

PARENT/ STUDENT HANDBOOK
JK – GRADE 8

SOLID ROCK

A C A D E M Y



CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Etobicoke, ON
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(1) Mission and Vision

Vision Statement:

To establish a school where students will achieve academic excellence while being grounded in the Word of God and a strong Christian worldview.

Mission Statement:

1. To ensure high academic results using high quality curriculums
2. To create an interactive environment to satisfy students' intellectual curiosity
3. To establish a solid and enduring Christian worldview
4. To build strong self-esteem through addressing human origin, meaning and destiny

"Study to show yourself approved to God,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the world of truth"

2 Timothy 2:15

(2) Philosophy Statement

Educational Philosophy of Solid Rock Academy

The philosophy of Solid Rock Academy (SRA) is based upon the understanding that all truth is God's truth and that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). Since God created and sustains all things, all creation is dynamically related to Him. Therefore, we teach from a Christian perspective whereby biblical principles are integrated in all areas of life and learning.

Education encompasses spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development, with God the ultimate source of truth.

Since God has given parents the responsibility to teach their children, education cannot be the sole charge of a church or of a school system. Thus SRA enters into a partnership with the parents to educate their children, and it is important that parents fully accept the Academy's Philosophy of Education (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

We believe that education of children is primarily the responsibility of parents and that our school is an extension of the Christian home. Therefore, we work closely with families in our school.

According to Scripture, all people are made in the image of God but are also sinners by nature as well as by choice. That means everyone needs God's free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We will encourage and make every effort to lead each child to receive that gift.

We will teach a lifestyle that develops an understanding of a person's role and responsibilities at home, at work, in the community, at play, and at worship—all grounded in the Christian concept of love.

Our philosophy compels us to promote high academic standards while helping students gain skills of creativity and critical thinking. Our academic programme will encourage and enable students excel in high school and to pursue post-secondary education whether in college, university, or in vocational training.

Students of SRA are taught a Christian worldview and lifestyle. They are instructed in biblical knowledge and are offered devotional opportunities. Students are encouraged to develop Christian responses to all of the issues of life (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

With this foundation, it is our goal that every student attending our school will come to a time when the most important desire for his or her life is to serve God. The student should be able and willing to use all of his or her God-given talents for the betterment of their fellow citizens in any area of life where they are led by God.

(3) School Statement of Faith

Solid Rock Academy acts as an extension of the Christian home and church, training students in the knowledge and love of God and in academic, artistic, athletic and social skills. By providing high standards of intellectual and spiritual development, our mission is to effectively equip students with the necessary tools for an abundant Christian life.

The Bible

We believe the Bible, sixty-six books as commonly received in the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God. Hence, the Bible contains all things necessary to salvation so that whatsoever is not written therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Trinity

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons; namely the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are three eternal and changeable personal distinctions in the Godhead. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:27; John 14:26, 3:16, 15:26)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He was crucified, buried and raised from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. (Luke 24:29, 51; 1 Corinthians 15:2, 4:1; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:16-18)

Salvation

We believe that justification, regeneration and the new birth are produced by faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:8-11; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:19)

Conduct

We believe that pursuit of holy living is the normal manner of life for the believer. This life is characterized by freedom from sinning; by denial of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:7; Titus 2:12; Hebrew 12:1-2, 14)

Eschatology

We believe in the literal Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth and in the rewarding of the righteous and the just punishment of the wicked. (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:28, 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 11:18, 22, 20:11-15)

(4) Statement of Core Family Values

All members of the board, administration, and staff of Solid Rock Academy believe that the Bible is the written Word of God and without error in all its teachings. Because of our understanding of the Old and New Testaments our school teaches these Core Family Values:

- 1) That it is unacceptable for Christians to teach or promote hatred against any group or individual.
- 2) That human life begins at conception and that an unborn child at any stage of development is a human being and should be treated as such.
- 3) That sexual intimacy is only morally acceptable within a marriage relationship.
- 4) That premarital or extramarital sexual intimacy heterosexual or homosexual including but not limited to intercourse is morally wrong.
- 5) That marriage is an exclusively heterosexual institution between one man and one woman.

(5) Behavioural Expectations

Ministry of Education Requirements

Schools and students are governed by the Ontario Education Act and the relevant regulations made under it. These require pupils to attend classes punctually and regularly, to accept reasonable disciplinary measures, to be neat and clean in person and habits, to be diligent in studies, to be courteous to fellow pupils, and to be obedient and respectful to the teachers.

Respect for Self

You are expected to come to school well-groomed. Every student should maintain high standards of personal hygiene. Healthy eating, sleeping and exercise habits reflect level of personal care that acknowledges one's responsibility to honour God in personal space and the manner by which we look after ourselves. This is further expressed in the way we look after ourselves and our belongings.

Respect for Others

You are expected to treat others with kindness, courtesy and consideration. You are not to ridicule, by words (including profanity) or by actions, the beliefs, the culture, the race, the gender, the feelings or the actions of others. Physical violence toward other members of the school community will not be

tolerated. Also, within the school context, in appropriate physical contact between two individuals is not allowed, nor is pressure to form relationships, nor is any action which violates the terms and conditions of the Human Dignity Policy of Solid Rock Academy. This shows respect for oneself and others. You are to respect the property of other students, of faculty and of the school at all times.

Respect for Authority

You are expected to comply with the rules of the school and with the expectations of the faculty and staff both in and out of the classroom. Your attitudes as well as your actions are important, and you are expected to show respect for authority both by your attitude and by your behaviour. Disrespect is considered to be a serious breach of conduct and will be dealt with in a firm but judicious manner by the school administration.

Care of School Property

We are to be good stewards of our facilities. Care must be taken to use equipment in a careful and proper manner. This includes care of gym equipment, desks, chairs and tables. Common examples of misuse of equipment and facilities are listed so that students will understand this issue: Writing on or in the school's books; marking on tables or desk tops; misusing gym equipment, marking on any wall, floor, door or window, misusing washroom facilities; damaging lockers.

It should be understood that misuse of property or equipment is a serious offence and will result in immediate disciplinary action. By becoming a member of our school parents agree to pay for any damage caused by their child's negligence or misuse of the facilities and equipment.

(8) Dress Code Policy

Solid Rock Academy dress code sets standards for student dress that enhance the atmosphere of the school and reflect biblical standards of modesty and appropriateness. The dress code boundaries are also designed to promote the safety, security, protection, and the moral wellbeing of the students and staff. This written dress code is to provide guidance to parents and students on the proper attire for our students.

Student attire needs to be conservative, modest, neat and appropriate; also, it should not be a distraction, express an ungodly lifestyle, nor tempt others to stumble. Parents and students have the primary responsibility to understand and adhere to the dress code. Clothing must fit properly – not too small and not too large, no spaghetti straps, tank tops or halter tops, no tight or sheer clothing that shows skin, no short shorts (must be close to the students' knees), or tight-fitting shorts. A student should not be dressed in such a way as to draw attention to his/ her body, but to respect and honor God, themselves and others.

Gym Clothing

All students are required to wear a regulation gym uniform to all physical education classes. Gym shirts should have at least a short sleeve and is long to the hips so that when students are doing exercises such as sit-ups, jumping jacks, or stretches, their stomachs/back are not exposed. Gym bottoms should be loose and breathable (not tight-fitted). In addition to the required gym t-shirt and sweatpants/trackpants, both boys and girls must have non-marking running shoes and white sweat socks.

(9) Passing, Acceleration and Failure

Solid Rock Academy maintains a balanced curriculum. Curriculum offerings include Language Arts (reading, literature, composition, handwriting, spelling and phonics), Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, History, Geography, Art, Music, Drama, Dance, and Physical Education. Curriculum content is built by espousing the best practices in the area of standards, instructional strategies, curriculum, assessment, and teacher/program evaluation under the direction of the Holy Spirit to prepare our students for the world around them. The Academy adopts standards and curriculum from secular (public) sources *only when* they are not contradictory to our Christian philosophy of education, or our vision of providing a quality education to the Christian community. Foundational to our educational program is a Christian worldview; Biblical standards and principles, which cannot be achieved using secular education models where mere knowledge replaces “the fear of the Lord.”

Student achievement is based on the degree of mastery of the instructional objectives for each subject. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student’s performance indicates the level of mastery. The student’s mastery is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Report Card and Grading

Kindergarten grades are determined by a skills based grading module. Grades 1-5 receive letter grades and grades 6-8 receive numerical grades. If a student receives incomplete grades on their report card, they are allowed 2 weeks, to make up for the grade and the report card will be reissued. Any period beyond what is prescribed is only permissible on a case by case basis and will require approval from the principle.

(16) SRA Student Expectations

By attending Solid Rock Academy each student indicates agreement with the following statement. While I am a student of Solid Rock Academy, I agree to give my complete co-operation and promise to follow the behavioural guidelines as outlines in the following statements:

1. I will follow the rules, regulations and behavioural expectations of the school.
2. Both in my behaviour and attitude, I will show respect for the Christian principles and doctrines presented in all aspects of the Academy program.

Whenever a student or parent is unsure of what rules may apply, he/she should first ask the classroom teacher or second, ask a school official by contacting the office rather than relying on the opinion of peers, parents, former students, or his/her own judgement.

How to Have a Successful Year

The following ten words summarize all the policies and regulations set out in this handbook. Additions or deletions can happen in any handbook. By these following ten words you will have essentially memorized the handbook.

Honour Jesus. Honour Your Father and Mother. Ask for Permission.