

Policy and Standards

Photo Release for Minors

Required of All Students

Redeemer Christian School does take photographs or videos of the students and/or schoolwork completed during the school year. These photographs or videos may be used on school brochures, bulletin boards, the school website, Facebook, Twitter or other social media, local newspapers or newsletters. On the **Signature Page** you may consent or decline to have your child's image used in the above mention formats.

Social Media / School Hardware / Internet Policy Grades K - 8

Computer & Internet Use: Computers and the internet are provided at Redeemer for students to use as tools in the learning process. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer network, just as they are in the classroom, in the school hallway or on computers at home. Access to the computers and internet services at RCS is given to students who agree to act in a responsible and ethical manner. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility. Malicious damage to property of RCS can result in a family/guardian being financially responsible for the equipment.

We are a society that is reliant on our cell phones, the Internet, and the need to be in constant contact with our family and friends. Our students are no different. The vast majority of our upper grade students have a cell phone and belongs to one or more social media websites. It is our hope that our Redeemer Family is using these avenues of communication in positive ways.

Because of these communication tools, a major issue across our country that our schools are dealing with is Cyber Bullying. It is defined as a student using the Internet, cell phone, or other technology to harass, embarrass, or threaten another student. We pray that this and other inappropriate texts/posts don't happen here at Redeemer. But we want to let families and students know that we will address these incidents if they occur.

"Let the words of my mouth (my text messages and Facebook posts) and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14

Portions of that verse are not in the original translation! However, it is a reminder that what we say or do should always make the Good Lord smile. We are responsible for our words and actions no matter where we are even if we type those words instead of saying them aloud for people to hear. While we at Redeemer will do our best to monitor students' use of technology, we do ask that you set and convey standards at home for your child to follow when using technology.

The following guidelines apply to our Redeemer Family and share how we will handle situations that are not acceptable in His sight.

GPS/Child location devices

- GPS or child location devices are prohibited during the school day.

Cell Phones/eReaders/tablets/iPads

- Cell phones/eReaders/tablets/iPads (personal) will not be used during the school day. That includes bus line and Child watch.
- If a teacher or supervising adult sees a student using their device, it will be taken and given to the principal.
- The principal will go through confiscated device to check the messages and phone logs to ensure it has not been used during the school day. Any inappropriate information will be shared with parents.
- Students are responsible for the safety of these items at school. If your child cannot be responsible with the device, do not allow them to bring it to school.
- Confiscated devices will only be returned to parents. If they want the principal to keep it... it will be done gladly!

Computer/Internet Use

- The following actions are not allowed.
 1. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
 2. Destroying data of another user.
 3. Violating copyright laws.
 4. Employing or using the Internet for commercial uses.
 5. Using computers in such a way that it interferes with the educational process of RCS.
 6. Other violations deemed unacceptable by the general standards of our faith and the policies of our school.
- In addition to the inappropriate behaviors listed above, also included are these ground rules.
 1. Do NOT give out personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' work address or telephone number, or the name and location of our school without permission.
 2. Do NOT enter chat areas. At some sites there may be an opportunity to enter a chat area. You are NOT to do this.
 3. At some sites, there are questionnaires to fill out. You are NOT to do this without permission from your teacher.
 4. At some sites, there is advertising. There may be order forms to purchase something. You are NOT to fill out any of these forms.
 5. If you arrive at a site that is offensive to Christians, use the back button to leave the site and report it immediately to the teacher.

Social Media

- Facebook and other social media sites are not to be accessed by students at any time using computers owned by Redeemer.
- Always keep in mind that you are representing yourself, your family, your school, and most importantly your Lord when you are posting messages online.
- No inappropriate comments should be made about teachers, parents, or other students of Redeemer. You will be held accountable for your texts/posts.

Inappropriate Texts / Posts

- Inappropriate texts/posts are determined the same way we treat the words that come out of our mouths. At Redeemer we use three simple questions – Is it True? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? If you cannot say yes to all three, you've done something wrong.
- Texts/Posts referring to a teacher, parent, or student in our Redeemer Family that are deemed inappropriate need to be shared with the principal.

- The principal will only address instances where there is documented proof of the text/post. It is simple; save it, and show him/her. The principal will not handle situations where there is no evidence of such a text/post.
- No matter when an inappropriate text/post is written about someone in our Redeemer Family, the principal has the right to get involved and give consequences when necessary.

Those students who violate the above policy may lose the right to use technology and the computers at school for the amount of time deemed appropriate by teacher, principal, and/or school board. In addition, school disciplinary action may be taken including, if necessary, appropriate legal action.

Print and Social Media Code of Conduct

Social media is a quick and accessible way for people to connect with family, friends and acquaintances for fun and business reasons. Sometimes, social media is used as an outlet to share thoughts and opinions. Print media can be used for the same reasons. Not all thoughts and opinions are positive (nor should they be) but even the best constructive criticism should be brought to individuals or a group in a private setting. The 8th Commandment reminds us to preserve reputations and explain everything in the best, kindest way possible.

Students, parent(s)/guardian(s), relatives of the students, parent(s)/guardians and anyone else that may know RCS students and parents/guardians, are to not post negative/damaging/threatening comments or pictures about RCS or any of its employees through any print or social media outlet. Rather, the students and parent(s)/guardian(s) will resolve any issues through a mutually-agreable Christian dispute resolution process with the necessary individual(s)/group(s).

Printed or posted via the internet negative/damaging/threatening comments or pictures of RCS and/or its employees or refusing to enter a dispute resolution process may lead to removal from RCS.

A Note To Parents:

Be nosy! Know what is going on in your child's life. Even if they cry and scream, children don't have a right to privacy when it comes to the parent/child relationship. You should know their Facebook password so you can monitor their account. Grab their cell phone once in awhile and check to see if you approve of their text messages. Cell phones and Facebook are a license to sin. It is incredibly easy to text or post something you know you would never say to someone face to face. For a child, this is a temptation that is extremely difficult to overcome. They are going to mess-up. But it is our job as parents to use those incidents as teachable moments to talk about what it means to *live for Christ* and most importantly to be *forgiven by Christ*.