



2021/2022 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK

*Families who enroll agree with the terms and provisions set forth
in the Desert Christian Schools handbook.*

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ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

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GENERAL INFORMATION

OUR PURPOSE

The goal of Desert Christian Elementary School (DCES) is to evangelize, educate, and equip children for godly living by:

- Providing a nurturing environment.
- Teaching from a God-centered world-view.
- Communicating who Jesus is and presenting His plan of salvation.
- Modeling Christian character.
- Teaching children to make right choices according to God's Word.
- Providing a foundation which will be conducive to building future leaders.

DCES is open to students eligible for transitional kindergarten through fifth grade. It is a quality grade school with a Christian emphasis. Qualified staff, carefully chosen curriculum and eager students are blended together for a happy and productive educational opportunity.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Lisa Costello is the elementary and middle school principal. She has been at Desert Christian Schools since 2004. Her other ministry experience includes roles as a Children's Director for a local church and a supplemental instructor for Antelope Valley College.

Mrs. Costello holds a Bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Northridge and holds a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. She holds a Professional Administrative Teaching Certificate from the Association of Christian Schools International.

Mrs. Costello and her husband Jeff have one daughter, Elizabeth.

CAMPUS PROCEDURES

The elementary campus is located at 44662 15th Street West, Lancaster. The elementary office telephone number is **661-723-0665**.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours for ***TK-third grade*** students are 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ***and for fourth-fifth grade students are 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.*** Elementary office hours are **7:30** a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Because Desert Christian Schools values your child's safety, students are not allowed to use Uber, Lyft, or any other ride service to and from school.

DCS will be utilizing a drive-thru system for morning drop-off. TK-third grade students may enter through the gates by the main office. Fourth-fifth grade students may use the drop-off by the south side of the campus or the main drop-off area.

TK-third grade students may arrive between 8-8:15 a.m. and report directly to their classrooms. Fourth-fifth grade students may arrive between 7:45-8:00 a.m. Students with siblings in grades fourth-eighth may go straight to their classrooms at 7:50 a.m.

Students who report to school before drop-off time must report to Peach Factory.

Students may not be on campus other than during school hours unless they are involved with an organized school activity or enrolled in Peach Factory.

STUDENT PICK-UP

Concern for the safety of students results in continual review and refinement of procedures that promote greater safety. Please follow these procedures:

- If a student needs to be picked up prior to school dismissal for appointments, etc., parents must call the school office to request their student be picked up early and the student will be escorted to the main office for pick-up. Students will be signed out in the main office by an adult on their approved pick up list, who will need to show their **valid** ID.
- If there is a change in pick-up or transportation plans, the school office should be notified before 1:30 p.m.
- ***At school dismissal***, students are escorted to the designated dismissal areas. ***TK-second***

grade will be dismissed for a walk-up pick-up at 2:30 p.m. in front of the main office. Third-fifth grade will be dismissed on the south side of the campus. Third grade at 2:30 p.m. and fourth-fifth grade at 2:45 p.m.

- Students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade need to remain with their teacher in their assigned and supervised areas for after school pick-up.
- Students must not run in or through the parking lot. All students and parents must use crosswalks and be attentive to all cars in the parking area.
- A teacher will escort all elementary students not picked up to the central Peach Factory sign-in area. Those students will be placed in the Peach Factory after school care program until a parent picks them up. Charges will be incurred for childcare. (See General Section regarding detailed information for before and after school care.)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Notification explaining the reason for a child's absence may be emailed to the elementary office at kdarwood@desertchristian.com or by calling 661-723-0665.

Many reasons for being absent may seem legitimate to parents but are classified as unexcused. Examples include:

- Vacations that are not properly pre-arranged with the school
- Student needed at home
- Music, art, or other lessons
- Parent looking for or working on a job
- Lack of transportation

Students who are late to school due to doctor, dentist, or orthodontist appointments must provide verification from the doctor's office in order for that tardy to be excused. All other tardies are unexcused.

Students who leave school before the end of the school day for personal reasons (anything other than doctor appointments) will receive an unexcused tardy for that absence. Students must remain in school from 8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. for

leaving early to be considered a tardy and not an absence.

Students who arrive after school start time will need to report to the front office.

Students who exceed three days of absence due to an illness must return with a doctor's note in order to excuse the absence. Parents of students exceeding **five** days of absence (other than reported illness) or **five** tardies (other than doctor's appointments) in each quarter will be contacted by letter requesting improvement in this area. If students exceed this number in subsequent quarters, families will be asked to contact the principal for further discussion of the problem.

A copy of the Excessive Absent/Tardy Notification Letter is placed in the student's permanent cumulative record. When a student misses more than 20 school days during the year, the student's ability to return for the following quarter or the student's promotion will be reviewed by the administration. Students who are absent during the school day may not attend after school activities, including tutoring.

TELEPHONE USAGE

Student use of the office telephone is limited to special situations and emergency calls. Student cell phones and smart watches must be in the "power off" mode and remain in the backpack or bag during school hours. Classroom phones may be used only with permission from the classroom teacher.

MAIN CAMPUS LIBRARY

The main campus library will be open after school throughout the school week for students and families to check out books.

COMMUNICATION

DCS publishes a newsletter, *The Knightly News*, which is e-mailed monthly. The *Knightly News* includes information about upcoming programs and special events and is one avenue of communication with parents. Parents are requested to thoroughly read each newsletter. ***Mrs. Costello sends out a weekly email update of upcoming elementary campus events and activities.*** In addition, teachers send out weekly

previews from their classroom to keep parents informed of weekly academics and activities.

Parents may access student grades via FACTS **ParentsWeb**. Please see the information regarding ParentsWeb in the general section of the handbook. TK-12 classroom teachers have email accounts that are checked daily. Email addresses can be accessed through FACTS. The primary source for communication with parents regarding academics and discipline is FACTS, our internet-based information system. Because of this it is essential that parents update any changes to e-mail addresses and regularly check their child's grades on FACTS.

Meetings with teachers should be scheduled as an appointment as this gives teachers an opportunity to devote attention and resources to answering parent questions.

Parents may not enter classrooms for discussions before school or during the school day without office permission as this prevents teachers from supervising students.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

SCHOOL RULES

1. Follow directions the first time.
2. Respect everyone and their property.
3. Keep your hands and feet to yourself at all times.
4. Use wholesome language.
5. Think SAFETY: Can it hurt self, others, or things? "You are responsible for the choices you make."

STEPS TO DISCIPLINE

DCES is dedicated to the effort of training students to apply Christianity to all aspects of life, believes in the importance of decent and orderly behavior, and feels that students should be taught to live responsibly before God and men.

An important aspect of character development in students is responding respectfully to authority. However, a child's first encounter with authority is at home and DCES firmly believes that the main responsibility for discipline resides with the home.

Therefore, parents will be informed when unusual circumstances needing disciplinary action arise.

Parents are expected to respond with consistent follow-through should this occur. Long-lasting behavioral change most often takes place when parents and the school cooperate. (Proverbs 19:18 and I Timothy 3: 4, 5 & 12).

DCES encourages students to understand the many principles of Christian living found in the Bible. Students are expected to conduct themselves according to biblical standards of honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect for fellow students.

Listed below are some policies and specific guidelines regarding standards of student conduct on and off campus during enrollment at DCES.

- Students are expected to abstain from all morally degrading literature, music, activities, movies, and internet use.
- Students are to refrain from the use of foul language, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs.
- ***Students need to comply with all school rules quickly, quietly, and completely.***
- Honesty, fair play, and sportsmanlike conduct are expected under all conditions. Students are personally responsible to behave in a way that helps create a positive learning environment that is not degrading to themselves or others.
- Cheating, lying or stealing will not be tolerated. Students are not only expected to adhere to this policy, but also to promote and encourage their peers in following it.
- ***Students are expected to cooperate with administration and faculty in providing truthful information regarding the violation of school rules or proper behavior.***
- Respect must be shown for the rights of others and their property.
- Students' speech must be clean, wholesome, and respectful..
- Students are to follow a "hands off" policy: no fighting, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, wrestling, pinching, play fighting, spitting, biting, etc., is allowed.

- Students may not harass or abuse others verbally or physically, or threaten to harm another.
- Defacing or abusing any school property (walls, restrooms, books, desks, etc.) is grounds for dismissal and parents will be held financially responsible.
- Students may not bring toys, pets, radios, tape recorders, electronic devices, skateboards, roller blades, retractable skate shoes, card games, trading cards, hardballs, or alloy or wooden bats to school. Permission to bring such items may be granted by teachers for share days or special activity days.
- Students are not allowed to bring pocketknives, wallet chains, *real* or toy weapons to school.
- Students are not allowed to bring or possess fireworks, firecrackers, matches, or other flammable materials on campus.
- Running is prohibited anywhere on campus except the playgrounds.
- Recreational equipment is to be used only on the playground.
- Only recreational equipment (balls, Frisbees, etc.) may be thrown. Rocks, sand, dirt clods, etc., may not be thrown.
- Students are not to loiter, play in or socialize in the restrooms, on the balconies, or around the stairs. Students are to stay in the designated playground areas at recess. Out of bounds includes unsupervised rooms, all stairwells, the parking lot, the preschool area, and any areas outside of the playground fence.
- Students must have a pass when they are out of the classroom for any reason.
- Students are not allowed to leave class until formally dismissed by the teacher.
- Students may not sit on tables or desks or tip back in chairs.
- Students may not chew gum at school.
- Students are not allowed to eat or drink during class unless the teacher has given special permission.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

DCES has incorporated a disciplinary system *that* is focused on children being responsible, doing right and being productive. Classroom and playground rules are clarified and reviewed with students and systematically reinforced.

Any matters not specifically covered by the handbook are subject to discipline at the discretion of administration and may cover penalties up to and including expulsion from school. The handbook does not limit the scope of our discipline; instead it attempts to create clarity and consistency.

Level I - Teacher Responsibility

The classroom teacher will instruct students regarding appropriate behavior, provide positive reinforcement for that behavior, and help them to recognize inappropriate actions and understand the consequence.

Concepts of forgiveness and restoration are a part of the process as well. When disobedience occurs, disciplinary action is firmly and fairly carried out. Discipline may be administered in various forms including:

- Verbal instruction.
- A verbal warning.
- Privileges taken away.
- Time out.

Level II - Parent Contact

If unacceptable behavior continues, the teacher will speak to the parents personally, so that they are informed of the problem, course of action needed, and follow-up procedures.

Level III- Referral To Administrator

If disruptive behavior continues, the student is referred to the principal or other administrator who may:

- Instruct.
- Counsel.
- Contact parent.
- Establish appropriate consequences.

If behavior does not ***change for the better***, parents ***will be*** contacted to discuss a stricter disciplinary action, which may include restrictions, behavior contract, or suspension.

If a student does not demonstrate willingness or ability to respond to correction, seems to be unteachable, or exhibits extreme rebellion and the steps listed above have not restored the student to a proper attitude, the ***administrator*** contacts the parents.

Prior to this conference a decision is made in counsel with the teacher, principal, and/or School Administrator to explore alternatives and determine what the Level ***III*** recommendations will be.

At this level a determination is made regarding the student's continuation in the program. Alternatives could include:

- Referral for Special Services.
- Suspension.
- Expulsion.

When circumstances dictate, a student may be considered for higher levels of discipline without proceeding through each level. These instances may include but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate physical contact or harassment.
- When another child is injured as a result of purposely thrown objects or hostile actions.
- Extreme defiance of adult authority.
- Extreme or continual use of profanity or verbally abusive language.
- Defacing school property.

Causes for Suspension or Dismissal

The following actions shall constitute ***legitimate*** cause for suspension or dismissal:

- Continued willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, open, or persistent defiance of the authority of school personnel.
- Willfully cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property (***school*** or personal) while under the supervision of DCES. The parent or guardian shall be liable for all damages caused by the student.

- An attitude, action, or language that is demoralizing to other students, including harassment.
- Inappropriate internet usage to include social media on and off campus.
- Possession, use or sale of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages or tobacco.
- Gambling, stealing, fighting, or immoral conduct.
- Bringing pocketknives or any weapons (real or simulated) to school.
- ***Deliberately*** hurting another student.

The administration reserves the right to dismiss a student who, in its judgment, does not conform either to the stated regulations governing student conduct or to the expressed principles, policies and programs of the school.

SPIRITUAL, ACADEMIC, AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR INFORMATION

CHRISTIAN TRAINING

Spiritual growth is nurtured within each child. Regular times of sharing God's Word and integrating spiritual principles occur throughout the school day. Seeing a child develop a saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a treasured privilege.

During each school year students memorize a passage of scripture that provides a school-wide focus.

I Thessalonians 5:16 tells us to "be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The goal is to teach each student the importance of communicating with God in every aspect of life. DCES is interdenominational in faculty and student acceptance, teaching those biblical truths that are central to the Christian faith. Throughout each student's course of study, Bible characters and principles of the Christian faith are introduced and studied. Bible verse memory in the NIV translation is a part of this instruction.

Christian outreach projects are an integral part of Christian training in the elementary school.

Students are given opportunity to apply the Christian principles of generosity and evangelism through three projects each year: the Stuffing Drive for Grace Resource Center; Christmas Projects that are local or global; and Missions Emphasis Project.

CHAPEL

Chapel brings students together once a week for special times of worshiping, sharing, and instruction. Student Recognition chapels are held monthly and parents are notified when their child is being honored. Chapel schedules are posted in *The Knightly News* and are available on FACTS.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

DCES students will automatically have their books ordered for them. Textbook charges will be added to student accounts and parents will be invoiced for charges in July. Student books will be put in their classroom for the first day of school.

Students or families may not own copies of teacher's manuals.

Materials Fees – Students grades second-fifth will be required to pay a yearly tech fee which will include AR, Aleks, math, Let's Go Learn Diagnostic, Wi-Fi maintenance, and Chromebook upkeep.

The yearly materials fee will be charged to student accounts and is due in August.

HOMEWORK

Homework varies as students move up through the grades.

Summaries for homework and lesson plans are posted for the entire week on FACTS ParentsWeb and become available the Monday of each week by 8:00 a.m.

A weekly preview is ***emailed*** each Friday by teachers, listing the next week's spelling words, Bible memory verse and upcoming tests or reports and is also available on FACTS.

Parents are encouraged to check with students daily about class activities, assignments and progress. A quiet reading time for students is encouraged to foster good reading and language skills.

LATE DAILY HOMEWORK POLICY

Daily homework is work intended to be completed at home. Generally it is given in class one day and due the next. ***Long term projects and studying for quizzes and tests are not considered daily homework. The purpose of homework is to practice skills and reinforce knowledge learned in class.***

The following policies apply to late homework: In grades K-2, late daily homework is assessed a penalty of 10% for the first day, 20% for the second day and may not be turned in for credit on the third day. In grades 3-5, late daily homework may be turned in for 85% credit the first day, 50% credit the second day, and may not be turned in for credit on the third day. In all grades, K-5, late long-term projects are assessed a penalty of 10% for the first day, 20% for the second day, 30% for the third day, and may not be turned in on the fourth day.

STUDENT ABSENT WORK MAKE-UP PROCEDURE

Families are responsible for finding out what students have missed due to excused or unexcused absences or tardies via FACTS. Students will be given one day for every day they are absent to make up their work (e.g., all make-up work from Monday must be turned in before class starts on Thursday). If absent on a test or quiz day, students will be responsible to make up tests and quizzes the day of their return. For a one day absence, assignments can be ***found on ParentsWeb***.

For extended absences (more than one day) due to pre-planned family activities, parents may request assignments by e-mailing the teacher. Teachers must have one week's notice to prepare the class assignments the student will miss. Assignments will be available for pick up in the main office after 3:30 p.m. on the arranged date. All provided assignments are due the day the student returns to school. In addition, students must be prepared to take all missed tests and quizzes upon their return. Additional assignments by the teacher may be required after the students return.

When students are out of the classroom they are missing valuable instructional time. Therefore, it is the family's responsibility to teach the concepts missed. Assignments that are not turned in upon

the student's return to school will result in a zero in the gradebook.

Work that is intended to be done in class may not be done ahead of time as this prevents proper instruction and leaves the child with little to do in class.

GRADING AND REPORTING TO PARENTS

Report cards are prepared quarterly for each grade level and are designed to report information on each child's progress in subject matter as well as personal development. ***A grade in a course of study is based upon several factors including class participation. Projects, reports, homework assignments, and test and quizzes.***

A scheduled parent-teacher conference is held in early November and other conferences may be scheduled whenever requested by the parent or teacher.

In the primary grades, students are evaluated based on the completion and mastery of class work, participation and cooperation in group activities, in-class assessments, and take-home projects. Social and personal development is also monitored.

Marks for TK students indicate P (proficient), M (making progress), I (improvement needed).

The following scale is used to determine grades for K-2 students: students receive O (outstanding), S (satisfactory), N (needs improvement), or U (unsatisfactory).

96-100 O

88-95 S+

80-87 S

70-79 S-

60-69 N

0-59 U

In grades three through five, letter grades are given for daily assignments, tests, projects, and participation in class discussions.

The following scale is used in determining letter grades for third through fifth grades:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade may be placed on academic probation for receiving a grade point average below 2.0 or having two or more F's on a report card or progress report. A student on probation is assigned a specific period of time in which to demonstrate his or her ability to perform satisfactorily at DCES. ***He/she will also be required to participate in after school tutoring.*** Teachers work closely with students and parents to provide direction and support. If the student does not perform satisfactorily during that period, he or she may be asked to withdraw from the school or retention may be necessary.

HONOR ROLL

Recognizing academic effort and achievement motivates students to give their best effort when doing school work. Students in grades kindergarten through second grade will receive an Excellent Achievement award at the end of the year for earning straight O's in all core subjects for the first, second, and third quarters of work. ***Fourth quarter academic achievement is not formally awarded since grades are submitted after the school year is completed.***

There are three levels of honor roll which are awarded to third through fifth grade students. These awards are awarded at the end of the year and are based on the first three quarters of work. ***Fourth quarter academic achievement is not formally awarded since grades are submitted after the school year is completed.***

Principal's List: Recognizes a student who maintains a 4.0 GPA in all core subjects (Bible, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies)

Gold Honor Roll: Recognizes a student who maintains a 3.5-3.99 GPA in all core subjects.

Silver Honor Roll: Recognizes a student who maintains a 3.0-3.49 GPA in all core subjects.

Students who are given modified grades due to learning disabilities are not eligible for honor roll awards. Pass/Fail classes are not factored into the honor roll grades.

ACCESS

ACCESS is a program for high achieving academic third—fifth grade students. “Achievement Centered Challenge Events for Successful Students” provides unique learning opportunities **and rewards** for students who are excelling in the classroom.

In order to participate, students must:

- Obtain a 3.5 GPA for the preceding quarter with no C's
- Observe appropriate student behavior standards
- Register on time for scheduled events

STAR READING/ACCELERATED READER

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a research-based, research-proven reading program that supports literacy growth and achievement by individualizing student's reading growth.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are extensions of the curriculum for each grade level. The classroom teacher or administration arranges these trips to enhance the learning opportunities of students.

Parent participation as chaperones is encouraged. Parents who wish to chaperone a class should confirm their intent with teachers in advance and successfully complete the Approved Volunteers process.

Parents will be approved as chaperones for field trips according to supervision needs and site requirements. Parents chaperoning a field trip may not bring other children who are not in the class, as it may pose a distraction to the effectiveness of supervision of students on the trip.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMPS

Each year fourth and fifth grade students go to an Outdoor Education Camp. The fee for this camp is the responsibility of the parents. Attendance at Outdoor Education Camp is an extension of the grade level curriculum. Students who do not attend Outdoor Education Camp are considered absent and there is no provision on campus for their care. Parent counselors must successfully complete the Approved Volunteers process.

MUSIC

Music is an important part of the curriculum of a Christian school. Music is a gift from God and the proper use of music can bring glory to God and enjoyment to mankind. Music is ***offered as an afterschool club.***

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Transitional kindergarten through third grade participate in physical education through activities during regular scheduled recesses.

Fourth-fifth grade student participate in daily physical education centering on team building, recreational games, and endurance.

COMPUTER USAGE

Students have access to Chromebook carts where Chromebooks can be brought to each classroom to be used in classroom instruction.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CHEERLEADING AND GYM)

The philosophy of student activities in the elementary school supports the schoolwide philosophy which emphasizes development of the whole child and provides opportunities for students to explore and/or develop in areas that may not have previously been experienced.

Student activities nurture students spiritually, socially, physically, emotionally, and intellectually.

Physical activities are open to all students, whether or not they have experience in the sport. Students develop spiritually by sharing their God-given talents with a group. Students learn to offer help and encouragement to others, to share in the joy of another's success and to trust God through competitive situations. Social skills are developed through cooperatively contributing to the team, good sportsmanship, self-control, fairness, loyalty, and self-discipline. Students develop through learning to lose and win gracefully and by maintaining composure in competitive situations. Activities are open to all students. Emphasis is placed on participation rather than individual competition. The program is structured to identify and develop God-given talents and abilities, as well as Christian character qualities.

AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM

The DCES After-School Sports Program is designed for our students to learn and participate in team sports while using their talents and abilities for God's glory. Sports opportunities are offered each school year and may include Cross Country, Water Bottle Bat Ball, Volleyball, Soccer, and Kickball. Sportsmanship, self-control, encouragement, kindness, and forgiveness are emphasized as the children have fun learning the skills of the sport.

CLUBS

Clubs provide opportunities for students to explore, develop, and gain knowledge in areas of which they have an interest. A variety of after-school clubs are offered. Clubs are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

ACSI ACTIVITIES

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) offers a variety of optional activities for students, such as the Spelling Bee, **Art Festival**, Speech Meet, and Math Olympics. Involvement in these activities varies according to the annual schedule and location of events. DCES students are selected to participate in these academic and fine arts opportunities.

ROOM REPRESENTATIVES

There will be an opportunity to sign up at Back-to-School night to be a room representative and/or classroom helper. Each elementary teacher has different needs and will share those at Back-to-School night and throughout the school year.

STANDARDS FOR DRESS

Christian schools have a special responsibility to establish dress standards appropriate for a Christian educational setting. The DCS dress code has been designed to provide for a comfortable, non-distracting, and appropriate environment for students.

This dress code remains in effect for all school activities and while students are on any DCS campus, including after school and summer.

The administration reserves the right to make final decisions in all dress code or hairstyle matters. If there is any question whether an item of clothing

or hairstyle is appropriate, ask the **DCES/MS office before the item is worn to school.**

DRESS STANDARDS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

All students must appear neat, well groomed, and modest, meaning that clothes must fit well and not be provocative or revealing. DCS takes the view that sloppy or overly casual dress is not conducive to good work habits.

School pride and honor are something we take seriously. School color and spirit days may be announced and observed on special days. Clothing with logos or names of other schools is not proper dress on our campus.

DCS students who are out of dress code are referred to the office. At **DCS**, one warning is given but in subsequent visits the student may not return to class until the violation is corrected. Parents should have a plan in place to bring clothes to their children for resolving any unexpected needs.

Shirts

All students shall wear an authorized DCS logo polo shirt in an appropriate size that meets the following requirements

- Must not fit tightly.
- May not be altered, gathered, or clipped to adjust the length or width.
- May be tucked in or worn out, according to the desire of the student.
- May wear a plain long-sleeved shirt underneath the DCS logo polo shirts.

Pants

Any type of pants are acceptable that meet the following requirements:

- Must be clean, neat, and properly hemmed.
- Must be worn at the waist.
- Must fit at the waist without the help of a belt.
- May not fit tightly and may not be oversized.
- May not appear excessively faded or worn.
- May not be low-rise style.
- May not be torn, worn longer than the bottom of the shoe, or frayed.

- May not have holes.
- May not include leggings, jeggings, or yoga pants worn as pants.
- May not be flannel pants.
- May not be athletic style (including those made of mesh or nylon-type or fleece lined fabrics).
- May not have snaps or Velcro fastening the side of the leg.
- May not be sweatpants or joggers. Transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students may wear sweatpants ***or leggings as pants.***

Shorts

- In transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, ***and first grade:*** are acceptable in modest length and fit.
- In grades ***second***—fifth: must not be shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Are not acceptable in these styles: board shorts, athletic shorts (including those made of fleece lined or mesh fabric), boxer shorts, and spandex/biker shorts.
- Must not be tight fitting.

Skirts, skorts, and jumpers for girls

- Must not fit tightly.
- Must not be shorter than three inches above the knee.
- Must not have slits that extend more than ***three*** inches above the knee while standing.
- May display designs of appropriate subject matter.
- May be worn with tights, leggings, and shorts underneath, but must be no shorter than three inches above the top of the knee when standing.
- May be made of denim. Factory frayed denim is acceptable.
- Skorts are permitted.
- Students may wear jumpers with a DCS polo shirt underneath.
- May wear a dress in place of a skirt, but must

be covered with a school shirt.

Outerwear, Sweaters, and Sweatshirts

- May include logos or brands whose image reflects a positive moral tone.
- Logos may include designer brand names, names of colleges, and names of professional sports teams.
- The only outerwear to be worn over a DCS shirt is a coat, jacket, sweatshirt, sweater, or vest.

Hair

Hairstyles that are out of dress code, as determined by administration, must be corrected before the student may return to school.

- Must be practical. Extreme hairstyles are inappropriate. (Most extreme styles may be avoided by ensuring that length transitions are blended).
- Hair may have no discernible lines other than the parting of the hair.
- Hair length that varies more than ***4*** inches from the side to the top will be reviewed for being extreme.
- Must be neat, clean, and simple in style.
- Must be kept trimmed, clean, and combed.
- Boy's hair must be a conservative length.
- Boy's hair must be trimmed above the eyebrows.
- Must not be partially or completely shaved.
- Must not be extreme so as to cause a classroom or playground distraction.
- ***Students who wish to have coloring in their hair other than natural hair colors should limit the coloring to streaking, shading, or smaller areas to avoid extreme hairstyles and distraction.*** Natural colors include shades of blond, brown, black, or red, as they would normally grow. ***A good rule of thumb is that at least 75% of the student's hair should be a natural color.***
- Must be able to see both eyes at once.
- Examples of unacceptable hairstyles include the following: shaved lines, partial or full shaving of the head, any style that can be

associated with practices contrary to the schools biblical lifestyle standards, or any style that draws attention to it and may cause a distraction in the classroom.

Shoes

- Must be worn at all times.
- Must be practical and safe.
- Heels may be no higher than 1" (or 1 1/2" for a wedge).
- Only sandals with heel straps are acceptable; beach sandals are not.
- Shoes with wheels are not allowed on campus.
- Military or work boots are not allowed.

Makeup and skin art (tattoos, decals, or drawings on skin)

- Makeup on elementary students is not allowed.
- Nail polish on boys is not allowed.
- **Artificial** nails are not allowed.
- Acquiring any form of skin art (e.g. tattoos, decals, drawings) is not allowed.
- Students are not to draw on themselves or each other.

General

- Hoods may be worn only when out of doors.
- Jewelry must be kept simple.
- Girl's earrings must not be longer than one inch in length or hoop size.
- Clothes worn under jackets must be in dress code to allow students to respond to temperature changes.
- **Bare midriffs are not allowed.**
- No part of an undergarment should ever be visible.

The following items or styles are not allowed:

- Jewelry for body piercing may not be visible with the exception of earrings for females. This includes participation in all school activities.
- Earrings are not permitted for boys.
- Accessories or styles that reflect a negative

subculture, such as the "heavy metal," "grunge," "gang," or "gothic" look, are not permitted. This is solely at the discretion of an administrator.

- Inappropriate pictures or words are not permitted on clothing worn to school. Teachers, administrators, and staff must easily understand the meaning of words or emblems that appear on clothing.
- Clothing that bears the name or logo of groups and movements that clearly oppose Christian principles.
- Clothing with advertising is not appropriate on campus or at school-sponsored activities.
- Athletic wear, such as shorts, jerseys, sweat pants, warm-ups, and jogging suits.
- Oversized clothing.
- Military fatigues, trench coats, and surgical wear.
- Company uniforms.
- Items with a skull or bones.
- Items bearing a Confederate flag.
- Clothing worn tight to the body.
- Student lunch boxes, backpacks, notebooks, or clothing must not display unwholesome characters or logos.

DRESS-DOWN GUIDELINES

Please follow the guidelines in this section for dress-down days. All other dress code rules still apply.

If you have specific questions about what may be worn on dress-down days, call the school office before the clothing in question is worn. Students may receive Dress Code Violation Notices on dress-down days.

- Athletic wear, such as athletic shorts, jerseys, sweatpants, warm-ups, and jogging suits **are allowed on special announced dress-down days.**
- Logos may include designer brand names, names of colleges, and names of professional athletic teams.

Dress Down Shirts

- Shirts other than DCS polo shirts are allowed.

- Non-revealing, modest shirts will be deemed appropriate.
- On certain days, a school shirt in school colors or spirit theme will be required to dress down.
- Any logos, emblems, words, or phrases on shirts or clothing must be clearly appropriate for a Christian environment.
- No spaghetti straps of any kind are acceptable.

Dress Down Shorts

- Regular style walking shorts that are at least as long as mid-thigh are allowed. The spirit of the rule is to be “closer to the knee than not.”
- Tight fitting or baggy shorts are not allowed.
- Cut-off shorts are not allowed.

ES P.E. DRESS CODE

Only official P.E. clothes may be worn for P.E.

- *Shirts and shorts must be purchased from the DCS student store.*
- *Shirts – Students must wear the P.E. shirt authorized by the school and purchased from the DCS student store. Other shirts are not acceptable for P.E. All P.E. shirts and sweatshirts must have professional lettering of their last names printed on them.*
- *Shorts – Students must wear the P.E. athletic shorts purchased from the DCS student store. The shorts are a black mesh. Other shorts are not acceptable for P.E.*
- *Sweat clothes – During cold weather, students may wear sweatpants and a sweatshirt. The sweat clothes must be purchased from the DCS student store. The sweat clothes must be worn over their PE shorts and shirt.*
- *DCES has two options for PE cold weather outerwear.*
 - *Option 1: black pullover sweatshirt with the PE logo on the front and student last name on the back,*

black sweatpants with the word Knights printed on the leg.

- *Option 2: black warm up jacket and pants with the DC logo and student name on the back, which is available by special order.*
- *Shoes – Shoes must be athletic style with a non-marking sole, and maximum of one-inch in height. For safety, shoes must be tied securely.*
- *Hats with appropriate logos may be worn during P.E.*
- *Students may only use the school provided loaner PE clothes. They may not borrow any article of clothing from one another, including shoes.*

Desert Christian Elementary School Curriculum Overview

LANGUAGE ARTS Bob Jones University Language arts curriculum completely addresses the five key areas of reading for students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade. Students will be instructed in phonemic awareness; systematic, explicit phonics; fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students will also be instructed in writing, grammar, handwriting, spelling, inquiry and higher order thinking. BJU offers academic rigor (clear explanation of concepts, comprehension questions, skill-building problems, hands-on activities), biblical worldview shaping (textbooks written with the ultimate goal of training each child to think about the world the way God does), technology solutions (comprehensive suite of technology support for teachers and students), compliance with standards (national and state), dependable content (authors are experts in their field), and excellence for each student (textbooks are adaptable for different learning styles and challenges).

MATH Students in TK – grade 5 utilize McGraw-Hill My Math. The goal of this curriculum is to “maximize every learning moment.” The McGraw-Hill My Math Learning Solution provides an easy and flexible way to diagnose and fill gaps in understanding so that all students can meet grade-level expectations and accelerate beyond: strong, equitable core instruction with actionable data, best-in-class resources and targeted instructional strategies, and personalized, student-driven learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES Students in grades kindergarten through fifth receive instruction from the Bob Jones University Press Heritage Studies which makes history and other social studies topics meaningful and relevant by making them active by allowing students to interact with the material they are learning. Students have the opportunity to study the lives of historical figures and learn how they either failed or succeeded in following God’s standards. In addition, students are also given opportunities to evaluate concepts, such as cultural values, economic issues, and governmental systems in the light of Scripture. The BJU Press Heritage Studies program is written from a conservative evangelical perspective that avoids extremes and seeks to present history in a balanced manner, challenging students to think for themselves and giving them the skills and knowledge they need to make good decisions in their homes and communities.

BIBLE Students in TK/kindergarten are taught from ACSI curriculum entitled *God and Me*. ***Students in grades first through fifth utilize BJU’s press curriculum. It is constructed around 147 foundational Bible truths, which moves through the big story of the old and new testaments and leads students to appreciate God’s grand design for mankind and creation. Elementary Bible helps to bridge the gap between head knowledge and heart knowledge by guiding students as they study, interpret, and apply a biblical worldview.***

SCIENCE

Elementary students in grades K-3 utilize Purposeful Design Science. This curriculum is an inquiry-based, hands-on-approach that gives students opportunities to discover principles and truths of God’s creation. Lessons are designed to engage students in age and grade appropriate investigation.

Elementary students in grades 4 and 5 utilize Bob Jones University Science. This science curriculum equips students to apply science to life by observing and analyzing scientific information and by evaluating scientific models from a biblical worldview.