

LIFE TOGETHER COVENANT

THE ROCK COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Rock County Christian School is a community of Christians who have joined together for the purpose of academic progress, personal development and spiritual growth. Participation in the school community is based on the foundation of our commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Together we seek to honor Him by integrating faith and learning while our hearts and lives reflect the process of maturing in Christ.

The purpose of this covenant is to identify the expectations for participation in our community that will assist us in living together and in meeting our institutional objectives. We acknowledge that it is impossible to create a community with expectations, which are totally acceptable to every member. Nevertheless, certain expectations must be specified to assure orderly community life. When individuals join the Rock County Christian School community, they freely and willingly choose to take upon themselves the responsibilities outlined in this covenant.

Assumptions

1. Loving God and being accountable to Him are the primary motivations for Christian relationships and behavior.
2. The Bible is our authority; it provides the essential teachings and principles for personal and community conduct.
3. God, through the Holy Spirit, places in every believer the inner resources and attributes to minister to others through supportive relationships.

Responsibilities and Relationships

Living in daily fellowship with other Christians is a privilege and an expression of God's grace. In recognition of this privilege, great value is placed on the quality of relationships in our community. We acknowledge that we are living in a fellowship where we are dependent on and accountable to one another. The New Testament word for fellowship is *koinonia*.

Within our community the greatest expression of fellowship and the highest principle for relationships is love. As scripture states: "We should love one another. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers...let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. Whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 John 3:11, 16, 18; 4:11, 21 NIV)

For the purpose of our community we have identified the following specific expressions of love as being among the most desirable in our relationships.

Edification

We expect each member of the community to strive consciously to maintain relationships which support, encourage and help others. "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." (Romans 15:1-2 NIV)

Bearing with one another

Because of our humanness, difficulties in relationships can occur. In such cases, we are to respond as the scripture states; "...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:12-13a NIV)

Burden-bearing

We are responsible to come alongside those experiencing grief, illness, tragedy or other personal trials. Expressions of bearing one another's burdens include comfort, encouragement, consolation and intercession.

Speaking the truth in love

A community such as ours can be strengthened by speaking the truth to each other with love. Problems in relationships and behavior can be resolved constructively by confronting one another in an appropriate spirit. If the welfare of the one being confronted is paramount and if the confronter is acting in love, the process can produce growth.

Reconciliation, restoration and restitution

Healing broken relationships is necessary for a healthy community. When relationships have been harmed, regardless of the reason, individuals are expected to reach out to one another, to forgive one another, to restore relationships and to make restitution.

II Corinthians 5:18-19 NIV states: "...and He (Christ) gave us the ministry of reconciliation...and He has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

Implementing the above expressions of love in relationships requires continual effort and sensitivity to others. Relationships of this quality enrich our lives, honor God and assist in meeting the goals of the School.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES

Biblical expectations

Scripture teaches that certain attributes are available to individuals through the Holy Spirit. These attributes include: "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV) this "fruit of the Spirit" is to be sought, encouraged and demonstrated in our relationships.

In contrast to encouraging these positive attributes of the heart, scripture condemns attitudes such as greed, jealousy, pride, lust and hatred. Although these attitudes are sometimes difficult to discern, they can hinder relationships with God and others and lead to unacceptable behavior.

Certain behaviors are expressly prohibited in scripture and therefore should be avoided by members of the school community. They include theft, lying, dishonesty, gossip, slander, backbiting, profanity, vulgarity (including crude language), sexual promiscuity (including homosexual behavior, premarital sex), drunkenness, immodesty of dress and occult practices.

In keeping with scriptural admonitions to bring ourselves under the authority of government, members of the Rock County Christian School community are expected to uphold the laws of the local community, the state of Wisconsin and the nation. An exception would be those rare occasions in which obedience to the civil authorities would require behavior that conflicts with the teaching of Scripture. On such occasions, each individual would submit voluntarily to the civil penalty for this behavior.

Signature of community member

Date



**ROCK COUNTY
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**