



# Section 1

## *About Lighthouse Christian School*

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### INTRODUCTION

Since 1994, Lighthouse has been providing quality, Christ-centered education. Our goal is to be a school of excellence. For us, “excellence” means well-pleasing to the Lord. Therefore, we endeavor to be a school that operates and instructs in complete harmony with Biblical truth. We desire for Lighthouse to be a ministry that consistently and accurately reflects God’s character.

Our God is a God of order; therefore, He commands that His work be “done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:14). This Parent-Student Handbook is an attempt to do just that. It is designed to clarify the major policies and procedures to ensure the orderly operation of our school. It is not an exhaustive representation of all school rules, policies, and practices. On rare occasions, school administration may need to modify some of the policies or procedures in this handbook. Additionally, this handbook will be updated annually before the start of each school year.

Thank you for investing the time to read and understand this important resource. Please contact the Head of School with questions. Our school administration reserves full authority in interpreting and implementing the policies and procedures in this handbook.

### MISSION

Lighthouse Christian School exists to glorify God by providing quality, Christ-centered education that will nurture students to become spiritually minded, academically versed, socially balanced, and equipped to make a positive impact in their community to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

- **We believe** in the Bible alone as the inspired Word of God, the only unerring authority for our Christian faith and life  
(2 Timothy 3:15-17).

- **We believe** in one true God, our eternal Creator, an infinitely perfect being, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Isaiah 40:28; 44:6-8; Matthew 28:19).
- **We believe** that marriage is instituted by God and is between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6).
- **We believe** that God created human beings as either male or female (Genesis 1:27, Mark 10:6-9).
- **We believe** in God the Father, the ruler of the universe and our heavenly Father (1 Timothy 1:2; 6:15, 16).
- **We believe** in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, true God, and true man, our crucified and risen Savior and Lord; in His virgin birth; His sinless life; His miracles; His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood; His literal, bodily resurrection; His ascension to the right hand of the Father; and His personal, bodily return in power and glory (John 1:1-18; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Matthew 1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 1, 9, 10).
- **We believe** in the Holy Spirit, who made us God's children by the new birth when we trusted Jesus Christ, and who is at work in our hearts prompting obedience and love for God (Romans 5:5; 8:13-17).
- **We believe** that all people have sinned against our holy and righteous God and are therefore worthy of God's judgment (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
- **We believe** in the good news, that Jesus Christ died, bearing the penalty for our sins, and was buried, that He rose again to provide forgiveness and eternal life for all who, by the grace of God, trust in Him alone (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 10:9-10).
- **We believe** in the grace of God, who has saved us, not because of who we are or what we have done, but as a gift received by faith alone (Titus 3:5-7; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- **We believe** in the universal church, invisibly uniting all true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ as brothers and sisters (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).
- **We believe** in local churches, visible gatherings of believers, for worship, fellowship, instruction, and service for Christ (Acts 2:42-47).
- **We believe** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15).

## CORE VALUES

**God:** Absolute dependence on God which supports a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit as evidenced by:

- Regard for the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the only inerrant authority for faith and practice
- Reliance on prayer
- Commitment to a lifelong study of the Bible in order to bring our lives into conformity to the image of Christ
- A Christian worldview – life viewed through the filter of God's Word

## People:

- Individual worth and uniqueness of each student
- Modeling a godly lifestyle
- Godly relationships with open communication
- Teachers who nurture, respect, and care for each student
- Partnering with committed and involved parents

## Education:

- Pursuit of academic excellence
- Teaching for transformation toward spiritual maturity in Christ

- Integration of Christian worldview into all subject matter
- Passionate teachers who motivate and inspire students
- Well-rounded traditionally based academic program

## **PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

Lighthouse Christian School is committed to a Christian philosophy of education. This means that every facet of the educational program is conditioned and directed by a Christ-centered, Biblical perspective.

We believe that God created and sustains all things through His Son, Jesus Christ; therefore, the universe and all life are dynamically related to God and exist for the purpose of glorifying Him. Man was uniquely created in God's image with the capacity to know and respond to Him personally and voluntarily. Only by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord can man glorify God by doing His will, which is the ultimate purpose of man's life.

Lighthouse Christian School's authority for Christian education is delegated from God through parents. The goal of Lighthouse Christian School is to partner with parents in training their children to know, love, obey, and serve God.

The heart and soul of our educational program at Lighthouse Christian School is not our textbooks, but our teachers. We seek teachers who are solidly committed to Jesus Christ and well prepared to communicate God's love and His principles for living by example in both life and profession. Secondly, our faculty has the necessary academic certification and the skills to effectively teach in each appropriate instructional area. God has blessed us with a team of people who are models to love, inform, motivate, direct, encourage, discipline, and evaluate young people.

Therefore, the methods used at Lighthouse Christian School facilitate the student's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth so that the student can glorify God. This growth comes from integrating Biblical truth and educational knowledge and applying the synthesis to life situations.

Realizing that students are unique and learn in multifaceted ways, teachers use a variety of methods and tools to achieve meaningful/relevant learning for all styles and levels with the goal of creating life-long learners. Lighthouse Christian School focuses on developing a mastery of traditional core content (Bible, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) expanded by enrichment programs to provide an academically excellent educational experience. Accurate and continuous assessments are used at each level to confirm the mastery and understanding of basic skills.

What will ultimately determine the success of Lighthouse Christian School is whether what is accomplished here is "to the glory of God." (I Peter 4:11) If God rather than men is served and exalted, then students and teachers will be seen as unique, very special creations of the Lord. They will learn to desire a closer relationship with their Creator and be equipped to serve Him all their lives. There is no greater challenge for Lighthouse Christian School.

## **EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Lighthouse Christian School is an approved school by the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). We are active members of Cognia, the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and the Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS). Cognia and ACSI provide many services, including accreditation, certification, student activities, and professional development. WFIS is active in representing our schools before the Washington State Legislature and provides many other benefits.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

Lighthouse Christian School will admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to all students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

## **2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN – SUMMARY OF GOALS**

### **Academics: Strengthening and Deepening the Learning for Every Student**

#### **Goal 1: Grow Deep, Innovative Learning Experiences at Every Grade Level**

- Emphasize the child-focus of the school from instruction to facility.
- Include extraordinary educational experiences during the school year.
- Maximize the potential of each child.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Build a covered play area.
- Design special learning days for staff and students.
- Design mission trips and meaningful community service opportunities for all students.
- Adopt a formative standardized testing tool to assess student learning progress.

#### **Goal 2: Support Teachers to Deliver the Mission and Core Values of Lighthouse**

- Implement Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to give form to and sustain the relational nature of a Lighthouse education.
- Staff the Lighthouse academic program to promote the optimum learning potential for all students.
- Provide curricular and professional development resources as tools that inspire deepened and excellent mission delivery.
- Grow the enrollment of the school.
- Foster a cycle of continuous instructional improvement, in part, through the use of data analysis.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Create PLCs in every department to promote valuable professional collaboration, educational innovation, and horizontal and vertical integration within the school to positively impact student learning.
- Establish chaplaincy, administration, counseling, and instructional coaching to meet school needs.
- Establish a formative standardized testing schedule throughout the school year.
- Formalize the admissions process to a collaborative approach based on the Lighthouse mission statement.
- Improve school communication through various channels.

### **Development: Supporting the Future of Lighthouse's Mission and Growth**

#### **Goal 1: Support the Master Site Plan**

- Complete Phase 1 of the master site plan.
- Lay the foundation for all future phases of the master site plan.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Communicate, fundraise, and complete Phase 1 of the master site plan.

- Establish a property search committee to assess the feasibility of future growth for Lighthouse.

## **Goal 2: Balance Event-Based Development with Relationship-Driven Fundraising**

- Develop a culture of partnership with donors.
- Continue dynamic fundraising events that build community.
- Fundraise in a strategic and thoughtful way throughout the school year.

### **Action Steps:**

- Reconnect with historical donors and partnerships to share Lighthouse's vision of growth.
- Continue committee reviews of tuition assistance that supports high-need, mission-driven families.

## **Board of Directors: Strengthening the Board's Processes and Effectiveness**

### **Goal 1: Adopt a Strategic Financial Management Tool to Govern Financial and Program Operations**

- Gradually move tuition to fully cover school operational costs.
- Annually fund operational reserves for facility maintenance and growth.
- Build the endowment annually.
- Build substantial funds for student learning experiences and staff professional development in support of academic goals.

### **Action Steps:**

- Adopt a strategic financial management tool document to guide tuition and compensation setting.
- Create an annual school tithe to the endowment fund.
- Create designated funds for key operational maintenance and updates.
- Fund dynamic learning experiences for staff and faculty.

### **Goal 2: Evaluate Board Committees' Effectiveness in Meeting the LCS Mission and Growth**

- Build accountability within board committees.
- Design committee work to be aligned with a governance model.

### **Action Steps:**

- Design a calendar for each board committee on responsibilities that move our strategic goals forward.
- Invite faculty, staff, and administration to participate in applicable board committees.