Northwood Academy
Pre-school
a division of Northwood Academy
a ministry of Northwood Church
8717 Old University Boulevard
North Charleston, SC 29406
843 764 2271

2016 - 2017
Handbook
Northwood Academy admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.
Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to Northwood Academy Pre-school, the early education and nursery division of Northwood Academy. From its origin in 1983, we have provided Christ-centered education and care to tri-county families like yours. You will find this Pre-school handbook helpful in reminding you of the policies and procedures used in our operation.

Thank you for trusting us with the opportunity to partner with your family through the many ages and stages of early childhood and school readiness. We hope the information provided eases your mind about the placement of your precious child in our program.

We understand how important this decision is to you, and we endeavor to honor your trust by meeting or exceeding the high expectations you have for your child and for this Pre-school.

Very Respectfully,

Karen L. Morgan
Early Education Director
Northwood Academy
ABOUT NORTHWOOD ACADEMY
Northwood Academy is an education ministry of Northwood Church (Northwood Assembly, Inc.). Northwood Academy Pre-school is the early education department of Northwood Academy. The Pre-school is registered (#286) with the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

Northwood Academy serves approximately 750 students in Pre-school through 12th grade. The school was founded in 1978, under the banner of Northwood Christian School; the Pre-school was added in 1983. Today the school occupies two campuses, employs over 70 teachers, and is one of the largest schools in the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA).

AFFILIATIONS

Advanced - accredited
South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) - accredited
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
International Association of Christian Early Educators (IACEE)
International Fellowship of Christian School Administrators (IFSCA)
Trident Admissions Council (TAC)
The College Board

COLORS
Hunter Green and Purple

MASCOT
Chargers

NORTHWOOD ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT
To educate students with an emphasis on college preparation, through academic and character development supplemented by the arts, athletics, and the humanities, with Christian values forming the underlying foundation.

PRE-SCHOOL HOURS OF OPERATION
6:30 AM - 6:00 PM Monday through Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS
7:30AM - 4:00PM Monday through Friday
The Business Office is located in the Otranto Plaza Shopping Center.
NORTHWOOD ACADEMY STATEMENT OF FAITH
These tenets of the Church define the Biblical perspective which informs a Northwood Academy education:

- **We believe** in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who loved us and gave His eternal Son that we might have everlasting life.
- **We believe** in Jesus Christ, His only Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, was crucified for our sins, buried and was resurrected from the dead. We believe He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God and that He will judge each of us at the final Judgment.
- **We believe** the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible Word of God and the sole and final source of all that we believe. We believe the Bible speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind.
- **We believe** man's only hope of redemption is through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.
- **We believe** in the Holy Spirit, that He indwells every believer. That He gives gifts to believers and enables us to live a victorious life.
- **We believe** there is one church comprised of all born again believers. That the church is the body of Christ, equipped to do the work of Christ on earth.
- **We believe** in the resurrection of the dead, in a literal heaven and hell. We believe that man is an eternal being who will exist forever. Where we spend eternity is determined by our living faith in Christ.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. For purposes of Northwood Academy's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our School Board of Directors is the schools' final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

- **We believe** that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.
- **We believe** that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- **We believe** that any form of sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God.
- **We believe** that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture.
NORTHWOOD ACADEMY PRE-SCHOOL MISSION
Northwood Academy Pre-school partners with families, influencing children to be aware of God’s love and amazed by His creation, to be secure in their relationships and eager for new challenges.

We accomplish our mission:
- Spiritually – by providing the comfort and security of loving relationships, warm environments and simple truths which will develop a child’s foundational moral character and nurture their love of God.
- Physically – by offering a wide variety of experiences which will develop a child’s gross and fine muscle coordination and motor skills.
- Socially & Emotionally – by encouraging participation and cooperation in group activities and getting along with others which will develop a child’s sense of security, confidence in their abilities, and belonging.
- Intellectually – by exploring and using first-hand experiences which will nurture a child’s capacity and love of learning.

A child completing Northwood Academy Pre-school will have developing competencies:
- Spiritually - aware of God’s love and ready to come under authority
- Physically - aware of God’s strength and ready to explore and overcome challenges
- Socially & Emotionally - aware of God’s friendship and ready to esteem others and to be a friend
- Intellectually - aware of God’s creation and ready to inquire and to learn

HOLIDAYS
The Pre-school is closed for the following holidays:
- New Year’s Day (Holiday)
- Martin Luther King Day
- Presidents’ Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day (Holiday)
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day and Friday following
- Christmas week (There is no charge for Christmas week closure.)

VACATION
Two weeks of vacation are available each year (June 1 – May 31) for nursery and pre-school children enrolled full-time. Vacation is for absences of 5 consecutive service days and may be used for illness. A credit will be applied to the account when vacation is registered in the business office.

FEES/BILLING
Current rate schedules and business office policies are available from the Business Office or from our website: www.northwoodacademy.com.
PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM
During a child's first years of life there are many "windows of opportunity" - critical and prime times for acquiring new skills. Our pre-school programming - quality early education publishers (A Beka, ACSI, Saxon, Bob Jones, etc.), stimulating environments, staff screening and development, quality children’s literature, scheduling, and even toy choices - is designed with the whole child’s optimum development in mind.

SPECIALTY AREAS
As (age) appropriate, specialty area instruction is offered and includes:
• Spanish
• Creative Movement
• Music
• Chapel

SPORTS TEAMS
The Lower School athletic program allows students to begin developing skills, to have fun playing with their classmates, and to learn good sportsmanship. There is a participation fee which includes a uniform. Generally, Pre-K students are (age) eligible to participate on the Lower School intramural soccer teams. Volunteer parent-coaches are needed for each team. A brief testimony and S.L.E.D. background check is required (at our expense) for all volunteer coaches.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS
Children are expected to be able and willing to obey instructions and be kind to others. We believe children learn these behavior expectations precept upon precept, line upon line (Isaiah 28:10). Consistent, positive instruction guides the children’s choices. Dismissal for behavior is rare but may occur for failure to meet specific behavior expectations or correct specific behavior deficiencies. For three-year and older children, we have a published policy dealing with aggressive behavior.

COMMUNICATION
We encourage parents to maintain an on-going, friendly flow of information with the teaching team at drop-off and pick-up times. Conferences may be arranged through the Pre-school office. Daily reports are provided for non-verbal and diapered children.

PROMOTION
We reserve the right to place a child in the group determined to be the most developmentally appropriate for the child. Typically, promotion occurs at the end of each school year, around the first week of June, for all children. Promotion from Northwood Academy Pre-school into our Lower School’s Kindergarten program is based on Pre-school success and school readiness.
EXCLUSION FOR HEALTH
Northwood is a well-child facility, and as such will exclude a child who:
• has a fever of 100F or greater.
• has diarrhea or vomiting.
• has conjunctivitis (pink-eye).
• has other communicable issues (impetigo, head lice, etc.).

Parents called to pick up an ill child are expected to make necessary ar-rangements within the hour. Children who are sent home from the Pre-school after becoming ill are required to be treated and/or symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to the center. NOTE: A child may be ex-cluded from the Pre-school if he or she appears unable to participate in the group activities.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) official list of conditions requiring exclusion from school (birth -Kindergarten): http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/ChildTeenHealth/ChildcareExclusion/

IMMUNIZATION
South Carolina law requires a current SOUTH CAROLINA CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION (DHEC #2740) be on file at the Pre-school. South Caro-lina Department of Social Services (DSS) requires each child have a form 2900 (GENERAL STATEMENT OF CHILD’S HEALTH FOR ADMISSION TO CHILD CARE FACILITY) on file. These are to be provided before the child starts pre-school and updated with each new immunization.

MEDICATION
Medication will be administered consistent with its labeling. Only medica-tion prescribed for the child will be administered at the Pre-school. Over-the-counter medicine requires a prescription or note for administration from a prescriber, and must include the child’s name, dosage, and frequen-cy. Labeled (child’s full name) medication is to be secured at drop off time in the designated location; it may not be stored in or with the child’s belongings. A refrigerator is also available for storage of medication. The “Pre-school Medication Log” is to be completed by the parent for each medication to be administered, indicating the medication name, amount, time(s), and duration for administration. Special instructions and symp-toms for administration are to be included on this form. Nebulized medi-cations cannot be administered in the Pre-school classrooms.
FOOD SERVICE POLICY

- Generally, all food is to be provided from the home: food already successfully tried and enjoyed by the child is best.
- Hot water is available to prepare instant breakfast cereals. A classroom microwave is available for quick heat-ups *(through early 3’s)*.
- Disposable spoons and bowls are available as needed.
- Milk, and “emergency” breakfast, lunch and snack items are available at an additional charge.
- Sodas (including iced tea) are not offered in the Pre-school.
- All food containers, including baggies, are to be labeled with the child’s name.
- Food is to be sent from home in the manner in which it will be served (i.e., slicing, peeling or assembling is to be done at home).
- Studies confirm our belief that a nutritious breakfast contributes significantly to a child’s school success. Sugar-laden breakfast items (donuts, etc.) are discouraged; dessert items are not served with meals but may be offered at afternoon snack time.
- Drinks may be sent from home or water will be offered at food service times. Sodas (including iced tea) are not served in the Pre-school.
- All food containers, including baggies, are to be labeled with the child’s name. Unlabeled items will be labeled by child care staff.
- Glass containers are not permitted in the Pre-school.

INFANT FOOD POLICY

All food and drinks for infants are to be provided from the home. Bottles are to be prepared and ready for use; un-used bottles will be sent home at the end of the day. A box of infant cereal and a container of juice (to fill “sippy” cups) may be stored in the infant room refrigerator. Baby food may be sent in its original, unopened container; it will be served from disposable bowls. Food is to be sent daily; leftovers will be returned home each day. Infants must be willing and able to take a bottle in the nursery. Mothers desiring to nurse during the day may sign the infant out to nurse and back in upon their return to the infant room.
CLOTHING/DRESS CODE

- Children are to be comfortably dressed according to weather conditions; a complete change of clothing is to be on-hand for emergencies.
- Closed-toe, gym-type shoes with socks are required; shoes are to be appropriate for running and/or playing and must stay securely on the child’s foot. Boots are not appropriate/safe for pre-school footwear.
- Modesty in clothing is expected; if worn, slogan t-shirts are to be age-appropriate.
- Hats are worn for cold weather and sun protection (hard-bill, baseball-style caps are not permitted).
- Bloomers or shorts are to be worn under girl’s dresses and skirts.
- No extremes in color or hairstyle are allowed. Boy’s hair is to be off the eyebrows and off the collar.
- Hair adornments are discouraged and, if a choke hazard, will be removed. Earrings on boys are not permitted. Jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets) are not safe at pre-school and may be removed.

DIAPERING SUPPLIES NEEDED

Parents are to provide adequate supplies of the following:

- Disposable diapers
- Diaper wipes
- Petroleum jelly and/or powder
- Changes of clothing

Bibs, crib blanket, burp cloths, washcloths, and crib sheets are provided, as age appropriate.

PERSONAL ITEMS AT PRE-SCHOOL

All personal items are to be clearly labeled with the child’s name and are to be picked up at the end of the day. Children may not bring toys from home except on their assigned “show & tell” day or on special, announced occasions. Northwood Academy Pre-school is not responsible for damage or loss of personal property. Unclaimed, non-labeled clothing and other items left in the Pre-school will be donated to a local charity.
**POTTY TRAINING**
The staff of the Pre-school will assist the parents with potty training. Potty training in the group-care setting is effectively undertaken around a child’s 2nd birthday. Children will not be left on the toilet or potty seat for a protracted period. Potty skills will be taught in a confident, affirmative manner. Child-sized toilets are located in the classroom. Modesty and personal hygiene are encouraged as children are trained to finish dressing while still in the bathroom and wash their hands when done. Children must be able to manage their own clothing during the training process; items like belts and tights make this difficult and may be removed. Several changes of clothes are to be provided in case of accidents.

**REST TIME**
All children in the Pre-school are required to have an assigned rest time. Children in the infant room will be assigned a crib. Other children will rest on a KinderMat; one will be issued to each child upon admission. Mats will be replaced if they are torn, etc., exposing the foam rubber pad. Children are encouraged to bring a pillow case to slip over their mat as well as a small blanket for nap time. A baby-size pillow is also permitted. Sleeping toys are not permitted. All personal nap items are to be stored in a zipper-type book bag/backpack (no wheels and no draw strings). Linens are to be taken home each Friday for laundering and are to be returned each Monday. All linens are to be clearly labeled with the child’s name.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**
Special events, such as holidays, birthdays, etc., are recognized and celebrated throughout the year. Parents are invited to participate and encouraged to coordinate their participation with their child’s teacher. **NOTE: If personal party invitations are distributed at school, all boys, all girls, or all children are to be included.** As a Christian Pre-school, our emphasis for holidays such as Christmas and Easter is on the birth and resurrection of Jesus. We do not recognize or celebrate holidays such as Halloween.
DRIVING AND PARKING AT NORTHWOOD
Safety for the children and consideration of other drivers are the basis for our policies related to driving and parking on the Northwood campus. Parking spaces are clearly marked and the speed limit is “one foot on the brake.” Be vigilant for children to do the unexpected. The carport is a designated safety zone and is off-limits for parking, even in the rain. By law and for campus safety, cars are never to be left parked and running, and children are never to be left unattended in a parked car.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE PROCEDURE
Parents or other responsible adults are to sign their child in upon arrival and sign them out upon departure from the Pre-school. Special instructions or alternate pick-up instructions are to be annotated on the sign-in roster. Children may arrive and depart at any time during the day with the following exceptions:
- Children may not be signed into Pre-school during rest times.
- Children needing food service (i.e., breakfast) must be in class at the scheduled meal time.

CONTACTING PARENTS
Parents will be contacted in the event of an emergency, accident, sickness, behavioral difficulty, etc., using the phone numbers and/or e-mail address(es) listed on the Student Application form. It is imperative that the parent/emergency contact information is current; it must be updated with moves, job changes, etc. Failure to provide accurate/current information needed for the appropriate care of the child will be grounds for termination of services.

AUTHORITY TO RELEASE CHILD
Only the custodian (parent/guardian) may determine who may pick up the child from Pre-school. A pre-approved list is provided on the child’s application and may be updated, in writing, as needed. If a special circumstance arises, the parent may make verbal or written arrangements with the attending staff in person or by phone. Children will not be released to anyone without specific consent of the custodian and validation of I.D. (drivers license, etc.). Children will be released to non-custodial parents with a court order or with the custodial parent’s permission. If the care, custody, and control of the child is defined by court order, the pertinent portion(s) of the order is to be kept in the child’s file at the Pre-school.
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHILDREN
Parents or other responsible adults are to sign their child in upon arrival and sign them out upon departure from the Pre-school. The sign-in roster is utilized throughout the day for periodic and transitional roll-calls. The teaching team will have the roster with them at all times. Daily sign-in rosters will be retained in the Business Office for three months.

OFF-CAMPUS (FIELD) TRIPS
Pre-school (3’s and older) children will be transported to scheduled off-campus events via Northwood Academy activity bus. Northwood Academy bus drivers will have a valid license to operate the vehicle in which children are transported. The bus driver will verify that a properly supplied first aid kit is on the vehicle; the teaching staff is responsible to ensure that the red classroom emergency bag, including emergency information/medication for each child, accompanies the trip. Northwood Academy teaching staff will obtain written and signed parental permission before transporting children.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
Generally, Northwood will close or delay opening in conjunction with Berkeley County schools. All announcements made for Northwood Academy apply to Northwood Academy Pre-school.
CONTACT US

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