Life Christian Academy

Member Policy Manual



November 2024

Table of Contents

Overview5		
Sta	itemei	nt of Faith5
1		issions Policy6
2	Orga	nizational Structure6
2	2.1	LCA Board 6
	2.1.1	Responsibility6
	2.1.2	2 Membership7
	2.1.3	Term of Office
	2.1.4	Selection
	2.1.5	Voting Requirements
2	2.2	School Administrative Staff 8
	2.2.1	
	2.2.2	
	2.2.3	5
	2.2.4	6
	2.2.5	
	2.3	Teachers
	2.4	Team Leaders
2	2.5	Other Positions
	2.5.1	
	2.5.2	
	2.5.3	
	2.5.4	
2	2.5.5	
3	•	l Procedures and Policies12
	8.1	Alabama State Law
	3.2	Probation Policy
	8.3	Dismissal Policy
	8.4	Protection of Privacy Policy
	8.5	Child Abuse Prevention Policy
4	mea	ical Policy15
	.1	Campus Health Policy 15
	.2	Allergies 15
	.3	Drug Dispensing 15
5	Tuiti	on and Fees16
6	Stan	dardized Testing16
7	Clas	s Policies16
7	'.1	Teacher Selection Policy
7	.2	Class Enrollment

7.3	Class Fees and Refunds	17
7.4	Class Requirements	17
7.5	Class Attendance	17
7.6	Classes and Inclement Weather	17
7.7	Lunch	17
7.8	Chapel	17
7.9	Class Days	17
8 Sp	pecial Projects, Activities, and Field Trips	18
8.1	Planning Projects or Field Trips	18
8.2	Unaccompanied Students	
8.3	Students Represent LCA to the Community	
9 Pa	rent Responsibilities	
9.1	Records	10
9.2	Application Forms / Re-enrollment Forms	
9.3	Attendance Records	
9.4	Goals and Curriculum	
9.5	Four-Year Plan and Course Descriptions	
9.6	Lesson Plans / Journal	
9.7	Report Cards	
9.8	Work Samples	
10	Social Media Policy	
	-	
44	Attendence Delieu	~~
11	Attendance Policy	
11 12	Attendance Policy Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma	
		21
12	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma	21 21
12 13	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy	21 21 21
12 13 13.1	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements	21 21 21 22
12 13 13.1 13.2	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements Student Dress Code	21 21 22 23
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements Student Dress Code Student Security Disciplinary Procedures	21 21 22 23 23 23
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements Student Dress Code Student Security Disciplinary Procedures Corporal Punishment	21 21 22 23 23 23 23
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements Student Dress Code Student Security Disciplinary Procedures Corporal Punishment Specific Disciplinary Procedures	 21 21 22 23 23 23 23
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements Student Dress Code Student Security Disciplinary Procedures Corporal Punishment Specific Disciplinary Procedures Procedural Explanations	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15 15.1	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15 15.1 15.2	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15.1 15.2 15.3	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15 15.1 15.2 15.3 16	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25 25
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15 15.1 15.2 15.3 16 16.1	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy Student Behavior Requirements	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25 25 25
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15.1 15.2 15.3 16 16.1 16.2	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25 25 25
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15.1 15.2 15.3 16 16.1 16.2 16.3	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25 25 25 25 25
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15 15.1 15.2 15.3 16 16.1 16.2 16.3 16.4	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25 25 25 26 26
12 13 13.1 13.2 13.3 14 14.1 14.2 15.1 15.2 15.3 16 16.1 16.2 16.3 16.4 16.5	Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma Student Behavior Policy	 21 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 25 25 26 26 26 26

	16.5.	5.2 Standardized Testing Competency	
	16.5.	5.3 Bible Reading Requirement	28
	16.5.	5.4 Vocational / Technical Course of Study	28
	16.6	General Criteria for Honors / Advanced Placement Classes	28
	16.7	Dual Enrollment	29
	16.8	LCA Service Club	30
	16.9	American Christian Honor Society	30
	16.10	Student Council	31
	16.11	Early Graduation	31
	16.12	Transcript Requests	31
	16.13	Driver's Permits	31
	16.14	Students Transferring to LCA	31
	16.15	Part-Time High School Students	32
A	cronym	ns	33

Overview

Life Christian Academy (LCA) is a ministry of New Life Baptist Church (NLBC). Ephesians 6:4 instructs fathers to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. LCA operates to allow Christian parents to educate their children in a Christian environment, from the Christian perspective, and provide resources and activities necessary to assist parents in achieving a balanced education for their students with emphasis on character, excellence, and creativity. School requirements are designed to aid in this endeavor.

LCA has an organizational structure in place. This structure includes the LCA School Board and an administrative staff working together to help keep the school above reproach and accountable.

Statement of Faith

LCA families come from diverse denominational backgrounds, and by joining with us, you become part of an extended family; therefore, school requirements are that the parents in our families be born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who agree with the following statement of faith. The statement of faith is by no means a complete doctrinal statement of NLBC but represents a core of central beliefs that are considered essential for effective bonding and fellowship among families. Our Statement of Faith is as follows:

- We believe the Bible is the only inspired and infallible written Word of God and constitutes complete and final revelation and is the final authority for faith and life. The Bible, in its original autograph of Old and New Testaments, is without error in whole and in part including theological concepts as well as geographical, geological, and historical details.
- We believe that one God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ true God took on human flesh, being born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is both fully God and fully man, yet without sin.
- We believe all mankind is in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act and is therefore under His wrath and condemnation. The central purpose of the first coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection.
- We believe salvation is offered to everyone as a gift, free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to in individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but relying wholly on the sacrificial work and death of Jesus Christ alone and His atoning blood.

1 Admissions Policy

The school requires that both parents be professing Christians, be in agreement about the home education of their children, and be faithful, active members in a Bible-believing church. The primary teacher in the family should not be employed full-time outside of the home.

Families seeking to enroll with LCA must complete the application steps. Forms must be returned and approved before enrollment will be considered complete. In addition, applying families must:

- Pay the registration fee •
- Attend an interview of the entire family with at least two LCA Board members
- Complete the Enrollment Packet and return by the due dates •

2 Organizational Structure

LCA is composed of a school board, administrative staff, team leaders, and volunteers (Figure 1). Each is described below.

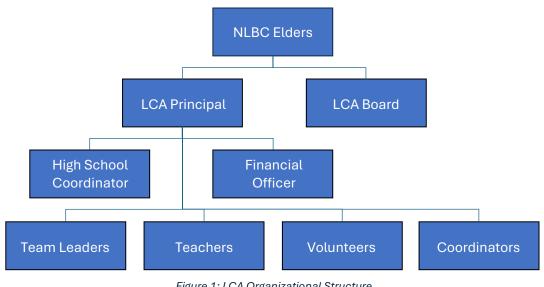


Figure 1: LCA Organizational Structure

2.1 LCA Board

The LCA Board is the principal governing body of Life Christian Academy. The policies concerning responsibilities, selection, and voting requirements are given below.

2.1.1 Responsibility

The LCA Board is responsible for the following:

- Setting all school policies
- Approving all paid positions •

- Ensuring fiscal integrity, which includes setting school tuition rates and other fees, approving staff salaries, and tuition credits for volunteer positions, and annually reviewing the financial records
- Overseeing the selection and approving the membership of candidate families
- Deciding on any suspensions, expulsions, and written appeals
- Ensuring that the school is run in accordance with Board policy
- Assisting the principal upon request

2.1.2 Membership

There shall be a minimum of seven (7) voting members on the Board. Required members are:

- 1. Pastor of NLBC (Board Chairman)
- 2. NLBC lay elder or deacon
- 3. LCA School Principal
- 4. LCA Financial Officer
- 5. LCA High School Coordinator
- 6. LCA member (selected from the school-at-large)
- 7. LCA member (selected from the school-at-large)

2.1.3 Term of Office

Board members, except for the Pastor, Elder/Deacon, Principal, Financial Officer, and High School Coordinator, will serve two-year terms including those fulfilling vacated positions. At the end of the two-year term, the board member will roll off, or, pending board approval, continue for two more years. There is no limit to the number of terms a board member may serve.

2.1.4 Selection

LCA Board selection will be handled in the following manner:

- Recommendations/nominations shall come from the current Board.
- From this pool of nominees, the sitting Board will select two or three to approach.
- The Board Chairman will then contact the nominees to fill the positions.

2.1.5 Voting Requirements

Decisions of the board will be made based on a simple majority. However, the following board decisions will require a supermajority: amendments to LCA policies, expulsion of a student or family from the school, approval of new staff positions, retention of current board members, and approval of new board members. A supermajority is defined as the voting agreement between two-thirds (66%) of the total number of board members. The Chairman will not vote except in the following two scenarios:

- 1. To break a tie in a simple majority vote
- 2. Whenever a supermajority is required.

LCA policies shall not conflict with NLBC policies and are subject to the directives of the Church Elders. Church policy will always take precedence.

2.2 School Administrative Staff

The School Administrative Staff exists to ensure that the school runs smoothly and that all necessary support is in place and active so that LCA remains a distinctly Christian school in word and practice. Depending on the current needs of the school the following positions may be staffed:

2.2.1 School Principal

The School Principal is the chief administrator of the school and shall ensure that the school runs smoothly and that all necessary support is in place and active. Responsibilities include:

- Ensure all families follow school policy
- Provide status report to NLBC Elders and Pastor
- Set agendas for LCA board meetings and parent meetings
- Implement enrollment and monitor the progress, verifying that all required paperwork has been turned in and sent to the appropriate destination
- Set up family interviews, coordinating the time with the family and those interviewing the family
- Conduct New Family Orientation
- Enroll students in classes
- Maintain up-to-date school database and student records
- Implement withdrawal procedures for families leaving LCA and verify that all appropriate forms are sent to the proper destinations
- Handle questionable situations as they arise or refer them to the NLBC Pastor and LCA school board
- Create a school calendar
- Secure and interface with teachers and team leaders; contact NLBC Pastor about situations of concern with team leaders, families, students, or teachers
- Serve as team leader for team leaders
- Assist and monitor assessment testing
- Remain in close contact with the High School Coordinator to ensure unity of purpose and vision
- Remain aware of which classes are wanted or needed
- Assist families in finding solutions for academic difficulties
- Oversee coordinators and volunteers
- Oversee school safety
- Oversee school activities
- Oversee the school website
- Oversee attendance
- Remain informed of school operations to be able to answer questions families may have
- Ensure that LCA remains a distinctly Christian school in word and practice
- Handle situations if a family is contacted by truancy authorities
- Make and send transcripts for students in grades 1-8

2.2.2 Financial Officer

The responsibilities of the Financial Officer include:

- Keep records up to date for all incoming and outgoing funds
- Pay all LCA bills in a timely manner
- Balance the checkbook each month
- Send late notices when needed and assess fines for accounts overdue
- Monitor budget status of all fund accounts
- Log all checks (incoming and outgoing) into the computer
- Create a deposit record
- Prepare and make deposits
- Attach deposit receipts to deposit record and file
- Send financial statements to families at least tri-annually
- Prepare and present financial statements to the board regularly
- Reimburse NLBC monthly for LCA payroll

2.2.3 High School Coordinator

The High School Coordinator (HSC) is the primary administrator overseeing the needs of the families of high school students. This person will:

- Meet with each family to discuss the student's four-year plan for graduation and encourage ways to meet the requirements for his/her post-high school goals and monitor that progress
- Collect course descriptions and report cards for each high school student annually
- Train and encourage high school parents annually
- Gather all relevant data on each high school student
- Prepare high school transcripts for LCA students
- Publicize high school requirements and deadlines
- Provide honor society and service club information and awards
- Interface with college officials for dual enrollment and college applications
- Serve on school board
- Supervise/direct graduation annually

2.2.4 Testing Coordinator

The Testing Coordinator implements, monitors, and provides results for all tests LCA administers. This person will:

- Interface with testing agencies
- Provide the principal with available testing dates
- Register students for testing
- Gather and train volunteers to administer exams
- Report results to the principal

2.2.5 Database Coordinator

The Database Coordinator acts as the primary overseer of the school's database. This person will:

- Get the hub ready for class registration by entering class, term, and period details
- Assist the principal in scheduling class times and rooms
- Assist the principal with the class registration process
- Add and remove students from classes as requested
- Help new families get signed up on the hub and registered for classes
- Aid in getting signage, rosters, and the class grid prepared for school use and maintain each one as needed.
- Act as the main point of contact for all hub-related questions

2.3 Teachers

Teachers at LCA are primarily parent volunteers passionate about teaching specific courses or subjects. LCA provides the space and opportunities for these classes while serving as a liaison for the parents. The teachers enter into contracts with the parents, which means they are considered self-employed rather than employees of LCA. As contractors, the teachers set their own class fees and requirements and are responsible for reporting their income and paying appropriate taxes.

Each year, during the teacher application period, teachers submit a "Request to Teach" form to the principal. Additionally, all teachers are required to complete a standardized background check and to agree with LCA's Statement of Faith. Teachers are given priority when it comes time to register for classes.

Each teacher will:

- Determine their class fee
- Teach students the course material
- Track attendance for students in their class
- Comply with and enforce the LCA Policy Manual
- Alert the LCA principal of any on-issues in their class

2.4 Team Leaders

Team Leaders are LCA parent volunteers who serve as the contact person for assigned team members. Each team leader will:

- Oversee the collection of current school records
- Attend parent meetings and school-wide activities
- Check records of each team member during the designated times of the year
- Coordinate team's activity
- Report any policy infractions to the LCA staff
- Contact each family at least once in the months between record checks

2.5 Other Positions

2.5.1 ACEA Coordinator

LCA is a member of the Alabama Christian Education Association (ACEA), which offers Academic, Bible, Art, Music, and Speech competitions for students enrolled in ACEA member schools. Students who place first at the state level are invited to participate in the American Association of Christian Schools (AACS) National Competition, which is held annually at Bob Jones University.

LCA's ACEA coordinator informs LCA students of ACEA competition opportunities and assists in their participation by providing them with competition details and rules. The coordinator acts as the liaison between the competition organizers and the school office and files all paperwork pertaining to student participation in the state and national competitions. The ACEA coordinator attends all competition events or enlists another LCA parent to represent the school.

2.5.2 Athletic Coaches

The LCA athletic coaches are responsible for all aspects of their athletic programs. This includes establishing and maintaining a Godly discipline within the program, selecting the players for each team, coaching the players, discipling the players (Matthew 28:19), vetting and selecting assistant coaches, establishing the practice schedule, conducting the practices, establishing the game schedule, finding places to practice and play games, coordinating with other schools on game logistics (i.e., place, time), and performing all other logistics and coordination required to run the program.

2.5.3 Science Fair Coordinator

Meets with the families interested in entering a project in the science fair to give guidance with project selection, project research, and project design and implementation. This coordinator will also, with help from the school, set the date for the science fair, establish the location, communicate this information to the school, and secure trained, fair, and independent judges for the projects.

2.5.4 Yearbook Coordinator

The LCA Yearbook Coordinator is in charge of laying out and designing the pages in the yearbook, creating a database of photos for students for the individual photo pages, collecting images and captions from the families for the family pages, and making sure all the Seniors turn in their items for the Senior pages. The coordinator must also keep aware of deadlines for renewal contracts, order the yearbooks, and hand them out at the August parent meeting.

2.5.5 Newsletter Coordinator

Prepares a weekly newsletter of current school events communicated to the coordinator during the school year.

3 Legal Procedures and Policies

3.1 Alabama State Law

Compulsory Attendance Ages: "between the ages of six and 17." The parent, legal custodian, or guardian of a child who is six years old may opt out of enrolling the child in school by written notification to the local school board that the child will not be enrolled until age seven. A child attending a church school prior to attaining his or her 16th birthday may withdraw at age 16. Alabama Code § 16-28-3.

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days (public schools only).

Required Subjects: None.

Home School Statute: None.

Home Educators have three options:

Option 1: Attend a Church School. A church school "[i]ncludes only schools that offer instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof, including preschool, through on-site or home programs, and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches which do not receive any state or federal funding." Ala. Code § 16-28-1. A home may be the location where a child receives instruction as a student attending a church school. A parent may establish the church school in the home, or the home may be an extension of an existing church school.

- a. "The enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school shall be filed with the local public school superintendent by the parent ... on a form provided by the superintendent ... which shall be countersigned by the administrator of the church school...." Ala. Code § 16-28-7. (No requirement to file annually. Only need to file this form once at initial enrollment in church school.)
- b. The principal teacher of the church school must keep an attendance register for each day of the school year. Ala. Code § 16-28-8.
- c. If the local school district believes a family is not in compliance with the law, it must give the family three days' written notice (Ala. Code § 16-28-16) prior to instituting criminal charges. In a Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) case, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the conviction of a home school father who only received a twohour verbal notice from a truant officer. Maas v. Alabama, 601 So. 2d 209 (Ala. Ct. App. 1992).
- d. According to an Alabama Attorney General's opinion dated January 3, 1997, "[o]ther than the state laws requiring parents to report attendance and for church schools to report if a student is no longer in attendance at such a church school, there is no provision of Alabama law that permits or requires any state or local authority to regulate a church school."

Option 2: Attend a Private School. A private school "[i]ncludes only such schools that are established, conducted, and supported by a nongovernmental entity or agency offering

educational instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof, including preschool, through on-site or home programs." Ala. Code § 16-28-1. A home may be the location where a child receives instruction as a student attending a private school. A parent may establish the private school in the home, or the home may be an extension of an existing private school.

- a. Private schools must register annually by October 10 with the Alabama Department of Education and must complete "uniform blanks" furnished by the Department, "giving such statistics as relate to the number of pupils, the number of instructors, enrollment, attendance, course of study, length of term, cost of tuition, funds, value of property, and the general condition of the school." Ala. Code § 16-1-11.
- b. At the end of the fifth day from the opening of public school, the principal teacher of each private school must report on forms prescribed by the State Superintendent of Education to the county superintendent or city superintendent "the names and addresses of all children of mandatory school attendance age who have enrolled in such schools; and thereafter, throughout the compulsory attendance period, the principal teacher of each school ... shall report at least weekly the names and addresses of all children of mandatory school attendance age who enroll in the school or who, having enrolled, were absent without being excused, or whose absence was not satisfactorily explained by the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child." Ala. § 16-28-7.
- c. Private schools must furnish all reports that may be required by the State Superintendent of Education and by the county superintendent of education or by the city board of education with reference to the school attendance laws. Ala. Code § 16-28-8.
- d. The principal teacher of the private school must keep an attendance register for each school day of the year. Ala. Code § 16-28-8.
- e. Private schools must require each pupil who is admitted to the school to present a certificate of immunization or testing for the prevention of the communicable diseases designated by the State Health Officer, except when the parent or guardian claims a religious or medical exemption. Ala. Code §§ 16-30-3 and 16-30-4.
- f. Every private school "shall carry out a system of physical education, the character of which shall conform to the program or course outlined by the Department of Education." Ala. Code § 16-40-1.
- g. Private schools in which 25 or more persons are congregated regularly for instruction must meet the requirements of the building code unless the building was used for that purpose prior to the effective date of the code. Ala. Code §§ 41-9-160(2) and 41-9-163(c).

Option 3: Instruction by a Private Tutor. Under Ala. Code § 16-28-5, a child may be instructed by a private tutor. Under this statute:

- a. The private tutor must be a state-certified teacher.
- b. The private tutor must offer instruction "in the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools..., between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., and who uses the English language in giving instruction."
- c. The private tutor must file with the county superintendent, a statement showing the child or children to be instructed, the subjects taught, and period of instruction. The tutor must keep a register of the child's work showing daily hours of instruction and attendance and shall make such reports as the State Board of Education may require.

Teacher Qualifications: No qualifications are required to teach in a church or private school. A private tutor must be a state-certified teacher. Ala. Code § 16-28-5.

Standardized Tests: Not required by statute.

Freedom from State Regulation: "Nonpublic schools, including private, church, parochial, and religious schools, offering educational instruction in grades K-12, as well as home-schooled students, are not subject to licensure or regulation by the state or any political subdivision of the state, including the State Department of Education." Sec. 2(b), Act 2014-245.

College Anti-discrimination Provisions: "Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, no public two-year or four-year institution of higher education in the state may deny admission to or otherwise discriminate against an otherwise qualified student based on the consideration, whether in whole or in part, that the student attended, graduated from, or is enrolled in a nonpublic school, including private, church, parochial, and religious schools, or was home schooled." Sec. 6, Act 2014-245.

Religious Freedom Act: Alabama Constitution Amendment 622.

3.2 Probation Policy

LCA reserves the right to place families on probation when school requirements are not followed. Probation places a family at risk regarding continued enrollment at LCA. LCA recognizes that sometimes extenuating circumstances may prevent a family from being able to comply with LCA requirements. When special circumstances warrant, communication with the school principal will often prevent the family from being placed on probation.

At the discretion of the school board, a family will be placed on probationary status for failing to comply in any of the following areas:

- Failure to remain active in a local church
- Account falls behind by 30 days
- Required record-keeping falls behind by 30 days
- Failure to attend a required parent meeting
- Failure to follow policies stated in the Policy Manual

If the school board deems it necessary to place a family on probationary status, the board will decide what consequences, if any, the family will face during the probationary period. The LCA School Board will notify the family in writing that they have been placed on probationary status. With the notification, the LCA School Board will instruct the family of the consequences levied against the family and how to remedy the situation.

The family will be removed from probationary status when one of the following occurs:

- The deficiency is corrected to the satisfaction of the school staff
- The family successfully appeals to the school board

Potential consequences of being on probation may include any of the following:

• Academic records being withheld

- Registration for the following year being rejected
- Participation in social activities, classes, or field trips being denied/limited
- Being withdrawn from LCA

3.3 Dismissal Policy

If the problem is not remedied within 30 days of being placed on probation, the school board may re-evaluate the situation. If the board deems it necessary to levy additional consequences, such as dismissal, they will notify the family accordingly.

3.4 Protection of Privacy Policy

To protect the privacy of a family, the school will not release information concerning a family except by permission. Families who are enrolled in the school shall not give out or use family contact information without the family's consent.

3.5 Child Abuse Prevention Policy

It is the purpose and intent of LCA to provide a safe, secure environment to teach and care for the students of our school body. Our goal is to protect children from sexual abuse, child molestation, or any type of inappropriate sexual behavior by employees or volunteers in this school and to protect employees and volunteers from false accusations. Our detailed policy is available to all enrolled families on our online database.

4 Medical Policy

4.1 Campus Health Policy

Students **should not be sent to classes or any other LCA activity** if they have had any of the following during the past 24 hours:

- A fever
- Any type of stomach upset
- Symptoms of communicable diseases or viruses (Chicken Pox, the flu, pink eye, bad colds, etc.)
- Frequent coughing, sneezing, nose blowing
- A rash, except for botanically induced rashes (poison ivy, etc.)

4.2 Allergies

If a child suffers from severe allergies, the office must be informed, along with the student's teachers and the lunchroom monitors. Students may possess medicine that is medically necessary per the guidelines stipulated in section 13.1, "Student Behavior Requirements."

4.3 Drug Dispensing

LCA will not administer any medication to a student.

5 Tuition and Fees

Tuition is calculated by the cost we anticipate spending to cover each family for the school year. This can be paid in one payment OR ten equal payments.

- After the initial August tuition payment, monthly tuition is due by the 10th of each month
- Any tuition payment not received by the office by the due date will be automatically billed a \$5 late fee for each week it is late, up to \$20, except when an extension has been approved by the principal
- This same **late fee policy applies to all forms due** into the office that have assigned due dates
- The maximum late fee per item due in the office is \$20
- Any returned checks will incur a fee equal to that assessed to LCA by our bank

Any family who is consistently late paying their tuition by the due date or falls behind more than 30 days and has not made prior arrangements with the LCA Principal or Financial Officer will receive a call from a board member and could be placed on probation.

6 Standardized Testing

Testing is **required for students in the 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades**. High school students are exempt if LCA testing graduation requirements have been met. Testing is also provided for students in grades 4-12 if parents choose to use it. The primary goal of standardized testing is to aid parents in determining their students' progress.

The payment for the testing is the responsibility of the parent and the cost will be announced at the beginning of each school year.

Families that need their student to be tested by an alternative form of evaluation must provide sufficient cause for an exception and work out an acceptable alternative with the school Testing Coordinator and principal **by the end of the first semester**.

7 Class Policies

7.1 Teacher Selection Policy

LCA teachers are qualified to teach the designated class by vocational experience or education. All teachers who teach classes at LCA are screened and interviewed by the school administration. The teachers are required to fill out applications, supply personal histories and references if requested, sign Statements of Faith, and comply with and enforce the LCA policy manual. Additionally, each teacher is required to complete a one-time LCA-initiated background check before class begins.

7.2 Class Enrollment

Enrollment for Friday classes will be available in the spring. Late enrollment will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Classes at LCA serve as a resource to assist parents in educating their children. However, parents are still responsible for ensuring that their children complete assignments for LCA classes. Many teachers send home graded quizzes and tests with the students. We advise parents to make sure they see these and have their children organize and keep them.

7.3 Class Fees and Refunds

Parents are responsible for paying each teacher by the deadlines indicated in the school calendar. Initial outlay by the teacher precludes reimbursement for some of these funds. Reimbursement of the class fee is at the teacher's discretion.

7.4 Class Requirements

Students must maintain at least a "C" average to remain in an LCA class. If a student falls below a "C" average by the end of the first nine weeks (or any nine-week period), they will be asked to withdraw from the class because they are either unable or unmotivated to handle the work required.

7.5 Class Attendance

LCA class teachers will keep attendance and regular attendance is expected. If your student will not be attending a class, please contact the school to let the office know not to expect him/her. If a student is not in class and the parent has not contacted the office, the parent may be called.

7.6 Classes and Inclement Weather

LCA will follow the Madison County School system concerning severe or hazardous weather. If the Madison County School System's decision is made predictively about the weather AND the weather prediction does not come to pass, upon approval and coordination with school administration, teachers may contact their class and proceed with meeting during the originally scheduled time so long as no severe or hazardous weather exists.

7.7 Lunch

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays each have designated lunch periods. Please note the kitchen is reserved for staff and teacher use only.

7.8 Chapel

Chapel attendance is mandatory for all students during chapel time. The purpose of Chapel is to worship the living God through song, prayer, and the preaching of the Word. We do not hold an "invitation." If a child asks about salvation, the Gospel will be explained, and the parents will be contacted. Teachings will be limited to those affirmed by each family on the Statement of Faith.

7.9 Class Days

LCA offers High School classes on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Part-time members are only eligible for High School classes. Additionally, on Friday, enrichment classes are held for grades K-12.

On Tuesday and Thursday of each week, the gym is designated as a study hall for students attending classes on those days who need a place to work between their classes. Every student should bring schoolwork and work quietly according to the guidelines set forth by the LCA staff.

On Fridays, all students must be enrolled in a class each period they are on campus whether as a student or student helper.

8 Special Projects, Activities, and Field Trips

8.1 Planning Projects or Field Trips

All special projects, activities, and field trips that are meant to be school-wide events must be approved by a school administrator and listed on the official school calendar in the office. No advertising or spending money should take place until the approval is finalized. A staff member or parent from the school must act as a sponsor for all school events and be present throughout the entire activity.

8.2 Unaccompanied Students

Any parent who cannot accompany their student to an LCA activity where a parent or guardian is required must designate another responsible adult to be present and accountable for the student at all times.

8.3 Students Represent LCA to the Community

At LCA, all students are expected to demonstrate behavior that aligns with the values of Jesus Christ during school activities. If a student is unable to behave appropriately during an LCA class, activity, or field trip, a team leader or LCA staff member will request the parent and the child to leave. Parents are requested to comply in a respectful and considerate manner. If a student is asked to leave a second activity or class due to misbehavior, they may lose the privilege to participate in any field trips, activities, or classes for the remainder of the school year. Parents who believe their child was treated unfairly can contact the School Principal.

9 Parent Responsibilities

9.1 Records

To legally support your homeschooling efforts and for accountability purposes, LCA requires the following academic documentation for each full-time enrolled student:

- Per State Law (for those choosing the "Church School" option):
 - Church School Enrollment Form
 - o Attendance Records
- Per LCA:
 - Application Forms / Re-enrollment Forms
 - Goals and Curriculum

- Four Year Plan and Course Descriptions (all high school credits)
- Lesson Plans/Journal (grades 1-12)
- o Report Cards
- o Work Samples

9.2 Application Forms / Re-enrollment Forms

Application Forms and/or Re-enrollment Forms must be completed, approved, and on file in the office before the family is considered fully enrolled and before they are eligible to participate in classes and activities.

9.3 Attendance Records

Attendance records are a requirement of the state; therefore, LCA requires each family to maintain an LCA Attendance Form for their student(s) and to submit their Attendance Form to LCA at the end of each semester.

9.4 Goals and Curriculum

The Goals and Curriculum Form outlines the plans for instruction and long-term goals for the year. This form needs to be filled out for each student and submitted to the family's team leader at the start of the school year.

9.5 Four-Year Plan and Course Descriptions

The four-year plan outlines the high school coursework while the course description provides details for each specific course. These plans are created by the parent after receiving guidance from the High School Coordinator and serve as helpful tools for planning, communicating, and documenting progress toward meeting LCA's graduation requirements. The main objective is to ensure that the student is academically prepared for their post-high school goals.

High school students transferring from another school must meet with the HSC to determine the credits needed for graduation.

9.6 Lesson Plans / Journal

Lesson plans come in a wide variety of formats. The lesson plan is the primary means of supporting and justifying the home education process; therefore, it must show what is taught and needs to have regular notes and comments regarding student progress.

The documentation for each school day <u>must</u> be organized so that it is easy to understand and reflects the calendar and school day count. ******A minimum of* **180** *days of school per year is required by LCA*.

9.7 Report Cards

Report cards are provided by LCA, and grades should be recorded at the end of each semester. Grading should be recorded as follows, depending on the grade level:

• For grades K-2, the teacher may decide what grading scale he/she wishes to use.

- For grades 3-8, letter grades (A, B, C, and D) should be used.
- <u>For high school</u> (grades 9-12 and 8th graders earning high school credit), the report cards should reflect the **numerical grade** earned. A copy of each student's report card should be turned into team leaders after each semester plus a copy to the HSC.

9.8 Work Samples

A sample of each student's work in writing and math is to be shown to the family's team leader in January of each year.

10 Social Media Policy

LCA parents, students, and teachers are encouraged to exercise Christian judgment when participating in any form of social media or online communications within Life Christian Academy and beyond. To protect the Christian dignity of LCA and every LCA member from the damaging effects of negative social media posts, LCA considers the following examples to be inappropriate uses of social networking sites. (This list is non-exhaustive and intended to provide examples only):

- All forms of cyberbullying, including but not limited to, allegations about any LCA student, parent, teacher, or staff
- Making complaints, offensive comments, or defamatory statements about any LCA student, parent, teacher, staff member, or the school itself

11 Attendance Policy

The LCA school year runs from June 1 to May 31, giving families 365 days to complete their home education program. LCA requires documentation for a minimum of 180 school days out of the 365 possible. A school day is defined as a planned and documented day of instruction where:

- At least three core subjects (i.e. reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, English, Bible, language, geography, science, health, or history) are taught, OR
- A minimum of three hours is spent in learning activities in a core subject(s).
- Please note that this is a minimum.

Out of these 180 required school days, a family is allowed:

- Ten (10) days excused absences per semester, (20 days per year) for sickness or any necessary absence of the teacher or the student (when plans had been made to teach that day)
- Five (5) "in-service" or teacher preparation days to be used for such things as seminars, lesson preparation, grading, organizing, planning, preparing the instruction work site, etc.
- A limited number of Unexcused Absences must be individually approved by the principal, for special family emergencies or problems exceeding the allotted 10 absent days per semester.

12 Certificate of Completion in Lieu of Diploma

If a student has special learning needs and cannot meet LCA's graduation requirements, the student can receive a certificate of completion. The parents will need to meet with the LCA Principal and High School Coordinator to create a four-year plan and set goals for the student to achieve. The student may still "walk" at graduation.

13 Student Behavior Policy

LCA consists of many Christian families with varying values; therefore, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines for any LCA activity – whether on or off campus. School officials may use discretionary judgment to prohibit dress or behavior based on past or current circumstances.

13.1 Student Behavior Requirements

The following behaviors are considered violations of the LCA Student Behavior Policy:

- Disrespectful attitudes or behavior toward others; everyone should treat one another as they would like to be treated
- Classroom distractions, including violating class rules, ringers on cell phones, texting, etc.
- Plagiarism or cheating including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to solve problems or generate writing content when not assigned to do so by the teacher
- Running or horse-playing inside the building
- Profane or disrespectful talking
- Yelling or screaming
- Possession of weapons
- Possession of illegal or prescription drugs unless medically necessary **and** the office is notified (e.g. diabetic or severe allergy medications that require immediate treatment)
- Possession of alcohol or nicotine or their associated paraphernalia
- Eating or drinking during class unless it is part of the class activity
- Food or drink in the auditorium side of the building
- Chewing gum
- Technology devices of any kind during Friday classes unless approved by a teacher; high school students <u>may</u> use technology devices while waiting in the gym on Tuesday and Thursday. The device should only be used in a way that edifies the individual and honors God.
- Accessing the kitchen except by teacher or staff member request
- Inappropriate contact, excessive hugging, handholding, or kissing on campus or during any off-campus LCA activities
- Leaving class before it is over unless permitted by the teacher
- Leaving a mess after eating either in a personal or school activity
- Disturbing or altering the property of NLBC without permission
- Loitering in the parking lot or outside of the building

13.2 Student Dress Code

General guidelines:

- All clothing worn must be modest and in good taste.
- Clothing that is too short, too tight, worn-out, torn, or sloppy is not considered appropriate attire.
- Male students should dress in a masculine manner and female students should dress in a feminine manner.

Specific guidelines:

- Pants, Shorts, Dresses, Skirts
 - \circ $\;$ Shorts should be pant-style in design. Gym shorts may be worn only during PE
 - Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be knee-length or longer meaning at least to the top of the knee
 - No sweatpants except during PE or karate
 - No pajama pants or sleepwear
 - Leggings/jeggings should be covered by knee-length garments
- Shirts, Blouses, Tops
 - Shirts should have some type of sleeve combinations of shirts are acceptable as long as one has sleeves
 - Necklines should not be lower than 1" below the collarbone
 - No tummies showing even when raising arms, sitting, and during PE
- Hats, Head Coverings, Hair
 - Hats/hoods are not to be worn inside the building but may be worn during outdoor activities
 - Hair should be neatly kept, remain natural in color, and out of the eyes
 - No exotic or punk-styled hair allowed (such as mohawks, emo cuts, etc.)
- Jewelry, Tattoos, Makeup
 - Female students may wear earrings; male students may not
 - No other body piercings with jewelry
 - No tattoos, permanent or temporary, showing
 - \circ $\$ Male students should not wear makeup or nail polish
- General Appearance
 - All undergarments should remain as such: under garments even when raising arms, sitting, and during PE
 - No offensive logos
 - No gothic, satanic, punk, or rap attire (often characterized by all-black attire)

If a member of the staff, a teacher, or an activity leader, notices that a student is not following the dress code, the student may be asked to either go home or change clothing. Depending upon the situation, the student may be permitted to continue with the class or activity. The aim is to handle correction discreetly. Compliance with the decision is required.

Rules and regulations of the dress code apply to all students. Exceptions may be granted due to a student's medical condition or other exceptions approved by the principal.

The parents are responsible for ensuring that the student is dressed appropriately.

School officials may use discretionary judgment to prohibit dress or behavior based on past or current circumstances.

13.3 Student Security

For the safety of all, LCA has only one designated student entrance and exit to the school campus. All entries and exits are through this single-access door located at the LCA Office entrance. The exception is the designated Friday pickup and drop-off times which will be at the front entrances and monitored by school officials. All other doors are to remain locked and used for emergency exit only. Students are not to open any doors for anyone at any time.

14 Disciplinary Procedures

14.1 Corporal Punishment

LCA does not administer any form of corporal punishment. This is the jurisdiction of the parents.

14.2 Specific Disciplinary Procedures

Life Christian Academy's discipline policy should be viewed in the context of LCA's stated goal of assisting parents in the training of their children. LCA is committed to ensuring children can learn in a safe environment, conducive to spiritual growth and learning. To accomplish this, the staff will do everything in its power to include parents in the discipline process, to be fair, and to be consistent.

The following guidelines may be adjusted as the LCA school administration and school board deem necessary to protect the physical and emotional well-being of students, staff, and LCA in general. Students and families are expected to demonstrate Christian values and reflect the character of Christ as a pattern of life.

The following measures build according to the frequency of violations and according to the severity of the violation. Our goal is to support Christian families as they seek to train their children in the things of the Lord, one area of which is obedience to authority.

- Level I Student Corrected with Compliance Required
 - When a student violates any of the LCA Student Behavior Policies outlined in this manual, excluding those offenses which are suspensions or expulsions as indicated by Levels IV and V.
- Level II Student Corrected, Parent Contacted and Recorded in Students File
 - \circ $\,$ When a student repeatedly (two times or more) violates behavior policy $\,$
- Level III Student Corrected, Parent/Administration Conference, and Recorded in Student File

- When a student does not comply with correction given to them by the administration, teacher, or other LCA authority
- Repeated offenses from Levels I-II
- Inappropriate display of affection
- o Cutting classes or leaving campus without parental permission and staff awareness
- Level IV Suspensions (suspensions are effective the next day(s) which the student is to be at LCA)
 - One Day Suspensions
 - Repeated offenses from Levels I-III
 - Cursing, profanity of any type, and inappropriate gestures
 - Conspiracy of inciting to fight or fighting
 - Bullying
 - Verbally insulting school personnel
 - Three Day Suspensions
 - Repeated offenses from Levels I-IV
 - Cheating/Plagiarism
 - Lying
 - Theft
 - Purposely damaging or altering the facilities of NLBC/LCA

\circ $\,$ Suspension for the remainder of the Semester or Year $\,$

- Repeated offenses from Levels I-IV
- Inappropriate sexual language or behavior
- Possession or use of tobacco products
- Confirmed threats of violence to students, faculty, or the school in general
- Explicit pictures or pornography
- Attempting to, conspiring to, or vandalizing others and/or school property (restitution required)

• Level V – Expulsion

- Repeated offenses Levels I-IV
- Possession or use of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or misuse of prescription drugs
- Possession of firearms or weapons
- Sexual harassment: pressure for sexual activity
- Any other action that the LCA board deems severely harmful (physically, spiritually, or morally) to the students, staff, or the school in general

15 Procedural Explanations

15.1 Suspensions / Expulsions

Whenever an incident is reported or occurs which would mean the suspension or expulsion of a student, the parents will immediately be contacted, and the student may be sent home. Afterward, all parties involved will be consulted and facts will be established. Then the administration and/or representative from the board will meet with the student(s) and parents. Until this process is

complete, the student(s) under review may not be allowed to attend LCA classes or functions. However, the student will be allowed to continue class work off campus until review by the board is complete. Students may lose all academic credits during the time they are suspended.

In all cases of suspension, the LCA Board reserves the right to increase or decrease the length of suspension or move immediately to expulsion based on a review of all facts and the severity of the student misconduct. All suspensions require a supermajority vote of board members. Suspensions and expulsions are only determined by the board and cannot be appealed except as stated in the provision under section 15.3, "Appeal Process to Board Decisions."

Expelled students will no longer be covered by LCA as their church school covering.

15.2 Behavior Records

LCA administration will keep records of behavior policy violations. Suspensions and expulsions may become a part of the student's permanent record.

15.3 Appeal Process to Board Decisions

Parents may address the board at any time before a final board decision. Appeals to final decisions will only be considered if new information is being presented.

16 High School Manual

16.1 Definition of a High School Student at LCA

Students enrolled in grades 9-12 who are children of full-time member LCA families are high school students. These students have the opportunity to take their coursework at home or a co-op class. They can also participate in member testing, extracurricular, service, or social activities.

All full-time high school families must meet the requirements of overall membership as outlined in this Member Policy Manual, such as attendance, record checks, team service, testing, and fees. Parents are asked to attend high school training or schedule a conference with the High School Coordinator prior to beginning high school, prior to beginning the senior year, and as needed at other times. Annual training is encouraged.

16.2 Credits and Activities for 8th Grade Students

High school coursework is not required for 8th grade students. Eighth grade students can earn a maximum of <u>four</u> high school credits for *high school-level academic core or required subjects, including foreign language courses*.

The following subjects are not approved for high school credit when taken in 8th grade:

- Chorus
- Drama
- PE
- Bible

Parents should attend high school training or meet with the HSC before beginning high school coursework. *For advanced students, additional high school credits may be allowed with prior approval of the HSC.*

Eighth grade students may be invited to a limited number of extracurricular and service activities. This will be announced by the planning team for each event.

16.3 Records Required for High School Students

Late fees may apply as listed in the member policy.

- Four-Year Coursework Plan
 - <u>Due in August</u> before entering 9th grade
 - If doing early high school credit, file before 8th grade year
 - Updates should be filed annually and as needed

• Course Descriptions:

- Due in August for each course the student will be taking that year for high school credit
- Course descriptions should include the student's name, grade, school year, course title, curriculum, and course description
- Parents are advised also to include when and where the class is taught and by whom
- Parents shall keep the originals and remit copies to both the HSC and their team leader
- Report Cards
 - Copies should be turned in to the family's team leader <u>and the High School</u> <u>Coordinator</u> at the end of each semester.
 - Final grade card is due in the high school office by <u>June 10</u>.
 - Course titles should be specific and should match those on your course descriptions.
 - The grade card should include the credit awarded for the course and the numerical grade on a 100-point scale.
 - No grade above 100 will be recorded on the transcript except for Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores of 3 or higher and dual-enrollment grades.
 - No grade below 70 or a "C" grade will be recorded on the transcript.

16.4 Standardized Testing Requirements

All high school students are required to take at least one standardized test in the 8th and 10th grades and as needed to meet graduation requirements. To graduate, students must fulfill <u>one</u> of the requirements listed below in section 16.5.2, "Standardized Testing Competency."

16.5 Graduation Requirements

On completion of the requirements listed below and supporting documentation, a student is awarded a diploma from LCA equivalent to an Alabama State standard diploma.

16.5.1 Course of Study Requirements

Student must complete an approved course of study in the disciplines listed below, minimum of 24 Credits:

Subject Area	Minimum Graduation Requirements	Recommendations for College Prep	
Bible	1 credit	1 credit or more	
English	4 credits	<i>4 credits</i> To also include a research paper	
Math	4 credits To include: • Algebra 1 • Geometry	4 credits To also include: • Algebra 2 • Trigonometry/advanced math	
Science	4 credits To include: • A physical science • Biology	<i>4 credits</i> To also include two lab classes	
Social Studies	4 credits To include: • World history • U.S. History • ½ credit U.S. Government or civics, or pass U.S. Citizenship Exam	<i>4 credits</i> To also include: • Geography • U.S. Government • Economics	
PE / Health	1.5 credits	1.5 credits	
Electives	5.5 credits Choose combo from: • Arts & humanities • Life skills • Career prep • Technical & trades • Etc.	9.5 credits To also include two foreign language credits	
Total	24 credits Standard diploma	28 credits Standard diploma	

Table 1: Courses Required for Graduation

NOTE: Eighth grade students are limited to 4 high school credits in core/required courses.

Credit can be earned for both formal and informal types of coursework.

• **Formal courses** are those curriculum or classes which contain a pre-planned unit of study provided by a recognized publisher or school. The credits have usually been predetermined by the publisher or school.

- **Informal courses** are those which are specially designed for the student by the parent rather than a publisher or school. Determination of a credit for these courses is as follows:
 - One credit: ~90-150 total hours of coursework
 - Half credit: ~ 45-90 total hours of coursework

16.5.2 Standardized Testing Competency

To graduate, students must fulfill one of the following requirements.

Table 2: Standardized Testing Requirements for Graduation

Test	Minimum Score
ACT	16
SAT	880
IOWA	10 th grade level in BASIC BATTERY

16.5.3 Bible Reading Requirement

Students must read through the entire Bible at least one time in their high school years. This requirement is not the same as the Bible Course for credit but may be included in the Bible class(es).

16.5.4 Vocational / Technical Course of Study

A **vocational/technical** course of study is recommended for students who plan to enter the workforce or attend a technical school rather than attend a four-year college after graduating from LCA. Parents may design a course of study that includes hands-on or on-the-job training. Students should keep a strong core curriculum but use their Career and Technical Courses, Career Prep & Life Skills, and elective courses to prepare for the vocation. Honors courses can include an apprenticeship, dual enrollment, vocational courses, or on-the-job training.

16.6 General Criteria for Honors / Advanced Placement Classes

LCA will offer honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes as teacher availability allows. When completed, honors classes will be indicated as such on transcripts. Parents may teach honors classes at home or enroll online and designate them on course descriptions and grade cards. These courses are not eligible for weighted grades.

AP Courses: Due to AP certification requirements, only courses that are official College Boardcertified AP courses taught by official College Board-certified AP Instructors may be listed as AP on the official transcript. However, if a student passes an AP exam with a "3" or higher, the class will be designated as an honors class on the transcript and denoted as a weighted grade by adding 10 points (based on a 100-point scale). The letter grade will receive a weighting of one additional point (based on a four-point scale). Any parent may teach to the AP syllabus found at www.collegeboard.org, but the student must pass the AP exam with a score of "3" or higher to receive a weighted grade. **NOTE**: If a student takes a College Board-certified online AP course and completes the course with a grade of "C" or higher, the student will receive a weighted grade based on completion of the course. In this case, the student is not required to take the corresponding AP exam to receive the weighted grade. However, even if the student does take the AP exam and passes with a score of "3" or higher, the student will not receive a double weighting of the grade (weighting for both course completion and exam score). College Board-certified online AP courses may receive the AP designation on the transcript.

Guidelines for AP Test Credit and Weighting of Grades:

- Students must take a corresponding class within the same school year that the test is taken.
- To earn early college credit, any student can register and complete any AP exam offered. However, only AP exams that have a corresponding high school course taught within the same school year as the AP exam will be awarded the weighted grade.
- Weighted grades will not be arbitrarily assigned to a non-corresponding course.
- AP exams cannot be used as CLEP exams for LCA credit (e.g., if a student takes the Calculus AP exam and earns a score of "3" or higher, but has not taken a formal Calculus class, there will be no awarding of a Calculus grade).

Guidelines for Honors Classes:

- Content is accelerated and/or more complex than the corresponding "regular" class.
- The course emphasizes critical thinking and application.
- The course includes experiential instruction (hands-on learning opportunities such as labs, field trips, competitions, projects, and/or guest speakers).
- The class is interdisciplinary (especially important: written and oral communication skills).
- Assessments require the student to use enhanced thought processes.

16.7 Dual Enrollment

LCA has an agreement with many colleges whereby a student in good standing in grades 10-12 may enroll in a college course and receive both high school and college credit for the course.

Procedure for Dual Enrollment:

- 1. The student must apply for admission to the college as a dual credit student.
- 2. Admission requirements include:
 - GPA of 3.0 (B average)
 - Acceptable ACT or SAT scores or placement tests at the college
 - Must be on grade level with high school course requirements
 - Written permission from parents and school officials
- 3. Contact the HSC for a registration/approval form and transcript to be sent to the college.
- 4. The student is responsible for all costs related to the courses.

Guidelines for Dual-Enrollment Courses, Credit, and Weighting of Grades:

- Dual enrollment course grades will be weighted according to the same scale as AP weighting.
- Students may take college courses in advanced core courses or in trade/technical classes such as cybersecurity, machine tool, welding, EMT, etc. Trade courses will not receive weighted grades.
- Classes taken at colleges (three or four credit hours) will be shown as one credit on the student's high school transcript per current Dual Enrollment Agreements with colleges. Exceptions and prerequisites may apply. See HSC for details and annual updates.
- No PE classes can be taken for dual enrollment.

16.8 LCA Service Club

- Service awards can be earned by *students in grades 9-12* who do any type of volunteer work. Hours may be recorded on the student's transcript by listing the number of hours on the final grade card.
- Use the Service Project Form or your own to document the hours spent in service activities.
- Service projects for this award are considered activities done outside the home for individuals or organizations without compensation.
- Any number of hours may be entered on the transcript, even if it is less than enough for a medal.
- Service hours earned may be applied towards the high school transcript and are cumulative over the years of high school. Service hours earned during class or club activities may be counted.
- One point is earned for each hour of service. Do not count anything less than a quarter of an hour. Points will be recognized as follows for annual awards:
 - 100 points or more: Gold medal
 - 75 points or more: Silver medal
 - 50 points or more: Bronze medal

16.9 American Christian Honor Society

The American Christian Honor Society (ACHS) by the American Association of Christian Schools (AACS) is a Christian organization that seeks to honor qualified students. Members of this chapter shall be selected by an administrator/teacher/council based on Christian scholarship, service, and character. A student is eligible to apply if he/she is in grades 10-12 and completes the following membership requirements:

- **Scholarship:** The prospective member must have a cumulative average of at least 90 percent.
- Service: The prospective member must have completed and documented at least 50 hours of service. "Service" may be service projects or unpaid volunteer work and can be the same hours listed for the service club.
- **Character:** The student must exhibit good moral character and dependability while exercising influence on peers in upholding our school ideals. Two recommendations from someone other than a parent will be required. The student should exhibit character qualities according to the following guidelines:

- Holds Christian principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations
- o Demonstrates the highest standard of honesty and reliability
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- o Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations
- Exhibits perseverance in application to his/her studies
- Exemplifies desirable personality qualities (cheerfulness, friendliness, contentment)
- Shows dependability in any responsibility he/she accepts

An eligible student who wishes to become a member of the ACHS must complete the application and return it, along with the required documents, to the High School Coordinator by May 31. Membership will be retroactive to the school year just completed.

16.10 Student Council

The LCA Student Council comprises students in grades 9-12. The council serves as representatives of the student body and is primarily charged with planning high school activities and service projects. Any student desiring to be a member of the council must fill out an application before class registration and turn it into the Student Council Advisor (SCA).

16.11 Early Graduation

Students desiring to complete high school coursework in less than four years must score AT or ABOVE grade level on standardized achievement tests, complete all graduation requirements, and consult with the HSC.

16.12 Transcript Requests

- Transcripts are issued from the LCA high school office.
- Requests for transcripts can be sent by email to the High School Coordinator.
- Three to five days for the request to be filled should be allowed.
- The full name of the receiving institution or person and full address should be provided.

16.13 Driver's Permits

For a student to apply for a Learner's Permit from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), he/she will need proof of enrollment. This form can be printed from the DMV website and brought to the LCA administration for signing.

16.14 Students Transferring to LCA

Parents of transfer students must complete the Four-Year Coursework Plan for their high school students and meet with the HSC. Only those credits listed on transcripts from other schools will be transferred to LCA. Parent transcripts and course descriptions may also be accepted from home schooling families transferring from locations that do not require enrollment in a cover school. Credits from transfer schools below 70% will not be added to the LCA transcript.

Students transferring into LCA in their 11th or 12th grade years will be asked to submit an unofficial transcript or high school grade cards and a four-year plan at the time of member application to LCA. Records will be reviewed as part of the application process. This procedure is to ensure that the student can meet LCA graduation requirements.

16.15 Part-Time High School Students

High school students enrolled in a different home school covering can take classes at LCA parttime. These students can participate in high school classes and testing, but their participation in extracurricular events is limited. Part-time families must fill out an application each year to select the classes they want and pay any applicable fees.

Annual paperwork templates, testing registration, high school planning worksheets and forms, and other procedural information can be found on our member-only database or our website.

Acronyms

AACS	American Association of Christian Schools
ACEA	Alabama Christian Education Association
ACHS	American Christian Honor Society
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AP	Advanced Placement
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
GPA	Grade Point Average
HSC	High School Coordinator
HSLDA	Home School Legal Defense Association
LCA	Life Christian Academy
NLBC	New Life Baptist Church
SCA	Student Council Advisor

Life Christian Academy

Policy Agreement Form

Sign and return by the <u>August Parent Meeting</u>.

ALL students AND a PARENT need to sign this form.

I certify that I have read, and agree to comply with, the rules and dress code for students as listed in the <u>Student Behavior Policy</u> (i.e., section 13 of the LCA Member Policy Manual).

Parent's Signature	Date
Student's Signature	Date
Student's Signature	Date