

## **You Are**

- **Worth discovering**
- **Appreciated**
- **Valued beyond measure**
- **Exploring your life**
  
- **Made in the image of God**
- **Fallen**
- **Redeemed**
- **Loved by Jesus**
  
- **Pursuing your path**
- **Pursuing a dream**
- **Pursuing your potential**
- **Pursuing you**
  
- **To dream beyond your horizon**
- **To put others first**
- **To encourage**
- **To seek the Lord, and discover you**

**So the Question remains,**  
Who will **YOU** be today?

**Matanuska Christian School**  
*exploring discovering serving*

### **Mission Statement:**

Matanuska Christian School will provide our students a quality Bible-based education, in a Christ-centered environment, to enable them to become leaders fully equipped to serve the Lord in heart, mind, and deed.

“Leaders serving in heart, mind, and deed.”

### **Vision Statement:**

Our vision is to help our students develop as strong Christians who will demonstrate this by living vital and active Christ-centered lives in all they do; that they may become leaders in their homes, churches, community, and country, serving others with a mission heart wherever God leads them.

## **Philosophy of Education**

The Student: Each student is accepted as a unique individual possessing God-given talents with which he/she can serve God and man. He/she is a creature made in God's image, to be regenerated and perfected in Christ. It is our purpose to assist in developing his/her personality to its fullest capacity -- emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual -- in cooperation with the home, community, and church.

The Classroom: The classroom should be a Bible-based, Christ-centered learning laboratory relevant to the student's world. It should be teacher structured and pupil oriented, providing a stimulating environment which motivates the child to his/her maximum spiritual and intellectual development.

The Teacher: The teacher is the authority, confidant, counselor, and disciplinarian in the classroom. He/she has the responsibility of setting an academic and spiritual atmosphere of acceptance, encouragement, warmth, and high expectation for the development of each child's potential. The teacher is also a learner who assimilates the stimuli from his/her administrators, peers, and students, as a reinforcement toward the high goal of teaching excellence.

The Curriculum: The curriculum is Christ-centered and progressively developed, providing a variety of methods and materials, to meet individual needs. It is designed to stimulate the student intellectually and to lead him/her into a new life of growth in Christ.

## **WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO...**

1. be receptive to all spiritual teaching and activities in the school program, including regular chapel attendance and participation.
2. be submissive and respectful to all school authorities.
3. be loyal to our school, the administration, and the staff.
4. maintain a testimony away from the school *which represents God and MCS in a positive manner*.
5. attend classes regularly and on time.

## **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31

Excelling is the key word for every class and activity. The Christian has no excuse to present only his average effort. He must strive to excel and to offer the Lord his best. Academic probation will be issued to any student who has two F's or three D's on any

report (progress reports or report cards). The student cannot participate in extracurricular activities until the grades are brought up. *If a student fails two classes in a year they will not be promoted.*

**ACSI (Association of Christian Schools, Int.) COMPETITIONS** Students in grades K5-12 are eligible to compete in three academic areas throughout the school year, first in the classroom setting, then on the state level.

Speech:	Grades 1-8
Spelling:	Grades 1-8
Math:	Grades 3-8

**ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE** Students choosing to violate MCS rules outside of the classroom will be disciplined in the following manner:

- The student receives a warning for the first violation.
- The second violation of the same rule earns the student a detention.
- Students accumulating three warnings for any violations will receive a detention.

All regular MCS staff members have the authority to ascertain and report rule violations to MCS administration. Violations are recorded in a central administrative file.

**ATTENDANCE** A strong correlation between establishing the habit of responsibly and consistently fulfilling one's duties (school) and learning to serve the Lord in a like manner. Therefore, regular all-day attendance is required.

Examples of excused absences:

Illness  
Emergencies  
Death in family  
Dr. Appointment  
Family vacations, etc.

*Truancy:* Truancy is defined as deliberately skipping one or more classes during a required school day. Students who choose truancy are not allowed to make up missed work or class points for each class skipped. Truancy is considered an Administrative Violation.

**High school students may miss no more than 10 days per semester for any reason (other than school related activities) to receive credit for subjects. Credit will not be given if absences exceed 10 days.** Students absent the day of an extracurricular activity are ineligible to participate on that day. A student is defined as absent for a whole day if not in attendance by 11:00.

**AWARDS CHAPEL** Each spring, students are honored for achievement in areas such as perfect attendance, physical fitness, academic achievements of many sorts, and citizenship.

**BICYCLES** Bicycles may be ridden to school, but must be walked when on school grounds.

**CHAPEL** Students gather for chapel each Wednesday to worship together, hear testimonies, be taught from the Word, and respond to the teachings given. The high school praise team leads the secondary service. **Chapel is required.**

The goal of chapel is to set apart time during the week to offer special praise, honor, and attention to our Lord Jesus. In this context of holy respect and sacrifice, students are expected to dress with additional polish and effort on chapel days. **Boys should wear collared shirts with slacks or dress pants; girls should wear dresses or skirts reaching below the knee, or blouse and slacks.**

**CHEATING** Since cheating is a serious breach of Christian conduct, the responsibility we hold to guard against such temptations is substantial. Therefore, MCS has the following consequences for confirmed instances of cheating:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: “0” for activity (even if a final)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: “F” grade for the subject in which the offense occurred.

**CLASS ADVISORS** Class advisors are assigned to each high school grade. The main responsibility of the advisor is to assist the students in their journey through school and help meet their needs, whether they be spiritual, physical, emotional, or academic. The advisors also facilitate the regular extra-curricular activities of their class, such as winter carnival, graduation banquet, and intra-mural sports. Meetings are held with the advisors and class on a monthly or “as needed” basis.

**CLOSED CAMPUS** MCS operates on a closed campus basis. Students are to remain on the campus during the school day, except for chaperoned class activities. All visitors to the campus at any time must check in at the office. *Students may not leave campus in a vehicle driven by another student except as allowed in writing by the parent or guardian. Permission slips may be kept on file in the office.*

**DETENTION** Students who choose to violate either general MCS rules or specific classroom requirements after receiving fair warning receive detention discipline to be served the same day as the violation. Detention means students pay \$20 and work from 3—4 p.m. on a cleaning or maintenance chore assigned at the administrator’s discretion. Multiple detentions for any violation place the student on the following detention track system:

- First Detention—After school work (3-4p.m.) and \$20 fee. Parents notified.
- Second Detention—After school work for two days (3-4 p.m.) and \$20 fee. Parents notified; possible conference with student, parent, teacher, and administrator.
- Third Detention—One to three day suspension. A mandatory conference with student, parent, teacher, and administrator must occur before student returns.
- Fourth Detention—Student is suspended indefinitely. A mandatory student, parent, teacher, and administrator meeting must occur before student returns to MCS.

**DISCIPLINE** MCS believes that given a well-prepared environment, stimulating

academic endeavors, clear standards, Biblical training, and attainable levels of success, most students will not enter into the disciplinary realm. However, from time to time, it is necessary to provide discipline in order to “train up a child in the way he should go” and to maintain proper order in the school.

Also believing that we are an extension of the home, when younger children are enrolled, we ask the parents to instruct us as it concerns their desires for dealing with direct, willful disobedience. At all levels, loss of privileges is a viable option for training. At the secondary level, infractions of rules, in heart or in deed, may receive loss of privileges, special duties, special assignments, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion. **The goal of all disciplinary procedures is to bring about an awareness of the sin and draw the student to the place of repentance, growth, and freedom through discussion and prayer.**

**DRESS CODE** MCS standards of dress are written to encourage a genuine Christian learning environment throughout the school. The Apostle Paul provides us with the central Biblical reference on this topic in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

Through respectful and quality choices of personal dress, students create both the learning context for themselves and for others at the school. *Essentially, we expect students to dress in neat, clean, modest fashions during school hours.* The specifics listed here are focused on encouraging sincere academic attitudes and positive, honorable relationships at MCS.

Dress Code Specifics:

- No tight fitting clothing of any kind, including stretch jeans.
- No midriffs or underwear showing at any time.
- No sleeveless or spaghetti strap shirts.
- No shorts.
- Yes for shirts depicting encouraging words and proper treatment of animals.
- No clothes with anti-Christian or negative statements or unChrist-like depictions.
- All pants must fit at the waist.
- Please, no knit sweatpants or pajamas.
- Ties are acceptable and encouraged, especially bright yellow ones with smiley faces.
- Hair must be clean, neat, out of the eyes. Boys’ hair must be above the collar.
- Girls may have up to two(2) ear rings in each ear lobe, not in the side cartilage. No other piercing, either facial or body, for girls or boys, is allowed.
- No visible tattoos are permitted.
- No hats worn inside the school building.

The dress code will be enforced on a daily basis. Students will either receive warnings (detentions for repeat offenses) or, in the case of inappropriate clothing, be required to go home to change. In the latter case, parents will be notified and the student will remain at the office until the parent arrives.

**DRIVING** MCS is concerned about our students' safety at all times. Therefore, any student that shows careless driving on or near school grounds will have vehicle privileges removed for a duration of one week for the first offense. A second offense will result in permanent removal of vehicle privileges.

Permission slips need to be on file in the office for a student to ride with a teen driver from the school. No loitering in cars before, during, or after the school day is allowed. Students are not allowed to drive for school activities.

**DROP/ADD PROCEDURES** High school students have two weeks at the beginning of each semester to submit requests in writing for adjustments to their schedule. The guidance counselor or principal makes the final determination and will evaluate the request in light of student's needs and availability of alternatives. Forms are available in the main office.

**DRUGS** MCS has a "Zero Tolerance" policy concerning cigarettes, alcohol of any type, and drugs. Students having possession of or using the above at any campus or school activity **will be immediately expelled and police will be notified.**

**ELECTRONICS** Electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, and MP3 players are not allowed for use anywhere on campus during regular school hours and may be confiscated by any regular MCS staff member. Personal computer use is encouraged for strictly academic uses; gaming and other non-academic uses of personal computers will result in confiscation. Students may retrieve their confiscated electronic device from the office at the end of the day. However, for subsequent confiscations, the device will be held until the end of the semester.

**FIGHTING** Fighting is defined as any physical assault with intent to do harm, and is viewed as a very serious offense. Students caught fighting will be placed on the detention track and serve a minimum 1-day suspension. Repeat offenders risk multiple-day suspensions or expulsion at the administrator's discretion.

**FUND-RAISERS** The quality of the MCS learning environment is financed entirely through tuition and regular fund-raising activities. Our fund-raisers are designed to have the least possible burden on the time and finances of each family and to minimize distraction from academic learning. However, parents are expected to meet the family goals of each fund raiser.

**GRADING SCALE AND POLICIES** A record of achievements of each student will be kept. Progress reports will be sent home every five weeks (for grades 1-12) in addition to the regular report cards. If your child is having difficulty in any learning areas throughout any quarter, feel free to contact the teacher.

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The following system is used for K4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

- O Outstanding

S+	Very Good
S	Satisfactory
S-	Below Average
N	Needs Improvement

To keep our high school students on a level playing field with other GPAs and scholarships given accordingly.

**The following grading scale has been adopted by MCS.**

**Grades 3-12:**

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Numerical Average</u>	<u>Grade Points (HS only)</u>
A+	99-100	4.0
A	93-98	4.0
A-	90-92	4.0
B+	88-89	3.66
B	83-87	3.33
B-	80-82	3.00
C+	78-79	2.66
C	73-77	2.33
C-	70-72	2.00
D+	68-69	1.66
D	63-67	1.33
D-	60-62	1.00
F	59 and below	0

**GPAs** Grade points are averaged after each semester by multiplying the numerical equivalent of the grade earned by the credit given. Total grade points divided by total credit earned is the grade point average. Three classes are weighted with one extra numerical equivalent: chemistry, physics, calculus.

Incompletes are only given when the student has an excused absence for an extended period of time just prior to the issuance of the report. Progress reports with grades below a “C” need to be signed and returned to school.

**GRADUATION BANQUET** Each spring, high school students put on a grand graduation banquet to honor the seniors. All high school students and parents are invited.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Minimum basic requirements for graduation are as follows:

- 4.5 Credits English, (includes .5 Speech)
- 3 Credits Science
- 4 Credits Social Studies
- 4 Credits Bible (1 per every year in attendance)
- 3 Credits Math ( Alg. 1 and higher)
- 2 Credits Foreign Language
- .5 Credit Health
- 1 Credit PE (regular participation for the entire

season in an approved after school sport counts for 0.5 P.E. credit)  
1.5 Credits     Electives  
**23.5 Credits Total**

**HONOR ROLL (3<sup>RD</sup> –12<sup>TH</sup> Grades)**     In order to recognize outstanding academic achievement, the following honor rolls have been established: (Academic subjects only for elementary students)

High Honor Roll                     All A's—4.0 GPA  
Honor Roll                             All A's and B's—3.5 GPA

All grades count towards honor roll for the secondary classes.     Certificates are given to honor roll students. Names are published in the local paper.

**HOURS**     The main day of school runs from 8:00 AM to 2:45 PM. Please be prompt.

**INSURANCE**     Each student is required to have accident insurance. At the time of enrollment, parents with insurance will put a copy of their insurance card in the packet. Students without insurance will buy the policy provided by the school in the fall.

**LETTERMAN'S JACKETS**     Letterman's jackets are available to high school students who have earned a letter. Letters are only earned at the varsity level. They are ordered locally by the individual students. The basic jacket is the same for students, but may be individualized.

**LOCKERS**     Lockers are provided for the secondary students. Nothing is to be posted and/or written on the outside of the lockers except at tournament times. Care should be taken that the inside of the lockers reflects Godly principles of order and decency. Lockers are available for staff inspection at any time. Combination or copy of key must be on record in the school office.

**LOST AND FOUND**     Lost and found items accumulate at a terrific speed. Please check it regularly. The Lost and Found box will be emptied every two weeks and unclaimed items donated to Bishop's Attic.

**LUNCHES**     MCS provides a hot lunch at a reasonable cost. Tickets may be purchased in the office. Microwaves are available for lunches brought from home. It is requested that lunches brought from home consist of foods that are healthy. The elementary teachers provide encouragement to eat well during school, but the parents need to communicate with students about their likes and dislikes.

**NEWSLETTER**     Each Friday, the Eagle Eye is sent home with information about the week's activities of all sorts. We will also email this notice to you if you include your email address with your enrollment information. This is the main life-line of communication between the school and home. Parents and students need to work out a system for regularly getting this home. Contributions are welcome from parents.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION** Matanuska Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at our school. Matanuska Christian Schools, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

**PARENTS** Parents are one of the most valuable assets the school has. Since we fully understand that student achievement is linked to parental involvement, we ask that parents volunteer whenever possible in one or more of the dozens of ways available. Contact the office, a teacher, and/or athletic director for aid in finding your niche.

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES** Conferences are held after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters. K4 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade families are assigned conference schedules. Conferences are 20 minutes each. We encourage all families to strive to make the conferences. Summaries of conferences are submitted by the teachers to the principal for review.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** PE is offered to all students, K4 through high school. Elementary has PE once per week; secondary, twice. Regular participation for the entire season of an approved after school sport counts for 0.5 P.E. credit.

**PICK-UP POLICY** Students are to be picked up on time. If elementary students are still here fifteen minutes after school gets out, they will go to the Safety Zone to be supervised. Secondary students who create any disturbance may also be asked to wait in the Safety Zone. The fee per family for this is \$10 for every 15-minute segment of time. No fee will be assessed for emergencies that arise.

#### **PRE-K4/KINDERGARTEN 5**

K4 is for students who are four by September 1.

K5 is for students who are five by September 1.

**RECESSES, ELEMENTARY** Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade receive two outdoor breaks a day when the temperature is higher than -10 degrees. Winter gear is a must, since all students go out. Students who are well enough to attend school are deemed well enough to bundle up well and go outside. Recesses are split up by age group. K4 and K5 are together. Primary grades are together. Upper elementary grades are together..

**RETREAT, SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS** Each fall, the high school students attend a Spiritual Emphasis Retreat for two days, called "Jump Start". The purpose of the retreat is to set hearts in order spiritually while entering into a new school year, and to promote fellowship and unity among the students and staff. Attendance is mandatory .

**ROOM MOTHERS** The goal of the room mother is to help the classroom teacher be able to focus on teaching, not on the business end of the extra-curricular activities. We suggest that the room mother be the liaison between the teacher and the parents of the

students in that class. The room mother may help out in the following ways:

Arrange party activities (i.e. refreshments, games, prizes, chaperones, etc.)

Contact parents for special items needed for projects

Line up extra help for days when it is needed (chaperones, gift-making projects, competition help)

Generally speaking, room mothers operate on the elementary level. There is no reason some parents couldn't hook up with one teacher on the secondary level for the same purposes. Pray that the Lord provide the folks to do so.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** Currently, MCS awards one scholarship at 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduation from the school itself. It is called the Ted Richardson "Excellence" Award, named after a dear friend of MCS that we lost in a car accident in 1994. Throughout his short life, Ted exhibited the overall excellent spiritual, academic, social, and physical qualities we look for in a graduate who would be eligible for this award. Currently, the award carries a \$200 check. Other scholarships are regularly awarded by colleges and organizations to our graduating students. Work is done on the applications in our College Prep class in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE** MCS follows the public school bad weather closures. Listen to the local radio station 99.7 AM for announcements, beginning around 6 a.m. Should the weather turn bad and the school need to vacate during the day, we will reach our parents in a timely manner. We thank you for understanding the vastness of that task.

**SCHOOL PICTURES** School pictures are taken in the fall and spring. Fall pictures are taken for the yearbook. Class pictures are taken at this time, too. The fall pictures can be purchased if you send back the ordering envelope with the money. Each student needs a separate check in the envelope. The spring pictures are run differently. Each student has a picture taken. There is no pre-ordering. When the packets come to the school, they are dispersed to the students. Parents can decide if they want to buy any or part of the package. Siblings can have their pictures taken both times. Please try to have your child here on school picture days. It is hard to make those up for the yearbook.

**SCHOOL SHIRTS** The school has clothing for sale as a fund-raiser. We have school T-shirts and sweatshirts. Be sure to stop by the office to order your children some items. They love wearing them!

**SIX-INCH RULE** MCS believes that we are to honor the Lord in all things. Also knowing that we are to avoid all appearances of evil, the students are asked to not have relational physical contact with the opposite sex during school or at any of the school activities. This means that guys and gals do not hold hands, hug, or otherwise embrace each other.

When it comes to the exuberance of sports activity celebrations, we ask that the students be

most careful of their interactions. The junior high and high school become the examples for the elementary classes; they need a high standard set in this day and age.

**SNACKS** Students K-6 are to bring a snack for the morning break at school. The elementary students should have healthful snacks—no candy or sweets.

**SPORTS** MCS offers 3 sports when coaches and players are available. We are members ASAA, Division IIA (Alaska State Activities Association). And ACSA, therefore we follow the regulations for both.

Fall Soccer V, JV, JH (Co-ed) (5th-12th)  
Winter Basketball V, JV, JH (Girls and Boys)(6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)  
Spring Track V, JH (Girls and Boys) (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

### **SPORTS ELIGIBILITY/EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

**ELIGIBILITY** MCS students are encouraged to keep priorities in line by following the sports' eligibility guidelines. Any student who has a grade in any class that is below a C- becomes ineligible to compete in games or extra-curricular activities. The first infraction will result in a one-week probation. The second infraction will result in a three-week probation. Ineligible students will attend practices to continue learning skills and not ultimately harming the team. Ineligible students will not travel on road trips, defined as any trip that leaves Palmer or Wasilla.

**SUSPENSION** Suspension is defined as a mandatory full day absence(s) from the MCS building during regular school days. All suspensions carry the penalty of lost credit for all the work due that day. Students receive a suspension from repeated detentions, or from exceptionally intolerable behavior such as:

- Deliberate actions involving the injury of another student or staff.
- Deliberate destruction or flagrant misuse of MCS or another student's property.
- Obscene written or spoken language or gestures.
- Picking locks, forcing doors, or otherwise entering a locked area.
- Lying, stealing, and immoral behaviors.
- Other behaviors deemed intolerable by the administration.

The accumulation of a third suspension may result in the student being indefinitely suspended from MCS. A mandatory student, parent, teacher, and administrator conference must occur before the student returns to MCS. The administrator and members of the MCS School Board reserve the right to refuse admission or readmission of any student to MCS.

**TARDIES** It is important to teach students the value of promptness. Please make arrangements to have your children here on time and prepared to work. Late arrivals are a disruption for the teacher and class. Four (4) tardies in any combination of classes will result in one detention.

**TELEPHONE USE** The use of any telephone during school hours are limited to necessary communications. No calls are to be made during class sessions.

**TEXTBOOKS** Textbook fees are included as curriculum fees and are not reimbursable. All non-consumable textbooks are the property of MCS and therefore lost books or books with undue damage will be assessed a lost book fee and replaced by the student.

**TOYS** Toys are brought to school only by those classes that have a show-and-tell day. Students are to have them only on the assigned day.

**VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN SELECTION** The valedictorian and salutatorian are chosen on the basis of grade point averages through the first semester of their senior year. The announcement is made before the fourth quarter of the school year. Students must have been enrolled for two years and be in good standing in behavior and Christ-like attitude.

**VISITORS** Visitors are welcome at MCS but must sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge while on campus. All visitors are asked to make prior arrangements out of consideration for the on-going work of education.

**WEAPONS** No lighters, matches, or knives of any kind will be allowed at any school activities. Students found with any of these will serve a one day *detention*. Guns are not allowed and any student found with a gun will be expelled and the police will be called.

**WITHDRAWAL** Parents of students who wish to withdraw from MCS must fill out a form in the main office. **Tuition is payable in full through the month of withdrawal.**

**REGISTRATION:** Payable at the time of registration (**Non-Refundable**)**\$100.00**

**CURRICULUM FEE:** A **\$275.00** curriculum fee is due at the beginning of school.

**TUITION RATES**

Student	K4 half day*	K4 full day	K5-6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> Child	\$2000.00	\$32000.00	\$32000.00	\$3500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Child			\$2700.00	\$3000.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Child			\$22000.00	\$2500.00
4 <sup>th</sup> & Up			\$1700.00	\$2000

**SPORTS' COSTS:** \$75 - \$300 per sport. (High School basketball is the only sport over \$100.)

**\*HALF DAY K4:** Options: Mon./Wed./Fri. all day *or* Mon.– Fri. 8:00-11:30

**HOT LUNCHES:** Lunch tickets are \$3 each.

**LAB FEES:** Lab fees are \$20-\$50, due the first week of attendance in a lab class.

**MID-YEAR**

**ENROLLMENTS:** Registration is reduced by \$75.00 after first semester.

