

destiny christian

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

~ A Ministry of Destiny Christian Church ~

Handbook - Policies & Procedures

Updated February 2021

Welcome to Destiny Christian Elementary!

Thank you for choosing Destiny Christian Elementary. We are excited to partner with you, your child and your family. We desire to offer a Christian education filled with excellence that will meet the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and relational needs of your child. Your child will develop a solid spiritual and academic educational foundation that will last a lifetime.

Kindergarten was started in 2010 as an academic institution that operates as a ministry of Destiny Christian Church. In 2018, we expanded to include transitional kindergarten as well as a first grade. For 2019 second grade was offered and in 2020 third grade was offered. In 2021 fourth grade will be offered. There is a plan in place to offer one additional grade per school year until sixth grade is reached. We identify ourselves as an academic institution that values high academic standards, community partnership, and biblical infusion through all subjects. We have found that empowering children to make healthy choices in their early years allows them to be successful as they continue throughout their elementary school years. With that in mind, we look for opportunities daily to guide and allow children to make healthy choices. This parent handbook has been compiled to acquaint you with our philosophies, policies and procedures. Please take time to read through this entire handbook and familiarize yourself with our school and our ideals.

The Assemblies of God Statement of Faith

- The Bible is God's Word and His plan for me.
2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21
- There is one true God. God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one.
Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19
- Jesus is God's Son.
Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35
- Everyone has sinned.
Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19
- I can be a Christian because Jesus died for me.
Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7
- I obey and remember Jesus when I take Communion and am baptized in water.
2 Peter 1:4, 1 Corinthians 11:26, Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4
- The baptism in the Holy Spirit is God's gift to me.
Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3, Acts 2:42
- When I am baptized in the Holy Spirit, I will speak in tongues.
Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28
- With God's help, I can become more like Jesus.
Romans 12: 1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12, Romans 6:1-11; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5
- God uses the Church to do His work.
Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29
- God uses spiritual leaders to help me grow.
Mark 16:15-20, John 4:23,24, Ephesians 4:11-16
- God heals.
Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16
- Jesus is coming soon.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52
- For a thousand years, Jesus will lead a time of peace on earth.
Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelations 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6
- Those who do not follow Jesus will be separated from God forever.
Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelations 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8
- Those who follow Jesus will live with God forever.
2 Peter 3:13; Revelations 21,22

Affiliations

Destiny Christian Elementary is a member in good standing of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

Teaching Philosophy

At Destiny Christian Elementary we believe the family is the first teacher developing the framework for children to become effective learners. Our goal is to partner with parents in this process and link learning at home with learning at school. We believe that every student has great potential to learn. By setting a positive example to students, our Teachers model lifelong education and a love for God's word.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to help students know and honor God, prepare for a lifetime of academic and spiritual learning, and serve others.

Colors: Green and White

Scripture: Let us learn together what is good. Job 34:4

Expected Goals

Students will learn to know and honor God through Bible memorization, developing a relationship with Jesus through prayer and worship, and develop integrity in their walk with the Lord by exhibiting fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Students will prepare for a lifetime of academic and spiritual learning through rigorous curriculum content that meets each student's individual needs, while being provided standards and benchmarks to meet their individual learning goals. Biblical applications will be found through the love and joy of learning together what is good. (Job 34:4, Psalm 32:8, Psalm 126:3)

Students will willingly serve others as they desire to have a servant's heart, while developing a biblical worldview and showing love to those around them. (Matthew 23:11-12, Luke 10:27)

What We Offer

Enrollment in Destiny Christian Elementary is open as follows:

Transitional Kindergarten: children must turn 5 years old between August 1 of the current year and January 5 of the next.

Kindergarten: children must turn 5 years old by September 1 of the current year.

First Grade: children must turn 6 years old by September 1 of the current year.

Second Grade: children must turn 7 years old by September 1 of the current year.

Third Grade: children must turn 8 years old by September 1 of the current year.

Fourth Grade: children must turn 9 years old by September 1 of the current year.

Exceptions to these age requirements are made at the sole discretion of the School Administration.

Children with special needs will be admitted on an individual basis with due consideration to the program offered and the needs of the child. Children who require the full-time support of a classroom tutor employed or chosen by the parents through a private organization must meet with the School Administration prior to acceptance. No child will be excluded solely on the basis of gender, race, religion or ethnic background.

Our scripturally infused curriculum will enhance children's faith and character qualities in ways that honor Christ, while meeting or exceeding nationwide and state common core standards adopted by the California State Board of Education. Our Teachers utilize a modified Core Knowledge Sequence for learning with Language Arts, History, Visual and performing Arts, Music, and Geography, supplementing with Purposeful Design ACSI Bible curriculum, McGraw Hill My Math, Mc Graw Hill Wonders Reading and Language Arts Curriculum, Scholastic Readers & Alphafriends Phonics, and NGSS science curriculum that meets or exceeds common core state standards. Service projects, physical education, literature studies, and foreign language instruction round out our classroom instruction.

Teaching Team

At Destiny Christian Elementary, everyone on our team loves children. All members of the teaching team including the School Administration, Teachers and Teaching Aides are Christians with a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Teachers hold a California Teaching Credential or an ACSI Christian School Teaching Certificate. Our Transitional Kindergarten Teacher has extensive knowledge and training to prepare children for a successful Kindergarten experience. Team members are strongly encouraged to continue their professional development and education. Team development is conducted throughout the year and includes in-house workshops as well as attending professional development conferences. All team members are trained in CPR and First Aid. Substitutes may be used from time-to-time due to team member illness and scheduled time off.

Class Placement

A formal assessment may be scheduled before or after enrollment paperwork is finalized and a child's registration fee is paid. This initial interview and evaluation allows for the teaching team to meet a child and assess their skills and abilities. This information is used to determine if Destiny Christian Elementary is a good fit for the child and/or develop a personalized learning plan so each child is placed in the optimal classroom learning environment.

Hours

Regular school hours are Monday through Thursday 8:15am – 3:15pm and Friday 8:15am-1:15pm. Drop off time will be strictly adhered to between 8:00am and 8:15am. Students who arrive after 8:15am will NOT be admitted to campus for any reason. Students may NOT be picked up before 3:15pm except in cases of EXTREME emergency where the health and safety of the student or family is a concern. Exceptions can be made for students with established recurring academic intervention and/or mental health services. These exceptions must be cleared through the school office.

On minimum days, school hours are 8:15am – 1:15pm.

Early release every Friday allows Teachers the opportunity to participate in professional learning and collaboration meetings as well as sanitize classroom spaces and materials.

Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm. On minimum days office hours are 8:00am – 1:30pm.

Before & After School Care

Not offered at this time.

Tuition Rates 2021-22

	<u>School Only</u> 8:15am - 3:15pm Monday - Thursday 8:15am - 1:15pm Friday
Monday – Friday 5 days per week	\$6750 annually 10 monthly payments of \$675 (August – May)

Tuition rates are based on annual costs for the ten month school year which runs from August through May. No discounts will be given for holidays, field trips, or days missed because of illness.

During the summer months (June and July) a Summer Camp program may be offered and will be considered a separate program with separate leadership, registration, and rates.

An annual registration fee of \$275 is due at time of registration to secure class placement. Please note that the registration fee is non-refundable.

The registration fee is waived for active military families who provide a copy of an active military id.

Tuition is due on the 1st of each month. After the 5th of the month there is a late fee of \$25.00 due. Payment may be made online via the website or mailed in by personal check, cashier's check, or money order. No cash is accepted. Checks must be mailed in to the school office, they may not be hand-delivered to the office. Tuition may also be paid via the online payment portal found on the school website or by using the bill pay feature from the parent's banking institution. Checks are made payable to: Destiny Christian School or DCP.

Returned checks that are not reconciled prior to the 5th of the month are considered late. A \$25 processing charge will be applied for all returned checks. Cashier's checks are required for tuition payments after two returned checks.

Accounts that become thirty days delinquent will result in suspension of the student until the account is current. The student will be readmitted when all past due bills are paid.

After the first day of school, new students who enroll pay full tuition for the month they enroll regardless of their first day of school. The tuition payment is not pro-rated for the month.

A \$25.00 discount per child is given to families with two or more children enrolled in the preschool and/or elementary school program at the same time. Please see the School Administration if other arrangements are needed for a payment schedule.

Lunch Program

Children may bring their own lunch from home. School sack lunches may be purchased in advance for \$5 per day. Sack lunches contain a Smuckers Uncrustable or Kraft Food Oscar Mayer Lunchable, apple slices, carrot sticks, ranch dressing, a bag of chips, and a carton of milk. Lunches must be paid in advance online at the school website and a menu is posted monthly. Any child who does not bring a lunch from home and has not paid for a lunch in advance will be given a school lunch and parents will be charged \$5 to ensure no child goes hungry while at school.

Uniforms

Our uniforms are meant to be budget friendly and encourage students to dress in clothing that will promote a constructive, educational atmosphere free from distractions. Uniform components can be purchased at Old Navy, JCPenney, Amazon, and Walmart. Elementary students are required to wear long-sleeved or short-sleeved hunter (dark) green colored collared shirts free from designs and patterns along with black or khaki pants/skirts/shorts.

Girls may wear solid colored black or khaki uniform jumpers or green, black, or khaki dresses. Solid colored sweaters or sweatshirts (of any color) without design or print may be worn in colder months. Clothing must be modest for both boys and girls and must completely cover the stomach and midriff area when arms are raised.

Tennis shoes or rubber soled closed toed shoes and socks are required and are the most appropriate choice for shoes at all times. Sandals, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are not permitted. Parents of children wearing improper shoes will be asked to return to school with an appropriate pair of shoes for their child to change into before the child is allowed to return to class.

All student's personal possessions at school including jackets, backpacks, water bottles, etc. must be labeled with their name

School Rules

1. Make Good Choices - "Choose this day whom you will serve" Joshua 24:15
2. Use Kind Words - "May the words of my mouth be pleasing... O, Lord" Psalm 19:14
3. Keep Your Hands to Yourself - "Prepare your mind for action, be self-controlled" 1 Peter 1:13
4. Listen and Obey the First Time - "Listen to my instruction and be wise" Proverbs 8:33
5. Walk in the Classroom and Hallway - "Jesus came and walked along with them." Luke 24:15

Arrival & Pick-Up

When students arrive on campus, at staff's discretion students may have their temperature taken on the forehead with a digital thermometer designed for that use by a Teacher. Students who walk up will wait by the flagpole and may have their temperature taken. Students who are car riders may have their temperature taken as they exit their car at the drop off spot by the elementary sliding door entrance. Students may be dropped off between 8:00am and 8:15am. Students who arrive after 8:15am will **not** be admitted for the day, which means a child will not be allowed to come to school, will not be admitted to the building, and must return home.

Students will only be released to individuals authorized to pick up as noted on the student's emergency card. If an individual not on the list arrives at the school to pick up a student, the school will not dismiss the child until parents have been reached for authorization. There are no exceptions. Students may NOT be picked up before 3:15pm except in cases of EXTREME emergency where the safety of the student or family is a concern. There are no exceptions.

Designated parking, drive through lines, and class line up spaces along with the most current drop off and pick up procedures for the current school year will be determined each July and emailed to parents before the first day of school.

At the beginning of the school year, families are given two pick up cards with their child's last name. Please have these laying on the dashboard of the passenger side of the car picking up the child while using the designated pick up line.

Please **DO NOT** leave infants, toddlers or young children under 6 years old unattended in a car (regardless of whether the engine is running or not) during drop off or pick up a child. It is not safe, nor is it legal, unless there is a child 12 years or older in the car. The school's 5 minute parking spots are NOT designed so infants, toddlers, or

children under 6 remain unsupervised in a vehicle while drop off and pick up is taking place. If assistance is needed at drop off or pick up, please call the school office at 916.788.2827 and press 0. If someone is available, the office staff will be happy to assist. Parents who violate this policy may be subject to immediate termination from school.

The Destiny Christian Elementary campus is a closed campus and students may not leave school grounds, even during recess and lunch.

Students may be dropped off no earlier than 8:00am. All students should walk to the designed line up area and wait for the classroom Teacher. Students will be excused from class at 3:15pm. Students may be picked up after school in the designated drop off/pick up area no later than 3:30pm. Any student remaining on campus after 3:30pm must be picked up in the school office and families may be charged a late pick up fee equal to \$1 per child per minute late..

Tardies & Absences

We expect families to be on time for school and attend school each day it is in session. Please make every effort to make personal appointments before or after school so the classroom routine is not interrupted. Students may be dropped off between 8am – 8:15am. Students are considered Tardy if they arrive after 8:15am. Drop off time will be strictly adhered to and students who arrive after 8:15am will NOT be admitted to campus for any reason.

Exceptions can be made for students with established recurring academic intervention and/or mental health services. These exceptions must be cleared through the school office.

Children are considered tardy if they arrive after their class has left the line up area, but not all classes have moved inside. Families who are tardy two or more times during a one month period shall have a parent Teacher conference to discuss the necessity of arriving at school on time. Families who consistently arrive tardy after the initial meeting with the Teacher shall conference with the School Administration. Five tardies will equal one absence. Tardies and absences are recorded daily and become part of a child's permanent school record. This record will follow students throughout elementary school.

All student absences must be reported to the school. Parents must use the absence reporting form on the website or call the school at 916.788.2827 x 2 and let the office know by 9:00am if a child will be absent. Missed classroom work due to student absences may be requested by emailing the classroom Teacher.

Excused absences are those relating to illness or a death in the family. Arranged absences are those made in advance with the Teacher where school work is given in advance and due when the child returns to school. Arranged absences in excess of 5 school days require the approval of the School Administration. Unexcused absences are those that fit into neither of the above two categories.

Excessive absences and tardies without medical reasons will result in academic probation.

Sample Schedule – This varies by grade and teacher

- 8:00 First Bell Rings – Children begin lining up
(Please note that children line up outside beginning at 8:00am - NO EARLIER)
- 8:15 Second Bell Rings - Children walk inside
Bible / Language Arts
- 9:30 Recess Break
Small Group Rotations Reading / Math
- 11:30 Lunch/Recess
- 12:30 DEAR time Drop Everything and Read / Journals
Large Group Learning Geography / Social Studies / Science / Art
Specials / PE
- 3:15 Pack Up & Dismissal

Water Bottles

Water is available to all students whenever they wish. However, Teachers encourage the use of individual water bottles to keep students hydrated and healthy. Students are required to bring a water bottle labeled with the child's name. Only water may be consumed in class inside the water bottle unless a medical condition exists. In that case a note from the child's doctor must be on file in the school office.

Back Packs

All students are required to bring a backpack to school every day. It must be labeled with their last name and room number between the back straps and contain a complete change of clothes (pants/shirt/socks/underwear) stored in a gallon sized zip lock bag. Due to space concerns, NO ROLLING BACKPACKS are allowed.

School Supplies

Destiny Christian Elementary provides the necessary curriculum and supplies for the school year. Tuition covers the cost of most classroom supplies. From time to time Teachers may request specific items necessary for a learning unit. For parents who wish to contribute additional supplies, Teachers will hand out a list at the beginning of the school year.

Chapel

Once a week, students will participate in Chapel Worship Time on Tuesday mornings.

Scripture Memorization

Destiny Christian Elementary encourages the memorization of scripture for every child as part of the Bible curriculum. The Bible tells us in Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart." The NIV version of the Bible will be the primary version used for scripture memorization and classroom reading. Classroom Teachers may use other versions to enhance learning.

Visitors & Volunteers

Access to the campus is restricted and no visitors or volunteers are allowed in classroom spaces until further notice.

Meals

Lunch may be brought from home or purchased in advance from the school website. Children may bring peanuts and peanut butter products in their lunch.

Snacks

Each Teacher determines how morning snack will be handled in the classroom. Teachers who ask for group snack will use Sign-Up Genius for parents to choose which snacks to send and will notify parents when snacks are needed. Snacks provided should be healthy and include fruits, vegetables, dairy, and grains. Sugary snacks like cookies or candy are not an appropriate snack and will not be consumed during class, with the exception of birthday treats. No homemade treats may be distributed on campus.

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Teachers decide how birthdays will be celebrated at school. Parents may ask their child's teacher if sending treats to celebrate a birthday is allowed. Any treats sent will be eaten after lunch. Unless the entire class is included, all birthday correspondence such as cards, invitations and thank you notes must be distributed off campus. In addition, each class may dedicate a portion of the class-time for special occasions (Fall Harvest, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines and Easter). The Teacher will post a sign-up sheet for special snacks or other supplies.

Special Events

Annually the school hosts a Christmas Performance in which the students perform. It is generally held the Thursday or Friday in December before Christmas break. An End of the Year Promotion Performance and is also held at the end of the school year.

Meet the Teacher Night

The first Monday of August the school hosts Meet the Teacher Night where families may meet their child's Teacher, see their new classroom, and become familiar with their new surroundings. All families will be given available time slots to choose from and will come to tour the class and meet their teacher at their assigned time.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is held on the third Monday of August from 6:30-7:30pm. A general group session is held in the gymnasium and then teachers present their classroom schedules, curriculum content, and go over classroom policies and procedures in their classroom. This event is for parents only. Childcare is available for children ages two through ten on the playground at no charge.

School Closings

Destiny Christian Elementary shall observe the following holidays:

-Labor Day
-Thanksgiving Break (The entire week of Thanksgiving)
-New Year's Day
-President's Day
Please see the published school calendar for exact school closure dates.

-On or near Columbus Day- Teacher in-service day
-Christmas Break (The last two weeks of December)
-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
-Easter Break (The week before Easter including the Monday after)

Minimum Days

On a minimum day students attend class from 8:15am - 1:15pm. Every Friday is a minimum day. During the Parent Teacher conference week in November the school allots 3 days for the Teaching Team to hold Parent Teacher conferences.

When calculating tuition costs for elementary school, minimum days are allotted for in the yearly costs for tuition.

Field Trips

Classroom teachers will notify parents of any scheduled off-site field trips at the beginning of the school year.

Transportation

It is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide transportation for their child to and from Destiny Christian Elementary. Pick up and drop off transportation services are not offered.

School Tours

Group tours are suspended until further notice. Please see the virtual tour offered online.

Waiting List

When enrollment in the classroom has met capacity a waiting list will be implemented. In order to be placed on the waiting list, parents must complete the online "Waiting List" registration form. Once a space becomes available, the parent of the first child on the waiting list is notified via telephone and email that a space is now available. Parents have 48 hours to respond via phone call or email to accept the available space for their child and return any remaining paperwork due. If a parent does not respond, the spot is offered to the next child on the waiting list.

Technology Use Policy

Technology enhances curriculum and provides Teachers the opportunity to engage students on a platform relative to their world. Classroom iPads and student issued chromebooks with strictly controlled access to the internet are used in classrooms for beneficial instructional objectives. Teachers are charged with training students on how to responsibly use technology while at school. Students will be held responsible for their behavior while using classroom technology. Use of technology is considered a privilege and as such, can be revoked for misuse. Misuse includes, but is not limited to, viewing inappropriate or restricted content, damaging the device, and/or removing a device from school property. Students may not access social media sites while at school on either their own personal device or the school's device.

Withdrawal Policy

Two weeks written notice to the School Administration, preferably in an email, is required to withdraw a child from school. Parents are still responsible for tuition during those final two weeks. Destiny Christian Elementary shall give parents a 30 day notice of termination should the need arise.

Child Assessments

Throughout the year Teachers will evaluate children in regard to their developmental progress in the areas of Literacy and Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies (including History and Geography), Visual and Performing Art, Music and Physical Education as they relate to the California State common core standards as set forth by the California State Board of Education. Children will also be assessed on Bible knowledge and age appropriate social skills.

Destiny Christian Elementary follows a trimester schedule. Annually progress reports are sent home in September, December, and April. Report cards are sent home in November, February and May. Parents receive copies of both assessments with notes from the Teacher.

Parent Teacher conferences are held during November. Students attend minimum days with a dismissal after lunch during conference days. At any time during the school year, parents may set up an appointment with their child's Teacher to discuss their child's progress. Please submit the request to the Teacher in writing via email. Teachers prefer to correspond with parents via email.

Grading

Grading will be performance based and standards based each trimester.

The following markings will be given for personal development, physical education, and arts:

O/Outstanding

S/Satisfactory

N/Needs Improvement

X/Not evaluated at this time

The following markings will be given for Reading, Speaking/Listening, Math, Science, Bible, History/Geography:

1/Making Minimum Progress toward Standard

2/Making Progress toward Standard

3/Meeting Standard

4/Consistently Above Standard

Students must meet or exceed standards and perform at grade level to be ready for and promoted to the next grade level. Students who may need to repeat a grade level will be given priority registration. Repeating a grade assists children who are struggling with key academic concepts.

Homework Policy

Homework helps reinforce concepts that are taught in the classroom and encourages a child's success at school. Classroom Teachers determine the content and scope of weekly or nightly homework. Any incomplete class work will automatically become homework. No homework is given on Wednesday evenings, unless a child did not complete class work and that is sent home.

Time spent completing nightly homework should not exceed 15 minutes, not including reading. Nightly reading is additional work and all students are encouraged to read nightly for a minimum of 10 minutes. Homework should not interfere with family time. Concerns about the content and amount of homework should first be directed to your child's classroom Teacher. If a satisfactory result cannot be reached, then a conference with the School Administration should be scheduled.

Standardized Testing

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) version of the Terra Nova Achievement Test is administered annually in April for Kindergarten, First, Second, Third and Fourth Graders. This assessment is a standardized, norm-referenced test. Transitional Kindergarten students do not participate in standardized testing at this time. Results are available online for parents in late May/early June.

Discipline Policy

The goal of our discipline is to develop Christ-like attributes within the child. Teachers are trained in the Nurtured Heart Approach to classroom discipline. We offer appropriate choices to students to help them develop skills in positive decision making. Students receive positive reinforcement for favorable behavior as well as a reset for unfavorable behavior. Teachers follow a daily routine and establish consistent rules with logical consequences. Students learn and play best in an environment where they know what comes next. They develop a sense of control, and this builds their self-esteem. Discipline is a continuous, day-to-day process designed to help a child become self-disciplined, learn self-regulation and ultimately be able to obey God's direction. These three stands provide the basis to work toward this goal: Absolutely No, Absolutely Yes and Absolutely Clear.

Stand 1: Absolutely No - Teachers refuse to give their time and energy to negative misbehavior

Stand 2: Absolutely Yes - Teacher relentlessly pursue and celebrate success

Stand 3: Absolutely Clear - Teachers offer rules and consequences that are clear and consistent

Teachers use observation and documentation records when a student's behavior is consistently outside the normal range for most children. These documentations help Teachers establish a pattern and see what triggers during the school day may contribute to undesirable behavior. Parents will be notified if discipline or behavior patterns with their child become a concern. A conference will be scheduled between Teachers and parents if a student's negative behaviors cannot be redirected on a consistent basis.

Teacher/Student/Family Interactions

All efforts will be made to ensure that Teachers have healthy, appropriate interactions with students and their families. When one Teacher is in a room with only one student or one parent, the door will remain open at all times. Teachers are prohibited from sending personal texts or emails to students or parents that do not relate specifically

to academic content. Parents are also asked to refrain from communicating with classroom Teachers on social media regarding their child and their child's school experience.

All classroom Teachers use the Class Dojo app. Parents will receive a unique code to sign up with Class Dojo. This is a Teacher's preferred method of communication. Some classroom Teachers utilize Google Classroom. Teachers also use email to send messages.

Classroom Teachers are given 24 work hours to respond to communication from a parent/guardian. Teachers respond during their work hours between 7:45am – 4:15pm Monday through Friday and are not obligated to respond outside of those times.

Distance Learning

In the event where the local or state health department requests school closure, our Teaching Team will implement a distance learning plan for students to continue learning at home and communicate the details of that plan at that time. It is the desire of Destiny Christian Elementary to remain open for in person learning instruction.

Earthquake and Fire Drills

Drills are performed every four months so students will know what to do in case of an emergency.

Health

Every child's health is critically important to us. Please do not bring a child to school if he/she has:

- Vomiting and /or Diarrhea – must be symptom free for 72 hours (3 days)
- Fever Alone – must be symptom free for 72 hours (3 days) to return without taking fever reducing medication
- Excessive Coughing – must be symptom free for 72 hours (3 days) to return
- Clear Runny Nose – documentation from a medical professional that symptoms are related to allergies otherwise symptom free for 72 hours (3 days)
- Yellow/Green Runny Nose – must be symptom free for 72 hours (3 days) to return
- Rash or Spots – must be given medical clearance from a doctor to return 72 hours (3 days) after onset of spots/rash
- Inflamed, Weepy, Oozing Eye - must be seen by a doctor and return with a doctor's note stating that treatment is being given or is not required
- Fever, coughing, sore throat, and shortness of breath - when three or more symptoms are present, the individual must see a healthcare professional and may return after 14 days so long as they are fever free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
- For conditions that present symptoms but are not contagious, documentation from a medical professional will be required.

Should a child become ill at school, parents/guardians will be contacted. If parents/guardians are not available, the emergency contact persons will be called. Arrangements must be made immediately to have the child picked up. While a child is waiting to be picked up, they will be sent to the office. If a child is coughing excessively, sneezing excessively, spitting, or running a fever over 100.4°, they will be asked to wear a mask while waiting in the office to be picked up from school.

Communicable Disease

Parents must inform Destiny Christian Elementary within 24 hours, or the next business day after their child or any member of their immediate family has developed any communicable disease. These include, but are not limited to, strep throat, chicken pox, mono, measles, malaria, pink eye, lice, rabies, mumps and COVID-19. Life threatening diseases must be reported immediately.

If a child or family member tests positive for COVID-19, the county health department contact guidance documents are consulted and their instructions must be followed. If an immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19, the student must have a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school. Families are only notified about COVID-19 exposure if a student in their child's cohort is exposed and/or tests positive.

At the discretion of the school, temperature checks may be performed each morning before a student is allowed on campus. Any child with a temperature that registers over 100.4° will be sent home and may return after 72 hours. Please **DO NOT** send a child who is sick to school!

Medication Policy

Children who require medication at school, whether prescription or non-prescription, must complete a "Medication

Release Form" packet and provide a letter from their doctor outlining the administration of the medication. All medication(s) must be in their original container(s). Medication is given to students only under strictly controlled conditions by Destiny Elementary staff.

Parents are asked to list chronic medical conditions on their child's registration form. Children with asthma are welcome to keep an inhaler at school. This inhaler will remain in the school office and be administered by school personnel after the medication release form and instructions from the child's physician are on file.

Injuries

In case of minor injuries, First Aid will be given at school by trained staff. In more serious injuries or illnesses, parents or the emergency contact, if needed, will be notified immediately. If they are unavailable, the School Administration or designated Teacher will make the decision for treatment based on her evaluation of the child, and may call the paramedics. Teachers will write up and provide the parent with a copy of an Accident Report only for all injuries that result in the need for ice packs or bandages.

Cell Phones

Parents are asked to refrain from speaking on their cell phones while inside the school building where children are present. Students who bring a cell phone to school for any reason must keep it on silent in their backpack at all times during the school day and after school care hours. They may check their phone only with Teacher or administration approval. Teachers may confiscate a student's cell phone for the day if it becomes a distraction in the classroom. The school will not be held responsible for the loss or damage to a student's cell phone for any reason.

Violent or Unsafe Behavior

If a child displays a violent, unsafe, or continually inappropriate behavior at school, the school will contact the parents, or, if the parents are not available, the emergency contact person. Parents must make arrangements to have their child picked up within 45 minutes of the notification. While a child is waiting to be picked up, they will be sent to the office.

If the school administration determines that a child poses an immediate danger to themselves or others, the child will be removed from class and a conference with the child's parents will be called. The child may not return to school until a date determined by the school administration.

Parental/Guardian Rules of Conduct

In the best interest of the Teachers, students and parents, parents themselves shall adhere to the following rules. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of the student.

- Support the mission and spiritual position of Destiny Christian Elementary.
- No professional solicitation.
- Please do not interrupt class without a request to the office or School Administration first.
- Promptly drop-off and pick-up your child.
- Please do not use drop-off and pick-up times for an in depth conference time with your child's Teacher. Instead, submit a written request either by note or via email for a private conference with the Teacher to discuss any concerns you have about your child. You may also leave the Teacher your phone number and request that she call you at her convenience.

Suspensions & Terminations

Suspension and/or Termination from school is rare but can occur for any reason listed below:

- Student's refusal to cooperate with school personnel.
- A parent's refusal to support the mission and spiritual position of the school.
- Failure to pay tuition or being consistently late with tuition payments.
- Arriving after 3:30pm five or more times to pick up a child.
- Refusal by parent or child to cooperate with Destiny Christian Elementary policies.
- A continually disruptive child to the point of detriment to other children.
- Child's behavior is a danger to him/herself or other children.
- Parents leave young children unattended in a vehicle during drop off or pick up.

Before a child is suspended or terminated, a meeting with the School Administration will be held. The decision of the School Administration will be final.

Conflict Resolution

It is our hope that all matters can be resolved initially between the parties involved. Should a concern or dispute

arise with a staff member or another parent, please deal directly with the person with whom the grievance is held. Should the matter not be resolved to satisfactorily, a conference with the School Administration may be scheduled.

If there is a problem, parents are asked to go in a Christian manner directly to the Teacher first, then the School Administration second. Constructive recommendations and solutions are most welcome, but destruction and vicious attacks on Destiny Christian Elementary, church, staff, other children, or administration will not be tolerated.

Abuse

All Destiny Christian Elementary staff members are mandated reporters and are required by law to report suspected instances of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse to the Children's Protective Services (916-875-5437).

Immunizations

Children must be immunized per SB 276 & SB 277 against:

- Polio (4 doses at any age, but 3 doses if one was given on or after the 4th birthday)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (2 doses on or after the first birthday),
- Diphtheria- Tetanus-Pertussis (DTaP - 5 doses at any age, but 4 doses if one was given on or after the 4th birthday)
- Hepatitis B (3 doses at any age)
- Varicella/Chicken Pox (2 doses or give date of the disease with a doctor note)

An up-to-date immunization record or a medical exemption that meets the requirements of SB276 must be presented at the time of enrollment.

In the Event of an Emergency (Medical, Dental or other)

In the event of any type of emergency, if a parent or guardian cannot be reached, Destiny Christian Elementary will contact the physician(s) listed on the child's registration forms or will call 9-1-1 and have the child transported to a local hospital emergency room for care. Destiny Christian Elementary staff will make medical decisions regarding a child's health and safety only in the event that a parent or guardian cannot be reached in a timely fashion. Destiny Christian Elementary, Destiny Christian Church or its employees may not be held liable by a child's parents for care provided or decided in the case of an emergency. Parents are responsible for all expenses incurred.

Modifications to the Handbook

Destiny Christian Elementary reserves the right to modify any conditions of this parent handbook upon 30 days written notice to the parent or guardian.

Admissions Policies and Procedures ~ Enrollment requirements

Destiny Christian Elementary Administration reserves the right to require that any enrolling student complete an academic assessment designed to assess the student's ability to complete grade level material. Destiny Christian Elementary Administration also reserves the right to suggest a child be held back or moved ahead a grade level based on the results of this academic assessment. The following documents must be completed and submitted online prior to a child's guaranteed admission into Destiny Christian Elementary. Destiny Christian Elementary reserves the right to deny enrollment to any student for any reason.

- *1. Each student must submit a copy of the prior year's report card or academic assessment for review. Academic and behavioral records shall be considered.
 2. Online Enrollment Application & Agreement
 3. Most current copy of Immunization Record
 4. Physician's Report
 5. Oral Health Assessment
 - *6. Copy of Birth Certificate
 7. Non Refundable Registration Fee
- *New students only – current DCP School students have these items on file.

Class placement is not guaranteed until each of the above items are completed and returned to Destiny Christian Elementary via the online registration process. This includes payment of the registration fee online.

Please direct any comments, questions or concerns to the School Administration.

The team at Destiny Christian Elementary looks forward to providing an academic, enriching, Bible-based elementary school education for the upcoming school year.