



REACH  
C h r i s t i a n   S c h o o l

# Student Handbook 2022-2023

Helping students *REACH* for Godliness,  
success, and a love of learning.

Integrity • Diligence • Team Player • Lifelong Learner

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# Contents

Identification.....	1
Statement of Faith.....	2 - 4
Admissions.....	5
Dress Code.....	6 - 7
Academics.....	8 – 9
Attendance.....	10
Lifestyle Expectations.....	11 – 13
Health Requirements.....	14
Parent Expectations.....	15
Disclaimers.....	15

# Identification

## **Mission Statement**

Reach Christian School exists to help students reach for Godliness, success, and a love of learning.

## **Statement of Purpose**

The founders of Reach Christian School believe that parents are primarily responsible, with the assistance of the church, to teach their children in the Christian faith, its virtues, and the morals of life. It is the job of RCS to stand beside the parents and church in this responsibility while fulfilling its primary goal to prepare students for life through its academic endeavors. It is our goal to provide instruction from an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective. The school shall:

- A. Offer a Christian education centered around God's Word and its applications to life.
- B. Cultivate appreciation, loyalty, and respect for the Christian home, church, and other authority figures.
- C. Equip teachers to model Christ-like character while demonstrating and cultivating a love of learning.
- D. Promote the need for Godly character and service to God.
- E. Nurture respect, love, acceptance, and compassion to all people of all races and backgrounds.

## Statement of Faith

1. **Bible** - We believe the Holy Bible is the Word of God. It is authentic in its matter, authoritative in its counsel, inerrant in its original writings and the only infallible rule for faith and practice.
2. **God** - We believe in the one triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who is eternal, infinite, holy, omniscient, unchanging, omnipotent, and omnipresent. He is both love and a consuming fire.
3. **Creation** - We believe that the Genesis account of creation is a historic fact and literally true and all creation is sustained by God.
4. **Fall** - We believe man was created in the likeness and image of God as a crowning work of the Creator in a state of purity, but by disobedience is now fallen into a lost estate of sin and death from which only God can save.
5. **Savior** - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God; that he was born of a virgin and lived among men; yet without sin; that He became the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world by His death on the cross, that all who believe in the atoning work of His shed blood and the power of His resurrection shall have everlasting life and that He is now ascended to glory and intercedes for the believer.
6. **Holy Spirit** - We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit; that He is the comforter for believers to guide them into all truth and to empower them for a life of righteousness and service.

7. **Church** - We believe the church is the body of Christ composed of all those who through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are baptized with the Holy Ghost. The church is to preach the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ to all humankind and to teach all the commandments of the Lord.
8. **Ordinances** - We believe the New Testament ordinances are for the Christian: that baptism be administered upon confession of faith; that communion be observed literally as a memorial of Christ's suffering and death; that feet washing be observed literally as an expression of Christian servanthood; that the Holy Kiss be practiced as an expression of Christian love; that the Christian woman be veiled; that anointing of oil be administered to the sick for healing, to those who call for it in faith; and that marriage be the union of one man and one woman for life, with Christians marrying "only in the Lord."
9. **Authority** - We believe order is the primary rule for blessedness. The Lord has given the church the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. He has given the state the right to suppress evil. He has given parents authority in the home, with fathers as the head. Christian people are obliged to honor and respect all due authority and to show love toward all men. We believe it is the Christian's duty to pray for and honor those in authority and that Christ's disciples are to refrain from violence and force in human relations.
10. **Satan** - We believe that Satan is the personal enemy of God: that he is the deceiver of mankind, and that he is at work promoting evil and seeking to draw away from God.
11. **Hope** - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the grave bodily and that He will return in person to receive us to Himself as well as all those who have fallen asleep in Christ.

12. **Marriage-** We believe God designed marriage to be a permanent, sacred bond, between one man and one woman, terminated only by death. Remarriage after divorce constitutes adultery and comes under the wrath of God. All sexual relationships and activity outside the confines of marriage are considered perversions of God's design and thus sinful.
  
13. **Consummation** - We believe the Lord will judge the devil and banish him to hell along with all the unrighteous, but the Lord will gather the righteous into His eternal presence to dwell with Him in fullness of joy forever more.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Reach Christian School's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the board of directors is RCS's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

## How to Enroll

**Step One:** Read Parent-Student Handbook.

**Step Two:** Follow enrollment steps at [reachedu.org](http://reachedu.org).

**Step Three:** After completing your application, the school administration will respond with steps to continue.

## First-year Requirements

1. Kindergarten students need to be 5 years old by September 1
2. First grade students need to be 6 years old by September 1 .

## Transfer Students

RCS will place a request for all academic and health records. The RCS administration will also set up a meeting with both the parents and the transfer students, and the students may be given a reading aptitude test and a math placement test.

## Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment forms will be sent out in January and are due back by February 1. Registration confirmations will be sent out by February 15.

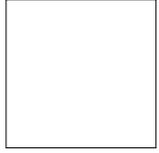
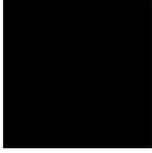
Students seeking admission to RCS must meet the following requirements:

1. One parent or guardian of the student(s) must be a disciple of Christ and maintain an active role in their home church. Other cases will be dealt with on an individual basis subject to board approval.
2. Students and parents are expected to be in harmony with the purpose, statement of faith, and handbook policies as held by RCS.
3. Reach Christian School admits students of all races, color, sex, nationality or ethnic origin to privileges, programs, and activities.

# DRESS CODE

## School Colors

1. Black
2. Navy
3. Gray
4. White



The school colors apply to shirts, dresses, jumpers, sweaters, sweatshirts, leggings, & socks. All clothes need to be solid in color.

## Boys

1. Polo and dress shirts are acceptable for boys.
2. Jeans or chinos that are dark denim, navy, or gray are acceptable and must be free of holes and tears. Belts for pants are required.
3. Hair is to be short enough, so it is off the shirt collar and the ear is fully exposed.

## Girls

1. Girls are required to wear dresses or jumpers that cover the knees at all times. Dark denim dresses and jumpers that fall under the “navy” color and are acceptable. Dresses and jumpers shall not have embroidery, lace, or slits.
2. Along with jumpers, girls need to wear shirts, blouses, sweaters, or sweatshirts over or under the jumper. Shirts and blouse sleeves should extend about halfway between the shoulder and elbow.
3. Girls need to keep their hair pulled back either in a pony tail, braid, or bun.
4. Jewelry (ear rings, necklaces, etc.) and nail polish are not acceptable.
5. Girls professing faith in Christ are asked to abide by the standards of their home church’s application of the veiling.

## **Other**

1. Only coats, jackets, sweaters, and sweatshirts that are the school colors may be worn during class time.
2. Students need to wear closed-heel, closed-toe shoes all the time. Shoes are not required to be school colors, but flashing lights & wheels on shoes are not permitted.
3. Students may not wear hats or sunglasses or keep their sweatshirt hoods up while inside the school building.
4. For clothes worn during class time, logos and lettering need to fit inside a 2" x 2" square. Larger logos and colors are acceptable for jackets/coats worn for recess.

## **Special Activities**

1. The school dress code applies to official school activities.
2. The staff may make exceptions to the school dress code for special occasions.

## **Reasons for Standardized Dress Code:**

1. Standardized dress promotes modesty and neatness.
2. Standardized dress promotes an atmosphere that focuses on instruction and learning.
3. Standardized dress gives identification for building school spirit.
4. Standardized dress eliminates competition in dress.

# Academics

## Classroom Structure

Academics will be taught in a traditional classroom environment. The 2022/2023 structure will consist of 6 classrooms as follows:

- A. Kindergarten
- B. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- D. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- E. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- F. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- G. 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

## Curriculum

<b>Math</b>	CLE
<b>Science</b>	A Beka
<b>History</b>	Faith Builders / A Beka
<b>English</b>	Rod & Staff / A Beka
<b>Bible</b>	CLE
<b>Reading</b>	Rod & Staff / BJU / CLE

## Grading Scale

- A 93 - 100
- B 85 - 92
- C 77 – 84
- D 70 – 76
- F 0 – 69

## **Report Cards**

Report card will be issued after each quarter (9 weeks) of study.

## **Honor Roll**

Honor roll is awarded once a quarter if a student meets the following requirements:

1. 93% - 100% quarterly average
2. All class averages are above a 70%
3. Three or fewer unexcused absences that quarter

## **Breakthrough**

Reach Christian School works hard to help students with learning difficulties. The school calls its special education classroom “Breakthrough” because it exists to help students break through their learning difficulties. With accessible resources, available staff do their best to offer one-on-one tutoring and remedial programs for struggling students.

# Attendance

Good school attendance is an important step in a student doing well in his studies. While doing make-up work takes care of homework missed, it does not entirely compensate for classroom attendance.

## School Day

School begins at 8:20 AM each day. Students may arrive at school from 8:00 – 8:18 AM. Doors open at 8:10 every morning.

Dismissal is at 3:00 PM on Monday through Thursday and at 2:00 PM on Fridays.

## Absences and Tardies

Tardy = Any absence that the student is absent for 1 hour or less.

½ Absence = Absent between 1 – 3 ½ hours in a school day.

Absence = Absent for more than 3 ½ hours in a school day.

Reach Christian School excuses the following absences and tardies:

1. Sickness
2. Doctor and Dentist Visits
3. Weather Conditions/State or national emergencies
4. Family Emergencies

For planned doctor appointments, please inform the homeroom teacher a couple days ahead via text, email, or note with student. For sickness and other emergencies, please text/call the teacher as soon as possible.

For any other absences, families are required to fill out a request form and have it approved by the administrator. Request forms are available at the school office and should be submitted at least 1 week before absent dates and further ahead for an extended absence period.

Student's may be asked to complete a report when returning. Trips generally will not receive approval during the first or last two weeks of school. Parents are asked to use discretion when planning family trips during the school term.

# Lifestyle Expectations

The school supports parents in helping students develop self-discipline, respect for their peers, and respect for those in authority. Teachers are expected to set up rules for their classrooms that are consistent with the goals and philosophy of the school. When there is a conflict between a teacher and student, the teacher will use redemptive correction so that the student makes the necessary change of conduct and all guilt is removed.

## Discipline Categories

Below are listed common categories of behavior that result in discipline being administered:

- Food/Drink – chewing gum or eating/drinking without permission
- Dress Code – students dressed in a manner not in accordance with the dress code
- Hallway – running, disturbances, loitering, or walking around without permission
- Language – disrespectful or inappropriate speech
- Procedures – refusing to follow directions or not cooperating
- Talking – speaking without permission or at an inappropriate time
- Tardy – arriving late to a class or activity
- Trespassing – accessing other student or teacher spaces or belongings without permission

## Personal Conduct

Since Reach Christian School represents Jesus Christ, it is important that a high standard of conduct be maintained. These guidelines can be effective in building a strong, moral character that reflects godliness when used consistently in the school and at home. When there are infractions of these guidelines, the teacher will address the student with correctives measures and seek for remorse. If the issue reoccurs or is not corrected, administration will get involved along with parent communication. In the event there is continued infractions or an uncooperative spirit from students and parents, expulsion or dismissal can be expected.

## **Incomplete & Demerits**

- Demerit (pink) slips will be given for behavior infractions. The 4<sup>th</sup> behavior slip in a quarter will result in an after-school detention.
- Incomplete (orange) slips will be given for unfinished/incomplete homework assignments. The 4<sup>th</sup> orange slip in a quarter will result in an after-school detention.

## **Respect**

- Students are expected to promptly and cheerfully obey all authority.
- Students are expected to show courtesy and respect for other students, teachers, and visitors in their cooperation with each other.
- Students are to address all faculty and school staff by title and last name.
- Students must regard the desks, lockers, and personal belongings of teachers and other students as private property and are not permitted to remove or use objects, computers, or other equipment on/in a teacher's desk.
- Students are expected to assume responsibility for property damage.

## **Behavior**

- Students are expected to practice Christian standards of moral and social conduct. Fighting, cheating, and stealing are considered serious offenses.
- Students must abstain from inappropriate physical contact (pushing, hitting, punching, etc.). A general "hands off" rule is to be observed.
- Physical, sexual, and verbal abuse will not be tolerated. Any form of bullying or intimidation will not be tolerated. The school reserves the right to discipline a student for actions taken off-campus that adversely affect the safety of other students.
- Students are expected to choose words that are helpful for building each other up. Improper speech, name-calling, and

gossip are not acceptable. Obscenity in words or action or lauding in any way those things which are condemned by Scripture is not acceptable.

- Students are asked to highly regard the safety of others.

### **Relationships**

- Teasing or disrespectful comments to each other about boyfriends/girlfriends are not permitted.

### **Weapons & Illegal Substances**

- A student using or in possession of these items on campus at any school-sponsored event can expect immediate suspension or expulsion:
  - Pornographic or other inappropriate materials
  - Knives, guns, explosives, or any other harmful weapons
  - Alcoholic beverages or nicotine products, etc.

# Health Requirements

## **Immunizations & Examinations**

All students entering Reach must provide an official immunization record documenting that PA state requirements have been met.

A physical examination by a physician is required for students entering school (Kindergarten or Grade 1) and for students entering Grade 6.

A dental exam is required for students entering school (Kindergarten or Grade 1), Grade 3, and Grade 7

## **Health Screening**

The school secretary arranges for students to have their ears and eyes tested once a year. Parents are informed of all these testings and may receive referral notices if the child needs.

## **Medications**

### Non-prescription Medications

Reach Christian School keeps Advil, Tylenol, and Pepto-Bismol on hand to dispense to students with aches and pains. Parents need to sign a waiver form to allow the school to do this. Non-prescription painkillers will not be dispensed if a waiver has not been signed.

### Prescription Medications

Parents of students who need prescription medications administered while the students are at school need to inform the school's administration about how to properly administer the medication. The medication will be kept in the school office and will be administered by a staff member.

## **Allergies**

Parents need to inform the school of any allergies students may have. The school will keep this on record and do its best to keep the students safe.

# Parent Expectations and Opportunities

## Communication

Continual communication between home and school will greatly impact the growth in the students at RCS. Parents are encouraged to prioritize school events, read weekly email updates, show interest in students' projects, and communicate often with school faculty. Parents are asked to go directly to the student's teacher with approval, concerns, and questions that arise. If concerns are not resolved, then communicate with the administrator. Parents should avoid taking concerns to fellow patrons and board members before contacting school faculty.

## New Year Orientation

All families are asked to attend an Orientation Meeting held each year a couple days before the start of school. This meeting will include an introductory of the staff, provide the administrator and board opportunity to share expectations for the coming school year, and provide opportunity for parents to have questions answered and visit their child's classroom.

## Parent-Teacher Meetings

RCS holds 2 PTF meetings each year at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters. These are scheduled to coincide with the ends of the marking periods and will provide opportunity for parents to meet with their children's teachers and interact with other patrons. PTFs are important, so parents are encouraged to make them a priority. In addition, PTC Meetings between the teachers and patrons will be scheduled around the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. These meetings will be scheduled with each student's teacher.

## Disclaimers

This handbook or any other handbook published by Reach Christian School does not contractually bind the school in any way. This handbook or any other handbook published by Reach Christian School is subject to change without notice by the school's governing body.