



Community with Integrity **A Rationale for the LCS Honor Code**

The characteristics of a Christian academic and social community include the commitment to honor all people as made in God's image. This foundational premise is demonstrated by expressions of love (Romans 12:10), unity (I Corinthians 1:10), humility, gentleness, forbearance, kindness, forgiveness (Ephesians 4) and encouragement (I Thessalonians 5:11). They also require community members to be committed to integrity in both academic activities and human relationships (Romans 12:17; Matthew 18:15-20; Philippians 2:1-7).

The Christian is called to "do all to the glory of God." (I Corinthians 10:31) We glorify God when our actions and attitudes reflect His glory by emulating His attributes. These include the characteristics listed above as well others including justice, grace, integrity, beauty, compassion, and truth. We are exhorted to walk worthy of our calling as believers which includes manifesting these characteristics in our lives. (Ephesians 4:1-4; Colossians 1:10) We readily recognize our dependence upon God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit in this process.

As we endeavor to apply these principles in the context of the school community, it is helpful to provide specific descriptions of the commitments, expectations, and practices that should be present in the Christian school. LCS is committed not only to the academic development of students but also to the maturity of each student's walk with Christ. This includes encouraging holiness of life and academic integrity. (Hebrews 10:24; Romans 12:17)

The LCS Honor Code has been established to provide specific expectations of what attitudes and actions are essential in building a school culture that will contribute to the flourishing of all members of the community. Students are expected to contribute to fostering a school community that will reflect the glory of God by personally committing to comply with these standards and by encouraging one another to do so as well.

This Honor Code has been developed in light of I John 2:1. "...I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." In the previous chapter John calls believers to acknowledge their sin and to confess it to God and be cleansed. (I John 1:8-10) Psalm 32:1-5 warns of the difficulties associated with covering our sin and the benefits of seeking forgiveness. The point of the Honor Code is not that it will make us righteous. It will, however, help guide the way to right and honorable living in the academic community. The scripture calls us to confession and repentance when we fail. To deny one's sin and profess honor while refusing the way of repentance produces a hypocrite. To aspire to honor while recognizing, confessing, and repenting from failure when it occurs leads to growth in grace and builds a community of integrity that glorifies God. The goal is not perfect compliance but that students live honorably and respond with appropriate confession and repentance when they fail. This can lead to restoration and growth in grace and will cultivate a community where all can flourish.

Lakeland Christian School

Honor Code

As a student of Lakeland Christian School, I recognize my calling to a lifestyle that glorifies God. I will treat others with honor as fellow image bearers of the Creator. I will be committed to uphold and promote honesty, trust, respect, and fairness in all aspects of school life as defined in this Honor Code.

I will be committed to academic honesty and integrity: by submitting my own work for tests and assignments without the unauthorized assistance of others; by refusing to provide unauthorized assistance to others; by reporting research and accomplishments accurately; and by avoiding any behaviors that involve cheating, plagiarism, fabrications, and falsifying data. (Exodus 20:15; Romans 12:17)

I will be committed to showing respect and cooperation with those in authority: by being truthful, honest and fair in all my communication with the faculty and staff; by avoiding any behavior that shows defiance or insubordination of authority, by expressing opinions and making appeals with humility and respect. (Titus 3:1-2; Colossians 3:9; Hebrews 13:17)

I will be committed to showing respect to my fellow classmates: by showing tolerance of others and their views; by respecting the personal property of others, by using appropriate, nonviolent means of resolving conflict; by avoiding such behaviors as bullying, harassment, hazing, or any speech or behavior which is demeaning to others. (Romans 12:9-18; Colossians 3:8-14; Ephesians 5:4; Romans 12:18)

I will be committed to a lifestyle that pursues excellence in all that I do and say: by living a life of integrity and personal accountability to do the right thing; by taking appropriate action against wrongdoing, undeterred by peer pressure, fear, loyalty or compassion; by conducting myself as a responsible member of the school community in a manner that brings honor to the Lord, the school, and my family. (Colossians 3:17; Acts 5:29; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:22)

I will be committed to following school policies: by being cooperative and accepting of instruction and discipline; by complying with the school's student conduct policies. This includes honoring school policies by refraining from the use or possession of alcohol, drugs or tobacco on or off campus and by avoiding sexual immorality. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

I recognize that attendance at Lakeland Christian School is a privilege which includes certain responsibilities, some of which are listed in the Honor Code. I recognize that violations of the Honor Code or school policies may result in discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

I have received a copy of the Honor Code and commit to live in compliance and to respond appropriately should I violate the provisions stated above.

Student Name

Date

NOTE: The point of the Honor Code is not that it will make us righteous. It points the way to right and honorable living in the school community. The goal is that students live honorably and respond with appropriate confession and repentance when they fail. This can lead to restoration and growth in grace and will cultivate a community where all can flourish.

(Revised August 2019)