



# SOUTH BEACH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

541.819.7722

P.O. BOX 950 NEWPORT, OR 97365

SCHOOL@SOUTHBEACHCHURCH.ORG

## FAMILY HANDBOOK 2022-23

### MISSION

South Beach Christian School equips students to live for the glory of God and the good of others!

### ABOUT US

At South Beach Christian School, we “seek first the Kingdom of God.” Our Christ-centered focus includes Bible study, worship, and prayer. We intentionally develop our relationship with Jesus Christ and our love for one another. We encourage staff and students to approach each day with guidance from the Holy Spirit and a playful, joyous outlook. As a school community, we explore God’s amazing creation through inquiry-based, experiential learning which allows for valuable connections to real-world scenarios. We foster a biblical worldview by integrating the Bible as we study history, geography, science, English/language arts, math, and the arts. We offer specialty classes including foreign language, life skills, STEAM, Makerspace and others based on the skills and talents of our teachers and volunteers. Our transformational, hands-on approach to learning includes opportunities to serve in our school, our community and beyond. Through the collaborative effort of family, church and school, we train children to be confident in who God is and who God created them to be, empowering them to pursue the “way they should go” with excellence in view of eternity.

### KEY VERSES

“But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”  
Matthew 6:33

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37

“By this all will know you are my disciples if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

“In the same way let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

The New King James Version is used at SBCS.



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## EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

At South Beach Christian School we appreciate and implement a variety of educational approaches. Jon Amos Comenius (1592-1671) is largely recognized as the father of modern education. Comenius' impact was a direct result of his passion to follow Jesus and use his contributions to education to glorify God.

- Nature reveals God and science will always lead to a greater knowledge of the Creator.
- Learning is best facilitated by using all our senses to interact with our environment, including seeing, touching, smelling, tasting and hearing.
- Children should learn by doing and teaching others.
- Schools are to be “happy workshops of humanity” and “an imitation of heaven.”
- School work should be limited to part of the school day to leave time for amusement, family time, and other interests/duties.
- Education is not just acquisition of facts, but the development of wisdom.
- "Let nothing be taught which is not of the most solid utility for this life and the next."
- Teachers should be kind, diligent, respectful, playful, joyful, and contain the enthusiasm of a “miner who trembles with excitement when he discovers a rich vein of ore"
- Teachers have a heavenly calling and will take seriously the partnerships with families to train and educate the students entrusted to their care.

Classical education, the Hebraic Way, is provided through the My Father's World Curriculum.

- We teach about the God of the universe and His relationship to mankind.
- There are three stages of learning including grammar, logic, and rhetoric.
  - During the grammar stage of learning, children discover the building blocks of all future learning. Teaching focuses on learning how to read and write, basic concepts in math and science, scripture, and an overview of the timeline of the world.
  - During the logic stage of learning, children investigate cause and effect as they begin to think analytically and understand how facts fit together into a logical framework. Children can better understand the world around them as they integrate Bible, chronological history, geography, science, literature, music, and the arts.
  - During the rhetoric stage of learning, students strengthen their biblical worldview and apply the rules of logic to their knowledge to succinctly express their conclusions verbally and in writing.

The teaching methods of Charlotte Mason (1842-1923), a British educator, are implemented at

- Children should be educated on real ideas through their natural environment.
- At all levels, curriculum is designed to efficiently teach a wide range of information from all the core subjects. SBCS provides time for specialty classes, exploration, life skills, nature walks, and acts of service.
- Education should include the study of other countries and cultures, history in chronological order, and reading great literature “living books” in order to make the people, places, and culture “come alive.” These elements are woven throughout the instructional day.



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**MASCOT:** The Lion

**SCHOOL COLORS:** Black and Gold

## OFFICE AND SCHOOL HOURS

For the 2022-23 school year, the school will be located at Newport Christian Church, 809 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Newport. South Beach Church will host the school once construction is complete on the new church and school building.

### The mailing address is:

South Beach Christian School  
PO Box 950  
Newport, Oregon 97365

SBCS's office hours are: 8:00am-3:30pm, Monday through Thursday during the school year. Phone number is **541-819-7SBC (7722)**.

The school year runs from September 2022 through June 2023, Monday through Thursday (four-day school week). Before and after school care, and Friday Enrichment days are available for an additional fee. Students from the community may also participate on Fridays as space allows.

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Drop Off	8:15am-8:30am
Pick Up	3:15pm-3:30pm
Half-Day Preschool	8:15am-12:00pm
Before School Care	7:30am-8:30am
After School Care	3:15pm-5:00pm
Friday Enrichment Day (select Fridays)	8:30am-3:30pm

It is important to pick up your children on time. If late pick up becomes a pattern, the administration will contact you to discuss options.



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## FRIDAY ENRICHMENT

On select Fridays, SBCS will host an Enrichment Day that will include morning chapel, on campus clubs, educational activities, and adventures in God's creation. To register, contact the school office.

## APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESSES

Registrations are completed electronically on the South Beach Church, South Beach Christian School website: <https://www.southbeachchurch.org/south-beach-christian-school>

Applications are reviewed and by the SBCS Principal and teachers. If space is available, parents will be contacted to complete the enrollment process after which the student is assigned to a classroom.

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Application fee \$50 (Due when the application form is submitted.)

Classroom fee \$450 (Due upon a child's acceptance to SBCS.)

Half Day Preschool

\$3,500/year or \$350/month (10 months)

Full Day Preschool & Grades K-8

\$5,500/year or \$550/month (10 months)

Partial scholarships may be available.

Before school care \$6.00/hour

After school care \$6.00/hour

Friday Enrichment Days \$40.00/day

If you choose to make one annual tuition payment for the year, it is due on or before August 10<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming school year. Monthly tuition payments are due by the fifth day of the month, August through May.

Late payments impact the school. If monthly payments are not received by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month, a late fee of \$15.00 will be charged. If you need to make other payment arrangements, contact the Administration for options.

## WITHDRAWAL

If a student withdraws from SBCS prior to the first day of school in September, tuition payments are refunded in full. The application fee and the classroom fee will not be refunded. If a student is later voluntarily withdrawn from school or dismissed due to a disciplinary issue, the full tuition for that month is still due.



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## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

SBCS admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to students at the school. SBCS does not discriminate in administration of its school-administered programs.

## **ACCREDITATION**

SBCS will pursue membership and accreditation through the Association of Christian Schools International.

## **TEACHERS AND STAFF**

SBCS teachers and staff members undergo a rigorous and thorough interview process and have the required credentials for their positions. SBCS has selected teachers because of their deep commitment to Jesus and their abilities to provide excellent instruction that fosters a creative and joyful learning environment. In addition, all teachers, staff, and volunteers are aligned with South Beach Church's Statement of Faith.

## **SCHOOL BOARD**

SBCS is a ministry of South Beach Church. Therefore, the South Beach Church Elder Board governs the school. If you need to speak with a Board member, please reach out to South Beach Church at 541-272-3377 or [southbeachchurch@gmail.com](mailto:southbeachchurch@gmail.com).

## **CURRICULUM**

The Christ-centered curriculum at SBCS provides a variety of methods and materials to meet the learning needs of diverse students. It is designed to stimulate students intellectually and lead them to a new life in Christ. Class materials and experiences also enable each student to integrate the Word of God with all subject areas as they develop their special skills and talents.

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

At SBCS, we are more interested in the learning process than in the product; it is not about the academic destination, it is about the journey of learning. For this reason, students are continually assessed on their progress toward mastery of developmentally appropriate academic content that addresses the whole child: cognitive, social/emotional, motor skills, and spirituality.

Students will be evaluated against a teacher agreed-upon grading scale using multiple measures such as authentic assessments, observations, project portfolios, and quizzes. In addition to tracking student progress, assessments inform teaching. Teachers can decide to re-teach, move on, or change instructional strategies. Parents have access to student progress reports on an ongoing basis. In addition, Parent-Teacher conferences will be held twice a year to discuss their child's growth and development.



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## **CLASS PLACEMENT**

We strive to create the most positive and productive learning environment for each student. Class assignments are based on age, prior grades completed, prior report cards, standardized test scores, or other evaluations, and meeting with the SBCS Administration.

Age-related admissions are as follows:

- Preschool children must be age 3 before entering school and potty-trained.
- Kindergarten children must be 5 years old by October 1<sup>st</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> graders must be 6 years old by October 1<sup>st</sup>

If a child's age does not align with their projected grade, the school will meet with the family and make determinations on a case-by-case basis. SBCS reserves the right to make the final determination of each students' class placement.

## **PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS WITH IDENTIFIED SPECIAL NEEDS**

SBCS enrolls students with identified special needs on a case-by-case basis. The Administrator will meet with the child and parents and review the IEP and supporting documentation to determine if SBCS is an appropriate placement. Please contact the Administrator for more information.

## **CHAPEL**

SBCS is vitally invested in the development of relationships with Jesus and one another. Weekly chapel brings the learning community together to praise and worship, pray, understand God's Word, and listen to guest speakers.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **FOOD**

Children will bring their own nutritious lunches and snacks from home. On special occasions, snacks and meals will be provided. Please let us know of any allergies or dietary restrictions for your child.

### **BUSING**

Daily school bus transportation is not yet available through SBCS; however, reach out to SBCS to explore creative transportation options.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

We value parents at SBCS and have a variety of volunteer opportunities that match each parent's availability, skills, and interests. Students learn best when families and the school unite to "train children in the way they should go." Contact the school office for more information.



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## **VOLUNTEERING**

Church and community volunteers are an important part of our program. Potential volunteers complete an application packet and a background check. The office maintains a master volunteer wish list that will match skills to classroom and school needs. Tasks might include:

- one-on-one reading,
- assistance on the playground or with field trips,
- preparing curriculum materials for teachers,
- sharing your skills through specialty classes, the afterschool program and on Fridays.

Volunteers will wear a SBCS Volunteer lanyard while on school grounds.

## **VISITORS**

SBCS welcomes parents and prospective parents and children! Please check in at the school office when you arrive and receive a Visitor Badge. Badges must be always worn and visible while at the school and returned to the school office upon departure. We ask prospective parents to schedule an appointment. Visitors that do not have a completed background check will not have unsupervised access to children and will be escorted by approved staff or volunteers while on campus.

## **CHILDREN DROP-OFF AND PICK UP**

Child safety is a critical priority at SBCS. Parents are required to check their children in and out each day. We will only release students to their parents, guardians, or other authorized individuals who have been listed on the emergency release form. A photo ID may be required at the time of pickup.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular attendance is vital to a child's success in school and establishes positive traits of responsibility and dependability. "And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by Him." Colossians 3:17.

Students should be in their classroom on time. Promptness is important to the smooth operation of our program and to the development of children's habits.

If your child will be absent from school, contact the school office and your child's teacher for an excused absence. Students will be responsible for all missed work. Twenty-one (21) or more absences are considered excessive and will result in a parent conference and consideration for dismissal from school. Financial credit will not be given for absenteeism, planned or otherwise. Tuition must be maintained to ensure your child's place in school.

All students are expected to remain at school until dismissal at the end of each school day. If you must pick your child up early, please notify your teacher and sign-out as usual. Before opting for early pick-up, consider if it is essential and what your child will miss in school.



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## DRESS CODE

The dress and appearance of SBCS students, staff, and volunteers should be consistent with Biblical principles. We understand that clothing can be an expression of style and creativity. We want to encourage individuality while also ensuring that we do everything for the glory of God and the good of others. We also encourage all students to bring clothing appropriate for the weather and outdoor activities.

- All clothing must be properly sized, modest, and unrevealing in cut, fit, and texture
- Modesty is always expected at any school event or function including any co/extra-curricular activities
- Clothing should completely cover undergarments and necessary parts of the body including while sitting, standing, and bending over
- Clothing will not have offensive graphics or wording
- Wide strap tank tops are permitted
- Closed toe footwear is preferred
- Athletic shoes are required for PE
- Shorts and skirts must extend past the fingertips and meet the sitting, standing, and bending over requirements

The school administration reserves the right to interpret the dress code in a way that is consistent with the SBCS mission, vision and statement of faith. If articles seem inappropriate or distracting (even if not listed above), we may kindly and discreetly ask that that article of clothing be changed. Parents are asked to partner with SBCS staff and be proactive in monitoring what their children wear.

## SELF GOVERNANCE

At SBCS,

**We honor God and respect others.**

**We are safe** in all that we do.

**We are responsible** and work to our fullest potential.

**We are ready** to learn each day.

Scripture exhorts believers to remember their liberty in Christ. At SBCS we behave in a manner that will not cause others to stumble or be hindered in their growth. “We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.” (Romans 15:2) “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” (1Thessalonians 5:22).

Students will thrive in SBCS classrooms through teachers’ inspired planning, active and engaging learning environments, and effective classroom management techniques. We pray that students’ hearts will be captivated by Christ and that the fruit of the Holy Spirit grows and becomes more evident in each student’s life. Even so, occasionally, students have errors in judgment, a natural part



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of the maturation process. SBCS students are taught that consequences follow the choices they make, and when they choose an action, they must take responsibility for the consequences. This, coupled with the rich teaching of repentance and grace, is evident throughout the school. When issues arise, students will have an opportunity to tell their side of the story (due process). Teachers and staff will use a variety of fair and consistent strategies to address behaviors. However, when these strategies are not successful to change behaviors, it is necessary for additional disciplinary actions.

Choices that have negative consequences are opportunities to learn and grow. Disciplinary actions are always attempts to facilitate such learning leading to restoration. Students who willfully disregard classroom or school policy will be subject to progressive, developmentally appropriate discipline based on levels of misconduct. This is important to ensure the best learning environment for students and their peers.

Student and family members must support the SBCS Mission, Vision, and Statement of Faith. Students will fully participate in classroom and school activities, follow rules and procedures, and cooperate with teachers and their peers. If a student is struggling with the SBCS community, parents will confer with the Administrator to prayerfully discuss issues or explore other school options that may better fit their child's needs.

## **Minor Infractions**

- Class disruptions
- Infringement on the safety of others and self
- Failure to complete assignments
- Verbal disrespect towards others
- Uncooperative attitude
- Public display of affection

## **Major Infractions**

- Extreme insubordination or disrespect
- Fighting or physical harassment
- Verbal harassment (teasing, gossip, slander, lying)
- Stealing
- Vandalism or graffiti
- Cheating/plagiarism
- Possession of a weapon or dangerous object while on school grounds
- Drug, alcohol or tobacco use or possession
- Sexual misconduct



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Students who violate school/classroom standards will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

- First, meeting with the classroom teacher
- Next, meeting between the student and principal
- Next, meeting with parents and principal

There will be logical consequences for each action. Disciplinary actions will be prayerfully considered and may include:

- Take a break and reflect
- Limited school privileges
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion
- Restitution

## **Documentation**

The student will be asked to reflect on their inappropriate behavior using an age-specific method, including a reflection sheet. For major issues, an incident report will be implemented through SchoolCues. Administration will determine if a parent meeting is warranted, as led by the Holy Spirit.

## **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

SBCS is firmly committed to maintaining a learning community that is safe and secure. We will treat each other with mutual trust and respect. Everyone involved with SBCS is responsible for his/her own behavior, to exercise self-discipline, and to refrain from behaviors that could interfere with another person's rights to learn and work in a safe and healthy environment. All students, family members, teachers, staff, and volunteers are to promptly report issues to the Principal. Harassment and bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

**Note:** Harassment is any repetitive and intentional act that intends to trouble, worry or torment another through aggression or intimidation. Bullying is any unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves real or perceived power imbalance.

## **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. Cheating includes:

- Looking at another student's test/quiz and using their answers
- Using a cheat sheet
- Aiding or allowing others to cheat
- Stealing a test or distributing a stolen test
- Doing another student's homework, paper or project, or copying another student's work.
- Plagiarism is using the work of others without acknowledging their authorship.



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The consequences are:

- **First offense:** Zero score and meeting with the teacher
- **Second offense:** Zero score, a parent conference with the Principal.
- **Third offense:** A zero score, parent conference with the Principal, and discussion of suspension or expulsion.

## PHYSICAL PRIVACY AND SEXUALITY POLICY

In alignment with the SBCS's statement of faith, and in recognition of personal physical privacy rights and the need to ensure individual safety and maintain school discipline, this policy is enacted to advise members of the SBCS community. Sex means the biological condition of being male or female as determined at birth. SBCS's sincerely held religious belief is that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26–27). Therefore, rejection of one's sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. At SBCS we will use the appropriate bathroom facilities and we will acknowledge that God created man and woman.

## PLAYGROUND RULES

The recess area includes the field to the north and west of the school building, the playground structure, or other designated spaces. Students must remain visible to the teacher or playground monitor and may not leave the playground without permission from the adult on duty. On the playground students are expected to: Use equipment safely, and be kind and fair.

## HOMEWORK

SBCS teachers create engaging curriculum and rich learning environments. Our goal is to give all students the time and resources to complete schoolwork during school hours. Students should be free to enjoy their youth, explore interests outside of school and have time for fostering friendships, family relationships and their faith. Occasionally teachers may encourage students to practice skills at home (reading, for example). We recognize every person requires differing amounts of time to process and absorb information. Because of this, some students may need additional time outside of school to strengthen skills in core content areas.

Homework is only issued to students who miss school. It is the student's responsibility to complete missed work at home. Teachers will provide materials and set a date when they are to be returned to school. Generally, students have one day per day missed. Parents will partner with teachers to encourage and monitor schoolwork assignments and make sure the work is turned in to the teacher.



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## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are extensions of the learning day and connect curriculum with real-life experiences. Parents must complete a Field Trip permission slip. Once a field trip has been approved by the Principal, parents will be notified about the date, location, departure and return times as well as any fees that may occur. If your child cannot participate, please contact the office for options.

Parents are vital for successful field trips. Please consider serving as a chaperone following an approved background check. They may be assigned a small group of students. Parent chaperones must return to school to take their child home at the end of the day, unless otherwise preapproved by the Principal.

## HOLIDAY/BIRTHDAY POLICY

SBCS focuses on Biblical principles. We want to partner with parents to include celebrations at appropriate times. Christian parents vary greatly in what holidays they deem acceptable. The school asks that you refrain from bringing holiday items to school such as Halloween items, Santa items, and Easter bunnies that may be offensive to others. Please contact the school office for more details.

Birthdays are very special days for many children. Contact your child's teacher well in advance of the event for information regarding their classroom policies for birthday celebrations. Please provide nutritious food to help students learn healthy choices.

## RESTRICTED ITEMS

Please refrain from allowing your child to bring electronic devices to school without prior approval for special occasions.

### Other Restricted Items

Students are not allowed to bring the following onto school grounds:

- Knives, guns, or anything that replicates a weapon
- Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco (legal and illegal)
- Matches, lighters, laser lights
- Toys
- Roller blades, skateboards, Heelys
- Reading materials that have not been approved by the teacher
- Pets or other live animals (unless approved for a special project)
- Other items deemed offensive by staff/administration



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## TECHNOLOGY

Classroom computers and technology are tools to enhance learning but must be used for God-honoring purposes. Each teacher has computer and cell phone protocols that must be carefully followed. Students who do not comply with these protocols will be subject to disciplinary action.

## HEALTH PROCEDURES

### Immunizations and Medications

All SBCS students must have an accurate and complete immunization or Nonmedical Vaccine Exemption on file with the school prior to the first day of attendance. Immunization records can be obtained from a family doctor; a Nonmedical Vaccine Exemption can be obtained by watching an online education module and submitting a certificate of completion, or through a healthcare provider. Please visit [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov) for more information.

Before the school personnel will dispense medication to a student, parents must fill out and sign a Medical Authorization Form. Medication must be in original containers, clearly labeled with the student's name, dosage, medication name, prescribing doctor, and dosage interval for administration. Non-prescription medications must also be brought to school by parents in original containers. Dosage guidelines on the package must be age appropriate for your child.

### Illness

Please keep your children home if they have a temperature higher than 100 degrees or other signs of illness. If your child becomes ill while at school, a staff member will contact you to pick up your child. Signs of illness include (within the past 24 hours):

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Strep throat
- Unexplained rash
- Head cold with excessive runny nose/bad cough
- Head lice
- Other contagious conditions

Children are welcome to return to school 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics. Students can return when they are symptom free and after 48 hours after final symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting. Please contact the office for more information. SBCS staff will call 911 if a child has a life-threatening incident.



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## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DRILLS**

SBCS has a separate document for the Emergency Plan using the Standard Response Protocol. Monthly drills will help students prepare to safely exit the building in case of an emergency. When the alarm sounds or when prompted by the teacher, students will quietly exit the building to the designated 'safe spot.' The last person exiting the room will turn off the lights and close the doors. Students may return to the building when signaled by the Administration.

## **PARENT GRIEVANCE POLICY**

As a Christian community, SBCS considers all aspects of our relationships in the light of God's Word. We remind ourselves that our school community is a body, made up of many parts. (1 Corinthians 12). Scripture recognizes that there will be divisions, dissensions, and disputes, even among Christians. Occasionally differences may arise that call for clarification. Following Matthew 18:15-17, the school community will follow Biblical principles to resolve issues.

### **Prayerfully:**

- First: speak with the teacher or staff member
- Next: speak with the Principal
- Next: speak with the SBC Pastor
- Next: speak with the Board representative

## **CHILD SAFETY**

Under the Oregon State Child Protective Service Mandated Reporter section of the Child Protective Services of 1973, teachers and school staff members are considered mandatory reporters. As such, if there is any suspicion of child abuse or neglect, we are required to report it.

## **PARENT RIGHTS TO SCHOOL RECORDS**

Parents of SBCS students have the right to:

- Inspect and review their child's education records within 48 hours of the request to do so.
- Request an amendment to ensure that records are not inaccurate or misleading or otherwise in violation of their child's right to privacy or other rights.
- Consent to disclose personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except where the law allows disclosure without parental consent.
- File with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failure of the school to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (34 CFR 99.64).

## **SUMMARY**

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with families to educate and equip students for the glory of God and the good of others. We are devoted to the highest standards of excellence and to make learning glorious. This handbook is a living document and is subject to change.



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## STATEMENT OF FAITH

[https://www.southbeachchurch.org/files/ugd/81f038\\_ae551c027ad6438caa51096a47258d2e.pdf](https://www.southbeachchurch.org/files/ugd/81f038_ae551c027ad6438caa51096a47258d2e.pdf)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SBCS gratefully acknowledges the following Christian schools that provided resources to support our Family Handbook: The Comenius School of Creative Leadership; Eastmont Christian School; and Riverview Christian School, as well as, My Father's World Curriculum.



## HANDBOOK ADDENDUM - PRESCHOOL

The South Beach Christian School preschool program strives to “seek first the Kingdom of God” by providing a Christ-centered, developmentally appropriate preschool experience in a safe, loving, and enriching environment that addresses the whole child: spiritually, academically, socially. We believe that each child is a precious and unique creation of our loving God. Therefore, each child is treated with love and respect and will learn about God and His love for them through age-appropriate biblically based experiences.

We believe that children learn most effectively through play and active exploration. We partner with parents to create activities that promote young children’s optimal learning and development and address specific interests, curiosities, talents, and self-esteem.

### EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

The SBCS preschool program implements a variety of research-based early childhood instructional approaches.

- Creative Curriculum
  - Includes developmentally appropriate goals and objectives for children in four main categories: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. SBCS preschool adds the critical spiritual component.
- Reggio Emilia
  - The child is an active participant in learning
  - The learning environment is significant and serves as one of three educators (parents and teachers are the other two)
  - The teacher, parent, and child are collaborators in the process of learning; learning is visible (through which teachers observe and document children’s growth and development).
- Lev Vygotsky (Sociocultural)
  - Social interactions support children’s cognitive development. A universal aspect of learning is the process of children’s participation in socially constructed play.

These approaches are coupled with a biblical worldview that focuses on the individual as a unique creation with a unique purpose. Through touching, moving, listening, and observing, active learning will connect young children with God’s world (the natural environment) and each other. Children will experience many opportunities to learn in play-based learning environments. Children gain confidence and age-appropriate independence through challenging successful experiences.



# SOUTH BEACH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## TEACHER

Teachers are crucial for children's learning. SBCS teachers and staff members undergo a rigorous and thorough interview process and have the required credentials for their positions. SBCS has selected teachers because of their deep commitment to Jesus and their abilities to provide excellent early childhood instruction that fosters a creative and joyful learning environment. In addition, all teachers, staff, and volunteers are aligned with South Beach Church's Statement of Faith.

## CLASSROOM LAYOUT

The classroom is designed for exploration and learning. Children have many opportunities to make choices, experiment, and interact with others.

- Materials are low on shelves, in containers, and on hooks so children can retrieve them independently and put them away.
- Shelves are neat and uncluttered, so materials are easy to see, remove, and replace.
- Picture and word labels are on containers and shelves, so children know where materials belong and learn how to use print.
- There are distinct interest areas: blocks, dramatic play, toys and games, art discovery, library, sand and water, music and movement, cooking, media, and outdoor spaces.
- A variety of learning materials are in each area.
- Similar materials are grouped together to teach children to sort and classify.

## CURRICULUM

The SBCS preschool program builds an engaging learning community that teaches important early childhood skills.

- Language and literacy skills are built through sounds and words, books and stories, and writing. The Bible is the foundation of the English language arts as are materials from *The Logic of English; My Father's World*.
- Mathematical relationships are developed through number and size, patterns, objects, and shapes.
- Play experiences; imitation and pretend play build imagination, promote social skills and help children gain a better understanding of life's daily experiences.
- Music and movement are expressions of worship, artistic skills, and motivates us to move our bodies.
- Art is created by using different materials and exploring what they can do with them. Young children are fascinated by art mediums and processes, and they are less interested in producing a product.
- Exploring sand and water develops fine motor, cognitive skills, and social skills.
- Outdoor play serves as an extension of the classroom.



## GUIDANCE POLICY

South Beach Christian Preschool will guide each child in a loving and Chris-like manner. Teachers will demonstrate competency, good judgment, and self-control in guiding each child's development and in meeting their individual needs. "We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord." (Romans 15:2). This, coupled with the rich, age-appropriate teaching of repentance and grace is woven into preschool guidance and discipline.

Our learning environments fit each child's personality, abilities, activity levels, and pace. We recognize the value of building relationships by learning to 'read' nonverbal signals, moods, and levels of attention, adjusting accordingly. We pray that children's hearts will be captivated by Christ and that the Fruit of the Holy Spirit will grow and become evident in each child's life. However, young children often have errors in judgment as a natural part of the maturation process. For this reason, children will learn self-discipline through careful guidance. Positive reinforcement (commenting on children doing the "right" thing) and positive redirection (removing the child and giving them an appropriate activity) will be used to support children's social growth in the classroom.

We believe that it is important during the early childhood years to help children become aware and take charge of their own behaviors. We establish consistent, easy-to-understand limits and have teachers who respond to inappropriate behaviors with insight, sensitivity, and skill.

Guidance and discipline will be:

- Individualized and consistent
- Appropriate for each child's level of understanding
- Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

At SBCS we only use positive methods of guidance and discipline that encourages self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction.

Guidance and discipline will be fostered by:

- Using praise and encouraging positive behavior instead of focusing only upon inappropriate behavior
- Reminding each child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements
- Applying rules consistently
- Setting up the classroom environment to reduce inappropriate behaviors
- Redirecting negative behaviors by using positive statements
- Reasoning with and set limits for the children
- Talking with children in a calm, quiet manner
- Listening to children and respect their needs desires, and feelings
- Using stories, books, and discussions to work through common conflicts



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- Using brief supervised separation or 'break' from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development. This will be limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

Harsh or physical punishments are never permitted. Teachers will never:

- Use any strategy that embarrasses, hurts, shames, or belittles a child
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child to comply
- Use food as a form of reward or punishment
- Compare children
- Leave a child unattended

If unusual or difficult discipline issues arise, the teacher will consult with the SBCS Principal. If necessary, a conference will be scheduled to discuss recurring behavior problems and determine how to best support the child while working towards a safe learning environment for all.