

Lakewood Ranch Christian School Family Handbook

Welcome Message

Welcome to Lakewood Ranch Christian School. This handbook is designed to provide important information about our school policies, student behavior expectations, technology usage, and uniform guidelines. We are committed to a bold, strong and courageous learning environment for all students. We believe in fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive school for all students. We believe in a balanced approach to education that integrates faith, academics, and personal growth. Our philosophy is rooted in three core principles:

- **Faith-Centered Learning:** We provide a biblical foundation, guiding students to develop a deep and personal relationship with Christ. Faith is interwoven into our curriculum, encouraging students to apply biblical principles in their daily lives.
- **Academic Excellence:** We are committed to providing an engaging academic program that challenges students to think critically, solve problems creatively, and develop a lifelong love for learning. Our educators foster an environment where intellectual curiosity is encouraged, and students are equipped with the core skills needed to excel. Students are exposed to robust offerings that meet every student where they are and take them to the next level.
- **Character Development:** We recognize that every child has unique gifts and interests. Through a variety of collaborative and creative opportunities, we inspire students to explore their passions through learning, cultivate their talents through career exploration, and become compassionate, confident leaders.

Join us as we reimagine education!

School Mission and Values

At Lakewood Ranch Christian School, we are committed to developing students who are **courageous** in character, **strong** in academic excellence while being **bold** in their faith. Through an innovative, faith-based learning environment, we empower students to develop a strong foundation in their beliefs, pursue knowledge with curiosity, and grow into compassionate, confident well-rounded individuals.

We value:

- **Courageous Character:** Meaning we treat others with kindness and consideration. We take ownership of your actions and learning. We act honestly and fairly at all times.
- **Strong Academic Excellence:** Meaning we strive to achieve your personal best. We take risks to learn more than we thought we could. We motivate others to learn with us. We ask questions, think critically, and apply our knowledge with wisdom and integrity.
- **Bold In Faith:** Meaning we confidently navigate the world with Christ as our guide. We serve beyond ourselves with compassion. We lead with purpose.

Admission Policy

Lakewood Ranch Christian School welcomes students of all race, color, gender and religion to our campus. To be considered for enrollment at Lakewood Ranch Christian School parents must submit a student application with applicable documents attached. Once an application is received and reviewed each family is invited to tour and discuss enrollment for the school year. Family tours and interviews are scheduled prior to the start of school for every family. Each family is required to provide the following information in their application:

- Age Verification (ie. Birth Certificate)
 - Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1st of the school year to enter kindergarten.
 - Students must be 6 years old on or before September 1st and have successfully completed kindergarten to be eligible for first grade.
- Required Health School Physical Forms
 - All children entering Florida schools, pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, must have a record of a school entry health exam completed within one year before enrollment.
- Immunization Records
 - A completed Certificate of Immunization form or Religious Exemption Form that document required school immunizations.
- Educational Materials:
 - Prior School Years Report Cards and Standardized Testing
 - Any IEP, 504 or Educational Evaluation Reports where applicable
 - **Notice:** A parentally placed private school student with a disability does not have an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services that the student would receive if enrolled in a public school under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Attendance Policy

At Lakewood Ranch Christian we believe that attendance is paramount to learning. Therefore we expect that students attend school regularly and on time. Excessive absences or tardiness can affect learning and academic progress. We understand however, that situations arise where students cannot attend school. In those cases:

- Parents should notify the school in case of an absence through the Absence Form that is listed on our website and provide a doctor's note for medical absences.
 - Illness and medical absences are excused with the appropriate documentation.
- Students with more than **5 unexcused absences or tardies** are subject to intervention to support attendance.
- Students who exceed 30 absences for the school year will be considered for non-promotion to the next grade level following a required parent meeting.

Birthday Celebrations

Lakewood Ranch Christian School is committed to celebrating our students while maintaining a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment for all. Student birthdays are celebrated in two ways:

- Birthdays are recognized school-wide during the Monthly Morning Meeting.
- Students are also recognized in their classroom on their birthday or, for weekend birthdays, on the preceding school day.
- Each birthday student will receive a special school gift and enjoy designated birthday privileges, as well as a dress down or dress up opportunity.

Due to food allergies, dietary restrictions, and student safety, parents may not send food, treats, snacks, cupcakes, or drinks to school for birthday celebrations. This policy applies to all classrooms and will be consistently enforced.

If birthday party invitations are distributed at school, they must include either the entire class or all students of the same gender in the class (all boys or all girls). Invitations that do not meet this requirement may not be distributed at school.

Grading Policy

Lakewood Ranch Christian School uses standards-based grading practices to evaluate each student's mastery of age and grade level appropriate standards.

Grades will be issued quarterly through a comprehensive report card detailing student progress from exposure to mastery of grade specific standards.

Each semester students and parents will participate in a Student-Led conference to showcase each student's level of mastery of academic standards. Conferences will be held in December and May annually for every student.

Health and Safety Guidelines

- **Illness:** If a student is sick, they should stay home. If a student feels ill during the school day, they will be sent home. Students sent home with a fever of 100.7 or higher must remain out of school for a full 24-hour period.
- **Medications:** Any medication must be submitted to the school office with a parent's permission slip for dispensing. Only prescription medications will be administered at school with permission.
- **Emergency Procedures:** Fire drills and emergency evacuations are practiced regularly. All students are expected to follow instructions quickly and calmly in case of an emergency.
- Pursuant to Florida Department of Health Standards parents will submit the following items before August 1st annually:

- Annual health physical form (DH3040)
- Records of immunization (DH680) or Religious Exemption (DH681)

Lunch Information

Lunch is not provided by Lakewood Ranch Christian School. Parents do have the ability to order lunch for delivery from Fresh Flamingo, our catering company (See Roar Report link). Students may also bring lunch from home. Lakewood Ranch Christian School does provide a microwave for use, with supervision, by students. We ask that parents do not have food delivered from a fast food location to school. If a lunch is forgotten, we will contact parents to discuss options for students prior to lunchtime.

Snacks Guidelines

Students may bring one healthy snack from home each day. To ensure the safety of all students:

- Snacks must be for the individual student only.
- Students are not permitted to share, trade, or give food to other students under any circumstances due to food allergies and dietary restrictions.
- Parents are encouraged to send nutritious, age-appropriate snacks.

When Lakewood Ranch Christian School provides food or treats for a class or school-wide event, every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate documented food allergies and dietary restrictions.

School Schedule

At Lakewood Ranch Christian School we believe in targeted specific instruction in CORE educational areas. Thus our school day and instructional time begins at **8:30 AM** and ends at **2:30 PM**. Below is a general outline of the daily schedule:

- **Kindergarten - 2nd Grade:**
 - Morning Play and Gather: 8:10 AM-8:30 AM
 - Morning Session: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
 - Math and Reading, Phonics, Writing
 - Lunch and Recess: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM
 - Afternoon Session: 12:45 PM – 2:30 PM
 - Project based exploration in Social Studies, Science
- **3rd - 8th Grade:**
 - Morning Recess and Gather: 8:10 AM-8:30 AM
 - Morning Session: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
 - Math, English, Language Arts, Writing
 - Lunch and Recess: 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
 - Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM – 2:30PM

- Project based exploration in Social Studies, Science and Career Development

Special Area Classes:

- PE Classes- Coach Boydston, Saint Sports
- Art Classes- Pure Imagination Studios
- Coding- The Coder School
- Music- Elizabeth Farrell Music
- Middle Grade Electives- FLVS if selected

Student Behavior Expectations

We expect all students to follow the principles of respect, responsibility, and safety. At Lakewood Ranch Christian School we practice Responsive Classroom Techniques that include:

- **Class Meetings:**
Whole-class discussions that allow students to address issues, problem-solve, and learn social skills together.
- **Interactive Learning Structures:**
Activities that promote student engagement and collaboration, such as group work, simulations, and discussions.
- **Social Conferences:**
Individual conversations with students to address specific behaviors or concerns.
- **Modeling:**
Teachers demonstrate desired behaviors and routines to help students learn and internalize expectations.
- **Clear Expectations and Rules:**
Students are involved in creating classroom rules, which are then consistently enforced.
- **Positive Language:**
Teachers use positive and encouraging language to build relationships and create a positive classroom climate.
- **Logical Consequences:**
When students misbehave, teachers use consequences that are related to the behavior and help students learn from their mistakes.
- **Academic Choice:**
Students are given opportunities to make choices in their learning, which can increase their engagement and motivation.

Should disciplinary actions need to be taken, they include warnings, written notices to parents, family meetings. Depending on the severity of any issue Lakewood Ranch Christian School reserves the right to ask a student to leave. Should a student be asked to leave the family is responsible for tuition through the month of separation; and all fees paid are non-refundable.

Technology Use Policy

Lakewood Ranch Christian School believes in the positive use of technology to support learning. Technology use is allowed on school property under the following guidelines:

- **K-2 Students:** Use school tablets/computers for educational purposes only. All online activity will be monitored through the Google For Education monitoring software that is installed on all Lakewood Ranch Christian School devices.
- **3rd-8th Grade Students:** Use school tablets/computers for educational purposes only. All online activity will be monitored through the Google for Education monitoring software that is installed on all Lakewood Ranch Christian School devices. Personal devices are not allowed at school for academic use. Gaming, social media, or any other non-educational activities are prohibited during school hours and with school issued devices.
- **Internet Safety:** Students must follow safe online practices as they are taught by Lakewood Ranch Christian. They will avoid visiting inappropriate and non educational websites on school issued devices. Cyberbullying will not be tolerated in our school and is grounds for students being asked to leave our program.
- **Device Care:** Students must care for school-issued devices. Damaged devices will result in damage charges to cover the cost of full repair of the device. Device damage charges will be added to the family financial account through Gradelink and are expected to be paid within 5 days.

Lakewood Ranch Christian School will provide each student a school-issued device that is for use at school. The device is the property of Lakewood Ranch Christian School at all times and will not leave the school property. Charging stations will be provided at school for each student to charge their device daily.

Uniform Guidelines

Lakewood Ranch Christian School ensures a cohesive, professional, and respectful school environment through the use of school uniforms. The guidelines are as follows:

- **Kindergarten to 8th Grade:**
 - Khaki or Navy pants, shorts or skorts
 - From any major retailer
 - Belts should worn with pants or shorts if they have belt loops
 - Monogrammed school polo shirt
 - Uniform polo - BananaBug Designs
 - Comfortable athletic shoes and socks
 - Not Allowed: boots, light-up or wheeled sneakers, sandals, flip flops, Crocs, Uggs, or slippers
 - School sweatshirt or jacket (optional)

Uniforms must be worn every day unless otherwise specified for special events (e.g., dress down days or Spirit days). Jewelry, and accessories should be minimal (e.g., one

set of earrings, one necklace, one ring, one bracelet) and not distracting. Makeup is prohibited.

Teacher Qualifications

At Lakewood Ranch Christian School all teachers are required to hold, at minimum, a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university. Teachers have accredited years of experience in the Education field and hold Level Two VECCHS background screenings. Teachers and staff are mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect in the State of Florida. Classroom teachers are required to hold valid State of Florida Education Certification that is renewed in a timely manner.

Conclusion

We are excited to have you as part of the Lakewood Ranch Christian community. Together, we will have a successful and enjoyable year for all students. If you ever have questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@lwrchristian.org