



Shepherd of the Hills Christian School

Thank you for inquiring about Shepherd of the Hills Christian School (SOTHCS). We believe our school is special—a unique combination of academic achievement, traditional values and Christian family love for children from preschool through 8th grade. We're large enough to provide a high quality education, but small enough to know your child and your family by name.

This brochure contains many facts about our school—information about our high academic standards, and how we combine the basics with enriching extra studies like foreign language and art. The materials also explain our enrollment and admissions processes, forms and tuition payments. Here, you can read about how our traditions form a solid foundation that parents can trust and how we build a Christ-like community throughout our school.

However, these pages are too few and words inadequate to fully describe our unique learning environment. Your best source of information is our parents, students, and teachers. When you ask the families currently at SOTHCS, you'll hear responses like:

- † “Teachers and staff know my entire family by name—even younger siblings.
For us, the relationships are like family”
- † “The teachers are the best—they share their faith every day in large and small ways”
- † “My children get more than great academics, they're surrounded with Christ's love every day”
- † “I didn't grow up with a strong church background—but at SOTHCS, my family and I are accepted where we are”

Please, read the facts enclosed. We hope you'll make the time to visit. By doing so, you'll experience the warmth of our family by touring the campus and visiting with students and teachers. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm with appointments available at other times as well.

You see, we don't “work” at building community—there's no special program—it's simply Christ's love flowing through our faculty and staff. At Shepherd of the Hills Christian School, we're sure you will feel the difference—Christ's love in a traditional school setting.

7691 S. University Blvd., Centennial, CO 80122
303.798.0711
www.sothfamily.org

SCHOOL PROFILE

History and Campus. Shepherd of the Hills Christian School was formed in 1985 to provide children a comprehensive Christian education in a nurturing, family-like setting. We've grown from 43 students to a capacity of 440 children in preschool through 8th grade. Our campus is comprised of 22 classrooms, a gymnasium, science lab, art studio, computer lab, preschool facility, library, chapel, large playground and outdoor field. We are committed to maintain small class sizes—24 students or less per class—so teachers have time to meet unique student needs, while maintaining momentum for the entire class.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities. Our students enjoy being together and participate in a variety of sports and extracurricular activities. Students of all abilities can explore many sports: soccer, track, volleyball, cheerleading, and basketball. Our Christian coaching philosophy places a high value on teamwork, learning the game, skills development, and winning or losing with grace. Students also explore new activities and develop relationships with others beyond their classmates in: band, drama, hand bells, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Denominational Affiliation. Shepherd of the Hills is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, however, all denominations are welcome. It is our goal to support your religious training in the home or church as a unit by emphasizing Biblical principles.

QUALITY AND TRADITION YOU CAN TRUST

Faculty. Each of our full-time teachers holds a teaching degree and is licensed in Colorado. In addition, over one-third of our teachers have earned or are working on masters' degrees or continuing education in their field of specialty. Most of our teachers are Synodically trained, bringing consistency in teaching and religious education.

Curriculum and Learning Philosophies. We don't experiment with learning philosophies—teachers apply tried-and-true techniques (like phonics for reading) with secular curriculum for the basics: math, reading, science, language, social studies, spelling, etc. (see enclosed details for each grade). Along with the "basics," students are also taught Spanish, computer and art.

Accreditation. Our school is accredited by the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) - a rigorous accrediting process that evaluates academic quality and spiritual dimensions of the school. As a result, you can be assured that our school and your child's education are held to the highest standards.

Standardized Testing. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) validates the quality of our education. The SOTHCS school average ranged from 78 in social studies to 85.3 in reading with a composite score of 83.8. Individual student scores are trended to identify areas of strength and address opportunities for improvement. Contact the office for the detailed test results of each grade.

CHRIST-LIKE FAMILY SETTING

Prayer. Prayer is integrated throughout the day. Before school opens each day, our faculty begins with devotions and prays specifically for each child in the school. School announcements begin with prayer. Each class prays together in the morning, before lunch and at the end of each day. Problems between classmates are partially resolved with prayer. *Moms In Touch* prays together weekly for each school family. School meetings begin and end with prayer.

Chapel and Community Outreach. Each Wednesday students participate in (and often lead) school-wide chapel where students, faculty and staff worship together. Each month the student's chapel offerings are donated to different local or regional organization such as COMPA, Interfaith Task Force, and the Battered Women's Shelter. Jr. High students participate in additional community service projects organized throughout the school year.

Bully-proofing. Beginning in 2000, students and faculty initiated a process to reduce bullying for all ages—not just physical bullying, but also the subtle types of verbal bullying. Teachers began with training to identify and understand bullying behaviors. Now, students participate in practice sessions to identify the behavior and learn appropriate Christ-like responses.

Middle School Setting. At a time when many children begin their most vulnerable years—adolescence combined with increased exposure to the dangers in society—we believe that size and setting are important. The relationships between our students and faculty are close. Students are academically prepped for high school with the core classes as well as exploratory courses such as Design Projects, Age of Industry, Life Skills, Destination Imagination, Yearbook and Spanish. The smaller environment gives more students the opportunity to participate in sports, clubs and extracurricular programs. Social challenges are quickly identified and handled with Christ-like resources.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Childcare. Whether employed full time, part time or just needing an occasional break, parents can be assured their children (preschool through middle school) are safe and surrounded by the same Christ-like value system in place during the school day. Childcare hours are from 7:00-8:15 am and noon-6 pm.

Parent Volunteers. Many parents love to spend time working in the classroom, office, playground and cafeteria. In addition, the Parent-Teacher League (PTL) offers many opportunities for parent involvement. To protect you and your children, *all* volunteers are carefully screened and must complete the "Safeguarding Your Children" training session.

Discipline. Student behavior is an important part of learning. Expectations are high concerning dress, language, homework, and timeliness. Our policy is specific (ask for a copy if you'd like the details) but based on a foundation of communication, love, family involvement and most importantly, forgiveness.

School counselor. Sometimes kids (teachers and parents, also) just need someone to talk to. Our staff school counselor uniquely meets this need. The school counselor is formally responsible for working with the kids of all ages—having lunch, being present, listening to problems and assisting with conflicts—to assure that Christ is included in solving problems, both large and small. In addition, the school counselor is an invaluable resource for assisting parents and faculty as they apply Christ-like principles to real-life issues.

Teaching Philosophies and Curriculum

PRESCHOOL

Christian Learning.

Bible Stories, songs, Jesus Circle Time and prayer time.

Reading, Phonics and Spelling.

Hands on activities teach letters and sounds focusing on reading readiness, and *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum, Active phonics and Letter People for alphabet instruction.

Math.

Introduction to numbers, the counting calendar, shapes and colors, and counting and sorting through hands-on and center activities.

Science.

Body parts, senses, safety, weather, insects, plants/seeds, animals, and health.

Social Studies.

Body parts, senses, safety, weather, insects, plants/seeds, animals, and health.

Music.

Clap a beat, rhythm games, singing simple songs including the use of instruments.

Art.

Incorporated into daily activities.

Computer.

Please see the next page for these details.

Library.

Weekly story time and checking out books.

Physical Education.

Playground time plus bending, balancing, simple games, and walks.

KINDERGARTEN

Christian Learning.

Please see the next page for these details

Reading, Phonics and Spelling.

Beginning to Read, Write, and Listen – a phonics-based program teaching children to read and write simple stories. Concepts include complete sentence structure, punctuation, and action and descriptive words. Emphasis on sight words, handwriting, and writing skills is also included. Also incorporating Saxon Phonics and the Shurley English language program.

Math.

Exploring Math and McMillan Math include numbers, shapes, fractions, money, time and counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's with hands-on math games.

Science.

Silver, Burdett & Ginn includes learning about ourselves, the weather, space, energy and our world, while center activities include weights, measurements, magnets, sink/float, and the life cycle of the butterfly.

Social Studies.

My World & Me plus Time for Kids focusing on holidays, current events and famous people.

Music.

Clap a beat, rhythm games, singing simple songs including the use of instruments.

Art.

Included in daily activities plus 2x month in the Art studio.

Computer.

Please see the next page for these details.

Spanish

One semester covering basic numbers and colors.

Library.

Weekly story time and checking out books.

Physical Education.

Fine motor development daily including playground time plus bending, balancing, games, and walks plus once per week developing ball skills.

Teaching Philosophies and Curriculum

DAY SCHOOL

Christian Learning.

At SOTH, we believe that the bible is the inspired word of God and center of any study. In grades K-4th, students will be using the Voyages Curriculum Series to study various Bible stories as well as the various teaching of the scripture regarding the commandments and other doctrines and teachings. In Theology 5, students will divide their time between Bible stories and the main doctrines of the church. These include: the Ten Commandments; the Apostles Creed; the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, the Lord's Supper and the Office of the Keys. This teaching of the major doctrines of the church continues in Theology 6, as well as an intensive study of the Old Testament in conjunction with World History. In Theology 7, students will continue their study of the Old Testament and how its promises were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Theology 8 will then take on the study of the New Testament as well as various topics that have importance to our young people.

Reading.

1st—5th. McGraw Hill series includes a variety of literature and classics to nurture and expand the joy of reading. Activities include (especially for 2nd grade) silent reading, read aloud, partner reading, oral reading and book reports. Handwriting is also incorporated into phonics or reading time. Cursive handwriting is taught starting in 3rd grade.

6th—8th. 6th grade uses The Language of Literature by McDougal Littell. Reading groups, oral reading and book reports are essential activities. Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes by Prentice Hall is used in 7th and 8th grades and expands knowledge of our literary roots.

Phonics and Spelling.

1st—2nd. Saxon Phonics—major phonics concepts and coding. Daily lessons and homework with weekly phonics and spelling tests.

3rd—8th. Spelling coordinates with the McGraw Hill reading series. Weekly concept-based units. Weekly tests include basic, review, and challenge words.

Math. McMillan Math is a hands-on program that emphasizes manipulative and mental math addressing a multi-sensory approach to teaching. Concepts are grade specific, carefully sequenced, taught incrementally and reinforced through practice. Lessons include concept teaching, class practice, fact sheets and homework. Written and oral assessments occur regularly. 6th grade uses Mathematics Applications and Concepts. Pre algebra and algebra are offered beginning in 7th grade.

Science.

1st—5th. Harcourt (first grade) and Harcourt School Publishers (all other grades). Lessons integrate skills, vocabulary and content with hands-on experiments and exploration. Units vary per grade, including science of life, earth, matter and energy, space, weather, plants, animals.

6th—8th. Glencoe/McGraw Hill series begins with Earth Science (6th grade) Life Science (7th grade) and Physical Science (8th grade)

Social Studies.

1st—5th. McGraw Hill series using lessons focusing on work, communities, country, history, geography, economy, government, maps and charts. Each grade incorporates current events and special interest areas.

6th—8th. Both 6th & 7th grade uses World: Adventures in Time and Place. 6th grade studies early civilization through the Maya Empire and 7th grade studies the Middle Ages to the present. America Is for 8th grade teaches U.S. history.

Music.

1st—5th. Students are exposed to a variety of music and increasingly complex musical concepts and music appreciation. Students begin playing the recorder in 3rd grade. Choir is offered.

6th—8th. Jr. High incorporates singing (choir), listening and appreciation, music history and reading.

Art. Students participate in the art studio for a combination of hands-on and concept teaching that focuses on the elements of design.

Computer. SOTH is an area leader in innovative applications of technology, not only integrated in meaningful ways to the core curriculum, but also in developing skills and aptitudes that best prepare our students to be successful in living productive and faith-based lives in a rapidly changing 21st century world.

Spanish. Each student receives two periods of instruction per week leading to good conversational and written skills in Spanish.

Library.

1st—5th. Weekly story time thru 4th grade. 5th grade begins library skills.

6th—8th. Open library daily for class or individual research.

Physical Education.

1st—2nd. Development of fine motor skills and awareness of self.

3rd—8th. Develop team skills, social adjustment and physical growth through physical activity. Jr. High incorporates social awareness through activity and health related issues.

Enrollment/Admissions/Registration Checklist

	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Application mailed	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Deposit paid	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptance packet received	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Interview complete	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Birth Certificate submitted	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Immunization Record sent	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Prior school record sent	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gesell/WRAT complete	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment fee paid	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment results received	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration packet received	_____

Gesell Developmental Assessment

Research proves that children learn best in an environment appropriate for individual developmental levels of growth. Therefore, Shepherd of the Hills Christian School requires a developmental assessment for all children entering Kindergarten and First grades.

The Gesell Developmental Assessment has long been used as a measure of a child's physical growth, language development, personal-social behavior and overall adaptive behavior. Unlike an IQ test, this assessment measures a child's behavior through direct observation. The assessment provides a composite of the child's development level relative to age-normative responses based on the following categories: expressive language, fine motor skills, reasoning, perceptual-motor skills, general behavior, social maturity and overall developmental growth.

Gesell assessments are administered on the campus by specially trained staff. Parents may stay with their child during the time, but it is not required. Assessments typically begin in February and continue through until April. Parents are notified of the results in May and contacted to discuss any placement recommendations based on the results of the test.

The Wide Range Achievement Test

The Wide Area Achievement Test (WRAT) assesses individual academic skills for reading, spelling and math for children entering 2nd through 8th grades. This test is recognized as a reliable measurement of the basic academic codes with age norms from a representative sample of nearly 5,000 students from across the United States. Each test requires approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete. Results of these tests assist teachers in academically integrating new students into the class.

OUR MISSION

Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Shepherd of the Hills Christian School seeks to strengthen families by helping parents to train their children in the Christian way of life and by fostering a parent-teacher bond which glorifies God by encouraging student's spiritual growth, academic excellence and Christian service to all in need.

PHILOSOPHY

Shepherd of the Hills Christian School was established in 1985 to provide children a comprehensive Christian education in a nurturing, family-like atmosphere.

At Shepherd of the Hills Christian School:

- Students are nurtured in the faith and love of their Savior, Jesus Christ
- Education encompasses spiritual, academic, social and physical needs
- Parents, teachers and students work in partnership to achieve the most comprehensive and challenging education
- Students develop character and purpose when faculty-parent partnerships combine with God's Spirit working through His Word

2009-2010 Yearly Fees

<i>PRECHOOL</i>	<i>2-Day</i>	<i>3-Day</i>	<i>5-Day</i>
Preschool	\$1650	\$2050	\$2850
Pre-Kindergarten		\$2050	\$2850
Jr. Kindergarten			\$2850
Preschool annual student registration fee	\$125	\$125	\$125

<i>DAY SCHOOL</i>	Non-SOTH Member	SOTH Member
Full Day Kindergarten thru 8 th grade:		
1 st Child	\$5,950	\$4,460
2 nd Child	\$5,360	\$4,050
3 rd Child	\$4,780	\$3,610
4 th Child	\$0	\$0
K-8 th annual student registration fee	\$325	\$325

<i>CHILDCARE</i> – Call for pricing information
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- Preschool tuition is based on a 10-month schedule—August through May.
- Day School tuition is based on a 10-month schedule—paid July through April
- A 5% discount is available for annual tuition pre-paid by August 31, 2008

Enrollment Process

Acceptance Philosophy

Shepherd of the Hills Christian School reserves the right to prioritize applicants based on the following criteria:

- Members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
- Siblings of existing students
- Date application and deposits are received

Enrollment Process

To be placed on the enrollment list simply complete the following:

- Tour the school with both students and staff
- Complete the enrollment application and family profile
- Submit the application with your registration fee per child of:
 - \$325 for grades K through 8th grades
 - \$125 for preschool

NOTE: all registration fees are non-refundable

Admission

School staff will begin processing new applications in March. You will be notified of the status of your application by April 1st. Upon approval of your application, you will receive an acceptance packet in the mail describing the detailed requirements for complete registration, school schedule, new information for the school year and other required forms.

Prior to admission, the following must be completed for each child:

- Interview with school Principal or preschool Director
- Copies for each child of:
 - Birth certificate
 - Immunization records
 - Transfer students: most recent report card and school transcripts
- Completion of the Gesell test for Kindergarten through 1st grade and the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) for students entering 2nd through 8th grade.

A \$50 fee per child is required at the time of either test.

Registration

Before school begins, you will receive an additional packet containing emergency medical forms, financial agreement, etc. The first tuition payment is due in July (August for Preschool). At Family Night (the week prior to the first day of school), all forms must be completed and additional fees must be paid.



Shepherd of the Hills Christian School

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

Child/ren's Information

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Sex	Birth Date	2009-2010 Gr Level	Session (See Below)	Child Care?
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Session choices:

Preschool (see schedules:)

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JK | <input type="checkbox"/> PK-AM | <input type="checkbox"/> AB-3* | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-3T | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-2 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> PK-A+E | <input type="checkbox"/> AB-5* | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-3M | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-2+1 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> PK-PM | | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-3+E | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-2+E |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-3T+1 | |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PS-3M+1 | |

Kindergarten:

- Full Day Kindergarten

*Afternoon Blast only available for students
enrolled in JK or PK classes

Parent Information

Parent/Guardian 1

Name _____ SS# _____
 Home Address _____ Relationship to children: _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Home Phone: _____
 Employer _____ Email Address _____
 Employer's Address _____ Work Phone _____
 Employer's City, State, Zip _____ Cell Phone _____
 Church Membership _____ Pager _____

Parent/Guardian 2

Name _____ SS# _____
 Home Address _____ Relationship to children: _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Home Phone: _____
 Employer _____ Email Address _____
 Employer's Address _____ Work Phone _____
 Employer's City, State, Zip _____ Cell Phone _____
 Church Membership _____ Pager _____

Children live with: ___ Both parents ___ Mother only ___ Father only ___ Shared ___ Guardian

Please describe any special parenting arrangements that would be helpful for the school to know:

Office Use Only:

Deposit Check # _____ Tour date _____ Interview Date _____ Assessment Date _____ SOTHLC Member _____
 Assmnt Check # _____ Birth Cert _____ Immunization _____ Transcrip Rec'd _____ AccepPckt Sent _____

FAMILY PROFILE

Please provide a brief description of the religious/spiritual background of your family and enrolling children.

What is your family's primary language? _____ Child(ren)'s primary language? _____

Does your child(ren) attend church and/or Sunday school? If yes, indicate where.

I want a Christian education for my child(ren) because:

Has your child(ren) been baptized? If yes, record date and place below.

As a result of testing did your child(ren) qualify for placement in a particular program such as learning disabilities, gifted and talented or other? If yes, please describe.

Does your child(ren) struggle in any academic, social, spiritual or physical areas?

I would like to be involved in my child's education in the following ways:

I fully understand that the purposes of SOTHCS are to help my child learn about and experience God's love; study the Bible and begin growing in the abundant life Christ promises; pursue intellectual curiosity and academic excellence.

Parent or legal guardian signature: _____ Date: _____



Shepherd of the Hills Christian School

Transcript Release – for students entering Grades 1-8

This form will be mailed to the school you cite below, only after your child is officially admitted to SOTHCS. If you are applying to enroll more than one child, you may list each additional child on this same form. Please fill out this form completely and submit it with your application.

Name of my child/ren's last school _____

School district _____

School's *full* mailing address _____

Student's Name Student's Grade while enrolled

Student's Name Student's Grade while enrolled

Student's Name Student's Grade while enrolled

I hereby permit, and request, you to transfer the individual academic records for my child/ren to:

SOTHCS
ATTN: Susan Kucera, Registrar
7691 S. University Blvd.
Centennial, CO 80122
303/798-0711

Please include cumulative health, academic and other pertinent records.

Parent or legal guardian name _____ Date _____

Parent or legal guardian signature _____ Date _____