Policies and Procedures Handbook

Westland Christian Academy

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

Westland Christian Academy

© Westland Christian Academy 34033 Palmer Westland, MI 48186 Phone 734-326-3581 • Fax 734-326-3352 WCA@westlandchracad.org Our goal is to reach families with the glory of Christ, provide organization and structure to Homeschool families, and to supply the tools needed for a premier education.

estland Christian Academy was founded in 1984. It began as a burden in the heart of Mrs. Carol Enersen. She was a Homeschool mom and found limited resources to support her. It was Mrs. Enersen's desire to guide and assist Homeschool families. From this one woman's longing to help families, Westland Christian Academy has blossomed to a full scale academic powerhouse! We meet every educational need. If you are looking for a solid Biblical education for your child/children, look no further. Rest assured we have a program to fit your needs!

INFORMATION		
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✓ Westlandchracad.org		
WCA@westlandchracad.org		
34033 Palmer		
Westland, MI 48186		

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

Our Goals

- 1. Aiding families to be structured in their Homeschooling.
- 2. To be an organization for the setting of standards to promote the integrity of education.
- 3. To provide helps as in:
 - -Tutoring Services
 - -Report Cards
 - -Transcripts
- 4. To assist in the process of lifelong education.
- 5. To provide extra curricular activities such as:
 - -Field trips
 - -Enrichment Classes
 - -Social Interaction
 - -Kindergarten & Senior Graduation

Our Stand

Westland Christian Academy is a Homeschool program dedicated to meeting the needs; spiritual, academic, and social of its members. Founded in 1984, WCA is a seasoned program built upon Biblical mandates.

It is our purpose to assist parents in the spiritual development, character molding, and education of their children in Michigan and beyond.

Dear Parent.

Deciding to homeschool your children is a major decision you must make as a family. Homeschooling is a way of life, a full time job, and is a part of child training. Parents should fully understand the responsibility they are committing to by educating their children!

Decide why you desire to homeschool, and be firm in your decisions. List the reasons and convictions that your family has for Homeschooling; complete with pros and cons.

List the major goals that must be met for your family each school year. Subsequently, yearly goals need to be set for each child; addressing their unique skills and needs. These steps will keep your homeschool focused.

The patterns that you develop now in Homeschooling will affect your children for the rest of their lives.

If you are organized and consistent in your homeschool, your children will excel. If you are scattered and inconsistent, your children will fail.

In His Service, Carol Enersen,

Mastery Learning

Not a new philosophy, mastery learning is a style of education which seeks to guide the student to complete understanding of a concept. The student stays with a particular unit, principle, or topic until measurable results and objectives are achieved.

WCA building a solid foundation on which students can reach greater heights!

- Completeness- WCA students are required to finish all assignments associated with a class or credit. No final grades are issued until all papers, assignments, activities, tests, and so on have been completed.
- Functioning at Grade Level- After entrance testing, any scores lower than the student's grade level must be brought up by supplemental materials. If in high school, no transferrable credits will be given for GAP work.



Tuition is \$125.00 per student monthly for the first student; discounts for multiple children.

Individualized Learning

Westland Christian
Academy is a
private
organization, a
ministry of Full
Gospel Temple,
and is built and
operates solely
upon Biblical
standards.



Each student must take an English and Mathematics diagnostic test upon entry to the program.

Parents are the ones ordained by God to raise their children. Parents are to provide food, clothing and shelter for their children. They also bestow spiritual guidance, correction, and love to their offspring. Yet, the commands from our heavenly Father do not stop there as far as raising children. Parents are the ones responsible to provide education, both academically and spiritual.

Parents may choose an alternate source to assist them in the educational areas for their children such as a Christian school. Yet, the parents should not relinquish their God given rights to another entity. Some important thoughts should be, "Whose values will my

child be influenced by?" Who will mold my child?

The best way to learn is different for each student. With individualized schooling, children may be free to learn in an environment that is welcoming, and not be a carbon copy of a classroom full of peers.

CLASS TYPES
INCLUDE:



<u>Printed Curriculum</u>- curriculum that is produced by an approved scholastic company. Examples include: Accelerated Christian Education, Alpha and Omega, Abeka Books, Modern Curriculum Press, Apologia, and Saxon.

<u>Online Classes</u> classes taken virtually using Westland Christian Academy's SOO program. Online classes are available for third through twelfth grades.

<u>Onsite Classes</u>- classes are one to two days a week with assignments to be completed at home daily. These classes range in subject area from math to art.

<u>Activity Based Study-</u> classes that are graded completely upon participation. These classes may include home economics, personal fitness, Bible reading. An activity log must be submitted with quarter grades.

<u>Other:</u> special studies, classes taken at other schools, are accepted and will be addressed on an individual basis.



Michigan Compiled Laws

Revised School Code MCL 380.1561

"Michigan parents have the right to home school their children. The law requires a parent or legal guardian of a child from the age of six to sixteen to send his or her child to school during the entire school year... (MCL 380.1561). The exceptions include, but are not limited to, sending a child to a state-approved nonpublic school or educating a child at home in an organized educational program. Home school education is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The parent assigns homework, gives tests and grades these tests. The issuance of report cards, transcripts, and diplomas are the responsibility of the home school family (based on internal standards). If home schooling continues through grade 12, the parent issues a high school diploma to the graduate. Parents are encouraged to maintain student records of progress throughout the year. "

High School Completion

It is never too late to finish your high school diploma! It does not matter if you need all or just a few credits; we offer all high school courses. Our adult education students are entitled to all the services we offer our homeschool families. Life is busy so our program works around your busy life. We offer tutoring, extended hours, and on-line help. Give us a call today and start working toward your childhood dream!

Westland Christian Academy is a remarkable program. Founded in 1984, WCA has the advantage of a long and successful history. We have earned a reputation for high standards and solid academics. Hundreds of students have graduated from our program and have gone on to colleges, universities, military service, pastoral ministries, or careers. We are proud of their success as well as the quality of our program.

Two of the largest concerns parents have:

1) Will my student suffer any negative social issues?

WCA answers this question right on the head. Our students are provided many outlets to interact with peers, work in groups, mentor others, express themselves freely, and develop solid social skills. Moreover, statistically, Homeschool students develop strong personal identity and are strong leaders later in life.

2) Will my student meet public school students in aptitude and testing?

By law no tests are mandatory for Homeschool students. However, all testing that is available to public students is also available to homeschool students. WCA students routinely score well above national standards.

Enrollment Process

- 1. Fill out a registration form
- 2. Submit
 - a. registration form
 - b. Current report card/transcript
 - c. \$25.00 registration fee
- 3. Schedule Testing
- 4. Student Tests
 - a. Math
 - b. English
- 5. Complete Enrollment Paperwork
 - a. Q & A
 - b. Sign an Integrity Agreement
 - c. Go over WCA Handbook
- 6. Order Curriculum/Payment
- 7. Meet with WCA Staff Member



Integrity Agreement

Westland Christian Academy is built <u>solely</u> upon Biblical standards. Our program functions upon a high moral fabric.

Each member must willingly comply and abide by the rules and laws laid for the operation and functionality of the organization.

The Five Principles of Integrity

1. Honesty

It is the duty of the parent to set the example of honesty and truthfulness. At no time is the student allowed access to; score keys, record keeping information, or academic correspondences.

2. Structure

It is imperative that the parent set up and abide by a distinct routine for their Homeschool. Specific start and stop times must be actively upheld. Daily assignments are given, work is submitted and work is graded. A concrete schedule is to be maintained. At no time are books to be turned in partially done, containing frivolous or nonsensical answers, or simply "filled out".

3. Steadiness

Consistency and stability must be paramount for every student. There must be a sense of peace and harmony in the Homeschool. Distractions must be kept to a minimum.

4. Honoring Financial Obligation

The financial obligations of the Homeschool are to be paid in full and on time.

5. Responsibility

Homeschooling is the undertaking of the parents.

It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that their child/children abide by the rules set forth in the WCA manual.

Failure to comply with the Principles of Integrity will result in removal from the program.

A Note on Integrity

We know that each parent has the student at the center of their drive to Homeschool. Thoughtful of this; we discern that cheating, improper scoring, lack of attention, and violation of the Integrity Agreement is inconceivable. If, however, there are

cases that arise, the following action will be taken:

- 1. The administrator will review the family history, submitted work, and all documentation associated with the family.
- 2. If there is found to be a gross infraction, the family will be contacted and the violations discussed.
- 3. The final step is dismissal from the program. If you wish to contest the removal, you must do so in writing within two weeks of your dismissal. Your petition will be reviewed and you will be contacted.

WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO?

To help in record keeping, organization, and ordering, parents are required to maintain an academic portfolio for each of their students. This three-ring binder will house all of the academic information pertaining to the student. It will include:

- 1. The student's basic information.
 - a. Name
 - b. Grade
 - c. School Year
- 2. The students subjects/classes
 - a. Tests
 - b. Projects
 - c. Papers
 - d. Grades
- 3. Report Cards

It is the responsibility of the parent to buy, set up and maintain this portfolio. The academic portfolio will be turned in at the end of each card marking and will be returned with the next installment of materials.

Students must bring their portfolios with them to each class.



Grade Level Requirements

 $K-8^{th}$

Kindergarten

Math-Bible-Word Building/Spelling-Phonics-Handwriting

Parents may add other subjects such as science, history, or art. The kindergarten program that you choose should be very strong in phonics and reading.

A student will not be allowed to advance from kindergarten until they are able to read.

1st-2nd Grades

Math

English/Language

History/Social Studies

Science

Bible

Handwriting

Spelling/Word Building

Phonics

Maps

Reading

Animal Science (Optional Additional Fee)

3rd - 6th Grades

Math

English/Language

History/Social Studies

Science

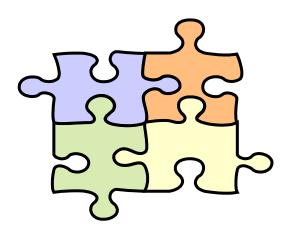
Bible

Spelling/Word Building

Reading/Literature

Cursive

Map (Optional Additional Fee)



7th -8th Grades

Math

English/Language

History/Social Studies

Science

Bible

Spelling/Word Building

Reading/Literature

Cursive

Map (Optional Additional Fee)

The classes listed above are mandatory for all students and will appear on each report card. Parents may add any additional classes if they desire

Report cards are issued four times each year. Parents MUST submit all grades two weeks prior to the scheduled report card date. Any delinquent grades will result in an inactive status.

All students grades 2^{nd} - 8^{th} must complete two book reports each year. There is an optional paper and presentation at the end of every year.

WCA DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

1. Diploma

Student must complete:

- 1. High School State Testing
- 4 English/ Language Arts
 (American Literature/English I, II, and III/College Writing)
- 3. 4 Science Credits

(Biology/Chemistry/Physical Science/+1)

- 4. 4 Mathematics Credits
 (Algebra I/Algebra II/Geometry/+1)
- 4 History/Social Studies Credits

 (U.S. Civics/World Geography/World History/Economics/MI. History/U.S. History and Geography)
- 6. 7+ Electives Credits
 (Senior Workshop/Bible/Foreign Language)

Special Education Certificate

Certificate will be notated as Special Education.

Student must have current testing and an active IEP.

TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS AND CREDIBILITY, OUR PROGRAM REQUIRES HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS TO BE VERIFIED. THE CURRICULUM USED MUST BE APPROVED AND AT A PUBLISHED HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL. THE PARENT MUST PROVIDE WCA WITH ALL OF THE COMPLETED DAILY WORK, TESTS, LAB REPORTS, AND THE LIKE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CREDIT.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE, AT THE VERY LEAST, TWO FULL YEARS WITH OUR PROGRAM. HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS COMPLETED WITHOUT OUR PROGRAM, MUST COMPLY WITH OUR VERIFICATION POLICY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE VALIDATION AND BE COUNTED TOWARD GRADUATION. A FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE VALIDATION.

TUITION AND FEES

JOIN OUR

MAILING LIST

TO RECEIVE

UPDATES AND

IMPORTANT

INFORMATION.

Yearly Registration Fee \$25.00 Per Student

Monthly Tuition

\$125.00 Per Student

Multi-student discount may apply.

No refund will be given.

Tuition is charged by the card marking. If a student drops, the remaining balance for the card marking must be paid in full.

Report cards and records will only be released once financial obligations are met.



Services Provided by WCA

Report Cards	Computer Lab
Transcripts	Onsite Classes
Career Technical Center	Standardized Testing
Field Trips	☐ Banquet
Kindergarten Graduation	
High School Graduation	☐ Field Day
Elective Classes	Christmas Pageant
Tutoring	College Enrollment
Diagnostic Testing	

WCA Standard Policies

I. Social Networking

- a. No student is permitted to access social networking websites while using the Westland Christian Academy network.
- b. A student is responsible for all comments, posts, threads, and the like posted to any online page. All words, slander, intimidation, threats, and posts will be taken seriously. The student will be held to these statements as if the student were making the statement in person.

II. Bullying

- a. Bullying can take many forms. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - i. Verbal: name calling, teasing
 - ii. **Social**: spreading rumors, slanderous writing, physical or mental threats, threats to property
 - iii. **Physical**: hitting, punching, shoving
 - iv. **Cyberbullying**: using the internet, mobile phones, or other digital technologies to harm, harass, or threaten others.
- b. Bullying of any kind will simply not be permitted.

III. Cell Phones

- a. No cellular telephones are permitted in the halls, classrooms, chapel, or Temple.
- b. Cellular telephones must be turned into the office upon arrival.
 - i. First Offense = phone confiscation with return to parent only
 - ii. Second Offence = phone confiscation with return to parent only with a \$20.00 charge

"BELOVED,
LET US LOVE
ONE ANOTHER:
FOR LOVE IS
OF GOD; AND
EVERY ONE
THAT LOVETH
IS BORN OF
GOD, AND
KNOWETH GOD.
HE THAT
LOVETH NOT
KNOWETH NOT
GOD; FOR GOD

~ I JOHN 4:7-8

iii. Third Offence = phone confiscation without return

- "Facebook privacy is an oxymoron. If something is posted on Facebook, someone will see it..."

 ~John Holmquist
- IV. Sexting (Sexting is commonly defined as the sharing of sexually explicit photos, videos, email, text and chat by cellular telephone or online.)
 - a. Immediate action will be taken for the above mentioned activities; sexting online or by cellular telephone. This varies from suspension to expulsion.
 - b. Anything illegal will be reported to the Westland Police Department.

v. Student Driving

- a. Licensed students in good standing seeking to drive unrelated persons in their vehicle to and from school must
 - i. Supply a notarized letter from both consenting parents
 - ii. Be on time for classes
- b. Licensed students in good standing are permitted to drive themselves and siblings **only** to and from school activities.
- c. 12th grade licensed students in good standing are permitted to leave school grounds for lunch.
 - i. Transporting no other students
 - ii. Notarized letter from consenting parents

VI. Parking Lot Rules

- a. Licensed students in good standing already permitted to drive must follow all common safety rules and laws.
- b. No student loitering at vehicles will be permitted.
- c. Students are not permitted to visit the vehicles of other students.
- d. No loud music will be tolerated.

VII. Property Damage

- a. Internal School/Church Property
- b. External School/Church Property
- Parents will be held financially responsible for any damage done by their children to Full Gospel Temple, student property or Westland Christian Academy property.

Organization in Your Homeschool

Where and When to Homeschool

- There needs to be a designated place in your home set up as your family's schoolroom. This will relay the importance of education and provide a clean and clear place for your children to complete assignments.
- You, as the parent and educator, should decide when school hours will be held in your home. Remember that homeschooling can be as unique as your family is. Tailor your hours and days to meet the needs of your family. When your hours are established, be very consistent in maintaining them.

- ➤ It is your responsibility as the parent and educator to maintain a structured atmosphere.
- ➤ If your family/student is inactive for three months your family will be considered inactive. There is a \$50.00 activation fee to bring your family back into active status.

Lesson Planning & Record Keeping



- o A grade/percentage product and a daily planner must be used.
- O You must plan and record daily lesson plans.
- o Curriculum must be graded according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
- o Parents must keep an up to date *Academic Portfolio* for each child.

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

Dear Esteemed Member of the WCA Family,

Thank you for taking an interest in Westland Christian Academy and in the lives of students we are privileged to share with. It has been my desire for WCA to be a guide to homeschool families. Since homeschooling is built around each family, we encourage parental involvement. One way that we can enhance the homeschool experience is to provide enrichment classes. Hopefully, as more parents see what we offer, and they have a desire to share their talents; we will add additional classes.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carol Enersen



VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

Volunteering is very much like being employed. There are clear responsibilities that the volunteer accepts and agrees to perform.

In our volunteer program each participant is required to abide by the rules and guidelines set by Westland Christian Academy to ensure that our students have the very best environment.

The volunteer must:

1. Submit to a background check

It is State Law that any person working with children must pass a background check. Each volunteer, no matter the job description, must agree and submit to a full background check.

2. Honor all time commitments made

It is vital that each volunteer is present and on time as scheduled. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to notify the Westland Christian Academy administrator prior to the start of the school day if they will be absent or tardy. Westland Christian Academy reserves the right to revoke any arrangement made with a volunteer if attendance becomes an issue.

3. Follow all Westland Christian Academy policies and procedures

Volunteers must attend and complete a training seminar where they will be instructed in Westland Christian Academy policy and procedure, given contractual information, and instructed in the specifics of their position.

4. Understand and respect the chain of command that is set in place

The chain of command is as follows:

- ~ Senior Pastor
- ~ Administrator
- ~ Supervisor
- ~Volunteers/Teachers/Parents/Other Staff

5. Handle any problems that come up as Westland Christian Academy policies delineate

During the training, these policies will be gone over and explained in depth.

6. Treat each student in all fairness guarding against favoritism

It is only natural that a parent looks to the wellbeing of their offspring. With this in mind, volunteers need to recognize that there is no place for favoritism in the classroom setting. All students are to be treated fairly.

7. Support Westland Christian Academy and see to its edification and positive reputation

Accredited by The National Association of Private Schools



I. Opening

Persons who commit their time and expertise to aid and enhance Westland Christian Academy and offer services to its students provide a vital service. Each person helps WCA reach our ultimate goal of reaching and teaching students and families.

This booklet will help acquaint you with WCA policies and procedures, answer frequently asked questions, and explain the basics of being a WCA staff member, volunteer, or parent teacher.

II. Applicability

General guidelines:

- Must have reached the age of 18 years
- · Must be an upstanding member of society
- Must submit to and pass a background check
- · Volunteers must comply with all rules, regulations, and policies set by WCA.

III. Guidelines

- ~Individuals must at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner, always reflecting the nature of Christ.
- ~Student information is strictly confidential.
- ~While student interaction is a necessary part of education, volunteers must never lose the authority/student decorum.
- ~Just as students are responsible for their words on social networking media, teachers are responsible for their words both on and off school grounds.
- ~Parent-teachers are responsible for making up missed days or classes.
- ~Everyone is required to attend chapel and Bible Quiz
- ~We **STRONGLY** discourage being FB friends with students.
- ~While in the building, you are 'On the Job'
- ~Staff members are available at every step to offer help.
- ~Students **MUST** complete all work that is assigned to them. **ANY** outstanding assignments need to be reported immediately to the office.
- ~Mastery Learning is a building block of our program.
- ~We welcome suggestions from staff, student, and parents alike.
- ~Cellphone use must be kept to a minimum.
- ~Office personnel will pull supplies.
- ~ Before dismissal, the responsible adult must ensure the room used by the class is cleaner than they found it.
- ~Grades, assignments, and the like should never be discussed with parents, even if they are personal friends.
- ~Grades are issued by WCA only. Some teacher submitted scores may change slightly when figured into our weighting system.

- ✓ Any correspondence must be approved by the administrator. Items should be submitted at least two days in advance.
- ✓ WCA is a Bible based Christian school. However, no doctrinal discussions are permitted. If such a question does arise, students must be directed to the office. From there, WCA staff will prayerfully guide them to sources sanctioned by their parents.
- ✓ No adult is ever permitted to be alone with a student.
- ✓ Student/Family information is intensely private and is confidential. At no time should student specifics be discussed with anyone other than school staff.
- ✓ Communication is a vital part of our success. Staff members must discuss all issues concerning grading, students, and the like.
- ✓ No outside fundraising is acceptable.
- ✓ 'Badmouthing' fellow teachers, administration, and the like is simply not tolerated. We must seek to build our program, and never berate it.
- ✓ Relationships which exist outside of WCA must never interfere with school activities.



STUDENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Working with students is a rewarding experience. However, there are times that a conflict between a student and a volunteer may arise. In such cases, follow these steps:

1. Notify Staff of the Concern

(Never feel as if you must resolve issues on your own. WCA staff is ready and able to help settle any conflicts that come up.)

2. Meet with WCA Staff Member

(A meeting will be scheduled that fits the situation.)

3. Create a Resolution with Staff

(Often times a conflict can be resolved with a very simple adjustment.)

Student Driving & Parking Rules

STUDENT
IDENTIFICATION
CARDS CAN BE
SECURED BY
SUBMITTING THE
PROPER FORM,
PAYING THE
\$ 10.00 FEE, AND
HAVING A PICTURE
TAKEN.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER!

- 1. Withdraw Dates/ Drop Dates
 - a. Enrichment dates are built into each academic year.
 - b. Withdraws will not be permitted past the four week mark. A zero will be issued for classes not complete. No refunds or credits will be given.
 - c. Classes cannot be dropped past six weeks.
- 2. Volunteering
 - a. WCA offers a volunteer program.
 - b. Volunteers must pass a background check.
 - c. Volunteers must successfully complete the "Volunteers Training."
 - d. Volunteers must abide by all WCA policy and procedures.
- 3. Report Cards
 - a. Report cards are issued four times each academic year.
 - i. November 6th
 - ii. January 15th
 - iii. March 26th
 - iv. June 11th
 - b. Grades are due two weeks before report cards are issued.
 - c. Families not reporting grades on time will be "inactive" and removed from the program.
- 4. Important Links
 - a. Vocational Center:
 - i. Students in all levels of our program are invited to attend classes at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.
 - ii. wwcsd.net/fctc
 - b. Campbell's Products:
 - i. Clip your UPC labels on all Campbell's products. Turn them in to the office and help us and those points!
 - ii. http://www.labelsforeducation.com/default.aspx
 - c. Gordon Food Service:
 - i. Participants are encouraged to shop at our GFS Marketplace and mention our program!
 - ii. See gfs.com for details.
 - d. Target Credit Card:
 - i. The Target credit card is a store credit card that gives a percentage of money spent back to our school.
 - ii. https://redcard.target.com/redcard/rc_main.jsp
 - e. Box Tops:

- i. Earn cash for WCA through everyday activities such as buying groceries or shopping online all at no additional cost to you!
- ii. Clip Box Tops from hundreds of participating brands.
- iii. Earn up to 8% back for WCA when you shop online and 1% every time you use your Box Top credit card.
- iv. http://www.boxtops4education.com/index.aspx
- 5. Curriculum
 - a. Curriculum must be used in each core subject area.
 - b. Curriculum must be from a reputable company.
 - c. Curriculum must be completed at grade level.
 - d. Curriculum must be approved by WCA administration.
- 6. Completing Classes From Other Academic Institutions
 - a. The Institution must be approved by WCA administration
 - b. WCA welcomes classes taken elsewhere, provided they meet the following criteria:
 - i. Grade level course
 - ii. Chartable progress
 - iii. Grades issued
- 7. Westland Christian Academy reserves the right to terminate enrollment whenever it deems necessary.
- 8. High School
 - a. Credits Needed to Graduate
 - i. 4+ Mathematics
 - ii. 4+ Language
 - iii. 4+ Science
 - iv. 4+ History
 - v. 7+ Electives
 - b. Length of Enrollment
 - i. No student will be permitted to graduate from WCA if they have not met the requirements for graduation.
 - ii. A student must be a registered, active student for at least one full academic year in order to graduate with a WCA diploma.
 - iii. Homeschool parents must provide documentation of high school credits completed, plus a validation fee per academic year.

Westland Christian Academy reserves the right to deny membership to families not in compliance with policies and procedures.

Yearly update will be made as is deemed necessary.