



## Our Foundation

### MISSION AND VISION

The mission of Ridgefield Christian School is to provide Christ-centered education guiding students into the knowledge of God, the development of Christian character, and academic excellence anchored in a biblical worldview.

Our vision is to be the premier Christian school choice in Northeast Arkansas known for our purposeful discipleship of students, high-quality academic programs, competitive athletics, thriving fine arts programs, and accessibility to families regardless of financial or academic need.

### SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

At Ridgefield Christian School, we believe that great education is about equipping minds and shaping hearts for a Christ-centered future. Our philosophy of education revolves around the pillars of *biblical worldview*, *parental partnership*, *holistic education*, and *love of learning*. It's deeply rooted in the principles of a vibrant Christian faith, fostering a nurturing environment where students can flourish with purpose for a purpose.

**Biblical Worldview:** Learning is grounded in a biblical worldview, recognizing God as the ultimate source of truth and wisdom. Knowing God personally, through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the first step to becoming truly educated. We integrate the teachings of the Bible across all subjects, encouraging students to view all things through the lens of a biblical worldview. By instilling a strong foundation on biblical truth, we aim to equip students with a moral compass that will guide them through life's challenges and choices.

**Parental Partnership:** We strive to cultivate a strong collaborative partnership by fostering open communication, regular updates, and opportunities for parents to participate in school activities. Together, we aim to create a supportive community that empowers students to thrive academically and grow in their Christian faith.

**Holistic Education:** We focus on the holistic development of each student – academically, socially, physically, and spiritually. Our curriculum goes beyond the acquisition of knowledge to focus on character formation, critical thinking, and practical application of skills. Through a blend of rigorous academics, creative expression, and spiritual and social formation activities, we nurture well-rounded Christ-like individuals who are prepared to make positive contributions to their communities and the world.

**Love for Learning:** We aspire to create an engaging and inspiring learning environment that sparks curiosity and a love for learning. Our dedicated teachers strive to encourage and challenge students to explore, question, and discover. By fostering a curiosity-driven approach to education, we aim to prepare students not only for academic success but also for a lifelong journey of continuous learning and growth.

Together, we aspire to mold young minds and hearts, preparing students to navigate the complexities of the world with wisdom, integrity, and a strong foundation in their Christian faith.

## **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Through our programming, personnel, and practices, Ridgefield Christian School aims to:

- Lead students to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Help students gain a good understanding of the basic principles found in the Bible.
- Prepare students for advanced studies by providing a quality elementary and secondary education that is taught from a Biblical worldview.
- Help grow the whole student through extra-curricular activities that lead to good physical, mental, spiritual, and psychological development.
- Equip students to be positive members of society who will impact their world for Christ and bring glory to God with their lives.

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The basis of RCS is the revealed Word of God, the written Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as they are generally interpreted, in the historical evangelical confessions of faith. In accordance with these confessions, we hold unreservedly to the sovereignty of God, revealed in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, over the world and thus over every department of human activity, and submit unconditionally to the authority of Holy Scriptures, thereby recognizing these Scriptures as the supreme and final standard for Christian education and all matters of faith and life. Therefore, we hold to the following:

1. We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, inerrant, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by who's indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the Biblical account of creation and reject naturalistic and theistic evolution.
7. We believe in God's design for marriage, sexuality, and human personhood as revealed in Scripture and consistently taught throughout Christian tradition.
8. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life; and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
9. We believe in the unity of believers, based upon the above statements of faith.

## **STATEMENT ON THE SANCTITY OF LIFE**

God created human beings in His image and values each life as sacred and holy. Thus, every person, from conception to death, possesses inherent dignity and inestimable worth – including preborn infants, the elderly, those with special needs and others marginalized by society. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps 139).

## **STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, & SEXUALITY**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We honor and respect marriage. However, married students may not be enrolled at RCS.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including sex outside of marriage, adultery, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or groups are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the beliefs of RCS.

RCS students, staff, and registered volunteers must refrain from premarital sexual activity, whether at home, school, or elsewhere. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Violations of this policy will be thoroughly investigated by the Head of School with recommended disciplinary action presented to, and approved by, the RCS Board. Every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the violator(s) as well as to make counseling services available, if appropriate.

The preceding Statements apply to all policies in the Ridgefield Christian community:

- To preserve the function and integrity of RCS as part of the Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to RCS's students, their families, and the community, all persons attending, or employed by, RCS in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, or who wish to use the school facilities, must agree to and abide by these Statements (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22).
- Events held on the RCS campus or on behalf of RCS that pertain to marriage shall involve only marriage consistent with our Statement.
- All community representatives, staff, and registered volunteers are required to live by our written beliefs regarding human sexuality and marriage.
- Members of the RCS community, including parents and students, regardless of profession of faith or personal belief, are prohibited from advocating for or speaking out in support of same-sex marriage, same-sex relationships, or views of sexual orientation contrary to our school statements.
- In all public settings, including social media and/or the internet, members of the RCS community, including parents and students, are expected and required to uphold our Statements and not challenge or undermine any stated belief or position in these Statements.

## COMMUNITY STANDARDS

RCS is committed to providing a nurturing and academically challenging environment for our students. As partners in the educational journey of our students, we recognize the importance of a united commitment to fostering a nurturing and Christ-centered environment. Community Standards define the shared values and expectations that will guide our collective efforts to create a positive and supportive community.

1. **Commitment to Christian Values:** As parents or students attending RCS, we understand and affirm the Christian values and principles upon which this institution is founded. We commit to supporting the school's mission, statement of faith, and core values in our interactions with the school community.
2. **Spiritual Development:** Recognizing the integral role of spiritual development in our child's education, we commit to nurturing our children's spiritual growth by actively participating in and supporting the Christian teachings and values upheld by the school and engaging in regular communication with our child about their faith journey.
3. **Community Building & Culture:** We will contribute positively to the school community by participating in school events, volunteering when possible, and fostering positive relationships with other parents, teachers, and staff. We will actively promote a positive and Christ-like school culture by encouraging our child to treat classmates, teachers, and staff with kindness and respect.
4. **Respectful Communication:** We will communicate with school staff, teachers, and fellow parents in a respectful and considerate manner, promoting open and constructive dialogue. When there is a concern, we will follow the appropriate channels outlined by the school to address and resolve issues. We agree to respect and support the authority of the school's administration, teachers, and staff.
5. **Gossip-Free Environment:** Recognizing the harmful effects of gossip on the school community, we pledge to refrain from engaging in or spreading gossip about students, parents, teachers, or staff. We understand that gossip can undermine trust, create division, and hinder the positive atmosphere we aim to maintain at RCS. In the spirit of Christian love and respect, we will speak up gently against such gossip, address concerns directly with the parties involved, or bring them to the attention of the appropriate school authorities.
6. **Attendance and Punctuality:** We understand the importance of regular school attendance and commit to ensuring that our child attends school regularly and arrive on time. We will communicate promptly with the school in case of absences.
7. **Academic Support:** We will actively participate in our children's education by monitoring their progress, encouraging them to excel academically, and collaborating with teachers and school staff to address any academic challenges that may arise.
8. **Discipline and Conduct:** We agree to support the school's disciplinary policies and guidelines. We will reinforce the importance of respectful behavior, integrity, and responsibility in our children, both at school and in their interactions with others.
9. **Adherence to School Policies:** We agree to familiarize ourselves with and adhere to all school policies outlined in the school handbook. This includes but is not limited to policies related to behavior, dress code, attendance, and academic expectations.
10. **Financial Responsibilities:** We commit to fulfilling our financial obligations to the school, including tuition and fees, in a timely manner. We understand that consistent financial support is crucial for the continued success and operation of RCS.

### Expectations for School Representatives

In response to God's calling on their lives, representatives of Ridgefield Christian work individually and corporately to advance the school's mission through Christ-centered living and learning. RCS representatives, which include all employees, members of the Board of Directors, and registered volunteers are expected to consistently model Christian belief and live in accordance with Biblical standards, including away from campus and during non-school hours.

Each representative shall affirm agreement with the school's core statements in paragraphs 101-107 of this section of the Handbook as well as any other official policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors. Teaching staff shall sign these statements each year as a part of annual teaching agreements. Hiring of new employees shall include a thorough review of these statements and a written affirmation as a part of accepting any employment offers. Representatives shall not subscribe to or promote any religious beliefs inconsistent with these beliefs.

### **Registered Volunteers**

While there are many ways people can be involved at RCS, registered volunteers are those serving in leadership positions or directly involved in the instruction or formation of students, including PACE officers, coaches, or parent sponsors of extracurricular clubs. As such, they are considered official representatives of RCS. Registered volunteers are required to submit a volunteer application and pass a mandatory background check. However, all volunteers are required to affirm their understanding and support of the school's mission, policies, and values. The school reserves the right to give preference for volunteer service to alumni and volunteers who share our Christian beliefs.