

Unity Christian School

A Parent's Guide To Kindergarten



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www.unitychristian.com

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Kindergarten Parent Handbook



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Welcome to Unity!

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Unity Christian School's Kindergarten Program. Our teachers and staff are here to support you in your role as parents by providing a caring Christian atmosphere in which your child can learn. Our goal is to encourage your child to achieve his or her highest potential- academically, spiritually or socially, while reinforcing the faith and values taught in the Christian home.

Our school was founded over 85 years ago by parents who believed that Christ is Lord of all life, and that biblical values must be used in every aspect of classroom instruction and discipline.

An independent school board elected by our parent association governs Unity Christian. We are a private nondenominational school established by and for Christian parents with students coming from over 40 different churches and 16 different communities in the Gateway area.

With the purchase of River City Day Care, Unity is able to provide before and after-school care (homework help is even available), preschool and day care for families needing care for their children. Students registered at RCDC are bused to the day care after school.

Authentic Christian education does not hide a child from the world but prepares a child to be an effective light in the world regardless of the line of service to which he or she may be called.

We are here for the Christian family that desires to have biblical perspective taught at every level – from three years of age through senior high school. If you are looking for this kind of quality, comprehensive education, you've come to the right place.

Welcome to Unity!

With you, for Him,

Dick J. Ritzema
Superintendent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter	2
Missions Statement, Statement of Belief, Statement of Purpose, Admissions Policy	4
What's the Difference?	5
Daily Schedule & Theme Studies	6
Curriculum Used & Supply List	7
Holiday Celebrations & Special Days	8
Learning Objectives	9
School Rules & Guidelines	10 – 15
1. Class Time Schedule	Page 10
II. Illness, Medications, Absences, Tardies, Visitors	Page 10
III. Grades & Grading	Page 10
IV. Parent-Teacher Conferences	Page 10
V. Standardized Testing	Page 10
VI. Daily Program and Procedures	Pages 10-12
A. Injuries	Page 10
B. Lost & Found	Page 11
C. Student Supervision	Page 11
D. School Closing, Early Dismissal, Delayed Opening	Page 11
E. School Publications – Note Home, Knight Knews	Page 11
F. Hot Lunch	Page 12
G. Field Trips	Page 12
VII. Dress & General Appearance – Dress Code	Pages 12, 13
VIII. Student Code of Conduct – Discipline	Pages 13
IX. Busing Rules	Pages 13, 14
A. Bus Rules	Pages 13, 14
B. Availability, Busing Fees	Page 14
C. Discipline Procedures	Page 14
X. Playground Rules	Page 14
XI. Dutch Days	Page 15
XII. Emergency Procedures	Page 15
XIII. Registration Fee	Page 15

Missions Statement

In covenant with Christian families,
Unity Christian School
teaches students the Truth
from a Christ-centered perspective
for a life of discipleship.

Statement of Belief

1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and obedience.
2. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. Man, created by God and in God's image, disobeyed Him, fell from his original righteousness, and became dead in sin.
4. Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, is the incarnate, sinless son of God who was crucified and arose, bodily, from the dead. He ascended into heaven and there governs the world. Those who receive Him by faith have everlasting life.
5. Regeneration (rebirth) by the power of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to discern the truth of God's Word and to live a godly life.
6. Christ is personally coming again to judge the living and the dead.
7. Christians enjoy spiritual unity in their Lord, Jesus Christ.

Statement of Purpose

“Christian education is the faithful response of parents and the Christian community to God's instructions about the nurture and training of His children. As a community of believers, we commit ourselves to establishing a system of education that enables God's children to study every aspect of His Word and His World as citizens of His kingdom.” Christian schooling. . . is deeply rooted in Christ, is as broad as the scope of creation and culture, and is alive with the energy of youngsters and adolescents who are learning to be and become everything that God intends them to be as they serve Him joyfully and faithfully.” **

***Christian Education: Our Faithful Response (Grand Rapids: Christian Schools International), 1990.*

Admissions Policy

Unity Christian School does not discriminate due to race, color, or nationality in teacher hiring practices and/or student admission policies.

What's the Difference?

Many wonder why a parent would forfeit tax dollars to support a school where they don't send their children, why they would seek to spend thousands more on another school down the street when there's already 'a good one' in town. The answer lies in the very heart of what it is we want our children to be taught about life, especially by the people with whom they spend a vast majority of their school-age time - teachers.

To justify spending those kinds of dollars and the energy it takes to earn them one needs to ask early on, "What's the real difference between Unity's education and the one *down the street*?"

It's a fundamental difference. At Unity we don't teach subjects - we teach children – we teach them how to look at life through the spectacles of God's Word; that's the most fundamental difference. It's our intention to equip children with a Christian world and life view, for them to know that Jesus Christ is Lord of all of life.

Every person has basic questions about life that surface sooner or later. Who am I? Why am I here? What is God's purpose in my life? Am I special? Why does life hurt sometimes? What do I do with pain? How do I solve a problem with a friend? What am I going to do when I grow up? Must I listen to my teacher or parent? Is there a right and a wrong? What happens when I die? Why did Jesus have to die?

Depending on where a person seeks to answer these questions determines much about how their life will be lived. At Unity we look to the infallible Word of God, the Bible, and to the teaching God has graciously given, and to His Son Jesus Christ, the author and giver of life (1). The Bible makes it very clear to adults that children must not be led astray (2), that parents and teachers have an awesome responsibility (3), and that the teachings of the Bible ought to penetrate every aspect of our lives (4). It is our intent to equip children to be effective servants of the God who saved them. Reading, counting, playing, speaking, designing, creating, singing, solving, praying, dancing, writing and building are all activities in which we guide children to see and worship a loving God who has created an ordered world, a world in which our lives have purpose in light of the sacrifice that He gave to us in Jesus Christ (5).

When God instructed parents to always talk about His commandments no matter where we are or what time of day it is (6), we take that seriously and capitalize both deliberately and spontaneously on those opportunities every day. Devotions are designed to grow in our understanding of God, our need for Him, and our need for one another. Daily lessons equip us in understanding the world we live in and how we can be faithful stewards of all He has entrusted to us (7).

So what's the difference? The Bible guides us right in the very first chapter of Genesis – "In the beginning God..."

1 – John 11: 25

2 – Matthew 18:6

3 – Deuteronomy 6, James 3:1

4 – James 1:22, Romans 12:2

5 – Ephesians 1:3-14

6 – Deuteronomy 6

7 – Genesis 1:28

Daily Schedule

8:15	Children enter school
8:25	Bellwork
8:35	Devotions and opening activities
9:00	Reading/Language Arts
9:45	Snack (brought from home)
9:55	Recess until 10:10
10:15	Math
11:00	Centers
11:30	Bible
11:50	Prayer
12:00	Lunch
12:30	Recess until 12:50
12:50	Story time and resting until 1:30
1:40	Devotions
1:45	Science or Social Studies/Enrichment of morning activity
2:15	Centers
2:45	Group Activity
3:00	Prayer and prepare to go home
3:10	Bus students dismissed
3:15	All students dismissed

Schedule changes when there are special classes.

Monthly Themes

August–School	January–Winter
September-Apples	February-Teddy Bears
October-Fall	March-Spring
November-Thanksgiving	April-Easter
December-Christmas	May–Summer

Curriculum Used

<u>Bible</u>	God's Wonder – The Story of God and His People, <i>Christian Schools International, publisher, 2000</i>
<u>Math</u>	Saxon Math – Kindergarten, An Incremental Development, 2004
<u>Language Arts</u>	Framework for Effective Teaching: Kindergarten Sounds and Letters, <i>Open Court Publishing Co., 1995</i>
<u>Penmanship</u>	Handwriting, A Way to Self Expression, <i>Zaner Bloser, 1993</i>
<u>Science</u>	Science for Kindergarten, <i>Christian Schools International, 1994</i>
<u>Social Studies</u>	A Beka Book, <i>Pensacola Christian College, publisher, 2000</i>

Other materials are also used relative to themes and/or subjects being studied.

Kindergarten Supply List

One school bag or backpack large enough to hold school papers and shoes (for winter weather).

One pocket folder for papers and parent letters.

One box of tissues to share with the class.

One pair of scissors with metal (not plastic) blades. Fiskars for children work the best in either hand and will cut paper very well.

Eight fat markers in classic colors.

Crayons, no more than 24 count. (fat or skinny)

Two large size glue sticks (UHU or Elmers are good brands).

One bottle of white school glue, which will be shared by the class.

Two #2 pencils and pencil-top erasers.

Eight to ten sharpened colored pencils.

Watercolor paint set.

Students will need a foldable flat rest mat (no roll-up) and a bath towel.

Holiday Celebrations

Thanksgiving

Before Thanksgiving we read and discuss life among the Pilgrims and Native American Indians - how they lived, dressed and worked. We make hats for our feast, and prepare a Thanksgiving feast. We act out the Thanksgiving story and have our Thanksgiving feast during snack time.

Christmas

During the month of December we celebrate the birth of Christ. Discussion and play centers around the nativity scene (we have a small set in the classroom). We talk about those who would have been present during the time of Jesus' birth – Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. We discuss the encounter that each of these had with angels and how that impacted them. We also discuss the Christmas traditions and use an advent wreath for our devotions.

We finish up our Christmas unit with a Gingerbread man theme. After reading the book, "The Gingerbread Man", we go on a fun search through the school looking for the runaway gingerbread man. We end up in the kindergarten room with each student decorating his/her own gingerbread man.

Valentine's Day

The theme of the day is love for one another and God's love for us. Classmates exchange valentines with one another. The room mothers bring in a special Valentine's Day snack.

Special Days

Teddy Bear Day

Kindergartners bring a teddy bear to school. We introduce the bears to a day of kindergarten, which includes a tea party with juice and special treats during morning snack.

100th Day

We celebrate on the 100th day of kindergarten. All activities are centered around the number 100 – including counting and re-counting to 100 by 1's, 5's, and 10's.

Apple Day

Kindergartners go through the day with several activities centered around apples. Some examples are making apple prints, an apple tasting party, Apple stories with activities, and Apple Grins to eat.

Field Trips

This is planned as opportunities present themselves. The expense is paid by parents. In the past the students have went to the Pumpkin Ranch with a corn maze.

Class Trip

This is usually planned for some time in May. This expense is paid from the Activity Fee.

Field Day (Last day of School)

All elementary students participate in this fun-filled half-day of school. Students are divided into teams while they rotate to different stations for games such as: egg toss, various relay races, gunnysack races, etc. Treats are enjoyed back in the classroom at the end of the fun before the students say good-bye to their teacher and classmates. Parent help is needed and appreciated for these events.

Room mothers (or fathers) are needed and help with various projects during the year. If you are able to help in this way, please let the teacher know at the beginning of the school year.

Learning Objectives

BIBLE

- To make Christ the center of one's life 1st John 14:6
- To listen to Bible stories and respond to them through speaking, singing, and artwork
- To memorize Bible passages
- To apply lessons to life

LANGUAGE ARTS, PHONICS, READING

- To know that language is a gift from God II Tim. 3:16-17
- To learn the names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet
- To blend the sounds learned into simple words
- To recognize and distinguish beginning sounds in words
- To recognize likenesses, differences, opposites, rhyming words
- To think of ideas in the right order (sequencing)
- To increase vocabulary and self-expression
- To develop an interest in books and reading
- To pick out important ideas in a story
- To build smaller finger muscles for good writing habits

MATHEMATICS

- To know patterns in math were made by God Col.1:16a
- To learn to read and write numerals 0-30 and higher
- To count to 100 and higher, and count by fives and tens to 100
- To learn the meanings of the numbers 0-30
- To be introduced to basic math concepts such as geometric shapes, number sets, more, less, larger, smaller, under, over, above, below, between, before, after, first, second, third, measurements, time, money values, readiness for addition and subtraction

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- To learn to care for one's body as God's temple I Cor. 6:19-20
- To develop an awareness of, thankfulness for, and desire to correctly use one's wonderful body
- To promote health fitness and motor proficiency by developing each child's fundamental skills, movement patterns and motor abilities

SOCIAL

- To know that God wants us to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God" Micah 6:8
- To learn about self and others
- To develop a good self-concept
- To promote an appreciation for others
- To play cooperatively with others – sharing, taking turns, showing good sportsmanship whether winning or losing

SOCIAL STUDIES

- God – to know that God has planned and is in control of all events so we should pray for the world and the leaders 1 Tim. 2:1,2,3
- Home - to learn certain information about oneself
- Community – learn the concept of community and the value of community helpers
- America – to develop an appreciation of being an American through learning about our country and state, history, and patriotic symbols
- World – to develop an awareness of the vastness and differences to God's world through learning about children from other countries

SCIENCE

- To know that God created all things Gen. 1:1
- To develop curiosity, interest and wonder
- To learn to classify objects
- To appreciate God's world by exploration and discovery
- To develop a desire to keep God's world beautiful

School Rules and Guidelines

I. CLASS TIME SCHEDULE

- 8:05 Bell to go inside
- 8:15 Classes begin – students need to be in the classroom ready to go
- 12:00 Half-day kindergarten students dismissed
- 3:10 Bus students dismissed
- 3:15 Walking students dismissed

II. ILLINESS – MEDICATION - ABSENCES – TARDIES - VISITORS

A. Notes informing the school of an upcoming absence (for any part of the day) are to be brought to the teacher at least two days prior to the absence whenever possible.

B. Parents are to call the school by 8:30 AM on the day of an absence and inform the office personnel as to the reason for the absence.

C. If your child has been sick and is still on medication that we would need to administer here at school, **we need a signed, dated note from the parent/guardian stating the dosage and dispensing rules.** Please keep your children at home when they are sick. **Children must be fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to school - also with vomiting.**

D. **Parents are to sign students in and out at the office if they need to leave prior to the end of school or if they arrive late to school (late arrival is 5 minutes or more after last bell rings).** Students will only be released to parents if they come to the office and request that their child be released into their care.

E. Visitors to Unity's campus are welcome but they ALL must sign in with the school office. **Parents, please do not go to a student's room before securing permission from the office personnel.** Permission to have a friend visit for a day must be sought one day prior to a requested visit day.

(Please see the Elementary Handbook for specific rules regarding absences, tardies and suspensions.)

III. GRADES AND GRADING

Grading Scale

A	100 - 96	C-	76 - 74	E = Exceptional
A-	95 - 92	D+	73 - 71	S = Satisfactory
B+	91 - 89	D	70 - 68	N = Needs Improvement
B	88 - 86	D-	67 - 65	U = Unsatisfactory
B-	85 - 83	F	64 - 00	
C+	82 - 80			
C	79 - 77			

IV. PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are scheduled after the first quarter of school. Formal scheduling is done at the elementary level.

V. STANDARDIZED TESTING

Unity provides standardized testing for all of its students. K – 8th graders are given the ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills).

VI. DAILY PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES

A. Injuries

1. All injuries should be reported immediately to the supervising teacher and the office.
2. Parents are contacted when students receive injuries to the head or injuries of a more serious nature.

B. Lost and Found

1. A lost and found department will be maintained. Articles may be claimed by making positive identification during morning recess, at the noon hour or immediately after school. Unclaimed articles will be disposed of periodically.
2. Lost books, school owned, will be charged to the student at full replacement cost.

C. Student Supervision

Students may not be in the building outside of school hours unless they are under the direct supervision of a faculty member. Parents need to make arrangements to pick up kindergarten-age children at dismissal time. Students are expected to leave school when school is out.

D. School Closings, Early Dismissals or Delayed Openings:

1. Closings:

a. **In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified of school closings through the use of the media.** We try to have the information out by 6:30 am. ***PLEASE do not call school faculty or staff.*** Every effort will be made to get the word out concerning weather related events. Please listen to one of the following stations for school closing information:

Television – WHBF Channel 4, KWQC Channel 6 or WQAD Channel 8.

Radio -
WDLM, 89.3FM
WCCI, 100.3FM
KZEG, 94.7FM
KROS, 1340AM
KCLN, 1390AM
WSDR, 1240AM

- b. Decisions concerning closing school will be made as soon as it is possible.
- c. In case of high incidence of illness in the student body, the decision to cancel school will be made by members of the Executive Committee and the School Board. Percentage of students absent will be only one factor taken into consideration for a cancellation.

2. Early Dismissals:

Occasionally there is a weather emergency or power failure that may dictate early dismissal. Parents should plan for these events by having some prior arrangements made for child supervision in case of such an event. It would be of great help if your child knows what they are to do or where they are to go in case of an early dismissal.

- a. We try to give at least one hour of lead time before dismissing early. This may not always be possible.
- b. In the case of an early dismissal, students should follow plans that have been prearranged with their parents.
- c. **Early dismissal announcements will also be made through the media.**

3. Delays:

- a. Listen to the radio or television stations listed above concerning these types of announcements.
- b. Buses will run on delay days.
- c. School opening delays are generally two hours – elem. classes will begin at 10:25 a.m. Half day students will not have school.
- d. *On delay days, **Preschool** at River City Day Care **will be cancelled**; day care will be open. (If no school due to bad weather, preschool is cancelled, day care is open)*

E. School Publications: The Note Home, The Knight Knews

1. The Note Home - This is the weekly communication of Unity Christian School and River City Day Care. We send it home with students each Thursday and make copies available online at www.unitychristian.com and at the offices of all three facilities. **Copies are distributed each Thursday to the youngest of the family.** *It is your child's responsibility to bring it home.*
2. The Knight Knews is a quarterly, association-wide publication that is distributed to all supporters of Unity Christian School including recent graduates. If you know of someone who would like to receive this informative publication, please notify the office of the address.
3. Kindergarten Website – Barb's Kindergarten Korner - Calendar

F. Hot Lunch (*This is a US Government subsidized program.*)

1. A nutritious daily hot lunch program is provided by the school.
2. The cost per pupil is decided at the beginning of each year. Current cost is \$1.90/lunch for students in grades K-6th. (Adult lunch price - \$2.25)
3. Free and/or reduced lunches are available to those who qualify. Reduced lunches cost \$.40/lunch. Application forms are available from the office.
4. The office staff sells 20-day hot lunch (\$38) and/or milk tickets (\$7). Past due lunch notices will be passed out on Fridays.
5. Milk only is available for students bringing cold lunch. Current cost is \$.35/carton.
 - The cost is determined at the beginning of each year.
 - Juice for students with milk allergies is available with a hot lunch when a physician's note is on file with the kitchen staff.

G. Field Trips

Due to sudden, stiff increases in fuel costs, the school's registration fee will cover only year-end field trips. Students will be asked to pay for either impromptu or planned field trips as these opportunities arise throughout the year. Parents will be asked to volunteer as drivers for these trips and will need to submit a copy of a current insurance card to the office prior to the trip.

- Liability release - The Parental Consent Form signed at the beginning of each school year serves as a liability release for students as well as a consent form for field trips.
- No student will be denied attendance on a field trip for financial reasons. Please call the school principal if there is a financial difficulty for a field trip.

NOTE: The driver of a car transporting Unity students for the purpose of a field trip must have adequate coverage and provide proof thereof to the office. The driver's insurance holds primary coverage in case of an accident. Unity's insurance holds secondary coverage, that is, when the liability limit is reached with the primary insurance holder (driver), Unity's coverage takes over.

VII. DRESS AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

Neatness, cleanliness, and appropriateness for school should mark the dress and appearance of the Christian student. Appearance that disrupts or distracts from the educational program of the school, draws unfavorable comment, or reflects unfavorably on the image of Christ and Christian values must be avoided. Students and parents are encouraged to purchase clothing that would be comfortable and give honor and dignity to our Lord Jesus. With this in mind, the following Dress Code has been established.

DRESS CODE

Male and Female:

1. Shirts are to be either collared or crew neck.
2. There is to be no writing on any clothing worn in school (excluding jeans/shirt labels or tiny logos).
3. No sleeveless outer shirts (7-12th only).
4. UCS T-shirts and sweatshirts are permissible and encouraged.
5. No hats or hoods up (*as on sweatshirts*) in the building.
6. No holes in pants; no chains on pants.
7. Boys must wear belts if pants or shorts have belt loops (7-12th only).
8. Skirts and shorts must be at least fingertip length.
9. No skin is to be exposed around the waistline; no undergarments showing (sitting or active).
10. Clothing must be worn right side out.
11. Footwear must be worn at all times.

12. Hair must be clean. Boys' hair may be no longer than collar length. Hair coloration must be of a natural shade with no overtly bold colors.
13. Earrings may be worn by girls, but only in the ears.

A. Questions about the appropriateness of a student's attire will be dealt with on an individual basis, according to grade level. (Although highly irregular at this age, kindergarten parents would be contacted if a difficult situation were to develop.)

B. Students are expected to comply with requests to change inappropriate dress immediately and may be sent home to change or given a Unity T-shirt that must be washed, dried, and returned to school. Failure to return shirt will result in a \$10 fine. (Again, kindergarten parents would be contacted in the event of a difficult situation.)

C. Unity reserves the right to request that students refrain from wearing or displaying a particular style of dress, make-up, or hairstyle that calls undue attention to the student and/or is judged to be inconsistent with standards that define the rules and policies of Unity. Modesty, moderation, cleanliness, neatness, and appropriate attire exemplify Unity's character.

D. Warm Clothing - Parents need to be aware that students who come to school without proper winter attire for outdoor activity during winter months will still be required to go outside. **Parents, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for cold weather.** Students do not go outside for recess when the temperature (actual or with wind chill) is 0 or below.

1. A winter hat, coat, gloves, snow pants and boots will be necessary when snow is on the ground in Fulton.
2. During wet fall or spring conditions, boots and /or light coats are required.

VIII. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Attending a Christian school is a privilege. The Board of Directors may deny that privilege, or take other disciplinary action with any student whose conduct does not conform to acceptable Christian standards. This applies to conduct not only during school hours but also at other times if student conduct brings public reproach to the name and honor of Unity Christian.

Student Discipline

The individual teachers will handle discipline of elementary students. The principal will become involved should a serious offense occur. Teachers will keep parents informed when situations requiring serious discipline arise. Staff members reserve the right to issue personal detentions with adequate and appropriate notification of the parents of the student. *Please see the Elementary Handbook for offenses of a more serious nature.*

IX. BUSING RULES

First and foremost, students and parents are asked to realize that the driver has a tremendous responsibility in transporting students to and from school. Driving a 60- passenger bus with students on board and trying to be alert to all road hazards and dangers is a huge undertaking. It is for these reasons we have the following rules for the bus.

A. Bus Rules -

1. Courtesy is to be extended to the driver and to each other.
2. No open drink containers are to be on the bus. If drink items are transported they must be sealed and put in book bags or duffel bags.
3. No stereos, radios or CD players will be permitted on the bus. Personal listening devices with headsets are permitted but must be played so others cannot hear what is being played.
4. Loud noises, such as screaming or yelling, will not be permitted.
5. Students are to remain in their seats at all times while the bus is in motion. Students

may not switch seats during the route unless instructed to by the driver. The individual bus driver shall determine the seating arrangements on the bus.

6. Throwing of objects is not permitted. All types of balls or items to be thrown are to be properly stored in a book bag or duffel bag while on the bus.
7. Skateboards or in-line skates are not allowed on the bus.
8. Lighters and/or matches are not to be transported on the bus.
9. Guns, knives or items that are generally regarded as weapons are not to be transported on the bus. Pretending/playing guns & war games are not permitted.
10. No fighting on the bus.
11. No pets are to be transported on the bus.
12. Instruments must remain in the case or backpacks and are not to be played on the bus.
13. Nothing goes out an open window and windows may only be opened to designated line marked on each side of the window.
14. No rude gestures should be made at the window or to other students/drivers.
15. Eating on the bus is at the discretion of the bus driver.
16. The bus driver will follow a progressive system of discipline that may ultimately lead to parents bringing their child to school for one or more days.

B. Availability - Busing is available to students who reside outside of Fulton for an annual fee of \$400.00 per family. Currently, two bus routes are available (morning and evening only)

- the North Route which includes the Illinois communities of Morrison, Mt. Carroll, Savanna and Thomson
- the Clinton Route which includes Garden Plain Road (in Illinois) and Clinton, Iowa.
 1. The school's transportation director annually determines the locations of bus stops.
 2. Illinois residents are eligible for state financial reimbursement for transportation. The school's Note Home will contain information concerning the application process or form availability in the spring of the year.
 3. The busing fee may be made in one payment of \$400 due August 8, 2007 **or** in 2 equal payments of \$200 due no later than August 8, 2007 and January 3, 2008.

C. Discipline Procedures:

1. The bus driver is the primary source of discipline and may establish individual bus procedures or punishments in keeping with regular school policy. Punishment for violation of bus policy will be dealt with on an individual basis in accordance with other school policy that may pertain to the individual issue.
2. The secondary level of discipline will be the building principal.
3. Whenever the rules of bus behavior are broken, the following procedure will take place:
 - ❖ 1st offense – Bus driver warns
 - ❖ 2nd offense – Bus driver warns; phone call & report mailed home giving notice of violation.
 - ❖ 3rd offense – Student visits with Administration; phone call & letter is mailed home
 - ❖ 4th offense – One-day suspension of busing privileges and phone call home
 - ❖ 5th offense – Three-day suspension of busing privileges
 - ❖ 6th offense – Two-week suspension of busing privileges; parents/guardians meet with Administration
 - ❖ 7th offense – All busing privileges suspended for remainder of the year

(Note: Driver & Administration reserve the right to adjust the above procedure depending on the severity of the offense.)

D. U.S. Patriot Act – the U.S. Patriot Act was signed into law on October 26, 2001 – effective January 1, 2002, in Illinois and the U.S. This law has stiff penalties (20 years to life imprisonment) for offenses related to wrecking, setting fire to, or otherwise disabling/impairing a school bus, placing any toxin or weapon on or near a school transportation vehicle, or interfering with, disabling, or incapacitating a dispatcher or driver or passenger. The law also addresses conveying false information regarding an alleged attempt to commit any of the above offenses.

X. PLAYGROUND RULES

- A. Boundaries include the neighboring streets, parking lot, and lower playground fences.
- B. Play is not allowed on the front entry-way to the building, east side of the building, or the south side by the kindergarten room.
- C. Playground equipment rules will be made by the faculty and at their discretion. They will be posted in each school hallway.
- D. Students must have teacher permission to leave the playground, i.e. to cross the street or to use the restroom.
- E. Un-Christlike behavior will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- F. During inclement weather, students who are not appropriately dressed will be restricted to a certain area of the playground, i.e. if a student does not have boots, he will not be allowed to play in the snow.
- G. Students will be kept inside when the temperature or the wind chill is below zero and on days it is raining.

XI. DUTCH DAYS

Fulton's Dutch Days' celebration, held each year on the first weekend in May, is an opportunity for Unity to demonstrate its part in the community. The kindergarten class and teacher participate in the Dutch Days' parade by sweeping the streets which helps to begin the parade. (Ask your child's teacher for specifics on costumes, etc.) Please encourage your child to participate with us in this community-wide celebration of Fulton's heritage. We send a LOUD message to Fulton by our presence and by our absence. Unity will be doing all it can to put on the best show with all K-6th grade students. The Board of Directors and staff look for your support from home.

XII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency wherein students' lives or well being is jeopardized, students will remain at school under the supervision of their teacher or Unity staff until they can be transported to a safer location, by bus to home, or picked up by the parent and/or designated guardian. Students will not be released from the school premises without the knowledge and permission of the administrative staff.

XIII. REGISTRATION FEE

A \$65.00 fee is assessed annually for each elementary student (K-6) in the spring during registration and for all new students entering Unity Christian Elementary School. This fee covers expenses such as: assignment books, physical education activity fees, Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and end of year field trips. This fee is non-refundable and is essential for setting the school's budget.

Please Note – Fees are set in the spring of the year and are a part of our General Fund Budget. Fees listed in this handbook are subject to change. Advance notice will be given to parents, however, when increases become necessary. Please refer to the Elementary Student Handbook for complete and up-to-date revisions of school policies and fees.

