

## **Minnesota Association of Christian Schools (MACS)**

### **Statement of Expectation of Schools Joining our Association**

The general purpose of MACS is to aid in promoting, maintaining, and improving the moral, spiritual, and academic standards of Christian schools in the state of Minnesota. The association is also committed to “combating those forces which would attempt to hinder or destroy the freedom of Christian schools to exist and flourish.”

Understanding this general purpose, our organization expects that its member schools strive for the following:

- **Faithfulness to the Word of God** – MACS schools hold the Word of God in the highest regard as absolute truth. The true commitment to doctrinal truth extends to school policy and student expectations. This truth must be paramount in a school’s handbook standards, operational policies, and academic pursuits. MACS is a member of the greater national association-The American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) and its members must agree with the doctrinal statement found at [www.aacs.org/about-us/membership/statement-of-faith/](http://www.aacs.org/about-us/membership/statement-of-faith/).
- **A Striving for Credibility in School Operations** – MACS schools must work toward improvement and not be complacent in its operations. Schools must update handbooks and policies and honor state non-public school requirements as outlined in state law. Credibility is created when schools are true to their written policy guidelines and hire qualified people who love the Lord and are called to serve Him in a Christian school ministry.
- **A Commitment to Academic Excellence** – MACS has worked hard in recent years for approval of the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) accreditation instrument in our state. We are one of ten approved non-public school accreditations within the Minnesota Department of Education. While not all of our schools are accredited, our desire is to see our schools working toward self-improvement. Schools must demonstrate a professional, credible, and growing desire to work toward the following:
  - Hiring academically qualified Christian (born-again) teachers
  - Operating according to state laws, facility, and state graduation requirements
  - Achieving financial stability and accountability
  - Utilizing curriculum that teaches a Christian worldview

- Measuring student academic achievement through annual achievement testing
  - Publishing an annual school calendar which allows for the scheduling and commitment to events and a credible school-year schedule.
- **Participation in MACS Activities** – Our association offers junior and senior high fine arts festivals, speech and Bible festivals, Student Leadership Conferences, Band and Choir festivals, an annual Legislative Breakfast, and... athletics. Active participation in the festivals and activities offered through MACS will result in maximum benefit for our member schools. MACS will not infringe upon the authority of each school to make decisions regarding which activities are best for their individual settings, but active participation is encouraged. To learn more about opportunities and requirements for participation, please request our MACS Speech and Bible and Fine Arts Festival Manuals.
- **Athletic League Expectations** – Current MACS athletic offerings include: Fall – Girls' volleyball and Boys' soccer; Winter – Girls' and Boys' basketball; Spring – Girls' Soccer and the Granite City Track Meet in St. Cloud. Girls and boys are not allowed to cross participate in athletics. The spirit of competition is alive and well in MACS Christian school athletics, but not at the expense of our testimony for our Lord Jesus Christ, nor at the cost of fellowship between schools. We believe that competition and participation in athletic events is a privilege, contributing to the physical and spiritual development of our students. It gives students the opportunity to develop life and athletic skills and learn submission to authority and to other team members. Because of the importance of the goals of Christian school athletics, coaches and school programs must demonstrate a demeanor on the court that does not hinder the accomplishment of these objectives. To the best of our ability, we must strive to honor our officials, and educate our fans to what is and is not appropriate at practices, games, and tournaments. Please see our "MACS Athletic Handbook" for specific guidelines and league rules.
- **Mutual Respect and Cooperation Amongst Member Schools** – There is a big picture to what we are doing in our Christian schools and we are all attempting to accomplish many of the same goals for the benefit of our students and the glory of God. While we acknowledge that we will not all agree to each of our school's standards, we can support each other by reasonably deferring to certain of those standards out of respect and for the purpose of cooperation.
  - All MACS activities have dress guidelines that we ask our students, coaches, and staff to adhere to. For athletics, dress guidelines are addressed in our MACS Athletic Handbook.
  - At our fine arts competitions, we have defined speech and music standards that must be followed. Selections may be submitted for

approval. This allows for a consistent level of competition and evaluation at our events.

By thinking through and putting to practice these things, we are deferring to one another, something our children and parents desperately need modeled for them. We also ask that school officials establish specific school standards in these areas and set the tone for their students and families. By doing this, we believe that schools will better represent themselves to a world that is looking to “raise the standard” in all areas of life.

MACS is founded on fundamental and conservative principles of faith and practice. If your school would like to join us to accomplish these purposes in the lives of your students and families, then you have found a home where this can be possible.

Thank you for your interest in MACS. Please submit your completed school application to Minnesota Association of Christian Schools (MACS), c/o Mr. Alan J. Hodak, Executive Director, 900 Forestview LN N., Plymouth, MN 55441.