

R E D E E M E R C L A S S I C A L
S C H O O L

STUDENT HANDBOOK

REVISED FEBRUARY 16, 2009



SCHOOL MISSION

The mission Redeemer Classical School is to provide an excellent Christ-centered education as reflected in the Doctrinal Commitments and Guiding Principles of RCS. In carrying out our mission, we aim to support parents' Christian discipleship of their children for the greater glory of God.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Section 1: Assisting Parents

God has given parents the daunting but glorious calling of training and discipling their children in all truth. Redeemer Classical School exists not to usurp this responsibility but to assist parents in this high calling. The Christian life is one that is lived in dependence upon the Lord and mutual dependence on one another. It is our desire to pursue the Christian discipleship of children in the context of such a community. We welcome and seek to bless others from the community at large hoping they might enjoy the benefits of this school whether or not they are part of the Christian community.

Section 2: A Christian Education

Redeemer Classical School is committed to a thorough Christian education, at all times instructing children in the ways of the Lord and acknowledging God's work in every area of study. Because our Creator is also our Redeemer, we rise up to lay claim to the earth and to prepare the next generation to advance a culture known for its love of wisdom, its passion for truth, its delight in beauty and its worship of God's great glory.

Section 3: A Classical Education

We are committed to a classical education. Our methodology is shaped by the medieval trivium, comprised of grammar, logic and rhetoric. These three stages complement the natural development of children. The grammar stage capitalizes on the proclivity of young children for repetition and memory work. During this stage children memorize the basic facts, or grammar, of various subjects. At the logic stage, a child's emerging disposition towards arguing is channeled into the work of arranging these accumulated facts into a logical order. Finally, at the rhetoric stage, maturing young men and women are challenged to think deeply and clearly and to express themselves with precision and beauty. The methodology of the trivium is intended to train a child how to think about and explore any subject. The content of a classical approach requires studying the best thinkers of the ages, secure in the fact that God is the author of all truth. Children will be entering into the 'Great Conversation' of Western civilization, as they read, discuss and reflect on the best minds of the ages.

Section 4: For Every Child

We are committed to working with children with varying levels of ability because we believe that the best education is best for every child. The children whom God has entrusted to us are not mere objects to be shaped but precious souls made in the image of God. As such, they are to be lovingly encouraged, challenged, directed, trained and inspired to live wholeheartedly in service to the Kingdom of Christ. We will seek to draw out from each child his or her very best.

Section 5: Racial Reconciliation and Justice for the Poor

We are committed to the biblical principles of racial reconciliation, justice for the poor and outcast and the unity of believers across cultures. This kind of restoration of society is made possible through the gospel. Specifically, we

believe that the Lord uses the liberating power of a classical education as offered in the Western tradition as a tool to accomplish this restoration.

In order to help us pursue these principles we seek the enrollment of disadvantaged students from our surrounding community through a tithing (10%) of admissions made to underprivileged and minority children.

Section 6: An Active Approach

We are committed to an active approach to education requiring children at every stage of the trivium to be engaged in memorizing, reading, writing, reflecting and creating as a result of and as preparation for meaningful interaction with their teacher and peers. This kind of education requires that students have sufficient time to read, write, reflect and create outside of class, therefore we purpose to limit the number of hours children are in class.

Section 7: A Lifestyle of Repentance

Those who oversee, instruct in and administer this school purpose to model a lifestyle of learning. We confess that we do not know all that we should or could and adopt a lifestyle of repentance, forsaking what we do not know in favor of reading, writing, reflecting and creating. We labor in these ways that we might grow in our love of the good, true and beautiful and that we might more fully worship the One who is the author of all these things.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1: Preamble

Redeemer Classical School finds its doctrinal roots in the historic Christian creeds arising from the Protestant Reformation, in particular the Westminster Confession of Faith. However, the school is an independent school without institutional ties to any church or denomination. Our statement of faith is focused on the truths that have bound orthodox Christians together through the ages, across the boundaries of time, place, race, denomination and tradition. Redeemer Classical School invites believers to join together in the work of reforming and redeeming our world – preparing leaders to advance a culture committed to truth, wisdom, beauty, goodness, mercy and justice to the greater glory of God. The Statement of Faith constitutes the primary doctrine at Redeemer Classical School. These are truths that the parents and the students understand will be taught without warning or apology. Particularly in the dialectic and rhetoric stages of the trivium, treatment of the Statement of Faith may lead to secondary doctrinal issues. When this occurs, the instructor will strive to teach the various views of orthodox Christianity from an objective, unbiased, scriptural point of view. We reserve for the parents, and by extension their church, the final responsibility to search the Scriptures with their children to resolve such issues.

Section 2: Scripture

We believe that the Bible, comprised of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God, given by revelation from the Holy Spirit, inerrant in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule for Christian faith and practice.

Section 3: God

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are equal in power and glory and are identical in their essence and attributes. We believe the God we serve is holy, righteous, good, loving, and full of mercy. God possesses all knowledge and power; nothing is unknown or impossible to Him. His knowledge extends eternally to what has been, what is now and what will be. In all things He is limited by nothing other than His own nature and character. We believe God works all things according to the counsel of His

will and for His own glory. God is not the author of sin but holds each man accountable for his every thought, word and deed.

Section 4: Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, eternally begotten of the Father. He was born of a virgin, Mary, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit. He lived a sinless life and performed miracles. He died a voluntary, substitutionary death on the cross as the perfect and complete sacrifice for sin. He was raised bodily from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father. He continues to be fully man and fully God.

Section 5: Holy Spirit

We believe in the full deity of the Holy Spirit, eternally existing with the Father and the Son. He inspired the Scriptures. By the work of the Holy Spirit men are convicted of sin, moved to repentance, and enabled to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. He dwells in the Christian as his Comforter and enables him to live a godly life.

Section 6: Creation

We believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He created the universe and all that is in it out of nothing. He created Adam and Eve as actual historical people to bear His image, to give Him glory and to enjoy Him forever.

Section 7: Man

We believe that mankind holds a unique place in the created order. Because we have been designed by God and made in His image, we have intrinsic value and purpose. Adam and Eve, the first parents, were tempted by Satan and disobeyed God's command. By their own choice, they fell from their original state of innocence and fellowship with God and came under the power and penalty of sin. Adam served as our representative; therefore when Adam sinned, all men fell and became sinners. Because of this fall, there is no aspect of life that has been left untainted by sin.

Section 8: Salvation

We believe that for all men, salvation is necessary for eternal life with God. Jesus Christ provided the full redemption for sins through His death and resurrection. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. Saving faith is a gift of God on the basis of His free grace. Although good works result as evidence of a believer's salvation, they neither gain salvation nor add to our favor with God.

Section 9: Sanctification

We believe that all true believers, indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit, are enabled to grow in godliness and that this growth will continue until the day of Christ Jesus. By the Spirit's renewing activity, we are enabled to produce good works without which faith is dead.

Section 10: Culture

We believe that the Father has given Christ all authority in heaven and earth. He is Sovereign Lord of all creation and every area of life, not just "religious" or "spiritual" life. Each Christian is commanded to love Him with all his mind as well as his heart and soul. We love Him with all our minds by refusing to conform to the unbelieving patterns of the world, and by our taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Section 11: Christ's Return

We believe that Jesus Christ is King of all the realms of life and society now and that He will return personally to reign over His kingdom. All humanity will be resurrected at the judgment: the saved to eternal life, and the lost to eternal condemnation and separation from God.

REDEEMER CLASSICAL SCHOOL BOARD

The Board of Directors of Redeemer Classical School is responsible for overseeing the affairs and operation of the school in accordance with the school's Bylaws, Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and Statement of Faith. The Board is comprised of between three and twelve members, who are appointed by the Board of Directors to 3-year terms. The Board regularly examines the school's policies, programs, and curricula to insure their consistency with the school's mission and philosophy, and the Board relies on the administration of the school for implementation of these policies. Because of the corporate nature of the Board, any single member, as an individual, has no authority over the school in any capacity.

COMMUNICATION & GRIEVANCES GUIDELINES

RCS teachers are honored to aid parents by helping to educate children from a classical and Christian perspective and by supporting the parents' authority in the lives of their children. Because discipling and educating children involves hard work for parents, teachers, and students, conflict will sometimes arise. In order to keep conflict and misunderstanding to a minimum, parents are asked to refrain from gossip about issues or people and take concerns directly to the people concerned, using the principles of found in Matthew 18 and James 3. The specific procedure for addressing grievances is outlined below.

Parents to Teacher

If parents have concerns about a teacher's conduct, rules, or procedures, they should speak directly to the teacher. If they do not believe that the issue is satisfactorily resolved, the parents may bring their concerns to the Headmaster.

Parents to Headmaster

Concerns regarding school rules, procedures, or curriculum, matters of safety should be brought directly to the Headmaster.

Parents to Board

Any issues regarding rules, procedures, curriculum, programs, or staff that have not been satisfactorily resolved with the Headmaster may be presented in writing to the Board to be discussed at a regularly scheduled meeting.

While RCS is eager for parents to thoughtfully and biblically air concerns, we are also very eager to listen to good ideas from parents. The principles outlined above should guide how to share 'good news' as well as how to engage in conflict. A parent who has an idea about how to improve a classroom should talk directly to the teacher. When parents have ideas about other ways to improve the school, they should speak with the Headmaster. Direct communication with the person primarily responsible for the issue will greatly benefit our school.

DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

General

All discipline will be based on biblical principles such as prayer, apology, forgiveness and restitution. The majority of discipline problems will be dealt with at the classroom level. The teachers will determine the kind and amount of discipline within these stated guidelines. The specifics and nature of each discipline incident and the individual personality of the student involved will be considered in the administration of discipline.

It is vital for parents and students to realize that maintaining an orderly atmosphere in the school and the classroom is critical to the learning process; therefore, these policies will be followed. Students will not be subject to corporal punishment at RCS. As in all other areas of the education at RCS, love and forgiveness will be an integral part of the discipline of a child. It is because we love that we discipline.

Detention

At each individual teacher's discretion, infraction of the school rules may result in in-school detention. A less serious breach of the rules will cause the student to lose his morning break or eat lunch in a teacher's room rather than with his friends. For more serious offenses or repeated violation of the rules, the student may be required to stay for after-school detention. A message will be sent to his parents in advance so that families can adjust their schedules to accommodate their child's detention. Detention after school will be used for quiet reflection or for work detail but not for study.

Expulsion

The Redeemer Classical School Board realizes that expelling a student from school is a very serious matter and should always be carefully dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Forgiveness and restitution are fundamental to our total discipline policy. However, should a student and his parents not be able to eliminate the behavioral problems the student is having, the Headmaster is empowered to expel the student. Dismissal from school does not diminish the parents' obligation to pay the year's tuition in full. The procedure for expulsion will be as follows:

Parents will be notified immediately after the decision for expulsion.

The student will turn in all school texts/materials, clear out his desk and locker, and be picked up by his/her parents the same day.

Transfer of school records will be arranged within a week following expulsion.

Appeals may be made first to the Headmaster and then to the RCS Board.

Re-Admittance

Should the expelled student desire to be readmitted to Redeemer Classical School at a later date, the RCS Board will make a decision based on the student's attitude and circumstances at the time of reapplication.

Student and Staff Relations Guideline

To facilitate professional, friendly and biblical relationships between staff members and students, the following guidelines shall be observed.

Staff members are to be careful that any physical contact and verbal interchanges with each other and with students to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

Flirtation, sexual innuendos, casual disrespect toward authority and excessive familiarity constitute unprofessional and inappropriate behaviors that will not be tolerated at RCS.

If it is necessary for a male staff member to have a conference with a female student or staff member, they shall be easily visible to the public through an open door or windowed room.

Staff members shall not travel alone in a car with one student during school hours or on school related activities.

LEARNING DISABILITY POLICY

A severe learning disability is a condition such as Down's Syndrome, deafness, blindness, autism, etc. that would necessitate specialized staff, separate classrooms, or special programs in order for a student to receive appropriate educational services. Because of lack of trained staff, resources, and facilities, RCS will NOT be able to admit students with severe learning disabilities.

RCS may admit students whose minor learning disabilities do NOT necessitate specialized staff, separate classrooms, or special programs in order for them to meet the regular academic requirements of Redeemer Classical School.

Policy

Any student with a learning disability must meet all regular admission requirements. He or she must also demonstrate the ability to successfully function in a traditional classroom setting, both in terms of academics and conduct.

Students with and without learning disabilities will receive equal individual instruction and encouragement from RCS teachers.

RCS teachers may make minor classroom accommodations (changing seating location, allowing the use of tape recorders or laptop computers, etc.) to assist students with learning disabilities that have been clearly diagnosed by a licensed and certified educational diagnostician. However, RCS also may decline any accommodations that it considers a hindrance to the learning experience of other students.

Securing a diagnosis of a learning disability will be solely the responsibility of the parent(s) of the student. The parent(s) of the student will also be responsible, financially and otherwise, for providing any and all special equipment, supplies and tutors needed to accommodate the student.

This policy is applicable to all students attending Redeemer Classical School.

Reverence and respect guidelines

Reverence toward God and respect for classmates will be expected in all areas of instruction at RCS. All teaching, discussion, stories, plays and skits, songs and productions that invoke God's name, works, or Word will do so in a biblical and reverent manner. In addition, students will extend respect, in word and deed, toward classmates who belong to denominations or practice religions other than their own.

ETHICS GUIDELINE

In order to honor the name of Christ, maintain the testimony of RCS as a Christian school, all teachers, staff members, and representatives of RCS are expected to conform to biblical standards of behavior at all times.

PARENTAL AUTHORITY GUIDELINE

To ensure that parental authority over the education of their children is respected at RCS, all teachers, staff and representatives who exercise authority of any kind over the students are to remember that they do not function above parental authority but rather with delegated authority from the parents.

GRADING SCALE

Percentages and Grade Equivalents:

A- / A / A+	90-92 / 93-96 / 97-100
B- / B / B+	80-82 / 83-86 / 87-89
C- / C / C+	70-72 / 73-76 / 77-79
D- / D / D+	60-62 / 63-66 / 67-69
F	59 and below

Term grades shall be based on the following: tests, projects, reports, papers, quizzes, homework, class work, class participation.

Whenever appropriate, teachers shall consider spelling, neatness and grammar in the grading of assignments.

The teacher has the option of accepting late assignments for a lower grade.

Projects, papers and reports may be graded in place of tests.

Teacher's comments are required for each student and will be included on the report card.

Examinations for Grades 6 - 8

The Term 1 and Term 2 grades for students in grades 6 - 7 are combined with a fall semester exam grade (administered in January) to yield a fall semester grade as follows: Term 1 (45%), Term 2 (45%), Exam (10%). For grade 8, the weighting is Term 1 (42.5%), Term 2 (42.5%), Exam (15%). The Term 3 and Term 4 grades are combined with a spring semester exam grade (administered in late May or early June) in a similar manner to yield a spring semester grade. The fall semester and spring semester grades are weighted equally to yield a final grade for the entire school year. If both semester grades are not available for RCS courses, no final grade is calculated unless credit for a high school program is required and a comparable fall semester course grade is available from a previous school. The exam grades do not appear on the report card.

RCS teachers use the semester exams to train students how to prepare for and take exams. We realize that students will need these skills for many years, yet they are often never trained in them. Since one of our main interests at RCS is to teach children how to study and learn, teachers take this task of preparing students for major exams very seriously. We are thankful to help prepare students for high school and beyond in this manner.

HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDELINES

Philosophy

In developing a homework policy, Redeemer Classical School seeks to balance the importance of family time and extracurricular activities with the academic demands of each subject. Homework is necessary for the following reasons:

Students often need self-directed practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Students learn well when reviewing information during repeated, short times of study than in fewer, long ones.

Homework encourages students to take an active role in their own education in order to contribute meaningfully to informed class discussion.

On the other hand, excessive homework that impinges upon valuable family time undermines the school's commitment to serve in loco parentis and to respect the primary role of the family in a child's life. Redeemer Classical School has two mechanisms for balancing academic and family needs.

The following homework guidelines communicate expectations to students, parents, and teachers.

We solicit your continuing feedback on your child's homework load. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with comments or concerns.

Major Assignments Policy and Calendar

As a general practice, students will have no more than one test, project, or out-of-class essay due on a single day (except for math class). Major assignments for grades 6 through 8 are on the calendar on the school's web site.

Guidelines for Assigning Homework

The amount of time spent on homework may also vary significantly from student to student depending on the student's capabilities and work habits. The guide below should be regarded as maximum times, not as required minimum times.

GRADE	APPROX. TIME / WEEK NIGHT
1st	up to 20 min
2nd & 3rd	up to 40 min
4th & 5th	up to 1 hour
6th & 7th	up to 1.5 hours
8th	up to 2 hours

Exclusions from Homework

Assignment exclusion days are designated for specific grade levels on school days immediately following a school holiday or school event. The exclusion covers tests, projects, homework, and other assignments requiring preparation either on a school holiday or after school on the day of the event.

Guidelines for Special Events

RCS aims to provide diverse learning experiences for its students as well as appropriate times for celebration.

All field trips and videos must relate to what the students are learning in the classroom and must be approved by the Headmaster in advance.

Celebrations, likewise, must be approved in advance by the Headmaster. They may either be related to classroom studies or may be used as an occasional reward for accomplishment (meeting reading or homework goals, etc).

The spiritual rather than the secular aspects of holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter will be emphasized.

Halloween will not be celebrated at RCS. Other holidays (Columbus Day, President's Day, Valentines Day, etc.) may be observed for the academic benefit of the students.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

Behavioral Expectations

Attend class as assigned unless there is a worthwhile reason for an absence.

Enter classes on time and prepared for active participation.

Comply with the dress code without having to be reminded to do so by teachers.

Enhance the learning environment with a positive and respectful attitude and behavior that accords with Christian ethics.

Refrain from bringing to school electronic devices, toys, trading or playing cards, skates, skateboards, or other objects that will distract students from their work.

Give attentiveness and prompt obedience to the teachers during school hours and at all school functions.

Show respect for personal and school property. To help us protect the property, please do not bring gum to school.

School Computers

Computers on campus are for school business unless permission for other uses is given due to inclement weather.

Lunch Time

All lunch bags and food containers must go home DAILY and not left in crates overnight.

Students are asked to carry their recyclables home each night (cans, glass & plastic, etc.).

Parent Visits

Parents are welcome to observe classrooms and to have conferences with teachers, but they must call ahead to make an appointment.

Parents are welcomed to visit during lunch.

Field Trips

Permission slips MUST be signed and returned or students will not be permitted to go. Uniforms will be required for Field Trips unless other dress is designated.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is often difficult to discern the weather and road conditions for our families' varied locations and to project conditions later in the day. We use the weather.com hourly forecast, which is generally reliable but may occasionally be misleading. In addition, we monitor announcements by other schools. In making these decisions, the safety of our students, parents, and teachers is the primary concern. If your neighborhood conditions appear risky, we encourage you to delay travel or keep your children at home for the day. Such absences are fully understandable, and the faculty will adjust assignments and due dates accordingly.

Because the outside agencies we use for announcements are not all automated and thus prompt, we suggest that you check more than one if you are in doubt. Decisions are usually made by 6:30 a.m., but unusual circumstances sometimes cause delays.

Sources of information:

- 550 AM WSVA
- 103.3 FM WLTK
- 90.7 FM WMRA and wmra.org/cancellations.html
- WHSV TV-3 and whsv.com/closings
- redeemerclassical.org in home page news
- email messages to parents' addresses

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Students' uniforms vary throughout grade levels. Please consult the student packet for specific requirements.

In addition to wearing an approved uniform, students must comply with the following General Uniform and Dress Code Guidelines.

General Dress Code Guidelines

- Boys' shirts are to be tucked in at all times.
- Girls' shirts may be worn untucked if the shirt is long enough to cover the midriff but not excessively long.
- Pants and shorts with belt loops must be worn with a dark belt.
- Shoes must be worn with white or navy socks (or tights for girls). Shoes should have a closed toe and a back or back strap.
- Clothing may allow reasonable growing room but must not be extremely over-sized.
- Any jewelry or makeup should be tasteful and not excessive.
- Jewelry in pierced body parts, with the exception of earrings, is not permitted.
- All students must keep their hair neatly groomed.
- Hats, outerwear coats and jackets are not to be worn in the building during the school day.
- The only sweaters that may be worn during the school day are those specified in the dress code.

The Dress Code is distributed each summer to allow time for ordering.

Rationale for a Dress Code

Our dress code policy is designed to remind students that they have come to school for work. Being free of concern over latest styles may aid their ability to concentrate on more important things. We also long to foster a community among our students which is not driven by consciousness of economic or social differences. Requiring our students to dress similarly will help them not to focus on their different economic standings or tempt them to compete with other students through the way they dress.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

A student enrolled at Redeemer Classical School is expected to be present and on time every day school is in session.

Absences and Make-Up Work Guidelines

If a student needs to be absent from school for any reason, the parents should contact the school office by note, e-mail, or phone as soon as possible. We will gladly cooperate with families taking their children from school for vacations, trips, etc. However, we expect all schoolwork to be completed within the time specified by the teacher. We recommend that students complete their assignments prior to planned, extended absences. This eliminates the need to work on vacation and complete make-up work.

Students may take make-up tests and submit any other make-up work to their teacher. In general, missed work is due the first day back in school following the absence, unless the student or parents have made other arrangements with the teacher in advance. As a general rule, the teacher will allow additional time for major assignments.

TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICY

At Redeemer Classical School, we believe that parents are responsible for educating their children. For this reason and to ensure the continued excellence of the education provided at RCS, the tuition and fees are set at a level necessary to cover the essential annual operations of the school. However, we seek that families from all income levels and from all racial and ethnic segments of the community should have the opportunity to enroll at the school. Thus, RCS actively seeks donations to fund our financial assistance efforts to our community, remembering our Lord's concern for the poor, the alien and the outcast. Tuition assistance is generally provided to families on a first come, first served basis. Levels of assistance offered will depend on a number of factors including total (gross) family income, number of family members, number of children enrolled at RCS, and any additional extraordinary financial circumstances. An outside consulting service may be used to assist RCS in accurately determining a family's level of financial need for tuition assistance. When an outside service is used to assess financial needs, the Tuition Assistance Committee will then review the recommendations made by the consulting service and submit them to the board of directors.

It is expected that families will pursue every other available means of financial assistance (family, other scholarship funds, etc.) before applying for aid directly from RCS. If other assistance is available to a family, the school expects the family to utilize it to make more of the school's funds available to other families in need.

If a family qualifies for assistance from other scholarship sources or financial aid funds (other than Redeemer Classical School), these funds will be used to reduce the amount of assistance taken directly from RCS and will not neces-

sarily reduce the family's tuition obligation to the school. Generally, every family must pay the minimum amount determined by the assessment.

To apply for financial assistance, a family must complete the financial aid application (available online or from the school) and submit it according to the enclosed instruction sheet. Returning families who submit applications for tuition assistance by the established deadline will be given first priority in the distribution of financial aid. New families who submit applications for tuition assistance by the date set by the RCS Board will be given next priority in the distribution of available funds. The board of directors will have final authority to allocate financial aid. The purpose of tuition assistance is to provide financial aid for tuition expenses to families with demonstrated legitimate financial need. Those families receiving tuition assistance will be encouraged to gradually reduce their dependence on financial assistance from the school.

TUITION AND FEES

Application Fee

There is a non-refundable application fee of \$75 due with the student application.

Payment Schedule

Ten percent of the tuition is due with signature of the enrollment agreement. The remaining 90% of tuition is paid in nine (9) equal installments. The first payment is due in August and the final payment in April. Payments must be received by RCS no later than the fifteenth of each month.

Please understand that neither expulsion from RCS, withdrawal from school by parents, nor extended student absence will diminish your obligation to pay the full year's tuition.