

Redeemer Lutheran School
Home of the Bears



Parent Handbook
2020-2021

Changing the World One Child at a Time...

OUR HISTORY: 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, 2016 Redeemer Lutheran School opened with a single Kindergarten class. Today we have expanded to provide academic excellence for K-4 grade students.

Lutheran schools are the mission of the church. They teach the Word of God and the Love of Jesus. We provide opportunities for worship and witness, and develop Christian communities of faith, concern, 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 and every child is a unique and special gift from God. We encourage their individuality and promote their self-esteem. Our program will provide a setting designed to promote the physical, spiritual, and emotional development of each child.

God's Word provides some instruction: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6) "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)

WORSHIP LIFE: Redeemer Lutheran school encourages regular participation in worship services and Sunday school. If your family does not have a home church, we invite you to attend our worship opportunities. Church Phone: 475-2410

Regular Sunday Schedule

Worship: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

CHAPEL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Redeemer accepts children from a wide range of religious backgrounds. However, this is a Lutheran school and a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. God's Word is taught daily in the classroom and each student may attend chapel on Monday's at 4 p.m. In chapel we teach all children the love of Jesus. Stories from the Bible and Christian songs are used. We also have an annual Christmas program that all children are encouraged to participate.

NON DISCRIMINATORY POLICY: Redeemer Lutheran admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities 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 meets all the requirements of the Florida Department of Education. We are inspected regularly to ensure the best quality care for your child.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Redeemer Lutheran School hours are 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding specific Holidays. If students are enrolled for Before/Afterschool Care they can be dropped off as early as 7 a.m. but must be picked up by 5:30 p.m. at the Child Care Center. Students not enrolled in the Before/Afterschool Care program may arrive at the school building at 8:15 a.m., but they must be picked up no later than 3:10 p.m.

Students that are dropped off early or not picked up on time will be checked into Redeemer Lutheran Before/Afterschool. Parents will be charged accordingly.

Redeemer Lutheran School will follow Charlotte County Public School Calendar. Your child may attend Aftercare on days that there is no school. Please let Redeemer Afterschool Staff know 2 weeks in advance that your child will be attending full day/week etc.

SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION: The school's administration includes a School Administrator, Teachers, Teacher-Aides, and Secretary.

The School Administrator oversees all operations of the school. The School Administrator works directly with the Redeemer Lutheran School Board in setting school policies, long-range planning, budgets, etc. The school's administration is accountable, that is, reports to the School Administrator.

OUR STAFF: Our teachers and teacher-aides are chosen for their love of children and their training in working with them. Our teachers and aides have a Bachelor's in Education or will be working directly with a teacher that does. We require all personnel to have CPR and First Aid training. In addition, they all participate in an annual in-service training, as well as conferences to further their education.

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 months of January and May. If you would like a conference at any other time during the year we will be happy to schedule one. We pride ourselves on our close relationship with our parents.

ADMISSION: 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 School Administrator.
2. An application and the completed paper work needs to be filed in order to start the admission process.

SCHOLARSHIP: It is the goal of Redeemer Lutheran School to help students attend our school. Redeemer Lutheran School is registered with Step Up For Students. Please ask the School Administrator for more information regarding a scholarship program that you may qualify.

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 January 31. We will fill our classrooms on a first come first serve basis. Open enrollment for all new students begins February 1.**

TUITION SCHEDULE: Please speak to the School Administrator concerning your Financial Agreement Form. Tuition is charged on a monthly basis (10 or 12 month schedule). Payments are due on 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 School Administrator when a circumstance arises before you become 30 days past due.

WITHDRAWALS: All student withdrawals must be reported to the School 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.

ATTENDANCE: Each student is expected to attend regularly. We ask that all students be present in their classroom and ready to begin their day no later than 8:20 a.m. ***If a student is absent for any reason, all parents are required to call the school office by 9:30 a.m. to report the absence (941-475-2410).*** Students that are absent for more than three consecutive days will require a doctor's note upon returning.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS: In the event of a weather emergency, Redeemer Lutheran School will close if Charlotte County Public Schools close. Please listen to your local radio or television station for announcements of school closings. In an 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 School Administrator, Teacher or Secretary. 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.

DRESS & APPEARANCE: Students are encouraged to dress in a comfortable, appropriate, clean manner.

Girls are not allowed to wear tube tops, shirts that expose the belly or "midriff," revealing shirts, shirts with spaghetti straps, short skirts (please wear shorts under skirts), short shorts (skirts and shorts must come to right above the knee), or clothes that are too tight. Straps on shirts should be at least one and a half inches wide.

Boys should not wear tank tops, white sleeveless undershirts, or "saggy" shorts/pants/jeans.

Any jewelry should be age-appropriate and not serve as a distraction.

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.

COMMUNITY BUILDING & DISCIPLINE: Just as every student has the right to an education without disruption, every student has the obligation to be kind, 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 encourage 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 supports.

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.

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 or hitting is never permitted
6. Children cannot leave the building without permission.
7. Children must obey all rules and regulations of Redeemer Lutheran School.
8. Bullying or harassment will not be tolerated.
9. Weapons or items that could be used as weapons (including toys) are not allowed in 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. 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. Writing and implementing a corrective plan of action
2. Verbal and/or written apology
3. Meeting/call with administrator/teacher/parent/student
4. Time out in a designated area
5. Loss of recess privilege
6. Remaining beyond a regular school day

7. Restoring of defaced property
8. Suspension - in/out of school determined by the School Administrator under the consultation of Redeemer Lutheran 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.

SHOT 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.

HEALTH: 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. If your child has a contagious illness, it should be reported immediately to the Administrator.

*****Children who come to school ill or are found with a contagious illness at school must be picked up within ONE HOUR.**

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

FIRST AID: All staff is 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.

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. **ALL containers, cups, bottles, etc. need to be labeled with child's first and last name,** and taken home nightly to be washed. Food such as sandwiches, fruit, vegetable sticks, crackers, cheese, and meats cut into bite size pieces are nutritional and easy to prepare. If you forget your child's lunch one will be provided with an additional fee of \$4.00 added to your account.

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.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

School Office	941-475-2410
Fax	941-475-9726
Rev. Jim Kress	941-979-2976
Pastor Email:	redeemerpastor1@gmail.com
School Email:	redeemerflschool@gmail.com
Website:	www.redeemerfl-school.com