

Abundant Life Academy



2010 - 2011 Parent / Student Handbook

Home of the Fighting Cougars!

*2010 - 2011 SCACS Division 1-A
Girls' Volleyball Conference Champions
Fast Pitch Softball Conference Champions
Baseball State Champions*

Members of the:

*South Carolina Association of Christian Schools
American Association of Christian Schools*

Accreditation:

National Private School Accreditation Alliance

**1293 Plantation Drive
Post Office Box 310**

Hardeeville, South Carolina 29927

Office: 843-784-3171 • Fax: 843-784-5437

www.alacademyonline.com

WELCOME TO ABUNDANT LIFE ACADEMY

Abundant Life Academy began operation in 1980 with the purpose of providing quality education in a Christian environment and teaching Christian principles and discipline to all students. Our teachers have all been college trained in their specific areas and have degrees in their field or are pursuing their degrees.

Abundant Life Academy has completed its 29th year. We have had 28 graduating classes. Over 40% of our students have gone on to college or entered some branch of the military. Our students have been accepted at the University of South Carolina and North Carolina, the Citadel, Armstrong Atlantic State University, College of Charleston, Lee College, Southeastern College, Georgia Southern, Francis Marion, Florida State, Clemson, Auburn University, Robert Morris University, Technical College of the Lowcountry, and others.

Abundant Life Academy presently offers a choice of two diplomas: college preparatory and vocational (each requiring 24 units).

The ABEKA curriculum is utilized in grades K4-12th. ABEKA is a Christian curriculum originating from Pensacola, Florida. We also offer some Accelerated Christian Education courses and Saxon math. Both programs are recognized and approved nationally and are provided for more than 16,000 schools. Abundant Life Academy is a member of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools and fully accredited by the National Private School Accreditation Alliance.

Recognizing the value of physical condition and discipline, we will make every effort to offer a well-rounded sports program for students who wish to compete and qualify academically.

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

Students will not be allowed to attend school until this form is signed and placed in their permanent records.

I have read the disciplinary guidelines and attendance policy of Abundant Life Academy and agree to abide according to the rules and regulations of the school. I will give my full co-operation and support to the faculty and administration at all times. I will try to conduct myself in a Christian-like manner on campus, as well as, off campus.

I fully understand the actions that will be taken due to violations of the rules and regulations of the Academy.

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

PARENTS' SIGNATURE: _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____

Are You Educating?

Author Unknown

If I learn my ABC's, can read 600 words per minute, and can write with perfect penmanship, but have not been shown how to communicate with the Designer of all language, I have not been educated.

If I can deliver an eloquent speech and persuade you with my stunning logic, but have not been instructed in God's wisdom, I have not been educated.

If I have read Shakespeare and John Locke and can discuss their writings with keen insight, but have not read the greatest of all books—the Bible—and have no knowledge of its personal importance, I have not been educated.

If I have memorized addition facts, multiplication tables, and chemical formulas, but have never been disciplined to hide God's Word in my heart, I have not been educated.

If I can explain the law of gravity and Einstein's theory of relativity, but have never been instructed in the unchangeable laws of the One Who orders our universe, I have not been educated.

If I can classify animals by their family, genus and species, and can write a lengthy scientific paper that wins an award, but have not been introduced to the Maker's purpose for all creation, I have not been educated.

If I can recite the Gettysburg Address and the Preamble to the Constitution, but have not been informed of the hand of God in the history of our country, I have not been educated.

If I play the piano, the violin, six other instruments, and can write music that moves men to tears, but have not been taught to listen to the Director of the universe and worship Him, I have not been educated.

If I can run cross-country races, star in basketball and do 100 push-ups without stopping, but have never been shown how to bend my spirit to do God's will, I have not been educated.

If I can identify a Picasso, describe the style of da Vinci, and even paint a portrait that earns an A+, but have not learned that all harmony and beauty comes from a relationship with God, I have not been educated.

If I graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA and am accepted at the best university with full scholarship, but have not been guided into a career of God's choosing for me, I have not been educated.

If I become a good citizen, voting at each election and fighting for what is moral and right, but have not been told of the sinfulness of man and his hopelessness without Christ, I have not been educated.

However, if one day I see the world as God sees it, and come to know Him, Whom to know is life eternal, and glorify God by fulfilling His purpose for me, then, I have been educated!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 25	Teachers Begin
September 1	First Day of School
September 6	Labor Day **
September 9	OPEN HOUSE/DROP-IN
	6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
	PARENTS & STUDENTS WELCOME
September 17	School Pictures / Senior Portraits
October 10	School Picture Retakes
October 13	PSAT given (\$15.00 per student grades 9-11)
October 29	End of First Quarter
November 2	Report Cards Sent Home
November 24	Dismiss @ 11 a.m. for Thanksgiving *
November 25-26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY **
December 17	Dismiss @ 11 a.m. for Christmas *
Dec 20-Jan 2	CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY **
January 3	School Resumes
January 14	End of Second Quarter
January 17	Martin Luther King's Birthday**
January 18	Report Cards Sent Home
February 18	Dismiss @ 11 a.m. for Winter Break *
February 21	Winter Break **
March 18	End of Third Quarter
March 22	Report Cards Sent Home
Apr13-Apr 15	Stanford Achievement Test *
April 18-22	EASTER/SPRING HOLIDAY **
April 25	School Resumes
May 5	National Day of Prayer
May 13	Jr/Sr Prom
May 19	Sports Banquet
May 23-25	Final Exams *
May 25	K5 GRADUATION 7:00 P.M.
May 26	Teacher Work Day **
May 26	HIGHSCHOOL GRADUATION 8:00 P.M.
May 27	Awards Day Program 8:30-10:00 a.m.
	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

** Students will be excused from school * Students will be excused at 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Abundant Life Academy's 3-Strike Policy (for Grades 9-12)

- **When a student enters the ninth (9th) grade at Abundant Life Academy, he/she is given three (3) “strikes” for a Four-Year Period.**
- **Depending on the severity of an incident,* Abundant Life Academy has the right to waive any written warnings or suspensions and administer a “strike” to a student.**
- **A student has a four-year period in which he/she can not exceed two (2) “strikes.” On the third “strike,” the student will be expelled from Abundant Life Academy.**
- **These “strikes” can also be administered for a situation that takes place off campus — if the situation brings reproach to the ministry at Abundant Life. Examples may be but not limited to drinking alcohol under age, DUI, being caught with drugs or drug paraphernalia, inappropriate internet use such as sending abusive language or inappropriate language on or about the school or the students of the school, etc.**
- **We have a NO-TOLERANCE POLICY when it comes to alcohol and drugs. If a student is caught by authorities on or off campus using drugs or alcohol, he/she will be asked to leave Abundant Life Academy.**

***The Administration of Abundant Life Academy has the right to determine the severity of the incident and when or if a “strike” will be given.**

The Code of Laws of S.C., Section 59-65-10, as amended reads: "All parents or guardians shall cause their children or wards who are in the age group of five to sixteen years, inclusive, to regularly attend a public or private school or kindergarten of the State..."

Students in grades 9-12: Any student who attends a class fewer than 85/90 days or 170/180 days in the instructional period will not be eligible to receive credit in the class unless the school board grants approval for each excessive absence in accordance with school policy.

Students in grades K-8 will not be eligible for promotion if they have more than ten (10) absences.

LAWFUL ABSENCES:

Students will be considered **lawfully absent** when an **Abundant Life Academy Student Absence Form** (can be obtained from the teacher or school office) is returned within 3 days for one of the following reasons:

1. The student is ill and his/her attendance in school would endanger his/her health or the health of others.
2. There is a serious illness in his/her immediate family as verified by medical excuse.
3. There is a death in the immediate family. Documentation must be provided.
4. There is a recognized and approved religious holiday of his/her faith (must be verified and approved by the headmaster prior to the event.)
5. The parent/guardian sends a written request prior to the absence and the headmaster feels the reason justifies the child not being in school.
6. A medical professional provides a valid excuse for the student's absence (attach the excuse to a district absence excuse form.)

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES:

Students will be considered **unlawfully absent** when:

1. The student does not provide a signed valid Abundant Life Academy Student Absence Excuse Form within 3 days of the absence.
2. The student is willfully absent from school without the knowledge of his/her parent/guardian.
3. The student is absent without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his/her parent/guardian.

TARDINESS: ANY STUDENT ARRIVING AFTER 8:00 A.M. IS TARDY. This is a serious offense. A student arriving late disrupts the class and homeroom procedures. THERE WILL BE A \$5.00 FINE FOR EVERY THIRD UNEXCUSED TARDY — EVEN THOSE WHO ARE LATE FOR CLASS FROM LUNCH. We will send home copies of the tardy slips with a

bill on the third tardy! **After 15 unexcused tardies — fine will increase to \$10.00 for every three unexcused tardies. This is not meant as a punishment but as a means to encourage compliance.** Five (5) unexcused tardies is equal to one unexcused absence. Please understand repeated tardiness can result in expulsion of a student from the Academy.

EARLY DISMISSAL: Elementary students away from school more than 50% of the instructional day will be counted as absent for one day. High school students will be counted as absent for one period if they miss more than 1/2 of the period. Students previously enrolled in the district and those residing in the state who are entering for the first time shall be counted absent without excuse (for promotional/credit consideration) for each day missed due to late enrollment.

LATE PICK UP POLICY: Students are dismissed for the day at 2:30PM and parents have until 2:45PM to pick up their children without penalty. If a student is still here at 2:45PM, that student will be sent to the front office to call for a ride and a \$10 minimum fee, per student, will be charged. In addition to the \$10 minimum fee, \$5 will be charged at 3:00PM per student and every 15 minutes thereafter.

PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINATION AND REVIEW OF ABSENCES:

The Headmaster will determine the lawful or unlawful nature of absences. Unlawful and/or unexcused absences will be documented. Absences in excess of five (5) days per semester course or ten (10) days per school year will be reviewed for possible denial of credit or promotion. Approval will be based on but not limited to the following:

1. Lawful versus Unlawful
2. Circumstances affecting absences
3. Responsibility demonstrated by parent and student
4. The educational record of the student
5. Court recommendation, if applicable

DRESS CODE SCHOOL UNIFORMS

All students in Grades K4-12 must be dressed in approved school uniform. All uniform shirts/blouses, etc., can be purchased at:

Uniform Source in Bluffton or
Allprint Custom Tee's in Ridgeland.

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

The following procedures will be carried out by the classroom supervisors if there is a violation of school policy.

Leaving campus without permission:

- 1st offense One (1) day suspension
- 2nd offense Three (3) day suspension
- 3rd offense Possible expulsion from A.L.A.

Passing or writing letters or notes:

- 1st Offense Written warning
- 2nd Offense One (1) day suspension
- 3rd Offense Three (3) day suspension or possible expulsion from A.L.A.

Fighting:

- 1st Offense Automatic Three (3) day suspension
- 2nd Offense Possible expulsion from A.L.A.

Cheating, Forgery, or Plagiarism:

- 1st Offense Written warning
- 2nd Offense One (1) day suspension
- 3rd Offense Three (3) day suspension or possible expulsion from A.L.A.

Vulgar or Abusive Language:

- 1st Offense Written warning
- 2nd Offense One (1) day suspension
- 3rd Offense Three (3) day suspension or possible expulsion from A.L.A.

Disrespect for Authority or during Chapel Services:

- 1st Offense Written warning and a conference with Headmistress or Pastor
- 2nd Offense Three (3) day suspension
- 3rd Offense One (1) strike on 3-strike rule or possible expulsion from A.L.A.

The Administration reserves the right to lessen or make more severe the consequences given for violation of school policies.

Participation of home-educated students in SCACS programs will be the decision of the administration of each school.

Any athlete receiving two (2) red card or technical fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct that diminishes the testimony of Abundant Life Academy and SCACS will receive a two (2) game suspension — a three (3) game suspension for the third red card or technical foul. Any athlete committing more the three (3) of the above offences will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Any athlete who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will receive a two (2) game suspension — a second ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct will result in suspension for the remainder to the season.

All athletes must have a sports physical before participating in any sport at Abundant Life Academy. One physical per school year is required.

ALL NECESSARY FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND TURNED IN TO THE COACH ALONG WITH THE \$50.00 SPORTS FEE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF PRACTICE.

“Traditional” KHAKE OR NAVY **Cotton Twill** Pants,
Skirts, or Jumpers.

All skirts or jumpers and splits should be BELOW the knee.
NO CARGO OR CARPENTER PANTS — NO OVERALLS
NO WIDE, FLARE-LEGGED PANTS
NO JOGGING PANTS OR WIND PANTS
NO DENIM-LIKE MATERIAL! NO TIGHT-FITTING PANTS

**ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES K4-12 MUST WEAR
CLOSED-TOE AND/OR CLOSED-HEEL SHOES THAT ARE
CLEAN, COMFORTABLE AND SAFE TO WALK IN.**

Students in grades **K4-6** may wear longer khaki or navy **cotton twill** shorts or skorts during warm weather months (September, October, April, and May)

All girls may wear khaki or navy **cotton twill** capri style pants as long as they are not tight-fitting.

**ALL SHIRT TAILS ARE TO BE TUCKED IN AT ALL TIMES!
IF PANTS HAVE BELT LOOPS, STUDENTS MUST WEAR
A BLACK, BROWN, NAVY OR WHITE BELT.**
(Belts are optional for K4 - 4th grade.)

**ALL OUTERWEAR
SWEATSHIRTS, SWEATERS, JACKETS, ETC.
MUST BE SCHOOL UNIFORM WITH LOGO.**

GIRLS:

1. Hair, make-up, and appearance should be presentable while on campus. Modesty is a requirement of our school and will be insisted on at all times. **NO VISIBLE BODY PIERCINGS OR TATTOOS -- No more than two (2) pairs of earrings can be worn at any time. Hair can only be dyed a NATURAL color and NOT A FADDISH STYLE.**
2. Khaki or navy skirts and splits in skirts must come below the knee due to the fact that they ride up when seated. **NO TIGHT-FITTING TOPS OR PANTS WILL BE PERMITTED. ABSOLUTELY NO CLEAVAGE SHOWN!**
3. All undershirts and tank tops must match the uniform shirt and be tucked. If the undershirt or tank top does not match, it must not be seen.
4. **NO FLIP FLOPS or SANDALS ALLOWED!**

BOYS:

1. Haircuts must be modest in length and style. Any unapproved style, such as a mohawk or a cut resulting in shaved sides, will not be allowed. "Rat tails" on boys' (and girls') hair will not be allowed. Any dyed hair must be of a natural color.
2. NO FACIAL HAIR.
3. ALL SHIRT TAILS MUST BE TUCKED IN AT ALL TIMES.
3. NO FLIP FLOPS or SANDALS ALLOWED!
4. Earrings are not permitted on boys AT ANY TIME.
5. No caps or hats will be allowed in the buildings during school.
6. All clothing must FIT properly -- not too loose or too tight.

NO "busting a sag."

Pants must be worn at the waist line with a belt!

NO SLOPPY DRESS ALLOWED!

NO VISIBLE BODY PIERCING OR TATTOOS ALLOWED!

*****IF IN DOUBT, DON'T WEAR IT!*****

GENERAL RULES

1. Students absent without reasonable cause for a period of ten days consecutively, will be dropped from the roll.
2. No student will be allowed to leave during school hours without permission. Students leaving school without permission will be suspended from school. A student must attend at least three periods to be counted present for the day.
3. The school office is for the purpose of conducting the business of A.L.A. Please do not ask to make personal telephone calls. No student can be excused from school except through the main office.
4. All school activities shall be chaperoned by responsible adults. Proper dress according to the school dress code shall apply to all trips, activities, etc.
5. No Tylenol, aspirin, etc. will be dispensed from school office without written permission from parent.
6. No alcoholic beverages, drugs, etc., are allowed anywhere on the premises, inside or outside.
7. Any student caught in the use of, possession of, or sale of alcoholic beverage, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or other controlled substance on the premises will be expelled from A.L.A. for the balance of the school year and subject to re-entry by Board approval only. This includes ball games and special events at the school.

REMEMBER!

**All students in grades 7-12 must use
clear or mesh book bags!!**

Eligibility Requirements for Athletes

Eligibility requirements for participating in athletic competition at Abundant Life Academy as set forth by the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS):

1. Must not be failing Bible
1. Must not have more than one (1) "F" per grading period
2. Must be passing a minimum of four (4) core curriculum classes per grading period
3. Must maintain a "77" overall average
4. Must have proof of insurance
5. Must have a current physical

Grades will be checked at the mid-term and report card grading periods. Failure to meet the above requirements will result in an immediate suspension from participation in all athletic contests. The suspension will remain in effect until grades can be re-checked at the next mid-term or report card grading period. At that time, provided all "F's" have been removed from the appropriate grade reports, eligibility will be immediately reinstated.

Note: Suspended athletes will be required to continue practice with their respective teams, but will not be allowed to dress or travel with their teams.

Transfer students can become eligible for participation in athletic competition fourteen (14) days after all grades are received from the last school attended, and provided that those grades meet the above requirements.

Note: Any transfer that occurs less than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled start of SCACS conference playoffs will not be allowed to participate.

Drug Testing Policy

Abundant Life Academy, in accordance with both federal and South Carolina state law, will implement a drug testing policy for students in grades 7-12. All tests will be random and no specific groups targeted. Abundant Life will use an FDA approved rapid-read saliva test to determine if illicit drug use is present. If such tests should be positive, further testing will be required. Abundant Life has made arrangements for these tests to be administered at the Okatie Urgent Care/Outpatient Center to determine specific drug usage. This test will be the financial responsibility of the student and their parents/guardians. Pending results of these further tests, a mandatory conference will be required between school officials, parents/guardians, and the student to determine appropriate disciplinary action. Such action may include probation with further testing, counseling, suspension, or expulsion.

“My Space” Policy

All students who have a “my space” or any other social networking account are required to add Abundant Life Academy to their “friends list.” Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

High School Detention

High School detention (grades 7-12) will be on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:30-3:30. In-school suspension will be utilized for all appropriate offenses with the exception of fighting. Fighting will result in out-of-school suspension for one to three days.

The rules and regulations listed in this handbook are necessary for the smooth and orderly operation of Abundant Life Academy and carry the force of a contract. Your cooperation is necessary for a great school year!

8. The Headmistress reserves the right to search lockers, cars, or individual students if she deems it necessary, or have them searched by her designee. She also may ask to view a student’s “My Space”.
9. No unauthorized visitors--even parents-- shall be at the school during school hours. **ALL visitors MUST check in with the office.** ALL dismissals must be done through the office.
10. The school house and grounds are not places for public display of affection. Six-inch rule must be observed.
11. No signs, petitions, etc., may be placed on or brought in any part of the Academy or school property without the approval of the Headmistress.
12. No unauthorized gathering of students for any purposes other than school functions is permitted.
13. No one will be allowed to deface or in any way damage any part of this property. Students will have to pay for any damages and may be expelled from school.
14. All students must immediately and civilly obey any instruction received from ANY school authority.
15. No students will be allowed to graduate early or finish ahead of their class. Students may go to summer school to catch up.
16. Any student found cheating will be disciplined. The second offense will result in suspension. A grade of 0/F will be given to any student guilty of cheating.
17. Students who are absent must bring an excuse explaining the absence when they return to school.
18. Students consistently late to school disrupts the class and homeroom procedures. **THERE WILL BE A \$5.00 FINE FOR EVERY THIRD UNEXCUSED TARDY — EVEN THOSE WHO ARE LATE FOR CLASS FROM THE MORNING BREAK OR LUNCH.** Students who report to school late and miss an assigned test must take the test during study hall or after school that day. If a student must be dismissed early and has assigned tests, they must take the test before leaving school.
19. Missed tests must be taken within two (2) days after the student returns to school. Students failing to make up the test within this time will be given a failing grade and will not be allowed to make up the test. The responsibility for making up work or assigned tests rests solely with the teacher. Suspended students will not be allowed to make up missed work, tests, or quizzes.
20. **Student Progress Reports** will be issued at the mid-term of each quarter in grades 7-12. The student is responsible for taking these home and making certain their parents see the reports. These must

be signed by parents/guardians and returned to school the following day. Students will receive only one warning.

21. Any student guilty of forgery of parent's signature will be disciplined. The second offense results in suspension from school.
22. Students must pay for lost or damaged books before they are issued new ones.
23. The administration of A.L.A. has the right to administer corporal punishment. Not more than two (2) strokes will be given and a witness must be present.
24. Smoking will not be allowed at A.L.A. Students caught smoking will be suspended. The second offense will be possible expulsion from the Academy.
25. No student in grades 9-12 who has been expelled from or quits another school will be allowed admission into A.L.A. Any A.L.A. student in grades 9-12 who makes three F's for the school year may not be allowed to return the following school year. Special circumstances may be brought before the Board. Any student in grades 9-12 with three or more F's at any report card period may be asked to transfer to another school. **Any student who has been expelled or "asked to transfer" for academic or disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to return to A.L.A.**
26. Teachers (grades 9-12) will remain at school for thirty minutes on two days a week if they have students who need extra help. Students must make arrangements with their teachers. This is offered free of charge in an effort to help those students who are having academic difficulties. The teacher makes the final decision whether or not to stay. After-school tutoring (grades 1-6) may be offered for a fee. Check with your child's teacher to see if this is available.
27. Shotguns, rifles, pistols, knives, razor blades or any thing that could be considered a weapon will not be allowed on campus or in students' vehicles while on campus.
28. No pagers, beepers, cell phones, cd players, ipods, or magazines will be allowed in student's possession from 8:00AM to 2:30PM.
29. Students' driving on campus is considered a privilege. All school rules must be obeyed. Failure to follow rules and/or park in assigned space will result in suspension of driving on campus. Abundant Life assumes no responsibility to student drivers, any passengers, or vehicle.
30. NO BASKETBALL WILL BE PLAYED BETWEEN CLASSES OR ON FRIDAYS (OR GAME DAY, IF NECESSARY.)

Sexual Harassment & Discrimination Policy

All students, employees, or others involved in school functions are expected to follow commonly accepted standards of moral and ethical conduct. Inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature between students, between students and employees, or others may be defined as sexual harassment. Such conduct must be reported immediately to the school administrator. The matter will be fully investigated and immediate and appropriate corrective or disciplinary action shall be initiated. A substantial charge against a student or employee shall be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension, expulsion, employment termination and possible investigation by outside authorities. It is the policy of Abundant Life Academy to insure that all actions and interactions between administration, staff, and students are conducted in a proper and Christ-like manner.

Bullying Policy

Bullying is the act of intentionally causing harm to others, through verbal harassment, physical assault, or other more subtle methods of coercion such as manipulation. Bullying can be defined in many different ways and can manifest itself in many forms other than physical altercations. Verbal harassment, posturing, and spreading rumors are all examples of bullying. Also, with today's advancements in technology, cyber bullying has become a prevalent threat. Examples include and are not limited to sending threatening messages via text, email, instant messaging, or posting malicious comments on sites such as "my space." Abundant Life Academy will not tolerate any behavior that threatens the safety and security of its students. We have adopted and implemented a "zero" tolerance policy for dealing with bullying. Any person found bullying another student or students will be expelled immediately. Alarming, statistics show that over 80% of all bullying will occur in grades five thru eight. Furthermore, these same statistics show that nearly 65% of all bullying will be done by girls towards other girls. Please take a few minutes to speak with your child or children about the dangers involved by these despicable acts. If your child feels that he or she is a target of bullying or has witnessed instances of bullying, please encourage them to speak with someone and not to remain silent. The goal of Abundant Life Academy is to create a safe and secure atmosphere where all students can feel loved and appreciated. No child should ever "dread" attending school for fear of being ridiculed or bullied. Together, we can develop a positive and safe learning environment for all of our children.