacher. Each year the dynamics of the class changes and teachers make discipline adjustments to fit the needs of their class. The Elementary teachers follow the discipline guidelines and philosophy set forth by Grapeville Christian School.

Eleventh and twelfth graders are one step away from adulthood. To aid in this transition, it is in good faith that we allow our juniors and seniors to test their wings in our safe, nurturing environment. We rest in the natural consequences that accompany one's actions and trust their godly conscience will guide and convict them.

**Examples of Infractions & Penalties** - The examples listed below are not comprehensive but serve as examples of the types of infractions.

Inappropriate behaviors from minor to severe infractions will be dealt with by the principal. Every infraction will be

dealt with on an individual basis. More severe infractions may lead to ISS, probation, or removal from school.

Failure to return 4-week reports or report cards on time.

Inappropriate classroom/recess behavior

Violation of the 6" rule

Unacceptable behavior between couples

Inappropriate books, magazines, etc. (Phil 4:8)

Destruction of school property (plus repair)

Defacing property (+ repair)

Disrespect to a peer

Disrespect to authority

Lying, deceiving (untruthful)

Verbal abuse, cursing or vulgar language.

Complaining/gripping against the school

Skipping detention

Inappropriate behavior in chapel/special area class

Cheating

Bullying, hazing, harassment, or intimidation

Physical fighting

Stealing

Weapons of any kind (including pocketknives)

### **Immediate dismissal**

Drugs

Sexual immorality

Weapons

Felony

**Extracurricular** -Students can experience a multitude of activities in athletics, music, art, and drama. All students are expected to participate in the annual drama production.

Activities

Grapeville Christian School is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), allowing students to compete with Christian schools throughout the Northeast region.

Sports - Boys' soccer, girls' volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball

*(Details in our Coaching Handbook)*

Music - worship team, singing, guitars, and piano

Art - myriad of art projects for exhibition & competition

Clubs - Ski & Snowboarding, Art, etc.

Beta Club - Student Ambassadors

Yearbook

Drama – Annual production

### **Athletic Eligibility**

#### **Physical Examinations**

ALL students **grade 5-12** must have a physical **every year** to participate in interscholastic sports. A copy of the

doctor's report must be on file in the office, or the student will not be allowed to participate.

**Senior privileges** - use of microwave; lunch outdoors; coffee or tea during the day; senior shirts on Fridays; outdoor study hall; outdoor lunch

**Beta Club Privileges** – Members may wear Beta Club shirts on selected weekdays; go outdoors for lunch and study hall; coffee or tea during the day.

*\*Please note that we reserve the right to make changes or amendments to our handbook policies.*