

Early Learner (DC) Parent Handbook

2024-2025

*INFANTS THROUGH K4
FULL-DAY Early Learners*



Mauldin Christian Academy

150 S. Main Street
Mauldin, SC 29662
864-288-1917

mauldinchristian.org

Welcome to the new school year! We look forward to partnering with you this year as we love and lead your student. Our theme for this year is, *For Such a Time as This* based on scriptures found in *Esther 4:14* and *Daniel 3:16-18*.

We are living in a time where we can find ourselves believing how difficult it is to train up our children in the ways of the Lord. As I have reflected on the many attacks in our world that can come against our children, I think of social media, entertainment, and even in the educational classroom and I find myself being reminded of Daniel, his friends, and Queen Esther who were also trained up in the ways of the Lord *For Such a Time as This*. Daniel and Esther both were up against very difficult situations but because they were wise and knew God, they made a difference for God's glory.

Our purpose at Mauldin Christian Academy (MCA) is to partner with parents to provide our students with a solid academic environment, lay a biblical foundation, lead them to understand the value of hard work, pursue everything with excellence, love one another, and bring glory to God.

The MCA team has the incredible privilege of loving and leading our students in Christian education. This translates into being a model of Jesus in the classroom, leading our students to know the character of God, to build solid academic practices, and to learn to walk in wisdom.

It is an honor to serve God in Christian education. We recognize we are on this earth to bring glory to God and our testimony reflects who we believe God is. When we live our lives based on believing God is sovereign, gracious, merciful, and mighty, we demonstrate to a fallen world who he is, his plan of rescue, and how he loves us unconditionally.

Partnering with Parents,

Lisa Muse

Lisa Muse
Academy Head of School

MCA offers Early Learners (DC), Early Education (PS), Elementary (K5-5th) Afterschool Care, and a Summer Camp program, all designed to meet the needs of the child at his or her level of development.

****Please familiarize yourself with our handbook.** It will answer many of your questions concerning our school. There are updates and policies that are new to this handbook. Please disregard all previous MCA handbooks.

Website: Important school information (i.e., school and lunch calendars, events, classroom webpages, and financial information) can be found on the Mauldin Christian Academy website: mauldinchristian.org.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: Mauldin Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin in its dealing with students and their families.

Mauldin Christian Academy is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Mauldin, South Carolina

MAULDIN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose at Mauldin Christian Academy is to partner with parents to provide a solid academic environment, lay a biblical foundation, lead them to understand the value of hard work, pursue everything with excellence, love one another, and bring glory to God.

OUR VISION

MCA students who understand the value of:

- A strong work ethic
- Striving for excellence
- Viewing the world through a biblical lens
- Loving and Leading others
- Bringing glory to God

MAULDIN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Academy Head of School..... Lisa Muse lmuse@fbcmaldin.org
Director of Early Learners (DC)..... G-na Simmons gsimmons@fbcmaldin.org
Assistant Director of Early Learners.....Taylor Odom todom@fbcmaldin.org
Early Ed & Elementary Principal..... Gwen Johnson gjohnson@fbcmaldin.org
Finance Manager.....Ann Parlier aparlier@fbcmaldin.org
Admissions Coordinator.....Megan Sprayberry msprayberry@fbcmaldin.org

EARLY LEARNERS OPERATING HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 AM - 5:45 PM

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Re-Enrollment: Begins in February for the following school year for our **currently enrolled** MCA Early Learner families. Please check the MCA website for specific dates for priority enrollment and when the enrollment will be open to the public.

If at the time of re-enrollment, there is a balance on the student's account, the student will not be eligible to re-enroll. Re-enrollment fees will apply and secure classroom placement only if the account balance is current and paid in full.

Re-enrollment fees will be communicated on the MCA website prior to the re-enrollment season.

Payments: All tuition payments **MUST** be made through the online FACTS system. We accept cash, check, MasterCard, and Visa debit and credit cards for incidental fees.

Insufficient Funds: A fee of \$30 will be charged for insufficient funds. If the insufficient funds charge occurs more than twice, the account will be considered delinquent. If the insufficient funds occur a third time, a fee of \$60 will be charged to your account. More than three occurrences of insufficient funds in one school year may result in your child's dismissal from that MCA program.

If you have questions about your student's financial status,
please contact the finance manager.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

******All returning student accounts must be paid in full by June 1st to maintain their position in next year's class. If a balance remains on June 1st, the student will be placed on a waiting list for their class until the balance is paid in full.***

Withdrawal from Program: A **one-month notification** in writing must be given directly to the business office when a child is being withdrawn from the program. A communication with the director should also occur to discuss the details behind the student's withdrawal.

In the event a one-month notice is not given, the parents will be charged for the month's tuition.

OTHER FEES

RE-ENROLLMENT FEE: Re-Enrollment for the Early Learners (EL) begins in February for the following school year. The EL school year runs from August to August and payment of re-enrollment fees reserves a space for your child for the next school year. These fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE and must be paid at the time of re-enrollment.**

*****The student must have reached the age of the class by September 1st*****

KEY FOBS: Your child's safety is our highest priority. We use a key fob system for EL parents to access the building during normal operating hours. Since we do not have dismissal at one time, it is **mandatory** that parents purchase a key fob at the **cost of \$15 each for you to gain access into the Academy.** If both parents pick up on a regular basis, we request that both parents purchase a fob. If there is another regular pick-up person, they will need to purchase a fob as well.

LATE PICK-UP FEE: A "late pick-up" charge is assessed to each parent whose child is picked up after 5:45 pm for all EL and afterschool care children. The following fee schedule will apply for up to 3 late pick-ups. After more than 3 late pick-ups the fee will increase (noted in parentheses below).

\$15.00 fee from 5:46 pm-6:00 pm (after 3 occurrences - \$20)

An additional \$1.00 per minute after 6:00 pm until the child is picked up (after 3 occurrences - \$3 a minute)

******This fee is to be charged to our school FACTS account. Children who are picked up late on a consistent basis, may be dismissed from the program. ******

VACATION ALLOWANCE: Vacation allowance **DOES NOT** apply to elementary, preschool, summer camp programs, or daycare students who participate in Summer Holding. After 52 consecutive weeks in the EL program, children shall receive one week of vacation. These vacation days must be **5 consecutive days** without the child in attendance. Vacation time only applies to those children enrolled 52 consecutive weeks a year at full tuition. A vacation week **must** be requested prior to the week of vacation and the office **must** be notified **in writing** that your child will be absent. Your account must be current to be eligible for vacation week. * ***Exception: If your child began at MCA in August of the previous year, and is enrolled for the next school year, you may take your vacation week in June or July, rather than wait until August of this year.***

EARLY LEARNER'S CLOSINGS: The Academy will be closed for one week during Christmas and other select major holidays throughout the year. There will not be any fees charged for the week of Christmas closing. The Academy will not reimburse or credit accounts for emergency closings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Applies to Early Learner (DC), Early Education (PS) and Elementary

MCA does **NOT** necessarily follow Greenville County School closings or delays during inclement weather.

If weather conditions are such that faculty and staff are unable to get safely to the Academy, an announcement will be made by the following methods:

- **WYFF-TV (Channel 4)**. Please look specifically for **Mauldin Christian Academy Early Learners, Early Education Preschool, or Elementary**. News stations **WILL NOT** air school openings, **only** delays or cancellations.
- School Website: www.mauldinchristian.org.
- Email from the school
- FACTS Parent Alert text

In the event of a school delay, doors will OPEN at the ANNOUNCED TIME.

WE DO NOT PRORATE OR REFUND TUITION ON DAYS SHORTENED OR MISSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

SUMMER HOLDING: The Early Learner Daycare operates on a 12-month basis. Therefore, by enrolling your child into our program you are reserving a spot for 12 months of childcare. Tuition is expected to be paid for 12 months. However, we do realize that summer months often bring a change in employment status, particularly for schoolteachers. **Information regarding Summer Holding options will be released during the month of April and will require you to complete and turn in a Summer Holding document.**

ARRIVING AND LEAVING SAFELY

Because our primary learning time takes place from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day and we must get an accurate lunch count to the kitchen, it is encouraged that children arrive no later than 9:00 AM each day. A parent **should contact the school office** if their child will be arriving after 9:00 AM to ensure that the child will be counted for lunch. We cannot guarantee lunch if not notified by 9:00 AM each day.

Under no circumstances should a child be dropped off in a classroom when a staff member is not present. Do not drop your child off at the academy main entrance and let them walk in unattended.

DROP OFF NAP TIME ALERT: Since our EL students are napping between the hours of 12:30 and 2:30, we ask that you not drop your child off during these hours. If you have picked up your child for an appointment, please plan to return after 2:30.

DISASTERS AND EVACUATIONS

If a disaster should occur such as a gas line break, MCA has evacuation plans and a designated student pick up location(s). Parents may receive emergency information through:

- FACTS Parent Alert Text
- Class Dojo

Parents may pick up children after all students and staff have been accounted for. Cooperation by all persons during an emergency will make procedures more efficient and secure for all involved.

PARENT GUIDELINES FOR PARKING LOT SAFETY

1. Please **ENTER** and **EXIT** the MCA parking lot **SLOWLY**.
2. **ENTER ONLY** through the entrance areas and **NOT the EXITS**
3. Please watch your speed in the parking lot, maximum of 10 miles an hour.
4. When dropping your child off at the Academy, **please do not park** under the drive-thru area, regardless of the time. **(THIS AREA IS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES ONLY)**
5. Please use a **DESIGNATED PARKING SPACE** before exiting your vehicle.
6. The safety of our students and parents is the highest priority.
7. **DRIVE SLOWLY!**



PICK UP AUTHORIZATION

- Only persons **authorized by the parents/guardians** may pick up a student.
- If a parent plans to have someone not on the list pick up a student, the school must be **notified in writing**; otherwise, no access to the student shall be given. **VERBAL PERMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ONLY.**
- In the event of divorce, separation, etc., a **COURT ORDER MUST BE PROVIDED** specifying the custodial parent.
- In the case of there being a custodial parent, they are the only person from whom the school will accept a list of authorized persons to pick up a student.
- We do not allow non-custodial parents to pick up a student unless authorized to do so, in writing, by the custodial parent.
- We require identification even when the person's name is on the authorized list.
- If notification has not been given, the student will not be released until communication has occurred with the parent(s).
- People authorized on the *Emergency Contacts* are for emergency contacts only when the parents cannot be reached.

RECORDS

MCA will keep records of attendance, health, and fees of each child. A *South Carolina Certificate of Immunization for Daycare Attendance* (DHEC Form 2740A) will be required for each child in the program. These forms need to be updated each time your child has an immunization. New addresses and telephone numbers, both work and home, ***must** be provided so that we can reach parents immediately if needed.

***Please contact the Academy Main Office if you have any changes to your contact information.**



MESSAGES TO PARENTS/TEACHERS/OFFICE

Special information for parents will be distributed throughout the year. Please check your child's backpack **DAILY** for information.

Teachers will check their phones periodically when they are not supervising children. If you need immediate contact with your child's teacher, call the school office at 864-288-1917 and a staff member will reach the teacher.

All messages from parent to teacher or office should be written or by email.

SOCIAL MEDIA/ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

ALWAYS, if you have questions or concerns, please contact the appropriate Early Learner Director or Assistant Director. We want to hear from you and resolve whatever concerns or answer whatever questions you may have.

Communication between parents and MCA faculty and staff, is important and necessary in order for us to bring glory to God in our everyday pursuit of loving and leading our students.

TEACHER REQUESTS

Many factors are considered in the placement of students in the classroom. The administration **will NOT** accept requests for specific teachers. If you have specific concerns regarding your child's placement, please contact an Early Learner Director or Assistant Director.

CONFERENCES

As a means of communicating your student's progress, you will receive occasional notes from your student's teacher. If at any time you have a question, the teacher will be happy to arrange a time to speak with you. If you have questions about an occurrence at school, please contact your child's teacher or the Early Learner Director or Assistant Director.



MCA BEHAVIOR PHILOSOPHY

At MCA, we believe we are instructed to love and lead our students. Loving and leading the student means we are discipling them each day while they attend the Academy.

DISCIPLING OUR STUDENTS WILL:

- a. Help students to solve problems based on heart decisions and therefore learn to make wise decisions.
- b. Help students know the character of God.
- c. Help students to know who they are in Christ.
- d. Make wise choices and leave the student with a healthy sense of control.
- e. Teach the student that there are consequences for their behavior and teach them to take responsibility for their actions.
- f. Demonstrate how to honor and respect one another.

I. TEACHERS WILL:

- a. Give choices.
- b. Create and Model an environment of HONOR and RESPECT
 - i. Teacher to student
 - ii. Student to teacher
- c. Messages to Students
 - i. We are a family/team
 - ii. We help each other
 - iii. We work together
 - iv. We encourage each other
 - v. We respect each other

II. MCA GUIDELINES:

- a. Teacher eye contact redirecting the student.
- b. Teacher "Look" (Not a mean look but a stern look/teacher look)
- c. Provide the student with choices
 - i. Both choices should be choices that are safe for the student
- d. Use a reward system to celebrate wise choices ("I see you making wise choices")
 - i. Social Rewards (Verbal/non-verbal) such as a wink, thumbs up, pat on the back, "great job", etc.
 - ii. Graphic rewards:
 1. Stickers, notes, stamps, etc.
 - iii. Activity Re-Enforcers: find out what your students love to do and use those activities as re-enforcers. Playing a certain game, extra recess time, extra learning center time, board games, etc.
 - iv. Tangible Rewards: Candy, Certificates (free donut, etc.), Pizza party, etc.
 - v. Communication to parents: notes, phone call, or emails to communicate that the student is making wise choices.
- e. Speak God's word over them daily
- f. Use appropriate scriptures when correcting in love.
- g. Elementary Students: Walk laps on playground. Also, have the student reflect on their choices and after they have walked, have them communicate to you what conclusion that arrived.
- h. Office visit to principal or Early Learner Director
- i. Communication to parents

DISCIPLINE IN THE EARLY LEARNER CLASSROOM

Our discipline policies are to the benefit of all children within our school. As such, we expect our parents to support and reinforce the disciplinary decisions of our staff. We will always look to the good of the whole yet, we will not neglect the needs of the individual.

No corporal punishment will be used. The staff of the school will use a “positive” form of discipline by verbally redirecting the child to an acceptable behavior pattern. A “time out” chair will be used for age-appropriate time limits (usually 1 minute per year of age). Privileges may be denied, but never in the form of food or the use of the restroom. Every effort will be made to have the disciplinary measure “fit” the offense.

In extenuating circumstances, the following procedures will be used:

1. Parents may be asked to attend a teacher or director led conference to discuss the observed behavior and to develop a strategy to deal with the behavior.
2. After the strategy has been put into place, should the behavior continue, the parent will be asked to pick up their student to take a break from the classroom. This break may be a one day to ten-day break.
3. If all these measures fail, dismissal from the program may be necessary.

*****IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES, PARENTS MAY BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD. THIS MAY OCCUR PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE ABOVE PROCEDURE. *** THE SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISMISS A CHILD FOR EXTREME PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR. IF A CHILD BECOMES PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE WITH A TEACHER, THE CHILD WILL BE DISMISSED IMMEDIATELY.**

BITE POLICY – CREEPERS, TODDLERS & 2'S

Our *BITE POLICY* is to benefit of all the students in the class. Biting at the creepers, toddler, and twos age is very common and the MCA classroom teachers are trained in strategies to work students through this stage.

BITE POLICY:

1. During Day One:
 - 1st Bite – warning to the child, time out
 - 2nd Bite – warning call to the parent
 - 3rd Bite – child will be sent home for the remainder of the day.

2. If a child bites and breaks the skin (draws blood), the child will be sent home immediately. A bite or an attempted bite to the face will be an immediate phone call to the parent. If a child attempts to bite the face again, the child will be sent home immediately.

3. If a child bites three consecutive days and the bites are not in self-defense, the child will take a break from the classroom for one full school day.

4. All biting that is done in self-defense will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
As with all Academy policies, we do reserve the right to make decisions based upon the circumstances of each incident.

DISMISSAL OF A STUDENT

MCA reserves the right to dismiss any child if, after entering, he/she seems unable to participate in group experiences, parent or guardian does not abide by the policies and procedures of the program, or fees have not been paid.

POTTY TRAINING

Children must be completely potty trained before entering our 3-year-old program. If a child enters the 3-year-old program with the assumption that they are potty trained and they are not, we reserve the right to dismiss the child.

However, we do allow a grace period at the beginning of the year to allow your child time to adjust to a new classroom, new teachers, as well as to accommodate those children with late birthdays. This grace period extends to the end of August.

CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES

Please send your child to school wearing comfortable **PLAY CLOTHES** with as few buttons as possible. It is suggested that children wear tennis shoes. **Flip flops are NOT permitted.** Sandals with straps are cool in the summer but sometimes bend under the toes and cause accidents. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for playing, climbing and jumping.

CHANGE OF CLOTHING

We require a change of clothing, marked with your child's name and all adequate supplies (diapers, wipes, etc.) to be kept in reserve in your child's backpack or cubby. We do not have an abundance of spare clothing or supplies available. If your child needs clothing or supplies, we will call you to provide those.

WATER BOTTLES

Please provide a water bottle for your child each day. We ask that the water bottle only be filled with water. Water bottle should be no larger than 20 oz.

INFANTS AND CREEPERS SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. BOTTLES

- a. No leftover bottles will be saved (Bacteria grows after bottles have been used)
- b. All bottles should be labeled with child's name and date.

2. FOOD

- a. No leftover baby food will be saved after it has been opened (Bacteria grows after saliva has been mixed into the baby food)
- b. Baby food is to be provided daily.
- c. All baby food should be labeled with child's name and date.

3. DAILY SUPPLIES

- a. Parents will provide their child's diapers, wipes, bottles, and formula daily.

BACKPACKS

Please send a backpack with your child each day for his/her supplies, papers, extra clothing, etc. Label the bag with your child's name on the outside. Please check your child's bag **DAILY** for information from your child's teacher.

NAPTIME

Each child who stays for nap or rest time will be provided a cot. A small blanket, soft toy and pillow may be bought from home to make your child more comfortable. However, articles **MUST** fit on the cots when stacked. **Please be sure to write your child's name on all articles.** Items will be sent home on Fridays to be laundered.

TOYS

Classrooms are equipped with age-appropriate toys and equipment. Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home. Favorite books may be shared. Teachers will give instructions about *Show and Tell* days.

CLASSROOM VISITS

Parents and other family members are welcome to visit the classroom. If you have special skills in storytelling, music, art, crafts, or information about your occupation that you are willing to share, please contact your child's teacher.

If your child becomes distressed due to being away from a parent and cannot be consoled, we reserve the right to contact you and ask you to pick up your child.

FIELD TRIPS IN THE EARLY LEARNER DEPARTMENT

K4 students will participate in field trips to various educational locations throughout the year.

K4 FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES:

- Siblings are NOT permitted to attend off campus field trips.
- Method of payment for field trips will be communicated to you by the classroom teacher.
- Details of the field trips will be communicated to parents in advance of the field trip.
- Parents may be called upon from time to time to assist with field trips.
- If your child does not plan to attend the field trip, they are not permitted to attend school during the time of the field trip since teachers will be on the field trip. However, your child may come after the class returns from the field trip.

LUNCH & SNACKS

- Please be sure your child **EATS BREAKFAST PRIOR** to arriving to school.
- A well-balance lunch is provided for all Early Learner students who are old enough to each solid food. Please do not send lunches from home.
- The cost for lunch is covered in the Early Learner tuition.

LUNCH FOR INFANTS AND CREEPERS

- Food will be introduced gradually in the Infant and Creepers classes to prepare them to advance to the Toddler classes.
- Close communication between teachers and parents occurs to watch for allergies.
- Parents of infants and creepers will need to send lunch for their child during this process.
- The Creeper class will begin having a school lunch in January.
- Morning and afternoon snacks are provided with the help of parents. **Teachers will communicate the need through a monthly snack calendar.**
- Due to allergies and DSS regulations, all snacks **MUST BE PACKAGED** with a label of ingredients provided.

HOLIDAYS WE CELEBRATE AT MCA

MCA approaches the celebration of holidays from a biblical perspective, seeking to glorify God and focus on Christ. Here are the holidays we recognize and celebrate at MCA:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Fall/Harvest (No Halloween or Costumes) | Veteran's Day |
| Thanksgiving | Christmas |
| Valentine's Day | St. Patrick's Day |
| Easter | Independence Day |

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

CLASS PARTY GUIDELINES:

- We welcome celebrating our students' birthdays at MCA.
- ONLY store-bought items are PERMITTED.
 - Cookie Cakes
 - Donuts/Donut Holes
 - Mini Cupcakes
 - Cookies

DUE TO LATEX ALLERGIES, WE ASK THAT BALLOONS ARE NOT BROUGHT TO THE CLASSROOMS.

PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP (PTP)

MCA is blessed to have the support of our PTP (Parent Teacher Partnership) organization. Our PTP is made up of parent and grandparent volunteers and is responsible for MCA's fall and spring fundraisers. They provide a plethora of ways to love and serve our teachers during *Teacher Appreciation Week*, "O" Week, and throughout the year.

MCA is consistently supported and blessed by our PTP team, and you are invited to join this amazing group of serving individuals. If you are interested in joining the PTP, simply call the Academy Main Office at 864-288-1917 or visit the MCA website at mauldinchristian.org and find them under the *Parent* tab.

JOIN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!



HEALTH SERVICES



Students who become ill or injured during the school day will be given proper care by the nurse. You will be notified if the injury needs medical attention or if we feel a parent should determine further care. If your child becomes sick, we will determine if the child should be sent home. We will notify parents to come and pick up a child if deemed necessary by the nurse or office personnel.

If a student must take prescription medication during the school day, the medicine, along with the doctor's directions, must be brought to the office as soon as the student arrives at school. It will remain in a locked box and given as prescribed. Parents must bring the medication and fill out the proper medication form provided in the office. No medication, prescription or over the counter, is to be in a student's possession during the school day.

STUDENT ILLNESS

Any student who is absent from school due to illness should not return to MCA until they are free from symptoms for a **minimum period of 24 hours**. If prescribed an antibiotic, MCA asks that the student refrain from returning to school until the medication has been **administered for a minimum of 24 hours**. Illnesses such as conjunctivitis (pink eye), impetigo, pediculosis (head lice), ringworm, and similar conditions must be treated before a student is permitted to return to school. If a student is sent home due to illness or absent due to illness, the student will not be allowed to participate in any afterschool activities or events.

If a student has a **FEVER OF 100.4** or higher the student is not permitted to attend MCA. The student must remain **fever free for a minimum period of 24 hours**, without the use of over-the-counter medications before returning to MCA. If the student is evaluated by a medical provider and a non-communicable fever source can be identified, they may return to MCA with a doctor's note prior to 24 hours.

EXCLUSION OF MILDLY ILL CHILDREN

Chicken Pox / Varicella: Children with chicken pox may return with a parent note once all the sores and blisters are dried or scabbed over. If there are no scabs, the child may return to childcare when no new sores appear for 24 hours.

Fever: If a student has a **FEVER OF 100.4** or higher the student is not permitted to attend MCA. The student must remain **fever free for a minimum period of 24 hours**, without the use of over-the-counter medications before returning to MCA. If the student is evaluated by a medical provider and a non-communicable fever source can be identified, they may return to MCA with a doctor's note prior to 24 hours.

Diarrhea: Any child who has three occurrences of diarrhea, or a bowel movement that flows out of the diaper or underwear, in a 24-hour period, must go home and may not

return until diarrhea stops for a full 24 hours without the use of medication. Children who can use the restroom or whose diarrhea is contained in diaper-type underwear do not have to be excluded if the diarrhea is known to be from a non-contagious condition, or if it continues after the child completes antibiotics for a diarrhea-causing illness.

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease: Children with hand, foot, and mouth disease should be out of childcare while they have fever, above normal drooling, trouble swallowing, or are too sick to do normal school or childcare activities. The red blisters should be dry and crusted over.

Head Lice: Your child may return with a parent note after one treatment with an over the counter or prescription lice-killing product, if there are no active lice crawling on your child's head. MCA will check your child's scalp upon returning. If any are present, your child will have to be removed and retreated for lice in order to come back to MCA.

Impetigo: Your child may return after receiving antibiotics for 24 hours, if the sores have stopped oozing and are starting to get smaller, or if the sores can be covered completely with a watertight bandage. A parent note is needed to return to MCA.

Pinkeye / Conjunctivitis: A child with pinkeye should see a healthcare provider if he or she has fever or eye pain. The child must have treatment for at least 24 hours prior to returning.

Rash with fever, behavioral changes or other symptoms: Children who have a quickly spreading rash or a rash with fever or behavior change are to be removed from childcare immediately. A medical note is required to return.

Ringworm: Children with ringworm of the body must remain out of school or childcare from the end of the day until they have begun treatment with a topical antifungal medication. Your child may return with a parent note.

Strep Throat / Streptococcal Pharyngitis: Your child with strep throat may return to childcare with a medical note 24 hours after starting antibiotics and if there is no fever for 24 hours.

Surgery: If a student has had any type of surgical procedure, they are permitted to return to school **based on the medical provider's release instructions.** You must provide a copy of these release instructions or a medical note upon returning to MCA.

Vomiting Illness: If your child has had one or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours, they should remain home until vomiting has resolved for 24 hours.

If a student is unable to participate in classroom activities due to illness, the student will be sent home.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

- Written parental and prescriber authorization must be completed.
- Medication label must be present on ALL medications.
- Medication will only be administered as prescribed on medication label.
- Prescriptions must be brought to school by a legal guardian or designated person over 18 years of age and given directly to the school nurse or designated school personnel.
- **Parents are responsible for knowing the expiration date of any medication brought to school and replacing medication before the expiration date.** The school nurse will not administer any medication passed the expiration date.

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS (OTC)

- MCA will not administer OTC medications. The parent may come to MCA and administer the medication to the child.
- During summer months, MCA is not authorized to apply sunscreen or insect repellent. Please apply these topical formulas at home, for the full day.

HERBAL/ ALTERNATIVE MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

- These products are not regulated by the FDA; thus, the quality and effectiveness of these products vary.
- Employees of Mauldin Christian Academy will not administer Herbal/Alternative Medicinal products.

ALLERGIES

- All allergies AND reactions to the allergen MUST be written on enrollment forms
- MCA will strictly monitor allergies. Please communicate with your child's teacher and the school nurse.

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

- All EpiPens and lifesaving medication will be kept in the nurse's office or in a locked safe in the child's classroom.
- An action plan filled out by the child's medical provider must be turned in with the medication. MCA must have an action plan on file to be able to respond quickly and efficiently to emergency situations.

Please note that if the student is present at MCA, he/she will be required to be outside if their class participates in outdoor play. MCA realizes seasonal and environmental allergies can be problematic, however the student must remain with his/her class.

STATE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

- A child will not be allowed to attend the Academy without a valid SC Certificate of Immunization, or a medical or religious exemption.
- If a valid SC Immunization, or a medical, religious, or special exemption certificate is not turned in or provided, the child may not attend MCA until one is obtained and on file with the academy.

HANDLING SUSPECTED ABUSE

The Academy and church staff are required by law to immediately report all cases of suspected child abuse. This will be done in a professional manner using the following steps:

1. Teacher verbally reports suspicions to the director.
 - a. Teacher fills out a written report to be placed in a confidential file by the director.
2. Director will report to one of the following:
 - Child Protective Services
 - DSS
 - Police
 - Child Abuse Hotline for further instruction.

ACCIDENT/INJURY PROCEDURES

It is the policy of the Academy to report all injuries to the parent. If an injury is minor, you will receive information from the school in written form. If the injury is major, we will contact you directly by phone.