



## 2020-2021 Discipline Policy

Excerpt taken from the 2020-2021 Parent/Student Handbook

Discipline is a necessary component of any healthy and successful life. God's Word says in Proverbs 4:10-13, "My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life. I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you to straight paths. If you live a life guided by wisdom, you won't limp or stumble as you run. Carry out my instructions; don't forsake them. Guard them, for they will lead you to a fulfilled life."

The goal of Gateway's discipline policy is to provide an academic learning environment guided by wisdom. We believe parents are our student's first and most important teachers. Parents have the most vital role and primary responsibility for training and disciplining their child. Gateway Academy's role is to reinforce proper behavior and character development taught at home.

Our Gateway staff is committed to teaching and training our students to be good listeners, to follow instruction, and to develop wisdom to make good choices. Our desire is for each student to honor God in their words, thoughts and choices. An integral part of proper discipline is the use of praise to encourage positive behavior. To facilitate this, our teachers will encourage and praise positive behavior and academic choices.

Discipline is also an on-going process. Methods used are determined by the child's understanding and stage of development. Our teachers utilize redirection, positive reinforcement, and Biblical counseling to resolve discipline problems and encourage wise choices from our students. Should a student continue to display poor behavior choices, an office referral may be necessary to discuss corrective action or appropriate consequences. Subsequent visits to the office will result in notification to the parents so that a partnership can begin between school and home for helping your child succeed in managing their behavior choices. **Repeated discipline issues or offenses necessitating a visit to the office are seen as serious infractions and could result in possible detention, suspension (in-school and/or out-of-school), or ultimately dismissal from the program.** Individual major infractions such as physical bodily harm, blatant disregard for school rules, or extreme disrespect and/or dishonor towards others could result in immediate disciplinary actions such as parent conferences, suspensions or program dismissal. Gateway Academy's administration is the final authority on all behavior, enrollment, and program dismissal situations. Tuition is not refunded for disciplinary dismissal. **At no time will a child be subjected to physical or emotional punishment, verbal abuse, humiliation or withholding of activities such as eating, rest or toileting.** Each individual teacher will send home their particular classroom discipline policy no later than the first week of school for parent notification and signature.

Our discipline plan affords students the opportunity to start "fresh" each 9 weeks. However, habitual offences extending from grading period to grading period will be treated as on-going offences and not new situations simply because a new 9 weeks has started.