

FAITH Standard of Conduct

Membership is open for all families interested in homeschooling and who desire to raise their children in a Christian atmosphere. We respect that our members hold a diverse range of religious convictions and educational philosophies. To maintain our unity and purpose, we ask all members and their guests to abide by the following guidelines during FAITH functions, both in person and electronically, even if they may not agree with them.

Guiding Principles

As a community of Christians, we encourage and support others to live in a manner that pleases God. The following characteristics are simply representative of the Scriptural standards that we strive to achieve.

Love for God's Word - We believe there is no greater source for direction and encouragement than the Bible. FAITH places God's word in the highest regard. (Josh. 1:8, Ps. 119, Col. 3:16)

Respect for God, Other People, and Property - Scripture reminds us to honor all people, love our brothers, fear God, and honor authority. Further, each person is expected to be mindful about how he treats other people and their property. Mature individuals know how to speak and act in an expected way according to what is appropriate for the setting. FAITH provides opportunities to learn and practice these skills. (Eccl. 12:13, Rom. 12:16-18, 1 Cor. 14:40, 1 Cor. 15:33, Phil. 2:3, Col. 4:5-6, 1 Peter 2:17,)

Kindness, Compassion and Consideration for Others - FAITH has historically been known as a friendly campus because we desire to show gentleness, common courtesy and politeness to others, especially in welcoming new families. (Matt. 7:12, John 12:34-35, Eph. 4:32, Phil. 2:4, 1 John 4:7-8,)

Honesty and Integrity - It is necessary that each member deal truthfully with others and maintain a reputation for choosing to do what is right. (Ps. 25:21, Prov. 11:3, Prov 12:22, 2 Cor. 4:2, 2 Cor. 8:21, Phil. 4:8,)

Discipline and Self-Control - Members are to exercise control over their emotions and desires so that behavior is appropriate and right. This is accomplished as the Holy Spirit is allowed to guide every decision and direct each action. (Prov. 25:28, 1 Cor. 9:24-27, Gal. 5:16-18, Titus 2:11-12,)

Modesty and Purity - Christian men and women are expected to maintain the highest moral standards as a reflection of God's holiness and as a protection against the effects of sin. While much of today's culture has abandoned these ideals, FAITH affirms the Biblical definition of sexual purity and a one man-one-woman marriage; because of this, FAITH does not allow homosexual behavior. Any sexual activity outside of a Biblical marriage is a sin. (Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-20, 1 Tim. 2:9, Heb. 13:4, 1 Pet. 3:3-4,)

Responsibility and Diligence - As we are all a part of one body, everyone's diligent volunteer effort is necessary to continue serving River Valley homeschoolers successfully. The willingness of every FAITH family to be available and work purposefully towards a common effort is vital to our existence. Parents are expected to oversee their children as they continue to mature in this aspect and are ultimately responsible for their children, both spiritually and physically. (2 Cor. 5:10, Gal. 6:4-5, Col. 3:23)

Restricted Behavior

Recognizing that FAITH is a Christian organization and desires to maintain a good name in the community, members agree to comply with these standards at FAITH functions both in person and electronically.

Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Tobacco, and Related Products - While at FAITH events, use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, and related products by students is prohibited. In additions, FAITH supports all laws regarding those substances and the mandates of the facilities that we use. For adults, we ask that tobacco use be as discretionary as possible. Out of concern for those who may be struggling with substance abuse, we choose to abstain from alcohol use at FAITH functions. (Prov. 20:1, Rom. 15:1-2)

Weapons - FAITH places a high priority on the safety of our members. No student will be allowed to bring weapons of any kind to FAITH event. Adults choosing to bring weapons must be in accordance with all federal, state, and local regulations as well as respect the guidelines of the facilities we use. Carriers bear full responsibility for securing those weapons at all times. (Prov. 24:11, Eccl. 3:8, Rom. 13:1-3, 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Sexual Immorality - In an effort to protect the innocence of our students, we ask that members refrain from inappropriate displays of affection toward non-family members. Also, pornography, homosexual behavior, and any sexual communication, whether written, verbal, or electronic, are prohibited. (Ps. 119:37, Phil. 4:8, 1 John 2:16)

Revealing Attire - Modesty encourages us to consider the impact of our choice on others. Please avoid clothing that: Reveals cleavage or midriffs; Is any shorter than the middle of the thigh; Is sheer or tight to the point of being revealing; Has any inappropriate words or graphics. (1 Tim. 2:9-10, 1 Pet. 3:3-4)

Profanity, Gossip, Backbiting or Harsh Criticism - We strive to build up and encourage one another through our conversations, so inappropriate language must be avoided whether it be written, electronic, or verbal. Members are expected to guard against harsh criticism and gossip, and to intervene should it occur. (Prov. 12:1, Prov. 13:3, Prov. 16:24, 28, Matt. 12:34-37, Eph 4:29)

Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination - FAITH does not tolerate hazing, physical or verbal abuse, coercion, stalking, intimidation, harassment (verbal or sexual), discrimination, or any other behavior that places the health and safety of other members in jeopardy. Members must avoid the use of divisive or inflammatory comments, symbols, or actions of any kind, even jokingly. (Eph. 4:31-32, Co. 3:8, Col. 4:6)

Stealing - The Bible clearly teaches that stealing is wrong. Taking or using what does not belong to you without the owner's consent is considered stealing. (Ex. 20:15, Rom. 13:8-10)

Witchcraft, Seances, Astrology, or any Other Satanic Practices - Anything associated with these activities is prohibited. (Lev. 19:31, Gal. 5:19-21)

Disciplinary Action

In keeping with biblical standards, we will follow Matthew 18:15-16 and 21-22 with the following approach.

1st Violation: Verbal warning--two board members will talk to the parent(s) and any child(ren) involved face to face and lovingly but firmly explain what the issue is and what needs to change.

2nd Violation: Written warning--letter from the board reinforcing what has already been said and laying out the consequences in writing if the action doesn't change (whether that is membership termination or a ban from certain activities, whatever the case may be).

3rd Violation: Phone call/In person meeting with at least two board members to tell the consequences, as well as a follow up letter from the board detailing it in writing.

However, the board acknowledges that more extreme violations need more immediate consequences. The board may, at its discretion, forego the 3-strike rule and immediately limit a member's participation, or in extreme circumstances revoke membership.

Revised March 11, 2019