

Discipline Policy

Philosophy of Discipline

All authority originates with God. Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except that which God has established (Romans 13:1 NIV). God has given parents authority over their children. This is stated clearly in one of the Ten Commandments, Honor your father and mother. This is recorded in the New Testament in many places such as Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." Teachers are granted the right to this God-given authority from parents while their child is within the teacher's care and training.

Since Christianity is a lifestyle, Biblical standards of behavior are expected of students at school and away from school (Colossians 3:17). Students are expected to respect staff members and volunteers at all times. If needed, all teachers shall discipline any students on school property, to and from school functions, and at school sponsored activities.

In order to follow the Matthew 18 principle and achieve reconciliation, the following model will be used for most routine discipline situations:

- a. student-teacher communication
- b. student-teacher-parent communication
- c. student-teacher-parent-administrator communication
- d. student-teacher-parent-administrator-board president communication
- e. if necessary, school board action.

Some examples of inappropriate behavior include:

- a. disobeying classroom rules (including failure to complete homework)
- b. fighting
- c. profanity
- d. theft
- e. truancy (cutting classes)
- f. destruction of property, defacing property
- g. any other act of disobedience and/or disrespect.

The administrator/teacher will handle other types of discipline problems as they arise.

Physical discipline in accordance with Iowa law may be used in the following situations:

- a. to prevent harm or injury to school personnel
- b. to prevent harm or injury to the school
- c. to prevent harm or injury to other students
- d. to prevent vandalism or destruction of school property.

Physical force in the form of corporal punishment will not be used by school officials. However, the Bible clearly requires parents to discipline their children (Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:15, Proverbs 23:13).

Discipline Policy (continued)

Procedure of Discipline

When behavior that is thoughtless and disregards class and school requirements becomes consistent a system of discipline goes into effect.

Repeated misconduct of a child is documented by the teacher and reported to administrator.

Teachers will work with the administrator and parents to come up with a good mode of discipline to fit each individual student and behavior.

Parents should realize that these steps are taken to hold children accountable for their actions and allow them the opportunity to catch up on work and/or give of their time and talents to benefit other students.

Some possible consequences that will be used are as follows:

- a. After school detentions
- b. Before school detentions
- c. Work duties to benefit others
- d. In-school suspensions: some credit may be given for work completed
- e. Out-of-school suspensions*
- f. Temporary removal from classroom
- g. Expulsion from school**
- h. Any other fitting consequence that the teacher and administrator decide.

If the above consequences are not effective in training the student then the issue will be given to the school board for review.

The school generally follows its discipline procedures contained herein. However, there are circumstances in which the school administration and/or board may determine, in their sole discretion, that it is appropriate not to follow progressive discipline steps. In cases in which a student has engaged in egregious, immoral, or other unacceptable behavior, the school reserves the right to suspend or expel the student immediately.

* The length of time for out-of-school suspension will be determined by the School Board and administrator. It will be used when other efforts have failed or the offense is of such nature that the student should not be with other students. All work needs to be completed during this suspension. However, no credit will be given for completed work.

**The decision to have a student expelled will be made by the Administrator and the School Board. Before the School Board makes a decision whether or not a student is expelled, they must allow parents or guardians to provide written or verbal input (or both) to the entire Board. A closed hearing with the Board will be given to the parents (if appropriate, the student may attend) before a final decision is made. Once the Board's decision has been made to have a student expelled, the parents or guardians are not allowed to appeal the School Board's decision.

925 South 16th Street
Telephone (515) 233-0772
Ames, Iowa 50010
Fax (515) 232-0005

www.ameschristianschool.org

Discipline Policy (continued)

In the event that a student is expelled, he/she may reapply for admittance after one full semester has passed (90 school days). Re-admittance will depend upon faculty, administrator and School Board approval. Steps for re-admittance are as follows:

1. The School Board must receive a written request for re-admittance from the parents or guardians of the child.
2. The teacher who taught the child at the time of expulsion should present his/her thoughts about readmitting the child to Ames Christian School.
3. The Board's decision is final.

A 30-day probationary period may be used as a condition of re-admittance. Conditions of re-admittance may also include:

- a. periodic administrative review
- b. counseling
- c. restrictions
- d. other conditions recommended by the administrator and school board.

Student Name: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____