



Lower School Policies & Procedures

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FOUNDATIONS

Our Mission

StoneBridge is a classical Christian school
established to restore
the Christian character
of the Republic.

We serve Christian families,
enabling each child
to reach the fullest expression
of his value in Christ
through a Biblical
Principle Approach[®] Education.

Family and Personal Emphasis

The school is committed to the enrollment of families with whom is shared a unity of purpose in the education of their children. A diversity of abilities, gifts, race, social, and economic backgrounds are included in the student body. Students are admitted without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin. A Christian standard of peer relationships, respect for self and others, and unselfish attitudes are promoted. The Sovereignty of God in all of life and in personal accountability through the knowledge of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit are emphasized. The standards of Christian character and self-government are held as the gauge of behavior, attitude, and performance. Through the inculcation of a sense of responsibility, the student is held accountable for his own actions, obligations, and learning. The school purposes to identify the best in each student and assist him to build upon that foundation a character and competence which will make him a productive, purposeful, fulfilled individual; the fullest expression of his unique value in Christ.

The StoneBridge Tree

*In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month:
and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22:2*

We believe that as we consecrate our children to instruction in the Word of God and its excellent certainty, our children will be instruments of the “healing of the nations,” beginning with our own nation.

*I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness,
but shall have the light of life...
And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free
...If the son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.
John 8*

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Master Teacher, the source of truth and light, the source of liberty and of all excellence.

StoneBridge Colors

StoneBridge students chose royal blue and gold as their school colors in 1983.

The Cavalier Mascot

StoneBridge chose the cavalier as the mascot for our athletic teams. It is a symbol of the spirit of Christian leadership that spawned the founding generations. Cavaliers were English royalists loyal to Charles I during the 1500s at the time of the English wars of religion. They took part in the 1607 landing at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay and were the first Englishmen to permanently plant both the cross of Christ and the standard of England on the North American continent. Confronted with the anvil of headship, they practiced a Biblical faith while hammering a livelihood out of the wilderness. As colonists they were characterized by the spirit of enterprise and independence. As Christians they built churches, declared fast days, knew and lived by the Word of God, and established a representative form of civil government in the New World in 1619 at Jamestown. As Virginians they were successful in building a society that produced the statesmen and leaders of the founding generation – Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and the Lees.

School Song

Our school song was composed by Mary Barnes, StoneBridge music educator, while on the 1984 Faculty Retreat. It is inspired by Isaiah 60:15 and Philippians 1:9.

Eternal Excellence

By: Mary Barnes

I will make you an eternal excellence
A joy of many generations!
I will fill you with the fruits of righteousness
Which come through Christ Jesus.

I will make you an eternal excellence
A joy of many generations!
I will fill you with the fruits of righteousness
Which come through Christ Jesus.

And it is my prayer
That your love may abound more and more,
With knowledge and all discernment,
With knowledge and all discernment,

So that you may approve what is excellent
Being pure and blameless;
Filled with the fruits of righteousness
Which come through Jesus Christ-
To the glory and praise of God.

(Repeat first verse)

The Educational Philosophy of StoneBridge School

*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.
Colossians 2:6-10*

StoneBridge School ministers from a philosophy of Christian education derived from the Word of God and subject to His sovereign and providential purpose of bringing every child to full stature through the redemptive work of Christ.

Luke 2:49-52

The foundation stone of American Christian education is faith in a sovereign Creator and Governor of the universe who gives liberty to those who accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. The internalization and application of Biblical principles for the government of home, school, and nation frame the proper response of man to his Maker.

John 14:6, II Corinthians 3:17

The Biblical philosophy of education challenges the individual student to address how he governs himself, his habits of work and scholarship, his knowledge of God's Hand and his own place in history, and his character development in light of his commitment of faith in Christ. This challenge affects every area of life and learning as he develops spiritually, morally, socially, and academically.

Philippians 1:6, II Timothy 2:15

The system of education governed by a Biblical philosophy results in the school's cooperation with the Holy Spirit in cultivating the student's unique individuality so that, in fellowship with the Lord, he is marked by Christian character, applies Biblical reasoning to all of life, conforms his conscience to the eternal truth of the Bible, and fills his heart with love and obedience to Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10

The ultimate authority of the education of the child belongs to the parents who authorize teachers to inspire, cultivate, consecrate, and instruct the student. The teacher who serves in a Biblical philosophy of education is a person gifted and called to exemplify those qualities of character and scholarship worthy of a wholehearted commitment to Christ. The teachers must represent the spirit and discipline of their calling and embody the very goals they teach their students.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Deuteronomy 4:8-10, Ephesians 6:4

The Christian methodology of education includes a series of instruction and discipline intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temperament, form the habits and manners, and prepare the student for useful service. Christian education in America has a unique heritage traced from a Bible-educated people under the leadership of pastors who knew that education was useless without the Bible and that made the Bible central to all learning. At StoneBridge we endeavor to research, reason, relate, and record every subject from its Biblical purpose and expression.

II Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 22:20-21

The American Christian experience produced a curriculum of education resulting in forming a Biblical world-view -a system of presuppositions consistent with absolute Biblical truth-from which to discern right action and thinking and from which to exercise a proper role in the family, in the Body of Christ, and as a citizen of a Christian constitutional republic.

II Timothy 2:2

History of StoneBridge School

In 1980, Dr. Carole Adams and some of her associates formed a program called “StoneBridge Tutorials” as a one-year adventure in educating their own children and those of several friends, a total of 31 children in grades one through ten. The program centered on a curriculum and methodology based upon the work of Rosalie June Slater as expounded in the classic *Teaching and Learning America’s Christian History: The Principle Approach*. At the end of this first year, the joy experienced by students and teachers called forth the establishment of a permanent school. The first building on Portsmouth Boulevard was built in 1983. As the school grew, a high school was established in 1990 and moved a year later to the Jolliff Road campus.

Distinctives of StoneBridge School

A Principle Approach® education produces a Biblical worldview in each individual student, equipping him to both reason and articulate all of life’s choices effectively. Our mandate is to educate Christian leaders who know how to apply God’s Word for citizenry and service in their own generation.

Historic – History is taught from a providential perspective, leading students to understand God’s hand guiding the lives of men and nations. There is an emphasis on comparing and contrasting worldviews, leading students to embrace the Biblical worldview.

Classical – Classical literature, including poetry, Shakespeare, and children’s classics, is taught throughout the grades. Modern and classical languages are taught beginning in 4-year-old kindergarten; French is taught in the lower school while Spanish is added in sixth through twelfth grade. Mathematics and the sciences are given precedence using both a traditional and hands-on approach. Fine and performing arts are emphasized using drama, visual arts, music, and many types of performances.

Biblical – The StoneBridge philosophy of education is rooted in God’s Word. The Bible is placed at the heart of every subject, laying down Biblical principles as the foundation.

Tutorial – A tutorial approach means that teachers take responsibility for the learning success of every child. The child’s individuality is respected as the teacher lifts each child toward his or her fullest potential in Christ.

Reflective – This method of study uses the 4 R’s (Research, Reason, Relate, Record) in every subject, equipping students with the tools for Christian scholarship. Reflective learning emphasizes the communication skills of speaking and writing, as well as the importance of researching from primary sources. The *Notebook Approach*, the primary method of instruction, is the classical method of mastering a subject. The notebook replaces the workbook and textbook which are mediocre in expectation of the student’s performance and limiting to his growth in the subject. The notebook is set up and graded according to an established standard and used daily to record the learning of the subject. The *Notebook Approach* is modified for K4 & K5 students. Notebooks are kept at home in the K4 class and parents file their children’s papers as they are sent home. In the K5 classroom, children begin to identify the notebook as a tool of learning and grow in their ability to use it.

Accreditation

StoneBridge School is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (A.C.S.I.).

NILD – Riverview Learning Center

Riverview Learning Center at StoneBridge offers individual educational therapy for children with learning disabilities. Accredited by the National Institute for Learning Development, Riverview uses research based therapy which strengthens the perceptual processes and cognitive skills of the student. A full battery of diagnostic and psychological tests is done by an outside source to determine special needs and strengths in the learning profile. A parent conference is scheduled to explain the results and recommendations. Individual therapy is scheduled during or before and after hours. The usual therapy schedule provides three hours weekly with a trained educational therapist. There is a separate tuition for this service.

COMMUNICATIONS

Conferences: Parent / Teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall. The conference provides an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss and evaluate the child's growth in scholarship and character, as well as social, emotional, and spiritual development. Parents receive a written record of the conference. It is a wonderful time for parents and teachers to become better acquainted and united in purpose for the growth and development of the child. Any additional conferences may be scheduled throughout the year. Preschool families will meet with teachers in the spring for an end of year conference.

Faculty and Staff emails: Type the faculty or staff member's first name, period, then the last name followed by @stonebridgeschool.com. *Sample: [helen.jones@stonebridgeschool.com]*. Because of instructional responsibilities, teachers may not be able to respond to an email until the end of the school day. Please make sure the school has your most current email address. Many important messages are sent via email.

Home Meetings: In the fall, a class meeting will be scheduled to give parents, teachers, and board members an opportunity to form stronger bonds and to give vital information that will enhance and support the partnership between home and school. It is a time for fellowship, prayer, and introductions in a home setting of a classmate. This is a parent-only, evening meeting.

Mid-quarter Progress Notices: A mid-quarter report is posted on RenWeb and emailed to the parents if their child has a deficient grade average (D or F) in a particular subject for grades 2 through 5. For kindergarten through first grade students, teachers send reports for limited progress. A progress report will also be sent if a child is receiving any special services.

Parent Letters: Look for the monthly classroom newsletter at the beginning of each month. Homework and Lesson Plans will be published weekly on RenWeb, keeping you posted on what is happening in the classroom as well as informing you of special events. Please take time to read these each week. Homework nights are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. Please check your child's homework nightly. If your child is unable to complete a homework assignment due to a legitimate reason such as illness, please write a note or email the teacher with an explanation the following day.

Publications: The Connect is a bi-weekly email for StoneBridge families which includes upcoming events, announcements, and information about athletics.

RenWeb: A school management software program which aids communication between school and home.

Report Cards: Report cards are issued to parents at the end of each nine-week quarter, pending payment of all financial obligations. They are available on RenWeb for parents. The final report card and results of achievement testing are mailed, pending payment of all financial obligations. Library, graduation, and lost book fees must all be paid before each report card is issued.

Website: www.stonebridgeschool.com Much information, including the calendar and reminders of important events, are available at all times on the website.

SCHOOL LIFE AND SCHOOL POLICIES

Accidents

Parents will be notified by phone and email of any significant accident.

Attendance Policy

View every day as an important day for learning and keep absences limited to illness and family emergencies, whenever possible. We would also ask that you make a special effort to have your child in school on all of our “special days” as they are a significant part of the StoneBridge curriculum.

Absences/Tardies: If your child becomes ill and must miss school, please email the teacher. Each teacher will supply makeup work for absences caused by illness.

Our school requires your handwritten note or e-mail explaining the absence. The note or email should be sent to the **teacher** upon the student’s return.

In conformance with Virginia State law, parents should note that thirty (30) days of absenteeism will result in your child being retained in the current grade the following year.

Appointments: Please attempt to schedule ALL doctor, dentist, and orthodontic appointments on Thursday afternoons, or after school, to eliminate excessive absences. Please make every effort to schedule medical and dental appointments on Thursday afternoons so that important class time is not missed.

Family Vacations during school days require advance notice and should be presented to the Principal in writing. Such vacations are discouraged as they interrupt the educational process. In making plans for the year, please make every effort to match your vacation times to the school calendar. In the Principle Approach methodology, the teacher is the “living textbook”. Not all lessons can be “made up” outside of the classroom. Make-up work will be provided *upon the student’s return* to school, when possible. There will likely be some lessons and activities that are not able to be completed due to the child’s absence.

School Vacations: Traditionally StoneBridge School has a week of vacation at Thanksgiving beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Christian Heritage Day; and approximately two week vacation at Christmas; and one week in the spring. StoneBridge does not dismiss on federal holidays except for Labor Day, MLK Day and Memorial Day. Please consult the StoneBridge calendar for specific dates.

Tardies: A timely arrival establishes the best start for a student's day. Please plan ahead to arrive between 8:10 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. The late bell rings at 8:25 a.m. Students who are unavoidably tardy should report directly to the receptionist and receive a tardy slip which is presented to the classroom teacher for admission to the class. In order to lessen disruption to the classroom, **parents are not to accompany the student to class after the tardy bell rings.** An accumulation of five (5) unexcused tardies will count as one (1) absence on the attendance record. If a student arrives to school after or leaves school before 10:30 am, they are counted as absent for the day.

Preschool Attendance Policy

In order to provide parents flexibility, students enrolled in a preschool or K4 class may opt to attend on a part time basis. Preschool attendance may be contracted for two, three, or five days. Attendance in the K4 class may be on either four (Mon - Thursday) or five days a week. The K4 program consists of core curriculum instruction on Monday through Thursday. Academic instruction continues through Friday, however no new material from core subjects is introduced. If school is closed for any reason on a normal attendance day, (i.e. school holiday, inclement weather, etc.) or if your child is absent due to sickness, part-time students are not provided a make-up day. In addition, if a parent chooses not to send their child on a normal attendance day, there is no provision for a make-up day. In the event of a planned special occasion at school such as a field study, Christian Heritage Day, Beatrix Potter Day or Noah's Ark Day, the part time attendee will be invited to attend to ensure participation. If your child is unable to attend for a school special day, please notify the teacher in advance via email. Participation in Christmas and spring choral performances is dependent on your child's enrollment in music classes, which typically occur on either Tuesday or Thursday. This policy is intended to maintain excellent classroom standards for all students in PS and K4, while establishing success in their current grade and beyond.

Awards

Effort and achievement should be rewarded. God wants us to enjoy the fruit of our labor! Teachers find many ways daily to praise and reward growth and effort. However, there are several very special awards bestowed on students for various areas of accomplishment in front of the whole student body at the end of the year in a special chapel service. Awards given are:

Art: During the school year students compile an art portfolio. Work is selected from each K4-5th grade student's portfolio and entered in the school art festival. Awards are for first (1st) and second place (2nd). Depending on the category there may be a third place (3rd) and Honorable Mention.

Music: Select students from each class are commended for exceptional effort and character in the Music Department.

Physical Education: For each class, an award is presented for students who demonstrate Christian character and leadership consistently throughout the year in PE classes. Other awards may also be presented for yearly physical fitness testing.

Speech Meet: All lower school students (K4-5th) participate in a yearly, classroom Speech Meet. Winners are selected to represent their class in the school Speech Meet. At the school Speech Meet, students present their selection before a panel of judges who score the presentation according to the evaluation rubric provided by ACSI. Each student earns a score based on the merit of his own performance. Ribbons are awarded in chapel according to the points earned on the judging rubric; ranges are indicated as Superior, Excellent or Good.

William Tyndale Bible Award: A selected book is presented to those students who successfully complete the required Tyndale Bible Memory Recitations in chapel. There are memorization guidelines for each grade level.

*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him,
rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein
with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit,
after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.
Colossians 2:6-10*

Chapel

Thursdays are traditionally chapel days with a half-day schedule. Chapel services are held every Thursday morning. Students are required to “dress up” for chapel (refer to Dress Code section). Parents are always welcome to attend. Each class takes turns leading the chapel program and a time of worship is included. Chapel is also a time when special awards may be presented.

Class Parties

Celebrations are planned by the teacher and the Room Parents. They are generally related to an instructional activity of the class or are the culmination of a seasonal celebration. Please do not bring younger siblings to these events as this is a time to focus on your child in the classroom. Also, many times younger siblings are a distraction to what is happening during the event. Emphasis is on simplicity of refreshments and activities.

Special note: Invitations to private parties are never distributed at school unless the entire grade is invited, nor should birthday presents be brought to school, either for distribution in the classroom or following dismissal.

Classroom Constitution

Each StoneBridge class maintains a Classroom Constitution as a cornerstone of the order and discipline. Simple rules and regulations necessary for classroom success are documented and agreed upon by students and teachers. All involved sign the Classroom Constitution signifying their support and consent to abide by the constitutional precepts.

Discipline Policy

"DISCIPLINE (n.), education; instruction; cultivation and improvement; instruction and government; method of regulating principles and practice; subjection to laws, rules, order, precepts; correction; chastisement; punishment intended to correct crimes or errors." *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Webster, 1828

The goal of discipline is to "effect" change! Internal changes of heart must occur before changes in behavior take place. At StoneBridge School, we train and encourage our students to develop self-government by reasoning and relating its value to their own personal decisions. In our disciplinary actions we aspire to exemplify the character of Christ to our students by demonstrating justice and mercy in a consistent framework. We teach students that laws and rules are made for the student's good.

Our basic discipline policy is simple and scriptural. Students are taught to obey God and His Word, and to govern themselves accordingly, learning to make Biblical decisions in disposing their temperaments and choices. It is a growing process and one guided in the classroom by the teacher (the governor or the Lord's representative) and the Classroom Constitution (the body of "law" that shows what is required and protects property and people when there is an infraction). This policy aids in the purpose of education "by disciplining the temper and fitting the individual for usefulness in his future station." (*American Dictionary of the English Language*, Webster, 1828) As students grow in their ability to make wise choices regarding their personal government, less "law" is needed and more "liberty" is enjoyed.

The heart of the SBS discipline program is the root of the word discipline-disciple. Just as Jesus taught, encouraged, challenged and admonished His disciples, He also loved them. Our godly teachers represent Jesus in a ministry of love and encouragement to their students, through modeling as well as individual exhortation. The goal is always for the well-being of the student with a focus more on character development than behavior modification, which produces a harvest of righteousness. The seed of Christian self-government lies in the Christian character formation of each individual, cultivated within godly relationships. Children need to be taught both God's love and their need to respect God-given authority. Authority and discipline exercised in the spirit of Christ is done with a balance of love and firmness. Teachers are sensitive to the individual's development and maturity recognizing that God will bring particular areas in each student to light so they can be dealt with. Cooperation between the school and parent is vital to help the student apply spiritual truths to his life. Agreement and consistency between home and school, as outlined in the school's ethos statement, is necessary in forming the character of each Christian scholar.

Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful.
Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and
peace for those who have been trained by it.

Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge
and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure
and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes
through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Foundational to the discipline program is the classroom constitution, which is established at the beginning of each year to provide the framework within which each class operates. From a biblical perspective based on God's law, laws are meant to revive us, make us wise and give light to our paths rather than be chains on our hands and feet. God's laws and the authorities He has placed over us are to point at danger and warn us, then point at blessing and the way of truth to guide us. The class, having established their own

constitutions based on the principles of God's word, will use them as their guide to help secure the blessings of liberty.

In the event a student chooses to risk their liberty by violating the constitution, the teacher will follow the appropriate disciplinary actions intended to illuminate the danger of the path they are on, then guide them to success in godly living.

1. The teacher will use redirection, reminders and warnings.
2. The teacher will address the situation individually and privately with the student. We do not use "group" discipline, since it violates the principle of individual accountability.
3. The teacher may impose consequences relative to the offense; no physical, corporal or severe punishment is ever used.
4. If student chooses not to correct the behavior, the teacher will communicate the situation to the parent via email, phone call or in person after school.
5. A continued pattern of misconduct will be documented through behavior notices in RenWeb. An email is sent to parents to communicate when documentation has occurred.
6. Parents and teachers collaborate on a plan of action to correct the temper and assist the child in making wise choices.

If a child does not display a spirit of cooperation in receiving correction, administrative actions may follow:

1. The teacher will contact the principal to meet with the student if there is continued occurrence.
2. The principal will impose consequences and record an online behavior incident via RenWeb, including parental notification. Phone calls may occur to the parent to speak to the student over the phone or summon the parent to the school to perform disciplinary action. Parent may be expected to pick the student up for the remainder of the day.
3. Principal may arrange a conference with the teacher and parents to develop a measurable plan of action to work together to affect improvement in the student's behavior.
4. If the school and parents are unable to reach an agreement, or if the student's behavior does not improve, the student may be dismissed.

Immediate administrative referral:

Creating an unsafe (physical or emotional) condition for a student(s) or staff member(s) is never allowed. Such behaviors as threatening, harassing, striking, or taunting others are grounds for immediate referral to the administrator and suspension or expulsion.

Aggressive, potentially dangerous and excessively disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors are not permitted.

Including, but not limited to:

- Intentional, malicious wounding of another child
- Using foul or threatening language
- Inappropriate physical contact and/or harassing or abusive and profane language
- Yelling, screaming or otherwise exhibiting emotional "meltdowns" or fits
- Running from the class
- Blatant, persistent disrespect to the supervising adult
- Stealing/Theft of personal or intellectual property is prohibited.

Enrollment in StoneBridge School is a privilege and not a right. Per the enrollment contract, StoneBridge School reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student at any time if, in the judgment of the administration, such action is deemed necessary to safeguard StoneBridge School's ideals of scholarship or the spiritual and moral atmosphere of it as a Christian school.

Dress Code

Growing in wisdom and stature through the pursuit of Godly knowledge is daily employment for StoneBridge students learning to fulfill their providential place in God's work in America and the nations. The school is dedicated to an ethos that nurtures Christian character and scholarship. To that end, *appropriate scholastic attire is important.*

Both *God's Principle of Individuality*, which says dress expresses individual taste, uniqueness, and character, and *The Christian Principle of Self-government* which says dress choices are best governed by Christ and His excellence, require that scholastic dress be neat, clean, modest, and appropriate to the task at hand and fit the body properly throughout the school day. We desire that your sons and daughters begin to think of themselves as scholars who are attending school each day to achieve worthwhile goals, and that this effort requires clothing equal to the occasion. **This dress code applies to all school events to include special performances, field studies, etc.**

1. Scholarly attire is encouraged. All clothing should be modest, neat, clean and in good repair. A presentable appearance is the goal.
2. All students attending grades PS through 5th grade may wear shorts any day except Thursday; shorts must be no higher than 3 inches above the knee.
3. Jeans **may** be worn by all students as long as they are clean, properly fitted, and in good repair. Ripped or torn jeans are not appropriate attire.
4. Clothing should be modest and should not display any graphics that are immoral or ungodly or promotes a political agenda. "Character" t-shirts displaying a known, named character such as Ninjago or Elsa, are **not** allowed.
5. Girls' dresses and skirts should be no higher than 3 inches above the knee. Girls should wear shorts beneath their dresses or skirts for modesty in daily activities.
6. All children should wear rubber soled shoes that fully enclose the foot. For safety reasons, jellies, clogs, and flip-flops are not to be worn to school. **Athletic shoes** are recommended as they are required for P.E. classes.
7. Shirts or blouses or sweaters: Opaque; not tight fitting. (Note: Any top that is sheer or transparent must have another garment underneath with about a one inch should strap (no spaghetti straps); Sleeveless blouses must come to the end of the shoulder and must be modestly cut under the arm; otherwise, blouses must have sleeves. No undergarments may show. No backless shirts or dresses are allowed.
8. Tops must not show midriff when arms are raised and must hang well below the belt line to ensure modesty in bending and reaching.
9. There should be **no extremes** in hairstyle or dress. Students should come to school with their hair clean, neatly cut, combed, and out of their eyes. Boys' hair should be off the collar in the back and not below mid-ear on sides. Hair must be its natural color.
10. Girls should wear feminine clothing whether skirt or pants and refrain from too-tight clothing. Leggings for girls are to be accompanied by skirts or dresses that are no higher than three inches above the knee. *Leggings are not to be worn as pants.*

11. Temporary tattoos are not allowed.
12. **Thursdays are “chapel days”**; there are no P.E. classes. Students should dress up on these days. Girls are encouraged to wear skirts and blouses or dresses and dress shoes; however dressy **slacks** are also appropriate. If leggings are worn, they must be worn with a dress or skirt. Boys should wear a collared shirt, slacks, and a belt if pants have belt loops, and dress shoes. The shirt should be tucked in at all times. **No athletic shoes, jeans or shorts are to be worn on Thursday.**
13. All clothing **must be** worn as it was made to be worn.
14. **Violations:** In all cases, the Principal is the final authority in determining specific articles of clothing that are considered by the school to be inappropriate. Warnings are issued by the classroom teacher if a child violates the dress standard. Repeated violations will result in a phone call to the parents for an appropriate change of clothing or dismissal for the day.

Preschool Dress Code:

1. A complete change of clothes must be at school **at all times**. Clothing should be *appropriate* for the *season*.
2. Your child’s clothing should be comfortable, durable and *easily laundered*. Clothing should be equipped with *simple fastenings* so that the child can manage by himself or, so that teacher assistance will be minimal.
3. When girls are wearing skirts or dresses, they will need to wear shorts underneath.
4. Children are expected to be fully toilet trained; diapers and pull-ups are not permitted.
5. All children should wear rubber soled shoes that fully enclose the foot. For safety reasons, jellies, clogs, flip-flops and sandals are not to be worn to school. Athletic shoes are recommended, as they are required for P.E. classes.

Electronic Devices

Appropriate stewardship of personal electronic property is essential. StoneBridge School will not take any responsibility for the care and safekeeping of students’ personal electronic equipment. If such equipment is confiscated for misuse, it is stored in the office and the parent is contacted. The parent must claim the property in person.

Cell Phones (including “GizmoGadget” types): If a student brings a device to school, it must be **turned off** during the school day (8:10 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.) and may not be carried on the student’s person while on campus. That is, **devices should not be used at all during the school day to send or receive messages or calls or to use the internet. Devices must be stored in backpacks and may not be on students’ person.** **Note:** A school phone is available for students at the receptionist’s desk during the school day with permission. Parents needing to contact students during the school day should call the school office and send a message through our administrative staff. The school phone number is 488-2214.

Music and Entertainment Devices: There is no need for the daily use of this type of equipment at school. This equipment should not be on school property or at a

school sponsored event unless specific permission is granted by a teacher or school authority and notification is provided to parents and administration and the use fully conforms to the granted permission. Digital cameras or cameras of any kind are also not permitted during the school day unless permission is granted by administration for a specific purpose.

Emergency School Closing

In the event of inclement weather or other significant incidents, StoneBridge School is not necessarily constrained to follow the decisions made by local public schools. Please do not assume that because Chesapeake, Portsmouth, or Suffolk schools are closed or opening late that we are doing the same.

Sources for SBS closing/delay-related information:

- TV channels 3, 10 and 13
- SBS website: www.stonebridgeschool.com
- Telephone voicemail: 488-2214
- Renweb: Parents Web, e-mail and text message alerts are used for emergencies

During inclement weather or other significant incidents, SBS parents who are concerned about their child's safety or road conditions are always welcome to come and pick up their child.

Field Study Trips

Many field studies enrich and promote classroom lessons. The lower school usually visits the Chrysler Art Museum or another fine arts event each year. Advantage is taken of the many historical, scientific, and cultural opportunities in our area. Parents sign a general permission slip for field studies on their contract and are then notified of the details of each scheduled trip. Teachers plan these trips carefully, tying them in to units of the curriculum. If parents do not wish their child to go on a specific field study, they should notify the teacher or Principal of the reason. In such a case the child reports to school at the regular time and is assigned appropriate activities. Unless the student is ill, they are expected to be at school. Lastly, please be aware that field studies are appropriate for the designated grade level and provisions for younger children are not available. *Please make other arrangements for siblings.*

StoneBridge vehicles are used to transport students for all school sponsored events including field studies. All students are required to ride with the class and teacher to the special event. Proper ratios are always followed in regards to supervision to ensure the safety of our students. Parent involvement is encouraged. Parent chaperones must sign in agreement to following the Chaperone Guidelines, available from the classroom teacher or Lower School Administrative Assistant.

Grading

Grading progress in learning is a necessary part of school life and a demonstration of the principle of property. Our labor has value. Progress in school is the direct result of diligence and industry. It takes more than intellect to bring real success in learning. It requires diligence, faithfulness, and other important qualities of character. Our goal is to nurture the character of scholarship in students by requiring a notebook grade, homework, and a grading standard that will challenge the best in every child. Kindergarten students have modified grading requirements.

We never want grades to be a source of discouragement, pride, competition, or ridicule. We do want students to develop an appreciation of work standards and the *principle of sowing and reaping*. Children must understand that *a grade is a by-product of their labor*.

Second through fifth grade students are given A, B, C, D, or F letter grades. A check (/), check plus (/+), L, and N are used for kindergarten, first grade, and some non-academic classes.

The following is a list of the grades given by grade level:

K-4 – K-5	/+	Superior Progress
	/	Good Progress
	L	Limited Progress
1 st	/+	Superior Progress
	/	Good Progress
	N	Needs Improvement

This scale is used for all academic and resource classes.

2nd through 5th

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	64-69
F	Below 64

This scale is used for all academic classes. Depending on grade level this scale may be used for some resource classes. Those resource classes not receiving a letter grade will use /, /+, and N.

Health and Wellness Policy

We have an obligation to all parents to provide a safe environment and must control circulation of medications. If your child requires medication on a regular basis or for 10 days or more, or if he/she has a life threatening condition or asthma that requires medication, we require that the appropriate forms be completed and submitted to the office at the time of receiving the medication:

- Needs medication daily or for 10 days or more—**Medication Consent Form**
- Your child has a life threatening condition—**Life Threatening Management Form**
- Your child has asthma that requires an inhaler or nebulizer treatments—**Virginia Asthma Action Plan Form**

Prescription medications must be in the original pharmacy bottle, to include child's name, type of medicine, etc. You must include a time schedule letting us know when the next dose is to be given. If your child has frequent need for over the counter pain medication, please bring a bottle labeled with his name and dosage to the office.

Parents should apply sunscreen (as needed) before bringing children to school. The teacher will not be responsible for the application of these items.

Students should not be sent to school ill or injured. StoneBridge School has established the following criteria for keeping your child at home or requesting evaluation by your healthcare provider:

- Any contagious illness, such as meningitis, pertussis, chicken pox, etc.: Parents should notify the school immediately if their child has a contagious disease. Other parents will then be informed if necessary. Confidentiality and privacy will be protected for each individual as much as possible.
- Fever of 100 degrees or higher within the previous 24 hours. *Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications before returning to school.*
- Sore throat or swollen glands with fever over 100 degrees orally.
- Earache with fever over 100 degrees orally.
- Inflamed, irritated eyes or drainage from eyes must be evaluated by a healthcare provider to determine if the condition is contagious. If it is contagious, appropriate treatment must be started before your child attends class and after school activities.
- Undiagnosed rashes or skin eruptions.
- **Vomiting or diarrhea within the previous 24 hours.**
- Head lice or scabies: If your child has head lice, please notify the school immediately. Please be assured that this information will be treated in a sensitive, confidential manner. Upon return to school after treatment for head lice as ordered by your health care provider, the student should go to the office to be checked before returning to class. *StoneBridge has a no nit policy.*

This is not an exhaustive list and exclusion from school is at the discretion of the administration.

Homework

The Purpose for Homework: For young students, homework is minimal and mostly oral. As students progress through the grades the length and complexity of assignments will increase. Good homework habits are cultivated and essential. We give homework for the following reasons:

1. To form habits that contribute to success
2. To reinforce what was taught in school
3. To create a point of intellectual contact between parent and child
4. To keep parents in tune with the child's progress

StoneBridge Lower School Homework Guidelines:

Grade level	Minimum expectation	Days Est. Time	Method of communication
K4	Weekly memory verse Reading, Second Semester	Days: Mon, Tues, Thursday 20 minutes, 3x/ week	RenWeb, Communication binder
K5	Weekly memory verse Reading Spelling, Second Semester	Days: Mon, Tues, Thursday 30 min, 3x/ week	RenWeb, folder
1 st	Weekly memory verse Reading Spelling Math Projects as assigned	Days: Mon, Tues, Thursday Reading assignments are completed on a weekly basis. Total: 30 min, 3x/ week	RenWeb, folder

2 nd	Weekly memory verse Reading, written reflection Spelling Math Projects as assigned	Days: Mon, Tues, Thursday Reading assignments are completed within a weekly timeframe. Total: 45 min, 3x/ week	RenWeb, folder
3 rd	Weekly memory verse Reading, written reflection Spelling Math Studying for tests as assigned Projects as assigned	Days: Mon, Tues, Thursday Reading assignments are completed within a weekly timeframe. Total: 45 min, 3x/week	RenWeb, Homework binder with a planner page per week
4 th	Weekly memory verse^ Reading, written reflection^ Spelling* Math* Computer- keyboarding practice^ Studying for tests as assigned Projects as assigned^	*Assignments in these subjects are only given on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday ^Other assignments are completed within a weekly timeframe at the discretion of the student	RenWeb, Homework binder with a planner page per week
5 th	Weekly memory verse^ Reading, written reflection^ Spelling* Math* Computer assignments^ Studying for tests as assigned Projects as assigned^	*Assignments in these subjects are only given on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday ^Other assignments are completed within a weekly timeframe at the discretion of the student	RenWeb, Homework binder with a planner page per week

Lost and Found Articles

Clothing and articles left in halls, on the school grounds, and in classrooms are collected and placed in a lost and found box, located in the vestibule leading into Assembly Hall from the preschool wing. Check the Lost and Found before Christmas vacation, before spring vacation, and before summer vacation. Unclaimed articles are displayed upon occasion and parents are asked to claim their articles. All unclaimed articles are given to charity.

Notebook Methodology

What is the notebook methodology? How are notebooks used as a tool for learning? How does a parent know what a child is learning and how they are progressing in mastery of the subject?

- The Principle Approach is a writing-driven methodology.
- Character is formed by the consistent challenge of conscience to a set of standards governing the notebook: neatness, accuracy, completeness, and order.
- The notebook method governs the teacher and student participation in the subject by establishing a consistent tool and standard of Christian scholarship.
- The student notebook is a record of learning, including research of the subject.

- The student notebook evidences biblical reasoning and reflective (critical) thinking, as well as the student's mastery of the subject in his own expression.

The four-fold standard of neatness, accuracy, completeness, and order is periodically assessed through the year and averaged into the quarterly grade given in the student's report card. The notebook grade, therefore, is a grade for work skills and character more than academic ability. This provides for a measurement of the whole purpose of education: "Correcting the temper, forming the manners and habits of youth, fitting for usefulness," as well as "enlightening the mind."

Parent partnership:

- Notebooks will be sent home for review with the parents a *minimum of once per quarter*. The classroom teacher, or the individual parent, may opt to send a notebook home weekly, or bimonthly.
- Notebooks will be sent home whenever there is a test, or if a reflection paper has been assigned for homework.
- If a grade of 94 or below is earned on a test, the test will be sent home before filing in the notebook for review and correction, if applicable, with the parent. This is not for an amended grade. The test will be filed after parent review.
- Notebooks are also accessible to parents in the classroom any day from 8:10 – 8:25 AM or after 3:15 PM.

Parking

Please do not leave your car unattended at the front doors or in the fire lane at any time. If you feel it is necessary to help your child in and out of the car, or you need to enter the building for any reason, please park in the parking lot. We reserve the front lot for preschool drop off, field trip use, and emergency vehicles, if necessary. Also, please note that it is illegal to park in the handicap spaces without proper handicap identification on the vehicle.

School Events

Back-to-School Night is for all parents in September. Both parents are encouraged to attend and spend time in each of their children's classrooms. Notes are frequently left for moms and dads to read, and many parents write responses which are savored throughout the year by their children. Student work is on display and each teacher spends time imparting the spirit and routine of the classroom.

Christian Heritage Day: The purpose for this special event is to bring history alive and remember God's providence in the establishment of America's first permanent English colony.

Christmas Choral Program: A reinforcement of what the season is really about shown through the many talents of our students.

Constitution Day is a day commemorating the signing of our U.S. Constitution in a special chapel, followed by a ceremony in which each student signs the individual classroom constitution.

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day: Grandparents receive a special invitation to join their grandchildren at a special chapel and a visit to the classroom.

K5 Graduation: A celebration of the initial step of formal schooling: *Websters 1828* defines **graduation**, n. as: regular progression by succession of degrees; Improvement; exaltation of qualities. The purpose of this program is to honor the work of God in the lives of the students by sharing the culmination of their learning with the parents and families. The students have shown improvement, changed gradually through the year, made progression and displayed qualities that are “praiseworthy and excellent” as Philippians 4:8 exhorts us to think upon.

Liberty Day: Our school’s unique tribute to the contributions of our United States military service members. We honor StoneBridge parents, grandparents, and other family members who are retired or active duty military, reservist, or Veterans of Foreign Wars.

School Hours

Arrival

The doors to the classroom will open daily at 8:10 a.m. Students should use this time to organize their school materials, sharpen pencils, order lunch, and be ready to begin their day. After 8:20 a.m. parents are asked to leave the classroom. School will begin promptly at 8:25 a.m., and students are expected to be seated and ready for class before that time.

Tardiness causes your child to begin the day in a rush and to be unprepared for the learning activities that have already begun. In addition, it is disruptive to the class as a whole. Your efforts to have your child to school on time will help us have an orderly beginning to each day. In order to lessen disruption to the classroom, **parents are not to accompany the student to class after the tardy bell rings at 8:25.**

Dismissal

On Thursday afternoons, we will dismiss at 11:50 a.m. If you are planning to attend chapel and would like to leave with your student directly after chapel, you must communicate to the teacher by **8:25 a.m.** that morning. The teacher will have your student bring their belongings to chapel and then be dismissed directly from the auditorium. If prior notice has not been provided, parent will have to utilize normal carpool procedures. There will be no classroom pick up after chapel. For Awards Chapels and Preschool Performances, normal carpool procedures will apply with no dismissal directly from chapel. Please proceed from Assembly Hall with your carpool number and your child will be called as soon as dismissal begins.

All other days, (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday) school is dismissed at 2:55 p.m. Parents are not to be in the classrooms from 2:40 to 3:15 to maintain an orderly, safe dismissal. Parents may arrive by 2:50 p.m. to begin forming the carline. Children will be dismissed only when their vehicle has arrived and is waiting in the line *with the carpool number displayed in the window*. Parents may opt to park and walk up to the dismissal area in the breezeway beside Assembly Hall to pick up their child. These parents must also display their students’ carpool number. Carpool numbers are called beginning at 2:55 p.m. Please stay in your car at all times and **do not** leave your car unattended in the car pool line. If the driver has business in the school building or on his phone, he should park the car in the parking lot. *All children will be dismissed through the carpool only*; dismissals through the receptionist are concluded at 2:40. Students who are not picked up by 3:15 p.m. (12:15 p.m. on Thursdays) will be placed in Extended Care, which may incur charges.

School Pictures

Each year, student pictures will be taken in the fall and spring by a local photographer and these may be purchased.

School Supplies

During the summer, you will receive a supply list specific for the grade level and teacher. Supply lists are posted on the school website after they have been sent in the mail, which is usually in late July.

Special Days

At StoneBridge, we follow the Biblical example of the Israelites in using special days as a way to commemorate and teach the next generation what God has done. These days are an integral part of our curriculum, not just “fun” days for the students. Special days are set aside to celebrate various aspects of our curriculum. Classrooms come alive with authentic foods and crafts, music, visuals, guests, and students dressed in costumes. The entire Lower School celebrates Christian Heritage Day before Thanksgiving break and STEM Day in the spring. Traditionally, the lower school grades have highlighted the following special days:

PS – Noah’s Ark Days
K4 – Beatrix Potter Day
K5 – Pioneer Day
1st – Italy Day

2nd – Heidi Day
3rd – Bach Tea and Narnia Day
4th – Swiss Family Robinson Day
5th – Etiquette Luncheon and Presidents’ Wax Museum

Transportation

Carpool: For the safety of the children, we ask that there be NO CELL PHONES used in the carpool line. We also ask that all pets remain in your vehicle during dismissal. Children who have been picked up must remain in the watchful supervision of their parent or guardian; students are not allowed to roam the halls or school premises after dismissal.

Bus: StoneBridge vehicles are used to transport students for all school sponsored events including field studies. All students are required to ride with the class and teacher to the special event. Permission for use of school transportation is contained in the enrollment agreement, however; consent through additional permission forms may be required.

Bus rules:

- The first rule of safety revolves around good conduct. Noise should be minimal so students may talk but keep the level down quietly.
- All of the driver’s instructions and directions must be obeyed.
- Head, elbows, arms or any other objects should never be put out of the window.
- The vehicles should be treated with care and respect.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Extended Care Program

Extended Care is the program of the school that has charge or oversight of students before and after school hours (8:10 – 3:15) with concern for their safety and prosperity.

The program:

- Provides working parents safe and reliable childcare before and after school
- Provides students with assisted study time
- Provides students with interesting and safe activities
- Sees that all children are supervised

Please see fee sheet which is available on the website.

Extra-Curricular Offerings

Basketball Junior League: On scheduled Saturdays during the fall, students enjoy Basketball Junior League in the StoneBridge gym. These intramural games, coached by StoneBridge parents, are open to all K4-8th graders, and teach the students basic basketball skills, teamwork, and Christian sportsmanship. A nominal fee covers a tee shirt.

Clubs: Many after school clubs are available to the students. Some of these are Music Club, Book Club, Lego Club, Archery, etc. Club information is sent home to parents and available on the website.

Soccer Junior League: Soccer Junior League takes place on Saturdays during the spring (April-June). These intramural games, coached by StoneBridge parents, are open to all K4-7th graders, and teach the students basic soccer skills, teamwork, and Christian sportsmanship.

Summer Reading

StoneBridge Lower School strongly recommends summer reading for all students. Three high quality books are to be read independently from 1st through 6th grade. Preschool and kindergarten parents are asked to read books aloud to their students. Bookmarks, mailed in June, are used to record titles. Special commendations are awarded in September to those who read beyond the minimum.

*Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge,
to make you know the certainty of the words of truth?
Proverbs 22:20-21a*

*Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Romans 12:2*

PARENT PARTICIPATION

It has been observed that the students who experience the greatest joys in learning and grow most rapidly in their God-given potential are those whose **parents take an active and responsible role in their children's education** – fathers and mothers who faithfully pray for StoneBridge and their children's success, keep in touch with teachers, provide the necessary home resources and accountability for homework, volunteer to help at school, attend meetings, and support student programs.

There is no model StoneBridge parent, student, or faculty member, no mold in which we try to squeeze ourselves! We celebrate **God's Principle of Individuality** and embrace each family member and his uniqueness in Christ. We encourage everyone to faithfully support our mission and dedication to Christian education at home and school, in conversation and communication, and to care for each other as family! Our **standard** is the Lord Jesus Christ -- **Grace** – and our **ruler** is His Word – **Truth**.

Annual Golf Classic

Held each spring at a local golf course, this annual event offers an opportunity for parents, grandparents, teachers, business owners, and friends to enjoy an afternoon of golf and fellowship, while supporting the athletic program at StoneBridge School.

Room Parents

The Room Parent Program is an extremely important and necessary adjunct to the daily life within the classrooms. A Room Parent is a parent who is willing to directly serve the needs of the homeroom teacher. Their gifts are utilized under the direct supervision of the homeroom teacher to directly aid with manpower or finding others to help with classroom projects, celebrations, making food, field studies, crafts, bulletin boards, Special Day needs, graduation (K-5) receptions and sundry other needs that arise in any school year. Each homeroom needs at least one Room Parent and a pool of parents who can be called upon to give assistance.

Volunteers

Volunteers are always needed to help the school year run smoothly. Some of the areas you may want to volunteer in are below:

- Room Parents
- Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day
- Lunchroom Assistants
- Special guest speaker for chapel
- Library
- Carpool helpers
- Field study chaperones
- Christian Heritage or STEM Day

These are just a few of the areas that we look for volunteers. You will receive more information about opportunities to volunteer at Back-to-School Night.

Whoever will be chief among you, let Him be your servant.
Matthew 20:27

The StoneBridge School Biblical Ethos Statement

Can two walk together unless they be agreed? Amos 3:3

Ethology is defined as “a treatise on morality or the science of ethics” and comes from the Greek root meaning *manners, morals, and discourse*. “The Ethology of StoneBridge School” is therefore a discourse **describing the fundamental character or spirit** of the school’s culture, or **ethos**. It is written for the purpose of communicating fully and clearly the shared **ethos** to which each StoneBridge School community member (student, family, faculty, staff, administration, board member, volunteer, or anyone actively involved in the daily life of the school) consents.

- Ethos, n. The fundamental character or spirit of a culture; the underlying sentiment that informs the beliefs, customs, or practices of a group or society.
- Morality, n. The conformity of an act to the divine law, or to the principles of rectitude. This conformity implies that the act must be performed by a free agent, and from a motive of obedience to the divine will.
- Discourse, n. A communication of thoughts by words; mutual interchange of thoughts; a written treatise; the act of the understanding, by which it passes from premises to consequences, which connects propositions, and deduces conclusions from them.
- Manners, n. Deportment; behavior; conduct; course of life; in a moral sense.
- Biblical, a. Pertaining to the bible, or the sacred writings
- Consent, v. Agreement of the mind to what is proposed or stated by another; accord; hence, a yielding of the mind to that which is proposed.¹

At StoneBridge School, the particular **ethos** we desire is one of excellence, not only in our academics, but also in the general school atmosphere and daily life of the students, whether they are on campus, or representing the school in any off-site event. When the student’s life outside of school adversely affects the ethos of the school, it becomes the school’s responsibility to bring the scriptural principles to bear upon the situation. Our pursuit of excellence includes academics, Christian character, relationships and stewardship of property and talent.

Our motivation for this commitment comes from Biblical principles. The list of scriptures provided at the end of this document express the principles to which we adhere and are represented by *Philippians 4:8*:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

¹ American Dictionary of the English Language: Noah Webster 1828.
Foundation for American Christian Education, San Francisco, 1968.

From Biblical principle we draw the following conclusions, which set the specific standards by which we operate in reference to our **ethos**.

1. In life, we are asked to discern the nature, quality, purpose, and usefulness of everything. We are given great liberty but are accountable for our choices.
2. This discernment is important, because our thinking should reflect God's thinking about the things that come our way, and thereby we demonstrate that He is a living and active Person in our lives.
3. This discernment is a process, not a simple event. It is developed over time as we grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
4. Logically, this process involves testing all things, and holding onto whatever meets the Biblical standard, and discarding what does not.
5. Obviously, this is not because God wishes to limit our enjoyment and happiness; in fact, the opposite is true – it is because God wishes to limit the damage that could come to our lives by not holding onto His standards. For example, using the above verse, imagine if we allowed the opposites of what is mentioned to nominate or influence our thinking. That would mean that what is ignoble, false, wrong, impure, ugly, disgusting, despised, profane, or perverse, would describe our lives. We must guard against admitting the evil influences, as the consequences would be harmful for generations.

At StoneBridge, we aim to define and incorporate into our curriculum, and inculcate in our children, these standards and principles. In addition, we aim to have a social atmosphere that conforms to Biblical principle. We also desire to see each student reach his fullest expression in Christ through the educational process, growing in discernment, and in the application of Biblical Principles to his life.

Therefore, because we stand under the authority of scripture and the wisdom of Biblical principles, we have established certain policies and behavioral codes. These policies are found in this Manual, StoneBridge Board Policy Manual, in our primary, middle, and high school dress codes that are published and distributed annually, in the high school honor code, and in the various annual updates from administration. In addition to the existing policies, and in light of the concern we are addressing as distinct community living in a culture that is often hostile to biblical living, **we add the following policy:**

No student is allowed to discuss² or bring material into the school for any use whatsoever that violates Biblical standards. This includes printed matter, music, use of social media, computer files, videos, or any other medium of communication that fails to follow these Biblical guidelines. Anything that is contrary to the ethos described in this treatise is hereby prohibited at school.

² Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Our expectation as a Christian school is that every home joined in partnership with us is a *Christian home*: a home in which the Lordship of Jesus Christ is honored in every aspect of life. While we understand the limits of our jurisdiction as a school and will not usurp the authority of the parents, we do assert the God-given authority to regulate what is brought into the school and the use of social media by our students and families in ways that undermine the ethos heretofore described. We are accountable to God to do so, and responsible to every parent to create and preserve the environment that honors the principles of the Word of God.

We recognize that these regulations do not produce holiness, nor achieve any righteousness in relationship to God. Nothing of man can do so as that is the work of the Holy Spirit. But, the work of the Holy Spirit is to increase our knowledge of what is good, to cause us to hate what is evil, to enable us to make choices in the use of our time, talent, and treasure that reflect His holy character and enable us to be most useful. Note the words of Paul to a young developing leader: *“In a large house there are many different articles, not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”* II Timothy 2:20-21

Please remember that this *ethos* policy is set so that we might maintain an environment that accommodates the mission of our school:

StoneBridge School is a classical Christian school established to restore the Christian character of the Republic. We serve Christian families, enabling each child to reach the fullest expression of his value in Christ through a Biblical “principle approach” education.

Our school song best summarizes the Stonebridge School *ethos*, taken from Isaiah 60:15 and Philippians 1:9-10:

*³I will make you an eternal excellence, a joy of many generations!
I will fill you with the fruits of righteousness, which come through Christ Jesus.
And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more,
With knowledge and all discernment.
So that you may approve what is excellent, being pure and blameless
Filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ
To the glory and praise of God!*



Rev. Jim Arcieri, Dr. Carole Adams, and the StoneBridge school administration wrote “The Ethology of StoneBridge school” statement. The StoneBridge School Board of Directors at the October 11, 1999 meeting board meeting approved it.

³ By Mary Barnes 1984, StoneBridge School Teachers Retreat

Scriptures upon which the ethos statement is based:

(Phil. 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

(I Cor. 14:20 KJV) Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

(Eph. 6:4 KJV) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

(Jer. 10:2 KJV) Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

(Pro. 19:27 KJV) Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

(2 Cor. 10:5 KJV) Casting down imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

(Col. 2:8 KJV) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

(Amos 3:3 KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

(Mark 7:21-23 KJV) For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

(Psa. 11:5 KJV) The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

(Prov. 22:6 KJV) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

(Eph. 5:4-5 KJV) Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe and teach the Holy Bible, God's only inspired, infallible, authoritative, written Word, to which nothing can be added or taken away.

We believe and teach the sovereignty of one God, creator and governor of the universe and man: that God is eternally existent in three persons, as God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

We believe and teach that man, made in God's image and likeness, given the choice, yielded to temptation by Satan, disobeyed God, fell into sin, thereby incurring God's judgment, and revealing man's great need for a Savior.

We believe and teach that JESUS CHRIST is God's promised Savior to man.

We believe and teach that JESUS CHRIST as Deity, God's only begotten Son, came to the earth through the virgin birth, to provide, through His shed blood, His atoning death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father, man's only means of redemption or salvation from sin and its everlasting punishment.

We believe and teach that the sinless life of our Savior JESUS CHRIST, His miracles, His accessibility to all men, women and children, reveal God's grace and love. We look forward to the promised return of our Savior in power and glory to reign on earth.

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit, Third Person of the blessed Trinity of God, took up His abode on earth, on the day of Pentecost, and that by His indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.

We believe and teach that the bride of Christ, the church, is empowered to carry out the Savior's great commission, and to preach the gospel of liberty, both internal and external, to all men and nations, and to bring His healing message of the unity of all believers.

We believe in and teach the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost: those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe that the responsibility of the Christian in America is to insure both Gospel purity and Gospel availability by remembering the marvelous works of Christ in bringing forth our nation where church and state, united internally, but separated externally and governmentally, make available to all men, women, and children, the privilege of preaching and teaching SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, under a Biblical constitution.

We who serve the Lord at StoneBridge School are committed to this Statement of Faith by which we live, by accepting the government of god through Christ in our ministry of teaching and learning.