

Ross County Christian Academy



Intermediate Campus Student Handbook

Brookside Campus

2215 Egypt Pike
Chillicothe, OH 45601
Phone: (740) 772-4532
Fax: (740) 422-1622
Grades: K-3

Lighthouse Campus

341 Clinton Rd.
Chillicothe, OH 45601
Phone: (740) 703-0380
Fax: (740) 422-1622
Grades: 4-7

Zion Campus

84 S. Clinton Rd.
Chillicothe, OH 45601
Phone: (740) 703-2615
Fax: (740) 422-1622
Grades: 8-12

Ross County Christian Academy
Intermediate Campus Student Handbook

Introduction

Our Mission.....3
School Governance.....3
School Administration.....3
Strategy.....4
Biblical Morality Statement.....4

Admissions

Admissions Policy.....4

Ross County Christian Academy Policies and Procedures

Academics.....5
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs.....6
Athletics.....7
Attendance Policy and Truancy.....7
Band.....10
Before / After Care.....11
Bullying.....11
Calendar.....12
Cell Phone Use Policy.....13
Chapel.....13
Class Parties.....13
Communication with Teachers.....13
Discipline: Programs, Expectations, Procedures, and Bullying.....14
Dress Code.....15
Field Trips.....16
Financial Information.....16
Financial Aid.....16
Gambling.....17
Grievances.....17

Hours of Operation.....	18
Inclement Weather.....	18
Injuries and Illnesses.....	18
Internet Usage.....	18
Lost and Found.....	18
Lunch Program.....	18
Medication.....	19
Messages.....	19
Orientation.....	19
Profanity and Lewd Behavior.....	19
Promotion, Placement, and Retention Policy.....	19
Public Displays of Affection (PDA).....	20
Security.....	20
Student Sign-In/Sign-Out.....	20
Snacks.....	20
Special Education.....	20
Student Supplies.....	20
Transportation.....	20
Visitors.....	21
Weapons.....	21
Withdrawals.....	21

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Our Mission

The purpose of Ross County Christian Academy shall be to provide a creative, loving, academic environment for students to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and academically through individual and group learning experiences under the guidance and nurture of carefully chosen Christian teachers and administrators under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It shall be the purpose of Ross County Christian Academy to encourage all students to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to emphasize the value of the eternal soul, the worth of the individual, and the love of God for man, as taught in the Holy Scriptures, while providing students with the opportunity for achieving academic excellence. The mission of Ross County Christian Academy is to present the whole truth for the whole man for the whole life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

School Governance

Ross County Christian Academy was founded in 2007 as a result of the vision of a group of laymen, pastors, and educators. The school is independent and non-denominational. It is chartered by the Ohio Department of Education. A self-perpetuating school board governs the school. The school board consists of parents, Christian businessmen, and Christian educators who are responsible for seeing that the mission of the school is fulfilled. This board sets policies for the school that are carried out by a qualified administration, faculty, and staff.

The school board governs Ross County Christian Academy. The board maintains an open door policy for all families. If a parent does not receive an answer to a question from the school administration, they may request one from the school board. The school board welcomes input concerning all areas of school and student life. The school board also desires to have any prayer requests made known to them. For a list of current board members please contact the school office.

School Administration

HEAD OF SCHOOL:	Dr. Valerie Jones valerie.jones@rccacademy.org
FINANCE OFFICER:	Mike MacCarter mike@rccacademy.org
EDCHOICE/SCHOLARSHIPS:	Gregg Wright gregg.wright@rccacademy.org
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:	Jenny Beverly jenny.beverly@rccacademy.org
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL (K-3):	Renee Wisecup renee.wisecup@rccacademy.org
INTERMEDIATE PRINCIPAL (4-7):	Lindsay Ramey lindsay.ramey@rccacademy.org
JR./SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL (8-12):	Jarod Lloyd jarod.lloyd@rccacademy.org

Strategy

Our educational program nurtures the whole student by facilitating social, physical, spiritual, and intellectual growth.

- We employ a faculty and staff who are Christian role models, as well as qualified professionals in their fields of teaching.
- Christian values are taught and modeled in our classrooms, and Christian behavior is expected from each student in the classroom.
- Harmony between the school and the home is encouraged through small student-teacher ratios that enable communication and cooperation between teachers and families.

Biblical Morality Statement

Ross County Christian Academy's biblical role is to work in conjunction with the home to mold students to be Christ-like. Of necessity, this involves the school's understanding and belief of what qualities exemplify a Christ-like life. RCCA reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue the enrollment of a student if the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home or the activities of the student run counter to or are in opposition to the biblical lifestyle RCCA teaches. This includes, but is not limited to, participating in, supporting, or condoning sexual immorality, homosexual activity, transgender identification, or bisexual activity; promoting such practices or being unable to support the moral principles of the school.

RCCA believes that homosexuality is forbidden in scripture as taught in the following references: Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:18-27, 1 Corinthians 6:6-9, and 1 Timothy 1:8-10.

Admissions Policy

Ross County Christian Academy recruits and admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs and athletics/extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court ordered or administrative agency ordered, or public school-initiated desegregation. Ross County Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.

In order for a student to receive official acceptance to Ross County Christian Academy, the following criteria must be met.

- **Application:** Enrollment form and \$100 application fee received.
- **Interview:** A favorable family interview must be held.
- **Evaluation:** The student must be in good academic and behavioral standing with his/her previous school upon evaluation of the student's school transcripts.
- **Medical:** The school must receive either medical verification that all immunizations are up to date, or a completed State of Ohio Legal Immunization Exemption form.

- **Teacher recommendation:** The student may be asked to submit an RCCA Teacher Referral Form.
- **Testing:** All students must take the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) provided by RCCA.
- **Registration:** The appropriate tuition and fees must be paid.

ROSS COUNTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academics

Achievement Testing

Each spring, Ross County Christian Academy administers an Ohio Department of Education approved standardized achievement test to all students in grades K-12. It is important that students be in attendance each day during testing.

Agenda Books

Students will be provided with an RCCA Student Agenda Book to aid students in keeping track of assignments and important dates. Teachers will keep homework and test dates posted in their classrooms, but students will be responsible for recording the information daily.

Books

School textbooks are on loan for the school year, and therefore, the students are not permitted to write in textbooks with the exception of workbooks. Students may be charged for damaged or lost books.

Curriculum

Biblical principles are incorporated in all subjects. When appropriate, we use textbooks written from a Christian world view. (ex: Bob Jones University Press)

Extracurricular Classes

All students must participate in a variety of special classes each week. Specials may include: Vocal music, Instrumental Music (Band), Art, Physical Education, STEM, Technology, Spanish, and Drama. Bible is taught at each grade level as a non-graded subject.

Grade Reports

Four report cards and four interim reports are sent home each year. Parents and students may stay up-to-date with graded assignments using our online grading system. Students that are new to the school will receive login instructions the first week of school.

Grading Scale

Graded Courses	Non-Graded Courses
100 – 92 (A)	O - Outstanding
91 – 84 (B)	S - Satisfactory
83 – 77 (C)	N – Needs Improvement
76 – 70 (D)	U - Unsatisfactory
69 – Below (F)	

Homework

Homework may be given at the teacher's discretion and may include incomplete classwork, additional reading, studying for quizzes and tests, special projects, etc. Written homework will not be given on Wednesday nights.

Honor Roll

Students with all A's and B's in graded classes and S's and O's in non-graded classes will receive special recognition at the end of the year.

High Honor Roll

Students with all A's in graded classes and S's and O's in non-graded classes will receive special recognition at the end of the year.

Make-up Work

Students will be given one day for each excused absence plus one additional day to complete make-up work. Extensions may be made for extenuating circumstances. Parents should call the school office before 9:00 a.m. if they wish to have their student's missed work collected and ready for pick-up that afternoon. Students have the number of days excused plus 1 day to complete all assignments. Any work that is turned in late will receive a 10% grade reduction for each day it is late, up to 3 days late.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants and Illegal Drugs

No one is permitted to possess, use, transmit, or conceal alcohol, tobacco products, inhalants, illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia in any part of the school building or on school grounds at any time. These prohibitions include prescribed and non-prescribed medicines or counterfeit substances. A student shall not be under the influence of such alcoholic beverages, inhalants, or drugs at any time while on school property or at a school-sponsored event. Such offense may lead to a school suspension or expulsion.

Athletics

RCCA works hard to provide athletic activities when possible. School policies must be adhered to in order to participate in school-sponsored sports. More information regarding athletic eligibility and athletic procedures can be found at www.ohsaa.org and in our Athletic Handbook, which is available on the school website at www.rccacademy.org.

Attendance Policy and Truancy

Philosophy

Ross County Christian Academy has a commitment to provide a formal quality education to its students. To achieve this goal, students must consistently be in attendance.

Teachers have a commitment to provide classroom instruction which will be dynamic, productive, creative, and instructive. Without consistent, timely student attendance, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for teachers to meet these educational goals. Continuity in the learning process is seriously disrupted through a student's excessive absences.

Generally, students who have good attendance have demonstrated higher grades, enjoy school more, are better citizens, and are more employable after leaving high school. The lack of good attendance usually causes students to achieve a level below their potential; these students frequently experience academic difficulty in school. Therefore, to ensure the highest level of student success, RCCA will work cooperatively with parents and students to promote increased student attendance. This policy will be based on state attendance standards, clear and enforceable guidelines, and positive motivation for good attendance.

Compulsory Attendance

Section 3321.04 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that every parent, guardian, or other person having charge of a child of compulsory school age must send such child to school for the full time the school is in session. Such attendance must begin within the first week of the school term or within one week of the date on which the child begins to reside in the district.

THE STATUTES GOVERNING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE VERY SPECIFIC AND LEAVE LITTLE OPTION FOR SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO EXCUSE CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

The Ohio Revised Code, Administrative Code 3301 classifies absences from school as EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED. The Ohio Revised Code identifies the following as conditions as constituting reasons for **EXCUSED ABSENCE** from school:

- **Personal illness:** The administrator may require the certificate of a physician if he/she deems advisable.
- **Illness in the family necessitating the student's presence:** A written statement from a physician may be required.
- **Quarantine of the home:** Absence is limited to the length of quarantine as fixed by proper health officials.
- **Death of a relative:** Absence is limited to 3 days unless reasonable cause is shown.
- **Medical or dental appointments:** The administrator may require a written doctor or dental excuse as to why the absence was necessary.
- **Emergency or extenuating circumstances:** The judgment of the building administrator would be used to determine if these constitute a good and sufficient cause for absence from school.
- **College visit:** The approving authority may require verification of date and time of this visit. There is a limit of 3 days per school year.

- **Buses cannot reach a student**
- **Court appearance**
- **Pre-approved Vacation/Personal Days:** Each student is granted the privilege of 5 personal days per academic year. All personal days (including half days) must be pre-approved to be excused. *The school office must be notified in advance in writing.* Any pre-approved absences of this type beyond 5 days will result in unexcused absences. However, an opportunity to make up missed work and receive credit will be at the administrator's discretion.

HEAD LICE

RCCA currently has a no lice, no nits policy. Like a cold, when children come in close contact with each other, it is easy to pass head lice along. Shared hats, clothing, brushes, pillows, and other personal articles are perfect vehicles to transfer lice from one person to another. It is important to act immediately to prevent their spread to other classmates and to your family as well, as lice can be a nuisance.

Head lice are small, only about 1/16 of an inch long. They are greenish white, wingless insects. While they cannot fly and do not jump, they move quickly. This is why it is difficult to find them in a child's hair. Diagnosis of head lice is generally made when lice eggs, called nits, are found fastened to the hair shaft. Nits are teardrop in shape and also very small. They are glued to the hair and cannot be washed or brushed out like dandruff. Clusters of nits may be found in any section of the hair, but they are more apt to be seen behind the ears and at the base of the neck. The most important part of getting rid of head lice is treating and then very carefully removing all the nits. Having lice has nothing to do with cleanliness and is not reflected on you as a parent.

1. Check every member of the family. Any family members with lice or nits must be treated. (Checking your child's hair weekly is a good practice for prevention.)
2. Use an effective head lice treatment if a positive case is discovered. Several are available without a prescription. (Please read all instructions carefully!)
3. Remove all nits. Gently comb the child's hair with the special nit removal comb. These combs are usually provided with the lice treatment products.
4. Wash clothes, bed linens, and towels. Use hot water and dry on the hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items not machine washable must be dry cleaned, or stored at room temperature in a tightly sealed plastic bag for at least two weeks. Items such as headphones and helmets should be similarly bagged and stored.
5. Soak combs, brushes, etc., in hot water. (The hotter the better, but at least 130° F)

6. Items should be allowed to soak for 10-15 minutes.

7. Vacuum everywhere to make sure the rest of your home is louse free. You should vacuum all carpets, pillows, mattresses, upholstered furniture, and even the car seats.

Head lice cannot survive without a human host. They cannot survive on your family pets, so please do not use head lice treatment products on your pets. Hopefully, this information will be beneficial. RCCA has a no-nit policy. Students with head lice are not to return to school until all eggs have been removed. Families must notify the school when lice is found and the date it was treated. Students must be cleared through the nurse before returning to school.

Notification

The school office must be notified of any student absences whether emergent in nature or planned in advance.

- **Appointments:** Notification of student appointments is to be provided the school office in advance. This notification enables the office to have the student ready at the arranged time of pickup. It will also avoid the student being marked with an unexcused absence if a student should arrive after the start of the school day.
- **Illness:** Notification must be made daily to the school office for any students who are absent due to illness. This may be done via phone call, email or the online grading system. A voicemail message may also be left during non-school hours. A note of excuse for the absence(s) is also required upon the student's return to school. See "Documentation" below for more information.
- **Quarantine:** Students on quarantine need not notify the office daily of their absence. However, the student must login to Google Classroom each school day to be considered "Present" that day.
- **Reason:** In order for an absence to be considered excused, a clear reason for the absence must be provided. Office staff may then evaluate if the absence may be excused. Staff is not permitted to ask for a reason. If no reason is provided, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Documentation

All absences should include documentation to be considered excused. Such documentation should include a signed note from the student's parent/guardian, or a signed note from a licensed medical professional. Documentation should explain the reason for the absence as well as the dates absent. Separate documentation must be submitted for each incidence of absenteeism. For example, if a student is out 2 consecutive days, only one letter of documentation is needed. If a student is out 2 non-consecutive days, that student must submit appropriate documentation following each absence.

- **Parents are required to send a note to the school office within one day of a student's absence from school.**
- **We will accept up to 10 parental notes to excuse an absence due to illness. After 10 absences we require a note from medical personnel for an illness to be excused; this includes vacations, illnesses, and/or any of the reasons listed**

above for excused absence. This will not allow for excused absences for multiple things including a week of vacation, illnesses, family matters, etc., to accumulate unnecessarily throughout the year.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES = ABSENCES FOR WHICH WORK CANNOT BE MADE UP

Ross County Christian Academy, along with all schools both public and private, must ensure that students attend school and are required to report students who are “truant” to the Ross County Juvenile Department of Common Pleas Court.

Truancy as defined by Ohio Law:

Chronic Truancy is when a child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for seven or more consecutive school days, ten or more school days in one school month, or fifteen or more school days in a school year.

Habitual Truancy is when a child of compulsory school age who is absent without a legitimate excuse for five or more consecutive school days, seven or more school days in one school month, or twelve or more school days in a school year.

Upon their return to school after an excused absence, students are required to obtain and complete all missing assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to contact teachers to make arrangements for completing missed assignments. An excused absence will allow the student to receive full credit for completed assignments.

In order to ensure that students are attending school on a regular basis, the following procedures will be followed:

- **5 unexcused absences** – A letter reminding parents/guardians of our attendance policy and procedures will be sent home and must be signed and returned to the school within one week. A copy of the signed letter will be placed in the student’s permanent file.
- **10 absences (excused and/or unexcused)** – A letter will be sent to the parents/guardians and a meeting with the school’s administrator will be scheduled to discuss a specialized intervention plan for the student. The letter must be signed and returned to the school within one week and a copy will be placed in the student’s permanent file.
- **15 absences (excused and/or unexcused)** – A letter will be sent home to the parents/guardians to sign and return to the school within one week. A second meeting with the principal will be required and the student will be placed on probation from re-enrollment. The parents/guardians must show a concerted effort to follow the specialized intervention plan as previously agreed upon with the school’s administrator. During the second meeting, the specialized intervention plan will be reviewed and changes may be made at the discretion of the school’s administrator. The parents/guardians will sign the new plan and a copy of the plan will be placed in the student’s permanent file.
- **20 absences (excused and/or unexcused)** – A fourth and final letter will be sent home to the parents/guardians informing them that their student may not be eligible for re-enrollment for the following school year without an appeals process taking place. The parents/guardians will be required to make an appeal to the

school board, either in person or in writing, in order to be eligible for re-enrollment. The school board will make a recommendation to either accept or deny the student's re-enrollment on a case-by-case basis.

Students are allowed the number of excused absence days plus one in which to complete their missed assignments and receive full credit.

Students in grades 4th – 7th are limited to 20 absences per subject. Students in grades 4th – 7th who miss more than 20 days must appeal to the board in order to be considered for reenrollment.

Parents/guardians can help by:

- Scheduling medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.
- Scheduling vacations during school breaks.
- Checking the school calendar to be aware of important school dates.
- Contacting the student's teacher as soon as possible to arrange to pick up missed assignments.

Tardiness

Students arriving to school between 8:05 a.m. and 9:35 a.m. or leaving school between 1:15 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. will be counted as tardy. Students not riding a bus should arrive at school no later than 8:05 a.m.

Times for attendance at the Intermediate Campus are as follows:

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. = Early Care
7:45 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. = Arrival
8:05 a.m. = School begins
11:25 a.m. = ½ Day Absence
2:45 p.m. – 3:05 p.m. = Dismissal
3:05 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. = After Care

If a student misses 2.5 hours in one school day, they will be marked as ½ day absent.

Penalties for excessive unexcused tardiness are as follows:

- **5 tardies in one 9-week period** = ½ day absent
- **10 tardies in one 9-week period** = 1 day absent
- **15 tardies in one 9-week period** = 1 ½ days absent & meeting with principal
- **20 tardies in one 9-week period** = 2 days absent, meeting with principal, and the student will be placed on probation for enrollment

Suspension

The first time a student is suspended from school under a non-violent offense, he/she will be able to make up his/her work for full credit. Each time after that, or in an instance of a violent offense resulting in suspension, student work will be made available but will not be graded for course credit.

Band

Ross County Christian Academy offers band to students entering the fifth grade. Band is an enrichment opportunity for students to learn about playing a musical instrument and reading music. An instrument fitting will be provided each student. Band is a graded subject. For more information, please contact Mrs. Michele Wright-Parker.

Before Care and After Care

Ross County Christian Academy provides on-site Before and After Care for its students. Before Care is offered from 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. Any students arriving to school before 7:45 a.m. will need to utilize this program. After Care is offered from 3:05 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Any student that has not been picked up by 3:05 p.m. will be signed in to After Care by a staff member and charged a fee. Before Care and After Care slots are limited and prior registration is required to participate in these programs. Information detailing current pricing is available in the school office.

Bullying

RCCA seeks to provide the best educational setting for all its students and promotes an environment where students are able to learn, free from harassment and bullying of any kind.

What is bullying?

Bullying may be identified as a repeated behavior, verbal or non-verbal, that is intended to cause physical, emotional, psychological, or social harm. Bullying may be direct (face-to-face) or indirect. Bullying behaviors that are not addressed generally escalate in to more aggressive behaviors over time. These are learned behaviors that can best be addressed by teachers who demonstrate and teach pro-social behaviors.

Bullying Behaviors

The following is a list of behaviors that demonstrate bullying. A student who demonstrates a bullying behavior may not be a bully. It is the goal of RCCA to reduce bullying by addressing these types of behaviors as they occur.

- **Physical Behavior:** Intentionally endangering the welfare of others. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following: hitting, shoving, kicking, punching, poking, pushing, blocking, tripping and spitting on another student. Other examples of physical bullying include unwanted touching, rude gestures, taking or damaging another's property, extortion of money or other items, and making someone do something they otherwise would not do.
- **Verbal Behavior:** Verbal bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following: name calling, teasing, bossing, threatening, and making fun of another's appearance, physical characteristics, or cultural background.
- **Indirect Behavior:** Indirect bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following: spreading rumors, circulating inappropriate notes or drawings, using other people to threaten, intimidate, or humiliate another, and encouraging others to violate the anti-bullying policy.

Cyber Bullying: In as much as technological advances have provided opportunities for students to communicate electronically, the following behaviors will be considered bullying: sending inappropriate or threatening emails or text messages, creating or posting inappropriate or threatening information or pictures on websites (i.e. Facebook). If cyber bullying occurs while on school property or during school activities, the school will become actively involved.

Reporting Bullying

It is the responsibility of all faculty and staff members to report all occurrences of bullying behaviors as outlined in this policy. Parents/guardians and students who have knowledge of such behaviors are encouraged to report this information and may do so without fear of consequences. Additionally, students who feel that they have been or are becoming the victims of bullying behaviors should notify the school counselor, teacher, or an administrator. Those parents/guardians or students who report such behaviors will not be the target of retaliation or reprisal in any way. *Any individual who withholds information regarding bullying behavior or provides inaccurate or false information will be subject to disciplinary action including possible removal from the school.*

Responses to Bullying or Bullying Behaviors

RCCA recognizes that not all inappropriate behaviors should be considered bullying or willful violation of this policy. Any of the behaviors listed above may or may not be bullying, depending upon the intent of the perpetrator. All bullying behaviors will be addressed according to the procedures outlined below. Each bullying offense will be referred to school administrators for disciplinary response. Each offense will require a parent/guardian signature on a discipline incidence form.

- **1st Offense:** Parent/guardian contact, meet with an administrator, and ½ day in-school suspension.
- **2nd Offense:** Parent/guardian contact, meet with an administrator, and 1 full day in-school suspension.
- **3rd Offense:** Parent/guardian contact, meet with an administrator, and 1 full day out of school suspension.
- **4th Offense:** Parent/guardian contact, meet with an administrator, and 3 days out of school suspension.
- **5th Offense:** Possible expulsion.

NOTE: *The administration of Ross County Christian Academy reserves the right to treat any single act as severe enough to warrant dismissal from school.* Consequences will only take effect after an incident has been thoroughly investigated and can be corroborated by multiple sources and/or eye witnesses.

Calendar

An annual school calendar is published. Ross County Christian Academy attempts to follow the Chillicothe City School calendar, when possible, for the convenience of parents/guardians and teachers who have children in public school. The school operates on a 178-day school year.

Cell Phones and Wireless Devices

All cell phones must be powered off during school hours. Parents/guardians should contact the school office if a message needs to be relayed to a student. Consequences will be enforced if a cell phone is on for any reason. Other wireless devices including, but not limited to laptops, iPads, iPods, and tablets should not be brought to school unless permission has been granted by a teacher for a specific project or educational purpose.

Chapel

Chapel is held once a week for all students. The chapel program includes a time for singing, prayer, and scripture lessons. During this time an offering is typically collected in support of designated mission projects.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "Borrowing" homework
- Plagiarism
- Asking information about a test given earlier
- Obtaining information using any unethical method during a test

Any incidence of cheating will result in a zero on the assignment, quiz or test, and potential suspension. Any subsequent incidence of cheating will be dealt with much more severely.

Class Parties

Classroom parties may be held on occasion. Celebration of birthdays will be observed by allowing parents/guardians to provide snacks for the class during the study hall period. Parents providing food to classes must contact the teacher in advance to request permission as well as information regarding any allergy concerns.

Communication with Teachers

Conferences

Four conference dates are scheduled; one after each reporting period. The first conference is offered after receiving the first interim report. The first and last conferences should be in person with at least one parent/guardian present. Other conferences may be arranged as needed. Parents/guardians should request conferences at least 24 hours in advance, and teachers are not required to meet with parents/guardians at unusually early or late hours.

Messaging

Parents/guardians have the ability to message every teacher and administrator using our online grading system. We encourage you to contact the staff directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Discipline (Grades 4 – 7)

Discipline Programs, Expectations, and Procedures

It is imperative that parents, teachers and administrators all work together in the area of discipline. We hope to encourage students to make positive choices regarding behavior, and to develop Godly character. Every student should have the opportunity to learn in a safe and orderly environment. In order to create an environment where learning can take place, an effective discipline plan must be implemented that considers the student, teacher, parents, and school. In grades 6th through High School, we have implemented a demerit/detention system for discipline.

When a student receives a demerit or an amount of demerits, the teacher will fill out a Student Demerit form reporting the incident. The form is to be signed by a parent or guardian, and returned soon after. The following chart gives examples of reasons a student may receive a demerit, and the weight of each demerit. Repeated offenses may accumulate extra demerits. The list is not exhaustive, and demerits could be distributed for additional acts of misbehavior at the discretion of the staff. The administration reserves the right to waive this process in the case of serious violations of the behavior code.

1 Demerit	5 Demerits	10 Demerits or Possible Expulsion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improper use of class time -Creating disturbances or making disruptive noises -Being in unauthorized portions of the building -Being in unauthorized portions of the building -Roughhouse play -Dress code violation -Electronic device/cell phone violation -Public display of affection -Excessive talking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inappropriate attitude or lack of respect -Destructive communication (name-calling, degrading, ungodly speech, gossiping) -Noncompliance with staff member's request -Cheating, plagiarism -Stealing -Lying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use of profanity or vulgarity -Physical aggression -Destruction of school/church property -Bullying behavior or speech* -Possession or use of any illegal substances (alcohol, tobacco, drugs) -Violation the Technology Acceptable Use policy** -Possession or use of any kind of weapon on school property*** -Sexual harassment

* See appendix for separate police and consequences

** Separate page to be signed that details consequences

*** Results in immediate expulsion for one calendar year

The following chart indicates the consequences of accumulating demerits. Demerits are erased at the end of each nine weeks, but could be taken into consideration for repeated offenses. At the intermediate campus, before school detentions are from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM, and after school detentions are from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM. Both must be scheduled ahead of time with the school office.

Demerits	Consequences
1 st	-Student Demerit form sent home to be signed by parent/guardian
2 nd - 4 th	-Student Demerit Form -Lunch detention to be served same day or the following day of the incident
5 th - 9 th	-Student Demerit Form -Before or after school detention to be served within one week of the incident -Meeting with Principal to discuss behavior -Upon reaching 9 demerits, student will be placed on Behavioral Probation for the remainder of the nine week <i>Students placed on behavioral probation will not be allowed to participate in any public activities including field trips and sporting events.</i>
10 th +	-Student Demerit Form -Out of school suspension (missing work cannot be made up); length of suspension is at the discretion of the administration -Possible expulsion

Probation

Students may be placed on behavioral probation for either a 9-week or 18-week period of time. If the necessary qualifications of the probation are not successfully met, the student will be expelled from Ross County Christian Academy.

Severe offenses that are automatically directed to the office and may merit immediate suspension include, but are not limited to stealing, fighting, disrespect to a teacher or an adult, and damage or destruction of school property. Students who exhibit habitual discipline problems will be expelled from Ross County Christian Academy.

Dress Code

All RCCA students shall comply with the standardized dress code (school uniform) as established by the school board. The school dress code consists of the following:

- Khaki or navy slacks or shorts (should be no shorter than 4" above the knee)
- Girls may wear khaki or navy skirts (length must be to the top of the knee or longer)
- Girls may wear khaki or navy capris or crop pants
- Short sleeve polo shirts (solid color with NO logo)
- Long sleeve polo shirts (solid color with NO logo)
- Sweater vests, sweaters, and sweatshirts (solid color with NO logo)
- Long sleeve Oxford shirts (solid color with NO logo)

- Close-toed shoes must be worn (no sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes)
- Undershirts must only be visible at the neck, with no writing visible through the uniform shirt
- All jackets, coats, hats, or other outdoor apparel must be removed upon entering the building

Hair Styles and Coloring

Hair coloring must look natural. Highlighting is permitted, however one solid color on top and a different shade on the side and/or back is not permitted. Colored hairspray is prohibited. No extreme styles will be permitted and must conform to the following guidelines.

- Hair must be neat and clean
- Vision must not be obstructed

Piercings and Tattoos

Discretion is left to the administration.

- Boys may not wear pierced jewelry of any kind
- Girls may have pierced earlobes.
- No excessive piercing is permitted. Jewelry may not be worn in ear cartilage, eyebrows, lips, tongues, nose, etc.
- Temporary tattoos are not to be worn. Parents/guardians, please discourage your children from wearing temporary tattoos and fake nails to school.
- If a student already has a tattoo, it may not be exposed.
- Boys may not wear nail polish.

Field Trips

Field Trips have been planned for each grade level as an extension of classroom learning. Field trip costs will be in addition to tuition and fees. Fundraisers may offset some costs. Every effort will be made for students to take at least one field trip per year. Permission forms will be required before participation in the field trip is permitted. Students who do not participate in a field trip will be counted absent and may be required to do additional work.

Field Trip Guidelines

- Students are required to attend field trips, remaining with the group at all times.
- Parent/guardian chaperones are often needed. All parent/guardian chaperones will be responsible for the students in their care. Chaperones are not to bring other children on any field trip.
- RCCA students must remain with the school group at all times. Students are prohibited from leaving with anyone except an official chaperone.
- RCCA's faculty will make travel arrangements for students and official chaperones only.
- Parents/guardians not serving as chaperones are welcome to participate in all field trips at their own expense and must make their own arrangements.

Financial Information

All regular financial transactions are to be handled directly with the school office. An enrollment fee is to be paid upon acceptance. Students who enroll after the first day of school or leave before the last day of school will be charged on a per diem basis. All checks returned by the bank to the school due to insufficient funds will be subject to a charge. Students may not be allowed to begin another semester's work, transfer permanent records, or receive report cards unless all previous accounts with the school have been paid in full. If payments remain delinquent for more than 30 days, a student may be asked to withdraw from RCCA.

Financial Aid Policy

It is our desire to make Ross County Christian Academy affordable to every family that wishes for their child(ren) to attend a Christian school. To that end, the following policy will apply for families needing financial aid:

- Beginning with the Kindergarten class of 2013-2014, any family applying for financial aid must also apply for the state EdChoice Scholarships. The school administration can assist with this process. Any family not applying for an EdChoice Scholarship (for the grades which they are offered) will not be considered for financial aid through the school. Families awarded an EdChoice Scholarship by the Ohio Department of Education will have the full tuition paid by the Department of Education. A family that enrolls a child after the EdChoice deadline may still apply for financial aid, but must apply for the EdChoice Scholarship in following years.
- For families with multiple children, some children in the EdChoice program and some being paid for by the family, the following procedure will be used to determine the tuition for each child:
 - The youngest child (by grade) will be charged the 1st child rate.
 - The second youngest child will be charged the 2nd child discounted rate.
 - The third (oldest) and any following children will be charged the 3rd child discounted rate of tuition.
- Families applying for financial aid must complete the online FAST application. This is a third-party resource which assists Christian schools across the nation with determining fair amounts awarded for financial aid based on family need. There is a \$38 fee (payable to FAST by the applying family) for completing the process. The website for FAST is www.ismfast.com.
- After the FAST application has been processed, families will be contacted by RCCA regarding the amount of financial aid awarded.
- A family may appeal the amount recommended by FAST. A committee of three will review the appeal and render a decision. The appeal committee will consist of 3 members, 2 school administrators and 1 board member. The board president will appoint board members as necessary to serve on the committee.

Gambling

Students shall not gamble for money or valuables, or buy, sell, or exchange money with another student while on school grounds.

Grievances

Grievances should be prayerfully considered before being communicated to the appropriate person. Please direct questions/concerns in the following ways:

Functioning of the classroom – Teacher
School buildings or grounds – Headmaster
Finances – Finance Officer
Performance of a teacher – Teacher
Curriculum – Principal
Vision of our school – Headmaster
Volunteers in our school – Principal
Before and After Care Programs – Principal

If a grievance has been communicated to the appropriate person as stated above, and a satisfactory resolution has not occurred, then the grievance is to be taken to the next level of authority. The progression level of authority is:

1st – Teacher
2nd – Principal
3rd – Headmaster
4th – Chairman of the School Board

The teachers desire what is best for our students. Most issues that arise within a school result from misunderstandings which are not communicated and resolved. Handled quickly and honestly, problems are merely challenges, which provide opportunities for growth. Christ gives us the basic principles for settling differences in Matthew 18:15-20.

Hours of Operation

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Before Care
7:45 a.m. – 8:05 a.m.	Arrival
8:05 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	School in Session
2:45 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Dismissal
3:05 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	After Care

Inclement Weather

RCCA uses the One Call Now messaging system. Please make sure the school has all current telephone information. Should the weather become severe enough that the safety of the students is jeopardized, school will be closed. Please listen to your radio or television for details of school closings. WKKJ will be our official weather closing station.

Injuries and Illnesses

The school office handles minor student injuries with items such as bandages, antibacterial gel, anti-itch cream, ice packs, etc. If the office staff feels it appropriate, parents will be contacted regarding the student's injury or illness. Students at school who are running a fever, vomiting, or have any contagious symptoms such as diarrhea will be sent home. Students at home who develop fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting, are not

permitted to attend school. Students may not return to school until free of fever, vomiting or diarrhea (with no medication) for a minimum of 48 hours.

Internet

Students must sign the Technology Use Agreement prior to using any school provided electronics. Any violation of the policy may result in the student losing computer privileges or even more serious consequences.

Lost and Found

Students are responsible for their personal property. The school does not accept responsibility for lost property. Students are cautioned not to bring valuables or large amounts of money to school. All personal items used at school should be clearly marked with the student's name. Students who find lost items are instructed to take them to the office to be placed in the "Lost and Found". Items left unclaimed will be donated to a local shelter at the end of each quarter.

Lunch Program

Students who forget their lunches may request a lunch pack. We keep such things as peanut butter, crackers, applesauce, etc. on hand for such emergencies. If a parent brings a lunch to a student, that lunch will be kept in the office for the student to pick up at lunch time.

Parent cooperation is essential in order to maintain a well-operated lunchroom. Parents are asked to urge their children to observe proper lunchroom behavior. The following is a list of the lunchroom rules:

- Students are to remain in the lunchroom unless given permission to leave.
- Students are to maintain an acceptable noise level while in the lunchroom.
- Students will keep their hands, property, and food to themselves.
- Students will be responsible for cleaning the area in which they eat. Students will show respect to all lunchroom personnel.

Medication

We recognize that some of our students may need medications administered to them during the school day. We are willing to assist your student with their needs as necessary while remaining compliant with state and local guidelines. Below is listed the process for ensuring we understand the student's needs so we may safely provide them their medications.

1. Ohio Department of Health Medication Administration Record (MAR) form completed and signed by parent or guardian *and* treating physician
2. Written detailed instructions for medication administration
3. Medication clearly labeled with child's name and parent contact information
4. Medication and forms turned in to the school office

All medication including asthma inhalers and EPI pens, must be turned into the school office and may not be kept in the possession of the student. *This applies to all*

medications, both prescription and over the counter, sent from home to the school. This does not apply to medications the school keeps on hand to assist students with minor ailments such as acetaminophen, antacids and cough drops to be dispensed as needed with written parent/guardian consent provided on the annual enrollment form.

Messages to Students

The school office staff is happy to deliver messages to students during the school day. A parent/guardian may either call or come to the school entrance if they need to see a student. The student can be paged to come to the office. Students are NOT permitted to have cell phones powered on during school hours.

Orientation

Orientation programs are held for students and their families the week before school begins. The orientation also includes an open house.

Profanity and Lewd Behavior

A student shall not use profanity or obscene language, either written or verbal. This includes obscene gestures, signs, pictures, websites, or publications (pornography). Immodest, lustful, indecent, or lewd behavior will not be tolerated at school or any school-sponsored event.

Promotion, Placement, and Retention Policy

Students in the intermediate grades (4-7) may be retained in their current grade if the student has an “F” average in two or more core subjects (Reading, Math, Social Studies, or Science). Other variables used in addition to grade average in determining if retention is necessary will be the following:

- Attendance
- Age
- Emotional, physical, and social maturity
- Academic ability as reported by achievement tests or diagnostics

Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

A student shall not participate in displays of affection (i.e. kissing, embracing) on school grounds before, during, or after normal school hours.

Security

Any visitor who enters the school section of the buildings must both sign in and out at the school office and be provided a visitor badge. This includes parents, guardians, relatives, parent volunteers, and former students. This policy will be strictly enforced. Any student arriving late or leaving early will be signed in and out at the school office. The office will page the student to be released. Please be aware that our school is legally responsible for the physical protection of all students.

Student Sign-In and Sign-Out

When a student arrives to school after 8:05 a.m., or must leave early for any reason, parents/guardians must give a reason which will be entered on the Student Sign-In/Sign-Out Form located in the office. Students will only be released to individuals listed on their Enrollment Form unless parent/guardian permission has been given.

Snacks and Food

Students are not permitted to eat during class unless teachers have given permission. Students may have bottled water. Arrangements with the school administrator should be made for those with food allergies or for those with medical conditions that require snacks outside of normal eating times.

Special Education

RCCA believes that all students have the potential to learn as God has designed them to learn. However, children can differ in the rate and instructional method at which they learn. RCCA will work with families to develop a plan and to make necessary adjustments for students suspected of having learning needs. We house a highly skilled special education team that can help identify a child that may need special education services. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the student's teacher or the school office.

Student Supplies

Students are expected to supply their own school supplies. Every effort will be made to provide an up-to-date list on the school website, www.rccacademy.org. Additional supplies may be required throughout the year.

Transportation

Parent/Guardian Parking

Vehicles should be parked in designated parking areas only. Parents/guardians should follow the designated procedures for drop-off and pick-up in order to help traffic run smoothly, and to prevent hazards and avoid unnecessary delays. At the Intermediate Campus, parents/guardians are to park in the lower level gravel lots. Parking spaces on the upper paved lot are reserved for staff and for use as recess/gym space only.

Busing

Ross County Christian Academy does not provide transportation to and from school. However, students' home schools are required to either, a.) provide transportation to and from RCCA OR b.) provide a stipend to families in lieu of transportation.

Each district is able to choose whether transportation or a stipend will be provided—RCCA has no authority over what a district chooses to provide. Parents/Guardians DO have the right to contact the home district and request changes, provide feedback, voice concerns, etc. Parents/Guardians also MUST contact the home district to make transportation arrangements OR to request a stipend. RCCA is not permitted to contact home districts on our families' behalf.

Drop-Off

Students may be dropped off at the start of the day between 7:45 AM and 8:05 AM by driving one way along the rear paved lot and stopping briefly to offload students at the entrance. If a student is dropped off prior to 7:45 AM, the student will be placed in Before Care and the family charged the requisite fee. Those that arrive prior to 7:45 AM who do not wish to participate in the Before Care program must park in the lower level gravel lot until at 7:45 AM and either send the student inside or walk the student to the building.

At no time are parents/guardians to stop on the paved lot and wait outside the entrance until 7:45 AM to avoid the Before Care charge. This will cause a hazardous traffic back-up onto Clinton Rd.

At no time are drivers permitted to pass vehicles stopped on the paved lot. This will put pedestrians at risk.

Pick-Up

Parents/Guardians are to park in the lower gravel lots at pick-up time. Students will be released to walk to their vehicles at dismissal. It is vital that students are picked up promptly. Students who are not picked up on time will be placed in After Care, and parents/guardians will be charged the requisite After Care fee

Visitors

Any visitor who enters the school section of the building must both sign in and out at the school office and be provided a visitor badge. This includes parents, guardians, relatives, parent volunteers, and former students. This policy will be strictly enforced. Visits to the classroom are not allowed during school hours unless a visit has been arranged in advance with a classroom teacher or administrator. Please be aware that our school is legally responsible for the physical protection of all students.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or conceal any object considered to be a danger to themselves or others. Examples include, but are not limited to lighters, matches, firearms, ammunition, knives, fireworks, chemicals, explosives, or any other dangerous object. This ban extends to all "look-alike" and counterfeit items, including toys and replicas.

Withdrawals

Student withdrawals from Ross County Christian Academy are handled through the school office. In order to transfer academic records, all outstanding fees must have been paid, all books and other school belongings returned, and the proper request forms completed. Please refer to the financial information section of this handbook for more information.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Ross County Christian Academy recruits and admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs and athletics/extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court ordered or administrative agency ordered, or public school-initiated desegregation. Ross County Christian Academy will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.