



IRC Christian Academy

“Launching Students for Life”

Parent Handbook 2023-2024

“Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created the stars.”

- *Isaiah 40:26*

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VISION STATEMENT

IRC Christian Academy's vision is to provide excellence in Christian education focusing on the whole child, raising up and equipping lifelong learners and leaders for Christ.

MISSION

"Bringing families together through Christ-centered learning."

OBJECTIVES

1. Daily model the love of God to the students, parents and community.
2. Emphasize faithful stewardship at all levels of student and parent engagement.
3. Teach students to be diligent and committed to the tasks at hand, building in them a positive work ethic.
4. Encourage every student to achieve his/her academic potential and encourage each student to develop a love of learning.
5. Provide a safe, fun and engaging learning environment which promotes student success.
6. Provide students with a classic core Christian education.
7. Emphasize the core pillars of Stewardship, Discipleship and Citizenship in partnership with our Church mission of "Love God, Love People, Serve the World."

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in the author of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

What this means for us at IRC Christian Academy is we accept the plain sense of Scripture as the sufficient rule of faith and proactive for our life together. We recognize some parts of Scripture are difficult to understand (even Peter said that 2 Peter 3:16) but we also believe as we engage them the Holy Spirit will illuminate their meaning to us. When it comes to our life together, we believe Scripture is our primary curriculum and guide.

We believe there is salvation only through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

While we respect the religious beliefs of others, we recognize them as human expressions of the universal longing to reach God (or some sort of transcendence). We believe Scripture clearly teaches the only way to God is through His Son, Jesus (John 14:6). Therefore, we are unapologetic in our desire to reach people of all faiths and cultures with the Good News that Jesus died and rose for them. There is urgency to our evangelism because we believe without a relationship with Christ people will spend an eternity apart from God.

We believe that life-change is possible and normal for the Christian believer (2 Corinthians 3:18).

We believe an encounter with Jesus Christ is not just about eternal salvation but about life-change here and now. Further, we believe that this life-change is not an option but normal for every Christian so that we can grow into the likeness of Christ (Ephesians 4:15-16). Therefore, our preaching, teaching and curriculum are all aimed at transformation not simply transmission of information.

We believe in the dignity and value of every human being.

Because God created people in His own image (Genesis 1:26) and is intimately involved in the creation of each individual (Psalm 139:13), we believe each person bears the imprint of God on their life regardless of how muddy or broken that image may have become through sin. Therefore, we will treat each person with dignity and honor, whether or not they know Christ. This means we will not degrade or speak disparagingly to others. Rather, we will seek their salvation and welfare just as God does. (2 Peter 3:9).

PASTOR WELCOME

Dear Parents,

On behalf of our school and church I want to welcome you to our family. We are honored and blessed to be working together to help build a foundation for your child that will prepare them for their future. IRC is a special place that is committed to academic excellence and making sure your child feels the warmth and love that abounds in a Christ centered environment. We are eager to get started on our new year together and look forward to watching your child learn and grow both academically and spiritually.

Our team will be working hard to give your child the support and encouragement that will help them thrive, build wonderful memories, and really enjoy their time with us this year. We want to embed in every child a lifetime love of learning. Our dedicated team has been working tirelessly to fine-tune our instructional models, engage in professional learning opportunities, and update class routines and expectations, all with the goal of making this year a success story for all of our students.

We are working as partners in your child's development, and it is essential we strive to maintain good communication between our team and your family. We will do all we can to over communicate and leave open opportunities for you to ask questions and hear the good news about your child's progress.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your family and if there is anything I can do to make your experience better feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Pastor Stuart Bodin

ADMINISTRATOR WELCOME

IRC Christian Academy Families,

Welcome to the 2nd year of the IRC Christian Academy (IRC Christian Academy). IRC Christian Academy begins her second year determined to glorify God as we inspire, educate and equip every student to know and serve our Lord. This year will continue for many great years to come as we build our Academy in His name!

We plan to continue to build a strong base for the future of this Academy with the success of our kindergarten class and the addition of a first-grade class. We have structured our activities to include music, art, science, technology, physical fitness and library services. It has been God's grace, and his servants here at the school that have allowed this growth to occur.

Your integral part of our mission as parents is exemplified in how you lead and teach your child. We want to partner with you for academic excellence and spiritual growth.

As Administrator, my administrative team has diligently prepared for an amazing year. Our main goal is to provide a safe campus for your child to grow academically, relationally, and spiritually.

We covet your prayers and your patience! We have an amazing faculty in every area. Please join with us on the journey to take our school to the next level of success and effectiveness in the Kingdom.

*“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old,
he will not turn from it.”*

- Proverbs 22:6

Educating for Eternity,
Heather Quidort, Administrator

ACADEMICS

Curriculum

During the 2023-2024 school year, Indian River City Christian Academy (IRC Christian Academy) is a kindergarten through first grade traditional school that utilizes a conventional classroom setting and a biblical based academic program. The instructional methods include whole and small group lessons, class discussions, group projects, using manipulatives, technology-integrated lessons, higher order thinking questioning, and activities to develop and promote critical thinking and problem solving.

Students at IRC Christian Academy receive instruction from professional qualified teachers and staff. Our instructional program has been designed to meet students' cognitive, emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs. Our core subjects include Bible, English Language Arts (phonemic awareness, phonics, reading, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, writing, and handwriting), Math, Science, and Social Studies. Our elective programs include music, art, physical education, library and social/emotional. Spiritual development will be encouraged through Bible teachings and chapels. We also use the Pyramid Model and Becky Bailey's Conscience Discipline which focuses on classroom management, positive reinforcement and re-direction.

Reading Counts

Reading Counts is a computer program that helps the teachers manage and monitor each student's independent reading practices and comprehension. Once a student reads a book, they can access an online reading quiz which provides immediate feedback to the student and the teacher on their progress. Teachers may use this data to assess the students' reading levels, set reading goals, and track progress throughout the year. The students' progress will be communicated to parents by the teacher.

Spiritual Emphasis

Chapel is a vital part of student life at IRC Christian Academy. Our Church staff partners with IRCCA to provide bible lessons, praise and worship. Students should participate by being attentive and practicing good conduct.

Bible Instruction

In addition to Bible being taught in the classroom as a subject, the Bible is integrated into all courses throughout the curriculum. Students are expected to memorize Scripture according to the instruction of Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." It is the desire of IRCCA that students not only learn the Bible but be able to apply its truths in everyday situations.

Curriculum Concerns

Despite the great care taken in the curriculum selection process, there may be occasional objections raised to some of the materials included in the IRC Christian Academy Curriculum, Library. Concerns should be handled in a scriptural manner, following the principles in Matthew 18: 15-17 (“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”) Anyone hearing any concerns should refer that person to the front office. Any parent, faculty, or staff member may challenge materials he or she deems objectionable by following the procedures outlined herein.

IRC Christian Academy supports the rights of all parents to monitor their student’s reading and instructional materials. However, those rights extend only to their own student. Individuals are not free to define what is appropriate for all students or teachers to read, view or hear. The school retains the right for students to have availability to materials which have gone through the selection policy and were chosen by the professionals as acceptable.

Grading Scale

Kindergarten:

O- Outstanding	The student consistently demonstrates understanding of the concept or skill.
S – Satisfactory	The student usually demonstrates understanding of the concept or skill.
N – Needs Improvement	The student is working towards mastery of the concept or skill.

1st Grade:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the use of ideas or words of another as one's own work; work presented as new and original, an idea or product taken from an existing source. A student who is found to have plagiarized a school assignment will not receive credit for that assignment and will be disciplined in accordance with the Discipline Policy. When grade reduction is determined to be an appropriate disciplinary measure, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified.

Parent – Teacher Conferences

IRC Christian Academy has a scheduled parent conference day. Should you need additional conferences, please contact your student's teacher to schedule. Please remember that arrival and dismissal times are not good for conferences. We value our parent partnerships, and your insight and concerns are important to us.

Student Academic Records

Student academic records are the property of IRC Christian Academy. Records are only accessible by the student's teachers, IRC Christian Academy administrative staff, authorized employees of licensing agencies and the student's parent(s) or legal guardian.

ATTENDANCE

Prompt and regular attendance is a requirement of all students attending IRC Christian Academy. Attending regularly, arriving and dismissing promptly provides a sense of security and well-being for each child and is conducive to proper development. The expectation of IRC Christian Academy is that all students will be in attendance each day of the school year. One of the major indicators of responsibility is the ability to fulfill one's obligations to be punctual and present. Not only is responsibility a character trait that we want to instill in every student, but also our ability to provide excellent academic instruction is dependent on every student being in the classroom on time. IRC Christian Academy families must take this commitment seriously and do everything possible to abide by the attendance policies. Students who miss more than three consecutive days due to illness will be required to submit written documentation from health professionals.

Excused Absences

Absences will be deemed excused provided the student turns in a written, valid excuse within 48 hours of returning to school. A written excuse can be provided by either your student(s) doctor or parent/guardian. Notes must include dates of absences, your student(s) name, and the return to school date. IRC Christian Academy reserves the right to require documentation from health professionals for students who excessively request to be excused due to illness. Excuses will be accepted for the following reasons:

- Personal illness or injury
- Serious illness or death in a family
- Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours
- Court-related appearances
- Pre-arranged absences that have been approved by IRC Christian Academy administration

Long-Term Absences

Long-term absences due to hospitalization or other verified medical reasons will be handled on an individual basis by the administration.

Pre-arranged Absence/Vacation

When parents sincerely believe that an absence is necessary, they should complete an absence/vacation form located on the IRC Christian Academy website under parent resources or obtain a form at the school office. Please keep in mind the following:

1. A completed pre-arranged absence form is to be signed by a parent/guardian and submitted to the appropriate administrator, a minimum of one week prior to the absence. Failure to notify accordingly will result in the billing of normal tuition fees.
2. It is the student's/parent's responsibility to gather assignments that will be missed during the period of absence. One day is given for each day missed to complete assignments.
3. Projects/long-term assignments with a due date that falls during the pre-arranged absence must be turned in prior to the absence to receive credit.

Unexcused Absences

Absences will be deemed unexcused when they occur for non-legitimate reasons, such as oversleeping, sleeping late, staying home to complete schoolwork, having out-of-town visitors, birthday celebrations, unapproved absences, etc. Any excuse turned in after the 48-hour period will be marked as unexcused. Students are permitted up to 9 unexcused absences per semester. Parents need to submit a note explaining the reason for absence for documentation purposes. Students are not permitted to make up work, projects or tests that are due on the day of an unexcused absence. In the event the total number of absences, whether planned or unplanned, is equal to or exceeds fifteen days in one semester, the student will not receive credit for the semester. Any student with more than 10 unexcused absences per semester can be retained in their current grade.

Attendance Probation

Students will be placed on attendance probation if, in any 9-week grading period, they have 9 or more absences and have grades lower than 70% for any subject. A conference will be scheduled with the student, parent(s)/guardian, and the administrator. The purpose of the conference will be to review the reason(s) for the student's poor attendance and to outline strategies for improvement. An Attendance Probation Contract will be issued at the conference. Student and parents will co-sign the Probation Contract, agreeing to abide by the stipulated conditions.

For students with 9 absences and no grades lower than a 70% will receive a warning letter.

Responsibilities

Parent(s)/guardian, teachers and administrator are responsible for several aspects of the probation program. To help the student to become more successful, parent(s)/guardian, teacher(s), and administration will meet during the next midterm to discuss the progress that has been made and the need, if any, of further assistance.

Parent(s)/guardian Responsibilities:

Parent(s)/guardian must make every effort to:

1. Have student(s) here every day and on time.
2. Provide a pre-arranged absence form for a day(s) not in school.
3. Maintain close communication with school staff regarding student's health absences.
4. Attend any attendance review meetings with administration.
5. Contact the office if there are any questions.

Teacher Responsibilities:

The teacher must make every effort to:

1. Communicate with Administration when two or more absences have occurred in a 9-week period.
2. Communicate with Administration when four or more tardies have occurred in a 9-week period.

Administration Responsibilities:

Administration must make every effort to:

1. Provide communication between all the participants in the probation program.
2. Coordinate attendance review meetings with parents and administration.

Probation Outcome

Students who have achieved on time attendance for the following grading period will be released from attendance probation. In cases of students who fail to meet the goals of the attendance probation contract, administration will determine if the student(s) will be released from attendance probation. In cases of students who fail to meet the goals of the attendance probation contract, administration will determine if the student(s) will be retained in their current grade, or to continue with the contract goals whether IRC Christian Academy is the best educational setting for the student(s). If a student is placed on attendance probation two times during the academic year, the student may be retained in the grade or withdrawn from IRC Christian Academy.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be at school, settled and prepared for class by 8:00 a.m. promptly. The classroom will be open at 7:45 a.m. each morning, Monday through Friday to allow time for the students to prepare for the day. Students who are not in class at 8:00 a.m. are tardy. Families arriving late should go to the IRC Christian Academy front office to sign in. Student(s) will be given a tardy slip to present to their teacher. Students who go to class without a tardy slip will be directed back to the office to obtain one.

Additionally, a strict bus schedule is followed for field trips. If your student does not arrive on time, they may miss the bus for the field trip. In this case you would be responsible for alternate care for the day. Unfortunately, as field trips are planned in advance, there will be no refunds for any fees associated with the field trip due to missing the bus.

Unexcused Tardies

Most tardies are unexcused. Tardies will not be excused for traffic, unavoidable circumstances, oversleeping, or notes with no reason given for the tardy. After five (5) unexcused tardies in a 9-week period, a \$10 fee will be assessed, per child, for each tardy that follows. Three unexcused tardies will equal one unexcused absence. Any student with more than 10 unexcused absences per semester can be retained in their current grade. Probation and fees will be assessed after every grading period.

Excused Tardies

A tardy may be excused for the following reasons only:

1. Returning from a medical appointment with doctor's note
2. Involvement in a car accident
3. Illness related to a medical condition on file (physician's note required)

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of severe weather conditions or other local or national disaster, IRC Christian Academy typically follows the Brevard County Public School Board and/or Eastern Florida State College regarding openings and closings announced on local television, radio or social media outlets. IRC Christian Academy reserves the right to make changes from the decisions of Brevard County School Board as necessary.

If a severe weather/disaster announcement occurs during the school/summer day and Brevard County School Board/Eastern Florida State College announces school closures, you must pick up your child immediately. If weather conditions become severe during the day you may also be called to pick up your child.

Severe conditions could include but are not limited to hurricanes, tropical storms, tornados, fires or other local or national disasters.

Indian River City Christian Academy will re-open when the Brevard County School Board/Eastern Florida State College re-opens. If IRC Christian Academy is in a position to open earlier, we will contact our families.

FINANCES

Tuition

There is an annual tuition for each student at IRC Christian Academy which is conveniently broken down into weekly/monthly payments for our parents. This tuition is due on the first Monday of the week/month. IRC Christian Academy reserves the right to adjust payment day due to a holiday or unforeseen closures.

IRC Christian Academy tuition, registration and additional fee payments will be collected through Tuition Express. This is an automatic draft program which allows payments to be collected electronically. Parents complete the Tuition Express enrollment form at registration and payments will be processed weekly on Mondays or monthly on the first Monday of the month. The services provided depend on consistent weekly payments. Parents are encouraged to register online to gain access, view accounts and track payments that have been processed. See registration and billing in the front office.

Fees and Refund Policies

A tuition and registration fee schedule is available in the front office. A non-refundable, one-time application fee and an annual non-refundable registration fee is required at the time of enrollment. All fees must be paid in full by the end of the year in order to release final report cards and records of each student. The custodial parent who signs the student up for attendance at IRC Christian Academy is the financially responsible partner for the student. If the parent has an agreement with the other parent for tuition payments, we will gladly accept payments from the other party. However, any unpaid balances will be the sole responsibility of the enrolling parent. Scholarship recipients are responsible for any fees NOT covered by the scholarship or if funds are exhausted at the time of billing. Tuition is not billed the week following Christmas when IRC Christian Academy is closed.

In instances, where a student does not have lunch and IRC Christian Academy provides one, a fee will be automatically billed to the family account. Admissions testing, technology and field trip fees are non-refundable.

Late Payment/Declined Account Fee

Tuition paid after the close of business on Mondays will incur a late payment fee of \$10.00 for each week payment is not made. If payment is not paid within two weeks, your student may be removed from the program until such time as payment is paid in full. These fees will be automatically billed to the family account.

There is a \$25.00 NSF (Not Sufficient Funds) for payments declined by bank or credit card companies.

Withdrawal Policy

IRC Christian Academy is a non-profit organization that organizes its yearly budget upon the students who committed to IRC Christian Academy educational services each school year. Therefore, early withdrawal of a student will result in payment of the remainder of the semester or \$250.00 (whichever is greater). Semester one is considered the first and second nine-week grading periods. Semester two is considered the third- and fourth-week grading periods. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw from their student, they must give a minimum of two weeks' notice of withdrawal. Until payment is remitted all grades and records will be withheld. An exit interview is required with administration at which time formal withdrawal paperwork is signed. Withdrawal is not considered finalized until the above procedures have taken place.

Step-up for Students

Step Up For Students supports Florida students and families in building a stronger future through personalized education. Our scholarships open doors with private school tuition assistance, help cover the cost of traveling to a different public school and more through an education savings account.

Private School Scholarships

Scholarships vary by county and grade but are worth an average of \$7,700. Once awarded a scholarship, work with your selected participating private school to enroll your student through Step Up For Students. You will be notified when it is time to log into your account to approve scholarship funds to be issued directly to your school electronically.

The scholarship awards will first pay for tuition and fees at eligible private schools. Remaining funds can be accessed through an education savings account (ESA) and used to pay for:

- Instructional material
- Curriculum
- Tuition for full-time or part-time education at an eligible postsecondary educational institution or approved apprenticeship program
- Fees for nationally standardized norm-referenced tests and other assessments
- Contracted services provided by a public school or school district
- An approved online course
- Tuition as a private pay student at Florida Virtual School,
- Fees for a "Choice Navigator," which is an optional service provider intended to help guide parents through the myriad of choices that will become available to them through their ESA.

Eligibility

As of July 1, 2023, scholarships will be available to all students, regardless of household income, who are residents of Florida and eligible to enroll in a K-12 public school.

Priority will be given to families whose household income is 400% of poverty or below as outlined in the income guidelines or who meet the following criteria:

- Renewing students of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and/or Family Empowerment Scholarship
- Children in foster care or out-of-home care
- Homeless children

<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>

COMMUNICATION

Procare

Procare is our online communication platform that is used to communicate between parents/guardians and the school. Families will need to download the app and turn on notifications. Expect electronic alerts to come via Procare regarding incidents and accidents, events, special notices, school emergencies, financial information, etc. This is the main avenue for communication with parents/guardians.

Teacher Communication

The first line of communication for families is with their student(s)' teacher(s). Daily communication occurs through the student binders. Students will write down homework assignments, teachers can make behavioral notes, or other items that may need to be addressed before the next school day. Weekly communication occurs via classroom newsletters created by the teacher and sent home in the folders. Teachers will reach out about individual concerns via phone or notes.

If families need to confer with their student's teacher, please send an email or note through the folder requesting an appointment. Teachers are unable to meet without an appointment. Please do not address concerns in the carline or at drop-off or dismissal. A teacher's first responsibility is the supervision of his/her students. A teacher cannot adequately meet with you and supervise students at the same time.

Parent(s)/Guardian Communication

Accurate information for our records is important for the safety of your student and the ability to share important information with you regarding your child and the school. It is most important that parents notify the school immediately of any change in address, telephone number, emergency contacts, pick-up, etc.

During meetings with faculty/staff if the parent's tone becomes insulting or abusive the meeting will end immediately, and it will be necessary for any future meetings to be in the presence of the administrator. We're on the same team- your student's. All communications should be handled in a professional manner.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our discipline goal is to guide students to understand their boundaries and the proper way to handle problems they may encounter. In helping students develop this inner discipline, we will set reasonable limits with logical consequences. We strive to be positive role models for the students. The health and safety of ALL students is a top priority. A student who displays an unacceptable behavior that affects the wellbeing of another student will be removed from the classroom and taken to the program office. At this time, if necessary, a parent/teacher conference and/or a conference with parents, teachers and the Administrator may occur.

Any action or decision regarding unacceptable behavior or violence will be made at the discretion of the Administrator. If deemed necessary, disciplinary action may result in suspension or expulsion from IRC Christian Academy.

If a student purposely damages IRC Christian Academy or Indian River City United Methodist Church property, the parent is liable for damages incurred.

No staff or parent will administer corporal punishment while your student is on school property or during participation of IRC Christian Academy activities. Please remember that changes at home may affect your student's performance at school. Please notify your student's teacher of changes or experiences that may impact your student at school. This will be kept in strict confidence.

The kind and amount of discipline will be determined by the teachers, and if necessary, the school administrator. The discipline will be administered in light of the student's behavior and attitude. All discipline will be based on biblical principles (example: restitution, apologies in private), consequences for actions, restoration of fellowship, no lingering attitudes, etc. Teachers and administrators will seek to address the heart of the students as corrective discipline is administered. The vast majority of discipline problems are to be dealt with at the classroom level. Love and forgiveness will be an integral part of the discipline of the student.

Office Visits

In the event that a student's behavior becomes repetitively disruptive to classroom learning or to the school environment, the student could be sent to an administrator for further discipline. The administrator will handle discipline on a case-by-case basis. Parents will be notified by a teacher if the student is causing repeated disruptions of any kind to the learning environment. If a student is sent to the administrator, parents will be notified as well, and they will be included in resolving the situation. Repetitive office visits for behavioral problems will necessitate a parent conference with administration and faculty related to the situation.

Suspension

A student will be a candidate for suspension if behavioral problems cannot be eliminated after two parent conferences with administration and faculty related to the situation. Suspension could be 1-3 days and all decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. All classwork, homework, tests and project grades due on suspended dates will be counted as zeros.

Expulsion

The IRC Christian Academy realizes that expelling a student from school is very serious and should always be a matter of last resort in the event a situation with the child was unable to be satisfactorily resolved. Any expulsion will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Forgiveness and restitution are fundamental to our total discipline policy. However, should a student not be able to eliminate behavioral problems after one or more suspension periods, the student could be a candidate for expulsion.

Serious Misconduct

If a student commits an act with such serious consequences that the administrator deems it necessary, the office visit process may be bypassed, and suspension or expulsion may be imposed immediately. Examples of such serious misconduct would be acts of endangering the lives or safety of other students or staff members, gross violence/vandalism to the school facilities, or clear violations of civil law. Students may be subject to school discipline for serious misconduct which might occur off campus and/or after school hours.

Re-admittance

Should the expelled student desire to be re-admitted to IRC Christian Academy at a later date, the administration will make a decision based on the student's attitude and circumstances at the time of re-application.

Removal of student from IRC Christian Academy

IRC Christian Academy makes every effort to work with a family to ensure the success of a student in our program; however, we reserve the right to immediately remove, suspend, or expel a student from the school for financial, behavioral, or other issues we are unable to resolve.

BULLYING POLICY

Christ commands us to love one another, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." – John 13:34 NIV.

Bullying is **not** tolerated at IRC Christian Academy. If an issue should arise, parents are expected to work closely with the teachers, staff and administrator to develop a plan that supports the philosophy of the academy. If a resolution is not reached, IRC Christian Academy reserves the right to discontinue services to the parties involved. Bullying is defined as conduct which subjects a student to insults, taunts or challenges, whether verbal or physical in nature, which is likely to intimidate or provoke a violent or disorderly response from the student being treated in this manner. Bullying may involve gang or individual behavior hazing, threats, cyber bullying and violence. Bullying may also involve intentionally excluding others from activities or targeting them for negative behavior from other students. Incidents of bullying will follow the discipline policy consequences.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Hours

The school day for IRC Christian Academy starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. Prompt arrival is very important. The school opens at 7:30 a.m. each morning to allow the student time to settle in before starting their class time at 8:00 a.m.

Holidays and Other Closings

IRC Christian Academy typically follows the Brevard County Public School system calendar. See IRC Christian Academy website for specific dates and details.

Admission Policy

IRC Christian Academy is open to all children regardless of race, color, sex, religion or national origin. All children will receive the full benefit of our programs and will be treated with dignity and respect.

School Board

IRC Christian Academy School/The Kids' Place Board is comprised of both parents and representatives of church leadership of Indian River City United Methodist Church. The purpose of the board is to set policies and procedures for the fulfillment of the mission of the school, to vision plan and to enable the Administrator to carry out the day to day operations of the School.

Class Size

The target class size for IRC Christian Academy is 12-16 students.

Solicitation

IRC Christian Academy does not promote events with which the school is not directly partnered. Agencies or groups wishing to distribute information through IRC Christian Academy must have administrative approval.

Lunches

Students should bring a nutritious lunch each school day. Lunches should be in a labeled lunch box or paper sack. We do not refrigerate or heat up lunches. No glass containers are permitted. Field trip lunches should be in a paper bag, labeled and fully disposable.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special and may be celebrated during lunchtime only. Please speak to your student's teacher to schedule a time to celebrate your student's birthday. Cupcakes and cookies are allowed and must be enough for the entire class. No homemade food, balloons, flowers, candles, etc. are allowed. Additionally, please do not pass out party invitations at school unless everyone in the class is invited.

Personal Items

In order to prevent lost or broken toys, please refrain from sending toys, headphones, games, phones, iPods, etc. to school from home. *IRC Christian Academy will not be responsible for lost or broken toys or items brought from home.*

Parent(s)/Guardian Participation

We encourage family involvement and will provide opportunities for families to participate in the classroom program. We require parents to check in at the front office before entering a classroom.

Volunteers

IRC Christian Academy appreciates the helping hands of our families. The time and resources you contribute benefit every student at IRC Christian Academy. There are various school-wide events that cannot happen without your support. Your child's teacher may also provide opportunities for you to volunteer in the classroom at various times throughout the year.

Any person volunteering will need to check in at the front desk prior to going to the classroom or event. To check in, the adult volunteer must provide a photo ID (driver's license or passport). A volunteer ID Badge will be provided, which must be worn while the volunteer is on sight.

- For the protection of our students, no volunteer is permitted in the student bathrooms or to be left alone with the children. Screened and fingerprinted volunteers, approved by administration, may work one-on-one with students as needed.
- While volunteering, all discipline and direction of the class will be handled and led by IRC Christian Academy staff
- Any food served must be addressed by the teaching staff
- Any emergency care will be administered by the school staff

Fundraising

IRC Christian Academy is a non-profit organization; therefore, we depend on fundraisers to provide needed funds for extra items purchased throughout the year. Success relies heavily on parent participation and support. Parent(s)/guardians have committed upon registration to complete a minimum of ten (10) volunteer hours per year. For example, volunteering at the Pumpkin Patch.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Students must follow the dress code below:

Shirts

1. Students must wear IRC Christian Academy logo embroidered polo shirts and t-shirts. Long sleeves may be worn under school approved tops as long as in solid school colors or white.
2. All shirts must have a collar and sleeves.
3. IRCCA colors are navy blue, white and gold.

Pants/Shorts/Skirts/Dresses/Jumpers

1. Pants, shorts, skorts, dresses, jumpers or skirts must be in khaki, navy, black or gray.
2. Skirts, skorts, shorts, dresses, jumpers, and pants must be properly fastened with no tears that reveal skin above mid-thigh.
3. Girls must wear appropriate shorts or school-colored leggings underneath skirts, dressers or jumpers.
4. Hemlines for dresses, jumpers, skorts, shorts, and skirts must be no shorter than mid-thigh. Mid-thigh is defined as while a student is in the seated position, measure halfway from the top of the leg (the crease your hip makes when seated) to the outside of the bent knee. In a standing position, whatever students are wearing should be longer than the mid-thigh mark, when standing as defined above.
5. Students may not wear bike pants, tights, leotards, leggings, sweatpants, or athletic wear – unless worn under dresses, jumpers or skirts – that conform to appropriate dress code policy.

Socks

Socks or tights must be worn in solid school colors only. This includes ankle socks and socks that may peak out of the shoes. (If you can see it, it should meet school uniform colors).

Shoes

1. Shoes must have closed toes and fit securely on the foot. Sneakers are the best shoes for school on a daily basis.
2. Shoes with electronics, wheels, and other irregular accessories are not to be worn to school.
3. Crocs, jellies, water shoes, flip-flops, cleats, heels and boots are not permitted.

Hair

1. Only natural hair colors are permitted on campus during the school year. Dying hair bright colors is prohibited.
2. Hair should be kept off the face.
3. Accessories are permitted but must not be bulky in nature and should support the overall school appearance.
4. Hats, bandanas, scarves and beanies are not permitted.

Outerwear

1. Sweaters, sweatshirts and pullovers (hooded or zip-up) must be in solid school colors. School logo is not required.
2. Outerwear that is not in school colors must be removed upon entering the classroom.
3. Please write your child's name inside jackets, sweaters and sweatshirts.

All students in every grade are expected to be in uniform compliance at all times on campus during regular school days and during certain school related activities (i.e., Field trips, etc.). Students must dress in gender-appropriate attire.

ARRIVAL/PICK-UP PROCEDURES

NO CELL PHONES WHILE CAR LINE IS MOVING. THANK YOU.

Arrival and dismissal times are generally busy with a lot of vehicles and students moving in and about the parking areas. All parents are expected to follow the traffic flow patterns as shown on the IRC Christian Academy map. Directional signage on campus and/or the direction of IRC Christian Academy staff.

In order to ease congestion, maximize traffic flow and minimize the risk of injury, IRC Christian Academy requires that students, parents and visitors follow these guidelines and courtesies at all times:

- Drop off/pick-up locations are marked on the IRC Christian Academy map
- Please hang your student(s)' car loop placard from the rear-view mirror or place on the passenger-side dash of your car. Each family will be provided with two placards per student.
- Please do not line up for pick up/dismissal until after 2:00 p.m. on Mondays – Thursday and 1:00 p.m. on Fridays.
- Follow directions given by IRC Christian Academy staff.
- Cars must line up and move in an orderly fashion in the carpool line.
- No one may pass other cars in the carpool line, unless directed to do so.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended in the carpool line. If you must leave your vehicle, park in one of the designated parking spaces.

IRC Christian Academy drop off will begin in the morning at 7:30 a.m. Staff will close drop off lines at 7:50 a.m. Families arriving after 7:50 a.m. will need to go to the school front office to check in. Your student(s) will be marked tardy after 8:00 a.m. A staff member will take your student(s) to their classroom.

IRC Christian Academy Dismissal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. If students are not picked up by 2:45 p.m. Monday – Thursday or 1:45 p.m. on Fridays, students will be sent to our after-school care program at The Kid's Place. A \$30 non-refundable registration fee will apply, as well as a \$20 daily rate fee for the first use of the program. Each subsequent use will accrue a \$20 daily rate fee.

Release Procedure

Parents must keep an up-to-date list of adults allowed to pick up their student(s) from our school. If your student(s) is not going home with his or her usual car rider pick up, please send a note to the office no later than the morning of the change. All persons picking up student(s) that are unfamiliar to staff will be asked for a photo ID. We cannot accept verbal messages from students. We will not allow a child to leave school with anyone unless we have written permission from a parent or verbal permission with a student password. IRC Christian Academy has no legal recourse to keep a parent from picking up their child unless we have a copy of the legal custody agreement on file. We love and support all parents and respect each family's privacy. We ask that our staff not be placed in uncomfortable situations due to domestic issues.

No child will be released to a parent/guardian appearing to be under the influence of alcohol.

Early Sign Out

For the safety of our students, we strongly suggest you take advantage of our car pickup line. If you need to pick up your child prior to the designated pick-up times you will need to:

- Park in the designated parking spaces
- Come inside the school office to sign them out
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to our release times (prior to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 1:00 p.m. on Fridays). After the 30-minute time frame you will need to use the carline.

Note: Our curriculum extends to the end of the school day and if you choose to pick up your child early you are disturbing the other students.

FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

Field trips are an important part of the educational program at IRC Christian Academy. All trips are carefully planned to give students educationally enriching experiences that are not available in the confines of the classroom. Field trip fees are paid in advance, are non-refundable, and are not included in tuition fees. Absences from field trips, except for illness or family emergencies, will be considered an unexcused absence. All students are expected to follow the school dress code for all field trips unless the trip involves a destination where other clothes would be more appropriate. In this case, clothing should follow the school dress code guidelines regarding fit and length. Siblings of students may not attend field trips. Field trips depart **on time** and a strict bus schedule is followed. If your student does not arrive on time, they may miss the bus for a field trip. In this case, the parent is responsible for alternate care for the day.

Field Trip Chaperone Guidelines

To help ensure the safety of our students and the success of their service, we ask our volunteers and chaperones to comply with the following guidelines:

1. All parent/adult chaperones that may be responsible for children other than their own, will be required to have a background check at their expense. Information regarding background checks is available in the school office.
2. Please realize that you are representing the school and upholding its policies. All adults (from employees to volunteers) who are serving on behalf of the school must comply with school standards. Please be an example by demonstrating maturity in actions, attitudes and dress and by refraining from the use of tobacco, vape and alcohol while chaperoning/volunteering.
3. Only children enrolled in the class or activity may go on field trips or other school sponsored trips unless otherwise indicated. Siblings should be left at home so that chaperones may devote all their attention to the students under their care.
4. Please remember if you volunteer to chaperone, you may be assigned to oversee a group of students; and each student needs your attention and your supervision. Two chaperones must be assigned to each group.
5. Please refrain from buying special treats for the students in your group unless all students receive a treat. Students may have food allergies that you are unaware of.

6. Each trip may have its own expectations and requirements for chaperones. While we are extremely grateful to all those who volunteer to chaperone, sometimes we may have too many volunteers, which can decrease the value of the trip for the students. Please understand that if this occurs, the teachers/administration must set limits on the number of chaperones that may go on the field trip.

Field Trip Transportation

For most field trip events, IRC Christian Academy provides bus transportation for the activity. However, if school-based transportation is not provided, the parents must drive their students. Parents who are driving are required to meet at IRC Christian Academy to check in and depart together. Parents may only drive their student and are responsible for their own parking fees, if any are accrued. No student shall be transported in an employee's personal vehicle at any time.

Field Trip Lunches

Students should bring a nutritious lunch for the field trip. Lunches should be in a labeled paper sack/Ziplock bags and be fully disposable. We do not refrigerate or heat up lunches. No glass containers are permitted.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Cell Phones

Students are allowed to carry cell phones to school; however, they must be stored in backpacks during school hours, and they must be turned off or on silence mode. Phones may not be used to talk, text, record, take pictures and/or play games during school, including recess or lunch. If a student violates the cell phone policy, the following consequences will occur:

- 1st Infraction: Cell phone taken away and returned at the end of the school day.
- 2nd Infraction: Cell phone taken and locked in office until parent can come to school to retrieve it.
- 3rd Infraction: Students will not be allowed to bring a cell phone to school until a parent conference with the administrator is held.

Smart Watches

The use of smart watches is not permitted in school by students due to risks of loss and damage and of misuse in the same way as cell phones.

Technology Use

The use of technology tools allows teachers to expand instructional methods and enhance instructional delivery, enrich student performance, and increase student engagement. Internet access is available to all students and teachers, offering a wide variety of educational opportunities. Students will be educated throughout the school year on appropriate online behaviors including how to properly access materials and how to interact with others accordingly.

Students may:

- Access appropriate approved educational websites via the Internet
- Access digital assignments and classwork at school
- Access Reading Counts quizzes
- Access and interact with other classmates

Students may NOT:

- Share computer account IDs and passwords except when authorized
- Create, copy, receive or use data, language, or graphics that are obscene, abusive or otherwise inappropriate at school
- Access, change or delete computer programs, data files or electronic mail without expressed permission
- Violate or attempt to violate the security of the computer/network systems
- Take unauthorized actions that deny access to, disrupt, or destroy the service of the computer/network systems
- Make unauthorized or unlawful installation of personal computer software on the school's computers or computer networks, including but not limited to, games, virus programs and applications software
- Use computers, computer networks, computer software, and data files or intellectual property in any unauthorized way

Consequences

Should a student be found to have violated these terms, or to have utilized technology improperly in any way, consequences may be applied. As with our typical discipline procedures, all infractions will be handled individually, and the application of consequences will be determined by the teacher and/or school administration. Consequences may include but are not limited to conversations with teacher/administration; conferences with parent(s)/guardian; loss of computer privileges; or reimbursement to IRC Christian Academy for materials that are lost or damaged.

HEALTH RELATED POLICY

Students may not attend IRC Christian Academy with a fever or if exhibiting signs of a communicable disease or illness. This helps protect all students and staff from being unnecessarily exposed. If your child becomes ill with a communicable disease, contact your doctor to determine proper care and then notify the school office.

Children with the following symptoms should remain at home and **NOT** be brought to school:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Respiratory or breathing difficulties
- Vomiting or nausea
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained rash – other than heat rash
- Sore throat
- Impetigo or open sores
- Child is unusually irritable
- Child is complaining of a headache, stomachache or earache
- Is pale or flushed

Children exhibiting symptoms after arrival will be taken to the office until a parent can pick them up. Once contacted, parents have 1 hour to pick up their sick child. There will be a charge of \$5.00 for every 15 minutes after that hour.

Re-admittance to IRC Christian Academy for the above symptoms will be permitted as follows:

- Chicken Pox – all lesions are dry and crusted
- Impetigo – 24 hours after medication administration
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) – 24 after medication administration
- Lice – follow medical treatment – head must be free of lice/eggs (100% nit free). Director must check/approve the return of student. Three consecutive months of lice infestation could jeopardize enrollment IRC Christian Academy.

- Hepatitis – Doctor’s statement required
- Strep Throat – 24 hours after medication administration
- Pertussis (whooping cough) – 5 days after antibiotic administration
- Mumps – 9 days after onset of gland swelling
- Hand, foot, mouth disease (Coxsackie virus) – 24 hours after symptom free (The student must stay home during the acute phase/stage of illness while fever or lesions are present. Lesions or rash must be completely scabbed over and dry before returning to class).

Medical Emergency

In case of an accident or emergency, we will attempt to notify the designated parent/guardian immediately. If she/he cannot be reached, we will continue down the list indicated on the emergency information section of your registration packet. If we believe emergency treatment is necessary, we will call 911 for the child to be taken to the nearest emergency facility.

Medication

A medication form must be completed for a student needing medication. Anything required for the dispensing of the medication, i.e., spoon, should be provided and labeled appropriately. We will not administer any over-the-counter medicine unless prescribed by a doctor. If your student has a need to receive over the counter medicine, please get a doctor’s note stating the frequency and dosage to administer. All medicine should be in the original container with written instructions and will be administered by the director, assistant director or trained designee. Morning and evening doses are the responsibility of the parent.

IRC Christian Academy will administer sunscreen, insect repellent, calamine lotion or Benadryl gel/lotion for bug bites if provided by the parent and the form is completed. The student’s full name must be written on any medication or other items.

If your student receives breathing treatments and/or uses an inhaler, please provide a doctor’s note and instructions for breathing machine to the front office.

The Kids’ Place Before and After School Age Program

For more information on the Before & After School Age Program please contact the School Age Office at 321-267-7308 extension 4 or the school front office.

AFTER SCHOOL-AGE CARE PROGRAM

The Kids Place offers a before and after-school program that begins at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. Many activities that determine your child's day are explained to the children first thing in the morning.

School Age Care Bus Transportation

A strict bus schedule is followed on school days and for field trips during school holidays. Your student must arrive by the designated time for field trips. If your child does not arrive on time for a field trip, they may miss the bus and not be able to attend the outing. In this case, you may be responsible for alternate care for the day.

Pick-up Time

If for any reason you need to change the pick-up of your child from school, you must call the Before & After School Care office at (321) 267-7308 extension 4, to inform staff of the change. This is very important, as we are very careful to assure every child from the school-Age Care program is on our bus before we leave the school.

There will be a \$10.00 charge added to your account if you do not inform us of pick-up changes.

The After School-Age Care Program closes ***promptly*** at 6:00 p.m. A late fee will be charged after this time. Late fees are \$10, per child, for every five (5) minutes or part of five (5) minutes past dismissal. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Authorized Persons

For the safety of the children, they will be released ***only*** to persons previously authorized in writing. If a parent is not authorized to pick up, we require a copy of the Legal Custody Agreement. We love and support all parents and respect each family's privacy. We ask that our staff not be placed in uncomfortable situations due to domestic issues.

No child will be released to a parent/guardian appearing to be under the influence of alcohol.

For more information on the Before & After School Age Program please contact the School Age Office at 321-267-7308 extension 4.

EXPECTATIONS

**We take care of ourselves,
We take care of each other,
We take care of our school,
We take care of our world.**

Invitation

We would love for you to join us for worship service!
Sunday 8am & 9:30am, Traditional
Sunday 11am, Contemporary

321-267-7922
1355 Cheney Highway, Titusville, FL 32780
www.ircumc.com
<https://facebook.com>



Handbook Disclaimer

The IRC Christian Academy Handbook contains policies and other documents pertaining to the rules and regulations of the school. IRC Christian Academy reserves the right to revise any of these documents during the school year. For the current version of these documents, please check on the school website or with the school office.