



*"Educating in Light and Truth"*

Updated 3 June 2024

## **MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING**

Liberty Youth Academy is a very unique educational environment and process. It is designed to teach the student spiritually as well as academically. We require parents to be actively involved in their student's learning process. All parents and students are expected to agree with and sign this Memo Of Understanding *after reading it, and before enrolling.*

### **UNIFORM STANDARDS AND POLICIES**

"For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Cor 3:17). As sons and daughters of the Most High God, our students are of divine origin and are endowed with infinite, eternal potential. The world needs to see the light they carry without being distracted by slovenly, immodest appearance or poor hygiene. This uniform policy is meant to help our students "look their potential" and minimize distraction in the classroom. The bullet points below are not comprehensive, and administration will provide additional clarification as needed.

These dress and grooming standards are in effect in the classroom, in or around Liberty Youth Academy facilities, and during all extracurricular activities and field trips sponsored by Liberty Youth Academy, unless otherwise directed by the administration. Any student not adhering to this uniform policy will need to be picked up and may not return until they are in proper school attire. Repeated offenses will warrant suspension and possible expulsion at the administration's discretion with no refund of tuition or fees.

- Students will be **required** to wear our school shirt with khaki, navy blue, gray, or black bottoms - no denim or denim looking pants, shorts, capris or skirts.
- Girls may choose to wear khaki/black/navy blue/gray skirts or jumpers, and both boys and girls may wear shorts but must still wear the school shirt. Shorts must be knee length when standing. ***Skirts/jumpers/LYA polo dresses must also be knee length when standing with shorts, leggings or tights underneath.*** No slits in the side.
- All clothes must be **neat, clean, modest** and **free from stains, holes, or significant fading.**
- ***No denim or denim looking pants, sweat pants, yoga pants, leggings, jeggings, joggers, or pajama pants are allowed.***
- Khaki/black/navy/gray shorts are allowed as long as they go to the knee for both girls and boys.
- Khaki/black/navy/gray capris for girls are allowed.
- All students must wear shoes and clean socks.
- Flip-flops, slippers, or shoes with rollers in the soles are not acceptable.
- Boots are highly recommended due to the desert environment and outdoor learning activities.
- ***Hair should be neat and clean*** with no extreme styles, length or colors, and should not cover the eyes.
- No hats, hoods, or sunglasses inside the building, but they may be worn outside.
- No satanic, gang, vulgar, or crude styles of clothing, jewelry or **belongings** are acceptable in the school or on or in student's backpacks, etc.

### **BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS AND POLICIES**

All prospective students and parents must agree to the Liberty Youth Academy standards of behavior, which are designed to build character and to invite the spirit of God into the classroom, and to ensure the happiness and safety of all students and faculty.

All standards of *For the Strength of Youth*

(<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/for-the-strength-of-youth?lang=eng>) shall be observed by Liberty Youth Academy students, parents, and anyone else who visits school premises and/or participates in any school activities (both on and off campus). The policies below emphasize some of those standards and, in some cases, build upon them. Where standards in this document conflict with *For the Strength of Youth* standards, this policy takes precedence. Liberty Youth Academy reserves the right to offer clarification of standards and policies at its discretion. Understand that in gray areas, Liberty Youth Academy administration will err on the side of caution as some inconvenience is preferable to the risk of offending God's spirit which we rely on so heavily to educate the future leaders of our churches, our communities, and our country.

- Regular, consistent attendance and punctuality are critical to a student's positive academic outcomes, to develop habits of leadership, and to preserve the integrity of the classroom environment. Excessive absences and tardies can result in suspension, expulsion, or no credit for a semester or for the year.
- If your student is ill, please text their teacher to let the teacher know they won't be at school. Failure to text a teacher will result in an unexcused absence. If your student has an unexcused absence, they will not be allowed to make up their work. If they have an excused absence, they get one day per excused absence to make up their school work. Please note, most school work is not done on worksheets that can be made up. We do lots of hands on activities, simulations, and discussions that cannot be duplicated outside of class.
- Conversation of students and parents while on school property or at extracurricular Liberty Youth Academy activities, field trips, service projects, programs etc., should be clean, appropriate and **free from** swearing, profanity, taking the name of the Lord in vain, vulgarity, crudeness, violent, rude or sexual remarks or overtures, harassment, or defiant or disrespectful language to anyone, including other students, siblings, parents or teachers. This includes anything that is spoken, written, drawn, or gestured.
- It is expected that your student's classroom behavior will include treating other students, faculty, guests and parents with kindness and respect at all times, demonstrating a willingness to learn and a willingness to support the teachers, other students and classroom assistants.
- Cyber bullying or other forms of bullying that occur outside of class among parents and/or students that impact the educational environment and the emotional, physical, or psychological well being of students will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including permanent dismissal from school.
- Respect for school property should be maintained at all times. Destroying or defacing any Liberty Youth Academy property such as tables, chairs, carpets, walls, restrooms, equipment, curriculum, school grounds/building, or another student or teacher's property etc., is not acceptable **and financial restitution will be required for vandalism or carelessness.**
- Courtesy to others should be demonstrated by maintaining personal hygiene and cleanliness.
- Tobacco, alcoholic beverages, coffee, and controlled substances of any kind are not allowed. This includes prescription drugs.
- Nutrition is key to maximizing learning outcomes. Lunches and snacks should be nutritious. Candy, cookies, soda or colored punch/beverages are not permitted.
- Evidence is mounting regarding the extremely negative effects of screen time on the developing brain and on a student's ability to learn, focus and appropriately socialize. **PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO LIMIT SCREEN TIME FOR ALL STUDENTS, AND TO ELIMINATE IT COMPLETELY SUNDAY-THURSDAY.**
- Fireworks, firearms, knives, pocket knives, lighters or weapons, even toy weapons of any kind are not allowed.
- Laptops, cell phones, iPods, iPads, video game consoles or devices, MP3 players, smart watches, or any other electronic device, especially ones that can connect to the internet, are strictly prohibited, with the following exceptions:
  - K-8: A student who is bringing a device for a presentation, **and has received permission from the teacher PRIOR to the day of the presentation.** Laptops will be turned into the teacher at the beginning of school and returned to the student at the end of school

- High School (9-12): High school students can bring a laptop to school for school purposes and notetaking only. Laptop screens are subject to inspection at any time. For the first offense using the laptop inappropriately, the student will be unable to bring their laptop for the remainder of the quarter. For the second offense, the student will be unable to bring their laptop for the remainder of the school year.
- Computer games, personal books and toys should be left at home.
- Romantic relationships, conversations, notes, or physical manifestations of such while at school are strictly prohibited.

**\*\*VIOLENCE OR ANY KIND OF FORCEFUL, DEMEANING, SEXUAL OR HARMFUL BEHAVIOR TOWARDS STUDENTS OR TEACHERS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED! ANY SUCH ACTIONS WILL CAUSE THE STUDENT TO BE EXPELLED IMMEDIATELY, WITH NO REFUND OF TUITION OR FEES!**

### **POLICY ON ISSUES OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER IDENTITY**

Through divine revelation, we know that the human person is a unity of both body and soul, that each person is created in God's image, and that "gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose" (The Family, A Proclamation to the World). Our bodies, created male or female, are part of God's intentional design in creation and are, therefore, imbued with meaning and purpose. As stewards of these gifts, we are called to accept, love, and care for our bodies as they were created. We are called to act and speak in ways that are consistent with and affirming of divinely revealed truth.

We recognize that there are and will be those who experience gender dysphoria and/or gender confusion. Such experiences can be complex and emotional to work through and, for some, incredibly burdensome and painful. Such persons can be led to believe that gender and biological sex are entirely separate. In this view, gender represents one's true, inner self, even if inconsistent with our physical sex. This understanding erases those intentional, embodied distinctions between men and women. As such, this view is contrary to the divinely revealed reality of our true, God-given human nature. As followers of Christ, we must accompany people experiencing gender dysphoria and be committed both to providing a loving environment and to upholding the truth of God's created reality. Individuals who experience these perceptions or feelings are to be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity and that every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.

All are welcome, with the understanding that by voluntarily accepting the invitation to be a part of the Liberty Youth Academy community, a person also accepts the responsibility of striving to do good, avoiding what is not consistent with God's moral teachings, and upholding the rules and expectations of that community which are designed to reflect the fullness of Christ's teachings. A person experiencing gender dysphoria or confusion will not be denied admission to Liberty Youth Academy or excluded from activities simply because he or she is experiencing gender dysphoria or confusion or same-sex attraction. However, those persons who choose to openly express disagreement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint's (the Church) teachings on matters of sex, sexuality, and/or gender in an inappropriate or scandalous way, or who act in ways contrary to the teachings of the Church, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion, both for that person's own good and the good of others. In order to be faithful instruments of Christ and His Gospel, we must uphold the truths and principles of Christ and seek to accompany those experiencing gender dysphoria and/or gender confusion. Jesus Christ provides the model for walking with those in need, in truth and love, and in every way we seek to imitate His example.

This policy applies to all Liberty Youth Academy premises, activities, and events as well as their employees, personnel, volunteers, students, and visiting family members or friends.

Consistent with this, the following directives are promulgated as particular law for Liberty Youth Academy:

- ***Parental Notification:*** In the case of a person who is a minor, if and when a member of the staff or faculty of an institution becomes aware that such minor is experiencing gender dysphoria or gender confusion, the institution shall, with reasonable promptness, notify such minor's parents or guardian of that fact. The foregoing notwithstanding, if there is a reasonable concern that notifying the parents of the minor will result in physical

abuse of the minor, teachers or staff will consult with the school's board of directors prior to determining if such information should be disclosed to parents or guardians. The initial presumption, however, should be that such a disclosure should be made absent a compelling reason not to. Furthermore, the fact that a parent or guardian might refuse to utilize preferred pronouns at odds with their child's God-given biological sex or to otherwise refuse to treat their child in any manner inconsistent with their God-given biological sex is not abuse and is not a compelling reason to not disclose.

- **Pronouns and Names:** Only pronouns that accurately reflect a person's God-given biological sex shall be used when addressing that person. No person may designate a preferred pronoun in speech or in writing, and no institution shall permit such designation by any person on institutional email, correspondence, or other communications. Legal names or abbreviated versions of a legal name (e.g., Dan, instead of Daniel), when requested by a person, should be used when addressing a person. Nicknames may be used when addressing a person experiencing gender dysphoria or gender confusion, provided such is agreed to by parents in the case of minors, and provided that no such nickname shall be used if the purpose and/or effect is to (i) obscure or contradict the person's God-given biological sex, (ii) promote the idea that one's gender is different than one's God-given biological sex, or (iii) if doing so would cause scandal.
- **Bathrooms and Facilities:** When using bathrooms or facilities, whether at school or a school event, all persons must use the bathrooms or other facilities that correspond to their God-given biological sex.
- **Programs and Activities:** A person may only participate in activities (whether curricular or extracurricular, athletics, or other programs) that are designated as single-sex consistent with his or her God-given biological sex. A possible exception to this is the allowance of biological females competing on athletic teams designated for biological males, provided that such decision is made solely to accommodate skill level.
- **School Dances:** No person may attend a dance, mixer, or similar event sponsored by Liberty Youth Academy with a date of the same God-given biological sex or publically express and/or display sexual attraction to or romantic interest in members of the same-sex at such event. Liberty Youth Academy may, in its discretion, allow a person to attend such events without a date or companion, with a companion (whether of the same sex or not) who is a platonic friend, or as part of a group of platonic friends.
- **Personal Appearance & Dress:** Every person is expected to present and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their God-given biological sex. Specifically, this means that every person is expected to refrain from acting in a manner the purpose of which is to hold themselves out as being a sex or gender that is inconsistent with the person's God-given biological sex or which, regardless of intent, has the effect of causing confusion or scandal regarding the person's sex or gender relative to the person's God-given biological sex. This includes, but is not limited to, dressing consistent with their God-given biological sex and complying with any applicable sex-specific dress code.
- **Conduct:** No person may publicly advocate or celebrate sexual orientation or identity in ways that are contrary to the Church's teaching and that could cause disruption, confusion, or scandal regarding the Church's teachings. This includes, but is not limited to displaying symbols such as LGBTQ pride rainbows or LGBTQ pride flags or other symbols that can be construed as being opposed to Church teaching. In the case of students, publicly advocating or celebrating means advocating or celebrating as described in the preceding sentence while on the school's property or at any type of event sponsored by the school or in which the school is participating.
- **Sex/Gender Transition:** No person may engage in so-called social transitions, surgeries, or medical treatments that seek to "transition" the person to a sex or gender inconsistent with his or her God-given biological sex. This includes, but is not limited to, puberty blockers prescribed or taken to delay puberty in those diagnosed with gender dysphoria, and hormone and surgical treatments to feminize a biological male or masculinize a biological female. For clarification, social transitioning is the adoption of pronouns, clothing, haircuts, and other social expressions of gender or sex for the purpose of holding out oneself as being a sex or gender different than one's God-given biological sex. This does not prohibit medical treatments consistent with Church teaching related to true genetic or physical anomalies, disorders, or medical conditions.
- **Records:** All school records and documents shall reflect a person's God-given biological sex and legal name. In the case of a change of legal name for the purpose as holding out oneself as being a sex or gender different than one's God-given biological sex, existing records on file shall be kept and maintained without alteration. In such a scenario, it is not permitted for an institution to change existing records to reflect a person's legal name change or to in any way purge such records.

- ***Sexual Education:*** Sexual education shall not be taught at Liberty Youth Academy schools. Parents and guardians are best suited to provide such an education taking into account the lived experiences, social and emotional maturity, and family culture of students.

This policy on sexuality and gender identity is adapted from a policy adopted by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland on 1 September 2023. We thank them for the work they did putting forth such a loving, Christlike, and clear policy.

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/files/assets/parish-and-school-policy-on-issues-of-sexuality-and-gender-identity.pdf>

### OTHER POLICIES

- Students will be asked to bring their notebooks, scriptures, dictionary, writing and coloring supplies, along with other school supplies as assigned per individual teachers. **These supplies are to be brought at Back to School Night or the first of the school year to ensure your child is properly prepared to participate in all of the activities.**
- The goal of Liberty Youth Academy is to help each student reach their individual and full educational potential. Students will be provided a positive, moral, and patriotic environment in which they can learn academically as well as spiritually in all subjects. The curriculum was chosen to best achieve these goals. Parents should review with their children, at least weekly, the work they have accomplished. On Thursdays, parents should also check their students' folder and check with their student to see if they have homework that needs to be completed over the weekend, or if there are any upcoming presentations or assignments. If your child is having difficulty understanding the concepts taught or the assigned homework, or other assignments for an activity, they or you should bring it to the attention of their teacher or the administration PRIOR to the day it is due so that we may assist your student in being successful in their academic assignments.
- **Parents are required to attend all meetings where they will review the progress of their students and help make plans and set goals for their student's continued academic progress.** It is essential that parents or guardians attend these meetings so that they may be informed and proactive in their student's education. **If you are unable to attend the meeting, it will be your responsibility to reschedule another meeting.** Parents are invited and strongly encouraged to volunteer at the school and become a member of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and attend monthly planning meetings.
- In keeping with our policy of providing quality education at a minimal cost, tuition, curriculum usage fees, and registration fees are determined by the school administration. Of necessity these amounts are subject to change at any time. Curriculum usage fees and tuition that is paid up front for the year to receive a discount are NON-REFUNDABLE! In the event of a death in the family, or the family moves to another city or state, consideration may be made. **NO fees, or tuitions will be refunded because your student has been expelled, or you have changed your mind about your child attending Liberty Youth Academy.**
- Every effort is applied to keep all tuition and fees at the lowest possible level. ***TUITION IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH*** unless other arrangements have been made. **A \$10.00 a day late fee per child will be charged on all tuition paid after the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, OR the first day of the month that we meet.** Failure to keep tuition current may result in the termination of your student from school until the fees are paid. Extracurricular activities, classes (including summer school), projects, and field trips may require additional fees.
- School begins promptly at 8:00AM. Children are encouraged to be in their seats by 7:45AM. Tardiness and absences are recorded. If a student is going to be absent, please inform the teacher by calling and leaving a message or by texting. If you're going out of town and would like the student's work, please let the teacher know in advance so that he/she has time to put your student's work together. Students will get one day for each day they are absent to make up work. Remember, most work is not something we can "send home" to be made up.
- If a student desires to leave Liberty Youth Academy during school hours they must come with a note from their parents giving them permission to do so. **Parents are strongly encouraged to schedule dentist, doctor and other appointments on Fridays.** Parents desiring to pick their children up early, during school hours, are asked to notify the child's teacher via a phone message, or text.

- School is over at 2:30PM. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for you to pick up your student after school, before a late charge will be added to your next month's tuition. The late fee is \$5.00 per minute, for every minute you are late.
- If there are things that I or my children do not understand or agree with concerning the policies and procedures of Liberty Youth Academy, I am willing to contact Liberty Youth Academy administration so that any misunderstandings can be worked out. I agree it is important that harmony and the best of feelings are maintained and I agree to work out any problems in a Christ-like manner. I understand that the Liberty Youth Academy administration and faculty can only help students with problems and challenges if they are aware of them. When appropriate I will contact the faculty, and administration concerning problems pertaining to my children or any students or faculty of Liberty Youth Academy.
- Students who are ill should remain home. Please err on the side of caution. Students may return to school when they are recovered and when they have gone 24 hours without a fever. For the purpose of this policy, fever is defined as subjective fever (feeling feverish) or a measured temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.

**Violation of the above policies will result in disciplinary action up to and include suspension or expulsion.**

**FEES**

**NON-REFUNDABLE, ONE TIME REGISTRATION FEE OF \$50.00 AND ½ OF THE \$400 CURRICULUM USAGE FEE WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ENROLLMENT (\$250 PER CHILD). YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INVITATION VIA EMAIL TO PAY THIS ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH QUICKBOOKS.**

**THE BALANCE OF \$200 CURRICULUM USAGE FEE AND FIRST MONTH'S TUITION WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

**K-12 FULL DAY, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.**

- \$50 non-refundable registration fee per student
- \$400 non-refundable curriculum usage fee per student
- Tuition: August - May, K-2 \$620/mo; 3-8 \$575/mo; 9-12 \$635/mo
- For Empowerment Scholarship recipients who pay through Class Wallet, a Class Wallet transaction fee equal to 1/39th of invoice amounts will be added to your invoices. If you plan to pay out of pocket and have Class Wallet reimburse you directly, it is your responsibility to notify us so that we can remove the transaction fee from your invoices.
- Half days and per subject available upon request and availability

I have read this Memo of Understanding in its entirety with my student/students and we agree to abide by the aforementioned rules, policies, and guidelines and find all the above acceptable.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **MEDIA AND INFORMATION RELEASE**

Liberty Youth Academy may use my student's picture on its school website, blog, in advertising and on its social media pages. Liberty Youth Academy may also publish family information in the school newsletter and school roster as needed.

### **GENERAL LIABILITY RELEASE/WAIVER**

I understand that the administration and staff of Liberty Youth Academy will make every effort to ensure the safety and well being of my student(s). *I also understand Liberty Youth Academy's COVID-19 policies and take full responsibility and hold Liberty Youth Academy blameless for the consequences of sending my children to school for in-person instruction.* In the event of accident, illness or injury, I agree to hold blameless Liberty Youth Academy, the property owners, staff employees, parents and other volunteers, assistants or owners of Liberty Youth Academy.

### **ACTIVITY RELEASE/WAIVER**

I hereby give permission for my student(s) to participate in regularly scheduled, off campus park days and in school field trips on or off campus. I also give permission for my student(s) to be transported to and from the location and activities by Liberty Youth Academy staff and volunteers. I understand that allowing my children to attend extra curricular activities organized by the school or parent volunteers constitutes my permission for them to attend and an assumption of total liability on my part. I under the General Liability Waiver above includes, but is not limited to, all these activities and travel. I agree to hold Liberty Youth Academy, its directors, agents, staff, and volunteers blameless in case of accident or injury during and in route to these activities. Further, I accept full responsibility in case of accident or injury. I also understand that my student(s) WILL NOT be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity without this release/waiver form in the possession of Liberty Youth Academy.

### **COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT**

I understand that I may be given access to hard or electronic copies of curriculum purchased by Liberty Youth Academy. I hereby agree not to copy, duplicate or distribute curriculum to anybody else for any reason whatsoever. I will use curriculum only for educating my children who are currently enrolled at Liberty Youth Academy.

### **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES**

Each party agrees that this Agreement and any other documents to be delivered through SchoolCues and in connection herewith may be electronically signed, and that any electronic signatures appearing on this Agreement or such other documents are the same as handwritten signatures for the purposes of validity, enforceability, and admissibility.

### **VOLUNTEER POLICY**

We very strongly believe that Liberty Youth Academy is supposed to be a community of families that come together to create the best possible learning environment for our dear children. We are so grateful for all that you will do to help make Liberty Youth Academy a great place for all our children to learn.

Each family who enrolls is committing to providing a minimum of 10 hours per quarter of volunteer time in the classroom, supervising recess, helping with after school programs, helping with projects, or some other way that has been arranged with administration. If you would like to help more, we always love having parents in the classroom and welcome your attendance any time!

- It is the parent's responsibility to track hours in a timely manner and proactively ensure volunteer hours are completed within the quarter.
- The volunteer slot you sign up for will be your regular assignment for the school year.

- If you need to change days or explore alternative volunteer jobs, please reach out to the administration with ample advance notice to allow time to coordinate a change if possible.
- If you are unable to fulfill your assignment for whatever reason, you are responsible for arranging in advance to trade with another parent. Once you have coordinated the trade, you will need to notify Bonnie Hayes of the change.
- Each missed hour per quarter will result in a fee of \$25 per hour.

We hereby affirm our acceptance of the Media and Information Release, General Liability Release/Waiver, Activity Release/Waiver, Copyright Agreement, Volunteer Policy, and Electronic Signature Acknowledgement above.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Signature Date

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Signature Date