



Redwood Christian Athletics

PARENT HANDBOOK

AN ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

"Winning is the total release of all that you are (mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically) toward becoming like Jesus Christ in each situation." (The Handbook on Athletic Perfection)

From the standpoint of the Christian purpose of athletics, the above definition of winning is totally different to each participant, coach, spectator, cheerleader, and official. Winning the game is definitely one of the main goals (or should be) of every coach and athlete, but does losing the game necessarily mean that they are losers? A team or individual can win in the score column and lose if they have not experienced the total release that God offers. If an individual engraves into his mind that a winner is one who defeats his opponent, and nothing more, he will enter many competitions already committed to performing at a level less than he is actually capable of achieving.

Each athletic situation is a separate opportunity for each participant to strive to be pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ. To perform for the crowd is to perform for the wrong audience. Jesus Christ centered His attention on pleasing only His Father. God wants everything a person has to be focused on representing Christ in whatever he is doing. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men." That is quite a responsibility for each coach and athlete, and it is a goal that is pleasing to the Lord Jesus.

The athletic department at Redwood Christian Schools has as its first goal to strive to be Christlike. Christ had three characteristics that each of us can strive for and seek to develop in each athletic performance, whether it is a practice or a game. Christ was very intense. He knew exactly where He was going and what His goal was. Christ was very flexible, yet rigid. Although He knew where His goal was, He was willing to bend and be used by His Father to reach that goal. Christ also had divine inspiration. Through prayer, each athlete can ask God for the purpose of each activity and be led by God to please Him. Intensity, flexible rigidity, and divine inspiration - these are goals beyond points on the scoreboard.

The Christian athlete can handle any situation if he knows that he is striving to be Christlike, and therefore pleasing to God. The coaches, through team prayer and individual counseling, must strive to lead the athletes of Redwood Christian Schools in a way that will be pleasing to Jesus Christ.

Each person will face defeat in life. He must learn to accept it and learn from it. It is exciting to realize that although a person may come up short on the scoreboard, he can still be a winner in life, because God sent Jesus to the world. Jesus said, "I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Athletes and coaches should praise the Lord for giving them so much, and they should make a concentrated effort to give their collective best for Him.

ELIGIBILITY

PHYSICALS

The school physical form must be filled out completely by the parent and doctor before a player can try out or practice with a team. This applies to both high school and middle school players. The school form is good for one school year only. The physical itself is good for twelve calendar months.

ACADEMICS - as per CIF Article 2, section 205

To be eligible for an athletic team, a student must have maintained during the previous grading period, a minimum of 2.0 GPA in all enrolled courses. Students must pass at least 4 classes. Only one period of Teacher's Aide may be counted each grading period. Middle School players must also have a 2.0 in conduct.

If a student has less than a 2.0 GPA at the end of the quarter, he/she may be granted a 4½ week probation period. At the end of such time, it will be determined whether the student has achieved progress which would make him eligible by the 2.0 standard. Those who have not achieved this progress will then be ruled ineligible for further competition during that grading period. Only one probation period will be allowed per year.

TRANSFER POLICY

Transferring from one school to another may affect a student's athletic eligibility under NCS or CIF rules. It is your responsibility to see the Athletic Director for a copy of the eligibility rules, or information where eligibility rules may be viewed. Students who transfer as a result of disciplinary action are subject to the conditions of Bylaw 209 and may be ineligible for one calendar year from enrollment in your new school. All eligibility transfer information/applications must be true, correct, accurate, complete and/or not false or fraudulent. Go to www.cifnfs.org for further information. Click on "Eligibility Transfer Information".

OUTSIDE COMPETITION - As per CIF Article 600

A student on a high school team becomes ineligible if the student competes in a contest on any "outside team" in the same sport, during the student's high school season of sport. See the athletic director for exception for boys' soccer.

PRACTICE PROCEDURES

A player is required to be at all practices, games, and team meetings, unless excused by the coach. Players are expected to be prompt and wear proper attire. Cutting will not be tolerated. A player must be in class the last FOUR FULL periods of the day in order to participate in practice. **Lunch period does not count as a period.**

The following may be reasons (not excuses) for missing practices, games, or team meetings:

1. Athlete's illness or death in the family. Please call and let us know what is happening so that we can uphold the athlete and family in prayer. Please try to call by 10:30 am on the day in question. You may leave a message in the athletic office at 317-8988.
2. Holidays. High School Only - Due to the nature of the sports season, it may be necessary to have some practices or games during the holidays. If an athlete is in town when a practice or game is scheduled, he is expected to attend, unless excused by the coach.
3. Doctor appointment. Please schedule all doctor and dentist appointments for a time other than practice time. We realize that orthodontist appointments are difficult to schedule, so we will be flexible in this area. The school has several non-school days throughout the year. Please try to utilize them for doctor and dentist appointments.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

When a student makes a team, many times others have been cut. Please don't take your athlete off the team or have him miss games as punishment. Others are depending on him/her, and some aren't participating because of him/her. Please allow the coach to work with you through any disciplinary problems your athlete may experience. Your coach wants to be used; please call him.

Any student who quits a team during the season (period of time from the final roster to the final game of regular and post season play) without prior permission from the coach and/or Athletic Director, or who disregards a directive given by the coach and/or AD pertaining to any issue contained in the Athletic Parental Contract shall be suspended from further participation in the athletic program until a final decision can be made by the Athletic Director about the future participation of the student in RCS athletics. Depending upon the seriousness of the incident, the student may be barred from the next two seasons of sport or from participating in that same sport the next school year.

Attending the sports awards program is an expectation. Failure to attend without receiving an excused absence from the coach may result in being ineligible for any special awards

GAME DAY PROCEDURES

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

An athlete must be in class a minimum of 4 FULL periods on the day of the game to be eligible to compete in the game or travel with the team to an away contest. If the athlete comes in the middle of a class, that period does not count for attendance. If the team leaves during a class, that period does not count. It is best to just be at school all day. Exceptions to this policy must be cleared through the athletic director.

GAME DAY DRESS

Middle School and High School athletes are required to dress to a higher standard on game days. Specifically, this means that male athletes must wear dress slacks, dress shoes and socks, and a dress shirt (tucked in) with an appropriate tie. Sweaters and sports coats are encouraged, but not required. Female athletes must wear nice dresses, dress pants or skirts with collared blouses or shirts. (Denim not allowed). Dress shoes are required (tennis shoes of any kind, flip flop or casual, slipper type shoes not allowed). Pullover hoodies / sweatshirts are not considered game day dress, unless it is a team sweatshirt. The Director of Athletics is the only one who can approve game day dress code changes.

The purpose for the special dress code for athletes on game days is fourfold. First, it recognizes the athlete who is dressed up for his accomplishment in being a part of a team. Second, it develops a unity among team members who are all dressed up together. Third, it helps team members look classy as they arrive at the gym or field to meet their opponent, and gives that opponent a favorable impression of the team. Fourth, it helps the athlete mentally prepare for the contest.

Athletes who fail to comply with the game day dress code may have their playing time reduced or eliminated for that game. Repeated infractions will result in athletic department action.

MS Athletes: You are required to dress out for P.E. to be eligible to practice or play in games.

SPORTS FEE

There will be a sport fee schedule for both middle school and high school athletics. The sport fee schedule for middle school is \$105 for the first sport played, \$80 for the second, \$60 for the third and free for the fourth. The sport fee schedule for high school is \$125 for the first sport played, \$100 for the second, and \$70 for the third. This fee will go to offset the costs associated with facility reservations, officials, tournament/meet fees, and transportation. Uniforms will not be issued to the player until the fees have been paid. Families with multiple athletes will have their sports fee capped at \$500. These fees will be reviewed each year and will be raised due to raising costs.

GAME DAY TRANSPORTATION

Departure time, return time, and game sites will be addressed by each coach. Approximate return times and directions to games can also be found on the game schedules or by going to www.rcs.edu and clicking on "Athletics" and choosing the correct sport. Parents are approached from time to time to drive for games. Please let the coach know if you are interested in helping with driving.

STUDENT AND PARENT DRIVERS

If an athlete will be driving a car to practice, the parent must sign the appropriate line of permission on the physical form. Parents must also sign to give the student permission to ride with another student to practice. If the form has already been turned in, a note may be sent to the athletic director.

If a student will be driving other players to practices or games, the parent must sign the appropriate line on the physical form. The student must also turn in a copy of his driver's license and a copy of his automobile insurance policy. It must have a current date. If a parent will be driving players to practice or games, the parent must also provide a copy of driver's license and insurance. Come to the athletic office and we can make the copies for you.

If a student will be driving other players, he/she must comply with the rules for provisional drivers in the state of California. Primarily, new drivers cannot drive other students for one year after receiving their license. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained from the Athletic Department.

SICKNESS

If a student is absent from school because of sickness or leaves school during the day because of sickness, he is not allowed to practice or play in games that day, unless special permission is given by the Director of Athletics.

COMMUNICATION

Please approach the coach first with any problem, then the athletic director, then the school administrator, if the problem cannot be resolved with the coach. This is a biblical procedure for resolving conflict.

It may be very difficult to accept your students-athletes not playing as much as you think they should. Coaches are teachers and have to make judgments based on what they believe to be best for the team and everyone involved. Playing time is not something parents should discuss with coach. If the student-athlete would like to talk about his/her roll with the coach, then that is appropriate. If there is a problem, please follow the proper chain of command. First, have the player talk to the coach one on one (this is part of the maturation process). Second, if this does not resolve the problem, the parent should call the school or coach directly to set up a conference with the coach. Parents should not confront the coach directly during or after practices or games. These are emotional times and are not the best time to solve problems. Coaches are teachers, you should never disrupt a classroom and demand a resolution to a problem while a teacher is teaching. Games and practices are a coach's classroom. Finally, if the meeting with the coach did not result in a satisfactory resolution, then please contact the Athletic Director at (510)317-8988.

There are certain communications that coaches expect from parents and they include:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Specific concerns about coaches' expectations, requirements or philosophy.
3. Notification of any illness, injury or missed practices or games.

Some appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include:

1. Treatment of your student-athlete mentally or physical.
2. Ways to help your student-athlete improve.
3. Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

HS - BCL - EAST (Bay Counties League - East)

MS - BACSAL (Bay Area Christian Schools Athletic League)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETES, PARENTS, AND COACHES

Anticipating an exciting and successful season ahead, it is important to outline some of the basic responsibilities of the team components (players, parents, and coaches).

PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Be at every practice and game.
2. Maintain high academic standards (good grades through good study habits).
3. Conduct themselves above the norm in the classroom.

4. Maintain an appropriate appearance through neatness and good personal hygiene, without being reminded. It is expected that school hair and dress guidelines will be followed by all athletes. Failure to do so may bring immediate suspension from the team.
5. Provide a positive testimony in the classroom and on the courts or fields of play by being punctual at all times and always ready to learn.
6. Show positive leadership at all times.
7. Practice good dietary habits by avoiding high sugar and fried foods, sodas and energy drinks; and good rest habits by planning ahead and complete assignments early to avoid late nights.
8. Maintain strong personal devotional habits.
9. Inform the coach as soon as possible when they have conflicts with practices or games.
10. Keep parents informed regarding practice days, game days, and any changes in schedules.
11. Remember that being a part of the Redwood Christian athletic program is a privilege, not a right.
12. Attend the athletic awards program for their sports season.

PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Make appropriate arrangements for pick-up after practices or games, remembering that the coach must wait until the last player leaves.
2. Plan family vacations around the season in progress whenever possible. If there is a vacation currently being planned, inform the coach immediately in order to allow him to make provisions. A player, especially a starter, should realize that he will play less leading up to a vacation, or not at all in some cases, in order for the coach to prepare for the player's absence. This may also affect the athlete's future standing, due to the performance of the substitute player.
3. **Support their athlete's attendance at the sports award program at the end of the season.**
This is a very important time to support your son/daughter.

COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Discipline should be a very high priority with every coach who is involved with young people. The Coach is the leader of the team; discipline is his responsibility and his privilege.
2. Communicate, as clearly as possible, the training rules and regulations, including discipline that may affect athlete participation, to the athletes and their parents from the start, as well as practice schedules.
3. A coach should have his practice so well planned with an evident purpose, and he himself be so thoroughly convinced of its worth, that he is willing to "fight" for every minute of his team's time.
4. **GETTING PRACTICE STARTED ON TIME**, functioning through the practice session, and closing on time and on a "high note".
5. Combine the many personalities on the team into a functioning body representing Jesus Christ. The coach can only do this if he has the cooperation of the athlete and parent.

The athletic staff at Redwood Christian Schools desires to serve the Lord as thoroughly as possible through a structured program of highly skilled, organized athletics. Success is possible only if all work together. Please keep in contact with the coach regarding your plans or comments. Please realize that the average team consists of sixteen people working together, and all must cooperate for maximum performance. We must give the Lord our best efforts. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

UNIFORM CARE - Due to the tremendous cost of uniforms, please remember the following:

1. **WASH UNIFORMS IMMEDIATELY AFTER WEARING THEM.** If you cannot wash them immediately after use, hang them on a wooden or plastic hanger so that perspiration fading does not occur.
2. Wash uniforms separately in **COLD** water - **NO BLEACH**. Make sure that uniforms are washed **INSIDE OUT** in a high water level on the normal wash cycle.

3. Do not wash white and colored uniforms together.
4. REMOVE UNIFORMS FROM THE WASHER PROMPTLY!
5. Hang to dry - **NO DRYER.**
6. Hand wash stubborn stains - use prewash stain remover. You may also soak uniforms in a protein release agent for a maximum of 45 minutes.
7. DO NOT IRON UNIFORMS
8. If uniforms are damaged more than normal wear and tear, the athletes will be required to pay the uniform replacement cost.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Reminder: All schedules can be found at www.rcs.edu and then click on “Athletics” from the menu at the top.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS

This code applies to spectators of interscholastic athletics. The Code has been adopted by the North Coast Section and Redwood Christian as its member school.

- Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement of beyond the final score of a game.
- Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student-athletes to greater achievement; and discouraging any cheers that would redirect that focus – including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans or officials.
- Respect for officials: learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game, including the officials who administer them. Don't complain about officials calls during or after the contest.
- Respect the task of our coaches as teachers, and support them as they direct our student athletes. Do not shout instructions to players from the stands. Let the coaches coach.
- Respect our opponents as “student athletes” and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
- Strive to model Romans 12:9-18 in our conduct, “...outdo one another in showing honor... rejoice with those who rejoice...do not repay evil with evil...try to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, on your part live at peace with everyone.”

We look forward to seeing you at the games this year. Thank you for your help in making Redwood Christian athletic contests a fun and positive experience for all in attendance.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Redwood Christian High School competes inter-scholastically in the Bay Counties League-East (BCL-East) and the Bay Counties League (BCL), dependent the sport. The BCL-East and BCL are members of the Bay Area Conference within the North Coast Section (NCS) of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Redwood Christian High School is also a member of the NCS and the CIF. The BCL-East and BCL currently consists of 7 schools each.

Redwood Christian Competes in the BCL-East and BCL (dependent on the sport) in both Boys and Girls sports with the following member schools:

BCL-East

Athenian School
Bentley School
Brave Christian School
College Preparatory School
Head Royce School
Redwood Christian Schools
St. Joseph's (Alameda)

BCL

California Crosspoint Academy
California School for the Deaf
Contra Costa Christian
Cornerstone Christian
Fremont Christian
Holy Names
Making Waves

The following programs are currently being offered at the high school level:

FALL

Boys' Varsity and J.V. Soccer
Boys' Varsity Football
Boys' Varsity Cross Country
Girls' Varsity Cross Country
Girls' Varsity and J.V. Volleyball
Girls' Varsity Tennis
Girls' Varsity Golf

WINTER

Boys' Varsity and J.V. Basketball
Girls' Varsity Basketball
Girls' Varsity Soccer

SPRING

Boys' Varsity and J.V. Baseball
Boys' Varsity Golf
Boys' Varsity Volleyball
Boys' Varsity Track and Field
Girls' Varsity Track and Field
Girls' Varsity Softball
Boys' Varsity Swimming
Girls' Varsity Swimming

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

REDWOOD CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL competes in the Bay Area Christian Schools Athletic
League (BACSAL) - West Division. Schools in the West Division are:

Brave Christian School
California Crosspoint Academy
Coastline Christian
Fremont Christian
Our Savior Lutheran
Prince of Peace
Redwood Christian

The following programs are currently being offered at the middle school level:

FALL

Boys' Baseball
Boys' Flag Football
Girls' Softball
Boys, Girls Cross Country

EARLY SPRING*

Boys' Volleyball
Girls' Soccer

WINTER

Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball

LATE SPRING*

Boys' Soccer
Girls' Volleyball

* Spring sports will rotate from early to late spring every other year

SUMMER

Various Sports Camps (determined year to year)

REDWOOD CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - athletic programs are kept low-key,
encouraging skill development and enjoyment of sports.

The following programs are currently being offered at the elementary level:

WINTER

Coed Bowling (running approximately February through April)

SUMMER

Various Camps.

HIGH SCHOOL LETTERING POLICY

HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL POLICY

An athlete is awarded one varsity letter block while in attendance at Redwood Christian High School, regardless of the number of times he/she letters in a sport or sports. Beginning with the first sport an individual letters in and continuing with all sports, an athlete is awarded a letter certificate for satisfying the lettering requirement in a particular sport. Letters are awarded for varsity competition only. *If an athlete wants to own a letter jacket, the athlete can order their letter jacket from Kim's Kustom, Inc. at 1651 Whipple Road, Ste. 30 in Hayward. Kim's Phone Number is (510)471-0388. We want a consistency in color of the jackets, and we only allow specific things to be put on the letter jacket, so only order through this vendor.*

If an athlete becomes academically ineligible, and cannot complete his/her season of sport, no varsity letter will be awarded.

Point System: To qualify for a varsity letter block, an athlete must earn 10 points in his/her sport. An athlete may earn these points in one season, but has four full seasons to earn this block if necessary. An athlete must participate at the varsity level for at least one season to be eligible for a letter block.

In situations where injury, illness, or any other unforeseen act of God should prevent an athlete who otherwise would have lettered from meeting the letter requirements, the coach may recommend to the Athletic Director, who will give final approval, that the athlete letter. The athlete must stay in good standing with the team.

HIGH SCHOOL POLICY BY SPORT

BOYS' & GIRLS' BASKETBALL BOYS' SOCCER BOYS' & GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL BOYS' BASEBALL

An athlete must have an exemplary record of attendance at practice and games throughout the season, good sportsmanship, and be in good standing at Redwood Christian High School.

3 points - Complete one season on the junior varsity team.

4 points - Complete one season on the varsity team.

6 additional points - Participate on the varsity team in at least 75% of the league games and finish the season as a member of the varsity team.

GIRLS' SOCCER GIRLS' SOFTBALL BOYS' FOOTBALL BOYS' & GIRLS' GOLF

An athlete must have an exemplary record of attendance at practices and games throughout the season, display good sportsmanship, and be in good standing at Redwood Christian High School.

5 points - Complete one season on the varsity team.

5 additional points - Participate in at least 75% of the league games and finish the season as a member of the varsity team.

LETTERING POLICY (continued)

TRACK AND FIELD

An athlete must have an exemplary record of attendance at practices and games throughout the season, display good sportsmanship, and be in good standing at Redwood Christian High School.

5 points - Complete one season on the varsity team.

-OR-

Earn 10 varsity meet points during any one season.

Varsity Dual Meet

5 points - 1st place finish

3 points - 2nd place finish

1 point - 3rd place finish

Three School Meet

5 points - 1st place finish

3 points - 2nd place finish

2 points - 3rd place finish

1 point - 4th place finish

Four School Meet

6 points - 1st place finish

4 points - 2nd place finish

3 points - 3rd place finish

2 points - 4th place finish

1 point - 5th place finish

Five School Meet

8 points - 1st place finish

6 points - 2nd place finish

4 points - 3rd place finish

2 points - 4th place finish

1 point - 5th place finish

Six or More School Meet

10 points - 1st place finish

8 points - 2nd place finish

6 points - 3rd place finish

4 points - 4th place finish

2 points - 5th place finish

1 point - 6th place finish

CROSS COUNTRY

An athlete must have an exemplary record of attendance at practices and games throughout the season, display good sportsmanship, and be in good standing with Redwood Christian High School.

5 points - Complete one full season on the cross country team.

5 additional points earned in either one or the other of the following ways:

a. Finish in the top seven Redwood runners in 60% or more of the meets;

b. Finish in the top 50% and in the top ten places at the League Championships.

10 points - If not qualifying for any of the above points, finish in the top seven Redwood runners in all league meets, the NCS and the CIF State Championships.

TENNIS

An athlete must have an exemplary record of attendance at practices and games throughout the season, display good sportsmanship, and be in good standing at Redwood Christian High School.

5 points - Complete one full season on the varsity tennis team.

5 additional points - Compete in over 60% of league matches on the varsity team as top 4 in singles or top 2 in doubles.

5 additional points - Finish in the top 4 in singles or top 2 in doubles play at the league tournament.

LETTERING POLICY (continued)

SWIMMING

An athlete must have an exemplary record of attendance at practices and games throughout the season, display good sportsmanship, and be in good standing at Redwood Christian High School.

10 points needed to letter.

5 points - Complete one full season on the varsity team and swim in all meets unless sick or excused.

OR

Earn 10 varsity meet points during any one season.

Varsity Dual Meet

6 points - 1st place finish

4 points - 2nd place finish

2 point - 3rd place finish

Three School Meet (three teams in the pool for your event)

6 points - 1st place finish

4 points - 2nd place finish

2 points - 3rd place finish

1 point - 4th place finish

Four School Meet (Four teams in the pool for your event)

7 points - 1st place finish

5 points - 2nd place finish

4 points - 3rd place finish

2 points - 4th place finish

1 point - 5th place finish

Five School Meet (five schools in the pool for your event)

8 points - 1st place finish

6 points - 2nd place finish

4 points - 3rd place finish

2 points - 4th place finish

1 point - 5th place finish

Six or more schools (six schools in the pool for your event)

10 points - 1st place finish

8 points - 2nd place finish

6 points - 3rd place finish

4 points - 4th place finish

2 points - 5th place finish

1 point - 6th place finish

* Relay teams split points between four swimmers

HIGH SCHOOL POLICY FOR LETTERING SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH YEAR

Upon recommendation of the coach, a certificate will be awarded the second, third, and fourth year an athlete letters in a sport. The criteria for re-lettering is:

1. Be carried on the varsity team's roster for the entire season.
2. Be recommended by the coach.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY POLICY

An athlete is awarded a junior varsity participation certificate when he/she has participated on a junior varsity team and is recommended by the coach. The same provisions are in effect regarding conduct and academic eligibility as in the varsity sports.

MIDDLE SCHOOL POLICY

All middle school athletes will receive a participation certificate. This will keep the program more "low key."

The following article appeared in the September 1997 issue of Winning Edge, a publication of Carson-Newman College.

WHAT MY LETTER MEANS TO ME

Every normal person has at some time in life taken an active part in or been a follower of some form of athletics. The foremost prize that every athlete desires to win is his monogram. The idea of giving a monogram or better known as a "letter" by a school to members of its student body originated in the realm of athletics. Today, unfortunately, we have in some instances drifted far from the original idea of the monogram. However, no matter how far we have deviated, if we know anything of what a letter represents we admire, almost with reverence the young athlete who bears on his chest the stamp of achievement, the monogram of his school.

Almost anything that we possess is valued by what it cost us. That is the reason that we should prize our letter very highly. Before we are eligible to receive a letter we first must have taken part in a specific amount of competitive athletics. Which ultimately means that we have paid almost with a price of blood, for the letter that is ours.

To me, a letter should represent first of all, the personalities that we have contacted during our athletic career. Each individual boy with whom you have fought, shoulder to shoulder, both on the field of practice and in the game. It should represent the long hard days of practice and the grueling contest, many times at the risk of our own lives. It also represents the loyalty, the faithfulness and the unselfishness of each boy as he sacrificed all personal interest in the pursuit of a definite goal.

It also brings cherished memories of both pleasant and unpleasant experiences with the coaches, the men who have worked, drilled and planned day after day to develop whatever athletic ability that you possessed.

It represents each individual game, specific opponents, strategic moments and specific instances in every contest that you took part in. It reminds you of the trips that you made, the jokes that were cracked, scenes in the dressing room, groans from sore muscles, the odor of sweat from well used uniforms, the dirty, sweaty, blood smeared face, as a result of the contest; the handclasp of loyalty, the symbol of a task well done. All of these should be represented in your letter.

Last and far from the least, your letter is the stamp of approval or seal of recognition of your Alma Mater for your athletic achievement. That letter represents the purposes and ideals for which your college stands. You are the proud possessor of something that every student and every follower of athletics envies and admires. Are you willing to live up to the high ideals and purposes of the institution that has publicly stamped you as their representative? If not, you are not worthy of a letter. That letter is yours to wear whenever and wherever you choose. You have justly earned it. Never wear it anywhere or so conduct yourself as to bring disgrace and ill favor upon yourself or your school. Your letter should be sacred to you. It should be a perpetual spring of inspiration and a constant welling forth of pleasant memories. So keep it as such.

Be such a good sport in the athletic contest or in the greater contest of life that "when the great scorer comes to write against your name, he will write not whether you won or lost, but how you played the game."

Frank Grubb - 1936

Captain of Carson-Newman College Football Team

When the game of life is over for each one of us we pray that the Great Scorer will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" - Matthew 25:21a

Basis and Purpose of Redwood Christian Schools

This document incorporates many of the principles and statements found in Articles II-V of the By-laws of Redwood Christian Schools, in addition to school positions based upon Biblical Truth. In an effort to continually keep before us the goals and principles that guide Redwood, this document is required to be read and signed each year by all of Redwood's employees, selected volunteers and board members. By so doing, each such person is declaring, in writing, his or her unconditional support for and acceptance of these principles and statements.

ARTICLE II - BASIS

1. The basis of Redwood is the Word of God (Eph. 6:4, Psa. 34:11, Prov. 22:6 and Deut. 6:5-7).
2. The basis is five-dimensional in that Redwood (a) honors the Bible as God's Word, (b) proclaims the relevancy of God, (c) asserts that man is a spiritual being, (d) teaches that there is absolute truth, and (e) believes that man is a sinner.
3. Redwood's philosophy for an education that is Christian starts with the belief that God is the source of all truth. Its perspective is the Biblical view of God with Christ at the center of all life and with all parts of the universe mutually related.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible recorded Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, 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 power and glory.
4. We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
8. We believe that God wonderfully foreordained and immutably created each person as either male or female in conformity with his or her biological sex. These two distinct yet complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE

The purpose of Redwood Christian Schools, a nonprofit institution, is to provide Christ-centered instruction of high academic quality in conformity with Article III of the By-laws. Our students are to be prepared to take their place in the home, the church, the state, and in their vocations or professions, in a manner that glorifies God.

ARTICLE V - OBJECTIVES

Redwood's objectives are: (1) to teach that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God; (2) to teach that one can obtain eternal life only by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior; (3) to teach that God is the creator and sustainer of the universe and of man; (4) to teach that growth in the Christian life depends upon fellowship with God through Bible reading, prayer and service; (5) to teach that the Bible is the inspired and only infallible recorded Word of God and that it is practical and essential; (6) to teach the application of Biblical principles to every part of daily life; (7) to teach academic subjects integrated with the Bible; (8) to teach the student his role in the community with non-Christians and with Christians who hold differing views; (9) to teach the urgency of world missions; (10) to teach the student to think for himself and to stand up for his personal convictions in the face of pressure; (11) to teach the student to apply himself to his work and to fulfill his various responsibilities; (12) to teach the student to work independently and cooperatively; (13) to teach the knowledge and skills required for future study or for occupational competence; (14) to teach an appreciation of the fine arts; (15) to teach and help develop a desire and a discretion for wholesome physical and mental recreation; (16) to teach the student his present civic responsibilities; and (17) to prepare him for adult responsibilities as a Christian citizen of our nation.

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Redwood Christian Schools as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the students and families of Redwood Christian Schools and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Redwood Christian Schools in any capacity, and selected volunteers agree with and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Redwood Christian Schools.

STATEMENT ON THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe that all human life is sacred. God created mankind in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life (Psa. 139:1-18).

FINAL AUTHORITY FOR MATTERS OF BELIEF AND CONDUCT

The Redwood Christian Schools Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality and the proper conduct of mankind. The Bible is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of the faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline of Redwood Christian Schools, our School Board is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO COMPLY WITH ARTICLES II, III, IV AND V

I have read and understood the aforementioned principles and statements. As an employee, selected volunteer, or board member of Redwood Christian Schools, I agree with and will strive to promote the Basis and Purpose of Redwood Christian Schools.

Revised August 3, 2015

Revised by the RCS School Board on November 13, 2017