

Bamako Christian Academy

a project of
Mali Educational Association

Parent/Student Handbook 2016

contains a general view of what we expect of students and community. In becoming a part of BCA, the cooperation of the of their parents, is necessary in order to serve the best interests



*Bamako Christian Academy
Mali, West Africa*

School Mascot

Judah the Lion

School

blue, wh

School Verse

*“But the righteous are as bold
as a lion” Proverbs 28:1*

School

*Aim for the
God you will*

<i>Non-Discrimination Policy</i>	<i>Working Together</i>
<i>Vision</i>	<i>Student Responsibility</i>
<i>Mission</i>	<i>Arriving</i>
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Philosophy and Objectives

Bamako Christian Academy is a project of the Mali Educational Association. It is committed to the historic perspective of life as set forth in the Bible. The school recognizes God as the Creator of all things, Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of all who acknowledge Him as Lord, and the Holy Spirit as the one who empowers us to live the Christian life. It holds that the knowledge of God is the beginning of wisdom, that fellowship with one God is the basis for true fellowship with one another, that each student is uniquely created by God, in His image, as a physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual being and is endowed with particular talents. From these premises stem the following:

Non-Discrimination Policy

MEA, hence Bamako Christian Academy, admits students of any national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and athletic or other school-administered programs. The school reserves its right to operate as a church-related institution and to develop policies consistent with the religious tenets of its sponsoring association.

Vision

Students will have the knowledge and ability to live in a multicultural society integrating their Christian worldview and demonstrating a Christ-like character.

Mission

The children of association members receive a *quality, affordable, English education based on Christian values.*

students.

4. We seek to encourage growth in Christian character in developing core skills in areas such as:
 - a. Aesthetics
 - b. Collaborative communication
 - c. Communications
 - d. Community contributions
 - e. Creativity
 - f. Critical thinking
 - g. Use of information
 - h. Lifelong learning
 - i. Problem solving
 - j. Use of technology
 - k. Understanding of self

5. Parents have the ultimate responsibility for educating their children. We reserve parents.

6. The school community should exhibit love, justice, humility among board members, administration, faculty, students and the larger community.

7. Our organizational practices will be thoroughly Christ-centered, emphasizing development, marketing, personnel, government relations.

The school seeks to accomplish these goals and objectives through the following:

Dedicated School Board — Men and women committed to the help to establish policies and make decisions for the direction of the school.

Dedicated Personnel — Christian administrators, teachers, and well trained in their fields;

Flexible Curriculum — Stressing mastery of basic skills and fit individual talents relating all learning to God's Word;

Diversified Student Body — Primarily missionary children, but can meet the requirements without regard to ethnicity or religious background.

Student Activities — Student government, clubs, athletics, fine arts, and other activities to supplement the classroom experiences and develop individual talents.

Background Information

Bamako Christian Academy (BCA) is a Christian school operated by the Mali Educational Association to provide an affordable, English based Christian education for the children of members of the Mali Educational Association. Students are required to have sufficient understanding of the English language and are accepted due to space available.

Current Facilities

God provided a nine bedroom house in the Niamakoro area.

Administration

The operation of BCA is the responsibility of Mali Educational Association and the School Board. The Board is elected by the Mali Educational Association from its membership for two year terms. The Administrator carries out the operation of the school and coordinates its various activities.

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Admissions

Registration

The initial registration of a child shall be submitted to the administrator preferably by May 1 of the year of his or her desired admission to the school. This should be done after the parents have been accepted in to the Mali Educational Association. A registration fee of 75,000 CFA or the equivalent must be included with each application. If parents plan to enroll a child at a time other than at the beginning of a school year, they should notify the administrator as early as possible.

Students planning to enter BCA from other schools using curriculum other than American/Canadian/English must provide transcripts in addition to the grade placement entrance exam. The administrator's records in determining the level at which the student will be able to enter are accepted due to space available.

Requirements for New Students

- \$ Children of English-speaking parents working in Mali who are who meet the following requirements may be admitted on a space available basis.
- \$ They must pass an entrance examination in English if they are not in English.
- \$ They must be of comparable age and ability with other students of the respective grade.
- \$ The parents must meet the financial obligations.
- \$ They must comply with the moral standards of the school.
- \$ They must comply with the regulations of the school.

Students with Language Difficulties

Grade level placement of the student is the prerogative of the school administration reserves the right to decide each student's placement. In the first Semester, the student will enroll as any other student at BCA and take courses where passing marks are earned. If the student has not earned passing marks in a minimum of three courses, he or she will be placed on probation. His or her progress will be evaluated by the teaching staff. In the following semester will be based on their decision. Their placement will be based on the following criteria:

- \$ Is he or she demonstrating a desire to improve?
 - \$ Is he or she showing ability to improve?
 - \$ Is his or her presence in the class disruptive to the learning of the class?
- In addition to the above criteria, the student will maintain a minimum GPA required for the other students and will pay the full fee schedule. If he or she will remain on probation until the end of the school year, he or she will be able to earn a 2.0 GPA. If the student is not able to earn a 1.5 GPA, he or she will be able to return for the next school year.

Remaining 40% of total fees is due by first day back in January for second semester

Fees for Part of a School Year

Students attending BCA for part of a school year shall be charged according to the following schedule:

Less than 50% of one quarter	pro-rated based on daily rate
More than 50% of one quarter	quarter of year's fees
Daily rate for homeschoolers	6,000 cfa per day

Insurance

It is expected that every family already has adequate insurance through their parents employer. Malian student insurance is also provided by the school.

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Academics

School Year

BCA operates on a semester basis with the school year consisting of 175 days to conform to educational standards in the United States. The First Semester starts in August, with school concluding in early June. Parents are strongly urged to follow the school calendar and have their children in classes as scheduled. Early departures or late arrivals may result in academic penalties. Most Malian national holidays will be observed and may or may not be listed on the academic calendar in advance. (See the current Academic Calendar.)

Curriculum

Staffed mostly by Americans and other English speaking nationalities, BCA follows the American curriculum. All instruction is in English (except for French classes) and high academic standards are maintained.

Bible Classes

All students attending BCA are required to attend the Bible classes provided in the curriculum of the school.

Graduation Requirements

Educational Support Program

An educational support program is in place at BCA to help ensure that students can be an "independent learner" in classroom situations. Primary program designed to identify learning difficulties and to help students overcome them. The program also encompasses group instruction in developing study skills and test taking. All students at BCA are eligible for this program.

Testing

Standardized tests are available each year to evaluate student progress. Nova Tests are offered to all students and required by American Schools for K-6 in April.

Accreditation

BCA is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International.

Transcript Information

The academic year consists of 175 days divided into two semesters on a semester basis for each course that has been passed. Students in schools using the Carnegie credit system receive credits for courses completed. Their grades are included in their cumulative GPA. Students in schools not using the Carnegie system receive credit for work completed, but no grade. The amount of the credit is determined by an evaluation of documentation.

Grading Scale

A+ 98-100%	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79
A 93-97	B 83-86	C 73-76
A- 90-92	B 80-82	C- 70-72

A comprehension level of less than 60% constitutes an F grade. The class should be repeated until a minimum of 70% mastery is achieved.

School Life

Lunch

Students and staff bring their meals from home to eat at school. A refrigerator is available for lunches, and a microwave is available to heat meals as needed. Clean drinking water is provided.

Snacks

We request that you send a healthy snack with your children for morning recess.

Telephone

Only in the event of an emergency should students be telephoned during school hours.

Library

The Library provides reading and reference materials for all ages, including the staff. Books are checked out for two-week periods. A fine is charged for each overdue book and for lost books.

Video Viewing

BCA staff realizes their responsibility to nurture students in all areas of Christian life, including video viewing. Any video shown by staff to BCA students (on or off campus) will be pre-screened for approval. Our desire is to develop wisdom and discernment in video viewing by showing videos that promote Biblical family values, moral character, and purity in relationships. While these are standards that are desired, the viewing of videos can and should be a teaching and learning time. Where and when a video is contrary to our desired standard, we will either properly edit the video and/or use it to challenge and encourage the development of personal convictions.

Social Guidelines

Boys and girls at BCA are encouraged to have peer friendships that are God-honoring, pure and fun.

holding hands and the like. Disregard for this policy will result in disciplinary action, including notification of parents.

Dress Code

In accordance with biblical principles, clothing and hairstyle should be clean, healthy, and hygienic. Final approval is subject to the administration.

Girls' Dress Code

Strapless, braless, and backless clothing is not permitted. "Strap" style tops are not allowed.

Midriff will be covered at all times even when arms are raised.

Undergarments, including sports bras, should be fully covered.

Clothing must fit appropriately (not too loose, not too tight).

Shoes/ sandals /flip-flops must be worn at all times.

All clothing must be in good condition.

Shorts, dresses and skirts may be up to 2 inches above the knee.

During PE classes only, modest athletic shorts may be worn.

Boys' Dress Code

All clothing must be in good condition, including t-shirts, sweat shirts, pants, jeans, shorts, and footwear. Athletic shoes must be worn during PE.

Shoes/sandals/ flip-flops must be worn at all times.

Discipline

A student who is enrolled at BCA is expected to maintain a standard of honor with the rules and guidelines set forth in this Student Handbook. No student should in no way bring discredit to the testimony of the school for which the school exists.

3. The student will be put on probation by the Administrator. \$ pens and pencils
4. A student may be suspended by the Administrator for up to two weeks. \$ notebooks for assignments
5. The School Board may suspend or expel a student. \$ back pack

The nature of the student's offense will determine at which of the above steps the discipline will begin. For example, a serious offense could result in suspension of the student without passing through the other disciplinary steps. \$ water bottle

Parent Visits to Campus

The following are NEVER permitted at BCA:

Classroom Visits

Drug abuse, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, profanity, pornographic literature, explosives, and occult activities.

firearms,
Parents are encouraged to make a classroom visit annually. Arr should be made in advance with the teacher.

Working Together

Appointments with Staff

If a parent has concerns regarding a disciplinary action, it is usually best to begin at the level where the problem developed. If possible, the parent should talk with the teacher if there was a classroom problem. If the parent is not satisfied, he or she should seek a conference with the appropriate authority. If there are suggestions for changing school policies and procedures, they should be addressed to the Administrator. She

will cause the least amount of interference in the operation of th

will then discuss the matter with the appropriate staff member and, if necessary, the School Board. For further information, write to the Administrator.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the above visitation policies may be made by the individual cases.

Student Responsibility

Students should all realize that their parents have entrusted them into the care of the BCA staff. The staff is responsible for their educational, physical, spiritual, and mental well-being during the time they are here. Therefore, children are expected to show the same respect and obedience to the staff as they would to their own parents.

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Starting Date

Parents are strongly urged to get their children to school at the beginning of each semester. It should be understood that if the child is late enough to prevent successful completion of the scholastic requirements, it may be necessary for him or her to repeat the grade.

Visiting Home Schoolers

Advance Notice

Ending Date

The administration requests advance notice of at least one week

communications for the entire school will be communicated by email.

If there are concerns or questions regarding any aspect of the school, the school staff would like the parents to talk with a staff member before it becomes a problem. You are free to contact the Administrator with any concern.

Students Leaving Campus

Home schoolers wishing to leave BCA Campus during the school day (i.e., over the lunch hour) must have written permission from their parents.

Lunch

Students and staff bring their meals from home to eat at school. A refrigerator is available for lunches, and microwaves are available to heat meals as needed. Cold water is also available as needed.

Snacks

We request that you send a healthy snack with your children for morning recess.

Dress Code

Day students are expected to follow the school dress code as outlined under the section "Campus Life."

Parents and their guests are requested to conform to the dress code, if possible. This shows respect for and sensitivity to BCA regulations.

School Fees

Classroom visiting fees are 5000 per day per child. Books, testing materials and other expenses will be charged accordingly.

Terra Nova Achievement Testing

Terra Nova Achievement testing is available to homeschoolers in April, providing they have notified the administration prior to December to order the necessary materials.

Home schooling parents do NOT need to be members of the association to partake in this program. Homeschoolers visiting for this purpose will remain on campus only for the testing time, but should follow the rules and guidelines of the BCA students. Fees

...in the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, divinely inspired and entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of doctrine. God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily ascension, His mediatorial work, and His Personal return in power to judge the living and the dead. The Salvation of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life and to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ...

The Unity of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ.

The Resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

*Contact information

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Administrator:

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