

Quartzsite Southern Christian Academy



School Handbook

QUARTZSITE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH
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QUARTZSITE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (QSCA)
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WELCOME TO QUARTZSITE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

PHILOSOPHY OF QSCA

The **philosophy** of Quartzsite Southern Christian Academy (QSCA) is consistent with that of the Quartzsite Southern Baptist Church (QSBC) in that:

- Christ shall have preeminence.
- The Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is the only source for faith and practice.
- Children are a heritage from the Lord and each is precious in His sight.
- Christian principles and precepts are taught by the life of the teacher (supervisor or monitor) as well as by the spoken word.

This school stands without apology for the Christian gospel and the highest standards of morality and behavior. Scripture admonishes us to do all things to please God and not man and to bring glory and honor to Him.

Therefore, we desire to strive for excellence in every area, including character development, academic achievement, intellectual and physical development, and social interaction. The staff is dedicated to serving the Lord with all the expertise and training that God has given. This requires a commitment of our resources of time, finances, and abilities. We expect that parents and students will reciprocate with their commitment to excellence, which includes daily attendance. We also expect students to refrain from the use of illicit drugs and participating in any illegal activity.

The home is the first sphere of authority. God has clearly given parents the responsibility of training and educating their children.

Another sphere of authority is the church, and it has been given the responsibility to display and proclaim the gospel to our students, and to raise them to be those who love Jesus and see how His kindness and grace wonderfully impact everything.

The authority of the government has been given the responsibility to execute wrath on those who do evil and to reward those who do good. The government was not given the responsibility from God for training and educating children.

God has given parents authority over their children. When a child is enrolled at QSCA, parents are delegating some of that authority to the school as a ministry of the church. While students are on school grounds or are involved in school activities, we will exercise the delegated authority given to us by the parents. For the purposes of social propriety and Christian testimony, we urge parents to set high standards of dress and conduct for their children at home, school, and everywhere else.

STATE ACCREDITATION

Accreditation of a private Christian School is not required for a graduate of that school to enroll in a college or university. Registrars of such institutions are interested in the academic merits of individual students, not in the name of their school of graduation. They evaluate each applicant's academic aptitude through national standardized tests. QSCA does not seek accreditation by any outside educational institution, but it does endeavor to provide the highest possible academic program.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF QSCA

The Academy's three **goals** for each student are:

1. To receive the necessary training to become a functional, productive, contributing member within the sphere of God's designated authority of the home, the church, and the government by learning and applying Biblical principles of life.
2. To know how to live in a right relationship with God, and in a beneficial, supportive relationship with others.
3. To learn the foundational skills of learning, communication, and technology in order to function successfully in today's society.

The development of our well-rounded curriculum maintains focus on the following growth **objectives** which are in line with striving for excellence in every aspect of the student's life.

MENTAL: **"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."** **Philippians 2:5**

- *To develop a Christlike reaction to life*
- *To discover and develop individual aptitudes.*
- *To attain a command of common knowledge and skills*
- *To cultivate critical thinking skills*

SPIRITUAL: **"Let the Word of God dwell in you richly."** **Colossians 3:16**

- *To encourage personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour*
- *To enrich a child's devotional life*
- *To develop a well-balanced and Christ-like personality*
- *To inspire knowledge, love and understanding of the Bible*
- *To instill a sense of concern for the lost*
- *To encourage those who know Christ to share the gospel*

SOCIAL: **"No man liveth unto himself."** **Romans 14:7**

- *To always instill loyalty to Jesus Christ in all things*
- *To develop a sympathetic understanding and helpful participation within the family unit*
- *To help the child share their Christian responsibility as a citizen*
- *To awaken and foster missionary responsibilities at home and in foreign fields*
- *To develop an agape love for all while knowing the sinfulness of sin*

PHYSICAL: **"Present your bodies a living sacrifice ... unto God."** **Romans 12:1**

- *To develop a respect for the body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit*
- *To teach intelligent care of the body*
- *To encourage the yielding of the body as an instrument for God's use*

EMOTIONAL: **"Be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His might."** **Ephesians 6:10**

- *To establish an emotional balance*
- *To build a Spirit-controlled personality*
- *To adjust easily to situations*
- *To develop healthy interests and abilities*

GENERAL GUIDELINES

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at QSCA is a privilege and not a right. The goal of this school is not to reform but to train the youth in every ability in the highest principles of Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and good citizenship.

It is the parents' responsibility to notify the school if their child will be late or absent. The school must be notified by way of written permission, or by texting or calling the school's administrator or teacher. If the school is notified this is put into their attendance as an 'excused' absence, if that school is not informed, this is classified as 'unexcused'.

Students who are unexcused tardy from school more than seven times in a quarter will be placed on probation. Probation means that a notice will need to be signed by the parent and will be placed in the student's file. If they are late more than nine times in a quarter, they will be given in-school detention, and if more than twelve times in a quarter, they will be put on suspension and possibly expelled.

Students who are unexcused absent from school more than five days in a quarter will be placed on probation. Probation means that a notice will need to be signed by the parent and will be placed in the student's file. If they are absent more than seven days in a quarter, they will be given in-school detention, and if more than ten days in a quarter, they will be put on suspension and possibly expelled.

SCHOOL HOURS:

School hours begin at 8:00 a.m. each morning, Monday – Thursday. Class dismisses each afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Break/snack is 10:00am-10:30am. Lunch/Recess is 12:00pm-1:15pm.

We will follow the LaPaz School District Schedule, modified to meet the scheduling needs of the Church and School.

DRESS CODE:

QSCA's **Dress Code** includes, but is not limited to, the following guidelines: Neat, Conservative, and Modest.

- By neat, we mean clothing should be clean and pressed if needed. Hair should be brushed and combed. No holes in your clothing.
- By conservative, we mean casual attire. Baggy pants, form-fitting tops, or torn clothing are some examples of what goes against the casual dress guidelines. This will be monitored by the supervisors and monitors.
- By modest, we mean that clothing should draw attention to our faces, rather than our bodies. Low-cut or sleeveless tops must **not** be worn at school.
- Closed toe shoes are required, unless specified by the school.

If students are not properly dressed, their parents will be called to bring them a change of clothes.

We believe that the best way to meet these goals is having school uniforms. Every student **MUST** wear his or her school uniform each day unless specified by the school. The school uniform consists of our school's maroon polo's that will be worn Monday through Wednesday and a maroon T-shirt that will be worn on Thursday. The uniform also consists of black or khaki pants, shorts or skirts for the girls. Absolutely no rips or holes in the student uniform. If a student is out of uniform, he or she will be asked to return home to change and return to school.

GENERAL GUIDELINES, Continued

CAMPUS RULES INCLUDE:

- We have a closed campus policy.
- Visitors are to check in with the office and/or administrator before going in to the school building or classroom.
- No student is allowed to leave the classroom without clearance from his/her supervisor or monitor.
- If a student needs to leave early, a parent must notify the school via text or handwritten note, signed and dated, stating with whom the student will be going home.
- Students are allowed to walk, ride bikes, or drive to school. However, they **WILL NOT** be allowed to access bikes or cars until after school, unless permission is given by the school by way of authorization from the parent.
- **DO NOT BRING** iPods, radios, electronic games, laptops, trading cards, **this includes Pokémon cards**, toys of any kind, books, or magazines to school.
- **NO** vaping pens, **NO** tobacco of any kind, **NO** alcohol, and **NO** cannabis. May result in expulsion.
- **NO** weapons of any kind are allowed, including, but not limited to, guns, knives, taser, or slingshot. May result in expulsion.
- **NO** profanity, no name calling, in general, no inappropriate topics of discussion.
- Cellular phones may be brought to school, but they **must be turned in** to the supervisor when the student arrives at school and will be returned only after school, unless special permission is given by the teacher or administrator and under supervision.
- **Parents may NOT call their children on cell phones during school hours.** PLEASE use the office phone 928-927-3773 to contact your child if you have an emergency. Or contact the school through ClassDojo messaging.
- All students are required, and may only have a black ink pen at their desk during class time. No other color is allowed. The students may also have pencils and erasers at their desks. Colored pencils, crayons, or pens will be given to the students if one of their assignments required colors.

DISCIPLINE:

Students may be disciplined for disobedience or misbehavior. This is done by means of issuing a demerit slip that will be signed by the teacher and signed by the parent. Students may be sent to the Administrator's Office for serious or repeated misbehavior. A parent conference may be necessary in either case.

Demerit System:

Demerits are given when a student goes against the rules and regulations set out in the Code of Conduct Contract as well as the Anti-Bullying Contract. There are also guidelines laid out in regard to academics, for example, if the student has a scoring violation or has any kind of misconduct in regard to classroom rules, like talking at the scoring table or during testing. Demerits would also be issued for offences such as talking back to a teacher, leaving food in the lockers over the weekend, making a mess in the bathroom, and damaging school property. When a demerit is given, a brief conference with the parent will be scheduled. Parents will be notified of the misconduct, and it is at this time the demerits must be signed by the parent. More than 3 demerits in a week will result in in-school detention. If more than 8 demerits are issued in a quarter this will result in the student being put on suspension for a week. If the student receives more than 15 demerits in a quarter, this would constitute possible expulsion.

Privilege System:

Privileges will be given at the end of every month. Privileges will be given to students that show a positive attitude in the classroom and in general at the school. Some examples would be things such as, participating in cleaning daily, consistently keeping their office clean, maintaining a perfect attendance for the month, completing goals weekly, consistently has a positive attitude in the classroom, and completing goals daily.

GRADE LEVEL GUIDELINES OF QSCA

KINDERGARTEN

The curriculum used is Kindergarten with Ace and Christi. This curriculum is taught in a traditional style classroom setting and offers a strong auditory base for “learning to read.” It also offers an excellent writing and numbers foundation. Each student is graded on the same material and level as the rest of the class. This curriculum is Bible-based with an emphasis on *character development*.

FIRST GRADE – HIGH SCHOOL

The curriculum used for First Grade through High School is Accelerated Christian Education (ACE). It is a self-paced, individualized, Bible-based curriculum. Lessons are divided into packets (called PACES) in such a way that 12 PACES comprise a year’s work in each subject. Students are required each quarter of school (ten weeks) to complete three PACES in each subject. Most students will have SIX core subjects (Math, English, Word Building, Literature & Creative Writing, Science and Social Studies).

A PACE is passed only if the student scores 80% or higher. If a student scores below the minimum, he or she will be assigned a repeat PACE of the same number. If your child scores below the 80% and it is necessary for them to re-take the PACE, it will be the parent’s responsibility to purchase a new PACE to be issued to your child at the cost of \$25.00. This fee can be paid for using your child’s ESA account. The student will work the PACE again and be tested again until the PACE is passed. All scores on the Report Card represent only the PACES passed.

PROGRESS REPORT CARDS:

After the end of each quarter (ten weeks), we will send home **Progress reports** that must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to school within a week.

Field Trips:

Students will go on periodic field trips throughout the year. The dress code for the field trips will be school attire, unless a notice is sent home to let parents know of a change.

BREAKS

Breaks are the time to get a drink of water and go to the restroom. If you need to leave the class for these purposes beyond the appointed times, it may be at the teacher’s discretion.

Students will have at least two (2) breaks each day. They must bring a healthy snack for break/snack time, and a substantial meal for lunch. We will have a variety of food in our “Pantry” that the children will be able to purchase for a small fee, most items are \$0.50. The students may bring money to school to purchase these items. If the student does not bring money, they may put their purchased items on a ‘tab’ that the school will maintain and a tally will be given to the parents at the end of the month so that the amount can be paid. If you prefer your student not to participate in the pantry, please make sure that the staff knows.

STUDENT GUIDELINES OF QSCA

THE LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center is strictly a place to work. We have breaks for running, talking, and visiting that students might want to do. We want to maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to a Christian learning experience. Therefore, we want the students' offices to be kept neat and tidy. The only things that should be pinned up in the students' offices are star charts, goals cards, and anything your supervisor gives you to pin up.

GOAL SETTING

Each morning before the students begin their PACE work, they must set *goals*. They will write down their page numbers on their Goal Cards for the subjects that they have and the page numbers they plan to complete that day. Each student will be required to set a minimum number of pages each day with supervisor guidance.

HOMEWORK

Homework is for the students who do not complete their goals for the day during class time. Whatever assignments were not finished in class is what the student must finish for homework. Each day the teacher (supervisor or monitor) will check to make sure every student has set reasonable goals and will issue homework slips for incomplete goals.

SCORING

Scoring is a very important part of the learning process. Improper scoring usually results in failed tests. The score keys are color-coded to match each PACE. When a student comes to a score strip in their PACE, they are to get permission to go to the score table to check their work. If an answer is not correct, they must place a red X on the number of that problem. If there are NO mistakes on the page, they will simply circle the page number with a red ink pen provided at the scoring table and proceed to the next page. After all the pages have been scored, the student will put a red X in the first box of the score strip. If the student has corrected any incorrect answers, they must get permission to re-score. If the answers are now correct, they will circle the red X's and if all the answers on the page are now correct, they will circle the page number, indicating that this page is complete. When all the pages in that section are correct, put a red X in the last box of the score strip.

TESTING

Testing is our tool for measuring mastery of concepts. Each student must score at least an 80% on every test. When the student completes a PACE, they must take notes from the vocabulary, the check-ups, and the self-test. Then they must turn in the completed PACE, they will take the test the following class day. Students will minimize PACE failures by taking good notes, studying the night before the test, and asking their parents to quiz them over their notes. If a student fails their PACE test, parents are responsible for purchasing a new PACE for \$35.00. This fee may be paid for through your child's ESA funds.



Thank you for considering Quartzsite Southern Christian Academy (QSCA) for your child's education. This Handbook was designed to help answer questions you might have about our school; all forms required to enroll your child are provided in the enrollment packet. We anticipate a great school year and look forward to your involvement as we educate your children.

Our focus is on "Christian" education. Our Mission Statement is "Achieving excellence by pursuing Christ-likeness." God gave the members of the Quartzsite Southern Baptist Church a vision for Christian education and character-building for young people; that vision became a reality through QSCA.

Our students are trained in Christian principles, Biblical history, Bible memory, and Christian character qualities, as well as a comprehensive general education. Using the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum, this school accommodates students from kindergarten to twelfth grade, and, with a Christian atmosphere for educating, reinforces traditional family values while equipping and challenging them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

We will be scheduling several activities throughout the school year that will be recreational, as well as educational. We look forward to field trips and sporting activities that will be planned throughout the school year. Each day we will have Chapel meant to be encouraging and uplifting. On occasion, we will have guest speakers who will share with us what God has done in their lives. Of course, we try to make all classwork interesting, inspiring, and challenging while preparing students for a productive future, whether it be college or career.

We have a strong staff that loves children, and are dedicated to serving our students in the best possible manner. We hope that this school year will be fun, uplifting, and challenging for your children. Clear and effective communication with all our parents throughout the school year is a priority. Please make sure we have your phone number(s) where you can be reached during regular school hours. If you change your phone number, please let us know.

Students: Your attitude towards God, your family, your school, and your work will determine how much you enjoy the school year. If you come to school complaining about the rules and regulations or murmuring about certain students or teachers, you will struggle. If you come to school determined to get the most out of your education and dedicated to accomplishing great things for God, you will have a great year. We love the attitude Jesus told us to have – "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) Take a moment daily to get your attitude right before God.

It is our vision that QSCA be an extension of the Christian home, existing primarily to provide a God-centered education and to follow the Biblical imperative, "Love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words which I command you this day shall be in thy heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto all thy children...." Deuteronomy 6: 5-7

Thank you for entrusting your children to us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Shemariah Vosper, QSCA Administrator and Lead Teacher

Quartzsite Southern Christian Academy

