

## Rehoboth Christian Middle School 2018-19

# Unwrapping God's Gifts

### Statement of Purpose:

Rehoboth Christian Middle School helps students recognize God's gifts in all of Creation.

### RCMS Goals:

- 1) RCMS students will become people who have learned to unwrap God's gifts. Unwrapping these gifts means developing one's own aptitudes and interests and discovering the wonderful diversity that makes each of us so unique.
- 2) RCMS students will become people who have learned that living in a Christ-centered community means sharing each other's joys and burdens.
- 3) RCMS students will come to understand what it means to receive God's grace and share it with others.
- 4) RCMS students will have learned what it is to be committed to seeking God's shalom -- His mercy, peace, and justice --in school and in society.
- 5) RCMS students will have developed a Christian view of reality.
- 6) RCMS students will have a better understanding of how to use their gifts to serve God and others.
- 7) RCMS students will have a greater appreciation for and understanding of Native Americans.

**Vigorously Academic ~ Beautifully Diverse ~ Thoroughly Christian**

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## I. Introduction to RCMS Handbook

This handbook has been written to guide you as a student of RCMS. It covers many important areas of school life and student responsibility which are essential for a positive learning and growing experience at RCMS.

Rehoboth Christian Middle School seeks to provide an atmosphere where young people can develop intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially; much as Christ did in His life.

“And Jesus increased in wisdom (intellectual development)

and stature (physical development)

and in favor with God (spiritual development)

and man (social development).” Luke 2:52

In order for all of us, you, your teachers, and your parents, to reach these goals of Christ-like development, it is important to realize our responsibility in the Christian educational goals of this school. Essentially, you and RCMS have entered into a contract. RCMS has agreed to provide you with the best quality Christian education available, and you, in turn, must strive to work hard in your areas of personal development as outlined above.

It is your responsibility to know and follow the policies as described in this handbook. It is not the intent of this guide to cover every minor detail of school life; rather, it is designed to provide guidelines for a quality Christian education environment.

### **Complaint or Problem Procedure: The Matthew 18 Principle**

During the year, misunderstandings or problems can arise, often the result of lack of communication between those involved. RCS’s policy for dealing with these situations and complaints is consistent with the principles found in Matthew 18:

1. All questions, problems or complaints should be brought to the teacher first before anyone else is involved.
2. If the situation is not cleared up at this level through direct contact, it should then be brought to the Principal.
3. If the situation is still not solved, it should be brought to the **Executive Director**
4. If the situation is not resolved at this level, it should then be presented in writing to the chairman of the Education Committee of the Board for inclusion in the agenda of the regular monthly meeting of the Education Committee.

## II. Academic Policies

### A. Curriculum and course offerings

Rehoboth Christian Middle School uses a two-year rotating curriculum for seventh and eighth grade. Sixth, Seventh and eighth graders are sometimes mixed together for classes and separated for other courses. School years starting in even numbered years use YEAR ONE; school years beginning in odd-numbered years use the YEAR TWO curriculum. The 2012-2013 school year will use the "Year One" curriculum. Descriptions of these courses are found in the Appendix of this handbook.

### B. Course Requirements

#### **Sixth Grade:**

##### Two Semester Courses:

Math, Science, Bible, Reading, Language Arts, Social Studies

##### Fine Arts & Specials:

Choir, Band, Art, PE

#### **Seventh Grade:**

##### Two Semester Courses:

Math, Science, Communications,  
Social Studies, Choir, Band,

##### One Semester Courses:

Pathways, PE, Bible,  
Reading

##### Additional Courses:

Exploratory

#### **Eighth Grade:**

##### Two Semester Courses:

Math, Science, Social Studies,  
Communications, Choir, Band

##### One Semester Courses:

Art, PE, Bible, Futures

##### Additional Courses:

Exploratory

### C. Transfers

1. Students transferring to Rehoboth mid-year are required to have a transfer form completed by their previous school indicating their current credits and grades up to that point. RCMS will make a written request for a copy of the student's official report card and standardized test scores.

2. Students transferring from Rehoboth must have all financial obligations met at the business office before any credit for a semester is given and before official records can be sent to another school. The office will distribute a transfer form to all of the student's teachers, requesting current course grades. This form will be copied and sent to the new school.

#### D. Grading System

1. Each student is assigned a student number when enrolled in grades 6-12. This number is used with the computerized grading system. The grading system is based on a 4.0 scale below:

95-100	A	4.0	Excellent
90-94	A-	3.7	
87-89	B+	3.3	
84-86	B	3.0	Good
80-83	B-	2.7	
77-79	C+	2.3	
74-76	C	2.0	Average
70-73	C-	1.7	
67-69	D+	1.3	
64-66	D	1.0	Poor
60-63	D-	0.7	
0-59	F	0.0	Failing
	I		Incomplete
	P		Pass course for credit

2. "I" is considered a failing mark until it is made up. Incompletes are granted only when extenuating circumstances prohibit the student to complete work in time to be graded at the end of a marking period. Students will learn from the teacher what work is missing and what needs to be done to earn the grade and the credit. Students must make up this incomplete within three weeks after the end of the semester. The report will compute GPA as failing until the grade is entered.

3. Report cards are distributed every nine weeks. The report card includes the current course grade for that marking period, the grade point average for the marking period, and the student's current

cumulative record. Semester grades are calculated using the two nine-week grades and the semester tests/exams.

4. Middle school students are on the same computerized grading system as the high school, except middle school classes and GPA are not credited to their permanent high school records. The Middle School does use Ds in their grading scale while the high school does not.

5. In addition to the regular nine-week report card, each staff member will send a mid-quarter report home at the end of the first five weeks of the marking periods. The purpose of the mid-quarter reports is to communicate with the parents regarding student performance.

6. No Credit Policy. Students are expected to be in class every day. Academic credit will not be given to a student who has had more than 10 excused or unexcused absences from a class within one semester. Exceptions to this policy will be granted only after review and approval by the Administration and the Education Committee. Parents will be notified when a student is on record as being absent from class or school after the 7th absence, within a semester, and if possible, every absence thereafter.

#### E. Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

Conferences are held twice a year. The conferences take place after the first and the third quarters. Parents are expected to attend at least one of the conferences and encouraged to attend both.

#### F. Homework Policy

1. We generally collect assignments at the beginning of class. If yours is not completed by that time, it's LATE and you are no longer able to earn full credit for that assignment. You will receive a PNH (present no Homework) as well.

2. Hand in work that you take pride in doing. Do NOT hand in assignments that are messy, difficult to read, have scratched out marks on them, or that are written on paper torn from spiral notebooks. HOW you do your homework is as important as WHAT you write.

3. Work must be 100% complete at the beginning of class or you will receive an M which means missing assignment. Students will be asked to stay in 5 minutes at the beginning of lunch if they have received an M on that day. If a student has 5 Ms he/she will serve a detention after school. After ten Ms in a quarter the student will receive an after school detention and be asked to set up an academic contract with a mid school staff person which will include a meeting with the parent.

(Note: at the beginning of the year, the 6th graders will use an adjusted **Missing Assignment** system which will help them transition to the homework demands of middle school.

4. At this grade level YOU earn your grade. We do not give you your grade. The teachers are not responsible for your grade. What does this mean? You take complete responsibility for the grades you earn this year. (Teachers love responsible students and will take extra time to help any student who

asks for it.) The Ren Web system is a great way for students and parents to be aware of student progress in each class.

5. Grades: Our goal is that students will learn academics and responsibility. Homework is one key to success in every class. Assignments are graded based on accuracy and completeness. Assignments are graded in the following way:

On Time Assignments will receive full credit.

Assignments that are one day late will be marked down 10% off of the final score.

Assignments two days late will be marked down 20% off the final score.

Assignments three days late will be marked down 30% off the final score.

Assignments four days late will be marked down 40% off the final score.

Assignments five days late will be marked down 50% off the final score.

#### G. Agendas

At the beginning of the year, every student will receive a student planner, called an agenda. This is an important communication tool that every student and teacher uses. The following policies are to be used with that agenda:

1. The agenda is the student's ticket to primary classes.
2. Teachers will check agendas during designated times during the school day.
3. Teachers will determine which students would benefit from daily parent signatures.

#### H. Standardized Testing

A systematic approach to standardized testing is followed at Rehoboth Christian School. Grades 3 through 8 take the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP Reading, Math, and Language tests two times a year. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders also take a Science test. The High School administers the following standardized tests: NWEA, Explore (9th grade), The Plan (10th grade), PSAT (11th grade), and the ACT or SAT (11<sup>th</sup> and /or 12th grade).

#### I. Academic Concern, Watch & Academic Probation Policy

The students, parents and teachers of Rehoboth Christian School enter into a covenant with each other committing themselves to fulfill their role in the positive educational development of each student.

Rehoboth Christian School teachers are committed to providing students with the best possible Christian education and challenge each student to their highest level of performance. This is accomplished through a high level of academic expectations coupled with a high level of support which equips students to meet these expectations. The parents commit themselves to support their child's academic journey by expressing interest in their education, and by providing adequate support and structure at home. The RCS student is committed to challenging him or herself at the highest level. Students are committed to do the work necessary to succeed in the classroom and out. Students who do not demonstrate a willingness to work will be subject to the following consequences.

Student performance levels are evaluated each week. On Sunday evenings parents will be emailed a report which will give the students current status in each class. This report will impact a student's academic status. (See below) A class grade will be weighted based on how many times the class meets per week.

#### Academic Status Options: Watch , Concern Probation

##### Academic Watch :

A student who has one or more Ds will be placed on the Academic Watch list. This list serves to heighten awareness regarding the student's academic work. Students will receive an academic contract which reminds the parent and student of a subject which needs attention. An academic plan is not created. Academic Watch does not affect the eligibility of a student for sports unless they are below a 2.0 in their cumulative grade.

##### Academic Concern :

A student who has 1 or more Fs or is below a 2.0 at the beginning of the week is considered on Academic Watch for that week. This means the student is not eligible to participate in any practices that week until students have raised their grade. This also means that students will not be able to participate in any games that week. They must participate in the after school homework help time until the grade has been raised. No school can be missed that week for athletics. This will also be true of eighth graders who are participating in High School Sports

##### Academic Probation

A student who ends a semester with an F in any subject will automatically be put on Academic Probation the following semester. Per the New Mexico Athletics Association, this student will not be allowed to participate in NMAA activities including athletics. The student will be held accountable to make academic progress with the use of the weekly Academic report shared with parents. If a student has an F, he/she will be asked to stay after school to use the homework time until the grade improves. Per the New Mexico Athletic Association, students may be taken off of this status if they have no Fs at any quarter marking period.

## After School Homework Help

Homework help is scheduled after school Monday- Thursday from 3:10-3:45 . Students must be on time and must be picked up at the Middle School by 3:45. ( There is no supervision for students after this time)

If a student is still failing two or more classes by the end of the school year the following steps will be taken:

The student may not be promoted to the next grade.

The student may be asked to withdraw from RCS, unless a compelling reason for granting an exception can be determined.

The student may be given credit recovery options if available.

Academic / Social contracts – Students may be placed on contracts that specify specific criteria in order for them to continue attending RCS. Not meeting criteria in academic, attendance, and / or social behaviors may be reason for not asking students to return to RCS.

## After School Homework Help

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## III. Attendance

A. Absences: Every student is responsible to every teacher for each class missed. Any student absent from a class must have a written excuse signed by his/her parent/guardian prior to returning to school. Any student who does not have a parent-signed note or whose parents do not call the office within seven days of the absence, will be considered unexcused. Please refer again to the NO CREDIT POLICY that sets the limit **for the total of excused and unexcused** absences allowed at no more than 10 per semester.

B. Types of Absences: An absence is defined as having missed more than 10 minutes of a class period. All absences will be classified as one of the following types of absences.

1. Excused absence - sickness on the part of the child, death in the immediate family, funeral of a close friend or relative, doctor/dental appointments. An excused absence will be given after the parent contacts the school office by written note or phone call explaining the exact cause of the absence.

2. Unexcused absence - missing class for any reason deemed unacceptable by the principal or being absent without the consent of the parents.

a. Suspension or truancy, will be handled in the following manner:

1) at the discretion of the teacher, an "F" will be given for any class missed on that day

2) no credit will be given for any assignments, quizzes, or tests that day

3) When a student is removed from class for his/her behavior: an "F" will be given for any class missed on that day and he/she will be sent directly to the office to fill out a form that outlines the entire event in writing. This will be followed up by a conference with the principal and with the staff member involved. Parents may be notified of the situation. The student and the teacher from whose class they were removed will meet to determine how the student can make up the time missed from that class. The removal will result in a detention and any other measures deemed appropriate during the conference.

3. Planned absences - any time parents know ahead of time that a student is going to miss class, parents must notify the school office prior to the planned absence. This allows the faculty and the student to make the proper arrangements and arrange for any make-up work. Parents are responsible to help their child get caught up with any work that he/she missed during the absence.

C. Make-Up Work

1. If a student is absent for only one day, all required work and test assigned before the date of absence must be submitted or made up the day he/she returns.

2. If a student is absent two or three days, all required work must be completed and tests taken by the second or third day back to class.

3. If a student is absent for more than three days, parents should make every effort to contact the school to collect assignments. Staff member will make every effort to make arrangements with the family and student in setting up a reasonable timetable for completion of work and tests if a student is absent for more than three days.

D. Leaving School -

Any student leaving school grounds during the school day must have a written statement from a parent, a phone call from a parent or the physical presence of a parent to be released from school. Students will not be released from school to anyone for whom a restraining order has been issued and is on file. The school can refuse the release of a student to anyone whom, in the judgment of the school staff, poses a threat to the safety of the student.

E. **Tardies** - There are at least three minutes between each class which is enough time for a student to make the transition to the next class. Students with classes in the Fine Arts Building and Gym will be given extra minutes to walk to that building.

1. Definition: Tardiness is defined as any one of the following:

Not having all supplies needed in class at the beginning of class. Each teacher will inform students of the expected items.

Not being seated in the correct desk by the beginning of class.

2. Tardies will be excused if a student obtains a note from the staff member who might have caused the student's tardiness.

3. Tardies will be considered unexcused if a student does not have a valid reason for being late. Examples of unexcused tardies given for the first period of the day include missing the bus, oversleeping, traffic conditions, car trouble, etc.

4. If a student is more than 10 minutes late to class, the tardiness will be counted as an absence for that class.

5. Each tardy will count as a .1 absence. Therefore, for every 10 tardies a 1 day absence will be counted for each class. Over 10 absences in a semester does result in no credit for a course.

6. Tardies will be recorded on a weekly basis. Three tardies within a week will automatically result in a detention. Detentions will remain on the student's record all year.

F. **Detention** - The purpose of detention is to remind students of their responsibility to: 1) be on time 2) follow school rules 3) make-up time for any unexcused periods or any removal from class

1. If a student comes late to detention they will receive extra detention time or additional assignments, this will take place after school on the same day.

2. Detention takes priority over all other activities, including athletic practice, class meetings, etc. unless arrangements have been made between the teachers ahead of time.

3. Students who fail to report to detention without prior approval of the principal will automatically be given an extra hour of detention after school, this will take place after school on the same day.

4. In-House suspensions - Students who accumulate three or more hours of detention, will be given an in-house suspension. Students with an in-house suspension are required to be isolated all day and must do assigned work during this time.

5. Parents will be notified if their child has receives a detention.

## **IV. Transportation Policy**

This Student Transportation Policy is intended to help assure the safety of students who are participating in school athletics and other school events and activities that necessitate the transportation of students. Rehoboth staff, parents, and students are required to follow these policies any time students are being transported.

### **A. General Rules**

**Bus Transportation for School Activities.** Students normally, but not always when participating in school sponsored activities, shall be transported in a school bus. It will be driven by a CDL licensed Rehoboth bus driver and accompanied by a trip supervisor (coach, staff member, parent). If there is no trip supervisor to serve as chaperone, the driver shall delay departure until a chaperone is provided. The trip supervisor shall make a list of all students being transported and shall verify that each student on the list is aboard the bus at the time of departure and upon return to the school.

If field trips using school transportation begin or extend beyond the school day, Trip Permission Forms are required. Athletic events that begin or extend beyond the school day that have been posted on the school calendar and that use school transportation will not require Trip Permission Forms.

Trip Permission Forms are not required for field trips using school transportation during the school day.

In the event a student desires or needs to return to the school or another destination in a personally owned vehicle, the rules set forth in the following sections shall apply.

**B. Non-Bus Transportation for School Activities.** Students may be transported in a non-bus school owned vehicle or other personally owned vehicle if in the judgment of the trip supervisor it is not practical or feasible to transport students in a bus. In such cases, the trip supervisor shall ensure that the driver of any vehicle is an adult, age 19 or older, with a valid driver's license, that the vehicle has adequate insurance coverage, and that the passenger number does not exceed the seat belt capacity of the vehicle. Generally, a 15-passenger van shall not be used for such transportation, pursuant to Federal Department of Transportation rules, unless the rear seat has been removed. Parents or guardians of passenger students shall be required to complete a Trip Permission Form giving their consent to such transportation. Note the following requirements:

Staff members are to always have Trip Permission Forms signed when a trip is anticipated and planned.

Coaches and/or sponsors may seek a seasonal Trip Permission Form for the length of a sports season or school event, e.g., school musical, soccer season.

It is understood that emergency situations may arise when a student must be transported immediately when it is not possible to secure a Trip Permission Form, e.g., a trip to the hospital for a crisis situation.

C. Change of Vehicle. If a student has been transported to a location pursuant to items 1 and 2 above and desires to return home, or back to school, or to some other destination in a different vehicle (e.g. with an adult in their personally owned vehicle), the parent or guardian of the student shall provide the trip supervisor with advance written authorization. If advance written authorization has not been obtained, the parent or guardian may give advance phone authorization to the trip supervisor, which the supervisor must document at the time of the phone call. In no event may a student who is making a return trip from a school sponsored activity be transported by another student. Sponsors may also release students to parents or guardians in person and must document such release.

Regardless of whether students have been transported by bus or other vehicles, upon return to the school, the trip supervisors and sponsors shall stay with students until the last student has been released to a parent or guardian.

Policy Provided to Parents and Students. Parents and guardians of students shall be given a copy of this Student Transportation Policy prior to the commencement of the school year. The school requires that parents and guardians will review the policy with their student's prior to the beginning of the school year. Parents and guardians shall be required to sign a form confirming that they have read the policy, explained it to their student(s), and agree to abide by the provisions of the policy. If parents cannot in good faith sign the policy because they believe it is too lenient, then they have the right of refusal and may need to make other provisions for the transportation of their student(s).

Students Transporting Themselves:

Supervised Student Driver. Situations may arise when it is prudent or even necessary for a student to transport himself in a personally owned vehicle to a local destination.. For example, a student taking a class at the University of New Mexico Branch in Gallup may need to transport himself to the Branch. Likewise, a Rehoboth teacher may ask several students to drive to a local store to buy materials needed to complete their class project. In situations where the student's activities are being supervised by Rehoboth staff or other adult, students may transport themselves provided:

- a. The student has a valid driver's license.
- b. The vehicle being used has adequate insurance coverage.
- c. The supervisor has given permission for the student to drive.
- d. The parent or guardian has previously given permission for the student to drive by completing a Student Transportation Consent Form.

The supervisor shall have the responsibility to verify items a, b, and d above. If any one of these requirements cannot be verified, the supervisor shall not permit the student to transport himself.

Unsupervised Student Driver. There may be times when students take the liberty of transporting themselves without having first obtained a supervisor's permission. Or students may be transporting other students for school events and activities. Rehoboth Christian School does not allow such transportation. The school will notify parents and guardians whenever it discovers that such transportation has occurred, and will respond with additional disciplinary action.

#### Emergency Situations

This policy prohibits a student from transporting himself or others students for school events and activities to destinations designated as non-local, except in the case of emergency. For purposes of this section, the term "emergency" means the immediate and urgent need to transport students due to absence or incapacity of an adult driver, where failure to transport would place at risk the health and safety of the students or adult driver. For example, if a teacher is driving students to a non-local event and the teacher suffers a sudden onset of illness and cannot continue driving, a student in the vehicle with a valid driver's license may drive the vehicle to a place for help.

#### Summary

While this policy attempts to address most situations involving the transportation of students, it cannot cover every conceivable situation that might arise. Therefore, the school expects that coaches, staff members, parents, guardians, and students will make prudent decisions related to student transportation issues so that the safety of all involved is assured. This policy may be amended from time to time as needed.

#### D. Student Vehicles

1. Off-campus vehicles other than RCS students, parents, or faculty are not allowed on the grounds during the school day. RCS students are not allowed to ride in the vehicles of people outside of the campus unless permission has been granted by the parents via the administration.
2. Vehicles other than of RCS parents or faculty are not allowed on the grounds during the school day. Middle school students are not allowed to drive vehicles. Students are not allowed to ride in the vehicles of people other than parents/guardians or RCS staff without prior permission.

### **V. Dress Code**

A. Standard for Dress - Our standard for dress at RCMS is designed to reflect the Christian nature of our school. This dress code is to serve as a guide for parents and students as you choose school clothes. We are image bearers of our Lord, and should try to reflect Him - in behavior, in speaking, in attitude toward learning, and in our dress. We are happy to recognize individual differences in ideas about dress and appearance; however, the school must provide some guidelines to be followed by everyone in this

community. Proper grooming positively reflects upon the image of the school and affirms the student as an image-bearer of God.

B. Appropriate Clothing - Even as there is appropriate clothing for church, for athletic events, for gym class, for hunting, for jobs, etc. so there is also appropriate clothing for school.

C. Guidelines - Therefore, all clothing worn to school and to school functions should be modest, neat, clean, and appropriate. Students will be expected to follow the guidelines below:

    Clothing, including hats and backpacks, should not have suggestive words, pictures, symbols, reference to drugs/alcoholic beverages, or secular music groups.

    Sandals without socks should not be worn. Sandals must have a backstrap; no flip-flops. Shoes may not have wheels or "heelies".

    All shirts and tops need to be fully covered in the back. Shirts must have either a collar or sleeves. Shirts may not expose the midriff, cleavage or undergarments. Shirts may not be see-through.

    Leggings (or any tight fitting pants) can be worn only if they are appropriately covered by a skirt, top or pair of shorts that meets the guideline.

    Dresses and skirts will be modest and must reach at least to the fingertips.

    Shorts should be modest, dressy, and neat. There should be no cutoffs, PE or running shorts, side-slit shorts, or spandex-type shorts. No athletic shorts in non-PE classes. Shorts should extend at least to the fingertips.

    Pants may not expose underwear or sag. Ripped or frayed pants or pants with holes may not be worn.

    Hair will be neat, moderate in style (not drawing attention to yourself), well groomed, and of a naturally occurring hair color.

    No body piercing, (except for the ear)

    Headgear of any kind, including hoods, hats, and sunglasses, may only be worn outside school buildings for protection from the sun.

    The following accessories including, but not limited to, are not permitted on campus: bandanas, hairnets, studded bracelets, belts, or necklaces, belt loop or chain wallets, and extended belts.

D. Dress Code Violations - Faculty and staff appreciate it when students are dressed appropriately. If there are any questions regarding inappropriate dress, the student will be sent to the Principal. If there is a violation of dress code, that student will be asked to change his/her clothing; he/she will be allowed

to make a call home to have appropriate clothing brought to school. Any time that is missed from class will be considered unexcused.

E. Special Events - sponsors of school activities may determine that different guidelines should apply, depending on the type of event.

## **VI. Assemblies and Worship**

A. Purpose: Worship is a very important part of the middle school community. It is during this time that we often share the songs, words, laughter and tears that bring us together as the family of God. Students are expected to be quiet and respectful as they enter the church for this time of worship. Programs and speakers are selected for inspiration and reflection. We encourage student participation in chapel planning and presentation.

B Expectations - Students are expected to: enter and leave the assembly quietly and orderly, sit in their assigned seats, give courteous attention to the program participants, be a polite listener, express appreciation, and refrain from talking. Students not meeting these expectations will be asked to leave and will be given an unexcused absence.

## **VII. Guidance and Counseling**

RCMS has a part-time counselor, supervised by the middle school principal, who works with the middle school students. Although the counselor is a specialist in performing guidance functions, guidance is provided by the entire staff. Students should feel free to contact any staff member for help or assistance.

The middle school guidance and counseling program consists of several components. Students receive one-on-one counseling based on student self-referral, staff referral or parent referral. Support groups dealing with specific topics such as grief, anger, substance abuse are a second component of the guidance program. Finally, Rehoboth middle school students meet weekly in a small group setting known as Cell Groups. Cell Groups are designed to provide support to middle school students through encouraging interaction, providing group problem solving initiatives and promoting positive peer relationships. An adult facilitator meets with groups of about 10-15 students divided by both gender and grade. The groups engage in a number of different activities including discussion and prayer time, Project Adventure Activities, and service activities.

**Parents will be informed of counseling for their child if counseling is done in a group setting or if individual counseling is done on a continual or for an extended time. Counselors will send home an “Informed Consent” note in these instances.**

Conflict Resolution Policy:

When it is observed or reported that a student is experiencing conflict with another student, the school counselor sets up a mediation meeting between the two students. Clear parameters are set and each

student is given the opportunity to voice frustration, concerns, fears and anger while the counselor is present. If this process does not bring reconciliation between the students, they must at least agree to be respectful and civil towards each other. If this is not possible, a meeting with the perspective parents is arranged by the counselor where clear behavioral expectations are established. Failure to abide to these behavioral expectations will lead to a disciplinary issue.

#### Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

The Rehoboth Christian School Board and school community recognize the importance of cooperating with appropriate authorities in the early identification and reporting of sexual or physical abuse. The RCS counseling program follows state guidelines for reporting abuse. All sexual and physical abuse is reported within 24 hours to either the State or Federal (reservation) agencies. The reporting guidelines do not require that family members be notified of such reporting. In fact, if a child's well being is in danger, the child will not be released to the custody of the parent and the appropriate agency will take custody of the child. Follow-up to abuse reporting involves personal counseling and referral to outside resources as needed. Families may be involved in the follow-up counseling as appropriate to the situation.

Referrals for abuse come from teachers, family members, friends and from affected students. Suspected victims of abuse are informed when counselors meet with them that certain issues must be reported and by law can not be kept confidential. However, students who are reporting situations involving friends are encouraged to give information through a confidentiality policy which will not disclose their identity. This policy recognizes our responsibility in protecting our students, promoting healing of broken lives and providing loving, Christ-like support to our students and their families.

### **VIII. Fire Drills**

A. Fire Drills - Fire drills are conducted for the safety of the students. When such a drill is underway, students are expected to leave the buildings promptly by pre-designated routes. Students may only re-enter the buildings when the signal of a long-regular class bell rings.

B. Misuse of the fire alarm - is considered a major school infraction and will be dealt with by appropriate disciplinary action. Tampering with fire extinguishers will also not be tolerated.

### **IX. Library**

A. Purpose - The library is an important part of our school. It is there as a resource for study and research. The library is full of valuable information to provide every student the best opportunity for research and materials for personal growth and learning. Please view the librarian as a person who can help you find the type of information for which you are looking.

B. Guidelines - It is important to use the library properly. The librarian has established rules and procedures to follow, and everyone will benefit if you obey those guidelines. Students who go to the

library must have a signed library pass from the teacher whose class the student is in, unless the entire class and teacher are going to the library.

C. Checking Out Materials - All books must be properly checked out prior to taking them from the library. The student number (as used with the grading system) is the I.D. number used for students to check out books. Be aware however, reference materials, magazines, or SIRS articles may not be taken from the library. Students with overdue books will be charged fines until the book is returned. Students who lose a book must pay for the replacement of that book.

Students will be required to take care of all library-related financial obligations prior to taking first or second semester exams.

## **X. Computer Lab**

The computer lab is for classroom instruction and for individual course projects.

A. Internet Contract - The computer lab also has internet access which opens up an entire realm of research options. The internet also carries with it certain use restrictions and responsibilities. Our computer lab is equipped with a Surf Watch program that restricts access to certain websites. Also, students wishing to use the computer lab and have internet access must have a signed contract on file. The middle school staff will assist students in setting up these contracts.

B. Use of Personal laptops – any student wishing to use their own personal laptop at school must have the laptop screen by the Technical support instructor for viruses etc before being aloud to use it.

## **XI. Extra-Curricular Activities**

Extra-curricular activities include all activities carried on outside of the regular class time that are not a part of a class grade. Athletics are the largest extra-curricular activity, although we are eager to expand activities and move into new areas of student interest. These activities provide constructive, wholesome opportunities to grow in areas of leadership and responsibility. It is important to remember that extra-curricular activities are of secondary importance to academics.

A. Athletics -

1. Rehoboth Christian MS School is a member of the New Mexico Activities Association and is subject to its rules regarding eligibility. All students wanting to participate in a sport must complete the sports form packet which includes having a sports physical completed before practices begin for that sport. Packets include forms about concussions, transportation etc and can be filled out during the summer or before a sports season begins.

2. Sports Offered - Since we are a small school, it is possible for nearly everyone to compete in some area of athletics, and we encourage involvement. Some years a sport may be canceled because of too

few students wishing to participate or because coaching staff can not be found. Sports that are often offered on the middle school level include:

Boys: soccer, cross-country, basketball, track and baseball

Girls: soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, track and softball

3. Eligibility - The NMAA has established eligibility rules for extra-curricular activities encompassing all levels of competition - athletic, musical, and academic. These rules are summarized below for easy reference, but are explained in more depth in the RCS Athletic Policy Handbook.

Students who have a GPA below a 2.0 may not participate on athletic teams. Students who had an F at the end of a semester will not be allowed to participate in a sport the following semester.

Eligibility is intended not to discourage or keep any student from participation, but to emphasize the importance of maintaining balance between academic scholarship/discipline and other activities.

Participation in athletic events will follow the Academic Watch, Concern and Probation

The final semester GPA of the year for eighth graders will be used to determine their eligibility for first semester high school sports.

4. As long as it doesn't jeopardize the middle school sports program and the high school permits, eighth graders are allowed to participate on high school teams. At Rehoboth, this is permitted on a case-by-case basis, with priority given to high school students. Eighth graders who wish to join a high school team will need a permission form signed by the athlete, his/her parents, the middle school coach, the high school coach, the Athletic Director, and the middle school principal.

B. Clubs - Any groups of students is welcome to form a club by following a simple procedure. You must have a staff member as your sponsor and submit a written statement for the purpose of this club to the principal. Depending on the nature of the club, the eligibility rules may not apply.

C. Music - RCMS has its own band and choir which meet throughout the entire school year. Students may participate in both since they meet on different days. The Band and Choir will give concerts; participate in Solo and Ensemble Festivals, and in District festivals. Sixth and seventh graders are required to be in band and choir all year. Eighth graders are urged to be in both band and choir all year but may drop one of the two if a formal request form is submitted and a meeting with the music teacher and principal is arranged to finalize a decision. If either band or choir is dropped, the student will take an independent reading class. The drop period ends 2 weeks after the beginning day of the semester. In addition to regular classes, students may have opportunities to participate in musical exploratory classes such as musical productions, and honor choir or band.

D. Academic Activities - RCMS participates in a variety of extracurricular academic activities. Examples of these include the Spelling Bee, National Geographic Geography Bee, the English Expo, the Math Counts Competition, Science Fairs, the Great Debate and the Battle of the Books.

## **XII. Other Regulations and Information**

A. HEALTH CONSENT FORM – A Health Consent Form must be completed and on file for every student. This form indicates the procedure the parent wishes to have followed should a child be injured or become ill at school. In cases where outside medical help is required, parents will be contacted immediately, if possible.

B. Lockers - One of the unique aspects of RCMS is that none of the student lockers have locks on them. Virtues that we believe in are trust and respect. Lockers and other personal items that are not yours should be left undisturbed.

Locker Assignments - Each student will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the year and must use that locker unless given permission otherwise. The office will maintain a record of where each student's locker is and will use that number to post phone messages, overdue library book notices, etc. Sometimes students do need to share a locker with another student.

Use of Lockers - As property of RCMS, all lockers should be kept neat and clean. Nothing may be hung on the outside of student lockers. Materials placed inside the locker should promote the Christian philosophy of the school. Students with questionable things hung in their lockers will be asked to remove them. Nothing permanent may be hung on the locker (stickers, markers, etc.) The school reserves the right to search and seize items in lockers without prior notice to the students or their parents.

Hooks – hooks are provided for students backpacks and coats etc. Students may receive a detention if backpacks, coats, books etc are not kept in / on proper places as to fire code.

C. No Gum – Middle School students are not allowed to have on school grounds. If students are caught chewing gum, they will pay a fine per incident.

D. Electronic Devices – Earplugs and headphones are not to be used on campus once student gets off the bus. MP3 players, Game boys, ipods, and CD's - are not allowed on campus during any part of the school day. Any of these items seen at school will be confiscated and not returned to the student until the principal deems appropriate. Usually this can take place 48 hours after the item is taken away for the first offense. The item will only be returned to the parent. RCS is not responsible for lost/stolen devices.

E. Cell Phones -will be confiscated and not returned for a minimum of 48 hours if they are seen or heard or used on school grounds (including the fellowship hall) during the school day. They only will be

returned to the parent. A second offense will result in holding the phone for one week. A third offense will result in keeping it for the remainder of the semester. If students must check for messages during the day, they must have permission from a staff person and use the phone under direct supervision of that staff person. RCS is not responsible for lost/stolen devices.

F. Snowballs, Whitewashing, sledding - There is to be no throwing of snow near any building. Students caught throwing snow or throwing others in the snow will be fined \$1 for every offense and may have free time privileges taken away. There will be a designated area where students may play with snow. Only students wishing to participate in snowball fights should be near this area.

### Sledding Rules

Students may sled in designated areas only.

When the person sledding reaches the bottom of a hill, they immediately get off and move well off to the side so they do not get hit from behind.

When walking up the hill, walk well off to the side so you do not walk in the way of someone coming down.

The person sledding is responsible for not hitting someone below them as they come down. If someone is in your way, wait until they have moved before starting. If you are already started down, yell loudly so they get out of your way. If they are not moving, roll off your sled so you do not hit them.

Try not to go over big bumps where you may get thrown off and land and be hurt.

No more than 2 people on a sled at a time.

Any person engaged in any "dangerous" sledding or using "dangerous" sleds deemed by the supervisor on duty will not be allowed to sled.

G. Visitors - RCMS welcomes and urges parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles to visit any of your classes by making an appointment through the office. Occasionally you may wish to have a friend or cousin attend classes with you. This is acceptable, but you must have prior permission from the principal. Bring a note from a parent/guardian and give it to the office at least one day before the visit is to occur. Only one friend per student is allowed at a time, with no more than three visitors per classroom. All student visitors must obey RCMS student policy guidelines. No visitors are allowed during semester test/exam week.

H. Telephone - Students should refrain from using the office telephone unless absolutely necessary. Telephone use should only be at break, at the end of lunch, or after school. No calls will be allowed between classes. Long distance calls can only be made by using a calling card or calling collect.

I. Student Fundraisers - The middle school staff and principal are responsible for overseeing all fund raising projects throughout the year. These are coordinated with the high school projects so as not to overlap. Every fundraiser must be pre-approved using the appropriate form. Monies from fundraisers will be used for designated charities or for class expenses, such as field trips, social activities, cell group outings, 8th grade class trip, and graduation. No groups, or individuals, other than those representing a middle or high school group will be allowed to sell at the school unless prior, special permission is granted.

J. Dining Hall - Students may take their own lunch from home and eat it in the dining hall or they may purchase meals at the dining hall. There is a federal lunch program at the dining hall and some families may wish to inquire about receiving reduced meal tickets. If a student's account gets below \$4.00, a note is sent home with the child to remind parents that the account is low on funds. If a child's account is \$20 or more in debt, the child will be given a sandwich instead of the hot meal. If sandwich making ingredients are not available, the child will be allowed to go through the regular line.

All policies of appropriate behavior apply in the dining hall facilities.

Breakfast is served on all regular start school days.

K. Lunch Period - All students are expected to stay on campus during lunch, except if they are with a staff member and are participating in a school activity. Students must bring a lunch from home or use the food service provided; they are not allowed to have food delivered to school. Students are to stay outside of the school building until the end of the lunch bell rings, unless doing work for a teacher.

Nutrition: we have a concern for the healthy nutrition of our students and do not allow fast food and/or energy drinks or soda on campus.

L. Campus Boundaries - Rehoboth Christian School functions within a unique campus setting; students are expected to recognize that there is a difference between the education and residential areas of campus. Students are expected to remain in the educational buildings and area of campus during the school day and the after school program. Unless their families live on campus, students will not be allowed in the residential areas of campus during school/ after school program hours.

M. Study Hall / Homework Club / GPA - Students will not be allowed more than on study hall time each day. The middle school staff wishes to help make this valuable study, tutorial and enrichment time. GPA classes may be required during exploratory if the student is on academic probation. Students should not consider this free time; often structured activities will be led during this time. Students need to come on time and prepared for this class, just as they would for any other class.

N. Special Class Activities

1. Field Trip Policy: All field trips must be approved by the building principal. Trips are intended to supplement classroom instruction and enhance student learning by connecting classroom material to the real world.

Ratio of chaperones/students recommendations:

Teachers/Coaches can escort their whole class/team for local trips (within 15 miles of Gallup)

Out of town trips should have a 15:1 student to chaperone ratio

Overnight trips should have an 8:1 student to chaperone ratio, male & female leaders – if the student group is mixed gender

Exceptions will only be made with prior approval of the principal students on academic probation or academic watch will not be permitted to miss other classes to participate in a field trip.

## 2. Eighth Grade Class Trip Day

There is a one-day class trip allowed for the eighth grade. The class sponsors will help to plan the activity. The school will provide transportation and pay for the transportation expenses.

On the day that the eighth graders are on their class trip, the seventh graders will have some classes, some time for a class activity, and some time to mix with the sixth graders (next year's seventh graders).

## 3. Graduation Policies -

The main speaker is usually the parent of an 8th grader, and must have the approval of the middle school teachers.

Other participants should include a boy representative, girl representative, and the valedictorian and/or salutatorian.

The valedictorian and salutatorian are chosen by the teachers and is based on having attended RCMS for at least seventh and eighth grade, their cumulative GPA (through 3rd Quarter), and their citizenship status.

Students will chose an escort for entering graduation and will submit an explanation of their choice. Students will choose an adult or an older sibling as their escort.

Every class will choose a verse and song (it is desirable that they reflect a common Christian theme.)

Classes may choose a flower to be given to the escorts.

Students are expected to follow the school dress code for attire, which means girls' dresses may not be sleeveless or low cut, etc. Boys should wear dress pants and buttoned-up shirts.

If there is a reception afterwards, it will be organized and paid for by the parents.

3. Cost - The eighth grade class must have enough money left in their account after the class trip to pay for graduation expenses. In the past this has been about \$1500. Parents will be responsible for the refreshments served afterwards.

4. Students are not allowed to take their exams until all uniforms are returned, textbooks returned and/or fines and other fees are paid.

O. Textbooks – Textbooks that are given to students at the beginning of a course must be returned in good shape at the end of the semester or year. Students who transfer mid-year must have all books returned to the teachers before any transcripts may be released. Students who damage or lose a book must pay the full cost that RCS will be charged by the State Textbook Division for having the book replaced, regardless of the condition at the time the book was lost or damaged.

P. Skateboards and Heelies (shoes with wheels built in) – Students wishing to use these on campus must first obtain a waiver of liability form from the office and return it to the office with a parent's signature. Students will be expected to wear helmets and to skate only in designated areas (outdoor basketball courts and designated sidewalks etc). Students skating without a waiver or without a helmet will have the skateboard/shoes they were riding confiscated for 2 weeks (first offense) and until the end of the semester / year (second offense) or the discretion of the principal.

Q. Theft - Stealing is a violation that affects the entirety of the Rehoboth community. Any incident of theft is taken seriously and will have consequences. In some cases, these consequences may involve calling the police and/or suspending or expelling the student/s involved.

Student needs to immediately report the missing item.

Student must complete a thorough search.

A staff person should assist the student with a second search.

The principal should be notified of the missing item/s. If the item is valued above \$50, the principal will send out an email alert to all staff. If common sense dictates, the email could also be sent to students.

R. Parent Bulletin – An important link of communication between school and home is the weekly Parent News distributed every Thursday. This contains weekly happenings at RCS, news items concerning the operation of the school, and inspirational articles related to education and parenting.

S. Middle School Pride - Keeping the middle school building clean is our responsibility. Books, coats and supplies are to be kept in your assigned locker or hook. No student is allowed beyond the sixth grade classrooms at any time during school, unless approved by one of the teachers.

T. Public Display of Affection - At RCMS we want to foster an attitude of respect and self-control. The students are at an important time in their lives and we want to encourage their growth in a variety of

areas, including in relationships with the opposite sex. However, families have different views on what they deem appropriate for this age and the staff wish to support families in their guidelines. Staff will communicate with families when the occasion arises so that the rules set in place at home are enforced at school.

In any case, all displays of affection will be limited to side-by-side hand holding while at school, whether in class, during free time, or at a school function. Any other physical contact will be deemed inappropriate.

#### U. Gang Policy

RCMS believes that student involvement in gang activity is unhealthy and does not reflect the philosophy and goals of a Christian school. We realize that there is a growing concern in our community regarding gang-related activities. Therefore, we feel it is important that some policy be set to address this issue as it applies to our school.

RCMS will educate students about gangs and about this policy.

Students must not be involved in any gang-related activity. They must not even have the appearance of being interested in the gang image.

If a student is suspected of any gang activity or has the appearance of, he/she will be referred to the school counselor.

Students must not wear the clothing of or show the signs of gang activity (i.e. gang colors, symbols, graffiti, etc.).

Parents will be notified if gang-related activity or appearance is suspected.

Students who continue to wear the clothing of or show the signs of gang activity and lifestyle after warnings and counseling will be suspended from school.

V. Substance Abuse Policy: No alcohol, cigarettes, illegal drugs, firearms, or weapons are allowed on the buses or on the school campus.

W. Adjudication: Any situation not directly addressed in this handbook will be adjudicated using other RCS handbooks/policy statements.

### **X. Human Dignity / Bullying Policy**

Rehoboth Christian School strives to provide a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students in school buildings, on school grounds and school buses, and at school-sponsored activities. Bullying has a harmful social, physical, psychological and academic impact on bullies, victims, and

bystanders. Rehoboth Christian School will vigorously address bullying so that there is no disruption to the learning environment and learning process.

Bullying is a deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, intimidation or harm. Bullying may be repeated behavior and involves an imbalance of power. The behavior may be motivated by an actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic, such as, but not limited to age; national origin; race; ethnicity; religion; gender; gender identity; sexual orientation; physical attributes; physical or mental ability or disability; and social, economic or family status. Bullying behavior can be:

- Physical (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
- Verbal (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (e.g. spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion and sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using Facebook or the Internet – also known as cyber bullying)

Bullying behavior is prohibited in all activities under school supervision.

Rehoboth Christian School also intends to provide its staff members and students with a safe Spirit-filled environment, one that is free from offensive kinds of behavior. Conduct – whether intentional or unintentional – that subjects another person to unwanted attention, comments, or actions because of but not limited to national origin, race, age, sex, physical characteristics, or disability is not permitted. All persons are to be treated with respect because they are created to reflect God Himself.

1. Harassment of others by teachers, administrators, support staff, students, or other persons both at school or school events is not condoned or allowed.
2. Any person who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment should report it immediately to an appropriate superior. Students may report to a teacher, administrator, or counselor. Teachers should report an offense to their administrator, or if it is the administrator he or she is reporting, to the chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Each report will be given serious consideration and investigated appropriately. Employees who believe to have witnessed or perceive such acts to have occurred are also responsible for reporting them per this policy.
3. Reports of harassment and subsequent investigations will be handled discreetly to avoid embarrassment of the person making the report of a person who may be unjustly accused.
4. Rehoboth Christian School recognizes that a full, fair examination and investigation of all the facts is necessary in determining whether a particular action or incident is a person, social interaction or whether it produces discriminatory, offensive employment effect. Rehoboth Christian School also recognizes that false accusations of sexual harassment can have serious effects on innocent women and men.

5. Any person who is determined to have violated this policy will be subject to disciplinary action including the termination (for staff members) or expulsion (for students).
6. Sexual harassment includes: making unwelcome sexual advances, engaging in improper physical contact, making sexual comments, writing a note to someone else, either electronically or by hand, with content that may be construed as sexual. Using words (written or spoken), pictures, objects, gestures, or actions relating to sexual activity to create a sexually intimidating, hostile or offensive learning or working environment.
7. Any other form of ridicule of others based on race, physical characteristics, ability, family background, or similar feature is harassment. Persons engaging in this misbehavior will be disciplined.
8. All students and all school employees are expected to conduct themselves with respect for the dignity of others.

#### Y. Policy On Drug And Substance Abuses

##### Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Rationale: These procedures are based on the following concepts: (1) our bodies and minds are gifts to us by our loving heavenly Father, and we are to use them to his glory. Alcohol and drug abuse are powerful ways of destroying our capability to serve Him; (2) drug and alcohol abuse is one of the leading ways in which Satan is tearing apart individuals, families and the entire social fabric in our society today. Abuse has a direct effect upon the learning performance of students. It is a leading cause of death, through accidents and suicide, of the young people in our society; (3) we are grateful for state laws and state Board of Education regulations which prohibit students from using, possessing, selling, giving away, or transporting alcohol and/or illegal drugs on school property, at school, or at school-related activities.

Goals: Primary goals are: (1) to prevent Rehoboth students from becoming involved in alcohol or drug abuse; (2) to helpfully intervene in cases where Rehoboth students are involved in alcohol or drug abuse. This includes the use of tobacco of any form.

##### 1. Prevention

Rehoboth Christian School is committed to continuing, evaluating, and improving the education of both students and parents, at all grade levels in the area of substance abuse.

##### 2. Intervention

###### Suspicion:

When a student is suspected of using drugs (including alcohol) or having problems related to drugs, our first response is to try to get help for that student. That student may be referred to the counselor for assessment, help and/or referral to an outside agency for further help. The student may be required to

take a drug test in order to determine the accuracy of any suspicions. Drug awareness classes or drug counseling programs may be required as a condition for continued enrollment in cases of reasonable suspicion as determined by the counselor, the staff, or the administration.

#### First Offense:

When a student is caught using or in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, if this is the first offense, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The student is suspended for two days including, when possible, the remainder of the day in which he/she was caught. His/her parents will be called to pick him/her up from school. The student may be required to take a drug test.
2. When the student returns to school, a parent or legal guardian must accompany the student and a conference is held with the Principal explaining these procedures.
3. The student is referred to the counselor immediately for assessment and help.
4. The student will be required to follow through on the recommendations of the counselor concerning further treatment and support within the school program or with an outside agency.

#### Second Offense:

If a student is caught using or in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia and it is the student's second offense, the following procedures will apply:

1. The student is immediately suspended from school for the rest of that day and may return only with a parent or legal guardian for a parent meeting.
2. The student will be required to receive some form of treatment from an outside agency. This treatment can be residency or outpatient, depending on an assessment done by the school counselor or an outside agency recommendation. However, the student may be in school while receiving treatment as an outpatient or while waiting for room in a residency program. However, if any other substance abuse violations occur during or after that time, the student may be expelled or suspended until treatment is completed.

#### Subsequent Violations:

Upon multiple violations of the drug free policy, it is the school's prerogative to expel a student permanently.

#### 3. Other Related Issues

A. Any student caught using or in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia will immediately become ineligible for extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the present season or semester.

B. This policy applies to any and all Rehoboth students regardless of the location of the offense. In other words, we will require help, through intervention, for the student whether or not the offense occurred on or off-campus and whether or not the offense occurred at a school function.

C. The police, the courts, or any other legal authorities may be contacted by the school whenever it is deemed necessary.

D. The use of tobacco in any form is also prohibited by Rehoboth Christian School. Students caught using tobacco will be suspended as to the guidelines stated above.

## Z. Sexting Policy

In keeping with the school's responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for all students, RCS has established the following policy regarding the issue of "sexting." "Sexting" is the act of sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit or suggestive messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer, or other digital device. Students engaged in such activities are subject to state laws and school discipline. RCS considers sending, sharing, possessing, or even viewing pictures, text messages, or emails that contain a sexual message or image a violation of this policy; a violation that will result in school discipline, up to and including expulsion and notification of local law enforcement. Students are required to immediately report any such activities to a teacher or a school administrator.

## AA. Discipline Philosophy

We believe that at Rehoboth Christian School it is our responsibility to examine how God would have us live and work together to uphold Christian standards of behavior. The Bible provides us that standard of behavior and conduct. Therefore we try to provide discipline that is Biblically based.

The following list of behaviors we judge as being in violation of Biblical standards or state laws, and therefore students involved in them are subject to the discipline of the school. This list includes what we would consider to be areas of wrongdoing, although it is not a complete list:

1. Disrespect for the Christian faith on which the school is founded and/or abuse of students for their Christian faith
2. Use, possession, or distribution of any alcoholic beverage or tobacco
3. Use, possession, or distribution of an illegal drug or abuse of legal drugs
4. Sniffing glue, spray paint, gasoline, or similar hallucinating substances
5. Engaging in premarital sexual relations

6. Consistent tardiness and attendance problems
7. Fighting with other students or inflicting bodily harm
8. Disrespect of authority
9. Stealing – will result in suspension
10. Profanity
11. Vandalism and property damage

#### BB. Probation

The RCS Education Committee each spring will review all students who are on probation. Probation is a period of time during which students are examined and evaluated in light of the standards of the school. When enrollment for a given grade is restricted by limited space, a student on probation may be dropped from the enrollment.

#### CC. Non-school Time

Students, while not under the direct jurisdiction of the school in the evenings, on weekends, or summers, but whose behavior seriously violates the standards and reputation of the school, shall likewise be subject to school discipline.

#### DD. Appeals Committee

Any student who feels that he/she has received unfair disciplinary action may take his/her case to the Education Committee. See “Basic Parental Expectations” from the HS handbook.

#### EE. Student Admissions Policy

Rehoboth Christian School places high value on the cooperation and teamwork of a Christian home, Christian church and Christian school. Applications will be evaluated on that basis, and according to the following priority:

1. Rehoboth Christian School was established by the Christian Reformed Church as a ministry to Native American families in western New Mexico and eastern Arizona. Significant funding to operate the school is still provided by the Christian Reformed Church and its members from across the nation. In keeping with this tradition, priority is given to Christian Native American applicants who desire a Christian education. Applicants who are members of or affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church will also be given priority.
2. Current families adding a new student and new employees with children also are given priority.

3. Any applicants who are faithfully involved in a Bible-believing church will be admitted, if space is available.
4. Older students, who demonstrate a commitment to the Christian faith and/or church involvement, even though their parents are not involved in a Christian church on a regular basis, will be given careful consideration.
5. Children of parents who are not regularly attending a Christian church, but who desire Christian instruction for their children and with whom there is potential for ministry to their family, will be considered, if space is available.
6. Children of parents of religious backgrounds that are substantially different from the Christian faith will likely be denied admission. (If families are willing to seek instruction in the Christian faith from a Christian church, admission will be reconsidered.)
7. Unfortunately RCS does not have the financial resources to meet all student needs. Further, students whose academic or behavior needs are beyond our ability to properly serve them will not be accepted.

The climate of RCS is profoundly affected by the spiritual quality of its students. We desire to have 85% of the students fit within the criteria of #1-3 above. We will also accept a minority (15%) of the student body to be from category #4. We want a student body with Christian tendencies. Not to maintain such serves to undermine the mission and climate of the school.

#### Procedures and Conditions

1. All parents shall be required to:
  - a. Complete an application for admission and a spiritual life form
  - b. An interview with Director of Admissions and another administrator.
2. Grade placement will be determined by their building principal in consultation with parents and review of past academic records.

#### Guidelines

1. Priority may be given to qualified students from local feeder schools like Zuni Christian Mission or Hilltop Christian School. Qualified students who have attended another Christian school in other parts of the country may also be given preference.
2. There must be records from or communication with a student's previous school before any decision on acceptance can be made. Included in this will be a copy of the student's transcript or report card and recent test scores. If necessary, assessment of basic skills will be done by RCS staff.

3. Parents and the prospective student must be open and honest about the student's past record and abilities. Failure to disclose or to provide accurate information should be considered a breach of contract with the school, and should be considered grounds for dismissal or probation.

4. Students who fall within one or more of the following categories must be evaluated by the appropriate committee/staff before a decision on approval is recommended, even if school has already started.

- a) Students who are more than 2 years below grade level in both math and reading
- b) Students who have a GPA of less than 2.0 in their former school
- c) Students who had a discipline problem in their former school
- d) Students who were enrolled in one or more resource room classes the year before
- e) Students who have had a substance abuse problem within the last 12-18 months
- f) Students who have psychological or serious behavioral problems
- g) Students who are hyperactive or have an attention deficit disorder

5. If a student fits into one of the above categories, the appropriate committee/staff should consider:

- a) The age of the student. (The higher the grade of the student, the more difficult it is for the school to help him/her catch up to grade level.)
- b) Any extenuating circumstances for prior poor performance (i.e., death in the family, recent family divorce, etc.)
- c) The apparent attitude of both the student and parents as to their Christianity and as to their commitment to academics.
- d) The overall makeup of the class (i.e., we cannot accept too many "at risk" students in one class, or the ratio of male and female students.)

6. If a student with the above risk factors is accepted, very clear expectations must be communicated to the parents. The student will be on probation with a contract which will outline expectations of the student and the parents, as well as a time frame for evaluating whether or not the terms have been met and the student will or will not be able to continue at Rehoboth.

Conditions:

- a. The Contracts will be individualized; they will be achievable but not easy.

b. We will do what we can within our existing program to help the student succeed.

c. When we accept “at risk” students, we have a greater need for working closely with parents and will therefore require special commitment and cooperation on their part in terms of meeting with staff, additional tutoring, and administering medication. etc.

Rationale:

Once we accept a student, we will make every attempt to meet his/her needs. We are not equipped to meet severe academic deficiencies or serious psychological, medical or behavioral problems. Also, other students in our school have a right to their education and should not have needs and demands of high-risk students detract from their education. In addition, parents have a right to expect a wholesome environment for their sons and daughters.

Admission Interviews

1. Normally, both parents are expected to be in attendance in such interviews. A standard set of questions has been developed as a guideline and must be completed by the interviewer.
2. The application procedures should be reviewed with the applicants, depending where they are in the process.
3. The motivation for seeking admission should be discussed. Parents should indicate, at least, a sincere interest and desire for their children to be under the instruction and direction of Christian education.
4. Inquiry should be made as to the Christian commitment of the parents and their intentions as to maintaining a Christian home and their involvement in a Christian church.
5. In the course of the interview, the parents should be made fully aware of the nature, the purpose, and the program of Rehoboth Christian School.
6. A definite understanding must be reached regarding the financial obligations of attending RCS before final acceptance is given, careful review and explanation of the tuition contract is required.
7. Applicants shall be informed either by phone or by letter as to approval or rejection of the application. This is to be done promptly.

RE-ENROLLMENT

1. At the close of each school year the administration shall request a review of all students and families from Principals and teachers and a report regarding any students or families with which there are concerns in any of the following areas:

Spiritual

Academic

Social Behavioral

Financial Commitment

This assumes that the staff and administration had been working with student and family in the course of second semester to encourage a student to live up to RCS standards.

Students/families that are not fulfilling the expectations, commitments and conditions they made upon admission to Rehoboth Christian School may be excluded from the school for the following year.

2. Families and student may also be excluded from the school for consistent failure to meet financial obligations. Those policies and procedures are set forth in Section 5220.

#### AGE OF ENTRANCE INTO SCHOOL

Children who shall have reached the age of five (5) before September 1st, may be admitted to the Kindergarten at the beginning of the school term. Any exceptions to the requirement shall be approved by the Education Committee. This means that prior to the school year beginning, 6th graders should turn 11 years old, 7th graders should turn 12 years old, and 8th graders should turn 13 years old. Students who are too young for their grade may be recommended for the age-appropriate grade, unless documentation is provided that shows the child skipped a grade.

All students entering Kindergarten and 1st grade will be given a screening test to determine their readiness for school. This is done to aid parents and the school in making a decision as to when the child should begin school. Also included in this screening will be an articulation screening and speech screening so as to assist in planning the speech schedule.

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Rehoboth Christian School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administered program.

#### HEALTH RECORDS AND EXAMINATIONS

The law requires that all new pupils have physical examinations.

The law requires that all pupils going out for any interscholastic sport have a medical examination, and signed permission from the parents is required for participation.

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

All communicable diseases shall be reported to the school office so the county Health Department can be notified as required.

#### SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

All serious accidents to students or staff should be descriptively recorded and immediately reported to the Superintendent.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

It is recognized that many children are able to attend school because of the effectiveness of medications in the treatment of chronic disabilities and short or long term illnesses. If possible, medications should be given at home. However, if medications must be given during school hours, the following guidelines must be followed:

An authorization form to administer medication must be signed and submitted by the parent/guardian;

The signed medication authorization form must be kept on file; and

The parent/guardian must provide the school with properly labeled containers that hold the appropriate medications.

#### Policy of Administration of Medication at School

##### 1. Self-administration

Students may be allowed to assume responsibility for administration of their own medications, provided that self-administration is recommended, in writing, by the parent/guardian. The student must be instructed by the parent/guardian or physician on how to take the medicine. The parent/guardian must communicate this with the child's teacher or school secretary. It is recommended that only one day's supply of medication be carried by the student to school each day. All medication will be kept in a locked location.

##### 2. Administration by a Staff Member

If a student is either too young or incapable of taking his/her own medication, arrangements must be made with the school secretary and/or the child's teacher to administer the medication to the student. The container with the medication must be labeled with the name of the drug, the strength and current dosage, schedule for administration, the name of the student, and for prescription medications, the name of the physician or nurse practitioner. All students must be taught, according to their level of ability, why and when they take their medication.

3. Permission will be given on the "Health Consent Form" at the beginning of the school year if staff members have permission for Tylenol to be given according to package directions for minor complaints and discomforts.

#### NEW STUDENTS HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND RECORDS

All kindergarteners shall have a physical examination and the necessary vaccinations and tests before school opens in September. Each pre-kindergarten child shall have immunizations for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, (DPT) mumps, rubella, and measles,(MMR), polio, hepatitis B and varicella, (chicken pox vaccine for those who have not had the disease prior to entering Kindergarten) or as may be required by the State. These records must be made available to the school prior to enrollment. Newly admitted students must also have record of these immunizations in their transferred health files.

#### PERMANENT SCHOOL RECORD

Student records contain sensitive and confidential information along with other information that is more public. This policy provides guidelines as to how information in student records may be distributed.

The school shall keep an accurate and up-to-date record on each child. The cumulative record shall be the child's permanent school record and it shall contain all pertinent data to be recorded in the spaces provided.

The following information shall be considered "directory information" by Rehoboth Christian School, and may be divulged to requesting persons without consent or notification.

- (a) Name
- (b) Address/phone number
- (c) Age/sex
- (d) Parents/guardians' names/addresses
- (e) Enrollment status
- (f) Dates of attendance
- (g) School/grade
- (h) School activities/honors
- (i) NMAA eligibility status (sports)
- (j) Date/place of birth

The principal may authorize the release of directory information if in the principal's judgment, the information benefits the student(s) or the school as long as the policy on student records is observed.

No other employee of the school may release directory information or lists of names and addresses of students to anyone other than school officials.

Other records maintained by RCS, but which may not be released without the parent's or student's consent are:

1. Student cumulative folder
2. Permanent record card, attendance, grades
3. Accident reports/health records
4. Test results and/or summaries
5. Notes referring to counselor, pupil personnel reports

A student's cumulative record may be inspected by the natural or adopted parent(s), legal guardian(s), or self if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older. Such inspection shall be made at the school where the records are kept and during a regular school day or when the Principal is on duty.

Third parties shall not inspect nor have access to a student's cumulative record unless such inspection or access is approved in writing by the parent or over eighteen (18) year old student with the following exceptions:

1. Local school personnel who have a legitimate educational interest;
2. Personnel from another school if the student intends to enroll there;
3. Lawful subpoena or court order if the parent(s) are notified in advance;
4. Certain education officials concerning federal programs when the name of the student and/or parent is deleted;
5. pursuant to specific federal or state legal requirements; pursuant to a financial aid application (requested in writing) by the student and parent;
6. Accrediting organizations in carrying out their functions.

Upon graduating or transferring, student records will be forwarded to the next school. The Board reserves the right to hold back school records of pupils who transfer from our school without having paid financial commitment in full. A letter to this effect will be sent to those who request transfer and have not met the above conditions to the satisfaction of the Finance Committee.

Records of all disclosures shall be maintained which indicate the party requesting and obtaining disclosure and the legitimate interest of the requesting party.

## FF. Bus Transportation Guidelines

Rules and regulations help assure the safety of each passenger on a school bus. In the event a child is not picked up at the designated time at a bus stop, a parent will be charged a \$20.00 fee for the first time this happens. The child will not be allowed to ride the bus until the fee is paid. A second non pick up will result in the school calling the police / authorities to stay with the child until the parent can pick up the child or appropriate action deemed by authorities is taken. Your understanding, cooperation, and support help to maximize the safety of all students

Please discuss the following rules for school bus passengers with your children.

1. While at a bus stop or pick-up point, students shall:
  - a. Conduct themselves in an orderly manner. (The bus stop is not a play area).
  - b. Avoid littering.
  - c. Stay out of the street.
  - d. Be at the Bus Stop five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival time. (Bus will not wait.)
2. While a passenger on the bus, a student shall:
  - a. Take assigned seat promptly after boarding the bus.
  - b. Remain in the seat (facing the front) while bus is in motion.
  - c. Talk in a low voice.
3. While a passenger on the bus, students MUST NOT:
  - a. Use (1) tobacco, (2) drugs, (3) alcohol, (4) controlled substances.
  - b. Throw any (1) objects or (2) litter
  - c. Be (1) discourteous (2) disobedient (3) disturb the driver or (4) other passengers.
  - d. Use (1) profane language or (2) obscene gestures.
  - e. Make unnecessary or loud noises.
  - f. Transport items that may endanger the health or safety of passengers.
  - g. Place articles in the driver's compartment or aisles.
  - h. Open or close (1) windows or (2) emergency doors except when asked to do so by the bus driver.

- i. Put any body parts outside the bus.
  - j. Bring radios/tape players per the RCS school policies.
  - k. Get off the bus without permission of the driver.
4. Students are expected to report any damaged seats or other parts of the bus to the driver. (Failure to do so could cause the student to be charged for the repairs).
5. Students who exit from a bus shall always cross in front of the bus. They shall cross at least ten (10) feet in front of the bus after being signaled by the driver and shall obey all traffic controls for street crossing.
6. A student will not be allowed to change buses or bus stops without a written request from the parent and approval from the Transportation Supervisor.
7. The driver is in full charge of the bus and its passengers. The student will abide by the above rules and those outlined by the Rehoboth Christian School Transportation Department.

Should any student persist in violating any of these rules and regulations, it shall be the duty of the driver to notify the Transportation Supervisor and the school principal. Upon notification, the student may be removed from the bus and/or lose his/her bus riding privileges. At which point, it will be the parent's responsibility to transport him/her to and from school. If you have questions concerning your child (ren)'s transportation, please contact the Transportation Supervisor.

## GG. RCS COMPUTER USE CONTRACT

To: Computer Lab Users

Re: Terms and Conditions for Use of Internet Access

Please read the following carefully before signing the attached contract.

Internet access is available to students and staff at Rehoboth Christian High School. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence at Rehoboth Christian High School by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, collaboration, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

- electronic mail communication with people all over the world;
- information, news, and other research institutions;
- public domain and shareware software of all types;
- discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment to music to politics;
- access to many university library catalogs and the Library of Congress.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Rehoboth Christian High School has taken available precautions, which are limited, to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that the educational value of information and the interaction available on the worldwide network outweigh the risks that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational Christian goals of the school. One of our goals is to support students in responsible use of this vast reservoir of information.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF INTERNET ACCESS

Please read the following carefully before signing the attached contract.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, regional networks, and private cooperation. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her access may be terminated and future access could be denied. Your signature on the attached contract

indicates the party who signed has read the terms and conditions carefully and understands their significance.

#### 1) Acceptable Use

The purpose of Internet is to support education in Rehoboth Christian School by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your access must be in support of education and academic research and consistent with the educational objectives of Rehoboth Christian School. Use of other computing resources must comply with rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:

- copyrighted material,
- threatening or obscene material,
- material protected by trade secret.

Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is generally not consistent with the purposes of the Internet. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited. Using your access to play games is not acceptable.

#### 2) Privileges

The use of the computer lab is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use can result in a cancellation of those privileges. Based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use of the network and take appropriate action.

The system administrators or Technology Coordinator may suspend or close access at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of Rehoboth Christian High School may also request the system administrator or Technology Coordinator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user access. Penalty steps for Internet abuse will be handled as follows:

- 1st – suspension from the computer account for one week
- 2nd – suspension from the computer account for two weeks
- 3rd – computer lab privileges completely denied for all classes

If a student forgets his/her password, there will be a \$5 fine for getting a new one.

Students whose access is denied, suspended or revoked do have the following rights

1. To request (in writing) from the Technology Coordinator a written statement justifying the actions.

2. To submit a written appeal to the Technology Coordinator and as a follow up to this letter to have a meeting with the Technology Coordinator and any other involved or interested staff. Students who are under 18 must have a parent or guardian present at the meeting.

3. New contracts will be issued at the start of each year.

### 3) Etiquette

You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal your personal address or phone number or those of students or colleagues.
- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users (e.g. downloading large files during prime time, sending mass email messages, or using the computer to play songs or games).
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
- Do not provide any other users with your password for other classes.
- Personal e-mailing may not be conducted during class time. Personal e-mailing may be done in the lab before school, at break, at noon, or after school.
- Students should not re-configure any of the computer control panel settings of any computers that have been configured by the system administrator.
- Students are not allowed to enter into chat rooms, send third party emails, or instant messaging.

Each student who receives an access account for a class project will be instructed about the proper use of the network for the class projects.

### **XIII. APPENDIX - Course Descriptions.**

School years starting in even numbered years use YEAR ONE; school years beginning in odd-numbered years use the YEAR TWO curriculum. The 2012-2013 school year will use the “Year One” curriculum.

#### **MATH -- Grade 7**

The 7th grade math course concentrates on the ability of the student to use mathematical concepts in order to solve problems. The course focuses on learning and using computation skills in different situations with an emphasis placed on finding reasonable answers using estimation and common sense. The course expands students’ knowledge and use of decimals, fractions, and measurement while also teaching new concepts such as equations with variables, geometry, ratios, percentages, integers, and rational numbers.

The course encourages multiple approaches to problem solving, including the use of manipulatives, group work, cooperative learning, research, experiments, and alternative assessments. The material is presented to students in a way that encourages them to see math as an integral and important part of their everyday life.

#### **MATH -- Grade 8**

The 8th grade math course concentrates on the ability of the student to use algebraic ideas in solving problems involving geometry and statistics. Computational skills are continually reinforced as well as the ability to estimate. The course encourages multiple approaches to problem solving, including the use of manipulatives, group work, cooperative learning, research, experiments, and alternative assessments. The material is presented to students in a way that encourages them to see math as an integral and important part of their everyday life. There are two sections of the class, which allows for teaching flexibility in terms of how quickly and deeply these concepts are explored.

#### **PATHWAYS -- Grade 7**

This one semester course is more than a survival course; it not only teaches students the basic skills needed to survive the days of middle school, but it also offers an atmosphere of encouragement to thrive in middle school. The structure of the course follows the acronym JOY -- Jesus, Others, and You -- but studies it in reverse. The students first analyze what is going on with their bodies and emotions, then discuss establishing relationships with others, and finally take steps towards commitment to a relationship with God.

Typically, the girls take Adolescence class first semester and the boys take it second semester. These arrangement aides in discussion of more personal and sensitive issues, as well as in developing close relationships within the group of peers that the students will need to rely on throughout their middle school and high school years. The class is run less formally than other subject areas and uses discussions, role playing, cooperative learning, group exercises, simulations, and class reflection to bring out the issues being addressed. The students are encouraged to actively participate in topics and to

come up with creative, biblical responses to the decisions they face. The students keep a journal, which contains their thoughts on various topics as well as their course notes. Their grade is largely based on participation and a portfolio that is collected at the end of each semester.

## **SCIENCE -- Grades 7 & 8**

Year 1:

Life processes: Food and its production; Water and its value; Their value to maintaining life.

Oceans and Climate: A study of weather and its effects on life.

Machines, Work, and Energy: A study of machines and how they work for us.

Toward the Stars: A study of our solar system, our universe, and astronomy.

Stock Market Simulation as part of an integrated business unit.

Year 2:

Anatomy and Physiology: A general study of the human body and its uniqueness.

A study of the periodic table as a part of WWII integrated unit.

Solutions: A study of solutions and the important ingredients of solutions.

Force and Motion: Understanding and measuring forces.

The Restless Earth: A general study of Geology

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Year One - Second Semester

### **CIVICS and GEOGRAPHY -- Grades 7 & 8**

This course is an introductory course to geography and civics. The course attempts to alert students to the duties, responsibilities, and rights as citizens of the United States, as residents of a particular state, and as members of a specific community. Geography is emphasized throughout the course by relating it with current events, but is also specifically addressed by teaching map skills. As citizens not only of this country, but also of God's kingdom, it is essential for students to be attuned to the events, needs, and cultures of the entire world; knowing the locations of places in the world is a first step towards awareness of it.

The civics part of this course emphasizes the citizenship responsibilities and privileges that Americans have. This will be taught to and by the students through a variety of experiences, discussions, debates, simulations, and readings. The students will see themselves as an integral part of

American society, sharing in its strengths and struggling to fix its weaknesses. Students will realize that a healthy country comes from concerned citizens who believe in the general welfare of all its citizens. As Christian citizens, students will see how our responsibility to love our neighbor demands action within and outside of our nation.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Year One - First Semester

### **NEW MEXICO HISTORY -- Grades 7 & 8**

This course teaches the history of the state of New Mexico by looking at the stories and experiences of the people who have lived here. Students learn the geography of the state while learning the events that have shaped that particular place. The course is a study of the cultures of New Mexico; from the prehistoric to the Pueblo dwellers, to the raiders and wanderers, to the Spanish explorers, to the Spanish colonists, to the US traders and up to present day where cultures still co-exist. It examines the dreams, the struggles, the failures, and the triumphs of people living in the Land of Enchantment. The course includes field trips that allow students to see and experience the remnants of these events and the continuance of these traditions. In culmination of the study of our state, students will look at their families' experiences and importance as a part of the New Mexican community.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Year Two

### **AMERICAN HISTORY -- Grades 7 & 8**

This course is a full-year course on the establishment of America as a country, from pre-Columbian history through the Civil War. A couple of special units (World War II, and African American history) are also studied on a middle school-wide basis. The students learn about the various peoples who have lived on the continent of North America and the affect they have had on this country as well as around the world. Students use the five themes of geography throughout the study of the people of America to realize that place, location, interaction, movement, and region affect the people and events of a particular time. Reading skills, map skills, decision-making skills, communication skills, and research skills are stressed through cooperative learning, simulations, chart making, essay writing, and reports.

History is usually told from the perspective of the "winner" and not the victim, by using primary source documents and literature from a variety of cultures, this course attempts to hear the voices of those not previously heard before. Students learn the importance of recognizing the point of view from which an account is being told and the necessity to distinguish fact from fiction. As Christians, we study history to learn from its mistakes, to celebrate its discoveries, and to pass on a richer understanding of ourselves, our culture, and the cultures that surround us.

## **BIBLE Year One**

### **OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY: GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION -- Grades 7 & 8**

The Old Testament survey course takes a look at the stories in the Old Testament that show the theme of God's redemptive plan. Since this is a one semester course, it does not attempt to study the details of the stories as much as to study the implications the stories have on redemption. The course is taught in such a way to show students that the Old Testament and the New Testament are the telling of one story; one does not stand on its own. A special focus of the course gears students' attention to the need to apply the lessons learned about human nature and about God's nature to their own lives. The students also learn some important hermeneutic skills that will be used throughout the course, and throughout the course of their lives as they study God's revelation to us.

## **BIBLE Year Two**

### **THE LIFE OF CHRIST -- Grades 7 & 8**

This one semester course studies the Life of the incarnate Christ (his birth, his work, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension) through the study of the gospels. Students understand the historical situation into which Christ was born and the cultural expectations which people thought he would meet. Students study the reactions to Christ and the reasons behind those reactions. A special emphasis is placed on the Gospel of John, which addresses the desire "that you may believe that Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God." Students are called to consider what their testimony consists of at this point in their lives and are urged to act upon it. The agony and the victory of Jesus' death is studied in order for students to understand what it was that Jesus suffered through so that they may have eternal life.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Grades 7 & 8**

RCMS English curriculum is designed to give students many opportunities to develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. While skill lessons are important in developing student abilities, the study is often done in the context of larger units. In both years, students study grammar in focus units as well as in part of their general writing studies. Students are also given extra curricular opportunities to hone their English skills and abilities through competitions such as Word Masters and English Expo (which is held in Albuquerque). Students are also often given a chance to participate in dramas. Through the English program, teachers seek to help students to understand that all aspects of communication are a gift from God, which should be used in service to Him and His Son, Jesus Christ.

### **Year One**

Year One includes such units as The Southwest, Fantasy, and Business. These focus on the study of vocabulary and spelling to analyze etymology and word parts.

## Year Two

Year Two features such units as Survival, World War II, and African American History. The study of this vocabulary is based on a textbook series.

### **Fine Arts**

Music - RCMS has its own band and choir which meet throughout the entire school year. Students may participate in both since they meet on different days. The Band and Choir will give concerts; participate in Solo and Ensemble Festivals, and in District festivals. **Sixth and seventh graders are required to be in band and choir all year. Eighth graders are urged to be in both band and choir all year but may drop one of the two if a formal request form is submitted and a meeting with the music teacher and principal is arranged to finalize a decision. If either band or choir is dropped, the student must complete an approved class approved by the principal. The drop period ends 2 weeks after the beginning day of the semester.** In addition to regular classes, students may have opportunities to participate in musical exploratory classes such as musical productions, and honor choirs.

Rehoboth Christian Middle School Contract

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Student:

I have read through the student handbook in its entirety and my signature signifies that I agree to uphold these policies, in word and in spirit, and the people who enforce them.

I have read the terms and conditions for computer use. I further understand that a violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action could follow.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Parent:

(If the student is under the age of 18, the parent/guardian must also read and sign.)

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read through the student handbook in its entirety and my signature signifies that I agree to uphold these policies, in word and in spirit, and the people who enforce them.

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the terms and conditions of the computer use contract. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and RCS has taken available precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize that it is impossible for RCS to restrict access to all controversial materials/persons and I will not hold RCS responsible for materials/persons that this student may access on the network. I hereby give my permission to issue access for the student named above.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this signed contract to Ms. Peywa