

# Risen Savior Classical Academy

A Homeschool Community

*~Veritas Aeterna~*

## Participation Contract

Risen Savior Classical Academy is a partnership between the instructors of RSCA and parents to provide children a classical Lutheran education. We strive to support parents in their God given duty to develop virtuous, Christian men and women of character, who recognize and seek truth, beauty, and goodness. Students of RSCA will learn how to study, how to learn, and how to think through study of the great books and great thinkers of the Western tradition. In a constantly changing world that has become more challenging to Christian principles and ideals, we endeavor to provide a community of like-minded families where faith and knowledge are nurtured.

The classical model of education is a historic model, consisting of the trivium and the quadrivium with an appreciation for the foundation of our Western civilization and Christian tradition that began with the Greeks, Romans, and Hebrews. The trivium encompasses the grammar, logic, and rhetoric stages of understanding and the quadrivium emphasizes the study of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music.

### About Risen Savior Classical Academy

RSCA is a consortium of instructors and parents who work together. Parents remain the students' primary educator. While some instructors may have tests, it is up to the parent to provide a grade for their student if desired. Without active parent participation, the Academy will not have a productive learning environment. Our curriculum choices focus on a foundation of Biblical literacy, reading (phonics, classic literature, etc.) math skills and fluency, classical history, Latin, composition (handwriting for younger students), art, science, and music appreciation. Our classes are set up by age and developmental level, not grade level alone.

Instructors are dedicated, spending much time and effort to prepare curriculum and further their own classical education. Most have students in the Academy. They are excited and passionate about classical education and welcome the opportunity to answer questions.

### **Parental assistance is required on the campus during instruction time as well as at home.**

Instruction days in person at the Academy are Mondays and Thursdays from 8:15 am - 3:30 pm. Students enroll for the full day Monday and Thursday for the year August to May. Instructors will assign work for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and some Fridays for parent and students to complete at home. This work may include reading assignments, workbook pages, enrichment, and review for memory work. Instructors may give quizzes and tests as a gauge for retained material. They may give suggested grades for parents as a guide; it is the responsibility of parents to give their students grades.

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## **Policies**

By agreeing to the rules and policies that follow, parents are supporting their own child's education as well as the other students at the Academy.

## **Commitment**

Parents should make every effort for their student to attend classes. The Academy is only as good as the dedication of the participating families. When students miss class meetings, it not only has a negative impact on them, but also on the other students' learning. Additional time for preparation and catching up the absent student imposes on the limited amount of time an instructor may have. Our instructors are often homeschooling their own families and work other outside positions. We understand sickness and emergencies occur outside of our control. The schedule is available on website, registration, and orientation.

Families are to make every effort to complete the instructor-assigned lessons. This is mostly memory work and reading. For example, the instructor provides all the instruction needed for Latin on Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday assignments at home, the students must review and practice. Reinforcement of material, games, activities, and some quizzes are on Thursday class time. When students are not prepared for their classes, they impact how the instructor must present material and also the prepared students. The unprepared student cannot do well with in class review games and enrichment activities if they do not know the material. The consistently unprepared student cannot progress to higher levels of learning. Our classical model is focused on mastery of the material. See website for sample lessons. Stay in contact with your student's instructor for more details.

## **Code of Conduct**

RSCA recognizes that maintaining a well-disciplined classroom is key to learning. We believe "knowledge without virtue is a dangerous thing", therefore encouraging virtuous behavior is as important as encouraging excellence in math and grammar. Student behavior, attitude, and physical disposition should contribute positively to the classroom environment and RSCA's culture of excellence in character. Respect is vital to the learning atmosphere; this includes respect for the tasks asked of us, the adults there to guide us, and respect for those with whom we share the Academy. To that end, students are expected to uphold the RSCA Student Code of Conduct:

### **Respect for class**

- bring all supplies needed for class; including notebook, text, homework, writing utensils
- prepare homework carefully and to the best of your ability
- keep social conversations outside of class; this includes any parents who are observing
- prompt attendance and readiness for class; including limited bathroom breaks (ample time is allotted for bathroom, water, snack, and movement breaks)

### **Respect for adults**

- listen and respond in a positive manner to ANY adult who corrects behavior at RSCA
- help adults (and others) carrying burdens, i.e., holding doors for them, etc.

### **Respect for our building and others**

- be considerate and kind

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- be open to new friendships; reach out to others
- clean up after yourselves (particularly after lunch)
- clean up any messes or items out of place, even if you didn't make the mess
- no muddy shoes in the Church
- no unsupervised children
- dress modestly and within the Dress Code
- no running in the Church building
- walk in line when with a class

Instructors may arbitrate to help students reconcile conflicts with others following Biblical guidance (Mt. 18:15, Gal. 6:1, Eph. 4:15, Rom. 15:14). Parents will be notified of any such situations.

## **Absences**

When your child is absent from the Academy, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. Please be aware that emailing the instructors during class times (or even just before) may mean the instructor will not be able to return your message until the end of the day. Academic progress and achievement as well as work and study habits are built on prompt, regular attendance.

## **Orientation**

At least one parent must attend Orientation with their student. This meeting is mandatory. Orientation for 2021-22 Academy year is August 16.

## **Parental Attendance**

Parents are welcome to stay with their student and sit in on classes. We ask for notice in advance to provide space accommodation, if possible. When parents sit in classes as an observer, they are expected to model appropriate behavior. Parents may also drop off their student if not volunteering for the day. Any time a parent is volunteering and has a child in the nursery, the parent must stay on the church building.

## **Parent/Volunteer Duties**

Parental involvement is vital to the success of the Academy. Parent Duties are required to help the Academy run smoothly. Parents will be strongly encouraged to sign up for the day. This includes attendance check in, morning and afternoon recess supervisor, lunch monitor, and sign out. When parents sign up for the day, they are invited to sit in on classes, assist in any class, or take a break. The following are areas of need:

### **Attendance and Check In**

Parent Supervisor will arrive and ready to record attendance by 8:00 am.

### **Check Out**

Parent will be overseeing pick up, making sure the students are picked up by the appropriate adult from 3:15-3:40.

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## **Lunch Monitor**

The Lunch Monitor will arrive by 11:40 am to oversee lunch time, assist students with their lunches, reminding students to clean up after themselves. This will not be a time to sit with his/her child to eat lunch. This job duty is extremely important to the flow of the Academy; it provides the opportunity for instructors to eat their lunches and take a quick break to clean up from morning classes and finalize afternoon course preparations.

## **Recess Monitor**

The Recess Monitor will arrive by 11:40 am to assist in the lunchroom if needed but mainly to oversee students during recess time following lunch. Recess Monitor will remind students to have cleaned up their table and eating space before playing in the gym or outside on the playground. Students are not to be unsupervised. Recess Monitor will give students a five-minute warning to put away equipment, use the restroom, and fill water bottles before afternoon courses.

## **Recess Supervisor**

The morning Recess Supervisor will need to present in the gym or playground from approximately 9:30-10:30. Each class will have approximately 15-20 minutes of free play or games as directed by the Recess Supervisor. For the afternoon Recess Supervisor, the time will be approximately 1:30-2:30.

## **Iota and Alpha Parent Readers**

The Parent Reader is a parent or volunteer who comes to the Alpha or Iota class at 2:40 pm to read a book from the Alpha or Iota Instructor's book list. This gives the Alpha and Iota instructors time to prepare notifications for the parents, preparing lessons, cleaning up, etc.

## **Nursery Assistant**

The Nursery Assistant will help as needed in the nursery.

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer will be in contact with families to keep accounts up to date, send checks to the instructors, and assist with any account management.

## **Other Ways to Get Involved:**

- Substitute a class or day
- Assist in Classes (tremendously appreciated!)
- Field Trip Coordinator
- Teach a class or subject (instructors may be open to not teaching all day)
- Coordinator for Christmas and End of Year Program (one program night per semester)
- Service Project Coordinator
- Lead Book Club to Further Parent Education (meet maybe once or twice a semester)
- Your ideas!

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## Communication

Parents are expected to stay in contact with their children's instructor. Announcements and changes to schedule will be made to our website, through parent email, and take-home sheets.

Families are not allowed to share contact information for other families without their permission. We do not give out contact information to third parties.

## Nursery

The Nursery is open only to instructors and parents working a job duty at that time. Parents must fill out a registration form and stay on the Church grounds. Nursery is for children four and under at the approval of the Nursery staff.

## Dress Code

Students are encouraged to look professional in the appearance. In that respect, RSCA has a simple and straightforward dress code for all students:

Shirts: long or short sleeve with a collar (polo or dress style with buttons) in solid colors. No graphics.

Pants, shorts, or skirts in solid blue, black, navy, or khaki (any shade). Hem for shorts and skirts will be a reasonable, modest length near the knees.

Solid colored sweaters (pullover but no hoods, button, zip, etc.) must be solid colored if worn throughout the class day. No graphics.

Shoes: flat, non-marking, enclosed toe are best for play and movement.

## Lunch and Snacks

Some snacks are provided. While effort is made to provide some allergen sensitive snacks, it is the parent and child responsibility to be capable of avoiding reactions. RSCA is not allergen free.

All students have Lunch is together in Augsburg Hall. There are limited microwaves available for heating lunches. If you are not eating lunch with your child, it is suggested the lunch be ready to eat.

Water is the only beverage available during snack time. Water bottles are encouraged.

## Electronics and Other Distractions

Students should only bring items necessary for RSCA classes. We are an electronics free Academy. Unnecessary items and other toys should be left at home.

## Illness

If your child has any of the following symptoms, then he/she should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to the classroom.

- temperature 100 degrees or above without fever reducing medications
- vomiting
- diarrhea

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- rash
- persistent cough

Please respect the policy in consideration of your child's health, the health of the other students, and instructors. If a child becomes ill during class time, the parent will be contacted.

## **Pick Up/Drop Off**

RSCA will have an adult at the door of Wittenberg Hall for check in for attendance. Students will be required to check in, put their belongings in the appropriate place or crate and walk immediately to the gym until Chapel service. Parent will come into the building for Iota through Delta class students to sign out. If someone other than parent is to pick up, that individual needs to be listed on the Student Information sheet. RSCA should be notified when someone other than parent is to pick up a student.

## **Discipline**

Consequences of misbehavior may include speaking with the instructor privately, notes or phone calls to parents, short time outs for younger children; with continued misbehavior, a student may be sequestered from the classroom. Instructors handle problems in an authoritative and professional manner.

Negative behavior that will be immediately addressed includes gossip, bullying, threatening, cheating, disrespect, and other forms harassment.

## **House System**

RSCA students and instructors are organized into four houses. These houses develop leadership and commitment to others across ages. The goal will be to facilitate natural social behaviors like competition, friendship, hierarchies, and alliances into positive influences on students.

The House system will organize inter-school activities, service, social, and extracurricular events. Students in each House will strive to win the year-long competition for the House Cup! Throughout the year, instructors will award and penalize points to each House based on students' service to others, displays of appropriate/inappropriate behavior, and achievements.

## **Admission**

RSCA reserves the right to decline registration to any family. Parents must commit to support the model of education, class assignments, and on campus help. See Admissions and Criteria for required skills before entrance to each level.

## **Tuition and Costs**

Enrollment is considered a full year obligation. Families who join after the start of classes may be expected to pay the full year payment as the instructor(s) may need to spend additional time getting a student ready for class instruction.

\$590 Tuition per semester for each student

\$70 Registration fee for each family

Texts and Materials vary for each level. Parents will be provided a list.

Every effort has been made to keep costs as low as possible while still providing a quality, classical education.

Payments will be made by hard copy checks given to Pastor.

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## Parent Helps

### Mastery-Based Learning

We are working to break the cram-pass-forget cycle in education. Things that are worth knowing are worth retaining. By creating systems for learning-mastery-retention, students will be able to learn anything they need or desire. At RSCA, we want students to learn how to learn. Mastery learning will ask more of the students, but we know they are up to the challenge. To ensure success, we often do two things:

1. Encourage placement that is less aggressive than what some are used to. We know that correct placement is important to the student succeeding. In the words of John Mays, founder of Novare Science and Math, "Incorrect placement is an injustice to the student and precludes mastery of the subject."
2. Study fewer things and study them more deeply. You can't do everything. You can do a few things well. "...the greatest service we can do to education today is to teach fewer subjects. No one has time to do more than a very few things well before he is twenty, and when we force a boy to be a mediocrity in a dozen subjects, we destroy his standards, perhaps for life." C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*.

**Communicate with the instructor.** It is the parent and student's responsibility to communicate with instructors if there is difficulty with class material.

Look through your Teacher Manuals. Become familiar with the manuals and the texts your child is using. The Teacher Manuals and Keys are to be kept out of reach from students. They are for the parents only.

Know what work is expected of your child each week from RSCA. Check to make sure the work is completed as assigned. Life can get the best of us sometimes, and things can start to slide. Before we know it, we haven't inspected anyone's work in over 2 weeks. It is our job as parents to hold our children accountable. *Inspect what we expect.* Have a system in place, such as making a stack every day of completed work or checking certain subjects every Friday. Latin and math are daily subjects and are not meant to be crammed into 1-2 days/week.

Expectations and workload will vary from class to class and instructor to instructor. If needed, have a short Tuesday/Friday morning meeting with your older student to go over handouts and see what work is expected for the week so you are on the same page. Consider an assignment or weekly planner if your child would benefit from this. We have found that homeschoolers are very well prepared for the rhythm of college after years of taking classes at tutorial and then completing work at home.

Memoria Press has a free online forum from parents where you can search questions or ask your own.

**A note about reading and literature:** Surround your children with great books of classical children's literature. Children are never too old to be read to! Reading aloud to children is an excellent way of increasing their vocabulary, opening their minds, and building strong relationships with our children.

Risen Savior is in the beginning stages of increasing classical book options through the church library. There are many book lists on what you can read to your children. We can provide lists for ideas. Select a book that you enjoy or might enjoy. Your enthusiasm is contagious!

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## A note about study habits for students:

Particularly in math and science,

-Work must be tidy and organized.

-Work the example problems as opposed to just reading them.

-Parents should *mark*, not *correct* student work. Re-work the ones you miss in ink to show your parent/teacher that you re-worked it. This “mark, not correct” is ideal for Latin as well.

-Make flash cards of vocabulary and/or use Quizlet (free online flashcard website/app). Many Memoria Press courses already have Quizlet sets created even if your teacher does not create something specifically for your class. Older students can create their own sets.

-Keep quizzes and tests in a folder for the year; these often become wonderful review tools for tests and finals.

-Help your struggling student replace phrases such as “I’m not good at \_\_\_\_\_” or “\_\_\_\_\_ isn’t my thing” with positive phrases like the following:

- “We can learn this.”
- “Let’s grow in this area.”
- “I would be happy to find a tutor to help.”
- “Spend more time in this area. Don’t be afraid of the work.”

## **Further Your Classical Education:**

- Read your children's texts. If you are new to classical education a great place to start is by reading your student’s Classics texts: Greek Myths, Famous Men Series, Iliad/Odyssey/Aeneid, etc. Your children’s literature selections are also gems. Audiobooks can be a great help for parents who want to explore the books but do not have time to read them.
- Attend a Conference.
  - ~Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (CCLE) offers a summer conference for educators and parents. Many of their seminars are available on youtube.
  - ~Memoria Press offers a training seminar each summer on their school campus in Louisville, KY to prepare parents for using their curriculum.
- Subscribe to *The Classical Teacher*. This is a “magalog” produced by Memoria Press that is filled with excellent articles on what to teach, how, and the importance of a classical education. Also, it's free.
- Take an online class. Hillsdale College offers a variety of classical education courses including those new to classical education. Also, they're free.
- Explore! There are an increasing number of classical publishers, youtube channels, podcasts, and plenty of books to read on classical education.