

Student/Parent Handbook.pdf

Bird Lake Bible School Student/Parent Handbook



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BIRD LAKE BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Objective

The objective in building a private Christian School is to obey the Scriptural imperatives found in Deuteronomy 6:5-7a (KJV). "...love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and all thy soul, and with all thine might. And these words, which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart: And shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..." and of Proverbs 22:6a to "train up a child in THE way he SHOULD go." Teaching is training. Training for life must include training for eternity.

A Christian school is an extension of the Christian home, training young people in a Christian environment. The school staff works closely with parents to promote spiritual and mental maturity and excellence, as well as social responsibility in the life of the student.

Attendance at this school is a privilege and not a right. The goal of this school is to train, and not to reform. Our goal is to train Christian youth of every ability, in the highest principles of Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and good citizenship. This school stands without apology for the old-time Gospel and the highest standards of morality and Christian behavior.

Church Affiliation

Bird Lake Bible School is a vital ministry of Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church, Osseo, Michigan. Students are expected to regularly attend a Bible-believing church. Bird Lake Bible School was founded in 1970, as a result of a growing concern of the parents of Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church for the need of a guarded, Christian environment for the education of their children.

Statement of Faith

We believe in:

1. The inspiration of the Bible, equally in all parts and without error in its origin.
2. The one God, eternally existent Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who created man by a direct and immediate act.
3. The pre-existence, incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, ascension to Heaven, and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The fall of man, the need of regeneration by the operation of the Holy Spirit on the basis of grace, the experience of entire sanctification, and the resurrection of all to life or damnation.
5. The spiritual relationship of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, living a life of righteous works, separated from the world, and witnessing of His saving grace through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Administration

The School Board is composed of members of the Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church that have been duly elected by the membership of the church. All final school decisions are made by the Board. The board meets on a monthly basis. The meetings are closed to the public; however, if any parent desires to make a communication to or dispute with the Board, they have the right to appeal to the Principal or Superintendent to have their case presented to the Board. At their discretion, the Board may schedule a meeting with the said parent.

A. The Superintendent

The Superintendent is the Pastor of Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church and is also the Chief Administrator of Bird Lake Bible School. The Superintendent is also the Administrative Advisor to the School Principal and Staff.

B. Principal

The Principal is hired by the Board. He/She is the primary decision making authority in the classrooms. He/She is to meet with staff for discussion of classes, disciplinary problems with students, and is to counsel with students whenever necessary.

C. Supervisors

The Supervisors are the Teachers in the Learning Centers. They are responsible for all academics in their respective departments. They are also to maintain order and discipline in Learning Centers.

D. Monitors

The Monitors are paraprofessional staff members who work in the capacity of Teachers' Assistants. They aid the Supervisor in routine Learning Center functions, playground duty, and any other capacity that will assist the Supervisor.

Admission Policy

The primary purpose of Bird Lake Bible School is to train Christian young people to live for Christ. This school admits students of any race, color, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, or other school administered programs.

A. Kindergarten

1. In accordance with the State of Michigan's compulsory school attendance provisions.
2. Kindergarten students must be five years of age by December 1 of the year of their enrollment.
3. We are not prepared to take special-needs students in any department, and therefore we do not accept any government subsidies. As stated earlier (i.e.

Church Affiliation), all students must **faithfully** attend a Bible-believing church.

4. Proof of immunization is required before the student may be admitted to classes. However, Bird Lake Bible School does acknowledge the State of Michigan's exemption from immunization for health reasons or a religious conviction against immunization.

B. Elementary School, Grades 1-6

The same requirements for Kindergarten admissions are applied to Elementary School admissions. Each new student will be diagnostically tested for grade placement if they are transferring from a public or other private school that does not use the curriculum provided by School of Tomorrow (A.C.E.).

C. Secondary School, Grades 7-12

The same issues discussed for Kindergarten and grades 1-6 are equally applicable to new students entering grades 7-12, including the requirements for immunization. New High School students' credits are transferable, however, other courses may be required. No student will be accepted who was uncontrollable in the public or private school setting.

1. All prospective students and their parents must first make a formal application.
2. Read and sign the Standard of Conduct form.
3. Read the Student Handbook.
4. Sign the Statement of Cooperation in the Handbook.
5. Be interviewed by the School Principal.
6. The School Board will make the final decision for or against admittance. All students shall be placed on a 6-weeks probationary period.

D. Selection of Students

Students attending Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church will be given priority over other applicants. Also, returning students will be given priority over new applicants. New applicants transferring from other Christian Schools will be given priority over applicants transferring from public schools. Married or divorced students will not be accepted. Neither will we accept students who will be over the age of 21 by the time of graduation.

E. Re-enrollment

Current students wishing to re-enroll must do so earlier than general registration in order to guarantee acceptance. No student has a right to re-enroll; however, the applications for reenrollment will be approved at the sole discretion of the School Board.

Withdrawal Policies

A student may withdraw from Bird Lake Bible School at any time during the course of the year, however, the School would appreciate a seven day notice of intent to withdraw. Likewise, the School reserves the right, for any reason, to ask a student

to withdraw, again with notice. This provision is separate and apart from suspension or expulsion under the School's discipline policies.

Before and After School Care

Bird Lake Bible School does not offer before and after school care. We are not a child day-care facility. The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. with the doors opening at 8:00 a.m. The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. and students are required to be off the school grounds by 3:15 p.m. Neither the school nor the staff can be responsible for students who remain after 3:15pm.

Financial Policies

A. Tuition (for those children attending Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church)

First child	\$100.00
Second child	\$75.00
Third child	\$50.00
No additional tuition charge for 4 or more children.	

B. Tuition (for those children who do not regularly attend Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church)

First child	\$125.00
Second child	\$100.00
Third child	\$75.00
No additional tuition charge for 4 or more children	

The reason for the difference in tuition is that Bird Lake Wesleyan Missionary Church carries the principle burden of financing the school by offerings. The tuition and additional charges are inadequate for the total expense. Thus, the difference in tuition is necessary.

Tuition is divided into **ten** installments, due the **20th** of each month. The first installment is due on or before August 20th, the tenth on or before May 20th. There will be a *5% discount* allowed on the total invoice if paid by the 20th of each current month.

C. Fees and Additional Charges

1. Each student will be charged \$2.75 for each PACE used.
2. There will be a non-refundable registration fee of \$20.00 for each child.
3. Other additional charges may be:
 - a. music supplies, rental, repairs, books
 - b. special tests and miscellaneous supplies
 - c. lab and/or computer fees
 - d. student activity fee
 - e. graduation fee
 - f. test book rental fee

NOTE: All tuition and fees are subject to change at any time during any part of the year as the School Board deems necessary. All tuition and fees are final and are therefore non-refundable.

Rule of an Exception to the Financial Policy

An exception for one is for only that one and does not apply to anyone else.

Policy on School Finances used for Church Expense or Church Finances used for School Expenses

We reserve the right to use any monies in any way that we deem necessary and/or appropriate.

Graduation

- A. A diploma will not be granted to any senior until all bills are paid in full.
- B. In order for a graduate of Bird Lake Bible School to be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian, he or she must meet the following requirements:
 - 1. The student must have a high school cumulative average of 94% or higher.
 - 2. The student must have attended Bird Lake Bible School for at least the entirety of their senior year.
 - 3. The student must have completed either the College Preparatory or Honors course of study.
- C. The senior with the highest cumulative average who meets these requirements will be awarded the position of valedictorian; the student with the second highest average will be salutatorian.
- D. All students completing the aforementioned courses and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average will receive the school's support in applying for valedictorian scholarships at their chosen colleges, even though they may have been awarded salutatorian status due to a classmate's higher cumulative average.

General Policies

A. Attendance

In accordance with the compulsory school attendance provisions in the State of Michigan, our school year consists of 180 days. Students are expected to be in school each day except in the event of an excused absence.

B. Absences

A written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the supervisor when a student returns to school after any absence, whether arranged or not. If the absence is foreseeable, a note should be sent in advance. If a note is not received within three days of a student's return to school, any absence will be considered unexcused.

- 1. Examples of Excused Absences

- a. personal illness
 - b. death in immediate family or death of a very close friend
 - c. quarantine
 - d. adverse weather conditions, making travel hazardous
 - e. medical and dental appointments if unable to schedule after school hours
 - f. lack of transportation due to illness of regular driver and no alternate
 - g. a disabled vehicle
 - h. other emergencies
2. Unexcused Absences
 - a. any absence for which a written excuse is not obtained within three days
 - b. any absence not listed above for which arrangements are not made **prior to** the student's absence
 3. Discipline for Unexcused Absences
 - a. The principal or supervisor will judge whether or not an absence is excusable. If any question arises, the principal shall judge the matter. If an excuse from a student is unacceptable, he will be told within a reasonable time why his absence was inexcusable.
 - b. A letter of notification will be sent to the parents.
 - c. Five unexcused absences in one semester may result in the dismissal of that student.

NOTE: Most absences will be excused if prior arrangements are made in the form of a written note. However, the school reserves the right to determine whether any absence is eligible to be excused. The principal will implement the above regulations and administrate the policy on an individual basis. Absences for reasons other than sickness and emergency will be excused only if arrangements are made in advance with the principal, and the student is sufficiently advanced in his/her work. All work missed due to absence must be made up at the discretion and direction of the supervisor.

Excessive absences inhibit the student's progress. If, in the opinion of the Administration, the absences are considered unnecessary, the student will be considered truant.

C. Tardiness

1. A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in the Learning Center by 8:30 a.m. School clocks will be set at the official U.S. time according to the United States Naval Observatory. This exact time can be found by calling 202-762-1401 or by visiting www.time.gov.
2. All tardies must have a written excuse.
3. Excused tardies will be judged on an individual basis.
4. The principal may approve specific discipline for continued tardiness.
5. Habitual tardiness will necessitate a conference with the parent and principal, possibly leading to revocation of student privileges and/or suspension.

D. Contacting Students in the Classroom

1. Students may receive calls or make local calls during break time only.
2. Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom to receive calls unless the nature of the call is of absolute necessity.
3. A message may be left with the secretary if a call does not fall on break time.
4. The same policy will be implemented for personal visits to the students.
5. Anything being delivered to students during school hours must be approved by the principal/supervisor in advance.

E. Early Dismissal from Class

1. If a student needs to be dismissed early from class, communication from the parent or guardian must be given to the supervisor.
2. The communication must be received no later than the morning of the early dismissal.

F. Academic Balance

1. In each subject, a student is required to complete one PACE per three-week marking period in order to be considered academically balanced. This schedule enables the student to stay on target for the successful completion of a year's worth of work per school year.
2. A student who fails to achieve academic balance by the end of the quarter will be ineligible for Honor Roll.

G. Academic Probation

1. If a student fails to achieve academic balance at the end of two successive marking periods, the student will be placed on Academic Probation. Academic probation includes suspension from our sports program and limited participation in other activities until academic balance is regained.
2. If a student does not regain Academic Balance within three weeks, a conference with the parents will be called.
3. A student may be on Academic Probation for a maximum of six weeks before further action becomes necessary. At this time, the student's academic standing will be considered indicative of long-term academic potential and is grounds for withdrawal or dismissal.
4. If a student has been placed on Academic Probation previously in the same school year, he or she will not be allowed the initial six-week grace period. Such a student will be placed on Academic Probation immediately if he or she fails to maintain academic balance at the end of a three-week marking period.
5. Being placed on Academic Probation more than twice in one school year will be considered grounds for withdrawal or dismissal from the school.

H. Health Service and First Aid

1. In the event of sickness or injury, parents will be notified and proper steps taken at the parents' discretion.
2. Parents may send medication (pain relievers, prescription drugs, etc.) to

school with their children.

3. Parents must sign a Statement of Consent, giving permission for the student to take the above mentioned types of medications.
4. Medications will be placed in the possession of the supervisor.
5. The medication will be administered according to the written and signed directions of the parent or guardian.
6. Parents must notify the school if their child has or acquires a communicable disease or infestation and, if necessary, this fact will be noted on the student's records along with any special handling procedures.
7. It is the parents' responsibility to keep at home children who are suffering from a contagious illness. Health information explaining when this necessary is available through the school or the local health department.

I. School Closings

1. Parents will receive a School Calendar of Events so that they will be aware of any dates off due to holidays, etc.
2. In the event of inclement weather, (i.e. snow, ice, fog, etc.) the proper announcements will be made on the radio, station 92.1 FM, Hillsdale, MI.
3. On occasion, parents may be notified by phone of a delay or cancellation.

J. Personal Property

1. Anything brought to school that does not have an academic purpose must be approved by the supervisor. This would include, but not be limited to, pictures, books, etc.
2. Students should have their name on all personal property.

K. School Lunches

1. Students will be given a designated lunch period.
2. Students must eat in approved area.
3. Students are not to keep food or drink in their offices (this includes candy that is not considered hygienic).
4. There will be a snack shop provided for purchases of snack items as well as occasional hot lunches.
5. Students may bring microwaveable lunches.

L. Breaks

1. Students will be given morning and afternoon recess time.
2. Snacks and/or drinks may be purchased during these break times.
3. There will also be additional incentive breaks for the students who have met specified criteria (i.e. oral or book reports, etc.).

M. Fundraising Sales

1. Fundraises will be held throughout the year to raise money for the school and school activities.
2. Parents will be notified as to when these events will occur.

3. Families are expected to be active in these school functions.

N. Articles Prohibited in School

1. Matches, lighters, guns, knives, or any other types of weapons are not permitted on school grounds.
2. Personal CD's, tapes, radios, mp3 players, video games, and cell phones may not be used by students during school hours.
3. All items brought to school must first be approved by the principal or supervisor.
4. Other items may be added to these lists at the discretion of the school staff.

O. Parental Involvement

1. Parents will be notified concerning Parent-Teacher Conferences, Programs, etc.
2. *Parents are asked to pray for the school each day.*
3. Parents are asked to take an active role in the homework assigned to their children.
4. Parents are encouraged to help their children prepare for ACE Conventions.
5. Parents are encouraged to be aware of their children's educational progress: know what your child is learning and how they are doing; feel free to approach your child's teacher with questions or concerns

NOTE: The Christian School is an extension of the home, therefore parental involvement is encouraged. Remember, it is not the school's sole responsibility to educate the child. The responsibility was given by God to the parent. The function of the school is to assist the parents in carrying out what God has given them to do.

P. Searches for Suspicion of Illegal or Unauthorized Material

1. In every school there may be those students who not only "push" the limits where the rules are concerned, but prefer to violate them when they can. This often occurs when the students bring to school items that are prohibited. Therefore, Bird Lake Bible School reserves the right to search the student's person and the student's belongings in the event the school suspects the student possesses an unapproved item.
2. These searches will be conducted without the student's or the parent's permission.
3. The following is a list of places that may be searched, but is not limited to automobiles, backpacks, purses, pockets, lockers, desks, offices, etc.

NOTE: *Registration of the child at Bird Lake Bible School constitutes parental consent to such searches.* Any searches that are conducted of a student's person will be done in the presence of and conducted by two adults of the same sex as the student.

Discipline

- A. Students are reminded that the Lord Jesus Christ expects us to be disciplined in all of life.
- B. This school is dedicated to the training of children in a program of study, activity, and living that is Christ-centered. We believe that “all things should be done decently and in order” and that our students should be taught to accept a given responsibility to “walk honorably before all men.” Here, a discipline is maintained which is firm, consistent, fair, and tempered with love. Our staff maintains standards of behavior in the classrooms through kindness, love, and a genuine regard for their students. However, when disciplinary action becomes necessary, it is firmly carried out, tempered by good judgment and understanding.
- C. When a student’s attitude is not in accord with school policies or principles, the student will be placed on probation, both parents will be called for a conference. If, within two weeks, the administration feels the situation has not changed, parents will be asked to withdraw the student.
- D. High School students in particular—because of their testimony before younger children—are trained to adhere to the school’s philosophy and Christ-centered program. Such adherence includes abstinence from smoking, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, listening to secular or rock music, dancing, swearing, or any questionable practice.
- E. Students must at all times conduct themselves in a manner becoming Christians. *Griping is not tolerated!* If he feels inclined to complain about a policy or discipline, please follow this procedure:
1. Give the staff the benefit of the doubt .
 2. Realize that you are emotionally biased without all the information.
 3. Realize that we have reasons for all rules and that they are enforced without favor.
 4. Support the administration and ask for all the facts.

General Information for Students

A. Learning Center

1. Do not communicate or be out of office without permission.
2. Do not turn around in office.
3. No activities are to be carried on in the office not directly related to learning or prescribed material unless approved and the privilege earned.
4. Raise flag for supervisor guidance in academic problems.
5. This is work time; ask the supervisor only academic questions (ask personal questions on break time).
6. Use restroom and get drink during break time.
7. Do not chew gum at school.

B. Student Offices

1. Offices are assigned, changed only by the supervisor, and must be cared for.
2. Anything placed in office must be approved by the supervisor beforehand.
3. Do not lean or sit on any office.
4. Electric outlet is for approved school equipment only.
5. Offices are private—do not invade another’s personal property.

C. Student Progress Chart

1. Keep charts neat and clean.
2. Do not mar your chart by markings. There is a \$3.00 charge for replacing damaged charts.

D. Daily Goal Chart

1. Keep chart posted on office wall.
2. Set exact page numbers in ink.
3. Check off daily goals only when they have been scored and completely corrected.

E. Scoring

1. Score Keys are to be handled carefully.
2. Mark a red “X” beside each wrong answer in PACE.
3. Use red pen *only* at scoring table—*never at office*.
4. Answers in keys are for scoring work *only*, *never mark a key*.
5. Correct PACE answers in pencil at office.
6. Write page number for answer beside corrected answer.
7. Re-score: circle each red “X” when correct.
8. Circle in red each PACE page number when all answers are correct.
9. Replace score key carefully in proper place.

F. Testing

1. Completed PACEs must be turned in before school begins.
2. Teacher will call student to testing table.
3. If students are not “ready” when called to test, they will not be allowed to test that day.
4. In special circumstances, and at the supervisor’s discretion, a student may be allowed to take a test later in the day; however, such instances will be the exception.
5. Self-Tests should not be taken as homework except in special circumstances with the permission of the supervisor.

G. Privilege Levels

Students may earn privilege levels that grant extra break time and other special privileges by meeting requirements. A, C, and E privileges are available, with A being the lowest, and E being the highest. A level requires

an average of 1.5 stars (passed tests) per week. C and E levels require 2 stars per week. C level also requires a written research report on a general topic, while E level requires reading an approved book and submitting a report. The special requirements for C and E levels count for a consecutive four week period. At the end of that time, another report must be submitted.

H. Awards

Students are encouraged to strive for excellence in every facet of their education. To honor those who have put forth extra effort, the school will annually host an awards banquet where trophies and medals will be given. Following are some of the awards students are encouraged to pursue:

- Scripture Memory Trophy (earn 36 Scripture stickers),
- Perfect Attendance Medal, Yearly Honor Roll (A or B: based on year's average),
- Academic Trophies (awarded for the highest average in each subject: elementary, junior high, and high school),
- Clean Office Award,
- Convention Leader Trophy (based upon number of convention entries and number of awards won),
- Highest # of PACEs Completed,
- Actor/Actress of the Year,
- Student of the Year (criteria: character, weeks on privilege, helpfulness, improvement, Scripture memory, academic achievement, leadership, school spirit respectfulness, honor roll)

General Comments for Parents and Students

A. Handbook

Each family is to possess a copy of this Handbook. If lost or misplaced, a new one must be purchased.

B. Property

Marked on, defaced, or broken property is to be replaced at offending student's expense.

C. Language

Use only words which glorify the Lord. Words of near profanity (Gosh, Darn, Gee, Golly, etc.) are not acceptable.

D. Off Limits

1. Teacher's desk and files
2. Other student's offices
3. Learning Center without staff
4. Library without a pass from staff
5. Gym without supervisor permission
6. Autos and parking area during the school day, without permission

E. Campus Policy

1. Students cannot leave the school area during school hours without permission.
2. Students may not receive visitors during school hours without permission.
3. Everyone will play in the gym or on designated playground areas.

F. Music

Only music that glorifies the Lord is permitted. Rock, country western, “Christian rock,” and other genres not consistent with school music guidelines are not permitted at any school event or on school grounds at any time.

G. Books/Magazines

Literature from home must be approved in writing by parents and approved by supervisor upon student’s arrival at school.

H. Extra Curricular

1. Student organizations must be approved by the school administration and have a staff member as sponsor.
2. Parties are not school-sponsored unless parents receive a notification letter from the staff.
3. School activities shall exclude mixed bathing, dancing, public movie theaters, card-playing, gambling, and other worldly amusements.
4. Student activities shall include either one or more members of the faculty or parents as chaperone or sponsor.

I. Personal Conduct Regulations

1. Running, scuffling, throwing objects, or horse-play of any kind is not permitted in the classrooms or buildings of the school.
2. There will be no physical contact among the opposite sex. No “pairing off” of couples during the school day. Every student is to be visible to others.
3. At no time and under no circumstances will students be allowed to make light of others because of the nature of their looks, clothing, or any other reason. We shall seek to maintain a spirit of Christian Fellowship and of mutual helpfulness and understanding. Anyone guilty of derogatory remarks toward another person will be subject to disciplinary action. Continued problems in this area may result in the student being dismissed for the year.
4. Any student leaving the school without permission will be suspended; the second time will be grounds for dismissal.
5. Each student will be responsible for cleaning his/her work area each day as well as other designated chores.
6. The use or possession of tobacco, narcotics, hallucinogens, or alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted by any student.
7. Profanity, vulgarity, pornographic suggestions shall not be permitted by any student in his conversation or literature.

8. Students shall refrain from protesting “against” or “for” issues by participating in any marches, demonstrations, etc. that are not sponsored by Bird Lake Church or Bird Lake Bible School.

9. Students shall not participate in kissing, petting, necking, or any promiscuity with the opposite sex.

J. Transportation

Upon arrival in the mornings, all students must assemble in designated areas. After school, students shall wait for their rides at the appropriate school entrance or remain in an area that is under the supervision of school staff. Only when a student is ready to leave the premises, shall he go to the parking lot. No student is permitted to sit in or stand around a parked car (before or after school). Students shall, upon entering the parking lot, get into their cars and leave immediately and in an orderly manner. Infractions in this area may result in a student’s driving privilege to school being denied.

L. High School Jobs

A high school senior may be excused from school early for outside work only by special permission of the principal. In order for such an arrangement to be considered, the following requirements must be met:

1. Principal and supervisor feel the student’s absence will not compromise his or her education or opportunities to participate in school activities (e.g. ACE Convention preparation, P.E., special classes, chapel, etc.)
2. Attend school one half of each school day until graduation.
3. A conference must be conducted with student, parents and administrator for approval
4. A note must be on file from the prospective employer indicating acceptance of the student to work and a willingness to excuse student for school functions.
5. An acceptable academic grade average and academic balance must be maintained in all schoolwork.

Athletics

Bird Lake Bible School seeks to provide an active environment where students have the privilege of participating in organized sports. Our desire is to develop a student’s physical skills and abilities while focusing on sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, character, loyalty, self-control, integrity, and personal responsibility. Our goal is Christ-like representation of our school and our Savior in every sports activity.

Participating in the Beacon sports program is a privilege which is afforded to those individuals who possess the attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit and desire to represent their families and school in a positive manner. Healthy, dynamic athletic programs require special standards and high expectations in the areas of academics, behavior, and sportsmanship.

In order to be eligible for participation in a sports program, students must meet the

following requirements:

- A. Be a current student of Bird Lake Bible School
- B. Be in the 3rd grade or higher
- C. Submit an application with parent signature
- D. Maintain academic balance

In all of our activities, students will remain appropriately and modestly dressed in accordance with school dress standards. Female students will wear feminine culottes (avoiding the appearance of shorts), and male students will wear long pants.

Beacon families and fans must always remain committed to good sportsmanship and a consistent Christian witness. These attributes can never be abandoned under the guise of a “competitive spirit.” Fans are never to intimidate or ridicule the other team, fans, or officials, but should support and yell for their own team and enjoy the skill, competition, and fellowship afforded by sports events.

ACE Conventions

Each year our students have the opportunity to participate in various Student Conventions: Junior, State, and International. Students are expected to participate in conventions for which they are eligible. These unique opportunities are a vital part of their education experience.

A lot of time, effort and finances are poured into these opportunities, and families are admonished to take their children’s participation in these events very seriously. Thorough preparation is necessary in order for students to be able to represent themselves and our school in a manner that is consistent with our dedication to excellence. Doing well in a difficult event does much to inspire personal confidence in a one’s ability to tackle challenges and try new things. The new skills and talents developed in preparation for these conventions can have a significant positive impact on your child’s future.

Students are expected to participate in as many events as possible. We encourage each student to aspire for the maximum allowed: 12 events. Some students may need to stretch themselves and try new things to get close to this number, but we strongly encourage each student to do so.

The responsibility of preparation for events lies with the student. Teachers will be supportive and helpful, but with an increasing number of participants and dozens of events, it is important that each student take the initiative to successfully prepare for each event they plan to enter. A current list of events will be made available near the beginning of the school year. Students are encouraged to select their events and begin preparation as soon as possible.

Appearance

The manner of appearance and dress of Bird Lake Bible School students reflects an image of Christian modesty, refinement, and self-discipline. Students and staff are expected to support our school's image, program, and requirements in appearance and dress. Appropriateness and modesty are the basic principles governing all appearance and dress. The principle of showing deference should be the lifestyle of Christian leaders. Students are to be dressed according to the guidelines when attending school or participating in any school-sponsored function.

The parent is responsible for ensuring that all their children enrolled in Bird Lake Bible School are informed of and abide by the dress and appearance guidelines.

Each family is responsible for acquiring the appropriate uniform clothing for their children. Catalogs specifying required attire for both male and females are available. As shirts are to be tucked in, an appropriate belt must be worn if belt loops are present. While casual dress shoes are encouraged, clean, low-key athletic shoes are acceptable. Sandals are not allowed. Shoes should have closed toes and heels.

Only approved sweaters or pullovers may be worn in the Learning Center: those purchased through our uniform supplier, and those with the school emblem or mascot. Jackets or coats are to be neatly hung in specified locations and are not allowed to be worn or stored in the Learning Center.

Clothing is to be clean and neatly pressed. If an article of clothing wears out or becomes damaged, it should be neatly repaired or replaced.

No jewelry (except watches) is to be worn. This includes items that are not valuable or made of metal.

A. Male Guidelines

Male students must have a neat, trim, conservative haircut. The hair is to be tapered or blocked and is to be off the collar. It is to be above the ears, with sideburns no longer than the middle of the ears. No dying or coloring of the hair is allowed. No braided or messy hairstyles. For boys with curly hair or afros, the cut needs to be short, not to exceed one inch in length. If hair is long enough to be combed, it should be fixed neatly. Boys should be clean-shaven at all times.

At school functions where the uniform is not required to be worn, boys should wear long pants and modest shirts with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. No tight-fitting clothing or clothing with inappropriate words or emblems is allowed. Clothing should be neat and should avoid current fads and trends not in keeping with the conservative appearance goals of the school. (for example, no overly faded clothes, jeans with holes or patches, etc.)

B. Female Guidelines

Female students must consistently portray a feminine, modest demeanor.

Skirts should easily cover the knee when seated, and may not have any slits.

Girls' hair is to be kept long and should be fixed neatly in a conservative, feminine style. The hair should be secured in a way that keeps it out of the face. No dying or coloring of the hair is allowed

A prospective female student will not be turned away because she has short hair, but upon acceptance to our school, her hair should be allowed to grow out.

The use of makeup for cosmetic adornment is not allowed.

Colored fingernail polish may not be worn.

At school functions where the uniform is not required to be worn, girls should wear skirts or dresses that meet the above guidelines and modest shirts with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. Loose-fitting culottes may be worn for athletic activities. No tight-fitting or revealing clothing is allowed. Clothing should be neat and should avoid current fads and trends not in keeping with the conservative appearance goals of the school.