

Welcome to Thrive Christian Academy

Dear Families,

Welcome to Thrive Christian Academy, where we seek to abide in Christ, the true vine, as we nurture students to bear fruit in faith, knowledge, and godly character. Our K-12 one-room schoolhouse is a unique, Christ-centered community where students of all ages learn together, growing in unity and love. Rooted in John 15:5, we believe that by remaining connected to Jesus, our students will thrive spiritually, academically, and socially.

This handbook outlines our mission, policies, and expectations to foster a fruitful partnership between school and home. Thank you for joining us in this sacred calling.

Abiding in Christ,

The Thrive Christian Academy Team

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1. Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Mission

At Thrive Christian Academy, we are committed to nurturing spiritual fruit and academic growth in a Christ-centered environment. We embrace students of all abilities, fostering a community where each individual is empowered to meet their God-given potential through faith, learning, and love.

Vision

To raise generations of students who remain rooted in Christ, producing abundant fruit in faith, wisdom, and service to others.

Core Values

- **Abiding in Christ:** Staying connected to Jesus through prayer, worship, and obedience (John 15:5).
 - **Fruitfulness:** Pursuing excellence in character, academics, and relationships.
 - **Community:** Growing together as branches of one vine, united across ages.
 - **Love:** Reflecting God's love in all interactions, bearing the fruit of the Spirit.
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2. School Overview

About Thrive Christian Academy

Thrive Christian Academy is a K-12 one-room schoolhouse where students learn in a single, multi-grade classroom, fostering a family-like environment. Guided by John 15:5, we integrate biblical truth into all aspects of education, encouraging students to remain in Christ to bear fruit. Our small size allows for individualized instruction, peer mentorship, and a focus on spiritual formation.

School Hours

- Monday–Friday: 8:30 AM–2:00 PM
- Morning Devotion (Abiding Time): 8:30 AM–8:45 AM
- Early Drop-Off (optional): 8:00 AM

Location

602 Gun Club Rd.
Sagle, ID 83860

Contact Information

- Phone: (208)219-6960
 - Email: pete.ball@thrivechristian.org
 - Website: thrivechristian.org
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3. Admissions and Enrollment

Eligibility

We welcome families committed to our Christian mission and the call to abide in Christ. Students of all backgrounds are considered, provided they and their families agree to uphold our values and policies.

Application Process

- Submit a completed application form (available online or at the school).
- Provide academic records (e.g., report cards for transferring students).
- Attend a family interview to discuss our mission and John 15:5 vision.
- Sign the Statement of Faith and Parent/Student Agreement.

Enrollment

- Finalized upon payment of the registration fee and submission of required documents (e.g., birth certificate, immunization records).

- Annual re-enrollment for returning students by May 1st.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Thrive Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, or national origin, consistent with our mission to reflect Christ's love and unity.

4. Academic Policies

Curriculum

Our curriculum is biblically integrated, rooted in John 15:5, and designed for a multi-grade classroom. It includes:

- **Abiding in Christ:** Daily Bible study, prayer, and Christian worldview instruction.
- **Core Subjects:** Math, Language Arts, Science, History, tailored to each student's level.
- **Enrichment:** Art, Music, Physical Education, fostering creative fruitfulness.
- **Individualized Plans:** Customized assignments to meet diverse needs in one room.

Thrive Christian Academy Grading Policy

Mastery-Based Learning for Fruitful Growth

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5

Philosophy of Mastery-Based Learning

At Thrive Christian Academy, we believe that every student is a branch connected to Christ, the true vine, called to bear fruit in wisdom, character, and knowledge. Our grading policy reflects this by focusing on **mastery-based learning**, where students demonstrate deep understanding and proficiency in a subject before progressing. Rather than using traditional letter or number grades, which can create comparison or discouragement, we provide narrative feedback and clear benchmarks to celebrate growth and guide each child toward their God-given potential. This approach:

- Honors individual learning paces in our one-room schoolhouse.
 - Encourages perseverance and a love for learning.
 - Aligns with John 15:5 by fostering fruitful progress through connection to Christ and supportive instruction.
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Key Principles

- **Mastery Over Speed:** Students advance upon demonstrating proficiency, ensuring a strong foundation in each subject.
 - **Individualized Progress:** Learning goals are tailored to each student's age, grade, and abilities in our multi-grade classroom.
 - **Encouragement and Feedback:** Narrative evaluations and checkpoints replace grades, focusing on strengths and areas for growth.
 - **Holistic Growth:** Assessments include academic skills, Christian character, and effort, reflecting our mission to bear fruit in all areas.
 - **Restorative Approach:** Students are given multiple opportunities to achieve mastery, avoiding the negatives of punitive grading.
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Mastery Levels

Instead of letter or number grades, student progress is described using the following **Mastery Levels** for each subject or skill:

- **Flourishing (Mastered):** The student consistently demonstrates deep understanding and can apply skills independently. Ready to progress to the next concept or level.
- **Growing (Progressing Toward Mastery):** The student shows partial understanding and applies skills with some support. Additional practice or instruction is needed to reach mastery.
- **Budding (Emerging):** The student is beginning to grasp the concept but requires significant guidance. Targeted support and reteaching are provided.
- **Planting (Not Yet Demonstrating):** The student has not yet shown understanding. Intensive intervention and encouragement are provided to start growth.

For **High School (Grades 9-12)**, mastery levels are supplemented with credit tracking to meet graduation requirements, but narrative feedback remains the primary evaluation method.

Assessment Methods

To determine mastery, teachers use a variety of formative and summative assessments tailored to each student's level:

- **Projects and Portfolios:** Students demonstrate understanding through hands-on tasks, presentations, or creative work.
- **Skill Checkpoints:** Short quizzes, discussions, or tasks assess specific objectives.
- **Observations:** Teachers note participation, collaboration, and effort in the one-room classroom.
- **Self-Reflections:** Students reflect on their growth, connecting their learning to Christian values.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Collaborative discussions ensure alignment on progress and goals.

Assessments are designed to be encouraging, with feedback that highlights strengths (e.g., “You showed great perseverance in solving math problems!”) and provides clear next steps (e.g., “Let’s practice fractions together to move toward mastery.”).

Progression and Advancement

Mastery Requirement:

- Students must achieve **Flourishing (Mastered)** in core objectives before moving to the next unit, topic, or grade level in a subject.
- For **Grades K-8**, mastery is determined by subject-specific benchmarks (e.g., reading fluency, math operations).
- For **Grades 9-12**, mastery contributes to earning credits toward graduation (e.g., 1 credit per mastered course).

Support for Growth:

- Students at **Growing, Budding, or Planting** levels receive targeted support, such as:
 - One-on-one instruction in the one-room setting.
 - Peer mentorship from older students.
 - Additional practice or alternative activities.
- Teachers create **Growth Plans** for students needing extended support, outlining specific goals and timelines in collaboration with parents.

Flexibility in Pace:

- In our multi-grade classroom, students work at their own pace within a subject, allowing younger students to advance quickly or older students to take extra time without stigma.
 - Progress is celebrated at any pace, reinforcing that fruitful growth comes from abiding in Christ and diligent effort.
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Reporting Progress

Progress Reports (issued quarterly):

- Narrative summaries describe each student’s mastery level in core subjects (Bible, Math, Language Arts, Science, History) and enrichment areas (Art, Music, PE).
- Feedback highlights academic progress, Christian character (e.g., kindness, perseverance), and effort.
- Sample: *“In Math, Sarah is Growing toward mastery of multiplication. She confidently solves single-digit problems and is practicing multi-digit with teacher support. Her patience reflects the fruit of the Spirit!”*

Checkpoints (mid-quarter updates):

- Brief updates on students at **Budding or Planting** levels to keep parents informed and engaged.

Parent-Teacher Conferences (twice yearly):

- Teachers discuss progress, share work samples, and set goals, ensuring parents understand their child's journey toward mastery.

Student Portfolios:

- Each student maintains a portfolio of key projects and reflections, showcasing their growth over time. Portfolios are shared at conferences and year-end celebrations.
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High School Considerations

To prepare students for post-secondary opportunities while maintaining our mastery-based philosophy:

- **Credits:** High school students earn 1 credit per course upon achieving **Flourishing** in all core objectives (e.g., Algebra I, English 9). Partial credits are not awarded; students continue working toward mastery.
 - **Transcripts:** For college applications, mastery levels are translated into a pass/fail system (e.g., **Flourishing** = Pass) with detailed narrative evaluations. If required, teachers can provide a GPA equivalent based on mastery (e.g., **Flourishing** = 4.0).
 - **Graduation:** Students must earn 24 credits, including a senior project reflecting John 15:5 and 20 hours of community service, to graduate.
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Encouraging a Positive Learning Environment

To maximize learning and avoid the negatives of traditional grading:

- **No Comparisons:** Feedback is individualized, preventing competition or discouragement in our multi-grade setting.
 - **Multiple Opportunities:** Students can revise work or retake assessments to achieve mastery, emphasizing growth over failure.
 - **Celebrating Fruitfulness:** Achievements (e.g., reaching **Flourishing**, helping a peer) are recognized through verbal praise, certificates, or "Fruit of the Spirit" awards tied to John 15:5.
 - **Christ-Centered Encouragement:** Teachers frame challenges as opportunities to abide in Christ, trusting Him for strength and wisdom.
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Role of Parents

Parents are vital partners in this mastery-based approach:

- **Engage with Feedback:** Review progress reports and attend conferences to understand your child's growth.
- **Support at Home:** Encourage practice and reinforce Christian values, but allow independent work.

- **Communicate:** Share concerns or insights about your child's learning with teachers to tailor support.
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5. Student Code of Conduct

At Thrive Christian Academy, we are committed to fostering a Christ-centered, respectful, and supportive community where every student can grow academically, spiritually, and socially. As branches connected to Christ, the vine, students are called to bear fruit through godly behavior. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for all students to ensure a safe and positive learning environment and reflects our commitment to John 15:5.

Core Values

- **Faith:** Honor God in all actions, reflecting Christian principles of love, integrity, and humility.
- **Respect:** Treat others with kindness, valuing their dignity as creations of God.
- **Responsibility:** Take ownership of actions, academic work, and contributions to the community.
- **Unity:** Work collaboratively across grade levels, embracing our unique one-room school setting.

Core Expectations

- **Abiding in Christ**
 - Show reverence during prayer, worship, and Bible study.
 - Reflect Christ's love in words and actions.
- **Respect for God and Others**
 - Demonstrate reverence during prayer, worship, and Bible study.
 - Treat peers, teachers, staff, and visitors with kindness and respect, regardless of age or grade level.
 - Use language that is uplifting, avoiding profanity, gossip, or harmful words.
- **Academic Integrity**
 - Complete all assignments and tasks honestly, avoiding cheating or plagiarism.
 - Engage actively in learning, respecting the shared classroom space, and diverse learning needs.
 - Support younger or older peers in collaborative activities, fostering a spirit of mentorship.
- **Personal Responsibility**
 - Arrive on time, prepared with necessary materials, and ready to learn.
 - Follow classroom rules and teacher instructions promptly.
 - Care for school property, keeping the classroom and common areas both inside and out, clean and orderly.
- **Safety and Conflict Resolution**
 - Maintain a safe environment by avoiding physical aggression, bullying, or harassment.
 - Resolve conflicts peacefully, seeking help from teachers or staff when needed.
 - Report any unsafe behavior or concerns to a trusted adult immediately.
- **Christian Character**
 - Practice forgiveness, compassion, and humility in interactions with others.

- Reflect Christian values in behavior, both at school and in the broader community.
- Encourage and uplift peers, creating a supportive and inclusive environment.
- **Dress Code**
 - Dress modestly and appropriately, reflecting Christian values and respect for the learning environment.
 - Follow specific guidelines provided in the Thrive Christian Academy handbook (e.g., no clothing with inappropriate logos or messages).
- **Technology Use**
 - Use school-provided technology responsibly, only for educational purposes as directed by teachers.
 - Avoid accessing inappropriate content or engaging in cyberbullying.
 - Respect shared resources in our one-room setting, ensuring equitable access for all students.

Consequences

Violations of the Code of Conduct will be addressed with a focus on restoration and growth, in line with Christian principles. Consequences may include:

- Verbal warning and discussion with the student.
- Parent/guardian notification and conference.
- Loss of privileges (e.g., participation in special activities).
- Restorative actions, such as apologies or community service within the school.
- Suspension or, in extreme cases, expulsion, for repeated or severe violations.

Parental Partnership

Parents/guardians are vital partners in upholding this Code of Conduct. We encourage open communication with teachers and staff to support students in meeting these expectations.

Pledge

As a student of Thrive Christian Academy, I pledge to honor God, respect others, and strive for excellence in my behavior and studies. I will contribute to a positive, Christ-centered community and uphold the values of our school.

Signed annually by students (Grades 3+) and parents.

6. Dress Code

General Expectations

- **Modesty:** Clothing must cover the body appropriately, avoiding tight, revealing, or overly casual styles that draw attention away from learning or faith.
- **Cleanliness:** All clothing must be clean, in good condition, and free of inappropriate logos, slogans, or images (e.g., no profanity, violence, or secular messages contrary to Christian values). Rips are permitted if they are part of the original design and reinforced. Modesty and appropriateness must be maintained..

- **Comfort:** Clothing should be practical for a casual classroom setting, allowing movement for activities like Physical Education or outdoor learning.

Specific Requirements

- **Tops**
 - Casual shirts, blouses, polos, or sweaters are permitted.
 - All clothing must cover the midriff and chest fully. Tank tops with straps at least 1 inch wide are permitted, provided they maintain modesty. Low-cut armpits, crop tops, spaghetti straps, low-cut necklines, low-cut backs, and shirts modified to be tank tops are prohibited.
 - Avoid sheer or form-fitting materials that reveal undergarments or skin.
- **Bottoms**
 - **Shorts:** Must reach at least **mid-thigh** (approximately halfway between the hip and knee). Athletic or casual shorts are acceptable if modest.
 - **Skirts/Dresses:** Must reach **just above the knee** or longer. Dresses must also meet top guidelines.
 - **Pants:** Casual pants, jeans, or leggings are allowed, provided they are not skin-tight. Leggings must be paired with a top that reaches mid-thigh.
 - No sagging pants or exposed undergarments.
- **Footwear**
 - Closed-toe shoes are required for safety (e.g., sneakers, loafers).
 - No flip-flops, sandals, or high heels, as they pose risks during activities.
 - Socks are optional but recommended for hygiene.
- **Outerwear**
 - Jackets, hoodies, or sweaters are permitted for warmth, following modesty and cleanliness guidelines.
 - Remove hoods indoors to maintain engagement and respect.
- **Accessories**
 - Hats, sunglasses, or headwear are not permitted indoors, except for religious or medical reasons (approved by the school).
 - Jewelry and accessories should be simple, avoiding distraction or safety hazards (e.g., no large hoops or dangling items).
- **Special Considerations**
 - **Physical Education:** Students may wear athletic attire (e.g., modest shorts or track pants, t-shirts) that meets dress code standards.
 - **Swimwear (if applicable):** For school events such as field trips, girls must wear modest swimsuits and boys must wear swim trunks that extend to at least mid-thigh. Cover-ups are required for both when not in the water.

7. Attendance and Punctuality

Expectations

- Students must attend daily, ready to start at 8:30 AM for Abiding Time (devotion).
- Tardiness disrupts our shared classroom; late students check in with the teacher.

Absences

- Excused: Illness, family emergencies, or pre-approved events (notify in advance).
- Unexcused absences may affect grades.
- Excessive absences (10+ per semester) require a parent meeting.

Make-Up Work

- One day per excused absence to complete work.
 - Teachers provide assignments upon request.
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8. Health and Safety

Immunizations

- Submit current immunization records or a state-approved exemption.

Illness

- Keep students home with fever (100.4°F+), vomiting, or contagious conditions.
- Notify the school of illness-related absences.

Medications

- Prescription medications require a doctor's note and parent authorization.
- Staff store and administer medications.

Safety

- No weapons, drugs, or alcohol allowed.
 - Visitors must check in.
 - Safety drills occur regularly.
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9. Technology Use

Guidelines

- Personal electronic devices(PED)(phones, tablets, watches, etc.) are not allowed while at school. If the student brings a PED to school it must be placed on silent and kept in the student's backpack. If a student is caught using a PED while at school, it will be confiscated and returned to the student's parent at the end of the day. After the second offense the student will be required to turn the PED in to the teacher every day.
- School devices are for educational purposes, supporting fruitful learning.
- No inappropriate content or cyberbullying.

- Respect shared devices in our one-room setting.

Consequences

- Misuse leads to loss of privileges and parent notification.
 - Severe violations may result in suspension.
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10. Discipline and Conflict Resolution

Philosophy

Discipline is restorative, guiding students to abide in Christ and bear good fruit.

Process

- Teacher addresses minor issues (e.g., redirection).
- Parent involvement for repeated issues.
- Restorative actions or consequences (e.g., service, privilege loss).
- Suspension or expulsion for severe cases (e.g., violence).

Bullying

- Bullying (physical, verbal, cyber) is not tolerated.
 - Report to the teacher; investigations involve parents and may include counseling.
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11. Parent Involvement

Expectations

- Support the John 15:5 mission and policies.
- Volunteer for events or classroom support.
- Attend conferences and school meetings.

Opportunities

- Parent prayer group.
 - Fundraising/community events.
 - Assisting with younger students' activities.
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12. Communication

Channels

- Primary: Email pete.ball@thrivechristian.org and phone (208)219-6960
- Emergency alerts via text/email.

Conferences

- Twice yearly; additional meetings upon request.

Grievances

- Discuss with the teacher first, then the director if unresolved.
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13. Extracurricular Activities

Offerings

- Limited but may include:
 - Worship team or choir.
 - Community service projects.
 - Field trips (e.g., historical sites, nature outings).
 - Participation requires good standing in academics and behavior.
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14. Emergency Procedures

Evacuation

- Follow teacher instructions during drills/emergencies.
- Routes posted in the classroom.

Weather Closures

- Announced by 6:00 AM via email/text.
 - Make-up days added if needed.
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15. Acknowledgment and Agreement

By enrolling, students and parents commit to:

- Abide in Christ and support the John 15:5 mission.
- Uphold the Student Code of Conduct and handbook policies.
- Partner in building a fruitful, Christ-centered community.

Signature

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student (Grades 3+): _____ Date: _____