

DISCIPLINE POLICY (Secondary)

Revised 7/29/22

Discipline is defined as training that develops self-control, orderliness, and efficiency. Hebrews 12 declares the need for proper, love-based teaching of discipline. If accepted properly, discipline yields “the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

VCA incorporates many disciplinary methods including: parent conferences, calls to parents, office referrals, detention, Saturday School, suspension, and expulsion. A cooperative spirit between home and school is an important prerequisite for student growth.

STORM CARDS (middle school)

Storm Cards are used to help students and parents monitor behavior. Students can earn “positive” marks and also “negative” marks. Storm Cards are expected to be in the student’s possession daily, in the Agenda/Planner. Parents should check the Agenda/Planner and Storm Card daily to monitor daily assignments and daily behavior. **Storm cards are located in the front of the agenda. If a student removes the STORM card from the agenda planner, a meeting will be held to decide if the student will remain at VCA. The replacement card will be a Red STORM card and the student will be placed on probation.**

BEHAVIOR CONDUCT ON OR OFF CAMPUS

Because of the concern for the spiritual life of each student, and the desire to maintain spiritual growth in our students, VCA has adopted the following standards, which students must observe whether on or off campus:

1. Students are expected to maintain high standards of Christian courtesy, kindness, morality, and honesty.
2. Students will refrain from using profanity, vulgarity and making inappropriate comments.
3. Students are expected to dress modestly and be groomed appropriately.
4. Students are not to use tobacco/nicotine/marijuana products (smoking, vaping or juuling) or partake in the use of alcohol.
5. Students are expected to refrain from sexual activity of any kind, including, but not limited to improper touching, premarital sex, pregnancy, or abortion. Immoral behavior at any level is not acceptable.
6. Students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. Any type of jeering, taunting, or provocation are not appropriate actions during an athletic event or in class.
7. Students are expected to avoid inappropriate movies, concerts, playing/singing music with inappropriate lyrics, as well as any form of obscenity and pornography therefore earbuds are not allowed because we cannot monitor what students are listening to or what they expose to others.
8. Cheating is completely unacceptable in any form, including plagiarism. A student guilty of cheating is considered to be lying and stealing and will receive a “0” on the work. Parents and administration will be notified and further disciplinary action may follow. A second offense may result in suspension or expulsion from school.
9. Students are not to eat or drink in class or hallways due to the carpet in the school and to prevent an insect problem. Students may drink water/sports drink in the classroom.

10. Students should not make disparaging or inciting comments or willfully create unrest with other students.
11. Students are not allowed to leave campus without permission. This includes skipping or leaving for lunch.
12. Inappropriate use of social media and electronic devices will not be tolerated. Disrespectful or hateful text, remarks, posts, retweets, or photos towards others, school/church personnel will result in immediate administrative action.

*Students who show insufficient interest in maintaining these standards, or are disruptive in our efforts to maintain our Christian philosophy, may lose the privilege of attending Victory Christian Academy. The administration may suspend or expel a student depending upon the nature and severity of the situation. Parents of students in violation of these policies may be asked to withdraw them from the school.

These rules are not all inclusive and other specific area rules may be given. All rules are expected to be followed with the appropriate attitude.

CELL PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not allowed to use any electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, iPod, smart watches etc.) and are not allowed to access any social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) during the school day. All devices **must be Turned Off and placed in their locker or backpack.** Wireless communication devices shall be turned off upon arrival to school and not activated until the end of the school day. Cell phones will be taken or collected and subject to search if there is suspicion of inappropriate use or content.

- Middle school students may NOT use their phones during the day or at lunch from 7 am - 3 pm.
- High school students may use their phone during lunch and for educational purposes at the discretion of the teacher.
- ALL Students are not permitted to use their phone on the deck, hallway, or locker area from 7 am - 3 pm.
- If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day, they may use the office phone, and parents are free to call the office to speak to their student or leave a message for them.
- It is extremely important to the VCA administration and staff that our students are fully engaged in learning during the school day. Texting, Facebook, and social media are a distraction to the daily educational process. By not permitting cell phone usage during the school day, we reduce/avoid cyber bullying, recording teachers and students, picture taking etc.

Consequences:

1st violation - Warning and cell phone will be turned in to the office.

2nd violation - \$10 charge and will receive the phone back once the fee is paid.

3rd violation - \$15 charge and will receive the phone back once the fee is paid.

4th violation - \$20 charge and will receive the phone back once the fee is paid and be required to leave the phone in the office each day. A parent conference will be held to discuss consequences.

Monies collected for the violations will be donated to the senior class mission trip special project.

Please Note: Cellular phones should be kept in a secure place. The school is not responsible for theft or loss.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Unfortunately, in today's time there are situations where law enforcement may be notified. Listed below are examples where law enforcement may be contacted and parents notified. However, law enforcement will determine the process of handling the situation.

Arrest or Conviction of a Crime

VCA students are expected to obey the laws of the community, state, and nation. Any student who is arrested, charged with, or convicted of a crime, other than minor traffic violations will be subject to school discipline which may include expulsion. Offenders are required to report such incidents to the school administration for review. Failure to report an incident will result in immediate suspension or dismissal from school.

Dangerous Weapons/Items

Any student who brings a dangerous weapon (firearms/knives) or any item that would endanger the health, safety, and well-being of students or staff on school property will immediately be suspended from school. A determination for expulsion may be made at this time. Any student who is complicit in concealing the presence of a weapon may also be suspended or dismissal from school. Pocket knives, lighters, firecrackers, red laser lights, nor other types of dangerous objects are not permitted at school or on buses/transportation provided by the school.

Note: The possession of a concealed weapon is a felony crime and requires that the incident be reported to the authorities.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco

VCA endeavors to maintain a drug free environment. The school takes a serious view of drug possession and abuse, both as a legal and spiritual issue. Students are not permitted to possess, use, be under the influence of, or supply to another student any form of alcohol, illegal drug, K2/synthetic drugs, or tobacco product or vape-pen or e-cigarette. In addition, students are expected to avoid situations in which drugs/alcohol are being used. Should students find themselves in such a situation, they are expected to leave. This includes pictures or references in social media/texting etc. These standards apply to the student off-campus as well as on-campus. Any violation of this policy will result in suspension or dismissal from VCA. Involvement with drugs or alcohol normally results in expulsion. Law enforcements agencies will be notified when appropriate.

Drug Testing (Students)

VCA is committed to maintaining a drug-free environment. In order to realize this goal, the school maintains the right to require parents to have their student tested for drugs and the results submitted to the administration or the school will administer the drug test. A student may be suspended until the school receives the results. Negative test results can be used as evidence to dispel rumors. Positive findings will normally result in expulsion, though the school will make an effort to assist the family in obtaining help for the student. The response of the family and the student in dealing with the problem will determine whether or not the student will be considered for readmission at a later time. Failure to comply with a drug test request will result in expulsion.

Electronic Recording Devices

Any type of recording device may not be used to record students, teachers, or staff without specific permission from a VCA administration or staff. (go pros, smartwatches, smartphone or drone etc.) Students and staff have a right to privacy while on campus and extra-curricular activities.

Sexting

In keeping with the school's responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for all students, the administration has established the following policy regarding the issue of "sexting": Sexting is the act of sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit or suggestive messages, photos or images via cell phone, computer or other digital device. The school considers sending, sharing, possessing, text messages or emails that contain a sexual message or image a violation of this policy. This violation will result in school discipline, up to and including expulsion and the notification of local law enforcement. Students are expected to immediately report any such activities to a teacher or school administrator.

Threats

If a VCA student makes a threat to hurt and/or harm themselves and/or others administration and parents will be notified immediately. The seriousness of the threat will determine whether the student remains at VCA. Threats made by a student may also be referred to law enforcement where appropriate. Students and teachers are required to inform the administration of any threats they hear, or are made aware of, immediately.