

*Redeemer Lutheran School*  
*Home of the Bears*



*Parent Handbook*  
*2022 - 2023*

*Changing the World One Child at a Time...*

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**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 of 2016, Redeemer Lutheran School opened with a single Kindergarten class. Today we have expanded to provide academic excellence for Kindergarten through Fifth 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).

**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 Schedule**

Worship: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (*Following 9:15 service*)

Bible Class: 10:30 a.m. (*Following 9:15 service*)

**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.

Chapel is also held weekly on Mondays at 4:00 p.m., for children from the Child Care Center and elementary school students enrolled in our After School Program. Families are always encouraged to attend either of these Chapel services.

Bible classes for all grade levels meet three mornings a week. 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 that all children are encouraged to participate in.

**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 8:15 a.m. but must be picked up by 3:10. We recommend that if parents cannot always drop-off or pick-up students that they enroll their child in the 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. Please let Redeemer Afterschool Staff know 2 weeks in advance that your child will be attending full day/week etc.**

**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.

**OUR STAFF:** 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.

**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 AND WITHDRAWALS:**

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 paper work needs to be filed in order to start the Admission process.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Payments will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee if not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**WITHDRAWALS:** 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.

**ATTENDANCE:** 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 (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 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 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.

**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), 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. 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. Students must wear closed-toed shoes. 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 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 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.

## **COMMUNITY BUILDING & DISCIPLINE:** *(continued)*

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.
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 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. 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 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.

**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.

**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. **See COVID-19 HEALTH & WELLNESS PROTOCOL, below**

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

**COVID-19 HEALTH & 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 2022 – 2023 school year.* We continue to keep the safety and wellness of our students, families, and staff as a top priority.

**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 & EMAILS:**

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