EXPRESSION PREPARATORY ACADEMY

ACADEMIC AND FINE ARTS COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS HANDBOOK

Appendix E to the Student and Family Handbook, Kentucky and West Virginia Campuses, 2026-2027 School Year

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." – Colossians 3:23

1. Purpose and Scope

This Handbook sets out the program expectations, eligibility requirements, travel procedures, and sponsor communication procedures applicable to Expression Preparatory Academy's competitive academic and fine arts programs, including debate, quiz bowl, academic decathlon, band, choir, and art competitions. It is Appendix E to the Student and Family Handbook, and any conduct violation involving these programs is addressed under the Handbook's disciplinary procedures. It does not modify the Student and Family Handbook, which remains the controlling document for School policy.

2. Biblical Foundation and Program Mission

At Expression Prep Schools, competitive academic and fine arts programs are not separate from our mission, they are an extension of it. We believe these programs provide a powerful platform for discipleship, leadership development, character formation, and Kingdom influence. The goal of these programs is not simply to produce successful competitors, but to develop young men and women who honor Christ through their gifts, discipline, attitude, work ethic, and leadership.

The mission of these programs is to identify the God-given abilities, talents, and potential within each student, to affirm students by reminding them that their identity comes from Christ, not performance, rankings, or outside recognition, to equip students spiritually, academically, and socially, and to release students to impact colleges, communities, careers, and nations as ambassadors for Christ.

3. Sponsor Expectations

Sponsors and directors of academic and fine arts competitive programs are more than instructors of a subject or discipline, they are mentors, leaders, and examples, expected to represent Jesus Christ, support the mission of the school, model integrity, build positive relationships, communicate professionally, protect student safety, maintain appropriate boundaries, teach excellence, develop character, and lead through service. Winning is pursued, but winning is never placed above honoring Christ.

4. Balance with Core Academic Responsibility

Participation in a competitive academic or fine arts program does not replace a student's core academic responsibility in the classroom. Students must attend school consistently, maintain academic progress, complete assignments, communicate with teachers, and meet graduation requirements. Participation in these programs should support a student's education, not compete against it.

5. Attendance and Participation

Students must meet school attendance expectations to participate in a competitive academic or fine arts program. Students who miss school may be restricted from practice, rehearsal, competitions, travel, and program activities unless approved by administration. Repeated attendance issues may affect program eligibility.

6. Sportsmanship and Representing Christ in Competition

Students representing Expression Prep Schools in academic or fine arts competition represent Christ. Students, sponsors, and families are expected to demonstrate respect toward opposing students, judges, officials, sponsors, teammates, and host schools. Poor sportsmanship damages testimony and does not reflect the values of Expression Prep Schools.

Expression Prep Schools pursues excellence in these programs. Preparation, competition, discipline, and winning can honor God when done with the correct heart. But winning without character is failure, recognition without humility is empty, and talent without purpose is incomplete. We compete to glorify God.

7. Participation Role and Parent Role

Participation on a competitive academic or fine arts team does not guarantee a particular role, part, or level of participation in every competition. Those decisions may be based on skill development, effort, preparation, team needs, attitude, commitment, and sponsor evaluation. Sponsors are responsible for making those decisions in the best interest of the team.

Parents are expected to encourage students, support sponsors, model good sportsmanship, communicate respectfully, and support team unity. Appropriate parent-sponsor discussion topics include student development, character growth, and ways to support improvement. Participation decisions, team strategy, and other students' performance are determined by the sponsor. Concerns should follow the biblical communication principles outlined in Matthew 18.

8. Travel Expectations

When traveling for a competitive academic or fine arts program, students remain representatives of Expression Prep Schools and must demonstrate respect, responsibility, gratitude, appropriate conduct, and team unity. All school rules remain in effect during travel.

9. Program Discipline

A student may lose participation privileges in a competitive academic or fine arts program due to academic concerns, attendance issues, behavioral violations, poor sportsmanship, team rule violations, or conduct inconsistent with school values. Consequences may include meeting with the sponsor, a parent conference, suspension from competition, removal from the program, and additional school discipline.

10. Programs and Campus Differences

Expression Prep Schools operates competitive academic and fine arts opportunities across multiple campuses. A student's participation in any Expression Preparatory Academy academic or fine arts competitive program is not limited by the student's campus of academic enrollment, consistent with the same principle that governs athletic participation under Appendix D.

11. Relationship to Other Governing Documents

This Handbook is Appendix E to, and does not modify, the Student and Family Handbook or the applicable Enrollment Agreement and Tuition Contract for a student's campus of enrollment. Where any conflict arises, the Student and Family Handbook and the applicable Enrollment Agreement control.

Final Charge

Expression Prep students in academic and fine arts competition are called to compete differently: prepare diligently, lead humbly, serve others, honor Christ. The result on the scoreboard or scorecard records an outcome. Character reveals a legacy.