



**DEERSTREAM LEARNING CENTER  
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2025-26**



## CALENDAR 2025-26

Date(s)	Day(s)	Event
August 26	Tuesday	Parent Orientation, 7 PM
August 27	Wednesday	Elementary Open House (9 AM-12 PM, slots assigned)
August 28	Thursday	Junior Division/High School Orientation, 9 AM-12 PM
September 2	Tuesday	Opening Day Morning Classes
September 10	Wednesday	Fall Cafe & Play / afternoon classes begin
Oct 14-16	Tues-Thurs	Fall Break, no classes (classes held on Monday as usual)
November 24	Monday	No afternoon classes (morning classes as scheduled)
Nov 25-27	Tuesday-Thurs	Thanksgiving Break, no classes
Dec 1-4	Mon-Thurs	Last morning and afternoon classes, 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
Dec 8-11	Mon-Thurs	Parent/teacher conferences (online), no classes
Jan 5-8	Mon-Thurs	Morning classes resume (no afternoon classes)
January 19	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no class
Feb 9-12	Mon/Wed/Thurs	Café and Play/ Afternoon Classes begin
Feb 16-19	Mon-Thurs	Winter Break, no classes
Mar 23-26	Mon-Thurs	Teacher Appreciation Week
April 6-9	Mon-Thurs	Spring Break, no classes
Apr 27-30	Mon-Thurs	Art Show
May 6&7	Wed/Thurs	Field Day (Monday and Tuesday students invited to choose a day to participate!)
May 4-7	Mon/Wed/Thurs	Last days for Café and Play/Afternoon Classes
May 11-14	Mon-Thurs	Last morning classes
May 18&20	Mon/Wed	Standardized Testing (optional, with sign up)
May 18-21	Mon-Thurs	Snow make-up days used if 3+ days are canceled due to inclement weather
May 27&28	Wed/Thurs	Standardized Testing make-up days

### INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Deerstream's inclement weather policy follows the procedures of the Chapel Hill Bible Church.*

If the **Chapel Hill-Carrboro City** schools are closed, Deerstream classes will be cancelled. Local radio and television stations will announce the closing of the school system. Deerstream will **not** specifically be mentioned. If the Chapel Hill Public Schools are on a delayed opening schedule, Deerstream will likely hold classes as usual, starting at 9:15. Please use your own discretion about whether it is safe to drive from your location.

An email and parent alert will be sent by 8:00 AM if classes are to be cancelled.



## **WELCOME**

We are delighted that you have chosen to be a part of the Deerstream community. In this handbook you will find information which should answer most questions about the general operations of Deerstream. Please print and read this handbook carefully and keep it on hand for reference throughout the year.

I feel privileged to partner with you and the teachers at Deerstream to provide a wonderfully unique educational opportunity for your children. We pray that Deerstream is a special and helpful part of your child's overall spiritual, social, and educational experience this year. Please feel free to call me if you have questions or if you desire more information. We value your input; mutual understanding and open lines of communication are vital to the successful operation of Deerstream.

Kelly Kirk  
Executive Director, Deerstream Learning Center

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The mission of Deerstream Learning Center is twofold:

- To provide a classroom experience for homeschoolers, taught in a Christian environment by qualified faculty; and
- To offer parents support and encouragement for their own teaching.

## **ADMISSIONS**

Deerstream offers instruction from a Protestant Evangelical Christian perspective. We welcome families of other faiths, or none, who would like to learn with us. It is expected that all participating families respect our doctrinal commitments and express support for the work of Deerstream.

Deerstream is non-denominational. It is operated on the basis of the following doctrinal commitments:

1. That there is one God, externally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has revealed Truth in His Word and in His creation;
2. That Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, took on our humanity and died on the cross to atone for sins and redeem a people for Himself;
3. That since humanity is sinful and lost, the regeneration of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation;
4. That Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave and that all humanity shall also be resurrected at the judgment, some to salvation and some to eternal separation from God;
5. That salvation is by grace alone, in Christ alone, through faith alone and not the result of good works;
6. That good works are the fruit of the true faith;
7. That Jesus Christ is King of all the realms of life and society now and that He will return personally to consummate His kingdom; and
8. That the Bible is the Word of God, the authoritative rule for faith and practice, without error in all that it affirms.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

- Morning Classes: 9:15 AM-12:15 PM
- Café and Play: 12:15 PM -1:00 PM
- Afternoon Enrichments: 1:00 PM- 2:15 PM

Tuesdays: 12:15 PM- 3:15 PM

## LOCATION

Deerstream meets at the Chapel Hill Bible Church, 260 Erwin Road, Chapel Hill. From 9:30 AM until 2:15 PM, the external doors will be locked for security purposes. Text 919-672-4954 if you need to contact or pick up your child.

## OFFICE

**Deerstream has no administrative office at Chapel Hill Bible Church.** The church office will not be able to help you with Deerstream-related questions, and we do not receive mail at the Bible Church. Please contact the Executive Director, Kelly Kirk, if you need assistance.

Kelly can be reached by email at [director@deerstream.org](mailto:director@deerstream.org) and text or phone at 919-672-4954. You can speak with her in person at the Bible Church during class hours. Periodically she will not be available on campus and therefore should be contacted by phone or email.

For business and financial matters, contact our Business Manager, Julie Wright at [businessmanager@deerstream.org](mailto:businessmanager@deerstream.org). Our mailing address is Deerstream Learning Center, P.O. Box 3203, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

## ARRIVAL

Our arrival procedures are designed to provide a safe and efficient arrival process.

### **Arrival: Explorers and Elementary Students**

The line begins along the orange cones at the Deerstream sign with the covered picnic shelter on your right. You may drop off students between **9:05-9:15 AM on Mondays/Wednesdays/Thursdays and 12:05-12:15 PM on Tuesdays**. If you arrive before 9:05 AM/12:05 PM, please wait in your car until a Deerstream adult comes outside to begin the drop off process. **Do not dismiss children from your car until a Deerstream adult receives them.**

The back of your car placard contains a list of health screening questions. You must display this tag at drop-off, and by doing so, you are attesting that your answer to each of those questions is “no.” Please do not bring students to Deerstream if the answer to any of the attestation questions is “yes” unless specified. If your placard is not on display, a Deerstream faculty member will ask you to attest to the health screening questions.

We will do our best to ensure an efficient drop off. We ask you to assist with this by having students collect their belongings in the car while they wait. As soon as your car pulls along a safe spot by the sidewalk, if your placard is on display your child(ren) may exit the car and walk to the building.

### **Arrival: 4 and 5 year olds**

Parents of 4- and 5-year-olds may choose to drop off as above, or parents may park in the spots adjacent to the building, by the sidewalk, and walk their students to the **exterior doors of their classrooms**. Children remain in the care of their parents until they are received into the classroom. Please exercise special care with students in the parking lot. Parents should be prepared to attest to health screening questions upon drop-off.

### **Junior Division and High School Students**

Junior Division and High School students may be dropped off with their younger siblings in the elementary drop-off line. Alternately, their parents may stop along the sidewalk close to the sanctuary. Students may come down the sidewalk and enter the building along with the other students. **Please do not drop students off so that they have to cross traffic to enter the building.** By dropping your student off at Deerstream, you are attesting to the health screening questions, and your students' teachers will confirm this upon their arrival in class.

### **Late Arrivals**

We ask families to do their best to arrive on time; classes begin promptly, and late students can be disruptive to the flow of the class. At the same time, sometimes being late is unavoidable, and students are always welcomed. If you arrive late, the exterior doors will be locked. Please text (919)672-4954 for entry.

### **DISMISSAL**

Dismissal is at the following times on Mondays/Wednesdays/Thursdays:

- Morning Classes: 12:15 PM
- Café and Play: 1:00 PM
- Afternoon Enrichments: 2:15 PM

And Tuesdays:

- 3:15 PM

### **Dismissal: All Explorers and Elementary Students**

Please pull up to the Deerstream sign where you dropped off and have your car tag with your family's name visible for a quick and easy pick-up. Children may enter their car as soon as you are within the coned area or alongside the sidewalk. Deerstream faculty will not be able to have conversations in the pickup line.

**When your child is safely in the car with the door closed, please pull out of the pickup line.** You may pull into a parking space if you need extra time to stow items and help with seat belts.

If your child will be picked up by a friend or family member other than a parent or someone listed in your family portal as an approved pick-up person, you must send a note indicating that plan. We cannot release a child to someone other than a parent or approved person without your permission. We may require identification for those other than parents who are picking up children.

### **12:15 Dismissal: Junior Division and High School Students**

Junior Division and High School students may be picked up with their younger siblings in the elementary pickup line. Please communicate to your child if this is your preference. Alternately, junior division and high school students may be picked up upstairs along the sidewalk adjacent to the front of the building near the church sanctuary. A Deerstream faculty member will be there to supervise pickup, and junior division and high school students are reminded that the use of cell phones is not permitted in the pickup line.

**Please do not text your students during this time; you can text Deerstream at (919)672-4954 if you are running late.**

### **M/W/Th Afternoon Pickup**

All students who are picked up after Café and Play (at 1:00) or after Afternoon Enrichment Classes (at 2:15), including Junior Division and High School students, will be picked up in the coned area by the covered picnic shelter.

### **Tuesday Pickup**

All Tuesday students, including Junior Division and High School students, will be picked up in the coned area by the covered picnic shelter.

### **Late Pickup**

Parents should arrive promptly at their assigned times to pick up their children from classes. **A late fee of \$15.00 will be charged if students are not picked up 10 minutes after class ends.** Our teachers have after school commitments, and it is important to respect their time by arriving promptly. If you are unavoidably detained, please call or text (919)672-4954. Students who are waiting for late parent pickup may be brought inside to wait.

## **DRESS CODE**

Our dress requirements are designed to help homeschoolers recognize that the atmosphere of Deerstream is more formal and structured than a relaxed home-learning situation. We want our students to take their work seriously and to feel a part of the Deerstream community.

The following dress code does not prescribe uniforms or dictate where parents purchase clothes. It does provide a sense of uniformity we deem desirable. Modesty, fit, and comfort are key guidelines.

- **Bottoms:** **Bermuda-length** shorts, long pants, skirts or skorts in *navy, khaki or black*; belted (if called for); no jeans, athletic pants, or sweatpants. **Leggings are not to be worn as pants.**
- **Tops:** collared tops (polo-style, dress shirts, or blouses), turtlenecks or mock turtlenecks in *any solid color*. No undergarments should be visible.
- **Dresses or Jumpers:** solid navy, khaki or black in Bermuda-short length or longer
- **Sweaters:** Pullovers or cardigans in *any solid color* may be worn for extra layers indoors; **sweatshirts/hoodies may not be worn in the building.** Outerwear for outdoors is not prescribed.
- **Shoes:** closed-toed, and suitable for weather; no flip-flops or crocs.

### **Additional Notes:**

- ❖ Hats and caps are not to be worn inside the classroom.
- ❖ Lunch boxes, backpacks and other school gear should be plain, not adorned with pictures, characters, sports teams, or writing. Simple patterns are fine.
- ❖ Girls who wear skirts, dresses, or jumpers should wear bicycle-style shorts or leggings underneath for playground modesty.

## **SUPPLIES**

Parents are asked to provide a pencil box with daily supplies. See the supply list for specific requirements. **Students should bring their pencil boxes to Deerstream each day.** Deerstream will supply materials for projects and science experiments. Older students need textbooks and notebooks as required.

## **BACKPACKS**

Students must bring a backpack to class to make transporting pencil box, snack, lunch and class work easier on the student and teacher. These should be unadorned with slogans or characters. Any color is fine.

## **SNACK, LUNCH, AND WATER**

All students need to bring an individual nutritious snack to eat in class. The snack should include two items such as carrots and an apple or pretzels and cheese. Please avoid sending sugary treat items as individual snacks. **TREE NUT, PEANUT, and SESAME PRODUCTS ARE NOT ALLOWED** for snack or lunch. Please send a labeled water bottle with water only to drink.

## **SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS**

Because of the prevalence and severity of food allergies, we **do not** allow students to bring in edible treats for birthdays or holidays. However, they may choose to bring in a small token, such as stickers, in honor of a special occasion. (*Note: Please do not distribute private party invitations at Deerstream.*)

## **VISITORS**

We allow visitors to Deerstream on a limited basis with pre-approval. Visitors must follow all Deerstream protocol.

## **ILLNESS**

Any student sent to Deerstream must be well enough to participate in our regular program, including outdoor play. We also ask each family to respect the health of other families, some with sensitive medical needs, by avoiding exposing fellow students to known illness. Here is a quick reference guide to help you determine whether your child is healthy enough to attend Deerstream:

If your child has symptoms of a possible contagious infection, including cough, runny nose, sore throat, eye discharge, fever, or diarrhea, (s)he should not attend Deerstream.

- Fever---Children who have had a fever should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine before coming to Deerstream.
- Diarrhea or Vomiting---Students who have had these intestinal symptoms should be free from them for 24 hours without treatment before coming to Deerstream.
- Other---If you know your child has a contagious ailment (pink-eye, for example) (s)he should not attend Deerstream.
- Antibiotics---If your child requires antibiotics, check with your medical provider about the appropriate date for a return to Deerstream.
- Covid-19---Please follow the most current public health guidelines in case of exposure to or diagnosis with Covid-19.

Teachers or other Deerstream agents reserve the right to call a parent and request that his/her child not be in school due to illness. In such cases, that student should be picked up as quickly as possible.

## **MEDICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

If a student becomes ill during the day, parents will be contacted and asked to pick him/her up as soon as possible. Please be sure to include cell phone numbers on the Emergency Form. Students are not permitted to make calls from school.

Any injury occurring at Deerstream will be reported immediately to the parent. At the direction of the parents, Deerstream officials will treat minor injuries, or the parents may take their child for medical attention. If a student is injured or becomes ill and immediate medical attention is necessary, emergency assistance will be requested by calling 911. You will be notified immediately.

**Parents must fill out a Parental Medical Consent Form, which lists emergency phone numbers, in case parents cannot be reached. This form is available on the FACTS portal. The Emergency Form must be completed prior to the start of classes for a student to attend.**

In case of an emergency, call 919-672-4954. Please do not call the Bible Church.

## **MEDICATIONS**

Teachers may not administer any medications to students at Deerstream. With parental permission and written instructions from home, students may take their own medication or a parent may administer the medication.

## **ABSENCES**

It is not mandatory that parents notify teachers if a student is going to be absent, but teachers appreciate a courtesy email. If an absence is planned, please do let the teachers know ahead of time. Parents of Junior Division and High School students must arrange with the teacher to pick-up any papers or assignments given that day. Note there is no reduction in tuition for absences.

## **WITHDRAWALS OR EXTENDED ABSENCES**

Please notify the Executive Director at least two weeks in advance if you are considering withdrawing your child or if you anticipate an extended absence. The ED will coordinate with the teacher to make a smooth transition for all.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Please label jackets, hats, mittens, lunchboxes, lunchbox containers, water bottles, pencil boxes, and all other personal items. Lost and Found items will be available for parents and students to check and will be donated periodically.

## **FINANCIAL POLICY**

Each student's payment schedule is according to one of the three payment plans agreed to in the FACTS Financial sign-up process and Deerstream Enrollment Contract. Payments will be either (1) automatically drafted from the family's account on file on the due date, or (2) invoiced 20 days in advance of the due date. Invoiced payments can be made online, over the telephone with FACTS Customer Care, or via mail to the Deerstream P.O. Box.

If a payment is not received by the fifth day of the month in which payment is due, parents will be assessed a \$20.00 late fee. Returned/rejected payments and bounced checks will also result in additional fees. If mailing in a payment, checks should be sent to Deerstream Learning Center, P.O. Box 3203, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. Please note that due dates and late fees still apply to mailed in payments.

For questions relating to financial matters, please contact Julie Wright at [businessmanager@deerstream.org](mailto:businessmanager@deerstream.org). Please refer to your Deerstream Enrollment Contract for other financial stipulations.



## CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Teachers are expected to hold students to an uncompromising standard of respect, kindness, and attentiveness. In doing so, teachers are to be firm, clear, and loving after establishing clear expectations. Deerstream teachers will endeavor to maintain control with a whispered reminder, a timely touch, a penetrating look, a private talk outside the classroom door, or some other such non-humiliating tactic. School officials will not use corporal punishment.

If a student does not respond to correction, the teacher will make the parents aware of the situation that they might work together for resolution. A student may be sent home if necessary. If problems persist, the Executive Director will offer further direction. Students must be able to function appropriately in a group to participate in Deerstream.

## SPECIAL RULES

- 1) Students are not to bring stuffed animals, “loveys”, games, cards, silly bands, or toys to Deerstream. *No ipods, cell phones, smart watches, or other electronic devices may come to Deerstream.*
- 2) Items for “Show and Tell” should relate directly to classroom studies. Live critters may be brought only with prior notice and permission from the Executive Director.
- 3) Students are to speak quietly and walk, not run, in the hallways.
- 4) On the playground, whether during Deerstream hours or after class, students are not to climb on the fence, the walls, or the tops of playground equipment.
- 5) Students shall not bring any type of weapon (pocket-knife/ knife/dagger, or any type of firearm) to Deerstream. If any type of the above-mentioned weapon is brought to Deerstream, the Executive Director will be notified immediately, and she in turn will contact the parents. A decision will be made about whether the student may continue to participate at Deerstream.
- 6) Please see the technology policy for additional information about the use of technology at Deerstream.

## CURRICULUM

### **Elementary Division**

As a homeschool tutorial, Deerstream does not offer reading or math instruction to elementary students. Such core-academic courses are the domain of the homeschool. Deerstream offers a content-rich “unit-studies” program. This interdisciplinary approach to social studies and science includes related literature, biographies, music, Scripture, spiritual lessons, art activities, fine art, etc. Deerstream also features games and group activities at recess as well as memory work (Scripture, poetry, facts), so appropriate for eager young minds. Instead of textbooks, children will peruse “living books” which will be available on current topics at a variety of reading (and non-reading) levels.

Deerstream does offer an introductory writing class for 9-11 year olds with the goal of building positive experiences with, and developing skills in, composition.

### **Junior Division Prep**

The 11/12 year old science class bridges the gap between the elementary and junior divisions. Called “Junior Division Prep,” the aim is to gently prepare students for the increased rigor of the Junior Division through the thoughtful use of textbooks, assigned homework, and some tests and quizzes while retaining the joy and hands-on nature of the Elementary program. Parents are expected to be active partners with

teachers by helping students stay organized, complete assigned work, and provide supplemental instruction as needed.

### **Junior Division**

Deerstream offers courses in English, science, and math for seventh and eighth graders. Emphasis is on subject content, composition, study skills, and critical thinking, laying a foundation for further study in high school. Students are responsible for some homework and studying each week. Parents are expected to be active partners with teachers by helping students stay organized, complete assigned work, and provide supplemental instruction as needed.

### **High School**

Deerstream offers college preparatory high school courses in English, math, science, and social studies. Class sessions will feature lab, lecture, discussion, and activities to help cement the students' knowledge of the material that they have studied at home throughout the week. Students will receive a course grade based on homework, classwork, quizzes, and tests. Parents are expected to be active partners with teachers by helping students stay organized, complete assigned work, and provide supplemental instruction as needed.

## **HOMEWORK**

Deerstream recognizes that students need time at home to spend on other courses and to be about the business of childhood: playing and spending time with their families. For elementary students, homework will be minimal. The upper level elementary students will have opportunities to research assigned topics and participate in class presentations throughout the year. Junior Division Prep and Junior Division students will have regular homework assignments to carry over learning between classes and to practice good habits of study and responsibility. High School students will have significant course work to complete between class meetings. They will be assessed formally on their content mastery. All students will be held accountable for work assigned.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Deerstream offers several opportunities during the year for parents and teachers to talk together.

- In September, parents are invited to meet the child's teacher(s). Elementary students will have a "Meet the Teacher" event, and Junior Division/High School students will have an orientation.
- Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in December. We encourage parents to take this opportunity to hear about your child's classroom experience.
- Additionally, parents are encouraged to email teachers any time during the year if they have questions or concerns. Please request any after-school meetings with a teacher ahead of time. Out of respect for a teacher's afternoon commitments, we ask that you avoid impromptu after-class conferences.

### **Roster**

In order to facilitate connection and community among families, a roster of Deerstream families, including contact information, is available in your FACTS portal. **Please do not use this roster as a group list to publicize any programs, events, or products.** Please **do** use it to set up get-togethers and field trips with classmates!

## **Communication**

Deerstream will regularly use email to notify parents of class cancellations, Deerstream community events, and other Deerstream-related information. Upcoming dates and activities will be highlighted. Classroom teachers will also use email to notify parents of upcoming units, assignments or class presentation.

Junior Division and High School students will be given homework assignments and other classroom information during class time, posted on class blogs and/or in emails. If students have questions about homework they can email their teacher.

The Deerstream Facebook page (Deerstream Deerstream) and Instagram page (deerstream1998) will regularly feature pictures of Deerstream activities and classes. They are open only to current Deerstream families. Feel free to subscribe to either page.

## **Faculty-Student Communication**

It is against Deerstream policy for employees to interact with students via student cell phones and/or social networking groups (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) due to the accessibility of potentially inappropriate personal information and privacy issues. Instead, employees and students should communicate via parent cell phones or email. With parental permission, students are welcome to email teachers. All emails from teachers to students will "cc" their parents. Teachers will not respond to student requests for "friending." Our goal is to avoid misunderstandings and be above reproach in employee-student relationships.

## **STUDENT PLACEMENT POLICY**

Deerstream pays careful attention to creating classrooms with dynamics that work best for all students. The Executive Director of Deerstream, in consultation with teachers, will determine student placement if there is more than one age-appropriate class available to students. Gender and classroom dynamics will be key considerations in the placement of students.

Although Deerstream does not take parent requests, parent information is welcome if there is something the Executive Director should know before placing a student. Parents should communicate this information to the Executive Director in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment.

## **POLICY FOR ACTION OR SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND PROBLEMS**

Any concern regarding your child or the class should be directed to the teacher. You may make an after school appointment to meet with the teacher or talk with her by phone.

If a mutual resolution is not achieved, or if you are unable to speak directly to the teacher, then bring your concern to the Executive Director, Kelly Kirk.

We ask that complaints not be discussed among parents or in front of students.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or policy concerns you would like the Board to consider, please put these in writing addressed to the Board of Directors. They will be discussed at the earliest appropriate Board meeting.

## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY**

Our desire is to resolve interpersonal conflicts in the Deerstream community according to the principles of Scripture. As such, Deerstream employees and families are asked to follow these guidelines:

- Interact with one another with love and charity and assume good intentions. (Phil 2:1-4)
- Pursue humility and gentleness when wronged. Recognize and repent of our own part in a conflict. (Matthew 7:3-5)

- Maintain confidentiality amid a conflict. Avoid gossip. (Eph 4:29-32)

If a dispute occurs:

1. The family member is expected to initiate personal reconciliation with those with whom conflict occurs. Do not let bad feelings fester. (Matthew 5:23-24)
2. If reconciliation is not brought about by an initial conversation, contact the Executive Director for support. (Matthew 18:15-16)
3. If a conflict is with the Executive Director, please bring frustrations to her, as she is eager to set right any problems within her power to correct.
4. If, after talking with the Executive Director, you feel a need for further discussion, please contact Board Chair Moriah Tuchman (919-323-0413; [m\\_scruggs@yahoo.com](mailto:m_scruggs@yahoo.com)).
5. If, after following the steps above, the dispute remains unresolved, the family member should submit a complaint in writing to the Executive Director and the Board chair.

If the dispute cannot be resolved through good faith negotiations between the parties within 30 days of written notice, it shall be submitted to either mediation or arbitration, whichever is determined to be appropriate by the Deerstream Board. (see Dispute Resolution Clause in your tuition contract.)

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Friends, we are delighted to partner with you in the education of your children. We value your input and are thankful to have you as a part of the community. May Deerstream be a rewarding experience for children, parents, and teachers, all!

*Deerstream Learning Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national or ethnic origin.*



## **Appendix 1: Addenda to Statement of Faith**

### **Addendum on Protestant Perspective**

Deerstream was founded by evangelical Christians and offers an orthodox, protestant perspective in the classrooms. Foundational doctrinal statements are found in the Bylaws of the organization and in the Student Handbook. For the sake of clarity, the following are hallmark protestant, evangelical perspectives which are affirmed in Deerstream classrooms.

- 1) Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man; He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through (Him).”
- 2) Jesus Christ is distinct from all other human beings in that He alone was born with no sin nature and remained sinless while on earth. It is through His sacrificial death that people are saved from their sins and thereby reconciled to God the Father through His atoning blood. Jesus is the “chief cornerstone” of the body of believers, the church, and is the only human-born person who is to be exalted and worshipped in the church.
- 3) Christ’s sacrificial death is sufficient to atone for all sins, and for the purpose of justification before God, there is no distinction among types and degrees of sin.
- 4) Prayers are directed only to the triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
- 5) Those who have professed faith in Christ live in a state of grace; believers do not need special objects or tools to aid in obtaining God’s favor.
- 6) Holy Scripture is comprised solely of the sixty-six books of the Protestant Bible.
- 7) According to the “priesthood of all believers”, both the laity and the clergy have equal access to God.
- 8) In keeping with Biblical terminology, “saints” are all those who confess Christ as Lord and Savior.
- 9) After death, all people either enter into the loving presence of God, having repented and believed in Christ’s atonement for their sins, or they are condemned to be forever outside His presence, themselves suffering the penalty for their sins.

### **Addendum on Origins**

Parents sometimes ask about Deerstream’s position on the teaching about the origins of life and matter. In responding to what can be a controversial and divisive issue among believers, the board is guided by the following adage: *In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, freedom; and in everything charity.*

#### **What is important?**

God created the heavens and the earth (that is, the whole universe) and He created mankind in His image, which distinguishes mankind from the animals since man alone has an eternal spirit and is called into relationship with God. God saw all that He had made and it was very good. These are the essential truths from the first chapter of Genesis upon which Christians agree. On the other hand, Christians hold different views on how God created and how long it took. We believe that salvation depends upon a person’s relationship with God through repentance from sin and the atonement of Christ’s blood and not one’s interpretation of the creation account, and it is not the policy of Deerstream to challenge anyone’s beliefs with regard to their interpretation of the creation account.

#### **Science and Christianity:**

As is stated in Romans 1:20, the creation clearly reflects the attributes of its Creator, His eternal power and divine nature. The tools of science can be used to better our understanding of the working and design of God’s creation and lead to valuable insights

into the nature of God and Scripture. Furthermore, scientific methods and conclusions can be an important part of a Christian apologetic. We echo the observation of Thomas Aquinas that all truth is God's truth. While affirming the integrity and values of the scientific method, we recognize that it is an imperfect process and that science, in and of itself, is inadequate as a means of proving articles of faith.

### **Addendum on Gender and Sexuality**

Deerstream seeks to adhere to and promote what Scripture teaches regarding the identity of human beings as reflected in orthodox Christian doctrine regarding gender, sexuality, and marriage. While we do not require parents or students to agree with what is written here, it is expected both that all teachers can affirm these statements, and that participating families respect our doctrinal commitments and express support for the work of Deerstream.

Deerstream affirms the following commitments:

1. All persons are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26, 27) and are forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:18). As such, all persons are of inestimable worth, dignity, and value to the God who created and loves them.
2. God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct biological sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27).
3. God has ordained marriage as an exclusive union between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:6-9)
4. At Deerstream, we insist on a spirit of respect, compassion, and dignity and the pursuit of wisdom among all members of our community. In all things our tone must be that of the Savior – compassionate, whole-hearted, truth oriented, gracious, merciful, and Spirit filled. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

*If you have questions or desire clarification, contact Kelly Kirk.*



## Appendix 2: Deerstream Technology Policy

Technology is an ever-present component of modern life. It creates wonderful opportunities and solves difficult problems, and it also presents the challenge to utilize it in beneficial ways while avoiding its pitfalls.

At Deerstream, we recognize that, while students and their families have to contend with the questions of technology in most aspects of life, we have a unique opportunity to connect face-to-face in our community, and we seek to maximize this experience.

One way we express this value is through our lesson designs. Deerstream teachers plan lessons that are interactive and hands-on and which emphasize interpersonal connection. Other than short video clips on occasion, we choose for our Deerstream time to be an opportunity to be fully present to the people around us and to use screen-free materials of study.

Our technology policies follow suit. **Our elementary students are not to bring any technology to Deerstream.** This includes phones; watches with camera, texting, or internet features; headphones; tablets; or another other technological device.

**Our junior division and high school students are encouraged to leave technology at home if possible.** If a device must be brought on campus (for instance, because a student will need use of it outside of Deerstream hours), the following policies apply during the Deerstream day, including breaks, lunch, recess, and dismissal:

- Headphones of any sort are not to be worn.
- Cell phones must be silenced and stored in bookbags, not in pockets.
- Watches or any other devices that have internet connectivity or can receive texts/emails must be silenced and stored in bookbags.
- Student laptops will not be used as a part of class activities and should not be brought to class unless a student will be sharing a presentation or in similar special cases.
- If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day, he or she should inform a teacher. The Executive Director, or her representative, will gladly contact the parent. Similarly, parents may contact their students via the Executive Director during the school day by texting or calling (919) 672-4954. **Students and parents should not communicate via student phones or watches during the Deerstream day.**
- Deerstream assumes no liability for devices that students choose to bring to campus. Deerstream is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Students, parents, and teachers may not post pictures of Deerstream activities on personal social media accounts without permission of the pictured students and their parents. Pictures may only be posted on Deerstream’s social media sites with permission of the Executive Director.

I understand and agree to abide by Deerstream’s technology policy.

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Student signature required for ages 10 and up.)*