

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 8 HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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Mission Statement of Hope Lutheran School

To provide the students and families of Hope Lutheran Christian School with a quality Christian education in a Christ-centered atmosphere by teaching God's Word, sharing His love, serving His people.

We are pleased to provide this Student/Parent Handbook so that you will be familiar with the policies of our school. We do require that you sign and return the bottom half of this cover page to indicate you have read the Handbook and agree to abide by the procedures as stated. If there are items that you do not understand, please be sure to speak to the Principal for clarification. Please return the bottom half of this signature page to the school office within a week of receiving it. Thank you!

I, _____ have read and understand the information contained in this Student/Parent Handbook, and I agree to the conditions set forth in it. I will make every effort to follow these instructions.

Child's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Welcome!

“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:14

Welcome and thank you for choosing Hope Lutheran School!

This handbook outlines many of the policies and procedures followed at Hope and we ask you to carefully read through each of these items. This is to be used as a guide and is not inclusive of all policies and practices. Please keep this handbook for reference throughout your child's years at Hope.

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to speak directly to the principal. Our principal and all of our teachers appreciate parent communication. The staff may be contacted in person or via email, notes, or phone calls. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we strive for excellence.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

The history of our school begins in 1953 when members of Hope Lutheran Church decided they wanted to provide Christian education for their children. A kindergarten was started that year in the church's parsonage located on Dogwood Drive. While members strongly believed that the religious training of their children was their responsibility, they felt that opening their own school would be a strong supplement to that.

God has richly blessed their efforts through the years as the school quickly moved from the parsonage to the church basement, then to the back of the sanctuary, and then in 1960 into a separate four-classroom building adjacent to the church. By that time the school included kindergarten through grade six.

For a brief time as the number of students outgrew the available space, we utilized rooms at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Croydon and then at Emilie United Methodist Church in Levittown. Subsequently all classes were reunited in our current building in 1978.

In 2001 the congregation embarked on a building campaign which provided for a virtual doubling of the physical plant with the addition of a primary wing, an activity center, meeting rooms and a commercial grade kitchen. The enlargement of our facility has enabled us to expand our educational offerings, so that now we are able to meet the needs of children from ages six weeks to grade eight.

THE PURPOSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

The purpose of our school, which is an integral part of the ministry of Hope Lutheran Church, is to provide, in partnership with parents, a Christian education for children. It is our goal to offer a comprehensive program of education so that the children in our care will:

- Be nurtured in the Word and Will of God in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions.
- Learn, by faith, to know and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- Recognize themselves as persons of worth, made by God in His image.
- Understand and appreciate their talents as gifts from God.
- Grow in their relationship to Jesus and in their service to Him.
- Develop their talents and skills for responsible Christian living.
- Experience, by God's Grace, a full Christian life on earth and be assured of eternal life.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

We endeavor to emphasize Christian truth and behavior in all aspects of school life. We believe and teach that:

- Belief in Jesus Christ as personal Savior is the one and only way to salvation.
- A child is a spiritual being as well as a physical and social being.
- The Bible gives us direction and purpose in our every act of living.
- God is never divorced from our everyday lives, but is the Ruler of that life.
- The Bible has a primary place in our curriculum and all subjects must be taught in the light of God's Word.
- All students should be challenged to use their God-given abilities as they strive for academic excellence.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Hope Lutheran School is a ministry of Hope Lutheran Church. As such, it is under the authority of its preschool director, the principal, the pastor, the Board of Christian Day School, and Church Council.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Hope Lutheran School does not discriminate against qualified individuals on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, or ethnic/national origin. This policy of non-discrimination is exercised at all times during the hiring of faculty, admission of students, and all school administered programs.

ABSENCES

Since many subjects taught are cumulative in nature, regular attendance is extremely important. Irregular attendance is costly and interferes with a student's academic progress because the student has missed class instruction and the opportunity to learn.

When a child is going to be **absent** from school, parents are required to inform the school of that fact between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. This must be done **each day** that a student is absent. When returning to school following an absence, parents are required by **State Law** to submit a note stating the reason for the student's absence. If a student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, a doctor's note is required.

Parents wishing to pick up an ill child's homework must give the teacher adequate notice. We will be happy to make arrangements so the work may be picked up after school, or it can be sent home with a sibling or another student who lives nearby. We request that parents do not ask teachers for homework assignments at the beginning of the day since they use that time to welcome students and make preparations for teaching.

State regulations require us to schedule a school attendance improvement conference when students are absent for more than three days, if parents have not notified the school of the reason for the absence. Hope Lutheran will notify Youth Services when a student has been absent fifteen days.

Please refer to the "Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day" section on page 22 of this handbook for more information regarding this national program.

ACCIDENTS

Minor injuries or illnesses (scraped knees, etc.) are dealt with by the teacher, recess aide, preschool director, or principal. The school staff is required to give immediate *emergency* care only. **The school is not equipped to care for ill or injured children for any length of time.** Parents will be notified if their child is sick or has been seriously injured.

The school has access to a school nurse for questions, when needed, and takes advantage of local emergency services when appropriate.

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

To enroll in Kindergarten or Grade One, the student must have reached the age of five or six, respectively, on or before September 1. Special permission may be granted by the Principal to allow a child to enroll if his/her birthday is after September 1.

ALUMNI VISITATION

We are proud of our alumni and all they have accomplished. Occasionally alumni enjoy returning here to visit and it's always a joy to see them. However, we do request that former students who wish to visit first call the school to make such arrangements. Upon arrival we ask that, like all visitors, they sign in at the office to receive a visitor badge to be worn while in the building.

APPOINTMENTS FOR STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Parents must notify the classroom teacher in advance if a student will be leaving school early or for an appointment during school hours. Whenever possible this should be done by means of a note. The note should state the reason, date, and time of the dismissal. When picking up children for appointments, parents should remember that they must come to the school office and sign for the child's release.

ASSIGNMENT BOOK POLICY

Students in grades 2 through 8 receive a student assignment book. When used properly, these books help students and parents keep track of daily homework assignments in each class.

ATTENDANCE

To receive perfect attendance for a marking period, a student must be present every school day from 9:00 - 3:25.

Students arriving after 9:00 a.m., will be marked "Late to school." **Students must walk to their classrooms independently.**

Students leaving before 3:25 p.m., will be marked "Early dismissal."

Students not in school from 9:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m. , will be marked "Absent."

Students who arrive late to school or who are picked up early, must be signed out from the office by a parent or guardian.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Hope offers before-school care from 6:45-8:45 a.m. and after-school care from 3:30-6:00 p.m. The program is available for all Hope students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Students enrolled in the K-8 Before/After Care Program may arrive at Hope beginning at 6:45 a.m. Parents must walk their children to the designated area and sign them in. The children in the extended care area will be escorted to their classrooms at 8:45 a.m. by a supervising adult.

For further information regarding Before/After Care, including fees, please inquire at the school office.

BULLYING/HARASSMENT

Hope Lutheran School is committed to maintaining an environment that is free from harassment, violence and bullying (including cyber-bullying), and where all employees and students can work and study together comfortably and productively. This environment includes the actual school building, school grounds, school vehicles, bus stops, or any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school. **Please refer to Student Behavior and Discipline on page 21.**

The term "harassment" includes but is not limited to repeated, unwelcome and offensive slurs, jokes or other verbal, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, age, or handicap/disability which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment as well as retaliation for having reported the harassment or discrimination.

Hope recognizes that sexual harassment can originate from a person of either sex or against a person of the same or opposite sex and from classmates as well as adults. Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcomed sexual advances, and request for sexual favors and other inappropriate verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature. This includes unwelcome touching when made by any member of the school staff to a student, when made by any member of the school staff to another staff member, or when made by any student to another student or a staff member.

What Is Bullying? "Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting, verbal harassment, spreading false rumors, not letting someone be part of the group, and sending nasty messages on a cell phone or over the Internet." Source Hazelden Foundation

Bullying includes the intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent, or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following: substantially interfering with a student's education; creating a threatening environment; and any disrupting of the orderly operation of the school.

What Is Not Considered Bullying? The normal "rough and tumble" play of children is not bullying if no harm is intended. Similarly, mutual joking with one another is not bullying, if all participants are aware of the fun, take it lightheartedly or laugh about it together, have an equal opportunity to engage in it, and part as friends at the end of it.

When a student believes he/she is being harassed or bullied by another student, the individual being harassed or bullied should tell the person doing the harassing or bullying to stop. If the behavior does not stop, the student should inform his/her parents and a teacher.

BUSING – A.M. & P.M.

A.M. - It is recommended that students arrive at their bus stops about 5-10 minutes early, just in case the bus is running ahead of schedule. Because we desire to be good witnesses of our Christianity, and we want our students to be as safe as possible while waiting for the bus, Hope students should wait for their buses in an orderly fashion, without running around, pushing, shouting, or littering the area.

Students arriving by bus to Hope before 8:45 A.M. will not be dismissed from that bus until 8:45 a.m., at which time an adult from Hope will escort them off the bus.

P.M. – Students leaving by bus will be escorted to the bus by an adult from Hope. Parents will receive a courtesy phone call from Hope if their child's afternoon bus leaves Hope after 3:50 p.m.

BUSING GUIDELINES

Most of the public school districts in which our students live provide school bus transportation. Busing is available through the following school districts: Bristol Township, Pennsbury, Neshaminy, Bensalem, and Council Rock. Each district creates its own schedule, routes, and stops. The district transportation directors are sensitive to student safety and needs, but they do not provide door-to-door service. Hope Christian School has no control over these details of bus transportation.

Bus transportation is a **privilege**, not a right. Besides being a poor witness to others on the bus, improper behavior is dangerous. The following rules must be adhered to:

- Be courteous, respectful, and speak quietly.
- Remain seated while your bus is in motion.
- Eating, drinking, throwing of objects, and foul language are not permitted.
- Keep all parts of your body, and all objects, in the bus.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.

Any student not following these rules will be disciplined and may have his/her bus privileges suspended. Serious and/or chronic offenders will **not** be permitted to ride the bus. The bus driver has primary responsibility for reporting violations. Students may also report problems to the classroom teacher. If the problem is not resolved, either the student or the parents should bring the situation to the principal's attention.

According to the policies of our local school districts, students may only ride the buses operated by the district in which they live. A student cannot ride a friend's bus home unless he or she lives in the same school district. If a student desires to go home with another student living in the same school district but on a different bus route, a note written, dated, and signed by the student's parent must accompany the student to school, and be presented to the student's teacher and the principal for their signatures.

CERTIFICATES

Certificates for Distinguished Honor Roll and Meritorious Honor Roll will be awarded for grades 5-8 at the conclusion of chapel after each marking period ends.

Church & Sunday School Perfect Attendance and School Perfect Attendance will be rewarded for grades K-8.

Perfect School Attendance certificates will be awarded to students who are present from 9:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m. each day of the quarter (9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. on early dismissal days).

CHAPEL SERVICES

Chapel services are held once a week. Our teachers, principal, pastor and guest speakers lead these services. Sometimes entire classes offer plays or skits as well. Parents and family members are always invited to attend these worship services. Offerings are taken during the chapel service and are used to support a variety of ministries at home and abroad.

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Hope encourages each child to regularly attend Sunday School and church with his or her family, whether this be at Hope Lutheran Church or church of Christian faith. Other religious instruction held during the week can also count as church and Sunday school attendance.

CLASS PARENTS

Class Parents are appointed for each class. They assist the teacher, upon request, in every way possible such as planning and executing class parties and field trips, helping to set up the spring art fair, and helping with the end-of-the-year picnic, etc. The class parents are expected to help with PTL functions when needed. **All appointed class parents are required to have a background check.**

All class parents must supply copies of the following current, satisfactory background checks and clearances:

- Pennsylvania Access to Criminal History (<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>)
- Federal Criminal History Background Check (CHRI) (https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pde.htm)
- PA Child Abuse Background Check (www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home).

A Disclosure Statement Application for Volunteers (for volunteers who have been continual residents of PA for at least the last 10 years) may be signed and notarized in lieu of the Federal Criminal History Background Check if appropriate. (http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_160267.pdf)

CLASSROOM PARTIES

School-wide classroom parties are held at Halloween, Christmas, and Easter.

For Halloween, classrooms may be decorated with pumpkins, scarecrows, and other typical harvest decorations. Decorations with witches, skeletons, and hideous creatures are not permitted. Student costumes should focus on storybook characters, Bible characters, and animals. Demonic, gory, scary, bloody, and risqué costumes are not permitted. Costumes that portray witches or include weapons are not allowed.

Christmas gifting practice is determined by the classroom teacher.

Students are permitted to bring birthday treats (cupcakes, etc.) in for their class when the child's teacher has been notified in advance. In fairness to all the students in a class, **students may not hand out birthday party invitations at school if each member of the class is not going to receive an invitation.** In the case of all-girl/all-boy parties, all the girls or all the boys in the class must receive an invitation if the invitations are distributed in the classroom.

COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students in grades Kindergarten-8 are permitted to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities as they are offered throughout the year. All students must be in good academic and behavioral standing to participate. **All activities are not offered to all grade levels.** All of the after-school activities may include a fee to be paid at the beginning of each activity/sport. Some of the activities may include: Drama Club, Reading Olympics, and sports.

COMMUNICATION FROM HOPE

Monthly calendars and weekly emails are sent home as reminders of important upcoming dates, such as days off or events. Please check our website regularly for information from your child's teacher(s).

Weekly packets will be sent home on Thursdays with ALL information for the week. This packet will include your child's school work, test grades, classroom newsletters, etc. Parents are asked to check all information sent home in the weekly packet, empty the packet, sign the outside, and send it back to your child's teacher on Friday. **Students who lose their packet will be required to buy another Thursday packet from the office for a fee of \$5.00.**

DRESS CODE

Students attending Hope are expected to live and conduct themselves in a manner pleasing to God. Our words, actions, and appearance all send a message about who we are. Our dress code is used as a teaching opportunity to guide the students as to what's appropriate in a school setting.

The following guidelines have been established:

- I. **Clothing** should be neat, clean, and in good repair without **being frayed, torn, or tight-fitting.**
 - a. Clothing with Hope logos and positive Christian messages are encouraged. Shirts with skeletons, skulls, advertisements for drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are not permitted. Clothing may not depict or allude to concepts that run counter to the Christian values espoused by Hope Christian School.
 - b. All shirts and tops must be long enough to be tucked into slacks or skirts. Tank tops, muscle shirts, bare midriff tops, halter tops, tube tops, or tops with spaghetti straps are not permitted. **Straps need to be 3 inches in width.**
 - c. Shirts that are too large, too tight, too see-through, or too revealing are not permitted.
 - d. Mid-thigh (or longer) shorts are the only shorts to be worn. Shorts and skirts are measured at fingertip length *with shoulders relaxed*. Short-shorts, short mini-skirts, and sport shorts with indented or slit sides are not acceptable. Girls are encouraged to wear shorts under skirts to make playing outside on the playground more comfortable.
 - e. Leggings are permitted ONLY when worn with shirts that are long enough to fully cover the buttocks.

- f. Hats and hoods are not to be worn in the building.
 - g. Pants are to be worn at the waist. Pants that are too tight, too revealing, or have writing across the buttocks are not acceptable.
 - h. Clothes must be worn so that undergarments are not visible.
 - i. Sneakers are suggested for school and required for gym class. All shoes must be safe and **secure on feet** and not mark the floors. Flip-flops, clogs, sandals, slippers, shoes without back straps, or water shoes/Aqua-socks, Heelys™, and Crocs™ are not permitted.
 - j. Students should not wear chains that hang from their pockets, belt or waistband.
- II. **Hair** should be kept neat and clean. **Hairstyles that distract students during their classwork are discouraged**, (Example – long bangs that require constant touching to keep them out of a student’s face.)
Extreme hairstyles are prohibited.
The administration will determine the definition of extreme.
- III. **Writing or visible temporary/permanent tattoos** on skin are not allowed.
- a. Light **make-up** may be worn in moderation by girls in **grades 7 and 8**. Excessive piercing is not acceptable. Large, distracting earrings are not appropriate at school.
 - b. Appropriate **winter attire** is required. Students must be dressed properly for the prevailing weather conditions. As weather conditions (wind, temperature, etc.) dictate, students going outside for recess must wear hat or head covering, gloves or mittens and a suitable coat/jacket. Inappropriately dressed students will not be allowed to go outside for recess.
 - c. **Hats and hoods** are not to be worn in the building.

If necessary, a call will be made to have the parent bring a change of clothing to school. Students will receive an “inappropriate dress” notice with a copy of the dress code section highlighted to have their parents sign and return to school the next day.

The principal reserves the right to determine appropriate dress based on these guidelines.

After 3 “Inappropriate Dress” notices, the student will receive an after-school detention.

DROP-OFF

Prior to 8:45 a.m.

Except for those enrolled in the Extended Care program, students are **not** to arrive to school unattended prior to 8:45 a.m. Since teachers are in faculty devotions until that time, the only supervision available is in Extended Care.

Students of any age **may not be left in the lobby unattended** before 8:45 a.m. Any child dropped off and unsupervised will be sent to the Extended Care Program and a fee will be charged.

Students arriving before 8:45 A.M. by school bus will not be dismissed from that bus until 8:45 a.m.

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. sharp

Parents may drop their children off using the **entrance closest to Farmbrook**. Pull your car up to the curbside area for drop-off. Please **have your child exit your vehicle on the side closest to the curb**. Children must **not** be crossing between vehicles. Children will be directed to follow the sidewalk taking them to the red doors by the preschool playground where they may enter the school and walk directly to their classrooms.

9:01 a.m. – Please see TARDINESS on page 23.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Hope conducts ten emergency drills during the school year to help our students respond in a disciplined and orderly manner in case of emergency. All students will receive instruction in how to exit the building safely in such situations.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SITUATIONS

In emergencies, a school nurse from Bristol Township School District is available for questions. You are required to complete an emergency card for each of your children so that you or the people you have identified as emergency contacts can be reached if your child is ill or injured. ***It is your responsibility to keep the school informed immediately of any changes in your phone number or address and the emergency phone number.*** This information must be on file for each student attending school.

END-OF-DAY DISMISSAL POLICY

- I. Bus Students
 - a. Students are dismissed from the gym to board buses at 3:25 p.m.
 - b. Students who usually ride a bus will be expected to ride the bus home unless the student brings in a written, signed, and dated note from his/her parent stating that he/she will not ride the bus that day and telling what procedure is to be followed, or the parent calls the school office before 3:15 p.m. and makes the necessary arrangements.
- II. Parent Pick Up
 - a. Students are not permitted to go to the parking lot to wait for their rides. Students who are being picked up after school must be met at the parent pickup line in the gym at 3:25 p.m.
 - b. Parents must wait in the lobby until 3:25 p.m. when the doors will be opened for parents to sign out their children in the gym.
 - c. Students who are not picked up after 3:35 p.m. and not registered for the extended care program will be supervised by a school employee. A fee of \$25 may be assessed after the first occurrence.
- III. Walkers
 - a. Students who walk home must be dismissed from the teacher monitoring the parent pickup line.

FIELD TRIPS

Planned trips away from the school building during school hours may be arranged to supplement the academic curriculum.

All field trips must be approved by the principal.

Parents will pay for their own trip costs in addition to the cost for their child.

A permission slip will be sent home for parent signature. This slip must be signed by a parent and returned to the teacher. Students **will not** be allowed to participate in the field trip unless a permission slip has been signed and all costs have been paid.

Students who do not attend the trip will be given an assignment to complete at home. Children who are sick on the day of the trip are exempt from the extra assignment.

For some field trips, students will be transported by school or chartered bus. If a bus is not contracted, parents are responsible for transporting or arranging transportation for the child to attend the field trip.

All accompanying parents must supply copies of the following current, satisfactory background checks and clearances:

- Pennsylvania Access to Criminal History (<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>)
- Federal Criminal History Background Check (CHRI) (https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pde.htm)
- PA Child Abuse Background Check (www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home).

A Disclosure Statement Application for Volunteers (for volunteers who have been continual residents of PA for at least the last 10 years) may be signed and notarized in lieu of the Federal Criminal History Background Check if appropriate. (http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_160267.pdf)

FUNDRAISERS

A variety of fundraisers are held each year. Proceeds from these activities are used to finance projects that go beyond what is possible with tuition fees alone. For example, through the years various fundraisers have helped pay for our playground equipment, soccer goals, computer equipment in both the classrooms and lab, Accelerated Reader materials, numerous pieces of teaching equipment, and contributed monies to both the Student Council's fund and the PTL's financial aid fund.

Participation in fundraisers at our school is voluntary. They are not another form of tuition, and you are not required to participate or given a "quota" to meet. However, knowing that we have kept tuition as low as possible, it is our hope that you will support our efforts when our fundraiser meets a need you are experiencing. One way to support these efforts might be to simply make a donation even if you do not want/need the product being sold.

GRADING

Student achievement in **Kindergarten** is reported according to the following scale:

+ Outstanding	√ Proficient	- Needs Improvement
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Student achievement in **Grades 1-8** is reported according to the following scales:

ACADEMIC				EFFORT
99-100% = A+	90-91% = B+	81-82% = C+	72-73% = D+	O = Outstanding
94-98% = A	85-89% = B	76-80% = C	67-71% = D	S+ = Above Average
92-93% = A-	83-84% = B-	74-75% = C-	65-66% = D-	S = Satisfactory
			0-64% = F	S- = Below Average
				U = Unsatisfactory

If a 5th-8th grade student fails a major subject for the year, promotion to the next grade is conditional on completion of an assigned summer work program. If a student has failing grades in two or more subjects for the year, the child is not promoted to the next grade level or eligible for graduation.

HEAD INJURY / CONCUSSION POLICY

If a student hits his/her head, the parent will be called IMMEDIATELY by the teacher who is in charge at the time of the incident and an incident report will be filled out before the parent picks the child up from school.

HOMEWORK POLICY

The children are given the opportunity to complete many of their assignments in class. However, incomplete work must be completed at home prior to the next school session.

The parents' role in their children's homework should be to provide a place for study, a definite time for study, elimination of disturbing factors, and a regular check to see that assignments are actually being completed. Here are several suggestions for helping your children experience success in completing their homework:

- Examine the work your child is going to turn in the next day. Check that it is neat and clean.
- Check that it has no misspelled words.
- Question what is not clear to you and have your child explain it to you until you are sure he/she understands it.
- Listen to your child's memory work each day. Discuss its meaning.
- Check your child's assignment book to see that all assignments have been completed.
- **Do NOT do the work for your child.** If your child doesn't understand the work, you may try to reteach it. If you do not feel capable of teaching the material, or if you reach your frustration level, write a note to the teacher briefly explaining the situation. The child should deliver the note as soon as he/she arrives in the classroom.

- If, due to an emergency situation, your child was not able to complete the homework that was assigned, write a note to the teacher and have your child deliver the note as soon as he/she arrives in the classroom.
- Encourage your child. Support them in their efforts. Recognize the work they are doing and do not belittle them for not understanding everything the first time.

HONOR ROLL

Hope Lutheran School uses students' report card grades to evaluate eligibility for the *Distinguished* and *Meritorious Honor Rolls* for our students in Grades 5-8. Our Honor Rolls are maintained for several reasons:

- To help motivate individual students to excellence.
- To recognize our students' consistent efforts.
- To reinforce the importance and value of the education our students receive.
- To maintain balance as we recognize academics and other activities (sports, Accelerated Reader, perfect attendance, drama club, etc.)
- To help prepare our students for their transition to their next school.
- To direct our students toward higher achievement (i.e. Presidential Award for Educational Excellence).

The criteria for earning Honor Roll status are as follows:

Distinguished Honor Roll

- Overall average of 4.0 (A) in all major subjects
- At least an "S" in all other subjects

Meritorious Honor Roll

- Overall average of 3.5-3.99 in all major subjects
- No grade less than a "B" or 83%
- At least an "S" in all other subjects

For purposes of the Honor Roll, major subjects are considered to be religion, math, reading, spelling, vocabulary, social studies, science and English. Other subjects include: physical education, handwriting, art, computer, music, and any other subject not listed as a major subject. In calculating eligibility for the honor rolls, all "A" grades for the marking period are valued at 4-points, all "B" grades are valued at 3-points, etc.

HOURS OF SCHOOL DAY

Kindergarten through Grade 8

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

ILLNESS

If your child is ill before leaving for school, he/she should remain at home that day. *Too often children are sent home shortly after they arrive at school, but not before they spread a disease to the other children.*

****Keep you child home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:**

- temperature of 100 degrees+ (temperature must be normal for 24 hrs, without taking medication, before returning to school.)
- vomiting or diarrhea
- persistent cough or thick or green nasal discharge
- eyes that are red, runny, or itchy
- earache
- any rash, or the persistent itching of the scalp.
- chickenpox scabs that are still seeping liquid.

Under no condition should a child be sent to school for diagnosis or treatment.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Pennsylvania state law and Bristol Township School District policy require that children have the following immunizations **before they enter school** in Pennsylvania:

- 3 or more doses of Tetanus and Diphtheria
- 3 or more doses of Polio vaccine
- 1 dose of Measles/Rubella/Mumps vaccine after 12 months of age
- A full course of Hepatitis B vaccine
- **Please check this website for any updated information: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt>**

Written proof of the above immunizations is required. If there is any medical reason why your child should not be fully immunized, or if you object for religious or ethical reasons, an exemption can be made. Please see the school secretary for a Certificate of Immunization.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Students in Grade 3 receive weekly recorder instruction. During their class lessons, they learn to read music and the proper fingering of the instrument. The class performs for the school and parents each year. The PTL (Parent Teacher League) covers all costs for all 3rd graders to have recorder instruction.

INTERNET USE POLICY

Students' Responsibility of Care:

Students are prohibited from performing acts that waste computer resources or unfairly monopolize resources. Students are specifically prohibited from sending mass mailings or chain letters, spending excessive amounts of time on the Internet unnecessarily, printing multiple copies of documents not relating directly to educational tasks, or otherwise creating unnecessary traffic. Students may not download any files unless they are needed for educational purposes and are instructed to do so by the teacher.

Monitoring:

Hope Lutheran School has the right and will make diligent effort to monitor any and all aspects of its computer system including, but not limited to, the following: monitoring sites visited by students on the internet, monitoring news groups, reviewing material downloaded or uploaded by users to the Internet, and reviewing e-mail sent and received by users.

Firewall (Barracuda):

A firewall has been installed on all of Hope's computers for the safety of all who use them.

Privacy:

The computers, computer accounts and electronic communications provided for students are for the purpose of assisting and enhancing students' education. Students should have no expectation of privacy in any materials that are created, stored, sent, or received on electronic communications or computer systems. The electronic communications and computer systems belong to Hope and may only be used for activities approved by Hope. Students are not to add passwords or access codes to an application or system. Therefore, students should never consider electronic communications (including, but not limited to e-mail) to be either private or secure.

Hope Lutheran School will make every effort to educate your child on appropriate use of the computer and Internet. The students will receive the following instructions to properly find and utilize the information:

- Only log in using your user name and password.
- Take care of all computer equipment. Treat it with respect.
- Listen to your teacher's directions and do or go where he/she requests when you log in.

- Follow all safety rules that were taught to you. If you happen to get on an objectionable site, immediately tell your teacher and get off the site.
- Do not download anything via a school's computer without permission from your teacher. Be aware of copyright laws and what you may or may not download.
- **If a student is found to be responsible for damage to school hardware, whether intentional or accidental, parents will be responsible to remedy the situation and may be assessed a charge to offset this.**

LOCKERS

All lockers are the property of Hope Lutheran School. Any suspected locker abuse will be cause for an unannounced locker check.

LOST AND FOUND

Any lost items found by students should be turned in to the Lost and Found Bin at Hope. Students should check this Lost and Found when personal property is missing. These lost items will occasionally be put on display before the staff disposes the unclaimed items. ***Property will be more easily returned to students if it is plainly marked and easily identifiable.***

LOST BOOKS AND BROKEN EQUIPMENT

Hope Lutheran School expects students to be good stewards of the books and equipment loaned to them. ***Hard cover textbooks are to be covered at all times.*** If a book is lost, defaced, damaged, or destroyed, parents will be expected to reimburse the school for the cost of the item in question.

LUNCH and HOT LUNCH

Hope recognizes that students require adequate nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn and maintain good health. Students shall be provided with adequate space and time to eat meals during the school day.

The Bristol Township School District is contracted to provide the hot lunch program for our school. Food and supplies are provided by Bristol Township School District. Food served in the lunch program will meet the nutritional standards required by state and federal guidelines.

Hot Lunch is offered five days a week for purchase by the student. Reloadable lunch accounts will be available from Bristol Township. Each student will be issued a student lunch account ID#.

In lieu of purchasing lunch, students may bring lunch from home. Parents should follow these guidelines when packing lunches:

- No candy or soda
- Do not pack more than the child can eat
- Do not pack food that needs to be microwaved or refrigerated

Milk is available at Hope. Please see page 18 for complete information.

Students who are being disciplined for classroom misbehavior may be required to eat their lunch away from classmates. (See Discipline Policy 10-2.)

MEDICATIONS

All medications brought to school without proper authorization will be confiscated. No student will be permitted to give medication (**including cough drops, aspirin, etc.**) to another student.

Ideally, parents should administer medications when the child is at home. There may be times, however, when medication must be administered during school hours. If this is the case, it is highly preferable that a parent of the student involved come to school to administer the medication.

Because we are concerned about each child's well-being, the following rules must be followed in order for the school office staff to give a child required medication:

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS TO BE GIVEN AT SCHOOL

If the school is to administer a prescription medication that has been supplied by a child's parent/legal guardian, these guidelines must be followed:

1. A written order from the physician (forms are available in the office)
2. Parent/legal guardian's signed permission
3. Must come in the original container with the prescription label on it stating the name of the drug and the dose, with the student's full name on the container
4. Time to be given and any other instructions, side effects, etc.

OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) ORAL MEDICATIONS TO BE GIVEN AT SCHOOL

The school will **NOT** have a supply of over the counter medications. If the school is to administer an over the counter medication that has been supplied by a child's parent/legal guardian, these guidelines must be followed:

1. Parent/legal guardian signed permission slip (forms are available in the office)
2. Must come in the original container with student's name written on the container
3. Directions on dose/time must be clearly stated on the permission form along with any other instructions, side effects, etc.
4. Please note that if a medication states "Consult a Physician under ____ Age" and the child is in the stated age range, medication will **not** be given without **WRITTEN** doctor's permission.

TOPICAL MEDICATIONS

If the medication is to be administered topically (for example, eye drops) or by injection or inhalation, the school personnel will only be responsible for storing the medication. They will not administer this medication. The child must be capable of administering this medication to himself/herself. Exception to this would be injection of insulin or use of an Epi Pen.

MEMBERSHIP OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

In order to qualify for the Hope member tuition discount, the following requirements must be met:

- You must go through adult confirmation classes or new member classes.
- You must be rostered as a Hope member for 1 full year after completing classes.
- Your child must regularly attend Sunday school at Hope for a minimum of 1 year.
- Your support/donation to Hope must be given in a way that is recordable.

NEW STUDENT TESTING / PROBATIONARY STATUS

Students entering grades K-8 at Hope Lutheran School for the first time will be required to take a placement test or other examination(s) to help determine proper grade placement. There is a fee charged for this testing. In addition, transfer students must present a satisfactory report card from the last school they attended. These materials will help in determining acceptance/rejection of the application and proper grade placement.

New students are automatically placed on probationary status for 90 days in order to determine if Hope can meet the student's spiritual, intellectual, academic, and emotional needs.

At the end of this period, the student's performance will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made to either:

- 1) remove the student from probationary status,
- 2) extend the probationary period, or
- 3) recommend the student be withdrawn from Hope.

If circumstances warrant, parents may be asked to withdraw their child from the school prior to the end of the probationary period.

NIT FREE POLICY

Hope has in place a “nit free” policy. Once students have been identified as having contracted lice, they are **not** permitted to return to school until they are free from adult lice and nits (eggs) as determined by the principal or preschool director.

OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open for business and phone calls from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office does have special hours for some holidays and for summer months.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Students in Grades 6-8 will have the opportunity for an offsite overnight trip (3 days and 2 nights) to explore such studies as wildlife, ecology, direction finding, outdoor survival and team building challenges. The program will be conducted at an accredited camping facility in the area.

A permission slip will be sent home for parent signature and must be returned to the teacher. Students will not be permitted to participate unless a permission slip has been signed and all costs have been paid.

Parent volunteers, who will act as chaperones, are a vital part of the program and their participation is necessary for this program to occur. Class numbers may influence the number of parents permitted, and these will be allowed at the principal’s discretion. Two adults of the same gender are required in each cabin. Chaperoning parents must pay for their own trip costs in addition to the cost for their child.

All accompanying parents must supply copies of the following current, satisfactory background checks and clearances:

- Pennsylvania Access to Criminal History (<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>)
- Federal Criminal History Background Check (CHRI) (https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pde.htm)
- PA Child Abuse Background Check (www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home).

A Disclosure Statement Application for Volunteers (for volunteers who have been continual residents of PA for at least the last 10 years) may be signed and notarized in lieu of the Federal Criminal History Background Check if appropriate. (http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_160267.pdf)

In addition, those adults driving students must submit a copy of the declaration page of their car insurance policy and a copy of their driver’s license one week prior to the trip.”

Students who do not participate in the outdoor education experience will have assignments prepared by the teacher that must be completed at home.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences with the teacher are scheduled for all students following the first quarter. Conferences throughout the year, including fourth quarter, will be scheduled as needed.

Your child’s well-being at Hope and his/her academic progress and personal growth are very important to us. Because of this, we are happy to discuss your child’s progress and status with you and make ourselves available to you. It will be necessary for you to make an appointment when you desire a conference. Please do not use social settings, PTL meetings, or other chance meetings to discuss your child’s progress.

PARENT TEACHER LEAGUE (PTL)

PTL meetings are held throughout the school year. Information about each meeting’s topic is sent home with the children and we encourage parents to avail themselves of these opportunities to hear educational topics and to meet with other interested and interesting parents and staff.

PERSONAL ITEMS IN SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to bring personal items from home as they may disrupt the educational environment. Hope Lutheran School is not responsible for lost or broken items.

Students are not permitted to bring the following to school:

- a) Toys
- b) Trading Cards
- c) Skateboards, skates, roller blades, etc.
- d) Expensive jewelry
- e) Technology
- f) Weapons of any type including anything capable of inflicting bodily injury

Cell phones are not permitted for use during school hours. Each morning all cell phones must be handed in to 6th-8th grade homeroom teachers. Parents must exercise discretion in allowing these items to be brought to school. Hope Lutheran School is not responsible for lost or damaged/broken cell phones when students have not followed the set rules. The hall phone is made available to students who need to make emergency phone calls. These calls may be made only with the permission of the teacher, principal or administrative assistant.

The teacher may confiscate toys, games, cell phones, and other items if such items are disruptive to classroom order and/or the instructional process. Confiscated items will be returned at the discretion of the teacher. Repeated offenses may require parents to pick the items up at school at the discretion of administration.

PHYSICAL/DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Pennsylvania School Health Law requires medical and dental examinations for all students upon their entry to school either when coming into Hope Lutheran School in kindergarten or first grade. The state of Pennsylvania mandates additional physical exams for students in 6th grade, and additional dental exams for students in 3rd & 7th grades. Please provide written proof of your provider's exam. The examinations are given at these grades and age levels because they mark important periods of growth and development in a child's life.

Your child's examination may be administered by your family physician using the form supplied by the School District of Bristol Township and available in our office. A report of this examination must be handed in to the school office by September 1.

Additionally, height, weight, vision, and hearing are screened in grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, and 3, and height, weight, and vision are screened each year in grades 4 and above.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism, by definition, is the act of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own (Webster's dictionary). A student who submits work that is found to be plagiarized will redo the assignment with the necessary changes and will receive a 0% for the assignment. In addition the student will receive an after school detention. Hope has zero tolerance for plagiarism.

RECESS

Students who have valid reasons for staying inside during recess (recovering from illness, doctor's orders, etc.) will be permitted to remain quietly in a supervised environment only upon receipt of a written, dated, and signed note from their parent. All other students are expected to go outside with their class for recess. **Students should be prepared with appropriate footwear and outerwear.**

RE-REGISTRATION

The school maintains the right to decline to reregister a student and to determine the placement for returning students. Judgment shall be based on academic progress and social conduct. Hope also reserves the right to delay and/or prohibit reregistration if tuition and fees are owed at the end of the year until such time as the tuition and fees are paid in full.

At any given time during the school year, it may become necessary to assign probationary status to students with questionable academic progress and/or social conduct. Students who fail to comply with the terms of their probation will **not** be invited to return.

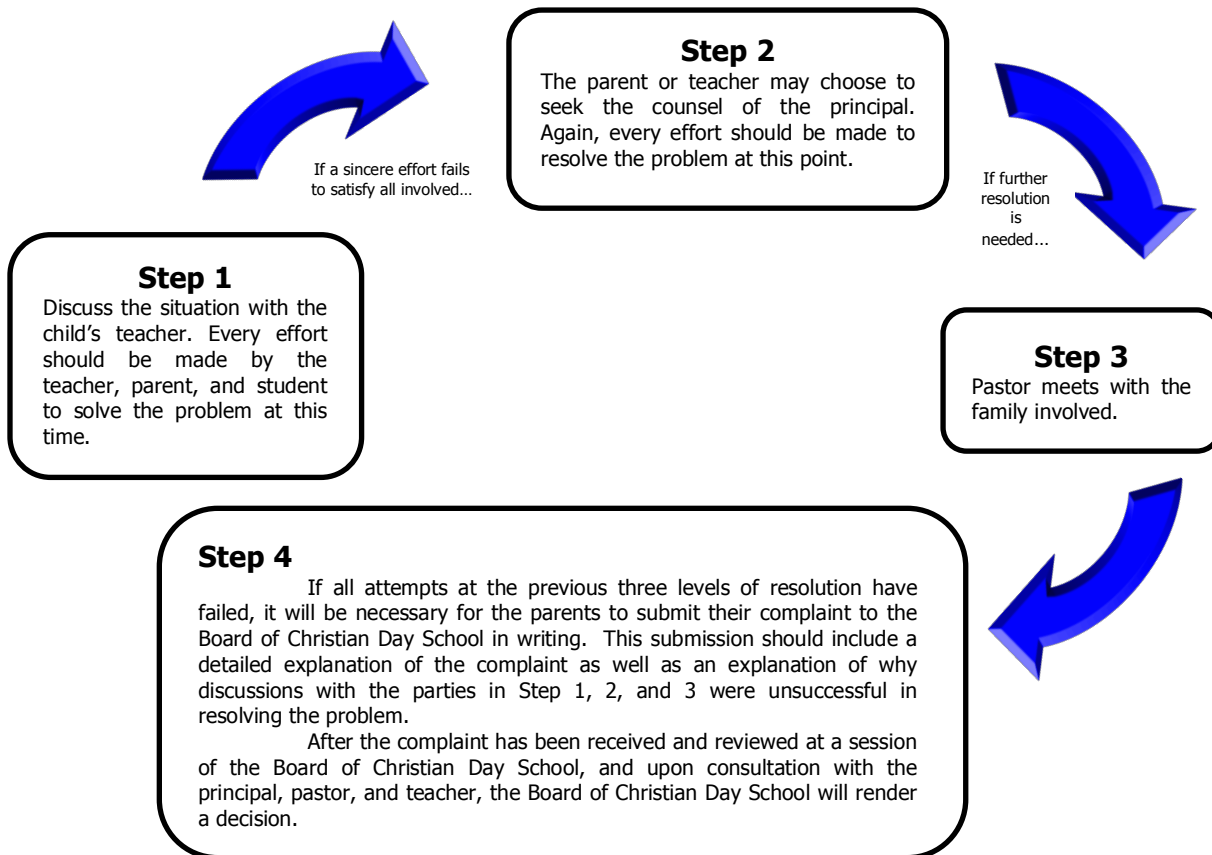
Parents must comply with the announced deadline for advanced reregistration for all students currently enrolled in the school, Kindergarten through Grade 8, to qualify for the discounted registration fee. Students will not be permitted to reenroll in Hope Lutheran School until all previous fees have been paid in full.

RESOLVING PARENTAL/STUDENT DIFFERENCES WITH TEACHERS

If a situation arises in which a student or parent disagrees with a teacher's actions or behavior, the following procedure is to be followed in accordance with God's directive found in Matthew 18:15-17:

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Therefore, these are the steps to be taken: Circle of Concern



SERIOUS DISEASES

Hope Lutheran School requires the parent/guardian to notify a member of the administration of any known or suspected communicable disease.

SNACKS

Kindergarten parents will be asked monthly to send in a snack for the class to share during their daily group snack.

Students in grades 1-8 may bring one healthy snack (no candy) daily for their own consumption.

SPECIAL SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Information regarding school closings due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions is available from the following sources: office, radio, television, email and Facebook.

Closings/delays will be emailed to parents.

Closings/delays will be posted on Hope's Facebook page – Hope Lutheran Church and Christian School.

Closings/delays will be announced on KYW (1060 AM—school ID #769) www.kyw1060.com

Closings/delays will be broadcast on Channel 3 (CBS 3) www.kyw.com. "Hope Lutheran School" or "Hope Christian School" will scroll across the bottom of the television screen. The schools are usually listed alphabetically under the name of the county where the school resides. Hope is in Bucks County.

Call the school office @ 215-946-3467. A recorded message will tell you whether the school is delayed or closed.

If you do not hear of or see a listing for Hope, then we are operating on a normal schedule. You may also visit the school website to check for an inclement weather announcement.

Hope Lutheran School follows Bristol Township's decisions. In school closing/delayed opening situations, Bristol Township's actions are normally announced before Hope's. As a result, decisions announced under Bristol Township's name are usually indicative of what Hope will be doing.

Our general procedure in inclement weather is that:

- If Bristol Township public schools are closed or have a delayed opening, so will Hope.
- If Bristol Township has school, so will Hope.
- Extended Care WILL operate if our opening is delayed. It WILL NOT operate if we have no school or if we close early.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Students needing help in reading, math, and basic psychological services receive such assistance through a state-funded organization called Catapult. Catapult is the company that the Intermediate Unit (IU) uses to provide Hope with certain services such as a remedial support teacher, counselor, and psychologist. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers these programs to Hope's students through the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22. Speech and Language services are also provided to Hope by the Intermediate Unit.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Hope Lutheran School strives to maintain firm discipline standards. The goal of our school is to develop self-discipline in all students, the kind of discipline that teaches a child to know right from wrong and inherently make the decision to do what is right. Because we

are concerned about the overall well-being, education, and safety of the class and the school, teachers have a right and an obligation to correct student behavior when necessary.

Each teacher will use his or her own system of classroom management. Once the student is sent to the principal's office for disciplinary action, the following hierarchy of consequences will take place.

1. The **FIRST TIME** a student is sent to the principal's office: conference with the student, and call to parents and/or send discipline report sent home.
2. The **SECOND TIME** a child is sent to the principal's office: All of step 1 and applicable consequences which may include eating lunch away from classmates, loss of recess, notes of apology written, and finishing schoolwork in the principal's office.
3. The **THIRD TIME** a child is sent to the principal's office: All of step 1 and applicable consequences may include **after-school detention from 3:30-4:15 p.m.**
4. The **FOURTH TIME** a child is sent to the principal's office: All of step 1 and applicable consequences may include **out-of-school suspension.**
5. ***SEVERE CASES**, such as students engaged in physical contact, will be automatically sent to the principal's office and have after-school detention or out-of-school suspension for 1-3 days. Parents will be notified immediately about their child's behavior. In severe cases, the student may be subject to expulsion from the school pending the approval of the principal and the Board of Christian Day School.

Rules/Infractions

- Inappropriate behavior toward staff members
- Fighting/Aggressive Act
- Inappropriate language
- Insubordination to staff member/refusal to comply to reasonable request
- Incessant teasing, taunting, bullying, or threatening words or actions
- Leaving School grounds
- Alcohol, tobacco (including smokeless)
- Illegal drugs brought to school
- Firearms and other weapons

Consequences

- See #2 above
- See #5 above
- See #1 above
- See #1 above
- See #1 above
- See #5 above
- See #5 above
- Zero Tolerance
- Zero Tolerance

If in-school suspension is given, it will consist of having the child doing his or her work away from peers. The child will be monitored during the in-school suspension and will not be permitted to participate in lunch or recess with his or her classmates.

If a child stays home on his/her suspension day, the suspension will be served on the day the child returns to school. **Parents will be required to pay for the substitute hired to supervise the student during in-school suspension.**

STUDENT REFERRAL INCENTIVE

Our best form of advertising and public relations is through our school families. Since parents are our best advertising resource, we extend to currently enrolled school families a **\$500 tuition credit** for each student who enrolls upon your referral of Hope.

Conditions applicable to this incentive are as follows:

1. The new family must be enrolled at least throughout one full semester for the referring family to receive tuition credit.
2. It is the responsibility of the new family to declare in writing upon applying who referred them to Hope. This information must be included on the new student's application form and cannot be altered after it has been submitted.
3. Faculty and staff are included in the above incentive.

TAKE OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day is a national initiative intending to give young people a unique opportunity to explore career options and connect with potential mentors. Companies that host these experiences will provide official certificates for students to submit to their teachers. Students who participate in this program are required to turn in a copy of this certificate or a letter on company letterhead the following school day in order to be given credit for participating. Please inform your teacher in advance of the expected absence.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Teachers and pupils cannot be called to the telephone between 8:55 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Parents may leave a voice mail for their child's teacher, which will be returned when the teacher has sufficient time available.

If a reason arises for contact with the parents (forgotten lunch, ripped pants, etc.), the office staff will contact the parent.

VACATION SCHEDULING

Optimally, vacations should be taken during the summer months while school is not in session. If a family **must** take a vacation during the school year, the parents are requested to:

- Request a Holiday/Leave of Absence form.
- Submit this form to the teacher(s) and principal at least two weeks in advance of the trip.
- Make arrangements, before the trip, with the child's teacher(s) to do the necessary homework before, during, or after the vacation trip.
- Understand that if the child returns and is missing work and/or has fallen behind, extra homework and/or recess work will be given until the child is caught up. For each school day a student is away, an extra day will be given to make up homework upon return from being absent.
- Parents should avoid vacations during achievement test time.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

For the safety of the students and the school staff, all visitors must report to the school office where they will be provided with a visitor or professional badge which they are requested to wear. **Visitors may also be asked to provide picture ID.** Visitors touring the facility will be accompanied by office personnel or a staff member. No visitors will be permitted to confer with a student without the approval of the principal or preschool director.

VOLUNTEER

Hope Lutheran School is a mission of Hope Lutheran Church, started as an outreach to the community in 1953. It is our belief that, from the beginning, each of us is called to use our God-given talents to participate in the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ. As Leo Buscaglia said, "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."

We require that each family unit participates in at least 5 hours in volunteer activities during the school year.

Servant Ministry Opportunities Include:

- Assist with Monthly Scheduled Work Days
- Installation of school or church equipment
- Participation of Church Boards (must attend 75% of scheduled meetings)
- Coaching of School Sports (must have all clearances on file)
- Art/Set Ministry – Design and create the sets and artwork around the church including seasonal decorations. This ministry includes painters, carpenters as well as artists.
- Set up/Clean up of church events
- Nursery – Sundays 8am-11:30am
- Sunday School Teacher - Sunday 9am-10:30am
- Scholastic Book Week
- Christmas Shop Week
- Fall Carnival
- School Picnic
- Lunch aide and weekly lunch program – set hours
- Recess aide
- Assist with Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Lawn and Garden Maintenance