



# GreatHearts<sup>®</sup>

## Christos

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#### **Parent - Academy Partnership Agreement**

*(a required document for admission to a Christos academy)*

Christos Academies unite the three institutions that have preserved the heritage of freedom and virtue in the West for the last three millennia: 1. The Christian Church, 2. The Family, and 3. a Classical, Liberal Arts education. Christos Academies exist to glorify God by cultivating students who are intellectually, morally, and spiritually free. We believe a Christian Classical education uniquely integrates faith and reason to know reality.

We believe the Lord desires well-educated men and women who have developed the habits of mind and heart of which they are ordered to what is True, Good, and Beautiful and by which they are able to carry on His work. Educating is an act of love and ennobles human dignity. Scholars will be prepared for a lifetime of learning and a lifetime of service to the Lord, the Church, our neighbors, and society. They will look forward with confidence and expectation to the future and what we cannot yet see, precisely because of what we know Christ has accomplished and promised.

Faculty, Staff, and Student expectations for relationships and comportment on campus are governed by our Christian ethos. There are four pillars of relationship in a Christian academy: Modesty, Chastity, Right Speech, and Honor. Because of Christ, each Christian is rightly understood as a brother or sister to Christ. Our relationships take their form and direction from that foundational intimacy with the Father's Son by whom all things are made, and all life is intended for unity. All we do as Christians is meant to cultivate our life in relationship to Christ and to his Father.

This foundational relational intent directs how the teachers, students, and parents relate to one another. The academy develops one culture led by the faculty and into which the students are invited. In the teachers lies the authority of leadership and the responsibility to model all expressions of Christian character. Students are works in progress and are to be encouraged to grow in the character exemplified in the faculty. There are high expectations for student discipline, but directions are given in a spirit of love, and discipline and corrections administered with the Christian understanding of atonement, forgiveness, and the further development of moral reasoning and character. Parents are also respected as in ultimate authority over their child in their moral and intellectual development, and it is in the partnership between the home and the school that a child is nourished in his or her love of Christ.

The academy encourages every one of its members to resist gossip, slander, negative humor, coarse language, and angry speech. Positively, it encourages the Pauline charge to outdo one another in honoring each other. A high premium, in other words, is placed on speaking to each other with the eyes of faith, recognizing the presence of Christ in each member of the community, and praising what is genuinely good.

All employees and parents should study the Christos Statement of Faith found at: <https://christos.greatheartsamerica.org/academy-life/statement/>. The Christos statement of faith reflects the ecumenical purpose of the organization. Our Christian academies hold a foundational commitment to advancing the unity of all Christians, which is at once an intrinsic good and a witness to the Father's plan to unite all things in Christ. In commitment to Christian unity, we cultivate habits of prayer, worship, and scriptural study that a wide range of Christian believers can support without compromising denominational distinctions. Great Hearts Christos is designed to support families in raising Christian children, and we recognize that parents hold the ultimate responsibility for faith formation according to the beliefs and traditions of their chosen denomination or church.

To assist all of us (parents, students, school faculty, and staff alike) to model Christ-like behavior more completely in our communication with one another, the following outline of basic expectations and commitments has been established. All teachers, administrators, staff, and board members have carefully read this outline, have agreed that these expectations are reasonable, and are committed to using them as a guide in their daily communication and behavior with students, parents, and one another. We ask that you, as your child's parent/guardian, also carefully read these mutual expectations and commitments and, by your signature, indicate that you will agree to use these as a guide for your and your child's communication with teachers, administration, staff, and other families.

### **Faculty, Staff, and Administration of Christos Academies Commitments:**

- Consistently strive to fulfill the Christos mission, goals, and objectives.
- Christian Testimony and Faith-formation Leadership: He or she affirms the Great Hearts Christos statement of faith, is a practicing Christian, and lives as an example of Christian virtue in all aspects of his or her life. He or she is confident in leading prayer and cultivating the Christ-centered culture of the academy.
- Pray for and support each child and family.
- In both words and deeds, show Christian charity and respect for students and parents.
- Communicate consistently and regularly with parents to ensure parents are fully informed of each student's progress in the program.
- Be willing to listen to parent and student concerns, providing timely and appropriate response and follow-up.
- In a spirit of charity and right speech, seeks information and facts, neither believing nor spreading rumors.
- Communicate professionally and respectfully, even when conflicts arise, and seek first to understand before drawing conclusions.
- Diligently strive to be consistent in modeling Christ-like virtue before students and their families as well as other school faculty and staff.

### **Parents of Christos Academies Commitments:**

- Diligently support the Christos mission, goals, and objectives.
- Fully support that your child will be taught from a Christian perspective and will be prayed with on an ongoing basis.
- In both words and deeds, show respect for school staff, other students, and families.
- Communicate regularly with teachers and staff, regularly checking the academy website, reading school letters, email, and informational bulletins, and attending meetings and events that are pertinent to my child's well-being and success.
- In a timely manner communicate concerns to teachers and staff.
- In a spirit of Christian charity, be willing to listen to school or staff concerns; providing timely and appropriate response and follow-up.
- Seek information and facts, neither believing nor spreading rumors.
- Communicate professionally and respectfully, even when conflicts arise, seeking first to understand before drawing conclusions.
- Diligently strive to be consistent in modeling Christ-like virtue before my child, other students, and families as well as school faculty and staff.