



STILLWATER
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

Student / parent

HANDBOOK

middle school / high school
2016 - 2017

ARTISTIC
EXPRESSION

ATHLETIC
DISTINCTION

CONTENTS

STILLWATER DISTINCTIVES..... Page 2
SCS Mission
SCS Vision
SCS Statement of Faith
Core Values
Accreditation
Board of Directors
Faculty & Staff
Parent Teacher Organization
General Contact Information

GENERAL POLICIES & INFORMATION Page 6
Attendance
Late
Absences
High School Bell Schedule
Middle School Bell Schedule
Lunch
Driving
Leaving Campus and Visitors
Dress Code
Discipline
Lockers
Restrooms
Campus Computers
Accident & Insurance
Sexual Harassment
Inclement Weather & Snow Announcements

ACADEMICS Page 13
Class Credits
High School Graduation Requirements
Grading
Late or Missing Work
Make-Up Work
High School Courses and Electives
Middle School Courses and Electives
Progress Reports & Infinite Campus
Extra Instruction
Dropping a Class
Advanced Placement (AP), Concurrent Credit, & Online Credit Courses
National Honor Society
Academic & Character Awards
College & Career Planning
Music at SCS
Senior Trip, Party, & Graduation

ATHLETICS..... Page 19
Athletic Philosophy
Athletic Objectives
Characteristics of the Stillwater Athlete
Team Selections & Eligibility
Academic Ineligibility (High School
Athletic Council

STILLWATER DISTINCTIVES

MISSION

To equip students with the tools for learning through a Christ-centered, academically enriching, education where each discipline is subject to the authority of God's Word.

VISION

To develop lifelong learners who discern and apply God's Truth as they serve and lead wherever God calls.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the verbal plenary, divinely inspired, authoritative and inerrant Word of God, our sole authority.

We believe in only one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ: His virgin birth; His sinless life; His miracles; His substitutionary and atoning death; His bodily resurrection; His ascension to the right hand of the Father; His present work of intercession; His personal forthcoming return in power and glory.

We believe that all mankind are sinners before God, and apart from salvation through Jesus Christ, are unable to avoid eternal condemnation.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit leading to personal faith in Jesus Christ is essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling and renewing the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of eternal life, and those that are lost unto the resurrection of condemnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe the creation of the universe and man was a unique, designed act of God and that man was made in the image and likeness of God.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.

We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union.

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death.

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Stillwater Christian School's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Directors is Stillwater Christian School's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Approved by Board, Oct 2015

CORE VALUES

Stillwater Christian School is committed to the following core values:

- the *trivium* as the best structure to equip students to think, write and speak clearly and to be thoroughly grounded with a biblical worldview.
- developing *Christian character* for life through instruction, in relationships, in work habits and decision making.
- a staff who are *role models* as followers of Christ and who demonstrate that the Christian faith encompasses all of life.
- a faculty of *gifted teachers* who are enthusiastic learners and who establish *caring relationships* with students that transcend the classroom experience.
- honoring *family and church* as God ordained institutions and to teaching *values* that reinforce families' efforts to raise their children biblically.
- *extracurricular activities* that enrich student's learning, development, and maturity.
- the *fine arts* as a means of praising God in a variety of modes as students learn basic technique and appreciation for the various disciplines of the Fine Arts.
- providing *athletic opportunities* that develop Christian character, leadership, teambuilding, and preparation for life.
- well-kept *buildings and grounds* that are designed to meet the educational objectives of the school program.
- maintaining *independence* as a private, non-denominational educational institution.
- a *campus environment* that encourages cooperation and modeling among students of all grade levels.
- pursuing and maintaining *third party associations* and accreditations that assist in advancing our mission.

Reviewed and amended July 2013

ACCREDITATION / AFFILIATIONS

Stillwater Christian School is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC). This means that our transcripts are accepted by any other accredited high school or college/university. Stillwater Christian School is a member in good standing with the Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA). SCS is also a member of the Montana Christian Athletic Association (MCAA).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stillwater Christian School is an independent Christian School governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is the chief policy-making body of the school. The following individuals currently serve on the SCS Board:

Mr. Paul Bray
Mr. David Fetveit
Dr. Tom George
Mrs. Kristen Heck
Dr. John Heine, “Emeritus”
Mr. Reed Lamb
Mr. BJ Lupton, “Emeritus”
Mr. Justin McKerrow, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Jim Sutherland
Mr. John Thomas
Mr. Michael Thompson, Chairman
Mr. Ray Thompson

FACULTY AND STAFF

The administrators and teachers of SCS are appointed by the Board after careful consideration of their spiritual, academic, and physical qualifications. All teachers must have certification through ACSI no later than September of their second contract year and must maintain their certification during their employment at SCS.

All members of the teaching staff are “born-again” Christians who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Each teacher must agree to display the highest Christian virtue in their personal example and maintain a lifestyle based on biblical standards of moral conduct, to include attending and financially supporting a local church.

The administrators and teachers are committed to serving our Lord and the families of Stillwater Christian School. If you have questions or concerns about a specific area of our school’s curriculum or program, please contact the teachers and/or administrators who can help you.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The SCS Parent Teacher Organization, guided by the Executive Board of the school, exists to enrich the learning environment for the entire student body of Stillwater Christian School.

All parents of SCS students are members of the PTO and are expected to volunteer 40 hours per year as part of their PTO responsibilities. The PTO holds meetings once a month on regularly scheduled dates. Anyone who desires to be part of the PTO decision making board is asked to attend these meetings on a regular basis.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IN REGARD TO.....?

We encourage parents and students to go to the SCS website to find answers to most questions. If you still have issues or concerns, the following list directs you to the person or persons who can assist you with particular topics.

Absences/Tardiness/Illness of Student: Stacey Morken (e-mail teacher or ask Stacey about missed work)

Email: smorken@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #250 or (406) 751-8492

Admissions: Renee Wynne

Email: rwynne@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #154 or (406) 471-1177

Athletics: Mark Pond

Email: mpond@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #180 or (406) 885-2357

Business (Tuition and Fees): Sheila Danz

Email: sdanz@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #152 or (406) 837-4116

Financial Aid: Lori Vander Ark

Email: lvanderark@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #153 or (406) 270-0159

Classroom Concerns: Teacher then Dana Hashley

Email: dhashley@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension # 176 or (406) 250-5384

College Information: David Hembroff

Email: dhembroff@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #350 or (406) 260-3231

Curriculum Concerns: Teacher then Tracie Lindborg

Email: tlindborg@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #254 or (406) 862-3293

Discipline: Teacher involved then Dana Hashley

Email: dhashley@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension # 176 or (406) 250-5384

Infinite Campus login: Jill Curtis

Email: jcurtis@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension #151 or (406) 270-0312

Drop Course and/or Schedule Change: Dana Hashley. Form in office

Email: dhashley@scscougars.org

Phone: Extension # 176 or (406) 250-5384

Transcripts & Report Cards: High School office

Email: scs@scscougars.org

Phone: (406) 752-4400

PTO: Melissa Linrude, President

Email: melissa012@montanasky.net

Phone: (406) 249-4373

GENERAL POLICIES & INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

SCS is committed to the philosophy and practice of classroom academic instruction. Each school day provides new learning experiences and opportunities to grow. In addition, the social and relational aspects of the learning process are as significant as the content and subject matter. While some elements of a missed classroom experience may be repeated or recovered, certain other facets are lost, to the student's detriment. Therefore, you are expected to attend and participate in all classes.

In particular, you are expected to be in first period when the bell rings at 8:05. You will hear a warning bell at 8:00. Please arrive to school no earlier than 7:45. School is dismissed at 3:00, however, you are welcome to stay late to participate in extracurricular activities supervised by school personnel or to participate in Extra Instruction (EI). The school office closes at 3:45, so you need to be heading home by then unless you are participating in supervised school activities.

Perfect attendance is defined as being at school or at school sponsored activities whenever school is in session.

LATE

If you are late to first period you will be marked tardy by your first period teacher. You must check in at the high school office before going to class. After three unexcused tardies you will be placed in detention. (Notice that you get two grace tardies with no consequence.) If you are a habitual offender and manage to rack up three more tardies (for a total of six), you will land in detention again. After that, every time you are tardy you will get a silent lunch.

Once you're at school we think it is important to be punctual as you go from class to class. You have three minutes to get from one class to another and to take care of any personal business. This is more than enough time for a school with only two hallways. If you are late to class it will be up to your teacher to determine if you had a legitimate reason for being late. You could find yourself in silent lunch for unexcused lateness or not being prepared for class. Remember, if you are not prepared for class or when you are late it is disruptive to class and disrespectful to both students and teachers.

ABSENCES

Absences are recorded as either excused (reason noted on Infinite Campus by the office) or unexcused.

Make sure you sign in or out at the high school office whenever you arrive late or leave early.

We believe it is important to be here in order to receive the full benefit of our high school educational experience. It is our goal to help students develop good work and study habits. This requires self-discipline and the ability to set priorities. Attendance does affect your achievement and progress in class. Students who simply choose not to come to school may be denied the opportunity to make up work for that class period.

For planned absences, please get a planned absence form ("blue slip") from your coach or from the office and fill this out before you are absent from school. Many teachers will want to see this form and sign it. Work that is due on the day you are gone should be turned in before you leave. Even if you only miss a few periods the planned absence form is required to ensure you stay on track academically.

HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

The High School bell schedule is as follows for the 2016-2017 school year:

HS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:55	0:50
2	8:58	9:43	0:45
3	9:48	10:33	0:45
4	10:36	11:21	0:45
5	11:24	12:10	0:46
6	12:13	12:58	0:45
Lunch	12:58	13:27	0:29
7	1:27	2:12	0:45
8	2:15	3:00	0:45

D Afternoon Assembly Schedule

HS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:50	0:45
2	8:53	9:33	0:40
3	9:36	10:16	0:40
4	10:21	11:01	0:40
5	11:04	11:45	0:41
6	11:48	12:30	0:42
Lunch	12:30	12:58	0:28
7	12:58	13:36	0:38
8	1:39	2:18	0:39
Assembly	2:21	3:00	0:39

B Early Out Schedule

HS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:32	0:27
2	8:35	8:58	0:23
3	9:01	9:24	0:23
4	9:27	9:50	0:23
5	9:55	10:18	0:23
6	10:21	10:44	0:23
7	10:47	11:10	0:23
8	11:13	11:36	0:23

C Chapel Day

HS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:50	0:45
Chapel	8:53	9:33	0:40
2	9:36	10:16	0:40
3	10:21	11:01	0:40
4	11:04	11:45	0:41
5	11:48	12:30	0:42
Lunch	12:30	12:58	0:28
6	12:58	13:36	0:38
7	1:39	2:18	0:39
8	2:21	3:00	0:39

MIDDLE SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

The Middle School bell schedule is as follows for the 2016-2017 school year:

Regular Day

MS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:55	0:50
2	8:58	9:43	0:45
3	9:48	10:33	0:45
4	10:36	11:21	0:45
5	11:24	12:10	0:46
Lunch	12:10	12:39	0:29
6	12:39	13:24	0:45
7	1:27	2:12	0:45
8	2:15	3:00	0:45

D Afternoon Assembly Schedule

MS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:50	0:45
2	8:53	9:33	0:40
3	9:36	10:16	0:40
4	10:21	11:01	0:40
5	11:04	11:48	0:44
Lunch	11:48	12:18	0:30
6	12:18	12:55	0:40
7	12:58	13:36	0:38
8	1:39	2:18	0:39
Assembly	2:21	3:00	0:39

B Early Out Schedule

MS Period	Start	Finish	Length
1	8:05	8:32	0:27
2	8:35	8:58	0:23
3	9:01	9:24	0:23
4	9:27	9:50	0:23
5	9:55	10:18	0:23
6	10:21	10:44	0:23
7	10:47	11:10	0:23
8	11:13	11:36	0:23

C Morning Assembly Schedule

MS Period	Start	Finish	Length
Assembly	8:05	8:50	0:45
1	8:53	9:33	0:40
2	9:36	10:16	0:40
3	10:21	11:01	0:40
4	11:04	11:48	0:44
Lunch	11:48	12:18	0:30
5	12:18	12:55	0:40
6	12:58	13:36	0:38
7	1:39	2:18	0:39
8	2:21	3:00	0:39

LUNCH

Hot lunch is available most days. If you want hot lunch, you must sign up in first period to ensure there is enough food for everyone who desires hot lunch. You can also bring your lunch from home. Lunch is eaten in the cafeteria or outside on nice days. If you are going to get seconds or thirds on hot lunch, please do not share your first and second helpings with others.

DRIVING

Driving is an adult responsibility. Driving around a school requires both a license as well as special care and consideration. If you demonstrate that you are not up to the responsibility, you may lose the privilege of driving to school.

LEAVING CAMPUS AND VISITORS

We usually do not allow students to leave campus unless the office approves and parent permission is given. This means no off-campus lunch or coffee breaks, except for Seniors. There are occasions when school sponsored activities take students off-campus. This includes times when an instructor deems it advantageous to meet off campus for a field trip or other opportunity. In most cases parents will be notified before the off campus event.

SCS is a closed campus. That means when you are here, you stay here. It also means that if you are not a student at SCS you should not be here. However, there are times when it is appropriate to have visitors. You should request permission from the office a day or two in advance if you wish to bring a visitor to school.

DRESS CODE

We believe God cares about your appearance and wants you to consider three Biblical principles for dress.

The Bible simply tells us:

1. That we should be modest in our dress (I Timothy 2:9), which means don't go out of your way to attract attention to yourself.
2. That there are differences between the ways men and women should dress (Deuteronomy 22:5), which means you must dress consistent with your biological sex.
3. That at a time when many young people try to find ways to shock adults with their costumes, you should dare to be different enough not to offend anyone with what you wear. (I John 2:15)

We also believe it is important that students honor their parents with their choices of clothing. As such, we encourage students to cooperate with their parents in this area. Because SCS is open to many visitors each day and we only get one chance to make a first impression, we expect you to represent the school well through your conduct and appearance. Moreover, appropriate dress and personal appearance is conducive to the academic and spiritual well-being of our school. If you violate the letter or spirit of this dress code, SCS staff may ask you not to wear a certain article of clothing to school again or to change your clothes. If this happens, please respect and follow the staff's directive.

You are given quite a bit of freedom regarding what you wear consistent with the above principles. In exchange, we ask that you observe the following guidelines:

Shirts and Tops should be modest, not low cut or sheer. Tank tops (wide or thin straps,) halter tops, midriff and muscle shirts are not allowed. Girls may wear sleeveless shirts. Logos or other advertising should be appropriate for the Christian school atmosphere.

Pants and slacks should not be torn. Nice jeans are okay. Tight-fitting or baggy extremes are not allowed. Thin, clingy, or stretch-type materials, spandex, or leggings are not allowed as outer garments. Dress shorts are allowed, no cut-offs or gym shorts. Shorts should extend beyond the fingertips. Sweat pants, lounge wear, or sleep wear are not permitted.

Hats should not be worn in the building during the academic day.

Tattoos should be covered and piercings removed with the exception of female ear piercings.

Hair styles should not be “faddish” or goofy nor should **hair color** be unnatural, otherwise you will be asked to change it. In addition, boys’ hair may not cover the ears, go below the collar, or extend beyond the eyebrows. Senior boys may have facial hair as long as it is neat in appearance.

On **chapel days**, if you are a lady (female), you should wear a modest dress, skirt, or dress slacks and shirt. (Something other than the daily T-shirt would be excellent.) Men (males) get to wear a tie with a tucked-in, button-down shirt and pants other than blue-jeans. You should think of Chapel dress as “**personal best**,” a dress-up affair. In colder rooms it may be appropriate to bring a nice sweater to wear over your special attire instead of wearing the usual “hoody” or jacket.

DISCIPLINE

As a community of grace, SCS operates more on a system of principles than a manifesto of rules. We believe behaving according to Biblical principles is the simplest and most effective method. Besides, there is not enough ink and paper to write rules to address every situation middle and high school students might get themselves into.

Obviously you may not violate any local, state, or national laws while at school. Scripture paints the broad strokes for us. For instance, there is no place for crude or profane language. Honesty and truthfulness are given highest priority. Jesus himself gives us rules to live by that certainly apply to our school day and how we deal with one another: “do to others what you would have them do to you,” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” Beyond these general principles, we ask that you observe the following:

You may not **chew gum** on campus. A \$5 fine will be imposed on anyone caught chewing gum.

You may not use **cell phones, iPods, portable electronic entertainment devices** during class time unless teacher permission is given. High school students may use cellphones for necessary business outside of class. Middle school students may not unless permission is given. Violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the device.

Disciplinary Tools

The SCS staff, administration, and board may use various disciplinary tools to ensure the good order and discipline of our school community. These tools range from silent lunches to expulsion. Below is a non-exhaustive list of guidelines providing examples for when certain tools will be used.

Silent Lunches may result from:

- Late to class
- Book uncovered
- No pen, pencil, etc.
- Dress code violations
- Failure to return signed notes or absence notes
- Failure to pay obligations
- Failure to attend a silent lunch (results in having two silent lunches)

Detention may result from:

- 3 silent lunches per quarter
- Continuing an action after correction
- Deception
- Showing disrespect through body language

- Failure to attend one of two reassigned silent lunches
- Verbal confrontation between students

Suspension may result from:

- Obscene, vulgar or profane (taking God's name in vain) language
- Cheating/Plagiarism
- Lying
- Direct disobedience
- Cutting class
- Wrestling, punching, pushing, shoving, or other physical displays of anger
- Vandalism
- 4 detentions in a school year
- Stealing
- Fighting

Expulsion. A student involved in the following may be considered by the school board for expulsion:

- Immorality
- Drugs
- Ongoing misbehavior that disrupts the learning processes or is scornful of God.
- 2 suspensions in a school year

Saturday School (usually held near the end of a quarter)

- Excessive missing assignments

LOCKERS

You will be assigned a locker. Decorations and pictures inside your locker must be consistent with Stillwater Distinctives. Decorations to the outside of lockers are limited to school-related activities such as sports team decorations and messages of encouragement. All of your belongings should be kept inside the locker with the door closed. In some instances it will be acceptable to keep your backpack touching the wall opposite the lockers in your hallway. Any items left on top of the lockers or in the hallway will be thrown away or put in lost and found. While theft is not a regular problem, you should think twice about leaving valuable items in your locker as SCS is not liable for items taken or stolen.

RESTROOMS

Students may use the restrooms before and after school, between class periods, and during lunchtime. Loitering in restrooms is not permitted. Students who are ill should report to the school nurse and not go to/remain in the restroom. Consistent with the SCS Statement of Faith, students and campus visitors must use restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities conforming with their biological sex.

CAMPUS COMPUTERS

There is a computer lab, a mathematics lab, a mobile computer cart with wireless access and computer terminals in the library for student use. At the beginning of the year you will receive an Acceptable Use Agreement that you must sign in order to use school computers. Everything you need to know related to campus computers will be in that document.

ACCIDENTS AND INSURANCE

You are protected by accident benefit coverage if something happens at school or a school activity. This coverage is secondary to any insurance carried by parents and is limited to \$25,000.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of SCS to prohibit sexual harassment of all students. Students who believe an employee, student or other person at the school is subjecting them to sexual harassment should report the matter promptly to an administrator, office staff, other staff or teacher. Note: The full policy statement is available upon request.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & SNOW ANNOUNCEMENTS

In case of inclement weather, expect an e-mail or text message about school cancellation from the automated messenger system. In addition, you may:

- Visit the school website (www.stillwaterchristianschool.org) or call the school
- Tune into the following local radio stations: KALS 97.1 FM; BEAR 106.3 FM; KJJR 880 AM

ACADEMICS

CLASS CREDITS

At SCS our courses are full year rather than semester courses. As such you earn full rather than half credits. Credit is awarded upon completion of each semester with a passing grade. Your second semester grade is determined by averaging your third and fourth quarter grades and your final exam grade. Although the **final exam** is usually worth 10% of your grade, if your final exam grade is two letter grades below your average quarter grades you may receive the grade between your average quarter grade and final exam grade. Your transcript will reflect first and second semester grades and credit received for each course. Dropping a course may result in loss of any credit for that course.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive a diploma from SCS you must successfully meet the following graduation requirements.

4.0	credits in Literature
2.4	credits in Bible (1 course per year of attendance) Includes successful completion of a senior thesis
4.0	credits in History
3.0	credits in Science
3.0	credits in Mathematics (Algebra I and Geometry required)
1.6	credits in Logic/Speech/Rhetoric
6.0	credits in electives
24	credits for graduation

GRADING

Teachers don't give grades. You, as a student, earn them. The grade you receive is primarily determined by the diligence and effort you demonstrate in completing the work assigned in the course. The grade reported will be based on the following scale.

	Numerical	Grade Point
A	93 - 100	4.00
A-	90 - 92	4.00
B+	87 - 89	3.00
B	83 - 86	3.00
B-	80 - 82	3.00
C+	77 - 79	2.00
C	73 - 76	2.00
C-	70 - 72	2.00
D+	67 - 69	1.00
D	63 - 66	1.00
D-	60 - 62	1.00
F	59 and below	0

LATE OR MISSING WORK

Completing work assigned by an instructor is not just for learning but also a practice in responsibility. Teachers may take between 10% to 50% off for each day an assignment, including daily homework, is late.

MAKE-UP WORK

You, not your teacher, are responsible for arranging to make up missed work. It is your responsibility to contact each teacher about discussions and new learning that went on in class, all tests and assignments missed, and to complete all make-up work within the time specified by your teachers. Generally you have one day to make-up assignments for each day you missed, except as noted above.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES AND ELECTIVES

Freshmen will take the following courses:

1.0	Literature
1.0	History
0.6	Bible
1.0	Conceptual Physics
1.0	Algebra I or Geometry
<u>0.4</u>	<u>Speech and Logic Applications</u>
5.0	Required credits

Sophomores will take the following courses:

1.0	Literature
1.0	History
0.6	Bible
1.0	Conceptual Chemistry
1.0	Geometry or Algebra 2
<u>0.4</u>	<u>Rhetoric</u>
5.0	Required credits

Juniors will take the following courses:

1.0	Literature
1.0	History
0.6	Bible
1.0	Biology
1.0	Algebra 2 or Advanced Math
<u>0.4</u>	<u>Rhetoric</u>
5.0	Required credits

Seniors will take the following courses:

1.0	Literature
1.0	History
2.0	Senior Seminar (Bible/Rhetoric/Senior Thesis)
<u>4.0</u>	<u>Required credits</u>

Keep in mind there are elective requirements as well. Your promotion from grade to grade is based on the number of accumulated credits as follows:

End of 9th grade	6 credits
End of 10th grade	12 credits
End of 11th grade	18 credits

If you are unable to complete the required number of credits, you may need to earn credits outside the normal school year. There are several options for summer study or additional course study during the school year. Course work done to make up credits must be approved by the administration. Grades below a "C" will not be accepted, and GPA will be calculated using only grades earned at SCS.

More information on the High School academic program of instruction is available in the High School Program located here: <http://stillwaterchristianschool.org/domain/29>

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES & ELECTIVES

Sixth Graders will take the following courses:
courses:

Bible
Medieval History
Language Arts
Latin
Math
Science
Physical Education
Computer as a Tool
Intro to Logic, Art, Band
Geography

Seventh Graders will take the following

Bible
Early Modern History
Language Arts
Categorical Logic
Math (Pre-Algebra may be taken
with teacher & parent approval)
Science (Life Science)
Physical Education

Eighth Graders will take the following courses:

Bible
Late Modern History
Language Arts
Propositional Logic
Pre-Algebra or Algebra I (may take with teacher recommendation & parent approval)
Earth Science
Physical Education

Electives: Seventh and Eighth graders are required to take three of the following five year-long electives:
Band, Choir, Computer, Art, Study Hall

PROGRESS REPORTS & INFINITE CAMPUS

Infinite Campus, our internet-based school communication system, which is accessed by going to **stillwaterchristianschool.org** gives you and your parents instant access to your course grades any time day or night—it is like getting a progress report every day. The website also allows you to keep up with course assignments and calendars online. In addition, paper progress reports may be sent home at midterm to parents of students who have below a “C” in a class.

EXTRA INSTRUCTION

Extra Instruction (EI) is a new program designed to help all SCS students succeed academically. The intent of EI is to enable students to receive individualized extra instruction from their teachers throughout the school day and after school between 3:10 and 3:45 p.m. Every SCS teacher will be available until 3:45 p.m. each school day to provide EI. Students desiring EI in a subject may simply come to their teacher’s room after school to receive EI on that subject or to complete work while supervised by the instructor. In some instances—if assessments demonstrate that a student is falling behind in a subject and needs EI to get back on track—that student may be assigned to attend after school EI with one or more teachers. In cases where EI is assigned to address an academic deficiency, EI may take precedence over athletic practice. Though students can “drop-in” for voluntary EI, it is better if they coordinate with the teacher beforehand.

EI will likely take the following forms:

1. **Student Performing Well.** Students who are performing well overall may seek voluntary EI in order to continue performing well or because they don't understand a concept as well as they would like. Teachers may also assign EI for such students if they are struggling with a particular concept.
2. **Student Lacking in Motivation/Effort.** Teachers may assign EI for students who have the aptitude to perform well but are lacking in motivation (attitude) and/or effort.
3. **Student Working Hard but Struggling.** Voluntary or teacher-mandated EI also exists for students who are motivated to work hard but nevertheless struggling. Such students should be distinguished from those in need of educational therapy from the Learning Services or Title 1 program.

DROPPING A CLASS

Most of our courses are yearlong courses; beyond losing credit there may be other penalties associated with dropping a course. Carefully review the following policies below before deciding to drop any course.

A course may be dropped:

- without grade points or transcript record if it is dropped within the first two weeks after the beginning of the course.
- without grade points but with transcript record if it is dropped within the first week of any quarter after the first quarter. The transcript will show a WP or WF (withdrew passing or failing) depending upon the cumulative course average up to the most recently completed quarter. No credit is given for any incomplete course. Due to performance preparation, choir and band may be dropped at the semester only.
- with grade point and transcript record if it is dropped after the first week of a quarter. It will be listed as a WF. An "F" grade will be used for that course to calculate GPA. An "F" will also be used in determining eligibility and honor roll status for the quarter in which the course was dropped. No credit will be given for the course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP), CONCURRENT CREDIT, AND ONLINE CREDIT COURSES

SCS has AP and Concurrent Credit classes available for juniors and seniors. AP students are expected to pay for and take the AP test. Concurrent Credit Classes are available, but, to receive credit, the college fee must be paid for by the student. Students may participate in Flathead Valley Community College's (FVCC) Running Start program after completing the tenth grade as long as their running start activities do not conflict with their SCS activities. SCS is also pleased to work with students who wish to take online courses for credit during their study halls, summers, or free time.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

National Honor Society (NHS) is open to juniors and seniors. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 and demonstrate excellence in leadership, service, and character. Induction into the NHS is normally held in the fall each year.

ACADEMIC AND CHARACTER AWARDS

Honor roll recognition during the spring honors dessert is based on your quarterly grades. You may not be on an honor roll if you have a grade of "C -" or below. Honor roll is for students with a GPA of 3.20 to 3.69. Honor roll with high honors is for students with a 3.70 or above. Students on the honor roll may receive one of three possible designations:

- Academic Merit: students who have achieved honor roll all of the first three quarters.
- Academic Honor: students who have achieved high honor or honor roll all of the first three quarters.
- Academic Excellence: students who have achieved high honor roll all of the first three quarters.

In addition to honor roll, students who excel academically or in other ways may be recognized for those achievements and character traits at the honors dessert held after the third quarter of each year. We typically recognize students in the following categories:

Teachers give **class awards** to students with the highest average in their classes. In addition, the faculty as a whole recognizes certain students who consistently show outstanding effort with **Awards for Exceptional Effort**.

Christian character awards are given to individuals who exhibit various Christian character traits throughout their involvement at SCS. Awards are given in the following areas: Service to Others, Humility, Christ-like Attitude, and Pursuit of Excellence.

The **ACSI Distinguished High School Student Award** is given to juniors and seniors who are selected by the high school faculty for excellence in each of the following four areas: Academics, Fine Arts, Athletics, and Leadership.

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

The SCS college and career planning program includes both testing and guidance. Below is a description of how SCS meets students' and families' needs in this important area.

Testing

PSAT 9, 10 & PSAT/NMSQT: Each of the PSAT exams are practice exams to help prepare students for the SAT exam. The PSAT 9 & 10 are tailored to the age group but are in the same format as the SAT. These exams help give students, parents and teachers feedback on areas to work on to achieve better scores on the SAT and open more options for college and scholarships. The PSAT/NMSQT is the SAT practice and the National Merit Scholar Qualifier. Scoring well on this exam can open doors to a lot of financial aid for students as well as early acceptance to colleges and universities.

YouScience is a program that assesses aptitudes and interests and compares them with current members of various career fields. YouScience is NOT an IQ test. The profile developed from the assessment pinpoints strengths and shortcomings and offers advice on how these can be used and/or overcome to improve any path of study the student should choose. Below is a schedule of the testing events in the SCS calendar:

PSAT 9	Frosh	February
YouScience Assessment	Soph	January
PSAT 10	Soph	February
PSAT 11	Jr	October
SAT & ACT Season	Jr/Sr	February-September
PSAT Results	Jr	January
PSAT 10 Results and College Planning	Soph	May
PSAT 9 Results and College Planning	Frosh	May

Guidance

SCS offers a wide range of guidance support for students and families in achieving post-secondary goals. To that end, the high school college-and-career counselor meets regularly with students both in class and one-on-one to discuss goals, expectations, and options. The counselor will e-mail scholarship opportunities and application deadlines as they become available. The counselor will also meet with students to discuss test results and options.

During the year, SCS hosts presentations for families about the college application and financial aid process brought to us by the Reach High Montana organization. Also, during Senior Seminar, students will go into great depth with instructors on the transition into post-secondary school life whether college or career.

College Applications	Sr	June-June
Scholarship Applications	Sr	June-June
One-on-One Goal Meeting	Sr	September
Presentation on Financial Aid & FAFSA	Sr & Parents	September
College Fair	Jr & Sr	September
FAFSA opens	Sr	October
College Myths	All	December
Transition to College/Work-Class Discussions	Sr	January
One-on-One Exit Check & Survey	Sr	April
Class Meeting and Paper Response	Sr	April
Applying to College Presentation	Jr & Parents	May

MUSIC AT SCS

SCS is pleased to have a majority of middle school and high school students involved in the music program. Policies and requirements related to choir and band are spelled out in separate handbooks which are available on the SCS website.

SENIOR TRIP, PARTY, AND GRADUATION

In order to raise money for the Senior Trip, it has been the tradition of SCS to have the Seniors provide the service of Valentines to SCS students in all grades. Juniors raise money by providing the October community event known as Harvest Party while the Sophomores sell pies at Thanksgiving.

Also, Senior parents are the ones responsible for organizing the party and setting up and decorating for graduation. Junior parents are responsible to clean up after graduation. The school will require Senior parents to attend a meeting in March to discuss the Senior party and graduation.

ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The athletic philosophy at SCS recognizes that every person has unique talents and abilities. Through athletics, these abilities are put into action for the ultimate reward of serving the Lord. The athletic program at SCS therefore aims to reflect I Corinthians 10:31: **“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”**

ATHLETIC OBJECTIVES

- Compete in a manner pleasing to God
- Develop relationships through athletics
- Be a witness to our competitors
- Develop good sportsmanship that will last beyond high school
- Develop Godly Character

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STILLWATER ATHLETE

The characteristics of the Stillwater Athlete that our athletic program seeks to build can be summed up by the acronym **AWARD**.

Attitude - like that of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5)

Work Ethic - 100% all the time

Authority - those who inspire us and make us better (1 Timothy 5:17)

Respect - something that is not given to us but earned by our reputation (Luke 14:11)

Desire - competition; either winning or losing that brings us back for more (Hebrews 10:36)

TEAM SELECTIONS & ELIGIBILITY

High School

Team selections take place only in the event that there are more players trying out than players that will be able to contribute during the season. Unfortunately, this will happen more often as the athletic program continues to grow. Therefore, if needed, coaches will use the following criteria to make team selections:

- Attitude
- Playing abilities
- Academics
- Coachability
- Ability as a team player
- Attendance

We encourage all players to try out for sports. Seniors may be allowed to play junior varsity, if there is a need for players at that level and the senior is not getting playing time on the varsity team. Players will be given the opportunity to try out for a team and determine if they would like to be part of the team. All players must participate in tryouts to be considered for the team. Transfer students are allowed to participate in athletics beginning their first semester at SCS unless otherwise notified by the athletic director or head of school.

Middle School

Volleyball is offered starting for 7th and 8th graders. Basketball will be offered for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Each team will be made up of students from that grade level. Once those numbers are determined, the teams may need to be balanced by moving some players to other teams.

A middle school student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities is dependent on that student's ability to maintain academic, attitudinal (including effort), and behavior standards expected of a middle school student attending SCS. A student becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities if he or she is failing to meet any of the above mentioned standards.

ACADEMIC INELIGIBILITY (HIGH SCHOOL)

In order to remain eligible to participate in practice or games on a school day, high school students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above with a maximum of one "D." Students with two Ds or one F will be considered ineligible.

Grades will be evaluated at frequent intervals during the quarter. If a student is ineligible, he or she will become inactive the Monday after the grade checks are issued and will remain so until the next grade check (Monday to Monday). Ineligible athletes are required to attend all practices and home games. They may not participate in games or travel with the team to away games. Note: If an athlete becomes ineligible for a third time during a season, he or she will be dismissed from the team. The ineligibility periods do not have to be consecutive.

Students must be at school by 10:00AM to participate in practice or games.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

The Athletic Council consists of the athletic director, the head of school, and the coach of the sport in question. If the athletic director is the coach, another head coach will serve on the committee. The role of the Athletic Council is to interpret rules, exceptions to policies and any other issues that arise during the course of a season.

Note: The Athletic Handbook goes into greater depth in providing information and policy related to the SCS athletic program. It is available on the SCS website at the following link:

<http://stillwaterchristianschool.org/domain/68>