

Ross County Christian Academy Middle/High Student Handbook

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Our Mission

The purpose of the 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 the 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, 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 the 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, 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.

A 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 Schools - Dr. Valerie Jones
- Financial Officer - Mr. Mike MacCarter
- MS/HS Principal - Mr. Jarod Lloyd
- Administrator - Mr. Gregg Wright
- Special Education Director - Mr. Josh Cooper

Our 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 of Ross County Christian Academy

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 necessarily limited to, participating in, supporting, or condoning sexual immorality, homosexual activity, bisexual activity, transgenderism; 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, I Corinthians 6:6-9, and I Timothy 1:8-10.

Admission Policy

The Ross County Christian Academy recruits and admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality 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 or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation. The Ross County Christian Academy will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, 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 form and \$100 application fee received
- A book fee of \$130.00 received
- A favorable family interview must be held.
- A student must be in good academic and behavioral standing with his/her previous school.
- The school must receive verification that all immunizations are up to date.
- Teacher recommendation - The student may be asked to submit an RCCA Teacher Referral Form.
- Testing - All students must take the Wide Range Achievement Test provided by RCCA.
- Registration - Pay appropriate tuition and fees.

School Procedures and Policies

Academics

- **Achievement Tests** – Each spring Ross County Christian Academy administers an ODE approved standardized achievement test to all middle/high school students. 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, students are not permitted to write in textbooks with the exception of workbooks. Students may be charged for damaged or lost books.
- **College Credit** – Students with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher and pass a college entrance exam are eligible to earn college credits while in high school. RCCA partners with Ohio Christian University and Ohio University-Chillicothe for the College Credits Plus program. This program may incur additional costs.
- **Curriculum** – Biblical principles are incorporated in all subjects. When appropriate we use textbooks written from a Christian worldview (e.g. Bob Jones University Press).
- **Extra-Curricular Classes** – All students must participate in a variety of special classes each week. Specials may include: Vocal and Instrumental Music, Physical Education, Technology, Spanish and Robotics. 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. New parents will receive log in instructions and a password the first week of school.

*If tuition and day care payments are not up-to-date grade reports and student records may be held.

- **Grading Scale** –

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

- **Graduation Requirements** - Students must meet both testing requirements and curriculum requirements in order to earn a diploma. Students are required to complete a minimum of 22 credits and pass state mandated tests to graduate from Ross County Christian Academy

General Graduation Requirements from Ross County Christian Academy

English Language Arts	4 Units
Health	½ Unit
Mathematics	4 Units
Physical Education	½ Unit
Science	3 Units
Social Studies	3 Units
Electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Unit of Fine Arts ● 2 Units of Bible (½ Unit Per Year) ● 3 Units of Spanish ● 1 Unit of Economics Other electives may include Band, Art, College Courses, etc.	7 Units

- **Homework** – Homework may be given at the teacher’s discretion and may include incomplete classwork, additional reading, studying for tests and quizzes, special projects, etc. Written homework will not be given on Wednesday night.
- **Honor Roll** – Students with As and Bs in all classes and no lower than an S in non-graded courses will receive special recognition at the end of the year.
- **Late Work** - Late work will result in the specified reduction given by each individual teacher. Late work policies are approved by the building principal and will be made clear to all students and parents through Jupiter.
- **Promotion** – Students must have earned the following credits to be promoted. Freshman = 5
Sophomore = 11 Junior = 16 Senior = 22
- **Make-Up Work** - Students will be given one day for each excused absence to complete make-up work. Extensions may be made for extenuating circumstances. Parents should call the office before 9:00 am if missed work is to be collected and picked up for the student to complete at home. Work turned in late will receive the specified grade reduction set by each teacher.

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 our Athletic Handbook.

Attendance 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 at school.

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 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:

1. Personal Illness. The administrator may require the certificate of a physician if he/she deems advisable.
2. Illness in the family necessitating the student's presence. A written statement from a physician may be required
3. Quarantine of the home: Absence is limited to the length of quarantine as fixed by proper health officials.
4. Death of a relative: Absence is limited to 3 days, unless is reasonable cause is shown.
5. Medical or dental appointments: The administrator may require a doctor or dental slip as to why the absence was necessary.
6. Emergency or set of circumstances which in the judgment of building administrator constitutes a good and sufficient cause for the absence from school.
7. College Visits. The approving authority may require verification of date and time on this visit. There is a limit of three days per year.
8. Buses cannot reach a student
9. Court appearance
10. Administrative pre-approved vacation for no more than five days (Advanced letter in writing)

Documentation: All absences should include documentation to be considered excused. Such documentation should include a signed note from the student's parent/guardian, 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 two consecutive days only one letter of documentation is needed. If a student is out two 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 ten parent notes for excused absences. This includes vacations, illnesses, and/or any of the items listed above for an excused absence.

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

Habitual Truant 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.

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 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 folder.
- **10 absences (excused and/or unexcused)** - A letter will be sent to the parents and a meeting may be scheduled with the principal to discuss a specialized intervention plan for the student. The letter must be signed and returned to the school within one week and will be placed in the student's permanent folder. If necessary, the specialized intervention plan will also be signed and a copy will be sent with the parents and one will be placed in the student's folder.
- **15 absences (excused and/or unexcused)** - A letter will be sent home to the parents to sign and return to the school within one week. A meeting with the principal will be required and the student will be placed on probation from re-enrollment. Parents must show effort to follow the specialized intervention plan as created by the principal. During the principal meeting, the specialized intervention plan will be reviewed and possible changes made at the discretion of the principal. Parents will sign the new plan and a copy of the plan will be placed in the student's permanent folder.

- **20 absences (excused and/or unexcused)** - A fourth and final letter will be sent home to parents informing them that their child may not be eligible for re-enrollment for the following school year without an appeals process taking place. The parents 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 re-enroll the student or deny re-enrollment on a case by case basis. Students attending RCCA on scholarship will lose their scholarship if they have 20 unexcused absences.

All students arriving late to school must sign-in with the school secretary. Students will then be issued a pass, which will admit them to the appropriate class.

Upon their return to school after an absence, students are required to obtain and complete all missing assignments. It is the student's responsibility to contact teachers and make arrangements to make up assignments. An excused absence will allow the student to receive full credit for completed assignments. **The formula for make-up work is the number of excused days absent.** Suspensions: 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 not be graded.

For a high school student to receive credit in a given subject, he or she cannot have missed more than 20 days in any subject. Students in grades 6th -8th are limited to 20 absences per subject. Students in 6th -8th who miss more than 20 days must appeal to the board in order to be considered for promotion.

Tardiness - Students arriving at school after 8:00 am or leaving before 1:00 pm will be counted tardy, not absent. Students not riding a bus should arrive at school no later than 8:00 am.

1. Five tardies/semester will result in one after school detention or In-school restriction.
2. Ten tardies/semester will result in two after school detentions
3. Fifteen tardies/semester will result three after school detentions

Before School/After School Care

Ross County Christian Academy provides a latch-key program for its students, and is located at the Zion campus. Before-school care is offered between 7:00-8:00 am. Any students arriving at school before 7:35 am needs to utilize this service. After-school care begins at 2:45 pm. Any students not picked up by 2:45 pm will be sent to after care by a staff member and charged \$5.00. Latchkey ends at 3:45 pm. Information detailing current costs and activities is available in the school office.

Calendar

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

Cell Phones and Wireless Devices

Cell phones are to only be used at school with teacher/staff permission. If a student has a cell phone out without permission, they will be instructed to power it off and turn it into the office. Refusal will result in suspension. 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.

Class Parties

Classroom parties (ex: birthdays) may be held on occasion with teacher and principal approval in advance.

Communication with Teachers

- **Conferences** - Four conference dates are scheduled; one after each reporting period. Other conferences may be arranged as needed. Parents should request conferences at least 24 hours in advance, and teachers are not required to meet with parents at unusually early or late hours.
- **Messaging** – Parents have the ability to message every teacher and administrator using our online grading system. We encourage you to contact the staff if you have any questions or concerns.

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 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 8th through High School, we will be implementing 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 why a student could receive demerits and how much they could be worth. 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 -Roughhouse play -Dress Code violation -Electronic Device/Cell Phone violation -2 Tardies to class (Does not include arriving tardy to school) -Public display of affection -Excessive talking -Cell Phone usage during school hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inappropriate attitude or lack of respect -Destructive Communication (name-calling, degrading, ungodly speech, gossiping) -Noncompliance to 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) -Violating Technology Acceptable Use policy ** -Possession or use of any kind of weapon on school property *** -Sexual harassment

*See appendix for separate policy and consequences

**Separate page to be signed that details consequences

***This will result 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. Before-school detentions are from 7:00-8:00 am and After-school detentions are from 2:30-3:30 pm., both must be scheduled with the school office.

Demerits	Consequences
1st	-Student Demerit form sent home to be signed by a guardian
2nd-4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student Demerit form -Lunch detention(s) to be served that day or the following day
5th-9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student Demerit form -Before or After school detention (or lunch detentions) to be served within one week of the incident -Meeting with Principal to discuss behavior -Upon reaching 9 demerits, student will be on Behavioral Probation for the remainder of the nine weeks (A child on behavioral probation will not be allowed to participate in any public contact activities including class field trips or sporting events)
10th +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student Demerit form -Out of School Suspension (Students will not be allowed to make up any missing work) Length of suspension will be at the discretion of the administration. -Possible Expulsion

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 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 into more aggressive behaviors over time. These are learned behaviors that can best be addressed by teachers who demonstrate and teach prosocial behaviors

Bullying Behaviors

The following is a list of behaviors that demonstrate bullying. 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 are not limited to but include the following: hitting, shoving kicking, spitting on, punching, poking, pushing, blocking, tripping Other examples of physical bullying include: unwanted touching, rude gestures, taking or damaging another's property, extortion of money or other items, 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, 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, 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 of 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 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 victims of bullying behaviors should notify the school counselor, teacher, or administration. Those parents 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 school.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated under any circumstances. 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 and potentially suspension. Any subsequent cheating will be dealt with much more severely.

Dress Code - All RCCA students shall comply with the standardized dress code (school uniform) as established by the Board. School uniform consists of the following:

- Khaki or Navy Blue 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 without a logo)
- Long sleeved Polo shirts are appropriate during cooler weather (solid color without a logo)
- Sweater vests, sweaters and sweatshirts (solid color without a logo)
- Long sleeve oxford shirts are appropriate (solid color without a logo)
- Closed toe shoes must be worn (no sandals, flip flops or open toe shoes)
- Socks or tights must be worn with shoes
- All jackets, coats, hats or other outdoor apparel must be removed once you enter the building
- Undershirts must be only visible at the neck, with no writing visible through uniform shirt

HairStyles and Coloring

Hair coloring must look natural. Highlighting is permitted, however one solid color on top and a different shade on the side and back is not permitted. Colored hair spray 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

Piercing and Tattoos

- Students may have pierced earlobes (no more than two earrings per lobe)
- Jewelry may not be worn in: ear cartilage, eyebrows, lips, tongues, nose, etc.

Temporary tattoos are not to be worn. If you already have a tattoo, this may not be exposed. Parents please discourage your children from wearing temporary tattoos and fake nails to school. Boys may not wear nail polish.

Discretion is left to the administration to determine if any dress code/hairstyle/piercing is unsafe or a distraction to the educational process.

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. Students will take at least one field trip per year. Permission forms will be required before participation in the field trip can be allowed. Students who do not participate in field trips 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 chaperones are often needed. All parent chaperones will be responsible for the students in their care. Chaperones are not to bring other children on any field trips.
- Ross County Christian Academy's faculty will make travel arrangements for students and official chaperones only.
- Ross County Christian Academy students must remain with the school group at all times. This prohibits leaving with anyone except an official chaperone.

Financial Information

- All regular financial transactions are to be handled directly with the school office. Students may not be allowed to begin another semester's work, transfer permanent records, or receive 14 report cards unless all previous accounts with the school have been paid in full.
- Other terms of payment include:
- Application fee is to be paid upon acceptance.
- All checks returned by the bank to the school due to insufficient funds will be subject to a charge.
- If payments go delinquent more than 30 days, a student may be asked to withdraw.
- 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.

Financial Aid Policy

It is our desire to make Ross Co. Christian Academy affordable to every family that wishes for their child/children to attend a Christian School. To that end the following policy will apply for families needing financial aid.

- Starting with the Kindergarten class of 2013-14, any family applying for financial aid must also apply for the State Ed. Choice Scholarship. The school administration can assist you with this process. Any family not applying for an Ed. Choice Scholarship (for the grades which they are offered) will not be considered for financial aid through the school. Families awarded an Ed Choice 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 Ed Choice deadline may still apply for financial aid, but must apply for Ed. Choice in following years.
- For families with multiple children, some children in the Ed. Choice 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 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 web address for FAST is: <http://www.ismfast.com/>

- After the FAST application has been processed, families will be contacted by RCCA about the financial aid awarded.
- A family may appeal the amount recommended by FAST. A committee of three will review the Appeal and make a decision. The appeal committee will consist of 3 members, two school administrators and 1 board member. The board president will appoint board members as necessary to serve on the committee. Item 5 will not be published in directions to families, but will convene upon need.

Gambling

A student shall not gamble for money or valuables, buy, sell, trade or exchange money with another student while on school grounds. Playing Cards are prohibited.

Grievances

Grievances should be prayerfully considered before being communicated to the appropriate person.

- Questions concerning the functioning of the classroom – Teacher
- Questions concerning the school buildings or grounds – Head of Schools
- Questions concerning finances – Finance Officer
- Questions concerning performance of a teacher – Teacher
- Questions concerning the curriculum – Principal
- Questions concerning the vision of our school – Head of Schools
- Questions concerning volunteers in our school – Principal
- Questions concerning latch-key - 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 - Head of Schools

4th - Chairman of the School Board

The teachers want what is best for your child. Most problems in 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

Homeroom

All students begin their day with a homeroom period at 8:00 am. The following activities take place during homeroom:

Hours of Operation

7:40 a.m. Teachers arrive

7:55 a.m. Opening Activities

8:00 a.m. Homeroom begins

8:05 a.m. Classes Begin

2:30 p.m. Classes Dismissed

8:00-8:50	Period 1
8:50-9:35	Period 2
9:37-10:22	Period 3
10:25-11:10	Period 4
11:10-11:40	Period 5
11:40-12:10	Period 6
12:10-12:55	Period 7
12:57-1:42	Period 8
1:45-2:30	Period 9

Inclement Weather

The school uses the ONE CALL NOW messaging system. Make sure the school has all current telephone information. Should the weather become so bad that the safety of the students is jeopardized, school will be closed. Please listen to your radio and television for details of school closings. WKKJ will be our official weather closing station.

Injuries and Illness

The school office handles minor student injuries. Students who are running a fever, vomiting, or have any contagious symptoms must be sent home. Children should be fever-free for a 24-hour period before returning to school.

Internet

Students must sign the Internet Acceptable Use Policy prior to using the Internet, located on page 21. Any violation of the policy may result in the student losing computer privileges or even more serious consequences.

Loitering and Cutting Class

A student shall not be absent from any class without proper authorization. Students shall not be in unscheduled or unauthorized areas of the school building or school grounds without permission from a school staff member. After arriving on school property, a student shall not leave without proper school authorization and signing out in the school office.

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 school office to be placed in "Lost and Found". Donations are made to local shelters from "Lost and Found" on a quarterly basis.

Lunch Program

Students must pack their lunches each day, except for announced special luncheons.

Forgotten lunches – Students who forget their lunches may request a lunch for a charge of \$2.00. We keep peanut butter and jelly, bread and milk on hand for such emergencies. If a parent brings lunch to a student, that lunch should be left in the office for delivery to the student, or the parent should sign-in at the office to take it directly to a student at lunch.

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 will 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

All prescription and non-prescription medications are to be administered by the school office. The office does stock Tylenol, Antacids and Cough Drops and may dispense with written parental consent. You may wish to send in your own for us to have "on hand" for your child. However, any medications, prescription or non-prescription MUST be clearly labeled with the child's name and accompanied by a completed and signed "Office Medication Form".

Messages

The school office staff is glad to deliver messages to students during the school day. If a parent needs to see a student, he/she should come to the school office so that the student may be called. Parents are not to go directly to a classroom during school hours. Messages for teachers are to be left with the school secretaries for delivery. Students are not permitted to have cell phones 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 at any school sponsored event.

Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

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

Security

Any visitors who enter the school section of the buildings must sign-in at the school office. This includes parents, relatives, parent volunteers, and former students. This policy will be strictly enforced. Any student leaving school will be checked out from the office. The school office will call the student from the classroom. Parents must wait for students in the school office. Please be aware that our school is legally responsible for protecting all students. Any visitors in the classrooms or hallways after 8:00 a.m. will be asked to leave immediately, unless they have signed-in with the school office. Parents should not linger in classrooms for any reason. Conferences must be scheduled with the teacher's approval, and the office must approve observations.

Signing-In/Signing-Out

When a student comes to school after 8:00 am or must leave school early for any reason, parents must complete the entry on the "Sign-In/Sign-Out" register. Students will only be released to individuals listed on their student information sheet unless parental permission has been given.

Snacks

Students are not permitted to eat during class unless teachers have given permission. Students may however have bottled water. Students with medical conditions that require snacks should make arrangements with the school office.

Student Supplies

Students are expected to supply their own school supplies. A list is posted on the school website www.rccacademy.org. Additional supplies may be required throughout the year.

Study Hall

Study hall is designed as a period where students actively engage in educational activities. Students may use study hall time to complete homework, study for tests and quizzes, organize notebooks, seek assistance from teachers and read teacher approved materials. Students shall not use this time to play games, visit with peers or sleep. Students not using their study hall time as intended will receive a demerit.

Transportation

- Parent Parking, Pick-up, and Drop-off - Vehicles should be parked in designated parking areas only. Parking in the school driveway is not allowed. It is vital that students be picked up promptly. Parents who are not on time to pick up their students will incur a \$5 charge and the student will be placed in afternoon care. In order to help traffic run smoothly and avoid unnecessary delays. **All Parents are asked to park their cars at dismissal. This is for the safety of our students and other drivers.**
- Student Drivers – Driving to school is a privilege, which can be revoked at any time. Parents assume full responsibility for any and all transportation to and from school. Students who are given the opportunity to drive themselves to and from school must adhere to school the following rules:

- All students driving to school shall complete the Student Vehicle Form and provide a copy of their driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration.
- A Permit will be granted and must be displayed in clear view inside the vehicle at all times.
- Students must park in designated student parking.
- When transporting any other students to and from RCCA, advanced written parental consent must be given by both the parent of the driver and parent of the passenger.
- Student drivers must observe all traffic laws and a speed of no more than 10mph on school property.
- When the school provides transportation, students shall not drive to school sponsored activities (e.g. field trips).
- Students may not return to their vehicle during the school day.
- Tardiness to school may result in the loss of driving privileges.
- Upon arrival to school, students must not loiter in the vehicle, but must report directly to class.
- Failure to comply with these rules will result in the loss of privileges and/or disciplinary actions.
- Upon dismissal from school, student drivers must wait until all buses and parents have exited the school grounds.
- Students who need to leave school for an appointment may do so provided they have a written and dated note from a parent. Students must return to campus immediately following appointments.

Visitors

All visitors must sign-in and sign-out through the school office. Visitors will receive a visitor's badge upon sign-in that must be worn while on campus. Those without the proper badge will be stopped and directed to the office. Visits to the classroom are not allowed during school hours unless a visitor has arranged in advance with a classroom teacher to assist in the classroom. Visits are allowed during lunch, school parties, and special assemblies.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A student shall not possess, handle, transmit or conceal any object considered a dangerous weapon or an instrument of violence. Examples include but are not limited to lighters, matches, firearms, ammunition, knives, fireworks, chemicals, explosives, self defense sprays, tasers, or any other dangerous object. This ban extends to all "look a likes" and counterfeits, 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 fees must have been paid, all books and other school belongings returned, and the proper forms completed. Please refer to the financial information section of this handbook for more information.

Physical Education Exemption

As stated in Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code (see below), any RCCA high school student may obtain a Physical Education Exemption if that student completes two full seasons of any official interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading. The RCCA student may fulfill this requirement at RCCA, through their home district, or the district in which RCCA is located. Students seeking the PE exemption will complete the RCCA PE Exemption Form once their season is complete. Students should contact their building administrator to confirm that their participation in an official activity/sport is approved and meets the requirements set forth by the Ohio Revised Code pertaining to a Physical Education exemption.

RCCA students must choose to meet their physical education requirement either through the Physical Education Exemption process or through physical education classes (students may not use a combination of both).

Academic Probation/Academic Recovery Plan Policy

The goal of Ross County Christian Academy is for all of our students to reach their fullest potential academically. Although we recognize that students have different abilities and timelines for learning, we have set standards that students must meet in order to remain at RCCA.

As a result, at the end of every nine weeks, student grades will be assessed to determine if anyone should be placed on academic probation. Academic probation is defined below: What it means if a student is placed on Academic Probation:

Being on Academic Probation means you have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 1.99 or below and/or have at least one 'F' in a class at the end of a grading period. Academic Probation is a warning that you have fallen in academic difficulty and that you need to improve your grades in order to reach "Good Standing" status to avoid risk of disqualification from RCCA.

How is Academic Probation determined?

- Academic standing is based on GPA and/or the number of classes a student is failing (Grade of F) at the end of each grading period.
- Good Standing: GPA of 2.0 or higher and no failing grades (no F's)
- Academic Probation: GPA of 1.99 or lower and/or at least one failing grade (at least one F) and/or a 'U' (Unsatisfactory - Ex: Unsatisfactory in Bible)
- Subject to Disqualification: Failure to fulfill the Academic Recovery Plan (ARP) established by the Principal.

What is an Academic Recovery Plan?

If a student is placed on Academic Probation that student will be given an Academic Recovery Plan. This plan will be provided by the principal and presented to the student and his or her parent/guardian (both the student and parent/guardian will sign the ARP - If an ARP is refused by the student or parent/guardian the student will be withdrawn from RCCA). The student will be responsible to fulfill the requirements of the plan to once again be in "Good Standing" academically. If a student fails to fulfill the Academic Recovery Plan in the time allocated in that plan the student will be withdrawn from Ross County Christian Academy.

Head Lice Policy

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.

Bus Transportation (Home Public Districts)

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.



Ross County Christian Academy
2215 Egypt Pike, Chillicothe, OH 45601
740-772-4532 or 740-703-2615

Dear Parent,

Through varied experiences at RCCA, we seek to help your child develop emotionally, spiritually, physically, intellectually and socially. The information and policies contained in this booklet are to help you, your child, and RCCA operate most effectively.

Our handbook is designed to assist you in understanding our program and the services we are providing for your children. It is reviewed and revised annually.

I have received and reviewed a copy of RCCA's policies, procedures, and handbook, and agree to abide by the policies described in it.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

** This handbook may be subject to change.*

Appendix C

RCCA Technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

The school's information/technology resources, including email and Internet access, are provided for educational purposes. Adherence to the following policy is necessary for continued access to the school's technological resources. Students must:

1 Respect and protect the privacy of others

- ▶ Use only assigned accounts.
- ▶ Not view, use or copy passwords, data, or networks to which they are not authorized.
- ▶ Not distribute private information about themselves or others.

2 Respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources.

- ▶ Observe all network security practices as posted.
- ▶ Report security risks or violations to a teacher or administrator.
- ▶ Not destroy or damage data, networks, or other resources that do not belong to them, without the clear permission of the owner.
- ▶ Conserve, protect, and share these resources with other students and Internet users.

3 Respect and protect the intellectual property of others

- ▶ Not infringe copyrights (no making illegal copies of music, games or movies!).
- ▶ Not plagiarize

4 Respect and practice the principles of community

- ▶ Communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.
- ▶ Report threatening or discomfoting materials to the teacher.
- ▶ Not intentionally access, transmit, copy or create material that violates RCCA's code of conduct/mission (such as messages or sites that are pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
- ▶ Not intentionally access, transmit, copy or create material that is illegal or in violation of RCCA's code of conduct/mission (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
- ▶ Not send spam, advertise, or otherwise conduct business, unless approved as a school project and by the principal.

Students may, if in accord with the policy above:

- Access website as a resource for classroom study.
- Use direct communications such as IRC, online chat, or instant messaging with a teacher's approval.
- Install or download software, if also in conformity with laws and licenses, and under the supervision of a teacher, as approved by the building administrator.
- Use the resources for any educational purpose as directed by the teacher.

Consequences for Violation: Violation of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of a student's privileges to use the school's Internet/technology resources.

Supervision and Monitoring School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor the use of information/technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information/technology networks in order to further the health, safety, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions, if necessary.

I Acknowledge and understand my obligations:

Student _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____

Parents, please discuss these rules with your child (ren) to ensure that he/she understands them. The rules also provide a good framework for your student's use of computers at home.