

WESTGATE CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE:

The Westgate Christian Home Education Association (WCHEA) has been established for members and friends of Westgate Baptist Ministries who are seeking assistance in home educating their children in accordance with biblical standards and credible academics. We believe that the Scriptures hold parents accountable for the instruction their children receive and that a Christ-centered world view should be presented throughout the curriculum

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Westgate Christian Home Educators Association will not discriminate against, nor deny membership to, any person on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, or national origin. Each applicant for membership must submit an application form and pay the application fee. Acceptance will be based upon our published criteria for membership and the cooperative support of the home educating family.

South Carolina Home School Law, Option III

SECTION 59-65-47. Associations for home schools; requirements.

In lieu of the requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for home schools which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements of this section. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of the associations exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45.

The State Department of Education shall conduct annually a review of the association standards to ensure that requirements of the association, at a minimum, include:

- (a) A parent must hold at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate;
- (b) The instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days;
- (c) the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature; and
- (d) Educational records shall be maintained by the parent-teacher and include:
 - (1) A plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent-teacher engage;
 - (2) A portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; and

(3) A semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (c) above.

By January thirtieth of each year, all associations shall report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association to the children's respective school districts.

SPECIFIC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Each applicant for membership must submit an application form and pay the required application fee. No family will be admitted (or re-admitted) if an outstanding balance is owed to Westgate Christian School. Members must verify that they are in compliance with the requirements of S.C. Code 59-65-47.

ON CAMPUS PARTICIPATION

Please see VISITORS TO CAMPUS on page 8 for procedures regarding visiting campus for any reason. All home educated students must check in at the office upon arrival. WCHEA students must sign out in the office before leaving campus.

See BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS, pages 11-13, for information regarding required behavior while on campus or while participating in Westgate Christian School related activities.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Library Book Policy

Library books, videos, DVDs, etc. may be checked out of the library. All items must be listed in the notebook on the front desk. Please note the date the item is checked out, the person taking the item, and the name of the item. Books may be checked out for 4 weeks at a time and may be renewed for an additional 4 weeks. DVDs and videos may be checked out for 1 week and renewed for an additional 1 week. Teaching items, such as Bible Flash-a-cards, educational DVDs, and other items may be checked out for 4 weeks and renewed for an additional 4 weeks if there is no one else requesting the item. WCHEA members will be charged a fee for overdue items.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Please see page 16 for guidelines regarding cell phone use.

Field Trips

Field trips are scheduled at the beginning of the school year. WCHEA students may participate in field trips pertaining to their grade level. Teachers will provide information regarding times, pricing, and guidelines for dress. Parents may be asked to serve as chaperones and should dress appropriately. Students are required to maintain the same level of discipline away from campus as required on campus. Siblings of WCHEA students may not attend grade-specific field trips.

Parking

WCHEA families and students are asked to park either at the front of the school building by the office or in the parking lot between the gym and soccer fields. The parking spaces between the soccer field and the school building must remain empty to ensure the smooth flow of traffic for drop-off and pick-up times.

WCHEA students with a driver's license will be allowed to drive to school with parental permission. Each student must park in an assigned parking area. No student is to leave campus in his automobile during school hours without being properly checked out at the office. Students may not ride in the private cars of other students going to or from school unless a note granting permission by both sets of parents is on file in the office. We will exercise reasonable diligence to enforce this rule, and any violations should be reported to the office immediately. Students in the same family are exempt from this ruling. Non-related high school students of the opposite sex are not allowed to drive to or from school together unless accompanied by a parent.

DRESS CODE

All WCHEA students taking a class on campus are required to wear a WCS uniform. **Pants** for boys and **skirts** for girls are not required to be specific WCS uniforms; however, they must look like WCS uniform pants and skirts.

Please see pages 22 through 28 for specific dress guidelines.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

WCHEA 7-12 grade students may participate in interscholastic sports competition only if they are taking one academic class at WCS. This is a rule established by the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools and must be followed. Students must meet the criteria listed on pages 29 -30.

FINE ARTS PARTICIPATION

WCHEA students may participate in the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools Fine Arts competition if they meet the following criteria:

1. All fine arts fees are paid and there are no delinquent payments on the account.
2. Students grades 7 – 12 must be enrolled in one academic class to participate in any fine arts competition, including academic testing or music. This rule has been established by the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools.

Thank you for your interest in the Westgate Christian Home Education Association and specifically the fine arts portion of our educational year.

Westgate Christian School in conjunction with The South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS) actively encourages our Elementary, Jr. and Sr. High students to participate in the various competition categories in the following grade levels: 1st through 3rd, 4th through 6th, 7th through 12th with the possibility of 10th through 12th graders able to qualify for National Competition @ Bob Jones University.

Because of the level of preparation and expense required for SCACS and the host schools to hold these events, and in keeping with their policy of inclusiveness at the elementary level, there is a SCACS Participation Fee charged for each student. This is a separate fee from the specific “event fees”, and is charged only if a particular student wins his/ her category in our WCS Fine Arts Run Offs. This fee is subject to annual revision (For 2014-15 the fee is \$19.00)

Thank you,

Bill Bethea
President, WCHEA