



**RIVER CITY**  
**BELIEVERS ACADEMY**

**Parent-Student**

# **HANDBOOK**

**2025**  
**2026**

## **Preschool**

### **Administration**

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Assistant Principal  
Preschool Director  
Admissions Director  
Bookkeeper  
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Galen Conant  
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Kim Harris  
Lauri Azzaro  
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Elder Board Liaison  
Recording Secretary  
Treasurer  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

River City Believers Academy is a ministry of River City Community Church. We are a non-profit organization established for the purpose of creating and supporting a Christian school. RCBA is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

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# Welcome to River City Believers Academy

River City Believers Academy began in 1981 as Believers Academy. Founded as a school to provide quality Christian education for the students of a local church, Believers Academy gradually expanded and began serving a broader student base.

In 2008, the school became a ministry of River City Community Church under the leadership of Pastor Sean Azzaro. Pastor Sean has a passion to see RCBA be a different kind of Christian school.

*Our mission at RCBA is to prepare students for real life. We work very hard to be a place where each student can grow in relationship with our Creator and then acquire the tools to answer His call to change the world! Everything we do, from academics and fine arts to athletics and student life, is an opportunity for our students to discover and become the individuals that God created them to be! If you are looking for a school that will challenge students to grow as a whole person - spiritually, academically, socially and physically - then RCBA is the school for you!*

**Pastor Sean Azzaro**

**RCBA Senior Pastor & RCBA Executive Chairman**

Pastor Sean and the RCBA School Board have entrusted Robin Davenport to lead the staff and students at RCBA as Head of School. She is a servant leader with a ministry background who is passionate about Christian education and the mission of River City Believers Academy.

*At River City Believers Academy, we believe that every student is created in God's image, is fearfully and wonderfully made, and is uniquely created by His divine design. We partner with parents to prepare students for real life – that specific purpose and plan that He had in mind for each of them before the foundations of the earth – as passionate followers of Jesus. We want our students to thrive spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally as they develop a Christ-centered, biblical worldview that will guide them throughout their lives. We are committed to rigorous academics, competitive athletics, and creative fine arts for His purpose and glory.*

**Robin Davenport**

**Principal and Head of School**

# 1.1 Mission Statement

***River City Believers Academy exists to partner with parents to prepare students for real life as passionate followers of Jesus Christ.***

We are a discipleship school, an extension of the Christian home, and are committed to helping students discover the unique gifts God has blessed them with as they begin following His leading in their lives. Our teachers serve a dual role as both educators and ministers as they model Christian character and are mentors in academics and in spiritual development. Our curriculum and instruction is designed to equip students with critical thinking and reasoning skills, based in a biblical worldview, that prepares them to serve and lead.

# 1.2 Our Vision

***River City Believers Academy aspires to be a school for Real Life***

**A school for real life** is Christ centered – where Jesus is Lord and His love, grace, and mission set the tone for everything that we do.

**A school for real life** is a model of Christian community – a relational environment of Christian love and commitment to one another – where we speak the truth in love, demonstrate grace and peace, and model mercy and justice - a place where faith is not a philosophy but a daily choice.

**A school for real life** is Great Commission focused – training students to change their world rather than hiding from it - helping them to discern and prepare for God's unique calling on their lives.

**A school for real life** is a center of academic excellence – setting a standard of rigorous and open intellectual pursuit while training students in higher critical thinking – where we are loving, knowing, and glorifying God with all our minds.

**A school for real life** cultivates a culture of leadership development – training students to be servant leaders - teaching them to value and excel at equipping others.

**A school for real life** employs gift-based teaching, coaching, and assessment – a place where we value students for their unique giftedness, teaching them to discern and utilize the gifts and talents God has given them – a guiding educational philosophy that is willing to tailor a student's experience to their gift mix and learning style whenever it is possible.

**A school for real life** is a redemptive center for the arts – a place to teach students to see beauty in all kinds of art forms, both Christian and secular, while developing a premier program for the performing arts.

**A school for real life** is structured to serve the mission – structure exists to further the mission - when structure impedes mission, structure must be reassessed - policies and procedures are designed to protect and serve the students more than the institution.

**A school for real life** is accessible to all families who share in our vision of Christian Education – where socio-economic and racial diversity are embraced – a place that you don’t have to be rich to attend – where learning differences and learning styles are part of the uniqueness of God’s creative work.

### 1.3 Core Values

The values that drive our mission provide a lens through which we see our calling. They bring clarity to our vision and add focus to our decision making. They are rooted and grounded in a foundation of Biblical Love.

Grace and Truth	Jesus came to earth as the full expression of the Father and as the incarnate Word full of grace and truth ( <i>John 1:1-18</i> ). It is by grace that we are saved ( <i>Ephesians 2:8</i> ), and it is truth that sets us free ( <i>John 8:32</i> ). Grace and truth will mark our actions, thoughts, words, and decisions.
Relationship, Discipleship, and Partnership	A triune God is relational by nature ( <i>Genesis 1:26; Matthew 4:3-17</i> ). The great commission and the two greatest commands are relational mandates for discipleship and Christian community ( <i>Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:30-31</i> ). Collaboration and partnership are biblical extensions of relationship ( <i>Nehemiah 2:18; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Acts 4:32-35</i> ). Relationship, discipleship, and partnership will define the RCBA mission.

Learning and Growing	<p>Learning is the aim of academics, and growth is a sign of health and life.</p> <p>(2 Timothy 2:15). Learning sets the course for success in life (Proverbs 4:10-13; Proverbs 9:9). Bible-based and Christ-centered growth glorifies God and transforms hearts and minds (Romans 12:2; Luke 6:40). We are committed to learning and growing into the fullness of His calling.</p>
Excellence, Integrity, and Calling	<p>Excellence sets us apart to accomplish His calling (Daniel 6:3). Integrity sustains and directs our mission (Proverbs 11:3). Teaching is a high calling (Ephesians 4:11-12). Christian education helps students discover their calling in Christ (Romans 12:6-7; 2 Peter 1:10). We will lead with excellence and integrity as we pursue His high calling in our classrooms and our boardroom, in our academic rigor, spiritual development, and fiscal responsibility.</p>

## 1.4 Statement of Faith

The RCBA Statement of Faith is built on the fundamental truths of the Christian faith. All school board members, administrators, teachers, and staff are required to adhere to our Statement of Faith.

- We believe that there is one God, a loving Creator eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:22; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14*)
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in glory. (*I Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-4; Romans 3:21-26; I Corinthians 15:20-28; Hebrews 1:3*)

- We believe that God created man for a meaningful relationship with Him, but man's willful sin has created a wall of separation between him and God. Salvation is the result of genuine repentance of sin and faith in the atoning work of Christ. It brings forgiveness to the penitent, makes him a partaker of God's divine nature, and gives peace with God. We call this new birth. (*Isaiah 59:2; Acts 3:19; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:15; II Peter 1:4*)
- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, and the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (*II Timothy 3:14; II Peter 3:16; John 14:26; John 10:35; II Peter 1:20-21*)
- We believe for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (*John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5; II Corinthians 5:17*)
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is empowered and gifted to live a godly life. (*John 14:15-17; II Timothy 1:14; Galatians 5:22-23*)
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those that are saved to the resurrection of life, and those that are lost to the resurrection of damnation. (*I Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 14-11; Acts 24:15; II Corinthians 5:20; I Corinthians 15:21*)
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Christ. (*Philippians 1:27, 2:2; Acts 4:32; Ephesians 4:3; Romans 15:6*)

## 1.5 Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

RCBA supports a biblical view of marriage, gender, and sexuality. All board members, faculty, and staff affirm the following statements. It is God who assigns our fundamental human identity and gender. We believe that all humans, male and female, reflect the image of God. A person's gender is sacred and has a divine purpose. We also affirm that God loves all people, including those who struggle with their gender assignment, identity, and expression. Therefore, we are to love all people, regardless of their struggles. The Bible describes human gender in binary terms. Genesis 1:27 provides the definitive statement: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Our bodies are God's dwelling place. In the context of discussing sexual identity and behavior, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)



## Marriage

We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. *Gen 2:18-25; Eph 5:21-23; 1 Cor 7:2*

## Gender

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct genders together reflect the image and nature of God. *Gen 1:26-27; 1Cor 6:19-20;*

## Sexuality

We believe that sex is a gift from God that is to be enjoyed with fidelity in the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that we are called to chastity in singleness. We believe that sexual relations outside of the covenant of marriage are contrary to the will of God. We believe that the Bible is the final authority regarding sexual behavior. Examples of sexual behavior forbidden by Scripture may be found in the following passages: *Exo 20:14; 1 Cor 6:9-20; Heb 13:4; Lev 18:22, 20:13; Rom1:26-27*

**River City Believers Academy will uphold the biblical view of marriage, gender, and sexuality and will adhere to its positions on these issues in its teachings, curriculum, and treatment of students.**

## 1.6 Statement on Race

Because we believe everyone is created in the image of God, we seek to esteem and affirm His image in every person. The love of Christ compels us to treat each individual with love, compassion, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). The great commands to love God and neighbor extend to every person and every race (James 2:8-9). At RCBA we celebrate the uniqueness of each image bearer and embrace a racially diverse culture. Hateful attitudes or behavior directed toward any person or group are inconsistent with God's unconditional love. We give no place to racism or disparity based on diversity or differences. As a Christian school we choose to uphold a Biblical standard. God shows no partiality based on race or ethnicity in His love, forgiveness, and redemption for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ (Acts 10:34-35, Romans 10:9-13). The Kingdom of Heaven is made up of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation who will gather as one giving glory to God throughout eternity (Revelation 7:9-10).

## 1.7 Philosophy of Christian Education

Everything we do at River City Believers Academy is built upon a Christian philosophy of education. We operate as an extension of the Christian home and the local church in partnership with parents to assist in the education of their students.

- We believe that truth, knowledge, and understanding originate with God and are best learned in an atmosphere that recognizes His pre-eminence in life. Academic excellence through a biblical worldview yields deeper understanding and knowledge.
- We believe that each student is created individually by God's purposeful design and that all students have unique gifts, strengths, and abilities to serve the purpose for which they were created. We celebrate differences in learning styles and abilities while maximizing rigor, support, and potential for all students made in His image.

- We believe that parents are the God-ordained authority in the home. As such, parents have the primary responsibility for teaching, training, and raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. RCBA serves as a partner with parents to help fulfill this high calling.
- We believe the purpose of education is to know God better and to bring Him glory. Through artistic, athletic, and academic pursuits students use their talents and abilities to glorify Him.
- We believe that a biblical community built around the demonstrated love of Christ creates an effective learning environment. A culture of love supports each student as an image bearer of God who is Love and creates an atmosphere where learners may flourish, and all students thrive.

RCBA prepares students for real life by equipping them with a biblical worldview, spiritual and social awareness, and an academic foundation to accompany their faith as they engage the culture around them. We believe that Christian education is a lifelong endeavor, and we want to prepare our students to succeed in their education, their vocation, their families, and their calling as lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.

## **1.8 Non-Discrimination Policy**

River City Believers Academy (RCBA) welcomes students of any race, color, nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at the school. RCBA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, scholarships, or athletic and other school-administered programs. In as much as English is the primary, and, in most cases, the exclusive language of instruction, RCBA may deny admission to students with limited English proficiency.

## **1.9 Non-Harassment Policy**

Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love others (Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:25-28). Jesus also reminds us that people will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35). Our goal is to challenge students to love. There is no room for harassment, bullying, or similar actions at River City Believers Academy, but rather devotion to love each other. This compels us to protect and support victims, strongly discipline abuse of power, and help all staff, students and parents be a part of creating an atmosphere of care which is free from intimidation.

We believe that all people are created in the image of God and, as such, have profound value (Genesis 1:27). Hateful or harassing behavior towards anyone who differs from us is wrong because it does not recognize another person's God-given worth and is an assault on a fellow image-bearer. River City Believers Academy is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals (staff, students, and parents) treat each other with dignity and respect, which includes freedom from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, harassment, including sexual harassment, and bullying directly or via electronic or any other form of communication.

## **1.10 State Licensing Parent Information**

River City Believers Academy Preschool is a State of Texas licensed facility. We undergo annual inspections and abide by standards set by the state. RCBA Preschool strives to go above and beyond the Texas Minimum Standards required for early childcare facilities.

### **Parent Visitation**

Parents are welcome to visit our center at any time during our hours of operation which are 7:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. daily. Parents must sign in through the RCBA school office and obtain a visitor badge prior to visiting a classroom.

### **Parent Review of State Minimum Standards**

A copy of the Texas minimum standards can be found online, or a hard copy is located in each teacher's classroom. Additionally, a copy of our most current state inspection is posted on the white board outside of room 127 near the pick-up door.

### **Local Licensing Office Contact Information**

Texas Department of Family Protective Services

210-337-3399

3635 South East Military, San Antonio TX 78233

[www.txchildcaresearch.org](http://www.txchildcaresearch.org)

### **Report Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation**

1-800-242-5400

[www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx](http://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx)

### **RCBA Response to Child Abuse and Neglect and Prevention**

River City Believers Academy Preschool is required by law to report any suspicion of abuse and neglect and also any suspected abuse or neglect to the children we have in care. RCBA Pre-School takes the following precautions to ensure the prevention and response to neglect:

- Staff is required to complete annual minimum training regarding the prevention and reporting of abuse and neglect.
- Make emergency contact and community support services available to parents of children who have been victims of child abuse or neglect.

## **Health Check Procedures**

RCBA PreK will conduct daily health checks to assess general physical well-being of children in our care daily. Temperatures will be assessed if deemed necessary.

## **Evacuation Plan**

A copy of the RCBA emergency evacuation and preparedness plan is available for review in each teacher's classroom.

## **Gang-Free Zone**

RCBA Preschool is a gang free zone, and any gang activity or activity related to organized crime will be subject to harsher penalties under law according to the Texas Penal Code.

## **Breast Feeding Location**

Should a parent need to breast feed their child at this establishment you may use the family restroom located near the west side of the main church foyer.

## 2. Admissions Policy

According to policies and mission statement, River City Believers Academy is a school designed to partner with Christian families in the education of children. Our admission standards require that at least one parent profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior. However, we acknowledge that some professing Christians choose to live apart from God's will by adopting a lifestyle that is contrary to biblical standards. At the same time, we seek to provide clarity regarding RCBA's beliefs and teachings regarding gender identity, marriage, and sexuality. Therefore, all parents must support the school's position regarding gender assignment, identity, and expression, and all students must abide by the school's code of conduct as it relates to appropriate sexual expression and behavior. The school will explicitly teach these truths honestly, prayerfully, sensitively, respectfully, contextually, age-appropriately, and with the conviction that we all sin and are in need of God's grace.

### 2.1 Application and Enrollment Process

1. Tour the campus for questions and answers.
2. Complete the online application at our website [www.rcbaonline.com](http://www.rcbaonline.com) and submit the nonrefundable Application Fee.
3. Submit required forms such as transcripts and report cards, references, birth certificate, and health records.
4. All families must acknowledge, in writing, our statement of faith and be supportive of our mission statement, policies, and procedures. At least one parent must profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
5. After reviewing your online application, prospective students will be scheduled for a reading and math assessment. A family interview will be scheduled with the principal on the same day, immediately following the assessment.
6. After the interview, the principal will determine if the prospective student will be offered admission. We reserve the right to deny admission to a student if we feel our school is not a good fit for him/her.
7. If the student is offered admission, parents will receive an email from the RCBA Admissions Office via FACTS. To secure enrollment, the family will be required to:
  1. Complete the Online Enrollment Packet and pay the non-refundable Enrollment Fee through their newly created FACTS account.
  2. Confirm that all required paperwork has been submitted.

### 2.2 Re-enrollment Process for Current Students

#### Re-enrollment Criteria

- Tuition, fees, and other account balances must be current before re-enrollment.
- Students must be in good academic standing.
- Students must have demonstrated a cooperative attitude toward their schoolwork, the faculty and staff, the rules and policies, and toward their peers.

## Re-enrollment Steps

- 1.** All students meeting re-enrollment criteria are invited to re-enroll via email with instructions to complete the re-enrollment packet. Non-refundable registration fees are due upon completion of the re-enrollment packet.
- 2.** An early registration period will be open to current RCBA families prior to opening enrollment to new families. This will allow current families to secure their child's spot.
- 3.** Enrollment will open to new families in late February or early March. We will continue to enroll until all available spots have been filled.
- 4.** The new school year tuition will be billed in July or according to families' chosen payment plans.
- 5.** To avoid unnecessary billings, families with current students who will not return for the upcoming school year need to log into your FACTS Family Portal, click on ENROLL/REENROLL and choose the option for "Will not Return".

## 3. Financial Policies

### 3.1 Tuition Payment Options

During Enrollment, all families are asked to select a preferred payment plan and remain current in their payment of tuition and fees during the year. We offer several payment options for your convenience. All payment plans are paid for through our integrated FACTS system. All tuition and associated fees will be billed through the FACTS system. Payment Options:

1. You may choose a one-time annual payment, which will be due at the beginning of school in August. There is a discount associated with this option.
2. You may choose a semi-annual payment, the first of which will be due at the beginning of school in August, the second in January. There is a discount associated with this option.
3. You may choose monthly or bi-monthly payment options to be drafted on the specific date of their choosing.

Under any of these payment options, set up in FACTS, all tuition and fees are deducted from the financial institution or credit card automatically on the date selected during Enrollment. Any additional fees incurred throughout the year, including athletic fees, spirit apparel, special events, or unfulfilled volunteer hours, will be processed through the family's FACTS account.

### 3.2 Terms of Payment

The tuition rate set at the time of enrollment continues throughout the school year and does not change (for example, if a non-church member becomes a church member during the year). Tuition for elementary students registering after the first day of school will be prorated over the number of school months they will be in attendance. Tuition for secondary students will be prorated based on grading periods. Should unforeseen circumstances arise, families are expected to promptly make suitable alternative arrangements with the school accountant or principal to remain faithful to them.

For the sake of your family's security and peace of mind, and for the general financial stability of our school, we encourage parents or guardians to contact the school administration as soon as possible if they begin to experience financial difficulties that may affect their ability to maintain timely tuition payments.

### 3.3 Past Due Accounts

It is the parent's responsibility to advise the accountant or principal if there are any problems with maintaining tuition payments on time. Tuition payments more than 60 days past due can result in the withholding of records (including progress reports, report cards, diplomas, or transcripts). Past due accounts may also result in the refusal to permit a child to re-register for the upcoming terms, or in a child's immediate dismissal from school until the account becomes current or a payment arrangement has been made with the accounting office.

Parent's online access to FACTS Family Portal may also be suspended.

RCBA reserves the right not to admit students to class whose accounts are 60 or more days late. Returned payments will incur a \$30 fee, charged by FACTS. FACTS will notify you immediately if a payment is returned. Past due accounts will receive a statement from the Accounting Office.

## 3.4 Financial Checkpoints

Family accounts must be current for students to participate in the following unless suitable alternative arrangements have been made:

1. Begin class the first day of school
2. Resume class after Christmas break
3. Take semester and final exams
4. Receive report cards
5. Re-enroll for the upcoming year
6. Participate in graduation/advancement activities

## 3.5 Tuition Discounts

### Early Re-enrollment Discount

An early re-enrollment discount is given for students who register for the following year prior to the early re-enrollment deadline.

### Sibling Discount

A 10% tuition discount is given to each additional sibling that is enrolled per family unit.

### River City Community Church Discount

A 10% tuition discount is given to all River City Community Church members. Membership will be verified by the Office Staff using the church's membership roster.

### Military and First Responders Family Discount

A 10% tuition discount is given to each student with at least one active-duty parent in the US Military or with one parent who is a first responder.

### Student of Ministers Discount

A 50% discount will be given to all full-time senior pastors and a 20% discount will be given to any full-time associate pastor.

In some cases, one discount will be greater than a discount received for another reason (ex. RCCC membership). In this case, families will receive the greater of the two discounts, but not both.



## 3.6 Referral Credit

Any currently registered family whose referral results in the enrollment of a new student will receive a \$100 tuition credit. The referred student must be in attendance at the beginning of the Fall or Spring semester for the credit to be awarded. Referrals must be noted on the application for admission of the new student and will be credited at the beginning of the following semester.

## 3.7 Withdrawal Procedures

1. A minimum of two weeks' notice is required in writing and must be given to the school office.
2. Parents must request the appropriate paperwork by filling out a withdrawal form at which time the principal will process the request. An exit interview may be requested by the principal to discuss reasons for withdrawal.
3. All teachers must clear the student. All books must be turned in, and all fees must be paid in full before any records can be released. Any books that are lost, damaged beyond use, or not turned in will be subject to the replacement cost of the book.
4. No portion of tuition will be refunded for any reason other than military or job transfers unless the principal determines there are extenuating circumstances. This also applies to students who are dismissed for disciplinary or academic reasons.
5. If a student is withdrawn or dismissed for any reason other than a military or job transfer, the family is liable for the next month's tuition. The school's budget is based on a particular number of students, and if a family withdraws their student(s), the school expenses remain the same. It places an undue burden on the remaining families to make up for the loss of revenue if a student is withdrawn. Extenuating circumstances may be evaluated when presented to and evaluated by the school Principal.

## 3.8 Credit Cards

All payments of tuition and fees made directly to RCBA via credit card will incur a processing fee.

## 4. Dress Code

### 4.1 Dress Code Philosophy

The purpose of a dress code is to reflect attitude and character. Appropriate dress sets the standard and tone for an effective learning environment.

### 4.2 Dress Code Guidelines

What we wear makes a statement about who we are. All clothing should be modest and appropriate for a Christian school. Modest means that the clothing covers the body without drawing attention to the individual. Clothing should be neither too tight nor too loose. Dress appropriately for the weather. Appropriate means that the clothing fits the occasion, reflects the character of the student, and supports the values of River City Believers Academy. RCBA Admin will serve as the final arbiter on appropriateness of any dress code concerns. A few specific guidelines to keep in mind are:

- Pants, shorts, and skirts should fit comfortably.
- Clothing should be clean and free from holes, frays, and tears.
- Clothing should have no emblems, logos, or wording that may be deemed inappropriate.

### 4.3 Dress Code Expectations

Uniforms for PK3/PK4 this year will be optional. Students are encouraged to wear the school uniform, but it is not mandatory. Beginning August 2026, all PK students will be required to wear the school uniform.

### 4.4 Shoes

Preschool students may wear comfortable athletic, closed-toed, closed-back sneakers/tennis shoes. Shoes with lights or sounds are not permitted. Students may not wear open-toed shoes, crocs, sandals, or boots of any kind. Preschool children must wear socks with footwear. **For safety purposes Shoes must always be worn while at PreK.**

### 4.5 Spirit Dress

Spirit dress days are a cherished tradition here at RCBA! We love our school and we love to show our school spirit on Fridays. Spirit wear is available for purchase at:

<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/texas/sanantonio/river-city-believers-academy>

Boys & Girls may wear:

- Jeans ( any color denim; appropriate fit and style)
- Shirts must be RCBA branded

## 5. Academics

Preschool is an important stepping-stone in a student's development. This is the time when a life-long love of learning starts to form. PreK is a time for exploration and building a foundation in learning, introducing good work habits and nurturing a love for our Father. Our curriculum blends Christian values with fun and exciting activities to develop and enhance social/emotional and academic skills. The interactive early childhood learning environment includes hands-on learning, centers, circle time, whole group teaching, one on one teaching, and outdoor play.

### Preschool Specials

Our Preschool Specials are designed to enhance your child's learning experience by providing opportunities to explore new skills, foster creativity, and develop physical coordination. Through engaging and interactive activities, your child will grow in both knowledge and confidence in these special areas:

#### Physical Education (PE):

In PE, your child will have the chance to learn and grow through fun games, exercises, and activities that promote physical fitness and motor skills development. These classes encourage teamwork, cooperation, and healthy habits while keeping your child active and engaged.

#### Music:

In our music classes, children will discover the joys of sound, rhythm, and melody. Worship is a major part of our music program, and there is no greater joy than to see our littlest students praising their Heavenly Father. Students will learn new songs and choreography that will be implemented in our weekly chapel services.

#### Art:

Art class is where imagination comes to life! Children will experiment with colors, learn about color mixing, and develop fine motor skills through drawing, painting, and other creative crafts. Art helps children express themselves and builds their confidence as they explore different materials and techniques.

### Bible

Through Bible stories and songs, students will learn about the God of Creation and Christian character values such as helping, obedience, honesty and more.

### Math

Students will work on number recognition from 0-20 and counting to 100+. Identifying, sorting and naming objects by color, shape and size. Counting objects to 10+ then arranging them from big to small, longest to shortest, heavy to light. Pattern recognition and learning to create patterns.

# Pre-Reading and Literacy

Engaging in book exploration, students will identify upper and lower case letters and learn left to right progression. Answering questions about stories and retelling familiar stories will develop oral language and comprehension skills. Tracing activities will build hand-eye coordination, improve fine motor skills and dexterity as well as reinforce letters, numbers and shape recognition. Students will learn to print and recognize their own first name.

## Language

Students will engage in appropriate conversations with staff and peers as they learn to speak in complete sentences while building their vocabulary. Students will identify letter sounds and beginning and ending word sounds. Learning about emotions and how to put them into words will expand their social/emotional development.

## Work Habits

Listening activities and following simple directions, students will begin to acquire a foundation for learning through good work habits. They will also learn to handle materials with respect and care for their environment.

### 5.1 Grading Policy

RCBA Preschool does not grade numerically. However, we assess our students four times throughout the year. The skills-based assessment records each student’s proficiency level in the following categories: social-emotional development, work habits, motor skills, reading readiness, math and science readiness, and conduct. The following assessment scale will be used:

PreK – 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	
E	Excellent
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
U	Unsatisfactory
I	Incomplete
(I = Incomplete. No grade can be given due to number of days missed)	

### 5.2 Promotion Policy

RCBA Preschool students must meet the age-appropriate developmental standards in their class to proceed to the next grade.

## 6. Attendance Policies

### 6.1 Excused Absences

The following reasons are considered **excused** by RCBA if proper notification is provided to the office:

- Absence due to personal illness or serious illness in the family
- A death in the family
- Medical or dental appointments
- Pre-approved family trips
- School events and extracurricular events

Parents are asked to notify the school before 8:00am whenever a student is absent.

**If parents do not notify the school office through email, phone message, or note, the student's absence will be considered unexcused.**

### 6.2 Unexcused Absences

Absences without notice from parents will be considered unexcused.

### 6.3 Morning Tardy Policy

The school day begins at 8:00 AM. Students are expected to arrive at school in time to be ready when the day begins. Weather, traffic, and other extenuating factors may lead to morning delays, but every effort should be made to arrive at school on time.

Parents should contact the school office by phone or email by 8:00am if a student will be tardy.

### 6.4 Late Arrival or Early Release

Students who arrive after the start of the school day must be signed in through the office by their parents. Students who leave before the end of the school day must be signed out through the office by their parents.

## 7. Health Services

### 7.1 Illness

For the welfare of your child and the others in the school, students who are sick must not be brought to school. Students who have had a fever of greater than 100 degrees, or who have had vomiting or diarrhea, may not come to school until these symptoms have not been present within the last 24-hours (without the use of medication). If a student receives a doctor's recommendation to stay home, then the student may not come to school. If a student has been prescribed an antibiotic for an illness, the student must not return until he/she has been on the antibiotic for at least 24 hours.

### 7.2 Immunizations

The State of Texas requires that students be immunized against certain infectious diseases at certain ages. All students must have current immunization records or a notarized immunization waiver in their file prior to the first day of school. The school staff will check all students' medical records and inform the parents if any immunizations are needed.

### 7.3 Medication

Students are not allowed to carry any medication in their backpacks, lunch boxes, purses, or in their lockers. All medications must be kept in the school office. Every student needing to take medication at school must have a signed release by the parent or guardian, or verbal consent must be obtained before the school office will administer any medication. This includes any over-the-counter medication as well. Parents can give the school permission to administer certain OTC medications by noting this on their application or enrollment form or electronically on *FACTS Family Portal*.

All prescription medications must be sent to school in the originally labeled container. Medication that is to be administered at specific times during the school day must be accompanied by a note from the parent specifying what times, and how much is to be administered. Medication that has exceeded the expiration date or is not picked up by the last day of school will be appropriately discarded.

### 7.4 Health Screenings

Each year RCBA administers state-mandated health screening tests. The service is provided free of charge and will be done by a qualified individual. If you prefer to have your student tested by your family physician, the completed results must be reported to the school since we are required to file a report with the Texas Health Department. Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings will be performed on all new students and students in those grade levels mandated by state law.

## 7.5 Head Lice Policy

If students are found to have head lice during school, parents will be contacted and asked to pick them up. As a precaution, teachers will notify parents of any child in the same class. It is imperative that parents who are contacted inspect their child's hair that evening. During the inspection, pay particularly close attention to the nape of the neck at the back of the head and the area just above the ears. Before being allowed to return to school, any student who is found to have lice or nits will need to have been treated with an FDA approved lice treatment shampoo. A reasonable effort must have been made to remove all nits using a nit comb. Additionally, all students must check in with Preschool Administration prior to returning to class.

Finally, parents are required to continue thorough scalp inspections for the next seven days to assure all nits have been removed. After seven days, any re-confirmed case of lice will require retreatment. Parents are required to bring students to the office for another inspection and to sign an additional statement of assurance prior to returning to class after the second treatment. School staff will continue to check for evidence of lice for the next five days at school and in the classroom.

## 7.6 Nutritional Guidelines

RCBA strives to provide nutritionally balanced meals to all our students. We make every effort to provide our students with healthy choices that are both appetizing and nutritionally balanced. We encourage our parents to consider healthy eating habits when packing lunches for students. All students are encouraged to have a water bottle with them daily to promote the healthy habit of drinking water. For more information on how to eat healthy please refer to the link below:

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/print-materials-ordering/graphic-resources.html>

## 7.7 Lunch Policies

RCBA offers a hot lunch program that may be ordered and paid for through student FACTS accounts. Lunches are prepared professionally in our fully licensed/inspected kitchen.

To ensure adequate supply and preparation of meals, the cut-off for placing hot lunch orders is at 8:00a.m. on the day the meal is to be served. Late lunch orders may be placed through the school office, and **a service charge of \$3.00 will be added to lunch orders placed after cut-off.**

## 8. Discipline

### 8.1 Philosophy

RCBA serves as an extension of the Christian home, and in partnership with the local church, in the mission of training up Christian students whose lifestyles reflect Biblical standards. We are a discipleship school, endeavoring to shape and form the hearts and minds of our students to produce Christian character. Together the teachers, parents, and administrators form a loving support structure for each child - to assist, direct, and correct as needed – as he or she grows and matures in life.

### Biblical Approach

Our biblical approach to discipline will take into consideration six Scriptural truths:

1. Humanity's inherent sinfulness (Jeremiah 17:9)
2. Godly discipline must be rational (Hebrews 12:6)
3. Parents have a God-given authority in their children's lives (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
4. The power to do what is right comes from the Holy Spirit working in us (Romans 8:5)
5. The purpose of discipline is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19)
6. The rod of discipline can save the soul from death. (Proverbs 23:13-14)

The administration and faculty at RCBA acknowledge the authority of the parents in the lives of their children and will therefore rely on and encourage parental responsibility in managing their student's behavior. The staff will keep the parents informed at all times of any discipline issues that need to be addressed.

### 8.2 Restorative Discipline

There are several layers and steps to restorative discipline. **Respect** is the foundation. Building **relationships**, students taking **responsibility**, **repairing** harm done, and **reintegrating** students back into their normal routine are key steps in this process. Teachers, individual students, and parents will all play a role in restorative discipline.

### 8.3 Corporal Punishment

The Administration of RCBA does not use corporal punishment.

### 8.4 Discipline Action Plan

Teaching the children to use appropriate and constructive words to express their feelings and resolve issues allows them to learn the effects of their words and behavior. We will consistently encourage them to use their words instead of their hands to communicate. By entrusting the staff at RCBA with your child for educational, spiritual, and character development purposes, we as a staff reserve the right to handle discipline as the situation calls for according to the following guidelines:



- **Time Out:** Time outs will be used when necessary to remove a child from a situation. The duration of the time out will be one minute per year of age.
- **Office visit to the Preschool Director or Principal:** A student's behavior that is not responsive to time out may be taken to the Preschool Director/Principal. If a student is taken to the Preschool Director two times within one day, a parent will be contacted to speak with the child. If a student is taken to the Preschool Director a third time within one day, a parent will be contacted to pick up the student immediately. RCBA reserves the right to call a parent at any time for student removal from the school.

## 8.5 Aggressive Behavior Policy

One of the primary functions of our school is to ensure the safety and well-being of its students. This policy sets forth the actions the school will take when this safety is endangered due to the aggressive behavior of a child. Aggressive behaviors include biting, impulsive hitting, throwing hard objects, shoving, scratching, kicking, punching, and exhibiting meltdowns and fits of rage including screaming, stomping, and showing a lack of bodily control, especially when paired with anger.

- **1st Incident**-Written notification will be given to the parents at the end of the day.
- **2nd Incident**-Parents will be called, and written notification will be given at the end of the day.
- **3rd Incident**-Parents will be called, and written notification will be given at the end of the day. Parents, teacher, and Preschool Director will meet to discuss a behavior plan.  
\*If a student continues to behave aggressively after this meeting, additional intervention may be necessary. In some cases, a student could be asked to leave school.

## 8.6 Bullying

**RCBA does not tolerate bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or retaliation in our school community.**

### Texas Education Association Definitions

#### Bullying

As defined in Texas Education Code § 37.0832(a)-(b), Bullying means a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that satisfies the applicability requirements provided by Subsection (a)(1), and that:

- 1) has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property.
- 2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

- 3) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- 4) infringes on the rights of the victim at school and includes cyberbullying.

### **Cyberbullying**

As defined in Texas Education Code § 37.0832 (B)(2), Cyberbullying means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool. This applies to:

- 1) bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.
- 2) bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately-owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
- 3) cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying:
  - (a) interferes with a student's educational opportunities, or
  - (b) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

### **Harassment**

As defined in Texas Education Code § 37.001(b)(2), Harassment means threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, engaging in sexually intimidating conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another student, subjecting another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously taking any action that substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety.

### **Retaliation**

Any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student or individual who reports bullying, provide information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses and/or has reliable information about bullying that has occurred.

## **Examples of Bullying**

Examples of "bullying" may include but are not limited to a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

- Sarcastic "compliments" about another student's personal appearance
- Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate
- Mocking, taunting or belittling
- Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person
- Demeaning humor relating to a student's race, gender, ethnicity or personal characteristics
- Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans
- Blocking access to school property or facilities
- Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property
- Stealing or hiding books or belongings

- Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others

## **Bullying Policy**

- Students who engage in bullying while (a) at school, on school property, on school trips, in school vehicles, at any school function, in connection to or with any school sponsored activity or event, or while en route to or from school, or (b) by an electronic act that results in the substantial disruption or the orderly operation of the school or educational environment are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion.
- Students or parents who witness bullying or have reliable information that a pupil has been the victim of bullying, as defined in this policy and including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident to the administration as soon as possible, and never later than twenty-four hours after the incident; while later reports are welcome, follow up and discipline are hampered by longer time periods. Any student who is a victim of bullying or who witnesses bullying or has reliable information about a bullying incident will be afforded as much care and protection as reasonably possible with severe consequences for a student or parent who retaliates to the student providing the information. Intentional false reports intended to harm will be treated as a major offense for discipline.
- The administration will be responsible for following up on reports to determine the need for disciplinary action. If the bullying incident is substantiated, the administration will require a meeting between the principal, alleged victim and family, and the alleged bully and family within twenty-four hours, with the goal of using partnership to change behavior and encourage reconciliation.
- The most likely consequence for verified bullying will be suspension and/or expulsion depending on the severity and circumstances surrounding the incident. Repeated instances of bullying or retaliation will result in expulsion. Other compensation or consequences may also be applied.

## 9. Parent Information

### 9.1 Parents as Partners

Parent partnership is instrumental in the success of an RCBA experience. We are an extended family and value our time together as we partner in prayer, service and the common good of our school community. We have many opportunities for parents, grandparents, extended family, and friends to be involved in student life at RCBA and to volunteer time, talents, and resources.

### 9.2 Family Service Hours

Each RCBA family is asked to commit to serving at least 10 volunteer hours each semester to support the school. These hours can come from helping in the classrooms, donating new toys or books as requested by the teacher, assisting with fundraisers, or a host of other opportunities. Volunteers are vital to the efficient functioning of our school.

Parents have access to post and track their service hours through the FACTS Parent Portal.

- Log in to your Parent Portal
- Click on Family
- Service hours

We recognize that extenuating circumstances and busy schedules may prevent some families from participating in service hours. Families who are unable to complete their service hours may opt to make a financial donation to RCBA in lieu of service. A charge of \$15.00 per hour or \$150.00 per semester will be added to the family's FACTS account to help facilitate these donations.

### 9.3 Parent/Teacher Communication

Communication with the classroom teacher is vital to the educational mission. We value open dialogue to support healthy partnership. Our teachers primarily communicate with parents through FACTS, emails, and phone calls. Please feel free to reach out through these avenues to address any questions or concerns, to gain clarity in a matter, or simply to offer support and encouragement to your student's teachers.

Our teachers love their students and families. Please, keep this in mind in case of any misunderstanding or conflict. *Always assume positive intent* is a good rule of thumb as we follow the Matthew 18 model of conflict resolution.

**Matthew 18 Model.** When conflicts arise, go first to the person directly involved. As Christians, we are called to address offenses and to forgive. If the conflict is in the classroom, first address it with the classroom teacher. Humility and grace are important attributes in conflict resolution. The goal is to resolve the conflict and to restore damaged relationships.

If the conflict remains unresolved, the next step is to bring in the principal. With the goal of restoration, this biblical model avoids gossip, protects students, and demonstrates Christian love and grace.

## **9.4 FACTS Parent Portal**

FACTS is designed to provide on-demand access to student and school information such as report cards, progress reports, financial information, resource documents, and more. Parents can access it at any time by using a login and password. Families will keep the same login information each school year.

## **9.5 Fundraising**

As is the nature of any privately funded educational institution, all the funds necessary to provide students with the highest quality programs possible cannot come from tuition alone. Throughout the year there will be several opportunities for students and families to participate in events and fundraising activities that serve to generate funds to help keep the cost of tuition to a minimum. We strongly encourage each family to participate by both giving and volunteering. All outside fundraisers are prohibited without prior administrator approval.

## **10. General Information**

### **10.1 Emergency Notification**

Emergency notification to parents will be through text messaging and emails via the Parent Alert system. Please make sure your contact information is kept current in FACTS to ensure you do not miss out on any communications.

### **10.2 Inclement Weather**

RCBA will generally align itself with local public schools (Judson ISD) regarding school-related delays and closings. Parents will also receive a text and email notification via Parent Alert system. Information and updates will also be posted to Facebook.

### **10.3 Search and Seizure**

School officials have the right to search or conduct a search of lockers, backpacks, or vehicles when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a search will reveal evidence that the student has violated, or is in violation, of the law or rules of the school. Searches may be conducted of students' property when at school or at school-related functions.

### **10.4 Unauthorized Items**

Any items that are considered a disruption during class or that may be deemed dangerous by the school administration will be confiscated by RCBA staff and may be retrieved from the school office by the parent at the end of the day. Appropriate warnings and consequences will be administered.

### **10.5 School Insurance**

RCBA has accident insurance that covers accidents on school property, on school-sponsored travel to any scheduled school activity, or injuries related to school-sponsored events. RCBA is the second carrier if you have primary coverage. This insurance does not cover accidents involving student drivers on or off school property.

### **10.6 Campus Hours**

The PreK is open each day from 7:30am until 3:15pm. All students arriving at 7:30am or later must be dropped off at the appropriate area designated by the preschool teachers. This location may change from time to time based on weather conditions and daily activities. RCBA offers half-day, school-day, and full-day PreK programs. Pick-up time for half-day students is 11:30am. Pick-up time for school-day is 3:15pm. Pick up for the extended full-day program is 6:00pm at the latest. Preschool students that have not been picked up by 3:30 will remain in After School Care (ASC) until a parent or guardian arrives. A daily ASC fee (\$20) will be added to the student's FACTS account.

Morning drop-off runs from 7:30-7:55.

## **10.7 Campus Visitors**

All visitors, including parents, must sign in at the school office before visiting the campus or the classrooms. A visitor badge must be worn at all times. Exceptions will be made during special school activities and events.

## **10.8 Change of Contact Information**

If you move or change contact information, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that the information is current in the school records.

## **10.9 Printed Material**

The use of the RCBA logo and/or school name on any printed material such as t-shirts, bumper stickers, banners, or decals is strictly prohibited without prior permission from the school administration.

## **10.10 Toys and Other Personal Items**

Students are not permitted to bring toys or other personal items to school unless it is on special days determined by the classroom teacher. The school will not be responsible for any broken or lost toys. Please refrain from sending items, including clothing, backpacks, or school supplies, which do not reflect biblical values. Such items will be confiscated and returned to the parents during school office hours.

## **10.11 Lost and Found**

The Lost and Found is in the school office. Clothing, books and personal articles found in school buildings or on school grounds will be collected and placed in the Lost and Found. The school will not be responsible for lost items. Unclaimed lost and found items will be discarded at the end of each quarter.

## **10.12 Birthdays and Holidays Parties**

Birthdays are very special for children. We encourage parents to send cookies or cupcakes to celebrate the day. If sending birthday invitations, please send one for each child to avoid hurt feelings.

Holiday parties also make for great celebrations. We will depend on parents to provide refreshments and favors for these fun times. Parents are always welcome at the parties. Please contact your child's teacher to volunteer.

## **10.13 Rest Time**

After lunch, children will have a rest time. Each child will need to bring a tri-fold rest mat and a small blanket, no pillows please. Blankets will stay at school for the week and will only be sent home on Fridays to be washed over the weekend. Children can bring one special item for rest time. This will also stay at school for the week. Please do not send items that children have to have to sleep at home.

After other children are asleep, those children who do not sleep will be allowed quiet time.

## 10.14 Snacks and Water Bottles

Students are given a snack-time in the morning and in the afternoon. We ask parents to donate healthy snack items throughout the year. By providing the same snack for all students, we prevent snack envy. Children eat better and are happier.

All students should bring a small, non-spill water bottle to school daily.

## 10.15 Toileting

Students who attend RCBA PreK programs are required to be toilet trained and able to take care of all cleaning needs. Staff will routinely stop activities for scheduled toileting. Students will be asked if they need to use the toilet if they are showing signs of the need or if parents communicate the need to remind the student of periodic bathroom breaks. Our goal is to work with parents to successfully transition to our Preschool. We understand that on occasion children at this age may have accidents, and these incidents can be handled most efficiently if parents send an extra-change of clothes to school with their child. Staff will notify parents if a toileting issue arises. Should toileting issues persist beyond a reasonable level, RCBA administration will contact parents to discuss alternatives for care.

## 10.16 Indoor and Outdoor Physical Activity

RCBA PreK strongly believes and supports the need for physical activity each day. When students participate in physical activity each day, there are multiple health benefits. Regular physical activity builds healthy bones and muscles, improves muscular strength and endurance, reduces the risk for developing chronic disease factors, improves self-esteem, and reduces stress and anxiety. It can also have benefits on academic performance. Research has shown that physical movement can even affect the brain's physiology.

Our preschoolers will participate in a minimum of ninety minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each. They will have the opportunity to do moderate to vigorous activities, such as running, climbing, dancing, skipping, and jumping.

Students will have outdoor activities, when the weather permits, and indoor activities, in the classroom, school foyer, and the gym.

Preschoolers' clothing should permit easy movement during physical activity. Their footwear should provide support for running and climbing. Clothes should also protect them from sun exposure. Hats may be worn to provide extra protection.

### **Appropriate clothing and footwear:**

- Gym shoes or equivalent
- Clothing for weather, such as a lightweight jacket without hood and strings

### **Inappropriate clothing and footwear:**

- Footwear that can come off while running or that does not provide support for climbing
- Clothing that can catch on playground equipment, such as drawstrings or loops