

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

The Tupelo Christian Preparatory School (TCPS) doctrinal statement expresses our foundational life view and direction for the present and future and our understanding of the past.

1. We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and, that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word and deed.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
6. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
7. We believe that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will personally return and set up His Kingdom wherein He will rule and reign in righteousness.
8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God.
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the blessedness of the saved, and the retribution of the lost.
10. We, therefore, believe in:
  - a. The Deity, Virgin Birth, Vicarious Death, Physical Resurrection, Ascension and Personal Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - b. The Personality, Deity, and Work of the Holy Spirit
  - c. The personality of Satan
  - d. The Great Scriptural Doctrines of Sin, Salvation by Grace, Redemption, Regeneration, Justification by Faith, Prayer, Physical Resurrection, the Reward of Believers, and the Retribution of Unbelievers

**STATEMENT OF PARENT AGREEMENT**

I have read and fully support the **Statement of Educational Philosophy** and the requirements set forth in the **Tuition Schedule** of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School. Furthermore, I understand and agree to abide by the following:

1. The administration will take all responsibility for academic placement;
2. In accordance with biblical principles, we as parents assign to the teachers and administration full responsibility in all matters of school related discipline.
3. It is understood that the school is dedicated to educating the whole person in the whole council of God as revealed in the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. It is further understood that the faculty and administration of the school will seek to lead each student into a personal and vital relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
4. Parental grievances must be directed through the proper channels:
  - a. All grievances will be handled in accordance with the principles outlined in chapter eighteen of the gospel of Matthew.
  - b. All persons are to deal with the situation at its source. This usually means initially speaking privately with the particular teacher or appropriate school staff member in a constructive and supportive attempt to get clarification or resolution.
  - c. If, after honest attempts have been made and clarification or resolution has not satisfactorily been reached, then:
  - d. The person proceeds to the next level of authority. This generally means speaking with the Principal/ Headmaster. If satisfaction is not realized by this point, then:
  - e. The person proceeds to the School Board by bringing the matter to the Board's attention **in writing** in advance of the next board meeting.
  - f. *It is understood that the School Board is the court of final appeal.*
5. I am responsible for the timely payment of all tuition and other fees as well as any damages incurred to school property by my child. **It is further understood that students will not be admitted to class unless tuition payments are current and all fees paid.** All bills must be paid before re-enrollment can be offered, report cards issued or complete transcripts released;
6. It is further understood that upon voluntary withdrawal from school, I am responsible for the balance on my account.
7. My child has permission to take part in all school activities including field trips and athletic events.
8. Should the time ever come that I can no longer support the Statement of Educational Philosophy, I will discretely and politely withdraw my child from Tupelo Christian Preparatory School

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The Bible commands Christian believers to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (Matthew 18:15-10 and 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Tupelo Christian Preparatory School fully expects parents/guardians and students who are not Christian believers to accept this approach to dispute resolution as wise counsel by which they will abide. So, any claim or dispute arising between Tupelo Christian Preparatory School and parents/guardians of students enrolled in TCPS and/or students enrolled in TCPS will be settled by biblically-based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute of Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries. The complete text of the *Rules of Procedure* is available at [www.HisPeace.org](http://www.HisPeace.org). Parents/guardians and secondary students will, as part of the registration process for each school year, certify in the Parent-School Agreement they sign that they have read and understood the *Rules of Procedure*. While judgment from an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction, that jurisdiction and venue is Lee County Mississippi where Tupelo Christian Preparatory School (TCPS) is located. The laws of the State of Mississippi will apply to any dispute with TCPS. These methods of mediation and arbitration are the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising against TCPS. Parents/guardians and students waive their rights to file a lawsuit in any civil court against TCPS for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision. Parents/guardians and students understand that to protect TCPS and its employees, and under the TCPS risk policy procedures, TCPS is required to maintain liability insurance. Therefore, this conflict provision for using mediation and arbitration is conditional upon agreement by TCPS's insurers that, in light of the particular facts and circumstances surrounding a disputed matter, this provision, and the process it establishes, will not diminish any insurance coverage maintained by TCPS. Parents/guardians understand that making demands, threatening to sue or actually litigating a matter against TCPS clearly violates Biblical teaching and practice and will constitute sufficient grounds for immediate de-enrollment of their students from TCPS. Retaining or instructing an attorney to contact TCPS with regard to a potential claim or dispute will be interpreted as a threat to sue. Parents/guardians commit to do all they can to avoid involving TCPS in any legal proceedings that may take place or legal requests for documents or testimony of school officials concerning the custody and/or education and upbringing of their student. If, in spite of their and their attorney's best efforts, any school official is legally compelled to provide testimony or documentation beyond a copy of the student's standard academic records, that the student may immediately be de-enrolled from the school and/or that the parent'/guardians' financial account may be charged for any and all expenses incurred in complying with such legal process.

**ACADEMIC RIGOR LETTER**

Dear Parents:

Tupelo Christian Preparatory School is a unique educational institution committed to quality Christian education for Christian families. **The driving passion behind the school has been this: to neither sacrifice excellent academics in the name of a Christian framework nor to sacrifice a Christian framework in the name of academic excellence.** The mission of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School is leading students, in partnership with Christian families, to know Christ and to make Christ known. Our prayer is that our communities would be the wonderful beneficiaries of students who can *truly* be godly in an excellent fashion.

We have a unique character as a school because we are committed to a special type program of the highest quality. We are unapologetically Christian; therefore, Tupelo Christian Preparatory School will manifest that fact. That fact demands that we as students, parents, teachers and administration commit ourselves to the very highest goals of academic excellence.

We will recognize in some ways we are limited. Our limitation is that we cannot and will not compete with public schools or other independent schools in every area of school life. ***Our thrust is to challenge students academically.*** Our curriculum design insures that academic challenge for all students. We are able to meet the needs for some students with learning differences. While our Christian compassion opens our hearts to the needs of everyone who desires an education within a Christian atmosphere, we are realistic to the degree of recognizing that our program will not be suitable for the educational needs of everyone. Our Christian compassion for the student who may struggle inordinately with a challenging academic program simply will not allow us to place such a burden upon that student. When a school tries to adapt itself to everyone and every interest, it will suffer academic mediocrity. This is not the purpose of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School; so we are unique in the curriculum we teach.

As parents, it is important for you to understand that your child will experience a period of adjustment to our school. The adjustment may take upwards of nine weeks. ***We require your assistance*** in supporting your child in developing good study habits. It is in the best interest of your student to provide a quiet study location, free from distractions and a routine schedule time for study, meals and bedtime. If tutoring is needed, your support in providing this is critical for the success of your child. Homework may seem overwhelming at first. Please communicate with the teacher to determine the nature of the workload.

Our desire is for every child to succeed. We are extremely pleased that you are choosing Tupelo Christian Preparatory School as your partner in your child's education.

David Culpepper, Headmaster

**AV RELEASE**

In the course of attendance at Tupelo Christian Preparatory School, pictures may be taken and recordings may be made. Please advise us if you are willing to have your or your child's/ward's (your) photograph or voice used for the promotion of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School, as indicated below:

**PERSONAL RELEASE**

I agree to be filmed, videotaped and photographed in connection with Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's video and audio projects and that the film, videotape, sound recordings, web site, and photographs (the "Material") may be used with narration and other materials (including other recordings and photographs) to be included in the projects. I expressly waive any rights of privacy or confidentiality or proprietary rights or interests in the use of the Material.

Tupelo Christian Preparatory School will own all rights in the material used in these projects, and they will have the right to broadcast and distribute the projects on public television stations, in audiovisual markets (such as schools and other educational institutions), as well as in advertising and publicity in any and all media in connection with the project.

**STUDENT RELEASE**

I, on my behalf and on behalf of my child/ward waive moral rights to such material and any right to remuneration for the use of such material used for this purpose and assign and transfer to Tupelo Christian Preparatory School any and all rights, including copyright, which I may have or my child/ward may have in this material. In consideration of my/my child's/ward's possible appearance in the Production and without any further payment from the Producer, I grant permission to the Producer to utilize my/my child's/ward's appearance in connection with the Production in any and all manner and media throughout the world in perpetuity.

I agree that my/my child's/ward's participation in the Production may be edited in the Producer's sole discretion. I consent to the use of my likeness and/or voice in connection with the Production publicity and promotion. I release the Producer and its agents, employees, licensees and assigns from any and all claims which I have or may have for invasion of privacy, defamation, or any other legal action arising out of the Production including the promotion, publicity, production, distribution, broadcast or exhibition of the Production.

In so far as Material made in connection with Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's video and audio projects constitute a pupil record, I hereby grant Tupelo Christian Preparatory School authority to disclose such record(s) to the public.

**TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Dear Students and Parent/Guardian,

Part of the ongoing growth and development that is helping to make Tupelo Christian Preparatory School an outstanding leader in providing scholarship and academic excellence required that students be provided the ability to use technology such as computers and conduct research using Internet access. In allowing students this access there are a number of issues that must be clarified and agreed too before students can have said access. Each student must realize and understand that all technology including any electronic communication devices, not just computers in the lab and library with Internet access at Tupelo Christian Preparatory School is a privilege—**not a right**. Therefore, deliberate misuse of technology, cell phone and other messaging devices, computer and/or Internet access by any student anywhere in the school can and will result in disciplinary action. The student may no longer be allowed the use of any or all technology at Tupelo Christian Preparatory School for a period of time decided upon that could include loss of such privileges for the remainder of the school year.

You will find in the school handbook (on the TCPS website, [www.tcps.net](http://www.tcps.net), click on the drop-down menu: “About Us”, then click on the Handbook on the left) a copy of this Acceptable Use Policy that you are being asked to specifically read. Each student and parent/guardian must sign on the signature form. Then the signed form will be kept on file. The Acceptable use policy is to be kept with the students for quick reference when needed.

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

Tupelo Christian Preparatory School provides technology resources to its students and staff for educational and administrative purposes. Technology Resources include the intranet, Internet access, fax, E-mail, stand-alone computer use, projectors, interactive-boards, and telephones. The goal in providing these resources is to promote educational excellence in Tupelo Christian Preparatory School by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication with the support and supervision of parents, teachers, and support staff. The use of these technology resources is a privilege, not a right.

With access to computers and people all over the world comes the potential availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in context of the school setting. Tupelo Christian Preparatory School firmly believes that the value of information, interaction, and research capabilities available outweighs the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the school.

Proper behavior, as it relates to the use of technology, is no different than proper behavior in all other aspects of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School activities. All users are expected to use the school technology resources and electronic networks in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner. This is intended to clarify those expectations as they apply to computer and network usage.

**USE OF TUPELO CHRISTIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL’S TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

Improper use of the Tupelo Christian Preparatory School Technology Resources is prohibited. Uses of the Tupelo Christian Preparatory School Technology Resources that are prohibited include, but are not limited to:

1. Users may not use the Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's private network to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography of any kind), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature).
2. Users may not post personal information on the Internet about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes home address, telephone, school address, work address, pictures, video bites, or clips.
3. Students may not agree to meet with someone they have met on the Internet without their parent's approval and participation.
4. Users may not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any other computer system. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are improper, even if only for the purposes of "browsing", "snooping", or "electronic discovery".
5. Users may not deliberately disrupt or harm hardware or systems, interfere with computer performance, interfere with another's ability to use equipment and systems, or destroy data.
6. Users may not use the Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's private network to engage in illegal acts.
7. Users may not post information that could endanger an individual, cause personal damage or a danger of service disruption.
8. Users may not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
9. Users may not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users.
10. Users may not indirectly or directly make connections that allow unauthorized access to Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's network.
11. Users may not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, hateful, threatening, or disrespectful language.
12. Users may not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
13. Users may not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person.
14. Users may not forward or post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
15. Users will not install or reproduce unauthorized or unlicensed software.
16. Users may not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet or other resources.
17. Users may not use technology resources and Internet access for private business activities or unreasonable personal use.
18. Users may not download, install, or store software on a school computer without the approval of appropriate school personnel.
19. Tupelo Christian Preparatory School systems or resources may not be used for personal gain, or to buy, sell, advertise, or trade any products or services that are not affiliated with School business.
20. Users must demonstrate a high standard of care to protect the personal information of others (including home addresses, telephone numbers, or identification information) that is used for School purposes.

## **SYSTEM SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**

1. Users are responsible for the use of their individual access account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their account. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person.

2. An attempt to log on to Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's private network or any other network as a system administrator is prohibited.
3. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of violating this or any other Tupelo Christian Preparatory School policies may be denied access to Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's private network.
4. Users should immediately notify a teacher or system administrator of any possible security problem.
5. Students will promptly disclose to their teacher or other appropriate school employee any message or information received that is inappropriate.
6. Use of all School technology resources is subject to review, access, and monitoring, even if a private password or other private access code is used.
7. Any use of School resources such as telephones, Internet, e-mail, or other resources is not private and Students/staff and employees should have no expectation of privacy when using such resources for personal use.

## **FILTERING**

As required by law and in recognition of the need to establish a safe and appropriate computing environment, Tupelo Christian Preparatory School will use filtering technology to prohibit access, to the degree possible, to objectionable or unsuitable content that might otherwise be accessible via the Internet.

## **SUPERVISION AND ENFORCEMENT**

1. The Dean of Students has the responsibility to establish a system to ensure adequate supervision of students using the Technology Resources and to maintain executed user agreements for students. They are also responsible for interpreting and enforcing this policy.
2. The Headmaster has the responsibility to interpret and enforce this policy for employees including maintaining executed user agreements.
3. Tupelo Christian Preparatory School will cooperate with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's private network.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Internet, a worldwide telecommunications network that allows millions of computers to exchange information, may be accessible to students. The School has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material accessed or posted throughout its system.

Tupelo Christian Preparatory School may provide Internet access to students as a means to facilitate resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Information gathered from the Internet is viewed in the same manner as other reference material in the school. Such resources enhance the learning environment.

School personnel provide guidance to the student in Internet use and monitor the program to the best of their ability as a regular instructional activity. Controlling all materials on a global network is impossible, and a user may discover inappropriate information or perform inappropriate actions in spite of adult supervision. Therefore, we encourage parents (and teachers) to have a frank discussion with their children about Christian values and how those beliefs should guide student activities while using the Internet.

School personnel will:

- Teach proper techniques and standards for Internet participation.
- Guide student access to appropriate areas of Internet.
- Assure that students understand that misuses of the Internet could result in loss of access privileges or other privileges.

Social networks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century have gained tremendous popularity; and favorable connections to friends and family have been established. Unfortunately, as with any media that has widespread use, misuse occurs. Because this is a very difficult communication media to oversee, our school has determined to block the use of social network sites including, but not limited to, MySpace and Facebook during school operations and allow parents to oversee their children in the use of this internet communication. If our school or school staff is mentioned in any controversy on the internet through the use of any social network engaged in by our students, we will take the necessary action to involve parents, school officials and local authorities as necessary to resolve the issues.

The student and parent/guardian must sign an Acceptable Use Agreement before the student is given access to the school's computer lab and Internet resources. School personnel or the parent/guardian may withdraw student computer lab and Internet access at any time.

The parent/guardian is responsible for any damage caused by the student's inappropriate use of the School's computers and technology resources.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Teachers may maintain a school based website for their classes with syllabus and homework assignments. This site may contain a discussion board, moderated by teacher, in which students may participate. Students are limited to contacting the teacher outside of class through this site or through email concerning school assignments only. Any moral code misconduct by students that becomes public knowledge through social websites and causes disruption to the daily operation of school may be subject to disciplinary action.

Teachers may maintain their own social website but may not interact with students currently enrolled in their class(es) through this site. Any moral code misconduct by a teacher that becomes public knowledge through social networking websites is valid for discipline procedures.

Students and teachers may interact through phone texting only if necessary on school outings or field trips for purposes of logistics and safety concerning trip.

Student use of electronic communication devices (i.e. cell phones, I phones, blackberry) is not allowed on campus during school hours (7:45 A.M. – 3:05 P.M.). These devices must be kept in the silent or off mode and placed in their student locker or locked in the vehicle. Violation of this offense is a category 2 consequence. Should the student have a second offense, their device is confiscated for the rest of the year.

**STUDENT STATEMENT OF CONDUCT 7 – 12**

Tupelo Christian Preparatory School is leading students, in partnership with Christian families, to know Christ and to make Christ known

As part of its basic philosophy of education, Tupelo Christian Preparatory School seeks to provide and maintain an environment that will most effectively train and mold our student's physical, spiritual, emotional, academic and social growth.

When students are admitted to Tupelo Christian Preparatory School, they become identified with the school. The school may be judged by the kind of persons they are and by the way they conduct themselves. It is expected that their conduct will reflect favorably on them and on the school at all times.

All students must understand clearly that in order to maintain its high standards, Tupelo Christian Preparatory School reserves the right to discipline, suspend, or expel a student who is guilty of excessive misconduct whether occurring on or off campus, school sponsored event or not. If a student exhibits unproductive behavior, he/she will be held accountable.

Tupelo Christian Preparatory School expects each student to maintain Christian standards of courtesy, kindness, morality, and honesty. The school further requires each student to refrain from profanity, indecent language, gambling, cheating, sexual immorality (including any student who professes to be homosexual/bisexual or is a practicing homosexual/bisexual, as well as any student who condones, supports, or otherwise promotes such practices) , stealing, the use of any type of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and pornographic materials, and from participation in occult, unlawful, violent, or destructive acts.

Students are expected to abide by these standards throughout their enrollment at Tupelo Christian Preparatory School. This includes in term and out of term times--at school, home or any other place. Students found to be out of harmony with the Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's ideals of work and life may be asked to withdraw whenever the general welfare of the student body demands it.

It should be understood that this is a joint agreement between the school, the parent, and the student. It should be obvious to the parent that the school will enforce these standards to the best of its ability. It should also be obvious to the school that the parent enforces these standards while the student is associated with Tupelo Christian Preparatory School during the school term and the summer.