

CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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DISCIPLESHIP TRUTH EXCELLENCE

"For the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God."

Ephesians 4:12-13

2024/2025

**JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

CCA's Official Statements

History

Calvary Christian Academy was founded in September of 1995 as an educational ministry of Calvary Chapel Philadelphia. The primary goal was to work with Christian families to educate and disciple godly young men and women. The school initially began as a PK through 8th grade school and soon after added 9th through 12th grades in 1997. In 1998, CCA graduated its first class and since that time has seen students enroll in over 100 different colleges and universities including University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, Calvary Chapel Bible College, Liberty University, West Point Military Academy, Johns Hopkins University, Cedarville University, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, and Grove City College. CCA received full accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools in 2012. Our academic programs are designed to meet the learning needs of the honors student, college prep student and the student working at a more basic level. Special education services are provided in accordance to our special education program and handbook. School electives and after school programs provide opportunities for CCA's students to hone the gifts the Lord has given them in areas of the fine arts, athletics, computer science, and the culinary arts. In 2015, Calvary Christian Academy celebrated 20 years of serving Christ's kids.

Mission

Our mission is to share in the ministry of Calvary Chapel by offering Christian education from a biblical worldview, while partnering with parents who have the God-given responsibility to educate their children. We desire to raise up disciples for Christ by promoting academic, social, and spiritual excellence. Equipping students to become a transforming influence on the world for Christ is at the core of a CCA education.

Ephesians 4: 12-13

Diversity and Marriage Statement

Calvary Christian Academy believes that an individual's first responsibility is to the God of the Bible and that a person's whole life should reflect His framework in a context of peace and selfless love. CCA asserts that a genuine love for and interaction with diverse peoples is a biblical mandate. Moreover, Calvary Christian Academy recognizes that we are all one in the body of Christ. Our standard for diversity is found in the Bible. Individual differences in lifestyle that deny, ignore, or reject biblical standards represent diversity in rebellion to God's standards and hence, are unacceptable for the families of CCA. CCA holds to the beliefs as stated in the King James Version of the Bible and asserts that marriage is the union between one man and one woman, and that from the beginning of the creation God made humans in two distinct sexes, male and female.

Statement of Non-discrimination

It is the commitment of CCA to provide Christian education by and for God's elect, holy and beloved, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth that is after godliness, and in that context and for that purpose does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex or ethnic background. This policy of non-discrimination is exercised during student admission, hiring of faculty and staff, and all school-administered programs.

CCA's Philosophy of Education

CCA's Philosophy of Education is based upon a biblical worldview that has been developed out of a literal interpretation of the Bible, as presented in the King James Version. It is impossible to disconnect our learning and development from the power and purposes of our Creator God. At the very core of CCA's worldview and philosophy of education is God's Word. It is the foundation of CCA's philosophical framework. From the origin of man to ethics and morality, we believe all logic and reasoning is based upon the tenets of Scripture. It is upon this premise that Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia built and developed Calvary Christian Academy. The governing bodies of both the school and the church are in full agreement with CCA's Philosophy of Education.

CCA's Philosophy of Education is based upon our biblical worldview and not upon the philosophy of man. All truth is God's truth. God's Word is truth according to the Scripture (John 17:17, KJV) and according to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. As such CCA's Philosophy of Education is defined by the master teacher himself, Jesus Christ. Teaching should be personal and individual. All methods, instructional practices, activities, and assessments should be geared toward allowing learners to better understand the knowledge of God and be better prepared to serve the Lord through successfully navigating and interacting with the world around them. We are set apart for God by understanding His truth; therefore, God must be at the core of all the principles, facts and truths we teach.

CCA develops the curriculum and programs of the school based upon a biblical worldview, which assures the knowledge gained will be based upon God's truth and not just the correlations made by respected men and women of science, history, mathematics and language. While these respected individuals have made vast contributions to our understanding of the world around us, our understanding is not complete until we filter it through God's Word. Our knowledge of God and His Word should cause us to fear no vain philosophy or body of knowledge. We have real truth in our hearts and in Scripture and with such knowledge and truth we should be able to disprove the fake and vain philosophies of the world. The better we know the creation, the better we know the creator. With a strong biblical worldview, the disciplines of math, science, history and language are but a mere platform for believers to express the goodness of God, the truth of His Word and to praise Him for His many blessings. Psalm 19:1 states, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (NIV).

The Athletic Program at Calvary Christian Academy

Purpose Statement of CCA Athletics

The purpose of Calvary Christian Athletic Department is to provide our student athletes with an opportunity to compete at a high level of interscholastic play, develop strong character and leadership qualities, and grow deeper in their walk with the Lord. Calvary Athletics is focused on team development rather than individual glory or spectator entertainment. The goal of both the athletic staff and coaches is to not just win, but more importantly, to develop men and women of character that will have an impact on the world for Christ.

Philosophy of Athletics at CCA

The Athletic Program of CCA is an active component of the educational package available for our students. Through a balanced athletic program our students have the opportunity for physical development within a team context that affords them the chance to demonstrate and grow in Christian character. Team sports allow our student athletes to develop maturation in sportsmanship, social interaction, commitment, self-image, discipline and physical fitness.

Involvement in athletics requires a sacrifice of time and energy. Student athletes are encouraged to balance participation with team activities along with the commitment necessary for sound educational progress. As with any extra-curricular activity at CCA, the academic progress of the student should be the priority.

Athletics are not conducted apart from the spiritual development of our students. Our coaches have a love for Christ that is evident in their daily walk, along with a passion for their prospective sport and a desire to teach and disciple students. Coaches are given the same responsibility as our teachers, to equip the students as Christians for every good work, while developing the physical, mental and emotional aspects of the body. While our coaches will strive for excellence in their sport, they will retain the goal of having our athletes consistently expressing a testimony of Christ.

Athletes are expected to compete for the glory of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 10:31 states, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God." Athletes are expected to work hard, be team-focused, be committed, strive to improve, and enjoy being on the team. Throughout the journey of an athlete's time at CCA we hope to see them develop in each of these areas while honoring the Lord with their talents and abilities.

Junior High Philosophy

Junior High Athletics (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) are built around the understanding of the unique nature of the development of adolescent youth. Due to the many changes (mental, physical, and emotional) taking place within these young athletes, the JH Athletic Program is designed to allow as much participation as possible with an emphasis on learning the basic skills and fundamentals of the game. All of our junior high students are encouraged to participate in our athletic program. While athletics are not for everyone, at this level, each student is encouraged to try out and participate in different activities that the school provides to see if it is something that they might enjoy.

Junior high teams strive to develop students in preparation for the JV/Varsity level. Students will be taught how to prepare for a season, how to warm up before practice, and how to be a good athlete. We desire to see our students grow in their walk with Christ while building a community of friends through sports. Enthusiasm, effort, reliance, and sportsmanship are fostered at this level. While winning is the desired result of any game, coaches are more focused on developing athletes' love and understanding of the game.

It is never our desire to “cut” students from team, especially at this level. However, based upon our resources and transportation, “cuts” may be deemed necessary. When “cuts” are deemed necessary, they must meet the following criteria:

- Permission to “cut” must be given by the Athletic Director.
- Cuts and/or rosters will never be posted.
- The athlete was given at least two practice to try out for the team.

It is our desire that every athlete has a positive and memorable experience while playing on a CCA sports team. Our teams will be structured to help athletes grow in their skills and knowledge of the game while preparing them for the next level of competition. Our coaches strive to give each athlete an opportunity to play in a game. While playing time will not always be distributed evenly, all athletes should get opportunities to participate throughout the course of the season.

Junior Varsity Philosophy

Junior Varsity teams are available at the high school level and are typically made up of 9th and 10th graders. Occasionally 11th and 12th graders may still participate at this level. Although the Junior Varsity level increases the competition internally and externally (from the JH level), it also provides our athletes opportunity to continue to develop the skills and techniques of the game prior to moving up to the Varsity level. Demands for in-season and out-of-season training will grow. Practice and length of game time will increase slightly as well.

Participation of the entire squad is encouraged at the Junior Varsity level. **Each team member should be involved in every game.** Those that have made more progress in skill development will earn more playing time. However, the pattern of substitution should reflect the desire to get all team members involved while keeping the competitive nature of the game in balance. While team development becomes more of a focus, individual development will continue

Varsity Philosophy:

Varsity teams are available at the high school level and are typically made up of those whose skills have developed to a higher level of play. Athletes at the Varsity level are able to compete within the stiff interscholastic competition while also remaining coachable and open to refinement and growth. Team development and goal setting are more important at this level. Each member of the team has a vital role to play no matter how much game time they receive. The unity of the team grows as each player accepts a given role.

CCA believes in fielding the best possible team at the Varsity level. In doing so, each team member may not see playing time in every game. While competition at the Varsity level is higher and more intense, our team's desire to succeed will never cause CCA to compromise our overall philosophy of building Christian character and glorifying God in all we do. That will always remain our highest priority.

Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct:

Parents are a vital part of our athletic program. CCA recognizes that the school operates as an extension of the Christian home. This extension demands that all participants in our sports program - athlete, coach, or parent - behave in a manner worthy of being identified with Christ. Just as we look to our athletes to honor a code of Christian conduct, we ask that our parents do the same. We ask that parents and spectators cheer by building up, not tearing down or criticizing our players, opponents, coaches, or officials. We also ask that parents and fans respect decisions made by officials and coaches and enjoy the game in a respectful manner. If a parent or spectator is unable to conduct themselves in an appropriate and honorable manner, they may be asked to leave the premises.

* Note: 24 Hour Rule - If a parent wishes to discuss issues with a coach then it should be done by scheduling a time to meet with the coach 24 hours later. Issues or disagreements should not be done following a practice or a game. This allows for coach and parent to enter the meeting with a proper frame of mind. The "heat of a moment" is not the best time to dialogue. The Athletic Director may also be present at the meeting at the request of either party.

Student Athlete Policy and Responsibilities

Requirements for Participation:

In order to participate on an athletic team at CCA, the following must be done:

1. Submit a completed physical (**Must be filled out after May 1st each school year on a standard PIAA form which can be found on the athletic website under “forms and guidelines”**)
2. Submit a Registration Form, Commitment Contract, and Student Driver/Student Athlete and Coach Communication Form. (A new form must be filled out for each season. Forms located on the athletic website under “forms”)
3. Satisfy all eligibility requirements (See below)
4. Pay athletic fee (See below)

Academic Progress:

A student athlete must maintain satisfactory progress in all courses of study. **A student will become ineligible if they have earned below a 65 in one of the following core subjects: English, History, Science or Math.** Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of the grading period, and shall be reported on a weekly basis. If a student is failing a core course on any Friday, he/she will be ineligible to participate in his/her sport from the following Sunday through Saturday. If the cumulative grade is a 65% or higher by the next Friday, he/she may resume participation.

At the end of the marking period, if a student has failed any of the four core subjects (64% or lower) or has two Ds (65%-69%) in any of the four core subjects, he/she will be ineligible to participate in sports for fifteen school days beginning on the day grades handed to the students.

Age:

In order to participate on one of CCA's sports teams, a student may not have reached his/her 19th birthday by June 30th immediately preceding the school year. In addition, a student may not represent his/her school in interscholastic athletics if he/she has been in attendance more than eight semesters beyond the eighth grade.

Amateur Status:

You must be an amateur to be able to compete in interscholastic athletics. You will lose this status if you accept money for participating or performing in your sport. Likewise you will lose amateur status by accepting compensation for teaching, training, or coaching in a sport.

Athletic Fee:

A fee of \$200 is to be paid for each sport played at the Junior and Senior High level (except for Cheerleading and Golf which have a fee of \$300 each). This fee is used to offset the cost of operating an interscholastic sports program. A refund check will be mailed to you if your child did not make the team.

Behavior:

A student may be removed from a team and **from further participation** for a serious and/or repeated behavioral problem on or off the field. Such a student will be eligible to participate again only after the principal grants permission. Student athletes that are suspended are likewise suspended from all activities for the duration of the suspension.

Athletes who are removed from a team for academic or behavioral reasons will not be eligible for awards at the conclusion of the season.

* Note: The use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs are against school policy as outlined in the CCA Parent/Student Handbook. Furthermore, as an athlete, this abuse of the body is a danger to you on the field of competition. Athletes that violate the school policy on tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs will be immediately

removed from the team. Reinstatement will only occur with permission from the Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach after a plan for abstinence has been written and agreed to.

Building Policy

The Calvary building policy is that all students are to leave the building by 3:15 p.m. unless supervised by a coach or teacher. A coach or supervising adult must be present with athletes at all times. After games or practices student-athletes should stay with coaches until picked up. Parents are expected to pick up their student within 10 minutes of the scheduled end of practice or game.

Code of Conduct for Athletes:

The athletic program of CCA has one of the most visible impressions of the school to the outside community. Therefore, CCA athletes must conduct themselves in a manner that represents Christ and the school. The following list is not meant to be inclusive of all concerns.

1. Support and respect the faculty, students, parents, and property of CCA.
2. Never be abusive or disrespectful to officials, coaches, teammates, parents, or visiting teams.
3. Demonstrate Christian sportsmanship to all visiting teams.
4. Play within the letter and spirit of the rule of the sport.
5. Never use profanity.
6. Always play to the best of your ability.
7. Cheer and support your teammates.

It is the expectation that CCA's student-athletes would not be ejected from any contest. Ejection from a contest for unsportsman like behavior will result in a minimum of a one-game suspension.

Student-athletes who receive two disciplinary penalties (yellow card, technical foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, etc.) throughout the year, will be required to meet with the Athletic Director and may be suspended for a game(s).

Dress Code for Athletes:

In accordance with CCA's School Dress Code, the dress code for Calvary athletics can be summed up in one word: modesty. Shorts, sweats, and shirts must not be too short, too tight, or too loose. Modesty is mandatory. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change or will not be able to participate.

Injuries

Injuries are an unfortunate part of sports and cannot be prevented. It is expected that athletes make the trainer (if available) and coaches aware of any suspicion of injuries they may have incurred so that proper care can be given. If a player sustains any major injury, he/she must submit a Doctor's note of clearance to the Athletic Office or School Nurse before a return to the team will be approved.

Since concussions are unseen, they are one of the hardest injuries to diagnose. Symptoms of concussions are headache or a feeling of pressure in the head, temporary loss of consciousness, confusion, amnesia surrounding the traumatic event, dizziness, ringing in the ears, nausea or vomiting, slurred speech, and fatigue. Athletes are expected to let coaches know if they are experiencing any of these symptoms. If a concussion is suspected the athlete will not be permitted to participate in any athletic activity until cleared by a Doctor. A concussion accommodation form is available on CCA's Website: <https://cca.ccp Philly.org/athletics/sports-links/>. You are encouraged to take this form to all concussion related appointments.

In addition to clearance from a Doctor, the student athlete must also go through a Return-to-Play protocol (as recommended by the PIAA). The School Nurse will evaluate the student-athlete and walk him/her through the Return-to-Play protocol. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If an injury is sustained during a season, it is expected that the student-athlete remain a part of the team and come to practices and games while injured (except for concussion protocol). Team unity is an important part of team work and a continued presence while injured allows the student to return to the team with limited disruption to the team.

Practice and Contest Participation Policy:

Joining a team is a commitment! Should an event other than absence from school cause you to miss a practice or contest you should notify your coach in advance. This should be done in person when possible. Each coach will determine the specific absentee guidelines for each team.

Lateness to practice may result in the athlete not starting or having play time reduced. Repeated lateness will be handled in the same manner as unexcused absences.

CCA does have Saturday contests and contests that are played over school vacation days/weeks. All athletes are expected to attend these contests. Season schedules are available at the beginning of each season, but please note that these schedules are tentative and are likely to change throughout the season.

Quitting a Team:

Quitting a team is discouraged. It is a practice that is detrimental to both the athlete and the team. After "cuts" have been made and an athlete has made it to the final roster, a commitment is established between the team and the athlete. When frustration, injury, or disagreement begins to cause the athlete to consider quitting, the athlete is urged to go directly to the Coach to resolve the issue. The Coach will encourage, counsel, and pray with the athlete. If an athlete still desires to quit the team after meeting with the Coach, the Coach may then set up a meeting with the parents and the player to try to further resolve the issue. Athletes that quit will exclude themselves from any awards or honors.

Athletes that have quit a sport in one season and want to return the next will be asked to sit down with the Athletic Director to discuss and examine the commitment that they are about to make.

School Attendance and Athletics:

Student athletes are to recognize that sports do not supersede the priority of academics. Athletes just like every other student need to be in school and in class.

*Note: On the day of a scheduled athletic contest a student must be in school by **12:00 noon** in order to participate.

Note: When athletes have early dismissals from school in order to travel to games, **it is the student-athlete's responsibility to submit required work to the teacher that day and to find out about the next day's assignments.

NCAA:

The NCAA has a policy for standards of eligibility to participate in Division 1 & Division 2 college athletics. This includes the creation of a Clearinghouse through which an athlete must become certified. Each athlete must also complete the NCAA Clearinghouse form by the end of his or her junior year in order to gain certification. This can be done at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

SAT scores must also be sent to the Clearinghouse. Designate the NCAA Clearinghouse as a recipient of your SAT scores.

Student-Athletes Insurance Coverage:

Student-athletes are covered by the school's insurance policy for the treatment of a bodily injury sustained while taking part in a school athletic activity.

Calvary Christian Academy's Student-Athlete insurance is a secondary insurance. The student-athlete's medical insurance should provide primary coverage.

To be covered, claims must be reported and filed within thirty-one (31) days of a coverable incident or as soon as possible.

Student-Athlete Social Media and Communication Policy:

Calvary Christian Academy Student-Athletes are expected to represent themselves in a Christ-like manner while using different social media platforms. CCA Student-Athletes not only represent themselves, but also their respective teams, coaches, families, ministries, and the Lord.

CCA Student-Athletes are expected to interact online with fellow student-athletes, opponents, coaches, officials, and fans in a way that is glorifying to God. Any violation of this is subject to a behavior consequence from the Athletic Director or School Principal. Any behavior or activity that is not meeting the above noted expectations, should be reported to the Athletic Director. Social Media and all online activity must also follow the expectations found within CCA's Parent/Student Handbook, as well as NFHS, PIAA, and BAL rules.

Communication Between CCA Coaches and Student-Athletes:

School-approved coaches and extracurricular activity leaders may communicate, but only with parental permission through the "Remind" app (or similar apps specifically cleared by the Athletic Department and School Administration) and/or text messaging for information-giving or activity related purposes only. Personal communication should not take place. Approved informational or activity-related purposes would include: checking on an injury status, notification of last-minute schedule changes/cancellations, and checking on the welfare of a student in a situation where they are late or unaccounted for, etc. In the event that a coach provided a phone number to student-athletes for the reasons listed above, student-athletes should only use this resource for emergencies, information-giving, or activity-related purposes.

Student Managers:

Each team is urged to find at least one student that will fulfill the task of being a manager. This is an invaluable person to the team. **The manager will be responsible for gathering all of the equipment for practices and games.** Each coach will determine the exact responsibilities for the manager. A manager will be listed on the team roster and must be academically eligible. **Managers are expected at all games!**

Team Rules:

Each team coach may write and distribute at the beginning of the season a list of rules and expectations that all teammates will follow. The minimum expectation is that all rules addressed in this handbook will be followed. Some coaches will establish (with the approval from the Athletic Director), rules or policies that go beyond the stated school policy. The coach will handle violations of team rules. A coach, much like a teacher, will impose reasonable discipline to the athlete if an infraction of Team Rules occurs.

Team Try-Outs and Camps:

The first three day (or up to a week) of each sport season will be designated as a tryout period. At the conclusion of try-outs, "cuts" may take place and the roster is set. Some sports may not have tryouts due to size. The pre-season tryout period and practice for fall JV/Varsity sports will begin in August before school starts. Attendance is mandatory. Missing a mandatory preseason tryout will mean that a roster opening is not guaranteed to be available on the first day of practice.

Traveling with the Team:

All athletes are required to travel to away contests with the team. Being a part of a team requires team travel. Situations where the athlete is leaving from an away contest with his/her parents will only be permitted after communication with the coach and/or athletic department.

Spectators will not be permitted on a team vehicle. School transportation is reserved for coaches, athletes, and managers.

Students that have permission to drive to practice fields are never to take a teammate unless the parents/guardians of both have turned in a *Student Driver Permission Form*.

Uniform and Equipment Care:

Students are responsible for all equipment and uniforms that have been issued to them. Uniforms and warm-ups are never to be worn out of school. They should only be worn to school when it has been pre-approved by the Athletic Director and School Administration. The athlete will be responsible for damaged or lost equipment. The cost of actual replacement will be passed on to the student. Failure to pay for lost or damaged uniforms and/or equipment will result in the loss of eligibility.

All uniform sets and equipment are to be returned within three (3) school days of the end of the season.

Returned uniform sets should be washed and placed into a bag with the student's name clearly written on the bag. Stray, unidentified pieces of the uniform may be easily misplaced. It is important to make sure that uniform sets are clearly labeled. After-school detentions may be given until uniforms are turned into the Athletic Office. Report cards and/or transcripts may also be held until the uniform set is returned.

CCA Athletic Awards

At the end of the school year, all Varsity athletes are invited to attend our Sports Award Assembly which will take place at Calvary Christian Academy. This event is held as a celebration of the achievements of the teams and student-athletes. It is also a time of fellowship for student-athletes, coaches, and parents. Three awards are given to players on each of the varsity teams as well as the four-year award and scholar athlete medal.

Outstanding Achievement: *(recognizes talent, work ethic, and commitment)*

This award is given to an athlete that throughout the course of the season has shown outstanding achievement in all aspects of the game. This athlete is motivated and highly skilled. This athlete's outstanding achievement is not only recognized by his/her coach, but also by the PIAA Bicentennial League through their nomination to the league's All-Star Team.

Coach's Award: *(recognizes leadership, teachable attitude, and positive testimony)*

This award is given to an athlete that is teachable in all aspects of the game. This person is a team player who values the success of the team above personal success. This athlete leads by example in both practices and competition. He/She gives 100% at both practices and games. They are supportive of coaches and game officials. This athlete also willingly goes above and beyond what the coach demands.

Sportsmanship Award: *(recognizes integrity, self-control, and Christ-like attitude)*

This award is given to the athlete that consistently displays integrity throughout a season of practice and competition. This integrity is demonstrated by a desire to play the game by the rules and in accordance to the spirit of the sport. Such an athlete has a strong competitive spirit yet is able to maintain self-control in all aspects of competition. He/She consistently displays a positive attitude towards coaches, opponents, officials, and fans. This athlete has a positive testimony for Christ and the school.

Scholar Athlete: *(recognizes discipline and high academic achievement)*

This award is given annually to the varsity athlete that has played at least two seasons during the school year and has maintained a 3.8 or above grade point average by the end of the third marking period.

Four-Year Award: *(recognizes commitment and dedication)*

This award is given to the athlete that has played the same sport for all four years of high school.

Four Year, Three Season Award *(recognizes commitment, dedication, and sacrifice)*

This award is given to the athlete that has played a sport in every season of their high school career.