



GVHSA Code of Conduct

Greater Valdosta Homeschool Association is a non-denominational, Christ-centered support group for homeschoolers in the Valdosta area. Though non-denominational, we seek to govern our activities, relationships, classes, behaviors, and conversations in a manner that reflects the examples of Christ which brings Him the most honor as outlined in the Holy Bible - **1 Corinthians 10:31; Revelation 4:11**. In addition to that, we desire to honor the leadership and facility that we have been so graciously blessed to occupy. The doors of this association are opened to all like-minded families seeking support and opportunities to connect with other homeschoolers.

Parents, legal guardians, babysitters, and children who attend and participate in the group are expected to abide by the following GVHSA Code of Conduct. Membership in GVHSA is a privilege, not a right. Any group member not adhering to the set of guidelines in the Code of Conduct may be asked to meet with the GVHSA board members. The board, based on the following guidelines, will determine the best course of action regarding the incident that has occurred. This could result in the removal of the GVHSA membership and all the privileges that go with it.

GVHSA will implement a 3-tiered response system and a Zero Tolerance Policy for all misconduct and offenses. The following regulations are in place for both guardians and children:

First offense - Will result in a warning and a conference between the child(ren), the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child(ren), and a board member(s). The goal of this conference is to intervene and eliminate the unacceptable behavior before a second offense.

Second offense - Will result in suspension from classes and all GVHSA related functions for an agreed-upon time. The board reserves the right to impose an appropriate “penalty” for the second offense. This can be anything from a written formal apology, a requirement of community service, or a monetary fine if GVHSA or Trinity Presbyterian Church incurs a cost to fix something which has been broken. We will work with the parent(s) or guardian(s) to create a mutually agreeable penalty but the GVHSA board determines the final say in all enforced penalties.

Third Offense - Expulsion for the rest of the academic year from all GVHSA related events. All GVHSA fees are non-refundable.

Zero Tolerance - Same as a third offense.

List of Offenses (to include but not limited to):

- Possession of look-a-like guns, paint-ball guns, air-soft guns, BB guns, cap guns, imitation knives, or imitation weapons of any kind is prohibited. If a teacher/ student would like an exception for academic purposes (for instance, a prop for an oral report

on WWII), they can petition the GVHSA board for exception and an email will be generated with a notification to apprise GVHSA members.

- Disregard for GVHSA Illness Policy (see GVHSA Illness Policy)
- Disrespect towards teachers
- Disrespect towards Trinity Presbyterian staff or other GVHSA members
- Profanity or offensive language - to include name-calling - Ephesians 4:29
- Bullying - to include cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, teasing, coercion, intimidation
- Fighting or physical altercation
- Disregard of dress code (see Dress Code Policy below)
- Public display of affection is not allowed at GVHSA (see Older Student Relationships below)
- Disregard of cell phone policy (Please honor each teacher's classroom rules request)
- Accidental damage of church property
- All students need to be under, age-appropriate adult supervision always.
- Do not congregate in the front lot. The commons area that is fenced in is located to the east of the facility, is a habitable area as well as the area where the basketball court is located
- No paper towels in the toilet! Parents need to monitor children in the bathroom. Disregard for the bathroom facility is not allowed, students or parents must clean up their bathroom mess.
- Parents are responsible for their child's behavior. (see Facility Policy)
- Do not litter - there are plenty of trash cans conveniently located throughout the facility. If one is full, please place the bag in the large trash can in the kitchen and replace it with a new trash bag (located in the sanctuary's supply closet).
- Do not enter the kitchen unless you are attending class, or you have permission from a GVHSA board member
- No balloons or balls of any sort are to be in the church facility unless approved by a GVHSA board member
- Theft – this includes but is not limited to eating the church's snacks, using the church's paper, taking any church property or the property of another GVHSA member without permission
- No food or drink (other than water, baby milk in a baby bottle, or nursing mother of course) is allowed in church sanctuary unless it pertains to baby feedings
- No skateboards, rollerblades allowed in the church building.
- NO one is allowed on the stage located in the church sanctuary unless given permission by a teacher or GVHSA board member.
- No running or horse-playing allowed in the church. There are common areas located outside the church where children can play if supervised by an adult

Zero Tolerance Policy for Parents and High School Students

- Gossip or slander which is defined as casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true. (See below)
- Possession of an illegal substance or alcohol is prohibited. Adults, please keep prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs with you. Children under the age of 14 should not possess these unless they need to be carried by the student (Inhalers, EpiPen's, etc.)
- No smoking allowed.
- Possession of any firearm or weapon is prohibited. This includes all knives, nunchucks, metal knuckles, explosives, fireworks, and any other item which has the purpose of causing physical harm

- Sexual harassment, sexting, lewd gestures, possession of sexual paraphernalia, and sexually explicit behavior will not be tolerated.
- Gang activity
- Vandalism- includes graffiti, arson, and destruction of the cars in the parking lot
- Pulling the fire alarm
- Theft of the property. This is a zero-tolerance policy for all high school-aged students and all adults
- Plagiarism- Plagiarism is considered stealing somebody's work or idea and claiming it as your own. Parents, please have this discussion with your children so everyone is aware of what this is. It cannot be allowed in an academic setting.

GOSSIP and/or SLANDER

While we understand there will be details that have to be shared regarding the personal information of other people, we hold unwaveringly to God's Word as it pertains to gossip and/or slander. Those details should only be shared with individuals that have a need to know and are able to come alongside to resolve the situation. If the details of other people are disseminated to individuals who do not fall under that category, we are to hold one another accountable and stop the person immediately. Should the board hear of such matters, we WILL have a private session with the gossip or slanderer. Two scriptures out of many to guide in this area are:

Proverbs 11:13 - A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

Ephesians 4:31-32 – Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

CONFLICT

Taken from GVHSA's Bylaws:

Unfortunately, personality conflicts and misunderstandings will sometimes happen. Should these events arise, it is important that we agree and have a biblical view on how to effectively resolve the grievance, which the Lord has outlined for us in His Holy Word. Based on the Matthew 18:15-17 approach, if a conflict arises between two or more adult members, the first step is to handle the matter privately between the involved individuals only. If a resolution is unsuccessful, everyone must notify the President of GVHSA of the matter for mediation. Should a conflict arise with a teacher and student, the teacher will first address it with the student and the parent, if needed. If either party is unsatisfied or resolution* cannot be met, the parties then need to seek the assistance of their Class Group Team Leader. In the case resolution is still unsuccessful, the team leader will inform the Class Coordinator for mediation. As a last resort, the conflict will be taken to the President of GVHSA as an attempt to make a last attempt at reconciliation. We desire as much as in our power to have a clear conscience before God and our fellow cooperative family and will, therefore, hold each other accountable in adhering to this critical policy.

** resolve/resolution—achieved when all parties reach mutual agreement or understanding*

AUTHORITY

When at an activity, the parent is the ultimate parental authority. However, the field trip coordinator or those involved in leading the event is also to be obeyed. The guidelines set up at each activity must be followed. There are various activities during the year that may require children to be separated by age, ability, experience, etc.

These restrictions must be honored for the benefit of everyone involved. If in doubt – talk to the coordinator.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents must always be aware of their child's conduct. If you are unable to be physically present at a function, it

is your responsibility to delegate the care of your child(ren) to another responsible adult. Parents are responsible for monitoring their own children.

DRESS

Knowing that each student is an image-bearer of the Lord; we would like to stress modesty in dress and appearance. Parents are very instrumental in helping students to look their best and in being considerate in how their appearance affects others and honors Christ. What is not offensive to you, may be offensive to someone else. (No bare midriffs, no low-cut necklines, no short shorts, or short skirts and please keep your underwear, under your wear.

OLDER STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

We ask that our young men and ladies treat each other with respect and refrain from flirtatious behaviors. Although each family has the right and responsibility to address dating according to their own convictions, to promote that each person be treated as a temple of the Holy Spirit, we do not promote or allow any public display of affections at any GVHSA related functions.

GVHSA ACADEMIC/CHEATING POLICY

Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, photocopying, copying from fellow students, using the Internet or other sources without acknowledgment, and the use of electronic equipment such as cell phones, blackberries, electronic tablets, and other similar devices to cheat, is prohibited.

GVHSA FACILITY POLICY

Everyone is responsible for picking up trash in the classrooms, the hallways, and any other areas. Bathrooms are to be monitored regularly by adults and must be maintained and kept clean during group classes. When in the church building, students must walk and not engage in horse play. Quiet voices are a must in class areas.

DIRECT SALES/SOLICITATION POLICY

The use of the GVHSA directory for solicitation purposes is prohibited. There has been a section created on the website under the forums tab for business-related posts. Only use this section to communicate personal business-related items. The only sale tables that may be set up at GVHSA group classes or any GVHSA related event are sale tables that benefit GVHSA activities or GVHSA sponsored groups. If you would like to schedule a date to set up a sales table for a GVHSA related activity or group, please see the GVHSA President or Vice President.

***Selling of Girl Scout Cookies, Joe Corbi's Pizza, etc. for non-GVHSA related fundraising is acceptable if done privately with your close friends at GVHSA. Please sign below that you have read and understood the GVHSA Tiered Code of Conduct and GVHSA Policies. By signing this document, you are agreeing to submit to the authority of GVHSA board and Trinity Presbyterian Church, and that you agree to submit to the enforcement of policy.*