



PERIMETER SCHOOL
A Covenant Christian Community

Explanation of Our Habits

Charlotte Mason said of habits in her book, *A Philosophy of Education*, “Habit is to life, what rails are to transport cars.” Habit is inevitable. Good habits enable children to avoid unnecessary distractions, giving them more energy and focus to tackle the challenges of schooling. Please consult our list of habits, which we value here at Perimeter School. These are taught throughout our entire curriculum and in all grades. Please read over the habits carefully, go over them with your child, and help them to understand and practice these concepts as they prepare for school. This concept may be new to you and your child. Modern research has confirmed Charlotte Mason’s principle that the development of self-regulation is pre-requisite to many academic skills.

Habit of Attention

- Fixes mind/body steadily on the matter at hand
- Follows instructions the first time
- Is motivated by a desire to know rather than to gain approval

Habit of Thinking

- Traces effect to cause; cause to effect
- Compares things of likeness and difference
- Works independently and confidently
- Participates in a dialogue of thought; is able to carry on conversation

Habit of Remembering

- Recalls information, facts, and knowledge
- Retains knowledge from previous lessons and is able to assimilate with the lesson at hand

Habit of Neatness and Order

- Manifests the adage “a place for everything and everything in its place”
- Executes work properly and neatly

Habit of Truthfulness

- Displays carefulness in stating the truth
- Ascertains the truth carefully
- Avoids exaggeration and embellishments

Habit of Responsibility

- Attends to personal belongings
- Seeks help when appropriate
- Accounts for personal behavior in relationships, work, and activities
- Observes appointed times
- Completes work in a reasonable amount of time, according to developmental norms

Habit of Courtesy

- Evidences what the student is ready to do for others rather than what is sought from others
- Expresses kindness and respect
- Displays readiness to apologize for discourtesies

Habit of Self-Control

- Manifests self-control (amiability, patience, humor, cheerfulness, and humility) rather than lack of self-control (fretfulness, discontentment, sullenness, murmuring, and impatience)
- Displays strengthening of will; is able to bring himself/herself to do what ought to be done, whether or not it is enjoyed

Habit of Obedience

- Follows instructions upon first request
- Body language reflects submissive heart attitude
- Exhibits an appropriate level of respect to adults in authority (teachers, staff, parents in the classroom setting)

Habit of Fortitude

- Bearing hardship or discomfort with courage
- The ability to exhibit mental and emotional strength when facing difficulty
- Strength of mind that enables one to disregard unpleasant sensations or circumstances
- Determination, endurance, purposefulness