

Welcome to Calvary Academy

New Student & Parent Orientation Guide 2026–2027

We're excited to welcome your family to the Calvary Academy community! This guide highlights the key information covered during New Student Orientation so students and parents can quickly review the expectations, routines, and resources that will help make the school year a successful one.

Our Mission in Practice

Calvary Academy provides an excellent Christ-centered education that equips students to grow academically, deepen their faith, and prepare for God's calling on their lives.

A successful Calvary Academy student comes to class prepared, asks for help early, treats teachers with respect, stays off their phone during class, gets involved, and honors Christ in what they say and do.

1. Student Behavior Expectations — STARR

S	Safe	Use voices, bodies, and objects appropriately; keep hands, feet, and body parts to yourself; be where you are supposed to be.
T	Trustworthy	Tell the truth, follow rules even when no one is watching, do what you should be doing, and submit work that represents your own knowledge.
A	Active Learner	Listen, participate, ask questions, give your best effort, and be willing to try new and difficult things.
R	Responsible	Complete homework, care for your work and belongings, be prepared, present, and punctual.
R	Respectful	Care about others' thoughts and feelings, treat others as you want to be treated, and respect people's bodies and possessions.

2. What to Expect Each Day

Junior High & High School Schedule

1st Hour	8:20–9:11
2nd Hour	9:15–10:06
3rd Hour	10:10–11:01
4th Hour	11:05–11:56
JH Lunch	12:00–12:25
HS 5th Hour	12:00–12:51
HS Lunch	12:55–1:20
JH 6th Hour	12:30–1:20
7th Hour	1:25–2:16
8th Hour	2:20–3:10

Before the 8:15 warning bell, students should be in the cafeteria. Students may not be upstairs before school unless attending a help session.

3. Dress Code & Uniforms

General expectations: Clothing must be modest, appropriate, school-ready, opaque, appropriately fitted, and free of inappropriate or offensive messaging. Clothing may not expose cleavage, midriff, back, undergarments, buttocks, or upper thigh.

High School: Approved tops include polos, button-downs, crewnecks, henleys, quarter-zips, turtlenecks, and Calvary Academy apparel. Bottoms include jeans, khakis, and dress pants without rips, holes, or tears. Skirts/dresses may be no shorter than 1 inch above the knee and must be loose-fitting. Leggings may only be worn under an approved skirt or dress.

Junior High (Grades 6–8): Tops are red, navy, light blue, or white. Bottoms are navy or khaki. Girls may wear uniform skirts/skorts (no more than 2 inches above the knee) or uniform pants. Boys wear uniform pants. Knit or dri-fit collared polos and Calvary Academy apparel are permitted.

Friday Dollar Dress Down Days: Students may wear a wider range of clothing, but general modesty and messaging expectations remain in effect. Pajamas, tight athletic wear, clothing that violates modesty/messaging standards, and shorts are prohibited.

Junior High PE: Students must wear the school PE uniform and provide their own athletic shoes. Failure to dress and participate results in a 0 for the day and affects the quarter grade. Three “no dress” days in one quarter result in a detention.

4. Safety & Campus Procedures

- Use only the Main Entrance Doors to enter/exit; do not open other doors for anyone.
- Do not open a locked door for anyone between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Doing so results in a \$25 fine.
- Calvary Academy is a closed campus. Only seniors may leave during lunch, and they must return on time for 7th hour.
- Students must have a hall pass when in the hallway outside passing periods.

5. Attendance & Tardy Policies

Absences: Students may have 4 full-day undocumented absences per quarter. After the 4th absence, official documentation is required (such as a doctor's note, funeral documentation, or documentation of a family emergency).

Missing 3–4 class periods in one day counts as a half-day absence; missing 5 or more counts as a full-day absence. Missing a single class 12 or more times in a quarter reduces that quarter grade to 59% F. Missing more than 20 minutes of a class is considered an absence.

Students who exceed 16 absences during the school year are considered “Chronically Absent” and must provide official documentation for subsequent absences. More than 9 unexcused absences results in a report to the Sangamon County truancy office.

Tardies: Students arriving between 8:20 and 8:25 are automatically excused up to four times per quarter. Between 8:25 and 8:35, a parent/guardian may call to excuse the student up to four times per quarter. After 8:35, the tardy is automatically unexcused unless a doctor's note is provided.

Students are allowed four undocumented excused tardies per quarter. After the fourth, official documentation is required for the remainder of the quarter. Severe weather may be an exception when administration notifies teachers.

Important: First-hour unexcused tardies result in silent lunch that day. Second- through eighth-hour tardies are automatically unexcused and accompanied by detention.

6. Cell Phone Policy

Students may bring a phone to school, but phones may not remain on the student's person during class.

At the beginning of every class: Students place their phone in the teacher's designated storage area and leave it there until class ends. This applies to all classes, study hall, testing, and instructional periods.

Phones may be used: between classes, during lunch, and before/after school.

If a phone is seen during class or is not placed in the designated storage area, it will be confiscated and taken to the school office. A parent/guardian must retrieve it or authorize its release after school. There are no warnings. A 3rd violation and beyond also results in detention.

Refusal to comply: Refusing to turn over a phone or place it in the designated storage area results in being sent immediately to the office, with additional disciplinary consequences under the school's Behavior Management Plan.

7. High School Graduation & Academic Information

Area	Credits
English	4
Math	3
Social Studies	3
Bible	4
Science	2
Foreign Language/Arts	1
Other (Con Ed, Health, PE)	1.5

Elective opportunities listed in the orientation include Drivers Ed, advanced math, Calculus, Spanish II/III, performing arts, art, computer, Chemistry, Physics, Teacher Assistant, Office Assistant, athletics, HS Musical, CACC, and Study Skills.

High school classification: Freshman: 0–5.75 credits; Sophomore: 6–11.75; Junior: 12–17.75; Senior: 18–23.75.

8. Google Classroom & Student Technology

Students use the same username for student email, Google Classroom, and Google services. The orientation presentation gives the school's username/password format and includes Chromebook login practice.

Google Classroom is an important part of staying organized and accessing schoolwork. Parents should encourage students to check their school Google account regularly.

9. Checking Grades in FACTS

To check grades: **Family Log In → FACTS Family Portal.**

District Code: **CALV-IL.** The presentation indicates that students use their student email to create their account.

10. How Parents Can Help Their Student Succeed

- Encourage your student to come to class prepared and be present and punctual.
- Remind your student to ask for help early rather than waiting until they are overwhelmed.
- Help your student stay organized and keep up with assignments and grades.
- Reinforce the cell phone expectations and dress code at home.
- Encourage your student to get involved, make friends, try something new, and grow closer to Christ.
- Talk with your student about the STARR expectations: Safe, Trustworthy, Active Learner, Responsible, and Respectful.

We're excited to have your family as part of the Calvary Academy family!