



2023 – 2024 Student Code of Conduct

Obedience, respect, and responsibility are key virtues that students must develop in order to honor the Lord and live a profitable earthly life. Obedience to rules and guidelines is essential to the development of maturity. Cultivation of these qualities results in genuine freedom in life. Respect is necessary for all successful and meaningful relationships, and the building of personal responsibility fosters a sense of achievement. The presence of such standards is also necessary for any institution that seeks to provide a stable learning and working environment for its students and employees.

As we seek to provide a balanced and disciplined learning environment for the students of The Academy of Arts Christian Co-op, we realize that our highest human wisdom falls short of God's infinite wisdom. We do not claim to be perfect in all our decisions, but we do try our best to discipline in a way that is honoring to God and profitable for the student. As partners in the discipline process, it is important that the school and the home work cooperatively for the students' good. We can instill in students proper Christian educational and moral principles only through a program that includes clear disciplinary procedures, and as students and parents, your cooperation in that program is crucial.

While holding to this philosophy, we recognize that observance of these outward standards of obedience to authority, respect for others, and personal responsibility is not necessarily a valid indication of one's heart condition. It is our desire at The Academy of Arts Christian Co-op that these character traits would grow out of our students' love for the Lord Jesus Christ as visible demonstrations of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives (Galatians 5:22-23). We realize that not all of our student body has a true relationship with Christ, and thus any conformity to these standards is merely outward compliance, rather than true obedience to Christ and the authority that He has set up in their lives. Even for these students, however, it is our expectation that they will observe the standards of conduct that we have set up for our student body, for the reasons given above, and it is our prayer that the Lord would regenerate their hearts so that they would have the ability, as new creatures in Christ, to honor Him with their obedience to authority.

The standard for conduct at The Academy of Arts Christian Co-op is based upon the authority of God's Word (2 Tim 3:16-17). We believe that students who profess to be Christians and understand salvation know that this requires active and willful obedience to Christ as their Lord (John 14:15). We also believe that students who profess to be Christians are accountable to those in authority over them (Rom. 13:1-2). There are some behaviors that the world calls acceptable, but God calls them out as sin. We do not expect our students to be perfect, but we do expect that all of our students, Christian or non-Christian, will follow the rules of conduct, accepting the consequences for any violations.

Our goal should always be to obey the command of 1st Corinthians 10:31: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." In the best interest of the entire co-op community, certain guidelines of conduct must be maintained by all students of The Academy of Arts Christian Co-op, both on and off campus, so that we might all live and work effectively together.

Doctrinal Statement

1. We believe that the Old and New Testament scriptures are verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life (II Tim. 3:16-17; Prov. 30:5-6; Matt. 5:17; John 17:17).
2. We believe in one God, an eternal Spirit existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one in essence and equal in every divine perfection (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:13-17; II Corinthians 13:14).
3. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the unique and only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and we believe that He is very God of very God and very man of very man, one Person with two natures, divine and human (Matthew 1:18-20; John 1:1-2).
4. We believe in the creation of man by the direct act of God, that man was made after God's image and in a state of innocency, but that man willfully transgressed God's law and lost communion with God, becoming dead in sin, corrupt in nature, and incapable of pleasing God in the strength of his (man's) flesh (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-6).
5. We believe in the Genesis account of Creation. Scripture teaches a recent origin of man and the whole creation, with history spanning approximately 4,000 years from creation to Christ. The days in Genesis do not correspond to geologic ages but are six consecutive, 24-hour days of creation; the first day began in Genesis 1:1, and the seventh day, which was also a normal 24-hour day, ended in Genesis 2:3 (Genesis 1:1–2:3; Exodus 20:8–11, 31:17; Hebrews 4:3–4).
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, accomplishing a vicarious, substitutionary atonement for all of Mankind; and that He was buried according to the Scriptures; and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures; and that all who believe on Him are justified freely on the ground of His shed blood and are saved by grace through faith wholly apart from human merit or works (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:21-28).
7. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His bodily ascension into heaven, and in His present life there as High Priest and Advocate (Matthew 28:1-10; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 7:25-28).
8. We believe that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ born again by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God become the children of God, possessing eternal life (John 1:12; 3:5-7).
9. We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ to reign upon the earth (I Thess. 4:16-17; Revelation 22:12; Matthew 24:42).
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead: the saved to a life of eternal glory and bliss in Heaven with God; the unsaved to eternal judgment of conscious suffering and woe in the Lake of Fire (I Thessalonians 4:15-17; John 5:21-29, Revelation 21:1-27).
11. We believe in the biblical separation of the believer from worldliness, recognizing that it hinders his growth toward the Christ-ideal and detracts from his Christian influence; and we believe in the biblical separation of the believer unto Christ (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2 I Corinthians 6:17-20; II Corinthians 6:16-18; I John 2:1-17).

12. We believe that the term ‘marriage’ has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church (Prov. 18:22; Matt. 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4; Matt. 5:27-28; I Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:26).
13. We believe in aggressively contending for the faith against atheism, agnosticism, liberalism, the so-called scientific adulterations of Scripture and compromise with unbelief (Psalm 14:1; Romans 1:20-22; John 14:6; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35; I Timothy 6:20-21; II Corinthians 6:14-18).
14. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned believers to take the Gospel to the world, and that the evangelization and edification of the believer is the primary purpose of every Christian and every Christian institution (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; I Timothy 4:11; Acts 5:42; II Timothy 2:2).

Mission

Our mission is to raise up the next generation of Christian communicators to effectively give out the good news of the gospel through singing, acting, dance, art and all forms of artistic communication. It is our desire not to compartmentalize your child but rather teach the whole person by keeping Christ at the center of all subjects and studies!

We believe that we are not just teaching the arts to your children, but are helping them to study the very nature of God. He is the most artistic and creative being that exists and will ever exist. As we study this part of God’s nature, we believe that your child will not only grow in their excellence as a communicator, but as a follower of Jesus as well! It is our prayer that our students will not fall in love with their gift, but rather with the Giver of their gift and that they will grow in their skill and discernment on how to use those gifts for Christ!

Co-op Wide Rules and Consequences for Discipline Policy:

The discipline plan will be the same for every student. Any Academy of Arts teacher or staff member may stop a student at any time and apply the proper consequences if they see a student breaking any school rule.

Level 1 Documented Behaviors

- Bullying/Intimidation
- Cheating
- Fighting
- Defiance
- Horse Play
- Lying
- Possession of an Unauthorized Item
- Profanity

- Sexual Harassment
- Purposefully Skipping Class
- Stealing
- Vandalism
- Romantic Interaction with any other student
- Immodest Clothing

- A.) There will be 3 documented reports sent to parents.
- B.) A Parent Conference is required at the 3rd event mark.
- C.) Depending on the severity of any one event, expulsion may be an appropriate consequence.

Inappropriate behavior in Co-op or at a Co-op Event

1. At no time will a student use profanity and/or abusive/inappropriate language towards a teacher or another student.
2. Sexual, ethnic, racial, religious, or any type of harassment, either in written or verbal form, against any employee or student will not be tolerated. This refers to physical or verbal actions that result in the creation of a hostile, offensive, or intimidating environment or have an ethnic, racial, religious, or sexual basis. This includes physical contact of a sexual nature or sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious comments or insults.
 - a. All complaints and incidents will be investigated on a case-by-case basis. The final judgment in any situation of this type lies with The Academy of Arts’ administration.
 - b. Cases of “bullying” also fall under this clause.
 - c. Depending on the discretion of The Academy of Arts’ administration, this may qualify as a severe clause offense.
3. Students should, at all times, refrain from physical displays of affection while at Co-op or at a Co-op related activity. This includes, but is not limited to: kissing, hugging, hand-holding, etc.

Items Prohibited from The Academy of Arts’ premises:

1. Flammable items, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, smokeless cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, weapons, look-alike weapons, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or obscene materials, including what may be contained on personal electronics.
**The police may be called if a student is found to be in possession of any of the previous items. Possession of any of these items on campus or at any off-campus school function also qualifies as a severe clause offense. Administration reserves the right to determine severity or nature of infractions and to expel at will.*
2. Students may not be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol while on campus or at a Co-op function. This would automatically qualify as a severe clause offense.
3. Information may be obtained by the administration that indicates that a student may be involved in the use of illegal drugs. In these cases, physical evidence is not required for the administration to pursue consequences for drug use. The Academy of Arts’ Administration reserves the right in all cases to obtain and use said information/evidence.

In a situation where a student is suspected of illegal drug usage, the parents of the student will be called and given the choice between one of the following two options:

1. The student will be required to submit to random drug testing. The Co-op will choose when these tests occur. The results will be submitted directly to The Academy of Arts’ Administration by the testing facility.
 - The costs involved with the testing will be the responsibility of the family. If the result of any test comes back positive, or if a test is not taken when requested, the student may be expelled immediately.
2. The parent may withdraw the student from the Co-op.

Theft

Students who commit any act of theft have committed a severe clause offense and will be subject to the appropriate consequences.

SEVERE CLAUSE

There are certain behaviors that will demand immediate suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the circumstances and/or number of incidents by any student. As always, the final decision in any disciplinary situation lies with The Academy of Arts' administration.

1. Any form of fighting (hitting, kicking, or physical violence) towards another student or staff member.
 - ◆ If a student begins to fight another student and that student does not immediately take any and all necessary steps to remove themselves from the situation, both students will be considered to be fighting.
 - ◆ If a student is being attacked and is physically cornered in such a way that they cannot remove themselves, they may defend themselves for the purpose of removing themselves from the situation.
 - ◆ Other students who encourage the fight or keep a student from leaving a fight in any way will also be considered guilty of fighting and subject to the same consequences as if they were physical participants
2. Any form of harassment, threatening, intimidation, or repeated behaviors intended to physically or psychologically abuse or demean a student or faculty member. This includes direct verbal or physical action. Students also may not use any web or electronic media intended to harm another student via words or visual images. The taking of photographs without consent or in inappropriate areas (i.e. restrooms, changing rooms, etc.) is considered to be a severe clause offense. The Co-op will involve law enforcement if any state or federal laws are broken.
3. Continued cursing or disrespect of a teacher.
 - ◆ The Academy of Arts recognizes that there is a difference between a stimulus, a quick response or error of judgment, and the continuous choice to curse or disrespect a teacher.
4. Possession of weapons, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or medications of any kind on campus or at a school function. Depending on the circumstances, the police may also be called.
5. Theft of any nature. This applies to items belonging to The Academy of Arts, its staff, or other students.
6. Possession of flammable items, cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, weapons, look-alike weapons, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or obscene materials either on campus or at a school function. The police will be called and the student will face expulsion if caught with any of the previous items.

7. Misuse or abuse of Co-op property. Students are prohibited from intentionally navigating around the network firewall to access blocked sites.

Any student who commits a severe clause infraction will immediately be suspended. The parents will be required to have a conference with The Academy of Arts' administration before any decision is made as to the student's status at the Cop-op. A student may be expelled for their first severe clause infraction.

Expulsion:

Expulsion may result for:

1. A severe clause infraction or an exhibition of a pattern of behavior that is not in harmony with the spirit of The Academy of Arts Co-op or the Biblical views of The Academy of Arts' Co-op.
2. Failure to respond positively to repeated efforts at correction (Behavior Policy)
3. Patterns of speech or behavior considered to be disruptive to the school, the school's religious views, or the classrooms.
4. Parent/Student involvement in, advocating for, or identifying with behaviors, lifestyles, or worldviews the school considers sinful or un-Biblical by the co-op's definition.

The final decision to expel a student will be made by the Administrator and all decisions are final

Level 2 Documented Behaviors

- Dress Code

– Questionable female student dress code will be sent to female teacher, and questionable male student dress will be sent to male teachers.

- Food/Drink Violations

– Food or drinks being used in restricted areas.

There will be 3 documented reports of each violation. After the 3rd violation, the parents will be contacted unless The Academy of Arts administration feels the parents need to be involved immediately.

Dress Code

Please:

- No clothing with holes or rips.
- Make sure that shorts or skirts come at least to the middle of the knee.
- Do not wear leggings as pants.
- Make sure that clothing is not form-fitting for both guys and girls.
- Make sure that all shirts are long and come to the waist and that necklines are high.

The Academy of Arts' administration reserves the right to make final decisions regarding dress code violations and/or changes.

Personal Electronics Policy

All students are expected to abide by the electronics policy during the school day. This applies to all cell phones, Ipods, cameras, tablets, reading tablets, video games, or any other electronic device.

1. Students may use cellphones during passing periods, lunch, and break. However, there is to be no audible music, taking of pictures, videos, or video chat.

2. Cell phones are not to be out during class or rehearsals. First time will be a warning to put it away. 2nd time, the cell phone will be taken for the remainder of the day, and students can pick up phones at the Information Desk.
3. The taking of photographs of any nature in restrooms or changing rooms is strictly prohibited. Taking another student's picture without permission and transmitting that picture is prohibited. Breaking this rule may be considered a severe clause offense at the discretion of The Academy of Arts' administration and a student may be expelled for their first offense.
4. Students are encouraged not to bring any valuables to Co-op with them. The Academy of Arts is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Food & Drink Policies

Food and drink is to stay in the designated storage or eating areas. Drinks of any kind are not allowed in the auditorium or classrooms without a lid.

Tardiness

- ◆ Students must be on time for class.
- ◆ If a student will be missing a class, the teacher of the class should be notified a week in advance.

Skipping class

1. When class starts, no students will be allowed to leave except to go to the restroom.
2. Students may not wander into other classrooms or visit with any staff or students while class is in session.

Universal Classroom Management Plan

These rules apply to every classroom in The Academy of Arts Co-op. Individual teachers, at their discretion, may have additional class rules.

Restroom (during teaching time)

- Students will raise their hands and wait to be dismissed by the teacher.
- Elementary age students will be accompanied to the door of the restroom by a Staff member or assistant.
- There will never be more than one student out of the classroom at any one time.
- The teacher will allow students to go to the restroom in the order they requested.

Public Displays of Affection

Participating in public displays of affection (PDA) is considered disruptive to the educational environment as it can be distracting and inappropriate in the Co-op setting and may make others uncomfortable. Students must refrain from PDA while at Co-op or attending school-sponsored activities. PDA includes, but is not limited to

- Kissing
- Holding Hands
- Caressing
- Cuddling
- Inappropriate touching/embracing
- Massaging
- Sharing blankets

Violations of this policy will result in Level 2 Documentation. A PDA incident may also lead to a Severe Action Clause which could lead to expulsion.

Statement of Policy

- The Academy of Arts reserves the right to make changes, amendments, and corrections of the rules and policies of the co-op at any time with or without prior notice, as determined by the administration. The foregoing provisions are general guidelines, and notwithstanding anything to contrary stated or implied in the handbook, The Academy of Arts reserves the absolute and unconditional right to suspend or expel any student whose conduct and influence is deemed undesirable, unsatisfactory, or out of harmony with the spirit and/or goals of The Academy of Arts.
- Any decisions regarding student discipline are ultimately at the discretion of The Academy of Arts' administration and are final. The Academy of Arts' reserves the right to administer discipline in all cases without the right of a parent hearing.

Parent Volunteer Requirements & Attendance Policy:

The Academy of Arts Co-op provides quality instruction at a wide range of hours and your involvement is critical. **All parents/guardians of participants are expected to volunteer at least 1-2 hours per month in the various roles needed.** Volunteer positions may include: staffing the check-in table, monitoring a class to keep students engaged, taking students to the bathroom (elementary students - as needed), study hall monitor, etc. This makes sure that we have the necessary help to keep things running smoothly as well as gives you an opportunity to be involved in your student's experience at the co-op. Only one parent/guardian is required to volunteer. If you are unable to volunteer yourself, a proxy may be designated as long as the required time is fulfilled. All volunteers must submit to a background check before you are able to work on our campus. If you are going to miss your scheduled volunteer hour(s) for any reason you must provide notification to the office and trade hours with another parent. **You must provide written notice if your student will not be present for their classes for any reason** - vacation, Dr. appointments, sickness, etc. **In order to allow for adequate coverage of the work schedule, you must give 30 days written notice if you are withdrawing from the Co-op.** Fees are not refundable after payment has been received.