



Kempton New Church School Handbook

Kempton New Church
Kempton New Church School
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About the Kempton New Church School

Overview

The Kempton New Church School (KNCS) is a rural K-12 school located in northern Berks County, Pennsylvania. Founded by parents, it serves students whose parents are active participants of the Kempton New Church Society (the KNC congregation) and baptized into the New Church. The enrollment is approximately 75-85 students. KNCS has a staff of full-time teachers, part-time teachers, and volunteers. It is one of nine schools in the international school system of the General Church of the New Jerusalem (GCNJ)*, which is based in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania.

*The GCNJ, often simply called the General Church, is the name for the denomination's incorporated governing body.

The New Church

The Kempton New Church School exists to support parents in teaching their children the doctrines of the New Church. The New Church is based on the theological writings given through Emanuel Swedenborg, thirty-five volumes written between the years 1745 and 1772, which are considered to be Divine Revelation, the Lord's Second Coming. These works—called the Heavenly Doctrine, or the Writings—explain the internal sense of the Word, the nature of God, the life of religion, and the nature of life after death. The works written through Swedenborg describe a New Church, truly Christian:

At this day a New Church is being established by the Lord, which is meant by 'the New Jerusalem' in the Apocalypse. In it there will be the worship of the Lord alone, as it is in heaven. Thus everything which is contained in the Lord's Prayer from beginning to end will be fulfilled.

Apocalypse Revealed 839:7

The faith of the New Heaven and the New Church in universal terms is as follows: The Lord from eternity, who is Jehovah, came into the world to subdue the hells and to glorify His Human. Without this no mortal could have been saved, and those are saved who believe in Him.

True Christian Religion 2

The particulars of faith on man's part are these:

- God is one, in whom is the Divine Trinity, and He is the Lord God the Savior Jesus Christ.
- A saving faith is to believe in Him.
- Evil things must not be done because they are of the devil and from the devil.
- Good things must be done because they are of God and from God.
- These things must be done by man as if they were done by himself, but he must believe they are from the Lord working with him and through him.

True Christian Religion 3

The Purpose of a New Church School

The focus of the Kempton New Church School is to help children develop into good neighbors and good citizens, who know and care about what the Lord teaches, and who can be useful and happy members of society both in this life and the world to come. The primary aim is to teach them how to love the Lord and others, as in Matthew:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God in thy whole heart, and in thy whole soul, and in thy whole thought. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22:37

Also in the *Arcana Coelestia* (8988:3):

Love to the Lord and love toward the neighbor are the very being of heaven and of the church.

These loves are the central theme of New Church education. They are the life of what we teach and do. Teachers and parents should always keep in mind that these are the main purpose, and that everything done in the school is meant to relate to them. Academic achievement, while useful, is not the main thing. It is one of the means towards the end: living a useful life of love to the Lord and charity toward the neighbor. The following are some of the principal ways that this goal is approached.

Worship: Each day begins with the worship of the Lord, with prayer, singing, reading from the Word, and instruction.

The Word: Students learn the truths of the Word in morning worship, in regular religion classes, in church on Sunday, and in other classes when appropriate. Children memorize scriptural passages regularly. In addition, teachers and parents have the opportunity to attend doctrinal classes and study the Word in their homes.

Charity: Students are taught to treat each other well, both by example and instruction. The emphasis is on maintaining a sphere of charity and good will in all relationships among the students, among the adults, and between adults and students, founded on obedience to the Lord's Word. The evils which are opposite to charity are to be shunned, and this fleeing from evils is the primary way of gaining spiritual life:

Spiritual life is acquired solely by a life according to the commandments in the Word. These commandments are given in a summary in the Decalogue, namely, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not murder, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet the goods of others. These commandments are the commandments that are to be done, for when a man does these his works are good and his life is spiritual, because so far as a man shuns evils and hates them, so far he wills and loves goods.

Apocalypse Explained 1027

A Useful Life: A key to the practice of charity is to learn to be useful both to oneself and to others. This is primarily taught at home, but at the school, too. The students are taught the importance of self-discipline, making an effort, taking initiative, and being cooperative and responsible. They participate in chores and work parties that help maintain the school and grounds.

The four primary avenues just listed - worship, the Word, charity, a useful life - have many branches, but they all relate to our central purpose: to assist parents in encouraging the love for these things in their children. The promise of the New Church is that people can be led to a true worship of the Lord Jesus Christ, a life of uses, conjugal (true marriage) love, and therefore to heaven, through the understanding and practice of the truths of the Lord's Second Coming.

Other Important Themes

Make Religion Truly the Core of the School: All subject matter in the curriculum ought to be related whenever possible to religion. The Word, including the Heavenly Doctrine, should form the basis for teaching methods, teacher and student behavior, values, attitudes, work ethic, and respect for property.

Protecting Innocence: One of the most precious qualities of childhood is innocence, which is the willingness to be led by the Lord. Every effort is made to preserve that innocence and to use materials and methods that are appropriate to each age. We also have chaperone policies and rules about teacher-student relationships to protect everyone against the attacks of the hells. (See *Protection of Children* under *Organization*.)

Lead by Delight, Using the Power of Ultimates: While discipline and obedience are essential, the freedom of students is guarded carefully, as freedom allows children to be led to understanding by means of delights. Leading by delights is promoted especially by the use of ultimates. By "ultimates" are meant things which affect the five senses, the things of the three kingdoms of nature, the concrete rather than the abstract, and doing rather than simply listening and watching. Hands-on learning opportunities are a form of ultimates, which have a power to induce a love of learning. In particular, KNCS has a focus on:

Nature Science: Since the school is surrounded by mountains and woodlands, an emphasis in nature studies is a logical development.

Performing Arts: Singing and acting in front of others promotes confidence and teamwork. Performance requires effort and discipline, and almost all children find it rewarding. Every child in the school from kindergarten onward participates in at least one play or similar activity during the school year.

Parental Participation: The school was begun by parents, and its strength rests on their support and that of other members in the community. This is born out in several ways:

Volunteer Teaching and Tutoring: Parents and others spend hours in the school sometimes assist teachers, sometimes teaching whole courses. This is a tremendous asset to the school and is greatly appreciated.

Counsel: Important decisions are reached by discussion with faculty and parents. Major decisions, such as whether to build a new facility or whether to add a new grade, are made by a vote of the whole society.

Committees: Parents are also involved with others in committees for hiring, planning, building, etc. Maintaining and encouraging these activities keeps the ownership of the school in the hands of parents.

The Physical Plant: Parents and other congregants help maintain the buildings, keep the gardens, and do repairs and additions.

Recognition of the Primacy of the Home: We regard the family as the primary child-raising agency. In practical terms, this means the following things, among others:

A Shorter Day: The school day goes from 7:45 A.M. to 12:45 P.M., five days a week, 180 days a year, for grades 1-6, with kindergarten having fewer days and hours, and older students having additional hours in some afternoons only. This means the majority of students can be home for lunch and be free to spend the afternoons with their families.

Regard for the Masculine and Feminine: We try to provide appropriate male and female spheres for the different developmental needs of boys and girls through distinctly masculine and feminine activities and assignments.

These are some of the practices by which the Kempton New Church School operates. The essential, however, is to keep the two great commandments—to love the Lord above all things, and our neighbors as ourselves.

A Brief History of the School

In 1979 a number of the members of the New Church congregation in Kempton decided they wanted their children to have a New Church education. Under the Rev. Arne Bau-Madsen, they formed a school with ten students, Grades 1-4, in one classroom in a local church. One of the parents, Yorvar Synnestvedt, an educator, became the head teacher, and the others joined in and taught alongside him, helping where they could. The next year, a member gave a barn to the society, which parents converted into classrooms. The following year they hired another teacher.

As time went on more parents became interested, more grades and classrooms were added, and more teachers were hired. Ten years later there were over sixty students from kindergarten to tenth grade, seven full-time teachers, plus a principal and a secretary. With the gift of a second (connected) barn, the whole plant underwent further conversions, accomplished partly by the parents themselves, to become a very nice school and a church. A third barn became an unheated gym.

The School Emblem

The KNCS emblem is an eagle flying in front of the Pinnacle, the mountain peak which overlooks the school. The Writings say an eagle represents spiritual intelligence and freedom and the Lord watching over His children. The wings especially represent the Lord's power to lift us up to see the truths of the Word. The mountain represents the strong, sure presence of His love.

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place.” This signifies the Divine circumspection over that church, and its protection, which is as yet among a few.

*Revelation 12:14
Apocalypse Revealed 561*

Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste, howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the pupil of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, flutters over its young, spreads abroad its wings, takes them, bears them on its wings, [so] Jehovah alone led him, and [there was] no strange god with him.

Deuteronomy 32: 10-12

Policies

Admissions

Religious Requirement: Admission is open to children baptized into the New Church. Any child may be baptized whose parents believe in the teachings of the New Church. Concerning the importance of baptism we read:

[Children] are introduced by baptism into the Christian heaven, and angels are there assigned to them to take care of them, by whom they are kept in a state of receiving faith in the Lord... Everyone is inserted among societies and congregations in the spiritual world according to the quality of the Christianity in him or around him.

True Christian Religion 677

Occasional exceptions to the above rule may be made in cases where the parents are not active in another church or religion, and have demonstrated a sincere interest in looking toward baptism and inquiring affirmatively into the Heavenly Doctrine by reading; by attending church, doctrinal classes, and other society functions; and by welcoming regular pastoral visits for about a year before their child is enrolled. Admission is at the discretion of the pastor and the assistant principal. Re-enrollment from year to year is not automatic but is reviewed annually, and especially before entry into the middle school.

The Kempton New Church School does not discriminate against individuals by reason of race, ethnic background, color, nationality, or gender.

Age Requirement: Children entering kindergarten should be five years old by the first of June in the spring before they enter kindergarten. Children entering first grade should be six years old by the first of June in the spring before they enter first grade.

Tuition and Expenses: The congregation of the Kempton New Church provides substantial support for the school. Tuition represents less than 20% of the actual cost per student.

Yearly tuition rates are set for our school by the Board of Trustees of the Kempton New Church. We want the school to be available to all New Church families in the area. We don't want the tuition to discourage parents from having children.

Students supply some of their own notebooks, pens, and pencils. The children are also occasionally asked to bring money for a special class or school trip, since the school does not normally pay for field trip admissions. Requests of this sort are communicated directly to parents.

Health Records: Pennsylvania law requires that we maintain certain medical records. KNCS provides parents with the needed forms, which are filled out and returned to us. Students cannot be admitted until KNCS has the following:

Private Physician's Report: This is filled out by the family doctor and is required for new students and those entering Kindergarten, Grade 6, and Grade 11.

Record of Immunizations: Parents must provide a copy, from the doctor's office, of the child's immunization records. (Pennsylvania law allows parents to make a conscientious objection to immunizations.)

Dental Form: Examination by a dentist is required for new students and those entering Kindergarten, Grade 3, and Grade 7.

Organization

Protection of Children: Our first responsibility is to keep the children in our care safe from abuse by adults or other children, and protected from being allowed to get into damaging habits. In a safe, orderly environment, children can grow up well.

In our denomination and in some church schools, there have been instances of abuse of children by priests and by teachers. We must be on guard to protect the innocence of our children (see *Protecting Innocence* on page 5). Here are some ways we are trying to be careful at the Kempton New Church and KNCS:

- In sermons and classes, we discuss the protection of innocence as one of the chief duties of parents and of all adults. We also discuss the state of the fallen Christian Church within us and around us, and the desire of the hells to destroy innocence.
- KNCS and church young people's overnight co-ed trips are ideally chaperoned by at least one married couple (husband and wife).
- From time to time we have discussions in faculty meetings – male and female faculty separately and together – about potential issues around the school and how to protect the children and the faculty.
- Informally, there is a lot of discussion among parents about appropriate behavior and monitoring.
- We comply with the law by obtaining for every teacher a Pennsylvania State Police Request for Criminal Record Check, a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, and an FBI fingerprint clearance.

- School personnel are bound by Pennsylvania law to report whenever there exists reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected. We follow the General Church Child Protection Policy – Guarding Against Sexual Abuse. The General Church Abuse Committee may be informed of allegations involving church members or students. Teachers and administrators are not permitted to investigate any case. Civil authorities decide whether to investigate and conduct an investigation. Judgment is necessary to determine reasonable cause, but the reporting standard has been intentionally set at a low level by the state to encourage reporting.

Student Support Limitations: We know that parents of children with special needs are as eager for their children to enjoy the benefits of a New Church education as any parents in the church. When learning disabilities or special needs are identified, the school will determine what support we are able to offer within our budgetary and personnel constraints. Sometimes our small classes suit students with special needs. We have often been able to modify curriculum and requirements to suit certain students. Sometimes a student will attend some of our regular classes while taking other courses at home or elsewhere. We do not, however, have a separate special education program. We also may not be able to accommodate children with serious behavioral or emotional problems. We are pleased to do what we can.

Care of the Buildings and Grounds: Our paid maintenance staff is very minimal. Volunteers take care of the gardens, clean the facilities, and contribute to upkeep in other ways. Students do regular chores in school as part of their learning (see *The School Day*). Teachers are responsible for their own classrooms. We have work parties twice a year; all society members—children and adults—participate in them if they can, to help keep things clean and in order. The lawns are mowed by a professional service.

Communications: Parent-teacher communication about school matters is important, whether it happens in person, by phone, or email. Organized ways of communicating include the following:

- *The Note Home* – published weekly during the school year
- *The Newsletter* – published monthly
- Class meetings, especially at the beginning of the year
- Parent-teacher conferences in the middle of each semester
- Report cards at the end of each semester
- Weekly reports when necessary

Academics

Curriculum: In a broad sense, curriculum includes all the experiences children have at school. We try to integrate the courses we teach in order to help students see connections between the things that they learn. KNCS generally follows the curriculum suggested for use in all General Church Schools.

At KNCS there are two grades in each classroom. The two grades are usually treated as a unit, following a curriculum that alternates year by year. The first and second grade classroom, for

example, follows the first grade curriculum one year and the second grade curriculum the next. In subjects where knowledge given in one year is prerequisite to that taught the following year, especially math and foreign language, the grades are taught separately.

Attendance: Absence and lateness are serious impediments to any school program. Instances of these are recorded on the report card. If a child is sick, parents must let the school know as soon as possible by telephone or e-mail. If he or she misses three consecutive days of school, or has frequent absences, a doctor's note may be requested.

Exams: High school students are expected to attend all of their classes during mid-term exam week and final exam week. In the event of illness or an emergency, a make-up exam is permitted after being approved by the teacher.

Evaluation and Records:

Report Cards: Reports are sent to parents twice a year. Grade 5 and onward are given numerical grades as well as written comments. Grades K-4 are given written comments. The grading system is as follows:

| | | |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Excellent | 90 – 100 | A |
| Good | 80 – 89 | B |
| Fair | 70 – 79 | C |
| Fail | 0 – 69 | F |

Oral Conferences: In addition to report cards, oral conferences between teacher and parent are scheduled twice each year.

Standardized Tests: Each year students in Grades 3-8 take the IOWA tests, which measure how well students perform in certain basic skill areas in relation to students throughout the United States and in the General Church system.

Student Records: These are collected and maintained throughout each child's schooling. They include:

- report cards, including grades, comments and attendance;
- standardized tests;
- medical and dental records;
- and results of any special testing (academic, psychological, or otherwise).

All records are confidential, but parents are free to inspect their own children's records at any time. Adult alumni are also welcome to see all of their own records.

Homework: Homework serves many purposes. Any given assignment may provide:

- reinforcement and extension of what has been covered in school;
- an opportunity to be creative;
- and practice in responsibility and independent work.

Homework guidelines are as follows, though more or less time may be required on any given day:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Grades 1 and 2 | 15 minutes, 3 days per week |
| Grades 3 and 4 | 30 – 45 minutes per day |
| Grades 5 and 6 | 45 – 75 minutes per day |
| Grades 7 and 8 | 75 – 120 minutes per day |
| Grades 9 – 12 | 100 – 180 minutes per day |

These guidelines do not assume a particular skill level as much as they assume *good habits*, which parents can do much to help their children develop. Having a routine of a regular time and a reasonably quiet place to do homework saves students time and frustration. We hope their time at home will not be dominated by homework and that they will have time to play, follow their own interests, and do things with the rest of the family.

Taking Tests at Home: Often the need arises for the administration of a test or quiz at home, as make-up from an absence or for a failed grade. Staying after school sometimes presents problems for students and parents as well as teachers, so parental willingness to help make this work is appreciated.

Guidelines for giving a test at home: A test should be administered by a parent (or other adult) only, not a sibling. The adult should be present for the time the student is taking the quiz, making sure that all books and papers have been put away before he or she begins. The test itself comes in a sealed envelope. There is an envelope inside in which to seal the completed test, with a place for the adult's signature. By signing, the adult confirms that the test arrived in a sealed envelope, and that the test was given according to the guidelines, and that he or she sealed the envelope after the test was completed.

Code of Conduct

The Word, and especially the Ten Commandments, forms the basis for KNCS's standards of behavior. The faculty together sets guidelines that apply to the whole school, and the classroom teachers make policies for their own classroom.

CHARITABLE BEHAVIOR

The moral development of a child is the foundation of his or her spiritual development. Students learn about virtues such as honesty, industry, modesty, courtesy, and friendship in school—in the classroom, on the sports field, and during social times. It is essential that we maintain an atmosphere of charity and order that promotes learning on all levels.

To this end, our teachers outline the behavior expected of students both inside and outside the classroom. Students are guided in their relationships with each other as well as with adults, the

staff seeking a good-natured relationship with them that builds their trust and encourages their willingness to be led. They are chaperoned and supported in moral behavior overall, while being given an appropriate level of freedom, to begin to develop their own moral compass.

All students are expected to exercise common courtesy at all times, everywhere. To help them establish good habits, KNCS has certain expectations for behavior.

COURTESY

We require students to exercise civility, which means:

1. Maintaining reverence during worship to honor our Lord.
2. Demonstrating respect during flag salutes, whether in an assembly or in a classroom, to show love for our country.
3. Students are encouraged to show respect and care for all adults and peers, which acknowledges that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Students are expected to address adults as “Mr.,” “Mrs.,” or “Miss” and to use polite expressions such as “please” and “thank you” with everyone. They are not permitted to hit, kick, or taunt anyone. Badgering, ridiculing, physical- or cyber-bullying, or other abuse of fellow students is not tolerated.

4. Students are required to show respect for school property by not littering and by not mutilating, defacing, or otherwise harming our buildings and their contents, including textbooks. Students are also required to show respect for the belongings of others.

DISCIPLINE

KNCS works closely with parents to support their children in amending their behavior.

Teachers may employ both rewards and punitive consequences to maintain order in their classrooms. It may sometimes be necessary for students to be kept in the classroom during recess or lunch, or even after school.

Warning: A student who commits an offense that is problematic enough to warrant them being sent to the assistant principal or principal will receive a warning.

1. *The first time in a school semester* – The principal or assistant principal will counsel the student, fill out a discipline card for the incident, and may contact the parents.

Repeated Offenses:

2. *The second time in a school semester* – The principal or assistant principal will counsel the student, fill out a discipline card for the incident, contact the parents, and assign detention to the student.
3. *The third time in a school semester* – In addition to #2, the teacher and assistant principal will ask the parents to come in for a conference. The student will be given detention and may be put on behavioral probation. (See “Consequences of Repeated or Serious Offenses” below.)

Serious Offenses

There are occasions that require direct consequences. Serious offenses include:

1. *Physical contact that intentionally causes bodily harm.* Examples: hitting, biting, scratching, kicking, spitting, shoving
2. *Intentionally causing emotional or physical distress; pushing beyond the limits of respect by using abusive language or actions; threatening, insulting, taunting or bullying others.* Examples: saying "I'll kill you!", "I'll hurt you if you tell", "You're fat", or "You're ugly"; making racial or sexual slurs or disrespectful nonverbal gestures; bullying

Definition of Bullying: Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely affecting the student, or that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to, verbal, graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, writing derogatory notes, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing, or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair-pulling, mock-hitting, motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing.

Obscene or Profane Language: Matthew 15:11 says, "Not that which enters into the mouth defiles the man, but that which comes out of the mouth, this defiles the man." Therefore, a student who uses obscene or profane language, either in jest, in anger, or absent-mindedly, will be subject to school discipline. Suggestive remarks or actions will be treated similarly.

3. *Gross rudeness or disrespect to anyone.* Examples: blatant refusal to cooperate, sassing a teacher, mocking, lying, disrespect in general
4. *Violations of the civil law.* Examples: battery, theft, vandalism, slander, substance abuse
5. *Failure to attend classes or other school activities.* Examples: truancy, going off campus without permission
6. *Abuse of electronic devices.* Examples: deliberate computer file corruption; bullying via social media; inappropriate usage, content, or images
7. *Cheating.* Examples:

On homework: Asking for help from teachers and parents when stuck on homework is very useful. Working on homework with a friend is sometimes permissible, depending on the teacher and the subject (ask the individual instructor). However, a student must hand in only his or her own work. Students must not lend their papers or homework to another student or copy each other's work. Both the lender and the copier are guilty of cheating.

On tests and exams: Looking at a neighbor's paper, whispering, or otherwise supplying the answers during a test, quiz, or exam is cheating. Discussing questions or answers with someone who was absent and has not yet taken the test is also cheating.

The Consequences of Repeated or Serious Offenses

1. ***Detention:*** A student will receive 30 minutes of detention for lighter offenses, 60 minutes for worse offenses, and 90 minutes for still worse offenses.
2. ***Behavioral Probation:*** Any student who receives 120 minutes of detention in a semester will go into behavioral probation. A student involved in a serious offense may go into probation. Behavioral probation lasts for eight weeks. It involves a family meeting with the appropriate principal or assistant principal, and a behavior card. If a student on probation receives an additional detention during the probationary period, he or she will be subject to suspension. Any student on probation will not be allowed to participate in field trips and any other activities mentioned in the behavior card, effective immediately.
3. ***Suspension:*** A student will be suspended from school for a minimum of three days when other means of discipline fail, when further disciplinary action is needed, or when the offense is quite serious. A student is responsible for making up any missed work. A student may not be able to make up certain class work, such as a lab.
4. ***Expulsion:*** The last resort is expulsion, when other disciplinary methods have failed to help a student amend his or her behavior or when the behavior is too serious for other methods to be appropriate. Expulsion can be from a class or classes, or from school altogether.

The Purpose and Hope of Discipline

“As many as I love, I reprove and chasten; be zealous, therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will have supper with him, and he with Me.” *Revelation 3:19-20*

Technology

Electronic Devices

If a student brings an electronic device to school such as a phone, iPod, or tablet that connects to the internet, the device must remain powered off and in a backpack or locker the whole time the student is at school, unless the student receives special permission from a teacher to get out the device and turn it on. The same is true on field trips.

Earbuds and Headphones

Students may use earbuds or headphones only in study hall, or with teacher permission in a class. During study hall, students may use earbuds or headphones to listen to appropriate music. If any student chooses inappropriate music, music privileges will be revoked for all students

Dress Code*

Because we are here to learn, KNCS emphasizes that clothing should reflect this use and not distract from it. In addition, our religious philosophy dictates that dress should be modest and appropriate to the setting, for both boys and girls. Note: These guidelines also apply to clothing worn to school opening, school closing, and on field trips.

- Clothes and shoes need to allow students to participate in a variety of school activities without being distracting.
- Clothing needs to be clean and free of rips, frayed edges, stains, and holes
- No bare feet, hats inside, untied shoe laces, flip-flops, or exposed undergarments, or any garment that looks out of place in school
- If there is writing or imagery on clothing, it needs to be acceptable for a church school setting.
- In addition, writing on the back needs to be covered up or removed for chapel in church.
- No distracting accessories and hair styles

* As children move beyond 6th grade, we find the need for additional rules. **Please contact the school office to obtain a copy of those that pertain to the 7th-12th grades.**

The School Day

Arrival:

Grade 1 and upward, Monday through Friday:

7:45 A.M. (not before) Homeroom time begins

8:00 A.M. First bell rings – quiet time in preparation for worship

8:03 A.M. Second bell rings for worship

Kindergarten, Monday through Thursday:

9:30 A.M.

Worship:

The whole school has chapel together in the church on Monday.

Grades 1-4 worship in their classrooms Tuesday through Friday.

Grades 5-8 worship together in the church Tuesday through Thursday and in their own classrooms on Friday.

Grades 9-12 worship in the church on Wednesday together with Grades 5-8, and worship Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday in the religion room.

Class Schedules: Please see the teachers or the secretary for these.

Chores: Students help take care of their classrooms and the buildings as part of their education. For twenty minutes twice a week they do such things as empty wastebaskets, sweep, wash windows, and clean the art room.

Fitness Period: During the morning there is a 15 to 20-minute fitness period for Kindergarten through Grade 8, during which the teachers supervise active games.

Dismissal:

12:45 P.M. for –

Kindergarten: Monday through Thursday

Grades 1-6: Monday through Friday

Grades 7-8: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Grades 9-12: Monday and Friday

2:45 P.M. for –

Grades 7-8: Tuesday and Thursday

Grade 9-12: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

The School Year: The school year is 180 days, usually beginning early September and ending early June depending on snow days, holidays, etc.

Snow Days and Delays: When school needs to be called off due to weather, or we have a delay, parents will receive an automated phone call or a call from a teacher between 6:00 and 6:30 A.M., if possible.

Power Outages: If we lose electricity during the school day, the school will notify parents that they need to come get their children.

Trips

School Trips: Teachers are encouraged to make field trips to reinforce classroom studies and inspire student interest. Permission slips, seat belts for all travelers, and chaperones are required for *all trips*.

Family Trips when School is in Session: Sometimes children miss several days of school to go on a family trips. Parents must evaluate the usefulness of such trips relative to the challenges of their child(ren) missing school and the extra demands it puts on them and the teachers. If you are planning to remove your child(ren) from school for travel, here are some reminders of what will make it easier for your child(ren) and KNCS:

- *First, notify the Assistant Principal* (610-756-6140, ext. 205) as soon as you know of an expected absence.
- *Contact each of your child(ren)'s teachers* to find out what he or she will miss and how to make it up.
- *Allocate some extra time* when you return to help your child(ren) with learning new material. Expect your child(ren) to spend additional time either after school or on homework when they return. With enough warning, homework can sometimes be assigned and completed in advance.
- *Course credit* may be affected by absence in the high school grades.

From the Word

Hear, O Israel; Jehovah is our God; Jehovah is one. And thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy forces. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently to thy sons, and shalt speak of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt tie them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

And they brought to Him little children, that He should touch them; and the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant, and said to them, Let the little children come to Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Amen I say to you, whoever shall not accept the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter into it. And having taken them up in His arms, and set His hands upon them, He blessed them. *Mark 10:13-16*

All instruction is simply an opening of the way; and as the way is opened, or what is the same, as the vessels are opened, there thus flow in, as before said, in their order, rational things that are from celestial spiritual things; into these flow the celestial spiritual things; and into these, celestial things. These celestial and spiritual things are continually presenting themselves, and are also preparing and forming for themselves the vessels which are being opened; which may also be seen from the fact that in themselves the memory-knowledge and rational are dead, and that it is from the inflowing interior life that they seem to be alive. *AC 1594:2*