

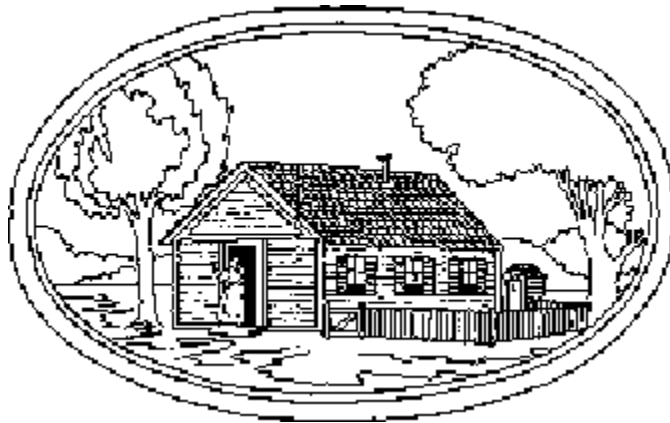
## INTRODUCTION

**W**elcome to Small Cloud Christian School, a school committed to making God the center of education. We believe a proper education balances excellence in academic knowledge with the mastery of practical skills and the maintenance of a healthy body and spirit. In this way we hope to help each student find and develop his/her God-given talents.

Small Cloud Christian School is the result of impossible dreams made possible through faith. Tuition payments, plus the generous contributions of many, many people who are moved by the Holy Spirit, keep Small Cloud Christian School alive. However, if it were not for God's numerous miracles, this school would not be in existence. He is the Founder and Cornerstone of our school. He alone deserves the praise!

Please take time to thoroughly read this *Handbook*. We have tried our best to make it as clear and concise as possible. However, if, after reading it, you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. (You will find our contact information located on the last page of this *Handbook*.)

May God bless you as you seek to find the best education for your child!



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**LOCATION:** Small Cloud Christian School (SCCS) is located in the quiet community of Wilton, California, (at 12420 Pear Lane), about one-half hour's drive from Sacramento. (See map on last page.) Wilton's open fields and grazing cattle offer a peaceful, friendly atmosphere conducive to the education of growing minds and bodies.

**PURPOSE:** SCCS exists to provide quality, God-centered education, and to help students discover and develop their own God-given talents.

**NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY:** Small Cloud Christian School admits students of any race, color, religion, national and ethnic origin, or socioeconomic status.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

**WHO MAY APPLY?** SCCS welcomes applications from all students, generally from ages 5-18. The application form is reviewed and an interview is held before the decision is made to accept or reject a student. Each student is expected to:

1. Be willing to try all school activities.
2. Demonstrate a desire to follow all school guidelines.
3. Obey all school staff.
4. Be respectful of the grounds and property of SCCS.
5. Be respectful to others.

**ENROLLMENT TIMES:** Students must be enrolled or re-enrolled by August 15th each year. Thereafter, students are only accepted at the beginning of each new quarter, and must be enrolled one week prior to that quarter. In addition to the tuition, a new student must pay a nonrefundable \$50 enrollment fee, payable when his/her enrollment application is submitted.

**HEALTH RECORDS:** New students must have a *Health Examination* form completed. This requires that each new student obtain a complete physical examination prior to attendance at SCCS

## ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

**A**fter reading the *Handbook* and visiting the school, decide whether or not Small Cloud Christian School is best suited to your child's needs. If you feel that it is, fill out the application form and mail it (with a copy of the child's birth certificate and the \$50 nonrefundable application fee) to SCCS at 12420 Pear Lane, Wilton, CA 95693 (or you may bring it with you when you tour the school.) At the interview (or shortly thereafter), it will be decided whether or not your child is accepted. You will then be given (or sent) a list of the forms to complete, along with further details regarding your child's attendance at Small Cloud.

## WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

To withdraw from SCCS during the school year, the parent or guardian must contact SCCS and fill out a withdrawal form. Parents of high school students must also provide an e-mail address or physical address where a transcript may be sent. (Please allow a minimum of two weeks for a transcript to be processed. And note that credits are only given for *fully-completed* quarters.) All tuition and fees must be paid and curriculum and/or borrowed items returned before the withdrawal can be finalized.

## HOURS AND GENERAL RULES

School starts bright and early with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Students are expected to arrive on time, ready to begin the school day. The daily schedule then varies according to the individual student. Lunch is served at 1:30 p.m. School is dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Currently, the school runs a three-day week, usually Tuesday through Thursday. Mondays and Fridays are homeschool days. A portion of each day is spent engaging in a group activity; this promotes a sense of togetherness and allows the students to benefit from a multi-grade environment. We require our students to:

1. RESPECT God and His Word.
2. RESPECT the earth and all its inhabitants.
3. RESPECT themselves.

**School Days Shortened/Cancelled:** Occasionally it may be necessary to shorten/cancel a school day without much notice due to unexpected emergencies (i.e. severe illness, death, etc.). Since the staff all attend the same church and interact among a similar group of friends, such circumstances affect all of us. If such emergencies do occur, students will be given assignments to be completed at home. (Parents/guardians are expected to have a backup child care plan in case of such occurrences.)

## CURRICULUM

Our traditional Bible-based curriculum consists of what we consider the most effective educational materials. We draw from a variety of sources; however, the bulk of our teaching curriculum comes from A Beka Book, Inc.

We teach the following subjects throughout the year: Bible, English (which includes phonics/reading, writing, grammar, spelling, and public speaking/reciting), math, history/geography, science, physical education and foreign language (9th-12th grades). The following subjects are also taught at varying times: keyboarding, music, gardening/landscaping, art, sewing and cooking.

# ACADEMIC INFORMATION

**ATTENDANCE:** Promptness and dependability are important to your child's character development. Daily records of absences are kept to fulfill state requirements. A written explanation following any absence of one or more days must be submitted to the school for state-required record keeping. A student is allowed five excused absences per year. If he/she accumulates more than five absences, he/she risks failing the grade. More than ten unexcused absences *may* result in expulsion. (A student expelled for excessive absences may reapply, but will be required to pay all re-enrollment fees. SCCS reserves the right to determine who shall and who shall not be allowed to re-enroll.)

**REPORT CARDS:** Report cards are issued each quarter. (Kindergartners receive a skills mastery chart.) Individual parent conferences are held after the first and third quarters. Additional conferences will be held as needed or requested. *Grades can be contested for up to two years and then will be considered final.*

**GRADING:** The standard grading system used for all subjects is as follows:

A+ 97%-100%	A 94%-96%	A- 90%-93%
B+ 87%-89%	B 84%-86%	B- 80%-83%
C+ 77%-79%	C 74%-76%	C- 70%-73%
D+ 67%-69%	D 64%-66%	D- 60%-63%
F Below 60%		

**ANNUAL TESTING:** Standardized national tests are administered each spring in order to chart student progress and identify areas needing improvement.

**HONOR ROLL:** Each student who graduates with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher will be considered an Honor Graduate. He/she will wear an honor cord of distinction during the graduation ceremony and will receive an award commemorating his/her achievement.

**PASSING THE GRADE:** In order for your child to pass the grade that he/she is presently in, he/she must show academic proficiency and growth in all subjects. Any failing grades received on your child's quarterly report card jeopardizes his/her chances of passing the grade. Based on the number of failing grades shown on your child's report card over the course of the school year and the progress made during that amount of time, the teachers will determine whether or not your child may be promoted to the next grade level.

**GRADUATION:** After successfully completing all required academic work, kindergartners, eighth graders, and seniors participate in graduation ceremonies. These are held on the school grounds at the end of each school year.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The success of your child at Small Cloud Christian School depends largely on parental involvement. Children need to know someone cares whether they pass or fail in school. Some of the things you can do are:

1. Ask your child how he/she is doing in school. Check up on his/her progress by calling the school or e-mailing the teachers.
2. Have a regular homework time and be available to help with homework if needed.
3. Review all corrected work sent home each week.
4. Set up a reward system for good grades or academic accomplishment.
5. Read to your child daily.

Periodically, especially before special events, parents may be asked to contribute time and/or supplies. Parents may also volunteer to go on field trips. We appreciate the help you can give us at those times.

## THE WHOLE STUDENT

The staff at Small Cloud Christian School will do everything in their power to help your child succeed. However, we are only a small part of what determines the academic progress of your child. Things such as diet, sleep, parental involvement, TV/media influences, etc. far outweigh our efforts here.

## DIETARY GUIDELINES

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,  
do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)*

Following the original diet given by God to man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1:30) and exemplified by Daniel in Babylon (Daniel 1:8-20), SCCS promotes a vegetarian diet, low in sugar and processed foods. We rarely use dairy products and try as much as possible to avoid the use of eggs in our food. A simpler diet makes digestion a much easier task for the body to perform and allows more energy to be used for thinking. We believe that in order to have a healthy mind, eating wholesome food is the only logical choice. Students are asked not to bring any food from home unless directly asked to do so by a staff member. Candy, gum and soft drinks are also not permitted at school without prior permission.

SCCS sells healthful snacks in its own small store. Details regarding how much students may spend, when they may spend it, etc. will be announced at the beginning of each year.

## TV/MEDIA INFLUENCES

**L**imit! Limit! Limit! Remember, your child's job right now is to learn and prepare for the responsibilities of adulthood. Help your child learn those things which will help him/her succeed in real life. All extracurricular activities must be secondary.

**GUIDELINES:** We believe in allowing children the freedom of developing their God-given individuality without the bombardment of media pressure. Since children's bodies are growing and developing, they need physical exercise to strengthen muscle and bone and improve circulation to all parts of the body. Therefore, we strongly recommend curtailing or even completely eliminating the use of TV, video games, and ungodly music in your home.

TV programs and video/computer games are best if they have an educational emphasis. However, many children spend too much time being entertained and not enough time doing real-life activities. It is damaging to their development to sit still for long periods of time, intently focused on TV or computer screens. Their eyes need to rest by looking at faraway objects in real sunlight. Their gross and fine motor skills need to be employed in practical hands-on activities and physical labor. Video games or educational TV programs/videos should only be allowed as a short reward after a hard day's work.

Childhood is the time God has given to prepare for adulthood. Children should be encouraged to spend their time engaging in practical life-building skills such as cooking, doing laundry, hands-on hobbies, housecleaning, yard work, etc. These types of activities will strengthen their concentration abilities, improve their problem-solving skills, build self-esteem, and, most importantly, develop responsible students and, ultimately, responsible, independent adults.

The type of music a student listens to has a profound effect on a child's attitude toward you as parents, toward us as teachers, and toward life in general. Many contemporary lyrics incite a spirit of rebellion, depression, and premature independence. Other lyrics espouse romantic themes not appropriate for developing minds and morals. Many artists themselves lead immoral lives and become role models of immorality. Calmer music styles result in calmer, less impulsive, less rebellious students. Wholesome lyrics fill the students minds with honorable things to think about and emulate. Please select and enforce appropriate music standards in your home.

"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." (Philippians 4:8). This Bible verse is SCCS's standard for everything brought onto the school grounds. If objectionable materials are brought, they will be *permanently* confiscated.

## SLEEP

**S**tudents need a regular, early bedtime. Benjamin Franklin wasn't kidding when he said, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise!" Early bedtimes will help your child think more clearly, have a better attitude, and stay healthier.

## **DRUGS**

**N**o drugs are allowed at Small Cloud Christian School. Students suspected of their use outside of school will be required to be tested at their own expense. Students who continue drug use will be expelled. (The above statement does not apply to prescribed medications, which must be hand-delivered to a staff member with directions for their use.)

## **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC GAMES**

**N**o cell phones are allowed at Small Cloud unless they are necessary for the student's safety. They must, however, be kept off during school hours. If any unauthorized cell phones are found at school, they will be confiscated.

Electronic games are likewise prohibited at Small Cloud and will likewise be confiscated.

## **VANDALISM**

**A**ccidents happen, but the deliberate destruction of school property is a serious offense and serious consequences will be administered.

## **DISCIPLINE**

**A**ll students will be disciplined using age-appropriate, child-appropriate measures. Students who have a rebellious spirit and habitually influence other students in a negative way will be subject to dismissal from the school. Dismissal, however, will only occur after much prayer and consultation with the student and his/her parents or guardians.

## **DRESS CODE**

**T**he way we dress greatly influences how we and those around us learn. For this reason we have the following guidelines:

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM:**

Girls: Black skirts, red shirts, (may also wear color-appropriate dresses) black leggings or socks, and appropriate footwear (see below).

Boys: Black pants, red shirts with collars, and appropriate footwear (see below).

*(Note: Boys and girls may wear prints of white, black, and/or red if approved by the school.)*

## Required Footwear

### Boys K-12:

Well-fitting athletic shoes or black casual dress shoes are to be worn to class. Closed-toe sandals that are securely strapped on may be worn, weather permitting. Socks must be worn at all times when not wearing sandals.

### Girls K-12:

Athletic shoes (same requirements as for boys), sandals with back-heel straps, low-heeled boots, casual dress shoes, or loafers. Unless wearing sandals, girls are required to wear either socks, tights, or leggings at all times. Hosiery must be color-coordinated with outer clothing.

*NOTE: All footwear should be comfortable and allow free movement. High-heeled style shoes, as well as flip-flops, are not permitted. Students will be required to wear tennis shoes with tied laces for physical education. Shoes must be worn at all times during school hours, unless otherwise directed by Small Cloud Staff. Also, hats are not allowed to be worn in the classroom.*

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS:** All students must bring an extra set of clothes to change into for physical education classes. The clothing must consist of a pair of loose-fitting sweats, pants, or walking-length shorts and a long T-shirt. Athletic shoes must also be worn.

**UNIFORM CLOSET:** If your child has outgrown his/her uniform and it is still in good condition (i.e. no rips, tears, holes, stains, etc.), you may turn it in to SCCS and receive a uniform in the size your child can wear. If you have no uniform to exchange, you are still welcome to check with SCCS for a used uniform in your child's size, which you may purchase at a reduced price.

**PERSONAL GROOMING:** The standards\* of health, Christian modesty, and simplicity are our guidelines for the following requirements:

- No child is allowed to wear soiled, messy or torn clothing.
- Hair must be clean and neatly arranged--hair is not allowed to hang into the eyes. Boys are required to keep their hair trimmed so as not to extend below the shirt collar or the ears. Students are not allowed to dye their hair or have hairstyles that are not in keeping with the principles of simplicity.
- Fingernails are to be kept trimmed and clean. Colored nail polish is not allowed.
- Body-piercing and tattoos are not allowed.
- Make-up and jewelry are not allowed. If brought to school, the student will be asked to remove them, and they may be permanently confiscated.
- Shirts are to be tucked in at all times unless designed to be worn outside. In these cases, the shirt must be long enough to cover the midriff with arms extended above the head.
- Sleeveless garments are prohibited.
- Girls are not allowed to wear pants underneath their skirts. (Color coordinated leggings or tights are acceptable and encouraged in cold weather.)
- Clothing worn must properly fit the child wearing it!

*\*Note: These standards apply during school hours, school field trips, and any school functions!*

**SPECIAL FUNCTION DRESS REQUIREMENTS:** Uniforms are not required on most field trips or at most school functions. However, the rules of simplicity and modesty are still required on these occasions.

In addition, we do not allow any clothing promoting messages that are decidedly non-Christian in nature. Clothing displaying the following are considered inappropriate and will not be allowed:

- Bad language
- Violence
- Movie or music stars
- Sex
- Gang symbols
- Skulls and other Satanic symbols
- Drugs (or anything drug-related)

**DRESS CODE VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES:** Students who violate the dress code requirements may be asked to leave the event and/or lose privileges.

*Any articles of clothing displaying inappropriate messages (as outlined above) will be confiscated and may not be returned!*

## **TUITION**

**S**tandard tuition at SCCS is \$400 per month per child for 10 months (September through June). *Tuition includes: a quality, God-centered education, textbooks and other school supplies, daily breakfast and lunch, standardized national testing and most field trips.* Please note that although school is not in session for the full month of June, a full month's tuition is still charged for June. Please also note that the enrollment fee is \$50.

If more than one child from a family is enrolled, the tuition is \$400 per month for the first child and \$350 per month for each additional child. Tuition is paid for 10 months from September through June and is paid on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month unless other arrangements have been made with the treasurer.

Payments must be received when due! If payment is not received on or before the due date, your child may not be allowed to attend classes at SCCS. If your payment is one week late and we have not heard from you, we may begin taking steps to terminate your child's enrollment at Small Cloud Christian School.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

**I**t is vital that full tuition be paid for each child attending Small Cloud Christian School. This enables us to pay our overhead; invest in quality educational tools and curricula; keep school equipment operating and up-to-date; and pay our employees a small salary. Your child's education should be one of your highest priorities, and providing a quality education may sometimes require sacrifice. Budgeting, self-denial, and simply eliminating unnecessary expenditures will help to provide your child's tuition. (Note: You may be asked to eliminate some lower priority expenditures in order to qualify for financial aid.)

In cases of *extreme* financial hardship, Small Cloud Christian School may allow a reduction in tuition. In order for you to be considered for financial assistance, you must complete an *Application for Financial Assistance* form and submit requested documentation of income and expenses. Our Board will review the application, and the treasurer will arrange for an in-home interview. He will then notify you as to the amount of reduction allowed. (All financial aid plans must be updated each year.)

***Note: All financial arrangements are kept strictly confidential.***

**Small Cloud Christian School**

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[www.smallcloud.org](http://www.smallcloud.org)

Thank you for taking the time to read through this *Handbook*.  
If we can assist you further, please call us. May God bless you! ☺