

Guidelines for Teaching Handwriting

for the Christian Liberty Academy Handwriting Program

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

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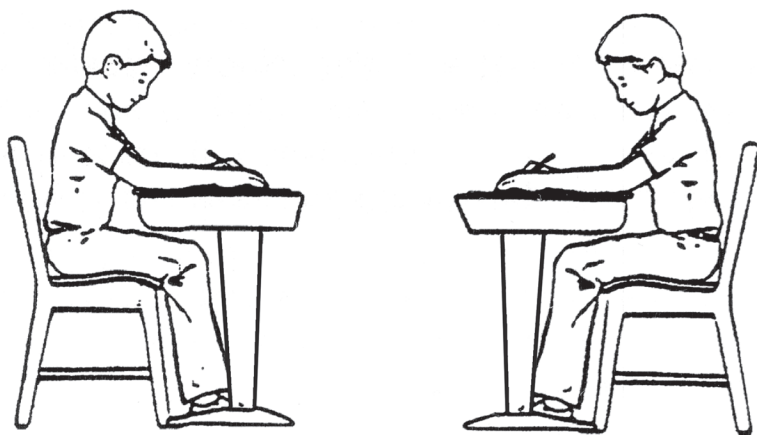
Preliminary Guidelines

Proper Lighting

An important element in good handwriting is *proper lighting*. The instructor should make sure that the incidence of shadows on the student's paper are minimized. Overhead lighting, which fills in most shadows and provides even illumination in all parts of the room, is best. Natural light should enter at an angle so that the student's writing hand will not cast shadows on his paper. Furthermore, if the instructor is teaching handwriting to both left- and right-handed students, they must be seated so that they do not interfere with one another.

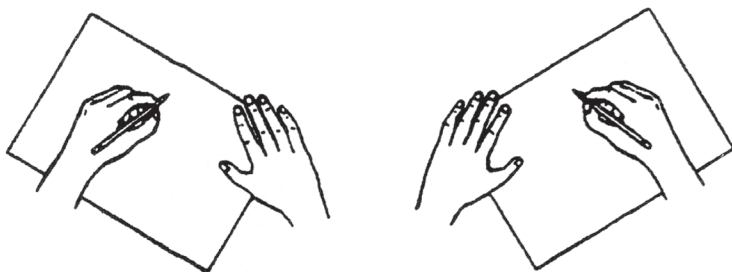
Good Posture

Good posture also affects handwriting. The student should sit comfortably in his chair with his feet flat on the floor. The desk should be slightly higher than the student's waist. He should sit, not leaning to the left or to the right, but bending slightly forward with his back straight. His forearms should rest on the surface of his desk or table.



Paper Position

The *position of the paper* is related to the student's posture. The student should place his paper directly in front of his eyes and under his writing hand. The non-writing hand lies on the top of the paper to hold it still. The slant of the paper will allow him to see around his hand as he works; thus he will not have to lean to the left or right to see his work. A right-handed student will tilt his paper to the left so that it lies parallel to his writing arm. The left-handed student will tilt his paper to the right 30 to 45 degrees. These paper positions will eliminate the awkward, hooked-hand pencil hold—which restricts hand and finger movement needed for good handwriting; avoiding this awkward pencil hold will prevent poor posture.



Pencil Hold

The most desirable writing tool even for the beginning writer is a regular, standard No. 2 pencil (or a mechanical No. 2 pencil). This pencil is better suited to small hands than an extra-large pencil commonly thought to be good for younger children. The pencil should be sharpened enough to mark readily and long enough to extend past the first knuckle of the hand.

The student's thumb and index finger should grasp the pencil, letting it rest on the middle finger; this is called the *tripod grip*. The last two fingers arch under the middle