

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Graham, WA 98338

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A Branch Campus of

South Sound Christian Schools

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Section I – Welcome to New Hope!

It is a joy to welcome you to New Hope Christian School. We are a branch campus of the South Sound Christian School District. A well known phrase states that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. In essence, that is Christian education: to learn about God, about His world, and to live productive, joyful lives in response to this awesome God.

SSCS has had the joy and privilege of providing biblically based education since 1960. Our vision is to be a school of excellence. For us, excellence means to be well pleasing to the Lord. Therefore, we endeavor to be a school that operates and instructs in complete harmony with biblical truth. We want SSCS to be a ministry that consistently and accurately reflects God Himself.

Our God is a God of order; therefore He commands that His work be “done decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:14). This Student/Parent Handbook is an attempt to do just that. It is designed to clarify the major policies and procedures to ensure an orderly operation of our ministry. Please invest the time to read and understand this handbook.

This handbook is intended to convey answers to frequently asked questions, explain general school policies and procedures, and provide contact and other information. It is not an exhaustive representation of all school rules, policies, and practices. On rare occasions, school administration may need to modify some of the policies or procedures in this handbook. The handbook will be updated annually; any significant change will be communicated to parents in a timely manner.

Again, welcome to New Hope Christian School. For the purposes of this handbook, the name New Hope will refer to our Graham campus, and the name South Sound Christian Schools will refer to the overall district. We pray for a wonderful year of learning and growing in the Lord!

Section II – About South Sound Christian Schools

OUR HISTORY

The South Sound Christian School District offers pre kindergarten through twelfth grades. The School district presently offers programs at two campuses: The Tacoma Baptist Campus (Grades pre- kindergarten through twelfth) and the Graham Campus (New Hope – Grades pre-kindergarten through sixth).

TACOMA BAPTIST HISTORY

In the 1950's, Christian school teachers from Portland would travel to Seattle to attend a teacher's convention. As they drove through Tacoma, they wondered if there was a Christian school in the area. Jim Bramblet was one of those teachers. Acting on this concern, Jim, along with his brothers Lyle and Everett, began talking to pastors in the Tacoma area about the possibility of starting a Christian school. They successfully combined the efforts of several local Baptist churches, and Tacoma Baptist Schools was started in the fall of 1959 with grades kindergarten through eighth.

Jim Bramblet served as the school's first principal. In 1964, Mr. Bramblet left TBS to become the principal of a Christian school in Portland, and Dr. Douglas Bond was called. Dr. Bond and his wife, Mary Jane, led the school in many capacities, including overseeing construction of the current facilities. High school classes were first offered in the fall of 1966 and graduated its first senior class in 1970. In 2001, Dr. Bond retired and Tim Hoy was called to be the superintendent. In 2005, Robert White came to serve as superintendent.

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S HISTORY

The founders of New Hope Christian School, Gene and Anita Dotson, were burdened to open a Christian school in Graham. With this vision, they built (through great sacrifice) the school facility on their own property and opened in the fall of 1982 with grades pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. The Lord greatly blessed their faith and more grades, students, faculty, and facilities were added.

In the year 2003, Gene and Anita felt that it was time to pass on the ministry to a school district of like mind and like philosophy that would perpetuate their vision. In the summer of 2003, New Hope Christian School joined TBS to form a multi-campus school district.

SSCS is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Universities (NASCU). The schools are "Approved Private Schools" in Washington State.

OUR MISSION

South Sound Christian Schools exist to support the Christian home and church by providing Biblically-based education that challenges young lives to grow in faith, knowledge and skill so that they may glorify God and serve others.

OUR VISION

South Sound Christian Schools seek to be model schools that operate and instruct in complete harmony with Biblical truth, producing knowledgeable, skillful students who are inspired to a lifetime of exceptional service.

OUR CORE VALUES

Academic Excellence: We develop and deliver with excellence a Biblically integrated and academically challenging education that leads naturally to greater appreciation of God's magnificence.

Biblical Authority: We recognize the Bible as the absolute authority for what we believe and how we behave as articulated in our Statement of Faith.

Integrity: We strive to be consistent in what we believe and how we behave in private and public life.

Spiritual Growth: We challenge believers to submit to God's unique work in their lives, which is the basis for spiritual growth.

Faithful Stewardship: We accept responsibility to manage with excellence all the resources entrusted to us by God.

Loving Relationships: We demonstrate our value for people by developing personal relationships inspired by grace and truth.

Servant Leadership: We promote an attitude of service characterized by wisdom, willingness, and humility.

Partnership: We seek strong partnerships with the Christian home and church in the task of educating and nurturing students.

OUR PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Our approach to education is based upon God's character and involvement in human affairs. God is the all-knowing, all powerful Creator and Ruler of all things. Yet He is also a personal God and has made Himself known. He has revealed Himself to mankind through His creation, through His Son Jesus Christ, and through His written Word, the Holy Bible. God has endowed man with the capacity and responsibility to learn of Him. The task of education is the teaching and learning of God's truth. A proper study of all subject matters will harmonize with God's Word because all truth emanates from God.

God created mankind as a perfect creation, bearing His image and His likeness. God endowed mankind above all of His creation, giving him the ability to think, to relate, and to choose. Unfortunately, man chose to disobey God, an act of rebellion that brought suffering and death. Yet God reached out to mankind. In an act of perfect love and justice, God sent His Son to die to make payment for sin available to mankind. Mankind is again confronted with a choice: those who trust in Christ are fully reconciled to God and will enjoy eternal life with Him; those who reject Christ remain condemned in their sinfulness. True education starts with leading students to a proper relationship with God: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

God requires that His people live responsible, productive lives on earth. They are to grow in Christ like character, bear fruit, advance God's kingdom, and store up treasure in heaven. A Christian education must nurture students to become responsible, productive citizens of earth and of heaven.

God has given to parents the primary responsibility to educate and train their children in every way to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of Christian education is to assist the parents in the awesome responsibility of rearing their children to know, love, obey, and serve God.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

About the Bible: The Bible is the Word of God. It is complete and without error; it has final authority over everything it addresses. We accept the Bible as the standard for all areas of life.

About God: We believe in the one and only true God existing in three Persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. They are eternal, equal, and distinct, yet perfectly united.

About Sin and Salvation: Every human being has sinned and stands condemned before God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died to pay the penalty of sin. He was buried and rose again, demonstrating His victory over sin and death. Those who trust in Christ are forgiven before God and are eternally saved; those who reject Christ remain condemned in their sinfulness and will suffer eternal punishment.

About Christ's Return: Jesus has ascended to heaven where He now rules providentially as God the Son. He will return to earth one day to rule forever with His saints.

About Sanctification: It is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to grow in Christ like character and carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28) while we await Christ's return.

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

As part of the South Sound Christian School District, New Hope Christian School is in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC). Several local GARBC churches helped to found and continue in a supportive relationship with South Sound Christian Schools. South Sound Christian Schools' policies are set by the Board of Trustees, whose membership includes representatives from each of the six founding churches, and three members elected at large. The superintendent and administrative team lead the schools in day to day operations.

South Sound Christian Schools also enjoy cooperative relationships with many churches throughout the community. Our students represent more than 100 different local churches including a variety of denominations.

Our Six Founding Churches:

First Baptist Church of University Place
2844 Mt. View Avenue West
Tacoma, WA 98466

Phone: 253-564-2818
e-mail: firstbapup@aol.com

Mt. Tahoma Baptist Church
5220 – 74th West
Lakewood, WA 98499

Phone: 253-472-7074
e-mail: mttahoma@integrityol.com

Puyallup Community Baptist Church
1318 – 9th Avenue SW
Puyallup, WA 98371

Phone: 253-848-9373
FAX: 253-848-9376
<http://puycombap.home.att.net>

Southside Baptist Church
626 So. 86th Street
Tacoma, WA 98444

Phone: 253-535-2000
FAX: 253-536-1635
e-mail: ssbapt@juno.com

Temple Baptist Church
1108 Columbia Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98466

Phone: 253-572-9155
e-mail: tbctacoma@juno.com

Tillicum Baptist Church
8415 Maple SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

Phone: 253-584-1864
e-mail: tillicumbc@juno.com

Section III – School Policies and Procedures

ADMISSION, REGISTRATION AND RE-ENROLLMENT

Application for new student enrollment is made by submitting completed application forms (obtained through the office) and applicable fees to New Hope Christian School. Re-enrollment is available either on-line or through the office. Students and their parent/guardian must be able to support the statement of faith, the educational philosophy, and school policies.

By State law, students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before August 31st of the respective school year. Students desiring to enter the pre kindergarten program must be 4 years old by August 31st of the school year.

Students new to New Hope are placed on a general probation for the first three months to ensure positive adjustment to the school.

All students are required to re-enroll annually. Admittance into New Hope Christian School does not guarantee that the student will be re-enrolled the following year. The administration of the school reserves the exclusive right to determine whether a student will be accepted or re-enrolled.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

SSCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color or national/ethnic origin in its admission policy. As a religious, private institution, however, it does screen students on the basis of academic ability, deportment, and compatibility with the religious goals, purpose, and philosophy of South Sound Christian Schools.

ACADEMICS

New Hope Christian School is dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence. Our curriculum is Christ centered, and all subject matter is designed to be taught in the light of God's Word. We have a detailed program of testing designed to measure students' abilities and progress. All students in grades 1 – 6 take the Stanford Achievement Test each spring to measure achievement in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Results are used by teachers and school administration to improve the overall education of the student and make curriculum improvements.

Curriculum Overview

The elementary instructional program is contained within individual classrooms. Bible is a vital part of the curriculum, along with the integration of Christian values in all subject matters. The school takes a strong traditional, phonetic approach to reading. The basic emphasis is on reading, writing, mathematics, history, science/health, and language arts. Music, computers, physical education, and field trips are also a part of the elementary educational program.

The ABEKA book curriculum is used throughout the entire school. We use the New King James Version of the Bible at our school.

Homework

We believe that homework is an integral part of the school program. Each teacher is at liberty to give homework to aid the students to advance in their studies. Each student is required to complete his homework assignments on time. Drill and practice are necessary for proper learning of the subject matter. Homework is given so that the material will be mastered. We do request parent's full cooperation in seeing that the assignment sheets are signed and the homework is completed.

Report Cards, Progress Reports and Conferences

Report cards are issued every six weeks, or six times per year. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled with the first and third report cards. Report cards will be held if tuition account is delinquent.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Regular school attendance is critical to the student's learning experience. Absences should be kept to a minimum. Your cooperation in keeping absences to the necessary and essential is greatly appreciated. Students are required to bring their teacher a note from the parent excusing the absence upon their return to school. If there are more than three days of absences in one grading period, special arrangements will need to be made for the student to make up the work, which may include staying after school.

Late Arrival/Early Departure

Class starts at 9:00 a.m. (p.m. classes at 12:30 p.m.), students need to be on time each day. Their late arrival is disruptive to the class and can be a hardship on the one who is late. Please do your best to have students here on time each day. If a student is tardy to class, the student should check in at the office with a dated note from the parent stating the reason for the late arrival. A student should not be tardy more than three times per grading period.

Students are required to submit a note from a parent to their teacher on the day early dismissal is requested. Students report to the office at the time of early dismissal for pick up by the parent. In the event that students must leave school early, the parent should go to the office and sign out the student.

CHAPEL

Our weekly chapel provides an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to fellowship together in worship. Local pastors, visiting missionaries, and other speakers provide a variety of chapel presentations. *Parents and those interested in New Hope Christian School are invited and encouraged to attend chapels.* No prior arrangements need to be made.

Conflict Resolution

It is SSCS policy to resolve conflicts according to the principle laid out in Matthew 18:15-17 between the parties most directly involved in the conflict. In light of that, parents are asked to endeavor to work out any problems that may arise with the teacher before going to the principal. If the conflict cannot be resolved by those most directly involved, the party seeking resolution should go the next higher administrative level of authority until relief is given or a final determination by school administration has been made. In cases where an impasse has developed and school administration has been unable to resolve a conflict, those seeking relief may appeal their case directly to the school board. After hearing a complaint or grievance, the decision of the board of South Sound Christian School District shall be final.

DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

New Hope Christian School conducts fund raising events throughout the year (i.e. annual Auction). Your support of fund raising activities is always needed and appreciated because tuition does not cover the whole cost of a quality New Hope education. All fund raising activities, sales, solicitations or promotions conducted on behalf of or using school contacts must receive prior approval from the school administration. Posters, flyers, and other advertisements for school events must be pre-approved by school administration.

DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT

We believe that students learn best in an environment that is orderly, safe, and respectful. Personal discipline by the students is required to maintain that learning environment. Our goal is for the student to take responsibility for his/her own behavior and to learn self-control. The objective is to see the student move from extrinsic (outside) motivational factors to intrinsic (inside) motivational factors where the child is responding from his/her heart and not just because someone makes him. This process requires the exercise of kind, loving discipline.

Each teacher has a set of basic classroom rules that are to be followed. These rules are simple but critical to producing the proper learning environment. The teachers have created a system of progressive disciplinary actions to encourage right behavior. Positive motivation as well as punitive measures is used to encourage right behavior. Teacher/parent communication and cooperation is critical in the success of this process.

In the unlikely event that the student is not responding to the disciplinary measures of the teacher, involvement from the administrator may become necessary. In the very rare case that a student does not respond to the administrator, or if the nature of the infraction is very serious, a more serious course of action may need to be followed.

Basic guidelines

Students are asked to follow these basic rules:

- Students are to respect all teachers, staff, and parent volunteers.
- Students are to respect other students. Teasing, name calling, bullying, and other forms of harassment will not be tolerated.
- Follow the dress code as outlined in this manual.
- Respect and care for all school property. This includes the proper treatment of items such as desks, furniture, books, walls, etc. Parents may be asked to cover the costs of repairs or replacements if their child is responsible for damage.
- Students are to walk quietly in the building.
- Music, tapes, books, radios; CD's, toys, etc. are to be left at home.
- Gum chewing is not allowed.
- Use, possession of, or involvement with tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, knives, gun, or weapons on the part of a student is considered grounds for immediate expulsion.

In addition to abiding by the written rules and regulations herein, students are expected to obey and respect all school personnel. When a student is corrected for some offense or violation, a respectful, proper response would be one that indicates that he/she understands and is correcting his/her behavior.

Bigger or major problems, such as repeated offenses, willful disobedience, poor attitude, arguing, cheating lying, profanity, etc., may result in suspension, or expulsion.

It is not the policy of South Sound Christian Schools to administer corporal punishment to the students. While SSCS does not administer corporal punishment, we certainly recognize its importance administered by the parent within the confines of the home.

DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE

New Hope Christian School has adopted a uniform dress code for our elementary school. The dress code encourages productivity among the students, helps to minimize discipline problems, and virtually eliminates comparison and competition in dress that can exist among students. We ask our students abide by the following policy:

BOYS

- Pants:** Uniform twill pants (navy blue or khaki brown in color).
- Shorts:** Uniform twill walking shorts may be worn until October 15th and after May 1st. Uniform shorts may not be shorter than two inches above the knee.
- Shirts:** Polo shirts/turtlenecks in short or long sleeves are permitted. Shirts must have a fold over collar (collar with no accent color trim) and be **solid** red, navy blue, or white in color. No logos/emblems except the New Hope Logo are permitted on the shirts.
- Vest/Sweater:** Uniform vest or sweaters in **solid** red, white, or navy blue may be worn **over** uniform shirt described above.
- Sweatshirts:** Navy blue sweatshirts that have the New Hope Christian School Logo may be worn in class over the above described shirts. These sweatshirts may be purchased at the beginning of the year in the school office.
- Shoes/Socks:** Durable shoes, tennis shoes or sandals with **solid** red, white, or navy blue socks **must** be worn with all shoes at all times. Tennis shoes should be worn on PE day. Shoes with wheels (Heelys) may not be worn at school.
- Jewelry:** No earrings or excessive jewelry

GIRLS

- Pants:** Uniform twill pants (navy blue or khaki brown in color).
- Shorts:** Uniform twill walking shorts (navy blue or khaki brown in color in color) that are not more than two inches above the knee may be worn through October 15th and after May 1st.
- Shirts:** Polo shirts/turtlenecks in long or short sleeves are permitted. Shirts must have a fold over collar (collar with no accent color trim) and be **solid** red, white, or navy blue in color. No logos/emblems except the New Hope Logo is permitted.
- Vest/Sweater:** Uniform vest or sweatshirts in **solid** red, white, or navy blue may be worn **over** uniform shirt described above.

Sweatshirts: Navy blue sweatshirts that have the New Hope Christian School Logo may be worn in class over the above described shirts. These sweatshirts may be purchased at the beginning of the year in the school office.

Shoes/Socks: Durable shoes, tennis shoes or sandals with **solid** red, white or navy blue socks **must** be worn with all shoes at all times. Tennis shoes should be worn on PE day. Shoes with wheels (Heelys) may not be worn at school.

Jumpers/skirts: Uniform jumpers/skirts (navy blue or khaki in color) that are at the knee may be worn. For modesty's sake on the playground, shorts should be worn underneath jumpers/skirts.
Make-up, excessive jewelry, and earrings hanging below the earlobes should not be worn

BOYS AND GIRLS

Jackets and coats: Jackets and coats are to be worn outside only.

Hair: Boy's hair must be off the collar, off the ears and above the eyes.

Hairstyles may not attract undue attention, and must be kept in the child's natural hair color.

Shoes: Shoes with wheels (Heelys) are not allowed at school.

Please avoid images on items (school boxes, lunch boxes, folders, jackets, etc.) which portray alcoholic beverages/retailers, tobacco products/retailers, magic, witches or other occult or violent themes as this is contrary to the philosophy of New Hope Christian School and will not be allowed on the school premises.

FINANCIAL POLICIES, TUITION AND FEES

- Application Fee:** This non-refundable fee is due at the time of application for enrollment into New Hope.
- Registration Fee:** The registration fee when paid in full, secures a spot for your student in the class. This fee is due by July 5th or upon acceptance for enrollment. Failure to pay this fee by the appropriate date will result in termination of enrollment.
- Tuition:** Pay in full at the beginning of the school year and receive a 3% discount. Payable to SSCS directly.
- Pay in full at the beginning of the first and second semesters (August 1st and January 1st), no discount. Payable to SSCS directly.
- Pay in 11 monthly installments August – June. Those who choose this option are required to have a FACTS tuition payment account with the school, whereby payments are automatically withdrawn from an account. A late charge of \$25.00 is automatically applied to the account for each payment attempt that is missed.

Delinquent (Past Due) Accounts: Accounts more than 45 (forty-five) days past due will result in the student being suspended from school. Report cards will be held and requests for transcripts/transfer of records will not be honored for students whose accounts are past due. The account must be current before a student is permitted to re-enroll for the following year.

Tuition Assistance: Prior to each semester, the request for tuition assistance are considered. Assistance is given based upon need and the financial resources available to the school. For more information or for an application for tuition assistance, contact the school office.

Withdrawal (Student's Withdrawal) from New Hope: To give the school time to enroll a replacement student from the waiting pool, regardless of a student's last day of attending classes at New Hope, tuition fees will continue to accumulate for 21 calendar days from the date of written notice or until the last day the student attends New Hope, whichever is later.

For students expelled or requested to withdraw by New Hope administration, tuition fees cease to accumulate as of the last day of the student's attending class at New Hope. Students withdrawing during the school year must be sure that all class, library, and school resources are returned.

GUESTS AND VISITORS

For the safety of students and school employees, New Hope is a closed campus. Visitors (including student's parents) are welcome to come to the school to do volunteer work, participate in events, and chaperone student activities. All visitors are required to sign in at the office, obtain a visitor's pass, and return it when they leave.

HARRASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY

It is our aim to maintain a learning/working environment that fosters respect for the dignity of every individual and is free from harassment. Harassment is defined as any conduct or communication that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's performance or well being, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for someone else. Individuals who knowingly report false allegations or corroborate false accusations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

If an individual believes that they have been harassed, intimidated, or bullied, they should first, if possible and practical, attempt to resolve the issue with the party(ies) directly involved in accordance with the Matthew 18 principle. If this is not possible, the information should be reported to school administrative personnel. If the harassment has been perpetrated by a teacher, administrator or other person in a supervisory position, report the incident to the next higher level of authority. New Hope will take prompt, equitable investigative and remedial action (when warranted) on all reports received or which are brought to their attention either through formal or informal channels. When appropriate, the school will involve outside sources such as a pastor, counselor, or law enforcement officer to help remedy the situation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Abuse or Neglect and Reporting

Professional school employees are legally required to report all suspected child abuse or neglect. This is the case whether the suspected abuse or neglect occurs on or off the school premises. Reports will be made to Child Protective Services, the Department of Health and Social Services, or to the police.

Accidents/Injuries

Any individual who witnesses an accident on school premises or at a school event, or who is injured on campus (or at any school sponsored event) is responsible to immediately report the injury to a teacher or other school personnel who will be responsible to ensure provision of first aid, contact emergency services, complete a New Hope incident report, or perform other required actions. Students will be transported via ambulance at the discretion of school or emergency personnel (parents/guardians are responsible for all costs associated with care). In all cases of injury or accident requiring medical attention, diligent efforts will be made to contact the parents/guardians, their listed emergency contact, and/or student's physician listed in the student's health office file on the Treatment Authorization Form as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PRACTICES

New Hope Christian School has detailed procedures designed for implementation in the event of emergencies, including fire drills, drop and cover drills, and lock downs. Procedures include information regarding contacting emergency services, parents, and performing campus safety analysis. Students will be asked to provide “emergency food kits” each year that will be stored at the school for emergency use. These kits will be returned to the student at the end of each school year.

Illness

Students who become ill may ask to go to the office. If they are not able to return to class, a parent/guardian will be contacted to make arrangements to pick up their child. Students feeling ill are not to go home without the authorization of the parent/guardian, must be signed out at the school office, and will only be released to authorized parent/guardian or other designated individuals.

Students who have been ill at home (vomiting, or running a temperature of 100 or higher) should not come to school until symptoms have ceased for 24 hours.

Medications and Prescriptions

New Hope Christian School must have written permission from a licensed practitioner and parent to administer medication. All medication (including over the counter medications) needed by a student during the school day must be brought to the office by the parent with a note from the licensee practitioner indicating dosage and frequency of administration. Medications must be in their original containers.

Over the counter medications may not be kept by students on their person. Student to student distribution of any medication is prohibited and may result in more serious consequences.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Students affected by head lice are not allowed to attend school. Students found to have lice will be sent home. This common condition can easily be treated by following the directions for an anti-lice shampoo. Students absent due to head lice must be cleared a physician or by the school office before returning to class.

Hours of Operation

Pre-Kindergarten: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 – 3:15

Grades 1 – 6: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please arrive no more than 15 minutes before class begins and pick students up promptly at dismissal times. No one is available to supervise students at other times. A charge may be assessed to the students' account if the student is not picked up at the school by 3:45 p.m.

Library

Our school is equipped with a beautiful library containing over 10,000 volumes that have been screened to ensure that they contain material that does not compromise Christian values. Students are permitted to check out books each week as specified by the librarian. Discretion on overdue fines, library policies, and enforcement rests within the discretion of the library staff.

Lost and Found

Items that have been lost will be placed in the lost and found container. They will be held for three months prior to being donated to a local charity. Please promptly reclaim your lost items.

Lunch

Students in the first through sixth grades bring their own lunches from home.

Parent Involvement

We welcome parent involvement at New Hope, and there are numerous avenues for service. Perhaps the best way to be involved is to volunteer as a room parent. Room parents assist the teacher with numerous tasks throughout the year. These may include individual help for students with reading, assistance with art, help with field trips, classroom parties, etc.

Parents should remember to come modestly dressed during their volunteer times. Please avoid images on items and clothing which portray alcoholic beverages/retailers, tobacco products/retailers, magic, witches or other occult or violent themes as this is contrary to the philosophy of New Hope Christian School.

For the safety of our students and our volunteers, we require each volunteer who helps directly with the students to submit paperwork for the office to conduct a background check with the Washington State Patrol.

Parties

There are two classroom parties per year, Christmas and Valentine's Day. The Room Parents plan and conduct the room parties under the supervision of the teacher.

Invitations for birthday parties should not be given out at school unless everyone in the class is being invited (For a girls' party, all girls in the class must be invited. For boys' party, all boys in the class must be invited). Generally, non-school party invitations should be sent via mail. For those parents who wish to recognize their child on his/her birthday, cookies or cupcakes may be brought to the school in the morning to be served during lunchtime. Items for half-day students will be eaten 10 – 15 minutes before dismissal. Please let the teachers know prior to the child's birthday if you wish to do this.

- Halloween is not observed at New Hope.
- Christmas is observed as the celebration of Christ's birth
In keeping with this, the use of Santa Claus is avoided in decorations and activities.
- Valentine's Day is observed as a celebration of Christ's love for us and as a celebration of friendship. It should not reflect gifts or items of a romantic nature.
- If your child is distributing Valentines, ensure that they distribute a Valentine to every child in their class.

School Delayed Opening/Closure

On rare occasions the school may either need to delay opening or close completely due to inclement weather conditions. Information regarding these schedule adjustments will be called to the following sources:

Radio Stations: KCMS 105.3 FM

Television Stations: KIRO TV – Channel 7, KING TV – Channel 5, KOMO TV – Channel 4

Our website: www.southsoundchristian.org

Please understand that we contact the stations, but it is their job to post the information. Due to the high volume of calls, there is room for error.

The SSCS website or the phone at New Hope is your best source of information. We will do our best to have the closure or delay announced by 6:00 a.m. of the morning in question. The phone number for New Hope is 253-847-2643.

Thank you for your patience during these times. If parents feel, in their judgment, conditions are too hazardous, they may keep their children home and an excused absence will be given.

Telephone

Parents are welcome to call and leave messages with the school office. Teachers and students will not be available during classroom instruction time to answer calls unless there is an emergency.

Transportation

Parents of our students bring their students to school and pick them up each day. No bus service is available. Parents must complete a “safety form” that designates which individuals are authorized by the parent to pick up their child. The name of the individual and the relationship to the student will be listed on the form. In the rare event someone is to pick up the child different than one designated on the form, a note should be sent to school explaining the situation, or a call should be made to the office by the parent.

For the safety of our students, we ask that all **vehicles observe the five mile per hour posted speed limit** while on campus. Due to the distraction caused by the use of cellular phones, we ask that parents not use them while driving on campus.

Weapons

New Hope Christian School does not allow possession of weapons on school property or at school sponsored events. Weapons may include any items capable of producing bodily harm in a manner which manifests intent to intimidate another individual or warrants alarm for the safety of others. Students possessing a weapon may be subject to discipline up to and including immediate expulsion. The school may notify law enforcement personnel in accordance with applicable laws. It is a crime under Washington State law for a person (not just students) to knowingly carry a dangerous weapon on school premises. The penalty for conviction could be up to one year’s imprisonment and up to a \$5000.00 fine.