

Raintree Christian Academy
Mission Statement

We endeavor to equip our students for the future in this ever-changing world, and to prepare them for the Kingdom of God by developing their: Faith in Christ, dedication to Family, Self Discipline, and Academic Excellence.



FAITH...FAMILY...DISCIPLINE...EXCELLENCE

RAINTREE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Dear Parents:

I personally would like to welcome and thank you for enrolling your child at Raintree Christian Academy. Here at our school, we offer students a Christ centered learning environment which will enable them to discover their God given gifts and talents, utilize it, and be productive and successful members in building the Kingdom of God.

Please feel free to discuss with your child's teacher or with me any questions/concerns that may arise pertaining to your child's education. The staff at RCA will always be willing to reach out and extend a helping hand to all students enrolled with us.

With God as our Light and Guide, let us join hands together in providing a solid foundation which your child will use in his/her life.

May God bless you and your family abundantly.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tiglao
Principal

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The Rain Tree Christian Academy admits student of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the right, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other school administered programs.

I. Philosophy of Christian Curriculum

The Christian school is not a school merely for the sake of academics, but for the sake of fulfilling the church's God-ordained role in carrying out the Christian education mandate. (Deuteronomy 6:7, Proverbs 22:6, Timothy 3:15-17).

This curriculum was written on the premise that all truth comes from God and that any teaching of man that is contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God must be rejected and refuted.

The curriculum and its correlated materials teach, for example, that arithmetic, grammar and spelling are all rule-governed activities. If they are not taught that way, but on the contrary, they are taught on the idea that the individual may "do his own thing" in these matters, then the purpose of arithmetic, grammar and spelling in social existence is destroyed.

This common sense approach fully accords with scriptural principle about orderliness and authority. The teaching material for these subjects is also bound with specific examples aimed at Christian character building.

The final aim of Christian education is the production of individuals who will habitually choose to do right because it is right to do right. Christians have a standard of right and wrong and we must train students to habitually choose to act upon the teachings of that standard, which is the Word of God.

II. Students of Raintree Christian Academy

Students here at Raintree Christian Academy learn by receiving the best possible Christ-centered education. If they do their part, that is what they will receive. God has given each student certain talents and someday they will be held accountable to God for these talents.

It is not easy to study. Students must develop study habits. These take a great deal of time, patience, concentration and application. There is no activity more important in school life than the effort a student puts into his/her studies. By loyalty, proper attitude in school, home study and good conduct, students will be happy, loving persons. It is each student's obligation to read the following and know it well.

A student of Raintree Christian Academy will learn the following Ten Commandments set up by the school by heart.

1. Thou shall love God with all they heart.
2. Thou shall love thy neighbor as you love yourself.
3. Be clean and pure in thoughts, words and deed.
4. Respect adults and authority.
5. Do your best in everything you do.
6. Respect other people's property.
7. Attend school regularly and on time.
8. Work independently.
9. Be honest and truthful at all times.
10. Always be polite and courteous to all people around you.

III. Academics

Every child's future is vitally shaped and molded by the skills he/she had learned and developed in the Elementary School and furthered in Junior High School. Here at Raintree Christian Academy each child is taught at ability rather than age appropriate level. It is our strong belief that each child is a unique creation of God; each has his/her own special talents and abilities.

A. Bible

Bible time is the most important half-hour of the school day and, by its very nature, the most interesting and important subject. Our Bible class is an inter-denominational program which presents stories of the Old and New Testaments. This unique Bible program respects all Christian denominations. It encourages students to be active in their churches because we believe that every Christian's final goal is accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Bible teaching reinforces all the teachings about character and Christian living throughout the day. The Bible is the most effective character forming tool known to man. It will provide the receptive bearer with a firm foundation for life and a shield against error.

B. Arithmetic/Numbers

The Christian approach to teaching elementary arithmetic begins with knowing and teaching the students that reality does have structure and order because it was created by a rational, orderly God. Elementary arithmetic, quite naturally, begins with the most basic arithmetic processes. Students learn best when they proceed from specific to general, from concrete to abstract. Elementary arithmetic properly emphasizes the facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division that accords with the student's stage of mental development and will result in immediate practical application in life. The student will learn more efficiently and be better at Algebra and all higher maths if he masters arithmetic first.

Traditional arithmetic is Christian arithmetic and must be taught by traditional methods. Elementary students learn facts by hearing them over and over again just as the Bible says, **“for precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line’ here a little and there a little” (Isaiah 28:10).**

C. Reading

Many modern educators believe that reading is not a very important skill for all children to learn. We are moving away from the age of print, they say, and into the age of the machine. With the advent of modern technologies, reading is not the only way to obtain necessary information. Those who cannot read will, we are told, learn from others-who can tell them what to do, what to think and what to believe.

If our country is to remain a land of liberty, we must continue to teach each child to read and think for himself. We cannot afford to allow even our slowest students to develop attitude that others can do their thinking for them.

Reading is necessary to a democracy. It is very important for young students to expand the horizons of their own small worlds. Young readers, students just

learning how to read, need to begin with a thorough, practical introduction to Phonics. Phonics is the best approach to reading for four reasons:

1. It is logical because English is an alphabetical language.
2. It helps children develop habits of thinking, analyzing and organizing. Students are not just asked to memorize words, but they are given rules and they figure out words.
3. It gives them confidence in reading.
4. It gives children a chance to learn to read God's Word.

Guidelines for choosing reading materials:

1. Choose books that contain good literature. Literature is a way to understand people better and broaden one's life.
2. Choose books in which character-building themes are developed throughout in a natural "non-preachy" way.
3. Choose books that are true to Biblical principles.

Good books fulfill our human needs for adventure and wider experience and also provide support for the kind of character development of which the Scripture speaks. Children exposed to the best of literature will shun away from books that are cheap and demeaning. That is why only the best is good enough for our children, for the future walks on the feet of these young kids.

D. Language Arts

The study of grammar is important because it aids the students in expressing themselves clearly and creatively in their communication with others. It also helps them to think in a logical, orderly manner and assists in the development of analytic ability. When the students see the orderly structure of their language, they will be reminded of God's orderly plan for the world and for their lives.

Grammar instruction focuses on the structure and mechanics of language as well as the development of correct usage. Students then have the opportunity to apply grammar to writing. Writing is taught logically and progressively from words, phrases, sentences, to paragraphs, to stories, to reports.

Spelling skills are taught through the use of a highly structured sequentially developed curriculum. Spelling lessons are correlated with phonics, grammar and poetry. Dictionary skills and vocabulary are also reinforced.

E. Writing

Learning to print is a skill which must be developed through practice. The children need to learn to accept their mistakes and have a wholesome desire to improve. It is very important that a child is encouraged to do his/her best. It is also a very important aspect of their education; penmanship habits formed during this school year will greatly influence the student's handwriting skills throughout his/her life.

F. History and Geography

A person does not suddenly become a good American citizen when he/she reaches adulthood. Each child needs to be taught day by day the principle that made our country great. As students learn of the beauty and greatness of the United States, our country will become more important to them than any other country in the world. As the events of history in Christian perspective are laid open to the eyes of these young children, they are given a chance to develop the traits that can make them great men and women in God's sense of the term. Geography is the stage upon which events of geography in order to comprehend historical events.

G. Science

The science curriculum helps students to develop an awareness of the universe as God created it. Students are able to determine cause and effect, apply known concepts to new situations, make inference and predict outcome.

God created man (and boys and girls) with a curiosity to learn more about His creation. Part of the joy of childhood is finding out truths about the world around us. When a child finds out these scientific truths, his heart is filled with wonder. Through these wonders, one child is led to a deeper reverence for God who had created all these great wonders around him.

H. Art

Art is an integral part of learning. Through art, students become aware of the world around them. Children learn to express themselves and take pride in the knowledge of their own creativity. Art gives each child an opportunity to nurture self-expression.

L. Music

Music is the language of the soul. Through music, students learn to express rhythm and words through sounds and movement, which will aid in the development of basic motor skills. Students grow enjoying music for its melody, tone, quality, harmony and expression. Students will later develop an understanding of the importance and beauty of singing liturgical music as a form of worship.

J. Health/Physical Education

Health and physical education goes side by side. The way a person takes care of his body while he is young will affect his health when he is older. This curriculum stimulates student's interest in how to take care of the body God have given them as well as to train them to be courteous and to us good health and safety habits. As children learn more about growing and being healthy and happy, they are led to a deeper reverence for the one who made them.

IV. RCA Parent /Teacher Association – (refer to registration form for a yearly update)

Parents are the primary educators of their children. The school is merely an extension of the education that begins when a child is born. Long before the child goes to

school, parents have already instilled in him/her a value system.

The attitude parents have towards the school is most important for it will reflect in the attitude of the children. Parents are responsible to develop in their children proper habits of behavior. Children must be taught respect for authority, beginning with the ultimate authority of God, for the rights of others, for public and private property and for themselves. They are expected to cooperate with school staff to carry out recommendations made in the best interest of the child.

Parents are an integral part of the school. We are in sincere need of parents to promote the utmost cooperation between school and parents to raise funds for the benefit of the school.

All parents are encouraged to join and participate so as to maintain a high quality of education, while keeping the tuition fees at an affordable level.

It is expected that each family contribute twenty-five hours of service each year for the school. If a family cannot donate time, a monetary donation (Please refer to registration form) must be given to the school in lieu of this service. However, the school would very much prefer the twenty-five hours of service each year.

V. Extra Curricular Activities

All the students are encouraged to participate in numerous activities. This improves academic performance and helps the child to experience wonderful and enriching times with friends.

The school's primary responsibility is academic preparation. Therefore, if in the opinion of the school, the extra-curricular involvement is interfering with academic performance, the parents may be advised to withdraw their child from the activity. The school will review the student's progress periodically to determine if/when the student will again be eligible for extra-curricular activities.

VI. Prohibited Articles

Students are not to bring articles to school, which are hazardous to the safety of others or interfere in any way with the school policy. Items such as toys, hard balls, virtual pets, radios, caps, Ipods, CD/MP3 players, music CDs, chains, cell phones, gameboys, secret senders, large amounts of money, expensive jewelry, unauthorized medicine, alcohol and weapons of any kind are not to be brought to school. Gum is never permitted in school or the school grounds. Chocolate desserts (chocolate chips in granola bars will be allowed), chocolate drinks, soda and candy are allowed only on specially marked days.

VII. Identification of Belongings

Please label with permanent marker, such things as sweaters, coats, hats, personally owned books, lunch boxes and other belongings. The school cannot be responsible for the loss or damage of these items.

VIII. Uniforms

All students are required to wear the school uniform Monday through Thursday.

Girls:

(Bridge through 8th grade)

White “peter pan” blouses and plaid jumpers or skirts; matching shorts (black, gray, navy blue or white leggings - for winter) should be worn at all times underneath the jumpers. Girls may wear yellow, blue, black, or white socks and solid black or navy blue Mary Jane or comparable shoes as well as (neutral) sneakers without embellishments. It is recommended that girls wear a camisole under white button down shirts.

Girls may also wear a navy skort, skirt, cuffed shorts, or slacks. Bottoms must be no shorter than 2” above the knee. Light blue blouses, white, yellow, and light blue “polo” shirts are allowed with the shorts, skort or slacks.

Boys: Must have navy blue pants/shorts; white oxford cloth button down collar dress shirts (white, yellow, or light blue “polo” shirts may be worn daily); white, black, or navy blue socks with solid black or navy blue shoes dress shoes. Sneakers are allowed for daily wear; however, they must be a neutral color without embellishments.

Friday/P.E. uniform: The students are required to wear the Raintree Christian Academy T-shirt with a matching pair of comfortable shorts (must be modest, 2” above the knee or longer) or pants (no tight jeans or anything that will show undergarments when a student bends or stretches out) on Fridays for Physical Education. Shoes must be athletic shoes, not worn for fashion. If a student is not wearing their proper T-shirt, they will not be allowed to participate in P.E. and will receive a (0) for P.E. that day.

Students must also keep their hair and nails clean and neatly trimmed. Boys must have hair cut above collar. No Mohawk or top of head pony tails. No Make-up, nail polish – including French manicures, (light pastel nail polish is allowed) acrylic nails and excessive jewelry are not to be worn in school. Coordinating hair ribbons are permitted for girls. No dyed hair, however, naturally occurring color hair highlights are permitted. Girls may not wear any dangling or hoop earrings that are larger than a dime and boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Neither boys nor girls are allowed to have any facial or body piercing.

Non-instructional days and After School Dress Code: Clothing must be modest (no halter tops; half-tops; visible boxer shorts; caps). Caps may be worn during cold weather; however they are not to be worn inside the school at anytime.

Sweaters and jackets must be neutral in color or coordinate with the uniforms. No loud prints or brand recognition will be allowed in classrooms.

If a student is not wearing the complete prescribed uniform, after 3 warnings, we will call the parents to bring the correct uniform or a child may go into detention and obtain a (0) = F for the day in all subjects.

IX. School Hours

School hours are from 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. Students must be in school at exactly 9:00 A.M. to present for morning prayers and flag salute. A student not present for the morning exercises will be marked tardy for that day. After ten tardies, a student will be assigned a make-up class on a fun/free day. Ten (10) tardies are equivalent to 1 unexcused absence and cause the loss of privilege of Friday special activities or a party day. A (0) will be given for work, quizzes or tests missed due to tardiness, except in an emergency, and parents will be responsible for helping their child understand these concepts. All late students must be signed into school by a parent and include the reason for tardiness.

X. Early Dismissal

To obtain permission for an early dismissal, please call the administration office requesting permission for the student to leave and stating the reason for the early dismissal.

XI. Emergency School Closing

In time of natural disasters, our school follows whatever instructions Pasco County schools render regarding the closing of area schools. In addition, we reserve the right to close due to inclement weather and will contact parents accordingly.

XII. Messages/Conferences

Only messages of vital importance will be relayed to the students during school hours. **Parents are discouraged from entering the classroom after the morning bell.** If you would like to visit or be a “room parent” please arrange it with your child’s teacher. Urgent messages must be delivered through the school office.

Conferences must be scheduled. A parent should call the office or write a note to schedule the conference. Unscheduled “mini-conferences” before school starts are strictly discouraged. However such a connection after school is sometimes natural and can be more easily accommodated.

XIII. Attendance

Students must be encouraged to attend school daily. On the day your child is absent, you must call the office, between 9:00 – 10:00 A.M., stating the reasons for your child’s absence. When the child returns to school, he must bring a note to the administration explaining the reason for the said absence. All academic work must be made-up. Without notification, the absence will be considered unexcused and the student will receive a (0) for work, quizzes and/or tests for that day. If a child is consecutively absent for more than 3 days, a medical note will be required so the absence can be considered excused. If habitual absenteeism continues, the student will be retained.

Excused absences include: child illness, serious parent illness (not able to arrange a ride), death or family emergency, or parent/child “career shadowing” day (arrangements must be made in advance to take tests or do work prior to this day).

Upon parental request, a student will be allowed a maximum of 5 personal absences as long as the student has not already incurred more than 5 absences. The parent must notify the school office 2 weeks beforehand so that arrangements may be made and the student must submit all completed work prior to the days he/she will be out. Quizzes and tests need not be made up and will be excluded from the average.

Remember:

10 unexcused tardies = 1 unexcused absence

30 absences (excused or unexcused) = Student will be retained in current grade.

XIV. Testing – (refer to registration form for a yearly update)

Besides the test given to students in class, there is also a statewide testing for all schools. The C.A.T. (California Achievement Test) or comparable is mandatory for students in 3rd grade and up (unless advised otherwise by teachers due to late enrollment or special needs students) and is administered in the spring term of the academic year. The test results are shared with teachers and parents when the school receives them from the company.

XV. Disciplinary Measures

Discipline begins at home; parental cooperation and involvement is essential. Discipline is taught by example and positive reinforcement.

It is important for students to know the consequences of their unwillingness or thoughtlessness in regard to responsibilities. The following acts by any student will be regarded as serious and will be subject to disciplinary actions:

1. Disrespect for adults and fellow students;
2. Use of foul and abusive language;
3. Constant disturbance of others at work;
4. Fighting;
5. Defacing, destroying or stealing personal property belonging to the school, staff or other students;
6. Bringing any of the prohibited articles to school (See VI);
7. Not wearing proper uniform (3 warnings may be given);
8. Habitual unexcused absences and tardiness.

Disciplinary actions for violating any of the above will be as follows (parents will be notified for any disciplinary actions implemented);

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Warning | 4. Afternoon Detention with Parent Supervision* |
| 2. Time Out w/work | 5. Suspension at home |
| 3. Time Out w/out work* | 6. Expulsion |

*#3 and #4 – students will receive a (0) for all work missed that day/days, however, all work must be completed to avoid further disciplinary actions.

A student may be required to stay in school to complete academic work not done. For repeated cases of misbehavior, which could possible cause distractions for other

students, official warnings will be given followed by in-school suspension and other disciplinary measures according to the needs of the situation.

In case of theft, willful destruction or abuse of school property or the property of others, reparation in full will be expected.

Students with special needs; If the teachers determine that a child exhibits signs of learning disabilities or any other severe behavioral difficulties that affects their conduct and learning abilities at school, a parent/teacher conference will be scheduled to determine a prompt solution that fits the child's special needs.

XVI. Grading System

1. Major subjects

Grade = $\frac{2}{3}$ (class standing) + $\frac{1}{3}$ (test) (may be modified)

Example:

Class standing – Subject to change	
Homework/Seatwork	93
Oral Participation	70
Conduct	60
Projects/Book Reports/ Science Experiments/Poetry	90
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Average	78 (added as $\frac{1}{3}$)
Average Tests/Quizzes	90 (added as $\frac{2}{3}$)
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Average Class Standing	86 (added as $\frac{2}{3}$)
Quarter Exam	90 (added as $\frac{1}{3}$)
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Final Grade	87 = B+

2. Minor Subjects – Subject to change

Example:

Homework/Seatwork	90
Conduct	80
Quiz/test	80
Participation /Attendance – $\frac{2}{3}$	80
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Final Grade	82 = B-

3. Bible – Participation in the morning assembly, class participation and over-all conduct generally make up the bible grade.

4. Conduct – Obeying school rules and regulations, coming to school prepared (books, pencils, etc.) wearing the prescribed uniform and attendance generally make up the conduct grade.

5. Late submissions of work (seatwork/projects) will receive $\frac{3}{4}$ credit or based upon teacher's discretion.

6. Make-up quiz/test will receive credit upon teacher's discretion.

Report Cards:

Kindergarten and up

A+	98-100	Superior
A	94-97	Excellent
A-	90-93	Very Good
B+	87-89	Above Average
B	83-86	Good
B-	80-82	Average
C	70-79	Satisfactory
D	60-69	Need Improvement
F	(Below 60)	Failed
NA		Not Applicable

Grading System (For First Grade and Up)

Major Subjects:

Reading	Language	History/Geography
Phonics	Spelling	Bible/Conduct
Arithmetic	Science	

A. If a student fails 4 major subjects, he/she will repeat the grade level.

B. If a student receives a final yearly average grade of a D or F in any academic subject, he/she will have to attend summer school to make up for the subject(s) so the student can move on the next grade level. This will be at the parents' expense and will require placement testing prior to the following school year.

XVII. Awards

Major awards are given to students at the end of the school year. To qualify for these awards, the student must achieve:

- A. Third Grade and up
First Honor – 6 A's (A+, A, A-) in major subjects, no grade lower than B (83-86) in other subjects.
Second Honor – 5 A's (A+, A, A-) in major subjects, no grade lower than B (83-86) in other subjects.
Third Honor – 4 A's (A+, A, A-) in major subjects, no grade lower than B- (80-82) in other subjects.
Fourth Honor – 3 A's (A+, A, A-) in major subjects, no grade lower than B- (80-82) in other subjects
Honorable Mentions – 2 A's in major and no grade lower than B- in other subjects.

Major Subjects (Third Grade and Up)

Science	Language	Spelling/Poetry
Reading	Arithmetic	Bible/Conduct
History/Geography		

Minor Subjects (All Grade Levels)

Art	P.E./Health	Penmanship
Enrichment Subject (Spanish, Sign Language, Music, Dance, etc.)		

** For All Students at Raintree Christian Academy

- 1) Bible, Conduct grade, attendance and tardiness will be considered in giving major awards.
- 2) A “C” or below in Bible/Conduct will disqualify a student from receiving any major awards.
- 3) Bridge – 2nd grade students will receive a special award at the end of the year. Specific Academic Honors Awards will be for 3rd grade and up as well.

XVIII. FEES

1. Please refer to registration form for a yearly update.
2. **TUTORING FEES:** A student, based on the recommendation of an academic teacher, will be required to attend tutoring classes. Payments must be paid directly to the teacher and not the school.

Group session - \$35.00 for 60 minutes
Private session - \$45.00 for 45 minutes
Speech/Language/Reading Therapist - \$35 for 1- 30 minute session
3. **CAT FEES: See Registration Form**
4. **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM:** Decided upon yearly upon Parent Teacher Group.
9. **REPLACEMENT FEES:** Student Planners, \$10.00. Books are at cost.