Redeemer Lutheran School

6970 Mineola Rd. Englewood, FL 34224 (941) 473-7998 www.redeemerfl-school.com

Student-Parent Handbook

Revised 2024-2025

Changing the World One Child at a Time ...

DISCLAIMER

This book is not a contract with the student, and is subject to change. The School Board for Redeemer Lutheran School has authorized the Principal/Administrator to make rules to promote safe and orderly functioning of the school.

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Section 1: Redeemer Lutheran School

<u>Our History</u>

The Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood is a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) organized more than 150 years ago in 1847. The LCMS operates the largest Protestant school system in the world.

All races, religions, ages and economic situations are warmly welcomed into our schools. Many students in our schools are not Lutheran. Nearly half of the schools are early childhood schools. This is the fastest growing level of Lutheran schools.

Redeemer Lutheran Child Care & After School Center opened its doors August 1998, and has been providing a safe, quality Christian environment to many children and their families. In August of 2016, Redeemer Lutheran School opened with a single Kindergarten class. Today we have expanded to provide academic excellence for Kindergarten through Eighth grade students.

Lutheran schools are a mission of the church. They teach the Word of God, moral principles, and the love of Jesus. We provide opportunities for worship and witness, and develop Christian communities of faith, fellowship, and caring service.

Our Mission

To provide a safe quality, Christ-centered environment for children; to assist the church in carrying out its mission of "proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Word," trusting the Holy Spirit to work through the hearing of the Word of God.

Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is centered on the fact that GOD created each and every child and loves him or her dearly. Each little one has been given a distinct personality, and infinite curiosity, a great capacity to love. Every child is a unique and special gift from God. We encourage their individuality and promote their self-esteem. Our Lutheran educational curriculum will provide a setting designed to promote the physical, spiritual, and emotional development of each child.

The Word of God instructs us, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

The Word of God instructs both you and us to: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Section 2: Christian Education

Worship Life

Redeemer Lutheran School encourages regular participation in worship services. If your family does not have a home church, we invite you to attend our worship opportunities and consider

calling Redeemer Lutheran Church your home church for the time being until the Holy Spirit guides you in another direction. For additional information contact Redeemer's Church office: (941) 475-2410.

Regular Sunday worship is at 9:15 am.

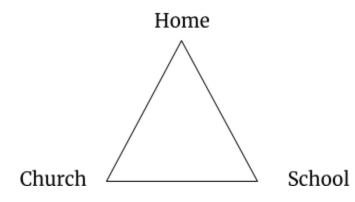
Chapel and Religious Education

Redeemer receives children from a wide range of religious backgrounds; however, this is a Lutheran (Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) School. Chapel services are held every Thursday morning at 8:45 a.m. for the entire student body; also attended by students from our Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) Program. The students in the older grades are matched with a VPK student as "Chapel Buddies" and they sit together during Chapel, as well as participate in other activities together throughout the year.

Students always have a Bible memory verse they are learning, and hymns and Bible songs are included in the music curriculum. We also have an annual Christmas Program and Spring Concert that all children are encouraged to participate in.

Section 3: School/Home Support

Church-School-Home Support



Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16) Redeemer Lutheran School exists to follow this, Christ's command, to nurture children in His love. Accordingly, we seek to teach children in all aspects of their development in a Christian and God-pleasing manner. We believe Christian education best takes place in partnership with school, church, and home. School supports home and church, church supports home and school, and home supports church and school. We believe it is these three entities working as one that best honors God's expectations for taking care of His beloved children.

Code of Christian Conduct

Redeemer Lutheran School will remain a safe and orderly Christian learning environment. All students, pastors, faculty, staff, personnel, and parents will be treated with dignity, respect, and Christian concern. On the occasions when misbehavior does occur, consequence will be

appropriate and designed to build respect toward others, to accept responsibility for actions, and to teach Christian values.

Self-Discipline

"Be self-controlled and alert." (I Peter 5:9a) Scripture exhorts us to be self-disciplined. Self-control is useful for the present and a basis for future, as we walk as children of the light, putting on faith, hope and love, and the hope of salvation (I Thessalonians 5:8) While self-control is not taught as a subject, it is interwoven into the fabric of everyday life at Redeemer. Self-control encourages obedience to God, and builds an awareness of conduct toward others. "We are being built into a spiritual house" (I Peter 25) when we develop as cornerstones of Christian character. Under the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Redeemer Lutheran School will abound in His gifts. "The fruits of the Spirit are love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22

In Support of Your School

In the working together process, teachers make decisions that they feel are necessary for the Christian development of the student. When a parent has questions regarding any of these decisions, the parent must speak first to the teacher. To speak to other parents or other students from that class is only to gossip, and not part of the Christian process as described in Matthew 18 –

"If a person sins against you, go to that person and show the fault, just between the two of you. If the person listens to you, you have won the person over. But if the person will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of witnesses. If the person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church;" (Matthew 18:15-17a)

If the decision is discussed at home, it should be done in an environment in which the student is not present. Parents should hear what the student has to say, and then contact the teacher in order to verify what the student has said. A good comment for parents to say to their students when a decision is brought to the parent is, "I'll look into that matter." This lets the student know that the parent takes the concern seriously and will contact the teacher for a resolution.

Due Process

Should you, as a parent, disagree with a decision, the following procedure is followed -

1. Contact the teacher to resolve the disagreement.

2. Should the disagreement continue, ask the principal/administrator to meet with the parent and teacher to resolve the disagreement.

Section 4: Parent Involvement

Parent Involvement

We welcome you to participate in your child's educational experiences by attending field trips, helping with the Christmas Program, sharing a talent, etc. when possible. We also welcome parent volunteers.

Conferences

Parent and teacher conferences are MANDATORY. Teachers and parents need to keep each other informed of each child's progress and attitude to help his/her development. There will be a time set aside for these special conferences during the month of November. If you would like a conference at any other time during the year we will be happy to schedule one. Please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference. We pride ourselves on our close relationship with our parents.

Report Cards

Report cards are distributed four times each school year.

At the end of quarters one, two, and three, the report cards are distributed to the student one week following the end of that quarter (i.e. the quarter ends on a Friday, report cards are distributed the following Friday). Report cards for Middle School students which include a grade of "F" must be picked up by a parent.
At the end of quarter four the report cards are distributed to the students prior to dismissal of classes for the school year.

Gradelink

Gradelink is a secure web site where you will be able to access your child's grades, messages and other activities online. Parents and students are issued access numbers to this site. After the initial log-in, they may create their passwords. You can access the web site at <u>www.gradelink.com</u>.

All communication between students, parents and staff should always be professional. All communication is accessible by Redeemer Lutheran School and Church. Parents need to communicate with the teacher first. If a situation is not resolved, then parents can contact the principal/administrator.

Parent Teacher League (PTL)

The PTL is a national organization that works for the benefit of Redeemer Lutheran School. There are several activities held during each year ranging from informative and interesting presentations to fellowship functions. Meetings are held monthly and all are welcome to attend.

Section 5: Admission and Fees

Admission and Withdrawal

To apply for admission to Redeemer Lutheran School, one should follow these steps:

1. Parents should call and make an appointment to visit the school and talk to the Administrator.

2. An application and the proper paperwork needs to be filed in order to start the Admission process.

<u>Withdrawls</u>

All student withdrawals must be reported to the Administrator two weeks before the child's last day. Redeemer bills by the month and you will be charged for the full month regardless of how many days your child attends.

Terminations

Any child who, after attempts have been made to meet the child's individual needs, demonstrates inability to benefit from the type of academic curriculum offered by Redeemer Lutheran School, or their presence is detrimental to the class or student body, will be discharged from Redeemer Lutheran School. All such cases will be decided by the School Board of Redeemer Lutheran School & Child Care. When such decisions are made to terminate it is in the best interest of the child. The child's needs shall be considered in referrals to other agencies and institutions for learning.

Probation Period

All children entering Redeemer Lutheran School will be on probation for one grading period. During this time the classroom teacher, principal, and parents will have the opportunity to determine whether or not the learning conditions spelled out in our student guidelines can be achieved.

Retention

 Redeemer Lutheran School is dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each pupil. Pupils will normally progress annually from one grade to the next.
An exception may be made when, in the judgment of the professional staff, such an exception is in the best educational interest of the pupil. Parent(s) and teacher(s) shall be included in the discussion leading to the decision. The decision of retention is the responsibility of the principal.

Scholarship

It is the goal of Redeemer Lutheran School to help any family to attend our school. Redeemer Lutheran School is registered with Step Up For Students. Please ask the Administrator for more information.

Registration Fees

There is a \$100.00 non-refundable registration fee per child.

***Each year the parents of current students are asked to formally re-enroll their child before February 28. We will fill our classrooms on a first come first serve basis. Open enrollment for all new students begins March 1.

Tuition Schedule

Please speak to the Administrator concerning a current fee schedule. Tuition is charged on a monthly basis. Payments are due on the 1st of each month. Payments will be subject to a \$25.00

late fee if not paid by the 15th of the month. For each returned check, an additional \$35.00 will be added to your account balance.

Delinquent Accounts

If your account becomes more than a month past due your student will not be able to continue in class until it is paid. Please talk to the Administrator when a circumstance arises, before you become 30 days past due.

Shots and Physical Forms

All students enrolling in Redeemer Lutheran School are required to have a gold physical form and a blue immunization form on file at all times. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure your child's immunizations are kept current, and your child has a current physical on file every 2 years. These forms are required by the Department of Children and Families and are for the safety of all children and staff.

Section 6: Health

<u>Health</u>

Childhood illnesses are a part of growing up. If your child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, sore throat, severe cough, rash, vomiting and/or diarrhea, yellowish eyes or skin, conjunctivitis (eye infection), untreated infected skin patch, difficult or rapid breathing, yellow or green mucus from the nose or ears, or any other sign or symptoms of illness, it is important to allow him/her to recover at home. Your child should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning back to school. If your child has a contagious illness, it should be reported immediately to the Administrator. See COVID-19 HEALTH & WELLNESS PROTOCOL, below.

This is for the safety of all children and staff. The principal/administrator will have the final say as to when a child will leave or return during an illness. The principal/administrator may ask the parent to provide a physician's note stating that the child is able to return to school.

Covid-19 Health and Wellness Protocol

We have issued a Health & Wellness Protocol and a Covid- 19 Waiver since the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 School Year. You will find the waiver in your student application folder, to be signed and returned with the application. If needed, based on updated CDC and state guidelines and recommendations, a new Protocol may be presented to parents and guardians at the start of the 2024 – 2025 school year. We continue to keep the safety and wellness of our students, families, and staff as a top priority.

<u>First Aid</u>

All staff are certified in first aid and CPR. In the event of an emergency, an emergency vehicle will be called at the expense of the child's family.

Medication

Redeemer Lutheran School does not administer any form of medication unless authorized by a physician with proper documents.

Allergy Policy

Redeemer has put in place an allergy policy which includes an action plan for each child who has allergies. A copy of the plan is available in the school office.

Section 7: Student Guidelines

Dress and Appearance

Students are encouraged to dress in a comfortable, appropriate, clean manner. Students are not allowed to wear tube tops, shirts that expose the belly or "midriff," revealing shirts, shirts with inappropriate context, shirts with spaghetti straps, white sleeveless undershirts, "saggy" shorts/pants/jeans, ripped or holey jeans, short skirts (please wear shorts under skirts), or short shorts (skirts and shorts must come to right above the knee). Straps on shirts should be at least one and a half inches wide. Any jewelry should be age-appropriate and not serve as a distraction. Students must wear closed-toed shoes and no Heelys.

The school reserves the right to require the student to immediately change the prohibited clothing or require the parent to provide alternative clothing. Parent cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Students will go out for recess and should be prepared for the weather.

<u>Attendance</u>

Each student is expected to attend regularly. We ask that all children be present in their classroom and ready to begin their day no later than 8:30 a.m. If a child is absent for any reason, all parents are required to call the school office by 9:00 a.m. to report the absence at (941) 473-7998. Students that are absent for more than three consecutive days will require a doctor's note upon returning.

<u>Tardy</u>

Tardiness is a matter of serious concern because of its impact on learning. Being tardy infringes on learning time, disrupts the tone of the classroom and the context for the day, and disturbs other students. Being late has significant implications for readiness to learn as well as a sense of belonging to the classroom community. The late student needs to have instructions, presentations, and explanations repeated, hindering instructional efficiency.

The permanent and official attendance records are to be kept in each student's cumulative folder.

1. A tardy is marked if the student arrives within 15 minutes late from the beginning of school.

2. For a normally scheduled class day, a half-day absence is marked if a student arrives after 8:30 a.m. but is in school for more than 3 ¹/₄ hours.

3. Questions regarding attendance will be referred to the faculty for discussion. Consequences for tardiness will be:

- · 1-4 Tardies Informal verbal or written warning to student and parent
- · 5 Tardies Official written notification to parents
- · 6 Tardies Official communication from Principal

The tardy count begins anew each semester.

Excused Absences

Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the school day unless permission is given by a parent or legal guardian (Field trips, Health Care Provider's appointment, etc.). Parents or guardians are to come to the school office when picking up a student for an appointment. During the school day, students are allowed to leave school only if accompanied by a legitimate supervising adult.

Community Building and Discipline

Just as every student has the right to an education without disruption, every student has the obligation to be polite and considerate in their dealings with other students, teachers, staff members and volunteers. Good manners and the willingness to be positive to one another helps contribute to a great school! Our interest is our students' welfare and we care enough about our students to keep after them so that they will have the best chance for success.

Therefore, we have certain expectations of our students and build around those expectations as reminders for appropriate behaviors. In whatever they do or wherever they go, students will have to adjust to the demands made upon them. Each school's unique community is based on expectations

that should be easily understood by students including being prepared, tolerant, respectful, kind, and responsible.

Good discipline is a friendly, yet orderly relationship where we work cooperatively toward our goals. It includes appropriate classroom management and other discipline strategies focused on helping

students to act properly in the buildings or playground. For many students, this comes naturally, but for others, it must be taught positively through community building activities and support.

Students may receive rewards and consequences for their behavior. Students who continually experience difficulties with following school rules and/or engaging appropriately with others are often evaluated for individualized support and assistance.

The school rules that students need to follow are:

- 1. Children must respect school property.
- 2. Children must use appropriate social language.
- 3. Children must respect the rights and property of others.
- 4. Children must not be willfully disobedient.
- 5. Fighting is never permitted.
- 6. Children must not leave the building without permission.
- 7. Children must obey all rules and regulations of the school and classroom.
- 8. Bullying or harassment will not be tolerated.

(Definition: "'Bullying' is the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another. It may include, but not be limited to, actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically-based or gender-based verbal put downs, extortion of money or possessions, retaliation, stalking, public humiliation, and exclusion from peer groups within school.")

9. No Name calling.

10. Dishonesty or cheating on a test or assignment

11. Misbehavior during Specials (Art, Music, Computer Lab, P.E., and Bible)

12. Inappropriate physical contact.

13. Weapons or items that could be used as weapons (including toys) are not allowed in school.

14. Other actions unbefitting students of Redeemer Lutheran School.

Redeemer Lutheran School will employ consequences to students when classroom management techniques fail and/or when expected standards of student behavior are not adhered to. The following range of consequences may be applied by the school administrator or teachers depending upon the needs of the child, the nature of the offense, and the frequency of the occurrence:

- 1. Verbal Warnings
- 2. Writing and implementing a corrective plan of action
- 3. Verbal and/or written apology
- 4. Meeting/call with administrator/teacher/parent/student
- 5. Time out in a designated area
- 6. Loss of recess privilege
- 7. Serving a morning or afternoon 30 minute detention
- 8. Restoring of defaced property

9. Suspension – in/out of school determined by the principal/administrator under the consultation of the School Board.

The basis for our expectation is based on the words of Jesus: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31). Good manners are a manifestation of both self-respect and concern for others. Remember children learn by example.

Homework and Incomplete Work

Assignments are important for developing independent study skills and for showing mastery of subject matter. Since skills are sequential and related to current classroom work, it is important that the work be completed when assigned and according to teacher specifications. Parents should assign a specific time and place for homework. Parents "help" students best by not doing homework for them. Parents should not give answers, write to type out assignments, or otherwise "do" homework for their student. If this is done, teachers ask the student to redo the assignment. When homework is not understood, communication with the teacher is primary rather than relying on the information from another student.

Infraction Policy

1st Infraction: A notice will be sent home for parent signature. The assignment may be handed in the following day for full credit.

2nd Infraction: A notice will be sent home for parent signature. The assignment may be handed in the following day for 50% credit. Parent, principal, teacher, and student will have a meeting to discuss a plan of action.

3rd Infraction: A notice will be sent home for parent signature. The assignment must be handed in the following day, but no credit will be given. All future homework infractions will result in automatic zeros for the remainder of the school year and behavior intervention will take place.

<u>Tutoring</u>

Redeemer works with Title 1 for tutoring in math and reading only. The school will contact you if they feel that your child will benefit from their services based on your child's assessments.

State Testing

To ensure a high standard of instruction, our school incorporates the IOWA State Standardized Testing for grades 3–8. Completed answer sheets are to be organized and sent to the scoring service. The results of these tests will be recorded in the child's cumulative folder and should be carefully studied by the teacher to identify areas needing improvement. Teachers are cautioned not to place too much emphasis just on the test results as they are only one tool used to evaluate student progress.

Use of the Telephone

We encourage all planning of before or after school activities and transportation be planned ahead of time. Students are not allowed to use the telephone to ask for forgotten items (homework, clothes, permission slips, etc.), make transportation arrangements, discuss plans, or for personal use. Students are not allowed to use personal devices to contact parents during the school day.

Lunchroom Expectations

- \cdot Follow the directions of the supervisor the first time given.
- Use good manners, polite language and indoor voices.
- \cdot Respect God's blessings by treating your food properly.
- · Eat his/her own lunch.
- \cdot Do not share food.
- \cdot Trading and/or bartering are not allowed.
- · Keep hands, feet, all body parts, and all objects to yourself at all times.
- · Clean your area, including floor, table, and bench.
- \cdot Raise his/her hand if assistance is needed.
- · Walk when entering the building

Lunch Program Consequences

- 1. Verbal warning.
- 2. Students move to the "time out" area.
- 3. Students will miss recess.
- 4. Receive behavior warning, phone call home and principal notified.
- 5. Principal/administrator conference with parents and students.

<u>Recess</u>

All children are expected to play outside in good weather during their recess period. If a child is to remain in the building during this period of play for reasons of health, the child's parents should verify it in writing in advance. Each teacher is expected to supervise recess periods and see that the children are outside.

Recess Rules and Regulations

Recess periods are staggered to eliminate congestion on the playground. The playground behind the school is to be used for play. Students are not to leave the playground areas. Students are to return all equipment on the playground to its proper place for storage.

Teachers are to lead their students to the playground areas. Students are not allowed to run across the parking lot. Failure to follow these rules may result in a loss of time at recess.

Section 8: General Information

<u>Visitors</u>

All visitors to the building are required to stop in the school office to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. Any visitor to the building without a badge will be sent to the school office to receive one. Visits to a classroom must be pre-arranged through the school office, in coordination with the classroom teacher.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Redeemer Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities are generally made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality and/or ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admission's policies or any other school-administered program.

State Licensing

Redeemer Lutheran School meets all the requirements of the Florida Department of Education (FLDE). We are required to meet compliance regulations annually.

Hours of Operation

Redeemer Lutheran School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding specific Holidays. Students may arrive at 8:00 a.m. but must be picked up by 3:00 p.m. We

recommend that if parents cannot always drop-off or pick-up students that they enroll their child in the Child Care Before/After School Care Program.

Redeemer Lutheran School will follow Charlotte County Public School Calendar. Your child may attend Aftercare on days that there is no school. Your child must be enrolled with the Child Care Before/After School Program.

Important Numbers and Emails

School Office: (941) 473-7998 Fax: (941)-473-7998 Church Office: (941) 475-2410 School Office Email: <u>school.office@redeemerfl.com</u> Principal/Administrator Email: <u>wendy.horvath@redeemerfl.com</u> Website: <u>www.redeemerfl-school.com</u>

Fire and Disaster Drills

As required by law, fire and disaster drills are held during the school year. Proper evacuation posters are posted in all classrooms and activity areas.

Emergency Closings

In the event of a weather emergency, Redeemer will close if Charlotte County Public Schools close. Please listen to your local radio or television station for announcements of school closings. In the event of a midday school closure or any other unexpected emergency (tornado warnings, chemical evacuation, fire, power or water outage, or any other situation that would require us to evacuate the facility) the parent may expect a call from the Administrator or Lead Teachers. In case of fire or tornado warnings the children will be evacuated to the church building and will be available for pick-up from that facility. For this reason, it is imperative that emergency numbers are completed accurately and on file in the office.

Administration

The school's administration includes the School Administrator, Secretary, and Teachers. The School Administrator oversees all operations of Redeemer Lutheran School. The Administrator works directly with Redeemer Lutheran School Board in setting school policies, protocols, long-range planning, budgets, etc. All staff are accountable to the School Administrator.

<u>Our Staff</u>

Our staff is chosen for their love of children and their training in working with them. Our classroom teachers have Bachelors in Education or will be working directly with a teacher that does. We require all of our staff to have CPR and First Aid training. In addition, they all participate in an annual in-service training, and conferences to further their education.

<u>Computer Lab</u>

Computer Lab is offered as a Special. A form will be sent home and needs to be signed before the student can attend this class. A \$20.00 fee will need to be paid for each child for insurance

that needs to be returned to the school. More information will be given at the beginning of the school year.

Lunch and Snacks

It is the parents' responsibility to provide a well-balanced lunch and snack including a drink for their child. No candy, soda, gum, or fast foods are allowed. Morning Snack is a fruit, veggie, or hard cheese. ALL containers, cups, bottles, etc. need to be labeled with the child's first and last name, and taken home nightly to be washed. Redeemer Lutheran School does not have refrigerators for all students to store their lunches. Lunch boxes should include an ice pack. If you forget your child's lunch, the office will notify you to see if you are available to bring one. Otherwise, there will be a small snack provided for your child.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special events in a child's life. Special treats are welcomed, but we ask that you plan ahead with your child's teacher for the appropriate time and number of children.

<u>Field Trips</u>

Redeemer Lutheran School participates in age appropriate Field Trips. Notifications and slips will be provided prior to trips.

Acknowledgment Form

2024-2025 School Year

We have read and discussed the Redeemer Lutheran School Student-Parent Handbook.

Signature of Student #1	_
Signature of Student #2	_
Signature of Student #3	_
Signature of Parent	

Date_____

Please take off and return this signed form to your teacher. Keep the rest of the handbook for you to reference throughout the school year when needed.

DISCLAIMER

This book is not a contract with the student, and is subject to change. The School Board for Redeemer Lutheran School has authorized the Principal/Administrator to make rules to promote safe and orderly functioning of the school.