**PHILOSOPHY AND ABOUT OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**Why A Christian Education?**

In order to carry out the command of Jesus, "Teaching them to observe all things what-so ever I have commanded you…", the members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Congregation of North Platte established and maintain this school, the members believe the school to be essential to carrying out God's command regarding the Christian training of children. They also want to assure themselves of the blessings God has promised to those who provide their children a Christian education.

**God Commands**

*"Fathers…, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4

*"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* Deuteronomy 6:6-7

**God Promises**

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* Proverbs 22:6

*"All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace."* Isaiah 54:13

**Not Merely the Three R's plus Religion**

Can one build a solid foundation by merely pouring mortar over a pile of stones? Religion is not only a course added to the secular course of studies. Rather, the course of studies is presented in the light of God's Word, and all subjects become meaningful to the child of God as ways of developing talents for greater service to a loving God who redeemed him from sin.

**CREDO OF OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN**

**WE BELIEVE** that a Christian school in which every subject is taught from a Christian point of view, and where the teaching reflects the spirit of Christ, can be more successful in leading children to a vital Christian life than any other agency except the Christian home.

**WE BELIEVE** that Our Redeemer Lutheran School thus supplements the religious training which the child receives at home, and in some cases, is the main course of training through which a child learns about his Savior.

**WE BELIEVE** that Our Redeemer Lutheran School must serve as a mission agency in the community.

**WE BELIEVE** that Our Redeemer Lutheran School follows the directive of our Lord, “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you…”, and thus makes Him the focal point of its educational progress.

**WE BELIEVE** that the uniqueness of Our Redeemer Lutheran School lies to a great extent in the consecration with which its teachers address themselves to their tasks under the direction of God’s Holy Spirit.

**WE BELIEVE** that Our Redeemer Lutheran School, empowered by the Holy Spirit and viewing the pupil through the cross of Christ, is concerned with the child’s total needs-physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

**WE BELIEVE** that both the future of the Church and the country lies in the hands of the children. Therefore, as a Christian school; our school is one of the best agencies to:

1. Teach children their proper relationship to God and their fellow man.

2. Preserve its pupils to life eternal in the Kingdom of God.

3. Develop in children the necessary skills and attitude to make them responsible citizens of their community.

4. Develop in children the concern for sharing faith and the ability to share faith with others.

To these ends, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church operates its own Christian school to provide children instruction in all subjects in accordance with the beliefs of Biblical faith and the interests of good Christian citizenship.

**Guidelines for Christian Education**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church provides a Christian Day School in order to serve the total needs of the child: body, mind, and spirit. We recognize that God has given this responsibility to the parents of the child and to the church.

The Board of Education at Our Redeemer Church and School is concerned with the total Christian education our students receive. By total education we include school attendance, regular church attendance, and Christian education taught at home by the parents. We feel regular Church attendance by students as well as parents is very important in the total Christian education process and should be stressed.

**Administration**

The Lutheran School System is an integral part of the American education program. In Nebraska,

Our Redeemer Lutheran School is bound by the same curricular standards as the public schools. All teachers at Our Redeemer Lutheran School are certified by the State of Nebraska Board of Education.

The Administration of Our Redeemer Lutheran School rests primarily with the voting assembly of the congregation. This latter works God's will through its elected Board of Education composed of six elected members, along with the pastor and principal. Immediate administration and supervision of the school rests with the principal/head teacher. He/she acts as executive officer, who with the help of the faculty suggests changes and policies for the improvement and welfare of the school.

**ENROLLMENT POLICIES**

**Policy of Enrollment and Entrance Requirements**

To be enrolled in Kindergarten, pupils must have reached the age of five years on or before the 31st day of July of the year they are enrolling. Pupils who enter with advanced standing will be placed on the basis of transfer reports from the school which they previously attended. The principal and the Board of Education reserve the right to reject any enrollment application. Parents must provide proof of immunizations as required by state law prior to the start of the school year.

**Preschool**

The Preschool program is offered as part of Our Redeemer's educational program and is an integrated part of the school. Two half day sessions: Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings and

Tuesday, Thursday mornings are offered. Full day Preschool is also offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The program is kindergarten readiness built around daily religious instruction. This program is open to children ages 3-5. It is required that children will be able to use the restroom independently and the child must be able to spend time away from their family. More information is available through the school office.

**Preschool Basic Goals**

1. Introduce children to school and help prepare them for Kindergarten: Learning letters, letter sounds, numbers, school routine, and fine and gross motor skills.
2. Introduce the children to God (Jesus) as one who loves them, redeems them, and is with them everywhere, even at school.
3. Help the children feel happy at school with teachers and others as persons, sent by God to love them and help them do their best.
4. Help the children realize that working and playing together with others is part of God's loving plan for His people.
5. Help the children become aware of their many personal blessings given to them by God, and to help them start developing these into skills to use in basic learning activities and to teach them to care for his person and surroundings.
6. Foster a loving, caring, relationship between each child and each of his classmates, sharing their joys and sorrows etc.
7. Pray for this kind of teaching (for ourselves and our helpers).

**Kindergarten Entrance**

An open house for children entering kindergarten is held sometime during the spring. Invitations are sent to all children of kindergarten age at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Our Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, Beautiful Savior Preschool, and to parents who have inquired about our kindergarten program. Announcements of the event are in the Parish News, church bulletins, and other advertisements.

**Preschool-8 Enrollment Policy**

Enrollment is open to any family who wants their children to have a Lutheran-based, Christ centered education. Priority is based on classroom sizes being met and if we have educational programs to meet the needs of the individual student. As classroom space is available, students will be accepted as follows:

1. Students re-enrolling after completing the prior school year.
2. Students who have a brother or sister already attending ORLS.
3. Students where one or both parents are members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.
4. Students whose parents are members of other Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations.

This order of enrollment will be used until April 1st. Thereafter, enrollment will be on first come, first serve basis. Upon enrolling the student, parents who may be interested in learning more about what doctrines are being taught at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, may attend an adult information class in which the doctrines of the church are reviewed. If parents decide to join ORLC, they will be considered members. Parents are encouraged to contact the pastor for more information. Parents who join the congregation through confirmation after attendance of these classes will then be eligible for the reduced tuition rates set for members only. If ORLS is unable to meet the needs of a student, the Board of Education and principal reserve the right to refuse enrollment.

**Registration Fees**

All text books and classroom supplies are purchased with registration fees. Depending on grade level, children may need a Bible and Catechism. These may be purchased from the school office. A non-refundable registration fee is charged to each student and is due in full at the time of registration. A snack fee for preschool students is required at the time of enrollment. Milk served at snack time may be purchased throughout the year.

**Tuition**

Just as it is important for a family to pay bills on time, it is also important for us here at Our Redeemer Lutheran School to do so. The majority of our school families help us do that by making tuition payments, lunch payments, etc., on time each month. We want you to know that we appreciate this.

We want to remind everyone that tuition is due on the 5th of each month, if a payment is not received by the 15th of the month a delinquent statement will be sent home the next school day. Parents may apply for Financial Aid from an emergency fund at any time during the school year. If payment is not received by the 15th of the following month your student will not be allowed to attend school from the following school day until the balance is received. Any questions or concerns about tuition should be directed to the Principal or School office.

A list of current fees and tuition is available at the School office.

**Financial Aid**

Financial Aid is available on a limited basis to families who apply and are found in need of help with tuition. Financial aid forms are available at the time of registration or on Gradelink.com. To be considered, Registration fees must be paid by April 15th. A committee meets periodically to determine the amount of financial aid for each family who applies.

**Nondiscriminatory Policies**

Our Redeemer Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, program, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Our Redeemer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nation, or ethnic origin for the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship/loan programs, athletic or other school administered programs.

**SCHOOL POLICIES**

**School Hours**

Doors open at 7:45 a.m. Students are encouraged to arrive at 8:00. School classes begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Preschool hours are 8:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and 8:15 to 3:30 for full day preschool. Students, who arrive at school between 7:45 & 8:00 a.m., will report to the lunchroom for a quiet supervised study hall. Students may be picked up between 3:30 and 3:40 p.m. and may not loiter on the school grounds unless under the supervision of their parent. Students arriving after 8:15 a.m. are considered tardy and must stop in the school office for a tardy slip to present to the classroom teacher.

After 3:40 parents must come inside to the school office to pick up their children.

**School Attendance and Tardiness**

Parents are asked to cooperate with the school by seeing to it that their child attends regularly. Without regular attendance, it may be difficult for a student to master the concepts needed at this level. If a student misses more than five days of any quarter, a meeting with his parents will be requested by his classroom teacher and principal. If a student misses more than 15 days during the school year, a meeting will be set up between parents, classroom teacher, and principal to determine whether a child is ready to progress to the next grade level. If absences continue beyond this point, other measures may be taken

(i.e. contacting social services, the county attorney, the truant officer, etc.) Regardless of the situation, more than 1.5 hours of classroom absence will count as a 1/2 day of absence.

We also believe the student should arrive at school on time. Students coming in late miss out on part of their schooling and disrupt the learning of the rest of the class. In the interest of increasing student security and provide closer monitoring of our students, parents are to come into the office to sign the student out if they must leave for appointments, etc. Parents are required to directly contact the school office in the case of an absence or tardy.

**Student Illness**

Any student who becomes ill or runs a fever of 100 degrees or more, shall be sent home. Parents will be notified and requested to make arrangements to have the child taken home. The ill student is to remain in the office until the parent or responsible adult arrives. If a child misses three or more consecutive days due to illness, he/she will need a doctor's excuse to return to school. Please inform the school office if your child has a communicable disease, such as, but not limited to, pinkeye, chicken pox, or strep throat, that could be contagious to the other students. Please check with your family doctor to determine the length of time your child may be contagious and should stay at home. Teachers will work with parents whose children are affected by a long illness.

In accordance with Nebraska Rule 59, the following policy governing the dispensing and storing of

Prescription and non-prescription medications are as follows:

1. An authorization form must be signed by the prescribing physician or in the case of non-prescription medications, by the parent. Doses and times must be clearly indicated. A form is available in the school office.
2. Prescription and non-prescription medication MUST be in the original package. Please do NOT send pills, cough drops, etc. in plastic baggies or other containers. Each student must have their own package of non-prescription medication. In other words, students cannot “share” another students Tylenol, etc.
3. All records and medications will be stored in the office. The school secretary or a designee in the event of her absence is the person who is charged with dispensing and recording all prescription and non-prescription medication.

**School Closings**

In case of any emergency or severe storm and school is closed, listen to KODY (AM 1240) KJLT (94.9 FM), KELN (97.1 FM) radio stations, NTV (Channel 6), KNOP TV (Channel 2), or KOLN/KGIN 10/11 or check www.weatherthreat.com. If school is to be closed it will be announced before 8:00 a.m. An email will be sent to parent’s email addresses on record, and it will be posted on Facebook. Please update the school office if there are any changes in contact or email information. If it is necessary to close school during the day, this will be announced over radio and television and an attempt will be made to contact the parents. If school is canceled, classes will resume the next day unless you are informed otherwise.

**Lost and Found**

Lost items can be prevented by labeling all belongings. A lost and found collection box is located in the school office. Money should be brought only when necessary and if lost should be reported immediately. Unclaimed money will be donated to the Chapel Offering.

**Emergency Procedures**

All students are to have an emergency form on file in the office prior to the beginning of school. Please update the classroom teacher and school office of any changes in your phone number, address, or email address during the school year.

**Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco & Harmful Substances**

Any student possessing guns, lethal weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or any harmful substances is liable for suspension and/or expulsion from school. Under Nebraska law, disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution will be imposed if the standards of conduct regarding drugs and alcohol are violated.

**Adult Supervision**

Parents or other adults bringing children into the building are responsible for their children’s actions and the supervision of their children’s play according to school rules on the premises, inside or out. All visitors need to use the south entrance to check in at the school office upon arrival and check out when leaving.

**Telephone**

The school telephone number is (308) 532-6421 or (308) 532-6437. During school, it is answered by the office personnel. Students may be called to the phone in case of an emergency. The School secretary/

Administration will allow phone usage when deemed necessary.

**Cell Phones**

When cell phones are brought to school they must be turned off, and kept by the child’s teacher and will be returned at the end of the school day. Cell phones not used according to these rules will be given to the parent or guardian by school staff at the end of the school day. Emergency considerations may be arranged with teachers.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Testing**

Our Redeemer Lutheran School will follow a regular and systematic plan for the academic testing of their students. Specialized testing may be administered by North Platte Public Schools. MAP testing will be used to Measure Academic Progress in the fall and spring. Results will be shared with parents.

**Open File Policy**

Our Redeemer Lutheran School maintains the private permanent file of each student according to The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This information is private but available at the school office upon request of the parent. Records are transferred to the student’s next school of attendance when their account is paid in full.

**Reporting to Parents**

Conferences are held with the parents of students in Preschool through 8th grades during the first and third quarters of the school year. This opportunity is provided for an exchange of ideas between teacher and parents and for discussion of ways the student's progress and growth might be maximized. Report cards are issued quarterly to students in Preschool through 8th Grade. Parents are urged to consult the teacher at any time concerning the progress/or development of their child. Parents may monitor their child’s progress at any time through Grade link, the online grading system.

**Progress Monitoring**

With online grading, parents and families are encouraged to follow their child’s progress on Gradelink.com. Passwords are available in the office for 1st-8th grades. Participants in extracurricular activities will be evaluated during their respective season, on a weekly basis. Students will remain eligible for extra-curricular activities if they maintain a minimum 70% grade average in each subject. When the grade average in any subject falls below 70%, the student will be on probation for one week during which time he/she must concentrate on grade improvement. For this probationary week, students will not be eligible to practice or play in games. Ineligibility will remain until the grade average is above 70% in all subjects, as noted on the student's weekly evaluations.

**SALT**

Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, each family was asked to complete 25 hours of volunteer time for our school. The jobs available for SALT credit may include services for a related ministry of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, but preference is given for jobs that directly impact and support the school. Families may choose to contribute financially to ORLS rather than through SALT hours by paying $500.00. If you complete only part of your hours during the school year you will be responsible for paying the pro-rated balance before the end of the school year.

**Homework**

The challenging program at Our Redeemer has always required that some study be done at home. This is not only necessary for accomplishing our immediate goals, but also a helpful habit for future education, which is becoming more demanding. The amount of homework depends on the grade level and the ability and study habits of the individual student. Parents can help by providing encouragement and a quiet place to study. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in all assignments on time. Extracurricular activities do not excuse the student from doing his homework. If a student does not have his homework to turn in when it is due, the student will stay after school that day to complete the unfinished work. Make-up work due to illness needs to be turned in within 1 day for each day absent upon their return to school. If you have questions, contact your child's teacher. For prearranged absences, assignments should be requested in advance and they are due upon their return to school.

**School Visits**

Visitors will sign in and sign out. Parent visits to classrooms are at the discretion of the school principal. If you wish to come observe a classroom, please contact the principal to make arrangements.

**Home/School Relationships**

We believe that your children are a gift to you from the Lord. The home is and always will be the chief agency for the Christian training of the child. A Christian Day School does not relieve the parents of their God-given obligation. The purpose of our school is to serve as an important aid to and extension of the home in the vital work of Christian training. When you choose to send your child to Our Redeemer Lutheran School, you are agreeing to uphold the instruction of the school and you will urge your child to respect all school personnel: especially his/her teacher.

**Grievance of Parents**

Parents are asked to follow the guidelines set out in Scripture in Matthew 18:15-18. If any parent shall have any questions or concerns about academics, classroom, procedure, or discipline, he/she should first speak to the teacher involved. If doubt or uneasiness about this matter remains, the parents should then speak to the principal. If differences still exist, the parents and teacher will then request that the principal include this grievance on the agenda of the next Board of Education meeting. As all parties work together, situations will be resolved in a manner that best meets the needs of each student within the capabilities of our school resources while respecting the needs and rights of ALL students.

**STUDENT CONDUCT**

**Core Beliefs that Guide Enforcement of School Rules and Expectations**

Each student is a child of God, created by His design with unique personal, social, and educational needs. As a result, every disciplinary situation becomes unique in nature. Consequences for misbehavior provide the best learning value when matched to the unique student and the unique situation and will be dealt with in a confidential manner. The odds for children learning from their mistakes increase dramatically when children see a reasonable connection between their behavior and the resulting consequences. The overriding guide for evaluating behavior is God's Word. Our Redeemer Lutheran School dedicates itself to following a set of core beliefs that provide a guide for dealing with student discipline. These core beliefs guide our attempts to individualize disciplinary procedures and to help students see reasonable connections between their behavior and the resulting consequences. Students will see that repentance from sin is followed by God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

**Core Beliefs for Our School**

The following list of core beliefs outlines the professional actions and attitudes of all staff members in this school. These beliefs are based on the principles set out by God in His Word.

1. Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher. *"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."* Philippians 1:27
2. Students will be guided and expected to solve their problems, or the ones they create, without creating a problem for anyone else. *"Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else."* I Thessalonians 5:15
3. Students will be given opportunities to make decisions and live with the consequences, whether the decision is good or bad. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* II Timothy 3:16-17
4. Misbehavior will be handled with natural or logical consequences instead of punishment, whenever possible. *"Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else. For each one should carry his own load."* Galatians 6:4-5
5. Misbehavior will be viewed as an opportunity for individual problem solving and preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on school or staff.  *"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."* Hebrews 12:11
6. School situation will be handled in a Christ-centered manner by school professionals. Unlawful activity will be referred to the proper authorities.  *"Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter."* Ecclesiastes 8:5-6

**Student Behavior**

Some student behaviors, such as, but not limited to profanity, cheating, fighting, stealing, bullying, disrespect toward staff and personnel, destruction or defacing of school and church property, or repeated violations will not be tolerated. Such infractions shall be dealt with by faculty and/or principal. Consequences may include notification of parents, detention, short or long-term suspension, or financial restitution, depending on the severity of the situation.

**Indoor/Outdoor activity**

No playing is allowed in the corridors. Recess in the gym is permitted if the weather is adverse. No student is allowed to stay indoors during recess without a valid written request from the parents, the consent of the teacher, or a doctor’s direction.

No school equipment will be used for play after school hours except for athletic practice or competition sports.

**Nuisance Items**

Personal electronic and handheld devices, toys, or any items that distract or interfere with learning may not be brought to school. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of such items brought to school.

**Damages**

The student will be required to reimburse the school for any loss of school property and for any willful or careless damage to textbooks or other school property.

**Leaving the School Grounds**

Students who must leave the school grounds during school hours for something other than an emergency, must have prior parental permission. Students must be checked out at the office before leaving school grounds during school hours. When students depart with parents, they are the parents’ responsibility until they are signed back in. Parents must use the main entrance on the south side of the building to sign out and pick up their child. Upon returning to school after an appointment, the parent will check the student in at the school office.

**General School Rules for the Conduct of ORLS Students**

1. Be courteous and respectful to all staff members. Staff includes: teachers, aides, secretaries, pastors, cooks, helpers, administrators, and custodians.
2. Eating snacks during the school day will not be allowed except as directed during a teacher- led activity or by a doctor. Candy will be permitted as a dessert in a cold lunch, but must be eaten during the lunch period.
3. No running in the building at any time. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times.
4. Snowballs will not be allowed on school property.
5. All playground and athletic equipment is to be stored properly when not in use.
6. Classroom desks should be kept clean and orderly.
7. Student’s, who ride their bikes to school, must leave them in the bike racks.
8. Each child will be expected to clean up after themselves at lunch time and at other times during the day.
9. Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds without prior permission from their parent(s), and without being checked out at the office to a designated adult in accordance with the parents’ permission.
10. Fighting, wrestling, and tackle football are not permitted.
11. No playing or loitering in the restrooms.

**DRESS CODE**

**Personal Appearance**

Appropriate dress and good grooming are important to every boy and girl. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately. Clothing must be neat and clean. Clothing must fit appropriately for the age of the child (not too tight, or oversized, no saggy pants). Leggings are not pants. They may be worn with a dress, or longer tops to cover modestly. Clothing depicting drugs, tobacco, alcohol, lottery, vulgarity, violence, or anything satanic will not be allowed.

Short pants, (including capris and shorts) may be worn in the months of August, September, October, April and May. Shorts must be of a modest and reasonable length. (A good guideline for reasonable length is for shorts to measure the same length as their fingertips held straight at their sides. The inseam should be at least 3 inches long (and longer for students in 3rd-8th grade.)

Tube tops, tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, see-through fabrics, muscle shirts with large arm holes, or low-cut clothing and clothing with bare midriffs are not permitted. The only exception to this will be a sleeved t-shirt worn under these garments. Sleeveless shirts and blouses are acceptable. Modesty will be the "rule of thumb." If a student's raised arm causes the tummy to be exposed, the top is inappropriate for school. Pants should fit properly so there is no gap between the shirt and pants when a student sits down. Jeans or pants with inappropriate holes are not allowed. Patched jeans are allowed.

Footwear should be appropriate to the kind of activity the student is engaged in and to the weather. Separate athletic shoes with non-marking soles are required for indoor gym use and these shoes should be left at the school during the school year. Children in Preschool- 4th grade need to wear shoes that cover their toes for safety on the playground.

We encourage maintaining good personal hygiene. If personal hygiene adversely affects the learning environment, (body odor, perfume, etc.) parents will be notified.

The school administration reserves the right to send a student home or request a change of clothing be brought to school in the case of inappropriate dress.

Remember that we are here for a Christian educational purpose and anything that detracts from that purpose is inappropriate and will be addressed. We expect our students' dress and appearance to support our purpose and not be a distraction to the classroom environment.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**School Choirs/Programs**

Individual or grouped classrooms periodically participate in worship services as choral groups. These activities are a part of the school program. Families that are not members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are encouraged to participate. Other choral groups may be organized depending upon interest and talent available.

**Celebrations**

The parties which are held during the school year are planned or approved by the teacher. During holiday seasons, we focus on the religious topics rather than Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, etc. These 4 holidays are usually observed: Fall/Reformation, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, and Easter. If there are gifts exchanged (Christmas) or Valentines exchanged, the teacher will provide the rules by which the exchange is made. Additional parties and picnic must be approved by the Principal.

**Field Trips**

Field trips are considered part of the curriculum of the school because they contribute directly to the teaching of the student. In all cases, students are prepared for field trips in advance and parents are informed. Parents are requested to cooperate by driving, providing necessary materials, clothes, or donations for the field trip. Permission for local field trips (within 50 miles) is given by the signature on the back of the enrollment form or on Gradelink.com when you enroll. Overnight trips and trips out of the local area will require separate permission slips. Such signatures are required before your child can participate.

**Sports**

Our school competes with other area schools in several sports as a club team sponsored by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Volleyball is offered for girls in the fall. In the winter months, there is basketball for both boys and girls. Football may be offered for grades seven through eight through the public school. Track may be offered in the spring for grades seven through eight through Public School. Participation is not limited to ORLS students, but is left to the discretion of the school. All team members must meet attendance and grade percentage requirements to be eligible to play.

**Library**

The School Library has a good selection of books. We have volunteers who help staff the library. Books that have been checked out, but not returned will need to be replaced, or a fee of $15.00 will be assessed to the last person to have checked out the book. Every effort will be given to find the missing book.

**NUTRITION AND HEALTH**

**School Lunch Program**

The Student Lunch program at ORLS is home cooked on site. Monthly menus will be distributed through the school to take home and will be available on the office bulletin board.

Students forgetting to bring their cold lunch should make arrangements to have their lunch brought to them by 11:00 A.M. There will be NO CHARGE ACCOUNTS for lunch. Parents who wish to eat hot lunch may purchase the meal by calling the office before 9:00 a.m. and pay for it upon arrival.

The refrigerator, stoves, microwave, and other kitchen equipment are for use by the hot lunch program and church functions only, and may not be used for heating or storing student lunches.

**Hot Lunch Accounts**

Lunch money accounts will be prepaid. A menu/sign-up sheet for hot lunch will be sent home each month. You will be credited as you add money to your child’s account and charged as they eat meals. Children with negative lunch balances will not be served from the lunch program until their balance is positive. When your balance falls below $10.00, a note and/or e-mail will be sent to you.

We encourage parents to purchase meals on a monthly basis. We also encourage families to participate in the Free and Reduced Priced Meal Benefits Program. Please see the school office for Meal Benefit Applications.

**Our Redeemer Lutheran School Wellness Policy**

The primary goal of nutrition education is to influence students' eating behaviors. Building nutrition knowledge and skills helps children make healthy eating and physical activity choices. To accomplish this goal, Our Redeemer Lutheran School will develop this policy to encourage and educate students on the benefits of maintaining healthy choices throughout life.

**Nutrition Education Goal**

1. Students in all grades, preschool through 8 will receive nutrition education that is interactive and teaches the skill they need to adopt healthy eating behaviors.
2. The message of making healthy choices will be consistent throughout the school, classroom, lunch room, and other areas where the message can be presented.
3. The curriculum for health education will include both nutrition and physical education.
4. Health education and making healthy decisions will be infused as appropriate throughout the other curricula areas.
5. The school will seek additional ways to present the message of healthy choices in other events sponsored by the school

**Physical Activity Goals**

1. Students will be given opportunities for physical activity during the school day through physical education class, recess periods, and the integration of physical activity into the academic curriculum.
2. Students will be given opportunities for physical activity through, before and/or after school activities such as their athletic programs.
3. The school will work with the community to help provide safety for students walking, riding bikes, or otherwise using physical activities to get to school.
4. The school will encourage parents and guardians to support their child's participation in physical activities and will work to offer physical activities in family events.

**Nutrition Guidelines for All Goods & Beverages Available at School**

1. Food and beverages in the food service program will represent good choices for a balanced and nutritional diet. Sack lunches should reflect good choices as well. Soda pop is generally not allowed.
2. The school does not allow vending machines, snack bars, and school stores available during school hours. During school sponsored activities, healthy alternatives will be offered in the concession stands, so that parents and students can make choices.
3. Healthy choices and nutritional food value will be a consideration in selecting school-sponsored fundraising activities. Physical activity fundraising alternatives will be considered when planning the yearly fundraising events.

When school parties and classroom activities include food, families are encouraged to bring nutritional snacks.

**Goals for Other School Based Activities**

1. The school will maintain the lunch area to ensure that it is a clean, safe, and enjoyable meal environment.
2. The school will arrange a lunch schedule that provides adequate time for serving meals, for students to eat, and for clean-up following meals.
3. Water or milk will be available at lunch.
4. Drinking fountains will be available in the school buildings and students will be given opportunity to have water throughout the day.
5. The identity of students who receive reduced lunches will be protected.
6. Children who have been removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons will be provided with lunch.
7. Teachers will be encouraged to provide all students with physical activities at recess and other times when physical education or activity is scheduled.
8. The staff will strive to be role models in practicing healthy eating habits.

**Implementation and Evaluation**

1. The wellness policy will be implemented at Our Redeemer Lutheran School by the school staff.
2. The principal will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the wellness policy.

**Health Requirements and Services**

Our school has access to the services of the school nurse, who conducts various examinations during the school year. Results of these examinations with communication will be sent if necessary. Notices to parents are made out for students who require medical attention by the family doctor. Children entering kindergarten must have medical and optometric examinations before the opening of school. Students are required to have all shots required by the state (exemptions for medical and religious reasons only). Complete immunization and physicals are required for kindergarten and 7th grade students. Parents must provide proof of immunizations as required by state law prior to the start of the school year. For information about required shots, contact the school office.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Asbestos**

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) passed in 1987, requires all public and private schools to inventory and inspect all buildings for asbestos containing materials. This initial inspection was completed at Our Redeemer in 1988. All asbestos areas are continually inspected on a regular basis and procedures implemented to assure no health hazards are present. The management plan has been filed with the Nebraska Department of Health and is on file in the school office. The plan is available for public inspection during office hours. Copies of the management plan will be provided to requesting parties for the cost of reproduction. For further information, please contact the ORLS Principal, the School's asbestos Program Manager, at 532-6421.