

Risen Savior Classical Academy

A Homeschool Community ~Veritas Aeterna~

2023-24 Handbook

Risen Savior Classical Academy is a partnership between the instructors of RSCA and parents to provide children a classical education. We strive to support parents in their God given duty to develop virtuous, Christian men and women of character, who recognize and seek truth, beauty, and goodness.

The classical model of education is a historic model, consisting of the trivium and the quadrivium with an appreciation for the foundation of our Western civilization and Christian tradition that began with the Greeks, Romans, and Hebrews. The trivium encompasses the grammar, logic, and rhetoric stages of understanding and the quadrivium emphasizes the study of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music.

While not all subjects are taught, courses are selected to assist the parents as much as possible with instruction and provide opportunities for learning environment not easily recreated at home.

Instructors may assign work for students to complete at home. Instructors may give quizzes and tests as a gauge for retained material. They may give suggested grades for parents as a guide; it is the responsibility of parents to give their students grades. While some subjects may have assessments, it is up to the parent to provide a grade for their student if desired.

Instructors

Instructors will provide weekly/semester lesson plans.

The Director will work with Parents to cover the classes schedules. Substitutes are also needed to be called upon to help cover a class, a day. All Tuition is prorated and paid to whom teaches the classes.

Nursery

The Nursery is open for Instructors who are teaching and need someone to watch their child(ren). Nursery help is paid but may or may not be needed when the Academy is in session.

Dress Code

Children are encouraged to look professional in the appearance. Learning is the work of the child. Dressing well sets the tone for attitude and the seriousness of the job they are doing. In that respect, RSCA has a simple and straightforward dress code for all enrolled children:

Shirts: solid color, long or short sleeve with a collar. No graphics.

Sweaters: solid color. No graphics.

Shoes: Tennis shoes appropriate for physical activity. No sandals. If arriving in boots please change at the door and boots may be left there.

Absences

Contact: weinkauf@rslcms.church or text 913-369-5942 Pastor Weinkauf if absent and he will convey it to the Instructors.

Weather

Parents will be notified of cancellation as soon as possible. In general, the Academy follows local school district Basehor-Linwood USD 458 for weather closings.

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Code of Conduct

RSCA recognizes that maintaining a well-disciplined classroom is key to learning. A child's behavior, should contribute positively to the classroom and Chapel service environment and RSCA's culture of excellence in character. All children are expected to uphold the RSCA Code of Conduct:

Respect for class

- be prepared and not create disturbances, distractions for the Instructor or classmates.
- participate in class activities, including being called upon, reading aloud, presentations.

Respect for adults

- listen and respond in a positive manner to all, any adult communication.

Respect for other students

- be considerate and kind
- be open to new friendships; reach out to others

Respect for our building, our Academy

- clean up after yourselves (particularly after Art and lunch)
- clean up any trash or messes or item out of place, even if you didn't make the mess
- dress within the Dress Code
- no running inside the building
- no food or beverages in gym

Chapel Service

Children and instructors are expected to attend and participate in Chapel Service with reverent attitudes and behavior. Parents and siblings are welcome to stay.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Lunch Assistant. The Lunch Assistant will be available by 11:50 am to oversee lunch time, assist children with their lunches, help with microwaves, reminding them to clean up after themselves. This will not be a time to sit with his/her child to eat lunch. This job duty is extremely important to the flow of the Academy; it provides the opportunity for instructors to eat their lunches and take a quick break to clean up from morning classes and finalize afternoon course preparations.

Lunchtime Recess Supervisor. The Recess Supervisor will be available by 12:10 pm to oversee children during recess time following lunch, watching the gym and outdoor play area.

Other Ways to Get Involved. Coordinate a Field Trip or Holiday Party. Other projects to benefit the Academy and families may come up and opportunities to help.

Lunch and Snacks

Morning and afternoon snacks are provided. While effort is made to provide some allergen sensitive snacks, it is the parent and child responsibility to be capable of avoiding reactions. RSCA is not allergen free.

Water bottles are encouraged to be kept by children throughout the day.

Children have Lunch together. There are microwaves available for heating lunches. If you are not eating lunch with your child, it is suggested the lunch be ready to eat.

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Electronics and Other Distractions

Children should only bring items necessary for RSCA classes. We are an electronics free Academy. Unnecessary items and other toys should be left at home.

Illness

If your child has any of the following symptoms, then he/she should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to the classroom. Please respect the policy in consideration of your child's health, the health of the others. If a child becomes ill during class time, the parent will be contacted.

- temperature 100 degrees or above without fever reducing medications
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- persistent cough

Discipline

If a child is having behavior issues, the Instructor will communicate with the parent any actions needed or that were taken in order to resolve the problems. May need to employ, short 'time-outs' for younger children; with continued misbehavior, a child may be sequestered from the classroom. Instructors will involve the Director if a persistent problem and work with the parent and child for a positive outcome for all involved.

Negative behavior that will be addressed includes gossip, bullying, threatening, cheating, disrespect, and other forms harassment.

House System

RSCA students are organized into four houses. These houses encourage competition, friendships, positive behaviors for the children. Children in each House will strive to win the year-long competition for the House Cup and other competitions during the year. Throughout the year, instructors will award and penalize points to each House based on service to others, displays of appropriate/inappropriate behavior, and achievements.

Admission

RSCA reserves the right to decline registration to any family. Parents must commit to support the model of education, class assignments, and help the Academy if needed.

Tuition and Costs

Every effort has been made to keep costs as low as possible while still providing a quality, classical education.

Registration (one time year) and Semester payments should be checks given to the Director. Arrangements can be made if monthly payments are needed.

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Parent Helps*

You are not alone in homeschooling your children! Risen Savior Classical Academy wants to be a resource for you: not just in books and academia but also with community. Build friendships here. Ask other parents and instructors to share tips for things that work and the things that don't. Share your tips!

Mastery Based Learning. We are working to break the cram-pass-forget cycle in education. Things that are worth knowing are worth retaining. By creating systems for learning-mastery-retention, students will be able to learn anything they need or desire. At RSCA, we want students to learn how to learn. Mastery learning will ask more of the students, but we know they are up to the challenge. To ensure success, we often do two things:

- *Encourage placement that is less aggressive than what some are used to.* We know that correct placement is important to the student succeeding. In the words of John Mays, founder of Novare Science and Math, "Incorrect placement is an injustice to the student and precludes mastery of the subject."
- *Study fewer things and study them more deeply.* You can't do everything. You can do a few things well. "...the greatest service we can do to education today is to teach fewer subjects. No one has time to do more than a very few things well before he is twenty, and when we force a boy to be a mediocrity in a dozen subjects, we destroy his standards, perhaps for life." C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*.

Communicate with the instructor. It is the parent and student's responsibility to communicate with instructors if there is difficulty with class material.

Look through your Teacher Manuals. Become familiar with the manuals and the texts your child is using. (**The Teacher Manuals and Keys are to be kept out of reach from students.* They are for the parents only. It defeats the purpose of working to learn if a student simply copies from the Teacher Manuals. Students should write their answers in their own words and should not see tests before the scheduled time.)

Know what work is expected of your child each week from RSCA. Check to make sure the work is completed as assigned. Life can get the best of us sometimes, and things can start to slide. Before we know it, we haven't inspected anyone's work in over 2 weeks. It is our job as parents to hold our children accountable. *Inspect what we expect.* Have a system in place, such as making a stack every day of completed work or checking certain subjects every Friday. Latin and math are daily subjects and are not meant to be crammed into 1-2 days/week.

Expectations and workload will vary from class to class and instructor to instructor. If needed, have a short Tuesday/Friday morning meeting with your older student to go over handouts and see what work is expected for the week so you are on the same page. Consider an assignment or weekly planner if your child would benefit from this. We have found that homeschoolers are very well prepared for the rhythm of college after years of taking classes at tutorial and then completing work at home.

Memoria Press has a free online forum from parents where you can search questions or ask your own.

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Encourage your student to develop more responsibility for their work.

- Work must be tidy and organized.
- Have them work the example problems as opposed to just reading them.
- *Mark*, not *correct* student work. Re-work the ones you miss in ink to show your parent/instructor that you re-worked it. This “mark, not correct” is ideal for Latin as well.
- Make flash cards of vocabulary and/or use Quizlet (free online flashcard website/app). Many Memoria Press courses already have Quizlet sets created even if your teacher does not create something specifically for your class. Older students can create their own sets.
- Keep quizzes and tests in a folder for the year; these often become wonderful review tools for tests and finals.
- Help your struggling student replace phrases such as “I’m not good at _____” or “_____ isn’t my thing” with positive phrases like the following:
 - “We can learn this.”
 - “Let’s grow in this area.”
 - “I would be happy to find a tutor to help.”
 - “Spend more time in this area. Don’t be afraid of the work.”

A note about reading and literature: Surround your children with great books of classical children's literature. Children are never too old to be read to! Reading aloud to children is an excellent way of increasing their vocabulary, opening their minds, and building strong relationships with our children.

Further Your Classical Education:

- Read your children's texts. If you are new to classical education a great place to start is by reading your student’s Classics texts: Greek Myths, Famous Men Series, Iliad/Odyssey/Aeneid, etc. Your children’s literature selections are also gems. Audiobooks can be a great help for parents who want to explore the books but do not have time to read them.
- Attend a Conference.
 - ~Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (CCLE) offers a summer conference for educators and parents. Many of their seminars are available on youtube.
 - ~Memoria Press offers a training seminar each summer on their school campus in Louisville, KY to prepare parents for using their curriculum.
- Subscribe to *The Classical Teacher*. This is a “magalog” produced by Memoria Press that is filled with excellent articles on what to teach, how, and the importance of a classical education. Also, it's free.
- Take an online class. Hillsdale College offers a variety of classical education courses including those new to classical education. Also, they're free.
- Explore! There are an increasing number of classical publishers, youtube channels, podcasts, and plenty of books to read on classical education.

*This helpful information is from Highlands Latin Cottage School.

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