

Rockford Christian Schools

Faith Statements

Mission Statement

The mission of Rockford Christian Schools (“RCS”) is to challenge young people to:

know Christ as Lord

apply God's truth in all areas of life

love others sacrificially and

achieve the highest level of knowledge and skill

in order to **serve** God and others.

Value Statement

Our mission is summarize in the three values of Christ, Community, and Excellence

Statement of Faith

At Rockford Christian Schools we believe...

- in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as wholly inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- in One God, Creator of all things, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the Trinity).
- in the deity and humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth and His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His future personal and bodily return in power and glory.
- that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of the lost and sinful person.
- that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and thereby become the children of God.
- in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; for those that are saved it is a resurrection into everlasting joy with Christ, and for those that are lost it is a resurrection into everlasting suffering.
- that people were created in the image of God; that they sinned, and thereby incurred both physical death and spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and indeed sin in thought, word and deed.
- in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Expectations

As a private Christian school, classroom academics are integrated with Christian commitment. The student's growth in faith is of utmost importance. The student body worships together in our weekly chapels where attendance is required. Students are expected to worship regularly with their parents/guardians in a local church of their choice. Rockford Christian Schools partners with parent(s)/guardian(s) in the spiritual training of their children. Therefore, the school cannot accept sole responsibility for the Christian education of students but rather shares that responsibility with the home and the local church. Because the study of God's Word is so vital to the Christian life, Bible is a required class each year for students enrolled full time at Rockford Christian Schools.

As a private Christian academic institution, Rockford Christian Schools places a high value on the learning experiences for students. It is our desire to develop the God-given talents and abilities within each student to his/her highest potential spiritually, academically, physically and socially. With this in mind students are expected to appreciate the opportunity to be a part of Rockford Christian Schools by behaving correctly and responsibly in the classroom setting and on the school campus.

Employee Lifestyle Statements

Rockford Christian Schools is a religious, non-profit organization representing Jesus Christ throughout the evangelical community worldwide.

The Rockford Christian Schools Statement of Faith provides the basis for a lifestyle based on traditional biblical standards of moral conduct.

To preserve the function and integrity of Rockford Christian Schools, its employees must be born-again Christians, living their lives as Christian role models (Rom. 10:9-10; I Tim. 4:12), and maintaining a lifestyle based on biblical standards of conduct. Failure to do so may result in a reprimand or, in some cases, dismissal from employment. It is the goal of Rockford Christian Schools that each employee will have a lifestyle where "...He might have the preeminence." Col. 1:18.

Employees will not conduct themselves in a way that will cause others to justly question their Christian testimonies. A Christian lifestyle should reflect the biblical perspective of integrity and appropriate personal and family relationships, business conduct and moral behavior. We expect employees to demonstrate a teachable spirit, an ability to share love for others, a willingness to live contentedly under authority and a commitment to follow the Matthew 18 principle when an issue arises with fellow employees or management.

Rockford Christian Schools believes that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive covenant union, as delineated in Scripture;

and that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18-25, Matthew 19:4–9; Mark 10:5–9; Ephesians 5:22–33).

Examples of proper actions:

- Engaging in intimate sexual conduct only within the marital union of one man and one woman; and
- Dressing and using the restrooms, locker rooms and changing facilities conforming with one's biological sex.

Statement of the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

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

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably (unchanging) creates each person as either biologically male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.)

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.)

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (such as adultery within marriage, consensual sexual intercourse between two persons not married to each other, homosexual behavior, and use of pornography) is sinful and harmful. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10 and 18.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Rockford Christian Schools as a biblical role model to the students of Rockford Christian Schools, their families and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Rockford Christian Schools in any capacity support in word and action this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

Biblical Integration

At Rockford Christian Schools, we believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God, and, therefore, the standard by which all values, as reflected in all school programs, policies, and traditions, are measured. Bible classes are required as an integral part of our curriculum. In addition, biblical concepts are integrated into every other curricular area within the school. The Bible is the foundation and the strength of Rockford Christian Schools, which sets us apart from public and many private schools.

The content and instruction presented in our Bible classes encourage students to develop strong Christian character, offer them a vision for lives of service to Jesus Christ, and educate them in sound doctrine and a defined faith. This is so they can give an answer to the hope that is within them no matter what occupational pursuits they follow.

In addition to Bible classes as a core subject, students will have learning experiences appropriate to their age levels. These experiences emphasize the concept of a loving heavenly Father, creation of human beings in the image of God, the fall of humanity, and the redemptive work of God's Son, Jesus, and the absolute trustworthiness of God's written Word, the Bible.

Creation

Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth". At Rockford Christian Schools, we take an unwavering stance that God is the master designer and creator of the universe and all forms of life that inhabit it. Within this position, there is instruction and discussion that allows for a variety of possibilities concerning the exact manner and time frame of the creation. At the high school level, students learn about the major theories of the origins of the universe and of life and the arguments scientists use in attempting to support these theories.

Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Unity

Rockford Christian Schools is a community of learners whose mission is to serve God and others. Together we strive to live with one another in unity and peace. Our ability to fully demonstrate these qualities is limited by the extent to which we resemble the breadth of God's family. Recognizing that unity is not uniformity, and based on the diversity that we witness in the body of Christ, we believe that greater diversity at RCS enhances the educational experience by

- providing a better context for demonstrating the unifying power of the Gospel,
- better equipping our students for success in the increasingly global and diverse world, and
- actively and intentionally seeking to recruit staff and teachers that reflects the wonderful diversity of our community.

RCS has a calling that is higher than superficial compliance or obligation. We are called to build a Christian community as an example to our community and beyond. Our school should model the reality of the body of Christ, and be inclusive of diverse people of God using their unique gifts for God's glory. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to reflect the biblical mandate to be ministers of reconciliation and to bring about genuine unity within a diverse world. RCS actively seeks to attract and serve a diverse group of Christian employees and students in an environment that reflects our guiding values.

The Ministry of Teaching

Teachers and school administrators are called by God to help raise up the young in the ways of faith. Jesus, the Savior, was also a teacher. He gathered his disciples and others around him and taught with such conviction and truth that the "many who heard him were astonished, saying, 'Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hand!'" (Mark 6:2). His apostles, likewise, were teachers and gave witness "with great power," through their words and their deeds, and "gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33).

The ministry of teaching obligates the teacher to assist his or her students in understanding not only mathematics or physics, but how the order and discipline of mathematics or physics reveals the mind of God. It obligates one not only to instruct in geography and history, but to inculcate (to teach by consistent instruction and example) the faith by helping the students know that God created the mountains, the sea, the rivers, the deserts, the forests, the plains, and all the creatures that inhabit them, and to learn that human discoveries, empires, conflicts, and social movements are measured by the divinely ordained order.

As a condition of employment, all teachers are required to incorporate biblical teaching into their lessons. The ministry of teaching requires one not only to help students acquire skill in spelling, reading, grammar, and writing, but to understand that human language is a primary means by

which students might explore the wonders of poetry and narrative and sacred Scripture itself—all of which indirectly or directly disclose salvation history. Regardless of the subject, true teachers minister to their students by helping them follow Paul’s admonition:

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil. 4:8–9).

Teachers in a Christian school must be ever mindful that they instruct not only through rational explanation of formal subject material but even more powerfully through word, deed, example, and shared experience. Simply put, they teach the faith by modeling the faith and by modeling faithfulness. This is why all teachers, even before their first meeting with students, must subscribe to the school’s Statement of Faith. This is why teachers are required to give a godly example, both at school and away. Teachers must teach truth and avoid falsehood.

Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ... Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4: 25, 29).

Teachers minister to their students by providing them with faith experiences. They lead the youth in prayer, praise, and mercy. Paul urged Christians to “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander to be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31–32).

Teachers also model the Christian life by being active in their own church community and by serving as an intermediary assisting their students in becoming active in their respective church communities so that those students might be further nurtured in faith with their friends and family around them. Teachers will faithfully attend and financially support a local church whose fundamental beliefs are in agreement with the Statement of Faith of this school. (Hebrews 10:25)

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Rockford Christian Schools’ faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and 43 discipline, our Board of Directors is Rockford Christian Schools’ final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

Christian Ministry Expectations

Rockford Christian Schools is a religious (Christian) institution. We expect all employees to lead personal lives that do not violate the teachings of Jesus Christ as interpreted by the School, so that all employees may in their daily lives give witness to a lifestyle that supports our mission as a Christian institution. Employees will not act contrary to the school's standards of conduct, the school's statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality, and the school's statement on the Sanctity of Human Life. No School employee may promote beliefs contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ as interpreted by the School, or otherwise weaken the Christian atmosphere of the School. The failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.