



CREATING A SAFE
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

for Elementary Children



**EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

THE TIE BETWEEN LEARNING AND SAFETY

You're
Safe
Here

Feeling safe and secure is a basic need for both children and adults. Safety is also one of the top factors that parents consider when selecting an elementary school for their child.

God also understands the need for humans to feel safe, and the Bible reminds us of His protection.

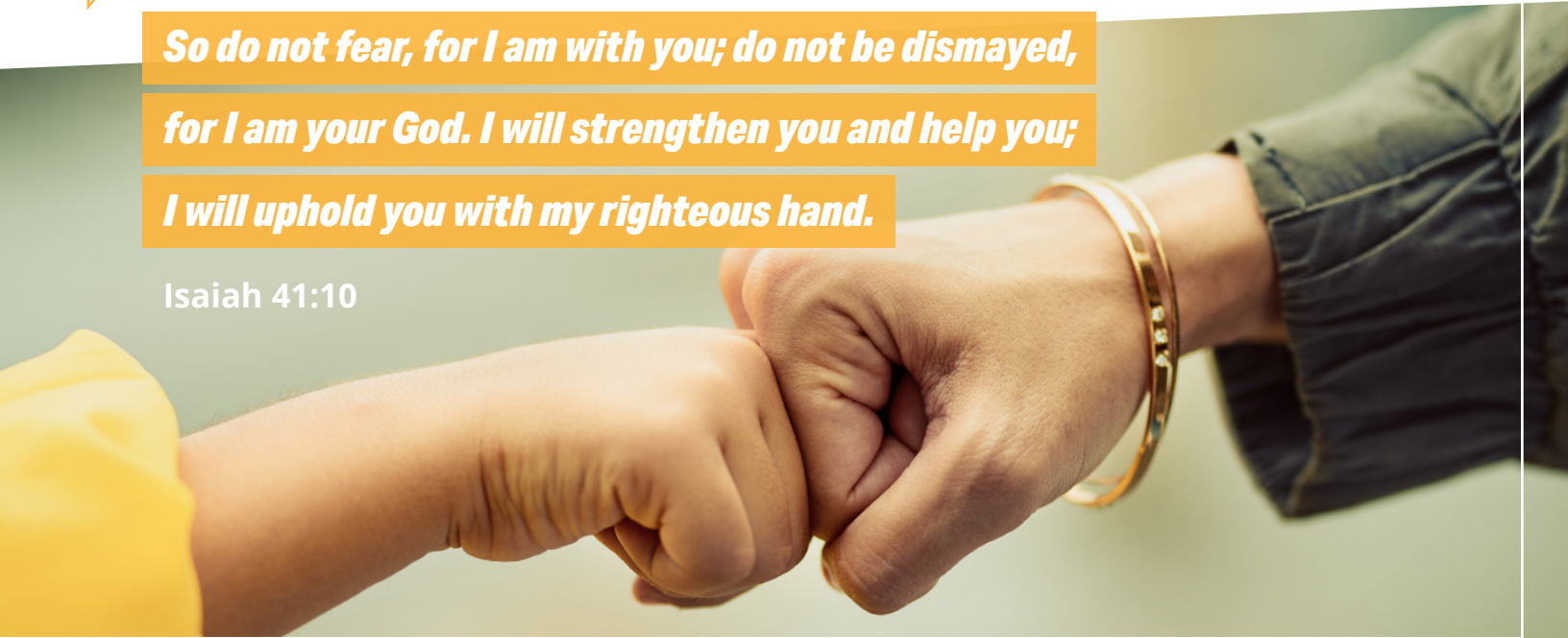
*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,
for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Safety and security are vital to the learning process. After all, if children don't feel safe, they will have a hard time concentrating on academic material or becoming fully engaged in the classroom.

In this e-book, we'll show you how Eastern Christian School has made a culture of physical, spiritual, and emotional safety a priority. You'll be able to explore some of the many ways we help make children safe.

We've also included tips for parents that will help you build trust and open communication with your elementary students, paving the way for strong relationships during the teen years and beyond.



PHYSICAL SAFETY

Lower Elementary School at Eastern Christian (Grades K-3) is housed on the Baldin Drive campus in Midland Park, along with our preschool program. Upper Elementary School (Grades 4-5) is located on our Middle School Campus in Wyckoff. Consistent safety and emergency response protocols are in place at each Eastern Christian campus.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

Some of our physical safety measures include:

Regular Security Drills and Training

A fire drill and a safety drill are held each month. Security drills include various safety issues and scenarios. In addition, staff members participate in regular training with the police and fire department.

ID Card Access on Doors

Entry into any door on every campus is only through ID card access.

Interior and Exterior Cameras

An advanced system of cameras adds to the safety of our campuses.

Door Barricade Technology

A quick one-touch device on classroom doors helps maximize safety in the case of an active shooter situation.

One-Touch Emergency Contact

A system capable of calling police, fire, and ambulance with the touch of a button.

SPIRITUAL SAFETY

A Christian worldview that's fully-integrated into our curriculum creates a strong spiritual foundation for Eastern Christian students.

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you." Isaiah 26:3

A few of the ways we build a culture of spiritual safety include:

Practicing Our Statement of Belief

Our statement of belief guides our actions:

As a Reformed educational institution, we believe that God is sovereign over all creation. We make a connection to God's claim in every subject, not just in biblical studies or chapel; in all behavior, including language, dress; and in all attitudes, including those toward others and toward property. The overall purpose of an Eastern Christian education, shaped by this Reformed perspective, is to encourage students to use their heads, hearts, and hands for God and to use discernment to create a worldview that is formed through the lens of faith.

Weekly Chapel

A weekly chapel is held on both campuses. Older students take turns reading scripture and leading prayer in chapel to develop their leadership skills. In Lower Elementary School, a third-grade Drama Team performs in chapel and teaches younger students important truths from the Word of God.

A Safe Place for Questions

We encourage students to ask questions as they learn and grow in their faith. Questions often allow teachers to dive deeper into scripture and biblical principles as part of the conversation with students.

Teachers as Christian Mentors

Every teacher is a strong Christian who is dedicated to acting as a role model and mentor for students. Many parents tell us how grateful they are for their children to have other Christian adults who are able to positively influence their child outside of the home.

EMOTIONAL SAFETY

The elementary years are a time of great emotional growth. When students learn how to manage feelings and relationships, they gain emotional intelligence, a key trait for success in school and life.

"God is your refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1

No-Tolerance Bullying Policy

Behaviors found in many other schools, such as bullying, are not tolerated at Eastern Christian. We are proactive about stopping problems before they start. Teachers include classroom lessons around values and character. We also have a licensed counselor who regularly speaks to classes about issues such as bullying, anxiety, body boundaries, and friendship. If we do need to intervene in a situation, we do so at the earliest possible moment and involve parents from the beginning.

Counseling Services

Children facing personal challenges at home or school can receive short-term counseling services from a licensed counselor through the Christian Health Care Center. The counselor has designated times at each Eastern Christian campus every week. The counselor can also assess if students need ongoing counseling outside of school.

Trusted Teachers

With a student-to-teacher ratio of 11:1, teachers are able to build a relationship with each child. All teachers at Eastern Christian create a classroom environment where children know they are loved and valued. These characteristics add up to a culture in which students trust teachers enough to talk to them about joys, fears, and challenges.

Online Safety

Eastern Christian utilizes Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum to teach online safety at various age levels. The curriculum covers topics of media and well-being; privacy and security; digital footprint and identity; relationship and communication; cyberbullying; hate speech; digital media; and literacy.





BUILDING TRUST

with Your Elementary Student

Establishing a sense of safety at home through regular routines, loving hugs, regular prayer, and reading Bible stories often comes easy for parents of young children. As children grow older, building trust and open communication become more important in nurturing a sense of security. Try these guidelines for your elementary child.

Show Trust By Giving Them Responsibility

Trust your elementary-aged child to fold clothes, put away dishes, or help cook. Don't react too strongly if they break a glass or make a mess cooking. By giving your child the opportunity to build new skills, it shows you trust them.

Avoid Shaming: Instruct in a Positive Way

If you're trying to correct a behavior, focus on the action needed rather than expressing anger. For example, if your son has a habit of reaching across the dinner table and turning over his drink as a result, avoid comments like, "What is wrong with you? Haven't I taught you manners?" Try, "Let's get a towel to clean this up. Next time, ask others to pass items to you at the table instead of reaching."

Acknowledge Feelings

With busy schedules, it's less time consuming to keep conversations with your children light, but kids need parents to pay attention to noticeable emotions. Children will gain a better understanding of how to deal with emotions in themselves and others with parental guidance in how to talk about feelings.

Try restating what you think your child is trying to tell you, such as, "You're upset that I'm not letting you ride your bike to your friend's house by yourself?" Let them know that it's ok to talk about all sorts of emotions, even ones we perceive as "negative" like anger, frustration, and disappointment.

The Eastern Christian

ADVANTAGE

In addition to a culture of physical, spiritual, and emotional safety, Eastern Christian builds excellent academic foundations with a Christian worldview.

Lower Elementary School (Grades 1-3)

- Daily devotions and Bible lessons, weekly chapel services
- 90 minutes of daily language arts instruction including phonics, reading, writing, word study, and speaking
- 60 minutes of daily math instruction
- Cutting edge technology for student use including computers, iPads, Chromebooks, and Promethean boards in classrooms
- Comprehensive music program
- Weekly special classes in grades K-3 include physical education/health, music, art, computers, and library
- Before-school and after-school programs

Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)

- Daily devotions and weekly chapel/small groups
- Service learning program
- ½ day humanities, ½ day math and science
- 5th grade core values and character class
- Outstanding music program offering band, choir, and orchestra with multiple formal and community-based performances and recitals
- State-of-the-art media center

DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

Eastern Christian offers special programs for children who need accelerated learning and for those who need academic support.

The Horizons Program at the Lower Elementary Campus is designed for learners with exceptional gifts and talents. Horizons students participate in weekly pullout programming that incorporates advanced, conceptually challenging, and in-depth content, and addresses the cognitive, affective, aesthetic, social, and leadership domains.

The Owl's Nest program at the Lower Elementary School campus provides a Christ-centered education for students who learn differently or need extra academic reinforcement. We use a variety of multi-sensory, highly structured, and sequenced programs to meet our students' varied academic needs. At the upper elementary campus, a resource room teacher works closely with the mainstream classroom teachers and parents to ensure that comprehensive support for the students is achieved. In addition, the resource center provides replacement instruction for a small group of students in core academic areas.



Come See Our **SAFE** Environment on a Tour

We invite you to tour Eastern Christian to see our welcoming and safe environment in action. [Sign up for a personal campus tour or one of our Open House dates.](#) *We look forward to meeting you!*



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

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