



**WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
**Student Lifestyle Commitment**  
*Grades 6 through 12*

Westminster Christian School is a community of Christian families who have joined together for the purpose of academic progress, personal development, and spiritual growth. Participation in this school community is based on the fact that at least one of your parents or guardians has expressed a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives and in their efforts to raise you in accordance with the same expectations and hopes. At Westminster Christian School we seek to honor Christ by integrating our faith and learning while our hearts and lives are challenged to reflect the process of maturing in Him.

The purpose of this Student Lifestyle Commitment is to identify expectations for your successful participation in our community. We realize it is impossible to create a school community with expectations which are totally acceptable to every student and family. Nevertheless, certain expectations must be identified to assure orderly school life. When students join the Westminster Christian School family they, through their parents and their own decision, freely and willingly choose to accept for themselves the responsibilities outlined in this Student Lifestyle Commitment.

**Assumptions**

1. Loving God and being accountable to Him are the primary motivations for Christian education, relationships, and behavior.
2. The Bible is our authority. It provides the essential teachings and principles for both personal and community conduct.

**Westminster Community Covenant**

As a member of the school community, I commit to live out the principles of the Westminster Christian School Community Covenant (Lev. 19:18, Luke 10:27) as listed below:

1. **We will imitate the love and the mind of Christ** by glorifying God the Father through biblically-informed Spirit-driven obedience and a life of sacrificial love and service.
2. **We will respect each other** by seeking the highest good for others and ourselves, and by treating others as we ourselves would like to be treated.
3. **We will recognize and celebrate each other** – our achievements, our uniqueness, and our diversity.
4. **We will help others and be thankful when we receive help** from others, knowing that none of us is self-sufficient or stands alone.
5. **We will develop and use our God-given gifts and abilities to the fullest** as we seek to serve God and others now and in the future.
6. **We will take responsibility for our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions.**
7. **We will practice humility through repentance and forgiveness** with each other by following the biblical model in Matthew 18 to resolve conflicts with the goal of reconciliation.

We are able to keep our community covenant through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our good works do nothing to merit our salvation but we commit to this covenant out of gratitude for what God has done for us in His grace.

***Responsibilities for Behavior and Attitudes***

**Biblical Expectations**

Scripture teaches that certain attributes are given to individuals through the Holy Spirit. These attributes include the following: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV). This "fruit of the Spirit" is to be sought, encouraged, and demonstrated in our relationships.

In contrast to encouraging these positive attributes of the heart, scripture condemns attitudes such as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, and hatred. Although these attitudes are sometimes difficult to discern, they can hinder relationships with God and others and lead to unacceptable behavior.

Certain behaviors are expressly prohibited in scripture and therefore should be avoided by students in the WCS community. They include theft, lying, dishonesty, gossip, slander, backbiting, profanity, vulgarity, (including crude language), sexual promiscuity (including adultery, homosexual behavior, premarital sex), drunkenness, immodesty of dress, and occult practices.

### **School Expectations**

In addition to subscribing to biblical expectations, students and parents at Westminster Christian School voluntarily commit themselves to the following standards of behavior. This commitment results from the conviction that these standards serve the good of the individual as well as the institution. These standards are not set forth as absolutes or as an index of Christian spirituality, but rather as expectations of this school community. Because of the importance of trust in and responsibility to one another, violations of these standards are regarded as a serious breach of integrity within the school community.

The following standards apply to students at Westminster Christian School and will be upheld in accord with established disciplinary guidelines.

1. Students are expected to observe the Lord's Day. "Business as usual" relative to school programs and services will be discouraged.
2. Students are expected to refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, alcoholic beverages, hallucinogenic drugs and substances (including marijuana), or narcotics not authorized by a physician. Under no circumstances are the above to be used, possessed, or distributed on or away from campus by any WCS student. Students are also expected not to abuse the use of legal substances.
3. Gambling is viewed as an unwise use of God-given resources and therefore is not acceptable.
4. Because of our concern for the worth and dignity of persons as image-bearers of God, each student is expected to be sensitive to others existing in our community and on campus. Therefore, discrimination against others is not acceptable.
5. Any kind of demeaning gesture, threat of violence including bullying behaviors, or physical attack directed toward another person will not be tolerated. Vandalism of property is also considered unacceptable and the discipline for such will include restitution deemed appropriate by the administration.
6. The school urges its students to be selective in their choices of entertainment and recreation. Activities and entertainment that are of questionable value or diminish a person's moral sensitivity should be avoided.
7. The pornography industry exploits people. Further, the use of the industry's products is immoral. Therefore, pornographic materials are not to be used, possessed, or distributed on or away from campus.
8. Students at WCS are subject to the demands of academic integrity such as completing assignments as given, honesty, and giving credit to sources.
9. Complying with day-to-day policies and procedures of the school is expected from students as prescribed by classroom teachers, the Parent/Student Handbook, or by administration as necessary.

**Conclusion**

Because these policies of the school are not intended to infringe upon the authority of the home, students, during non-school hours or at non-school sponsored activities, are assumed to be a part of that family unit and under the direction and authority of the parents. WCS students are expected to abide by these commitments except when these expectations conflict with the governance of the home. However, commitment violations that occur outside of school hours or grounds that impair the testimony of Westminster Christian School cannot be ignored. Such behaviors will be considered as to their severity and impact on the school's reputation and goal to be effective disciple makers.

**My Personal Lifestyle Commitment**

*Having read the above statement I commit to live by the expectations of Westminster Christian School.*

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Please print your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date