

# North Iowa Christian School



## 2015-2016 Parent/Student Handbook

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Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-6440  
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# Who We Are

## **Our Vision:**

Our vision is to lead students to faith in Jesus Christ and to develop young men and women who adhere to a Christian worldview, prepared to participate as Godly members of home, church and society.

## **Our Mission:**

As parents, teachers, and leaders, we strive to equip our children to live lives that glorify God, to be servant leaders with character, and to realize their God-given potential through Biblical, Christ-centered education.

## **Our Core Values:**

- God-centered focus: God will be first in everything we do.
- Commitment to Scripture: All instruction and activities will be centered in God's Word.
- Culture of Prayer: Prayer will be integral to the day.
- Family Orientation: School and home will work fully together to grow faith and academics.
- Heart of Serving: Students will be actively involved in living a servant life and engaging the community.
- Passion for Excellence: We will encourage students to achieve their best in academics, faith, activities and service.

***“Glorify God...serve others”***

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# North Iowa Christian School Rules

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## ***Student Concerns***

### **Character**

Because we respect each other as unique creations of God, no “put-downs” are allowed and all teachers and fellow students are to be treated with respect in words, actions, and attitudes.

No offensive, rude, or blasphemous language is allowed so that we may “keep our tongues from evil” and honor God with our works. In the same way, no gossiping, “Secret telling”, or inappropriate talk will be allowed.

No hitting, kicking, tackling, or rough play of any kind will be allowed at any time. No physical fighting of any kind will be allowed.

No public display of affection between students.

### **Dress Code**

Standards for dress are stated by the school, but the primary responsibility for observing these standards falls on the parents. The school’s personnel are responsible for monitoring compliance and informing parents and children when standards are not met. In the event of a flagrant violation of code, the parent may be asked to bring the child different clothing to wear. In choosing clothing, we encourage the students to consider what Jesus would be willing to wear.

The following Biblical guidelines are used in establishing dress policies: modesty and decency, appropriateness (for school and health purposes), cleanliness and neatness, inoffensiveness and not extreme or influenced by ungodly segments of society and the fads they produce. (1 Tim 2:9; Matt 5:27-30; Matt 6:28-34; Rom 14)

With these guidelines in mind, the following instructions will be observed:

- Clothing should be modest in cut.
- Tops should tuck in or overlap so there is no separation at the waist.
- All shirts must have a sleeve-no sleeveless shirts or tank tops permitted.
- Tops with pictures of super heroes, TV, movie, or rock idols are not acceptable.
- No questionable or offensive slogans or pictures on shirts.
- Shorts and Capri length pants may be worn in August-October 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> – May.
- Shirts, dresses & shorts must be knee length (approaching the knee)
- Jeans and dress pants may be worn any time of year.
- Leggings worn as pants will not be allowed. (Leggings may be worn as tights, under a shirt or dress of the appropriate length)

### **Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

- If dress/dresses are worn, consider wearing shorts underneath for the sake of modesty.
- Acceptable footwear includes shoes that have an enclosed heel or a back strap.

**7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

- Neat and clean clothing is to be worn.
- The following clothing is unacceptable:
  - low rise fit
  - midriff exposure
  - low neckline in front or in back
  - tight fitting clothing
  - holes in jeans
  - grungy look
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be to the knee in length
- Middle and High School students will have P.E. two days each week, and will be expected to bring the appropriate clothes and shoes to change in to at class time (they are not to wear their P.E. clothes the entire day).
  - P.E. attire:
    - modest top
    - athletic shorts (no bike shorts)
    - athletic shoes
    - pants
    - sweats
    - nylon pants
    - hats are not to be worn inside the building
  - Hair:
    - neatly trimmed
    - out of the eyes
    - extreme hairstyles/colors are not acceptable
      - Boys' hair:
        - should not fall below the collar
        - entire ear lobe should be showing
        - above eyebrows
        - must be clean-shaven at all times
        - sideburns should not be longer than bottom of the ear
  - Girls may wear earrings (up to two per ear).
  - Students are not allowed to wear jewelry in other body piercings (Such as lip, nose, eyebrow, navel, etc.).
  - Tattoos are strongly discouraged; if present, must be covered at school functions.

**Electronic Devices**

All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, video games etc.) must be turned into the teacher at the beginning of the school day. If a student is found using an electronic device, it will be given to the teacher. At the second offense and each time thereafter, the device will be turned into the office and a parent or guardian will be required to come to the office to reclaim the device.

**Facilities**

Students are expected to treat all materials and parts of the building with care and respect. Because of fire regulations, students will NOT be allowed the use of the refrigerator and microwaves. Teachers are not able to spend their lunchtime monitoring the microwave. If lunches or drinks must be kept cold, put an ice pack in the lunch box. Please remember to pack utensils for your child as the utensils donated by families are to be used only on hot lunch days.

**Weapons/Tobacco/Alcohol/Controlled Substances**

These items will not be allowed on school grounds. Possession of a weapon will result in immediate suspension for a period of three days for the first occurrence, with the board addressing each situation and using its discretion for possible further disciplinary action.

**Transportation**

Students must have written permission on file if they are driving themselves to and from school. Students transporting other students must have written permission by both sets of parents in advance. This form is available in the office.

**Medications**

Over-the-counter medications (in the original containers) need to be given to school personnel along with a note from a parent stating that the student may take the medication and when it is to be taken. School personnel will administer the medication/supervise it being taken. In the case of regular use of a medication, written documentation must be made to the school to give guidelines for the administration of the medication.

**Recess Rules**

- Be a good sport, be kind, and include everyone.
- Students who are too rough or break rules will lose recess privileges.
- The teacher/aide on duty has discretion on all rules. Obey them and do not be bossy.
- Students should be properly dressed for outside recess (Jackets if necessary; no flip-flops; shoes must have a back strap).
- No secret or exclusive “clubs.”

**Playground Rules**

- Only one person on a swing sitting in an upright position. No twisting, underdogs, jumping off or saving of swings.
- Only K-4 students allowed on small play set.
- All students should leave plants, trees, insects, animals, and rocks alone.
- Games involving pushing or tackling may not be played.
- No snowball throwing at any time.

**Gym Rules**

- Balls should not be kicked in the gym.
- Students should not play with the musical instruments.
- Be careful not to cut through someone’s game.
- Use an inside voice when playing. Do not scream.
- No one allowed in storage room at any time.

## ***Parental Concerns***

### **Absences**

Parents are asked to notify the school by 8:30 a.m. if their child is to be absent. Parents are asked to send a note of explanation for the absence to the child's teacher. Please notify the teacher in advance if it is a planned absence. If a student arrives after 10:00 or leaves before 2:00, it will be counted as a half-day of absence.

### **College Classes**

Contact Jean Ostrander at NIACC (North Iowa Area Community College) by phone at 1-888-466-4222 ext. 4177 or email Jean at [ostrajea@niacc.edu](mailto:ostrajea@niacc.edu). You may also check the NIACC website [www.niacc.edu/careerlink](http://www.niacc.edu/careerlink) for information on taking college classes while still in high school. Permission from the Dean of Students is required for all students desiring to take any off-campus class during the school day. See the office for a permission form.

NICS also offers college classes available online from Northwestern University in St. Paul.

### **Concerns**

If there are questions or problems, parents are expected to follow the guidelines given in Matthew 18 by going first to the teacher to voice concerns, then to the Dean of Students. If they feel further action is needed, they may contact the School Board President.

**Dual enrollment** Families wishing to participate in sports, music or any other extra-curricular activities may dual enroll with the school of their choice. To dual enroll with Mason City High School, contact Hal Minear, assistant Superintendent of Mason City schools, at 421-4402 or [hminear@mason-city.k12.ia.us](mailto:hminear@mason-city.k12.ia.us). Families are responsible for making transportation arrangements and paying any registration fees for involvement in any extra-curricular activities. Permission from the Dean of Students is required for all students desiring to take any off-campus class during the school day. See the office for a permission form.

### **Equal Opportunity**

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, gender, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of NICS.

### **Finances**

Tuition is due in the office on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month. If tuition payments are not received by the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the respective month, a \$20.00 weekly late fee may be added to the amount owed. The school board will address situations of habitual late payments or non-payments of tuition. If you have questions concerning this policy, please contact a school board member.

Because tuition does not cover costs, all families are expected to participate in fundraisers to meet the school's need.

### **Local Bussing**

As a small private school, we do not have our own bussing system. If you are unable to connect with another family within the school to make transportation arrangements for your child(ren), bussing is available for local transportation thru the Mason City school system. Contact Randy from MC Schools at 641 421-4428 to find out more about this program and fees charged. State guidelines require those requesting bussing services for those in grades K-8 live within 2 miles (from home to school) to pay for bussing. Those outside of the 2 mile range, there is no charge for families.

For those requesting bussing services for grades 9-12, the range increases to 3 miles. If they live further than 3 miles away, bussing is free. Families can fill out the Transportation Form online at [www.masoncityschools.org](http://www.masoncityschools.org). The cost can be paid by quarter, semester or yearly.

### **Visits**

To enable the teachers to adequately plan for each day, we ask parents to call the day before if they plan to visit the classroom or bring a pet to school. We encourage parents to visit!

## Things To Remember

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### Sick Policy

Your student should stay home to recover if...

1. they are running a fever
2. they are too sick to go out for recess
3. they didn't get adequate sleep from coughing or such and need a day of rest
4. they have thrown up at all in the last 12 hours, please wait a day to return to school.

Since we do not have a room where sick students can rest please be sure we have complete information on who to contact to pick the child up from school.

### Bad weather school closings

Listen to KIMT TV (channel 3), KAAL TV (channel 6), KGLO 1300 AM, KJCY 95.5 FM or go to [www.kimt.com/weather/weatherclosings](http://www.kimt.com/weather/weatherclosings). Delays or cancellations will also be posted to our Facebook page. If we have to release students early, because of bad weather, parents will be notified by telephone.

### School office hours

Sophie Hellman will be in the school office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Teachers will be available until 4:00 on school days to answer any questions you may have regarding your student and their class work.

On Tuesday and Thursday, the phone is answered if possible. If you get the answering machine, someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Tuition for NICS 2015-2016

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To learn about opportunities available to lower your cost of tuition, talk to a member of the school board or the finance committee.

	1st child	2nd child	Additional child
Kindergarten	\$2,125.00	\$1,814.00	\$1,513.00
Grades 1-8	\$3,400.00	\$2,918.00	\$2,421.00
Grades 9-12	\$3,578.00	\$3,098.00	\$2,546.00
<b>Max family tuition cap \$9177</b> <b>Fees \$125 per child per semester (books, cleaning, supplies, lab)</b> <b>Registration \$100 per child</b>			