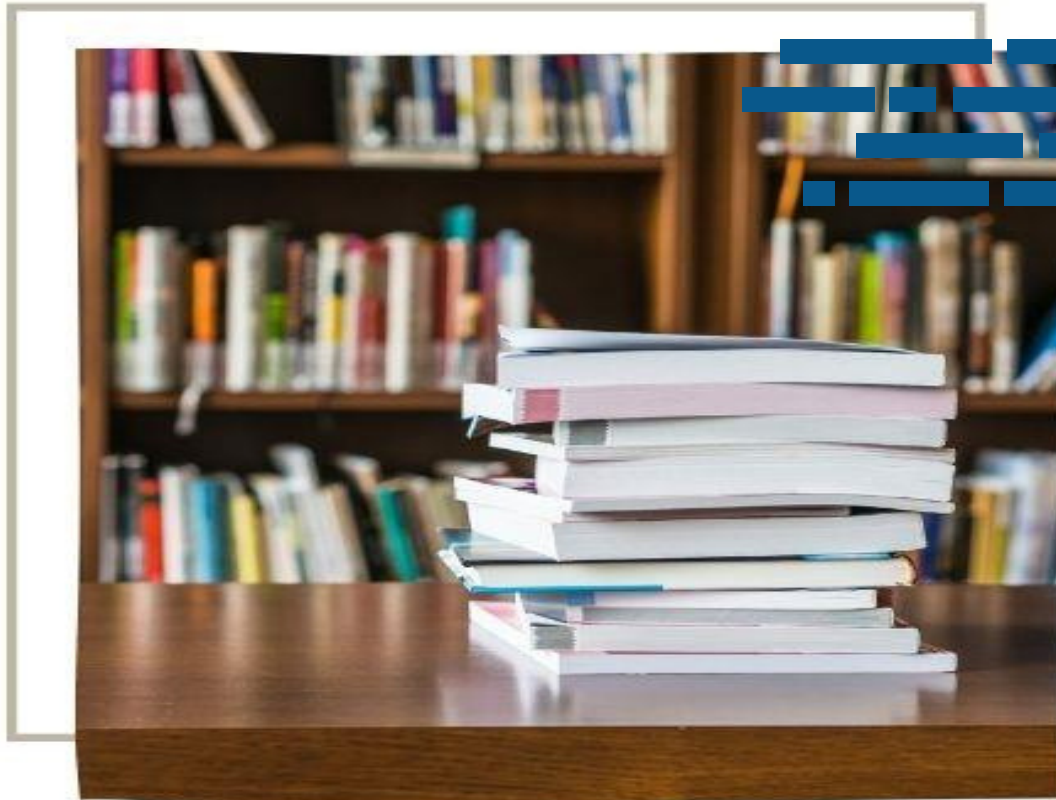


RAMONA CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY

HANDBOOK

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS | 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



CLASS DAYS LOCATION

1234 Barger Place
Ramona, CA 92065
(760)317-8196

AGE GROUPS

Early Education (K-1)
Lower Elementary (2-3)
Upper Elementary (4-5)
Middle School (6-8)
High School (9-12)

WHO ARE WE

Our Mission is to facilitate the home education of children through a Christ-centered community where parents and students experience God's love, are equipped to fulfill God's unique call and purpose in their lives, and excel in their God-given potential.

Our Vision is to support parents in sending our students into the world educated and equipped to serve Christ and others.

Our Core Values are to love God and love others by raising up disciples for Christ.

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Welcome to our homeschool community!



Our Teaching Philosophy is drawn from a solid Biblical foundation, years of experience, and a blend of approaches that have proven to be very successful, especially in a room full of very different and unique students. No two students learn alike and no two teachers teach alike, so using an Eclectic Approach to teaching is very beneficial.

What is an Eclectic Approach?

Glad you asked! There are many different approaches to teaching. Here is a list of most learning approaches: Charlotte Mason/Living Books, Classical, Traditional/Textbook, Unit Study, and the Thomas Jefferson approach. If you mix or blend them all together, you would have an Eclectic Approach. We have found that children learn best when an Eclectic Approach is used, because it allows for more individualized learning that is tailored to each unique student. This also provides students with the tools they will need to successfully launch into the world as they navigate their future learning experiences.

Our Eclectic Approach includes the studies of: Bible/Biblical Worldviews, Language Arts (Phonics, Writing, Reading, Grammar, Composition, Vocabulary, Spelling, Poetry, and Great Literature), Mathematics, History, Science, Health, Latin/Foreign Language, Performing Arts, Electives, and Physical Education.

What do we offer at Our Co-Op?

- Early education through high school learning experience
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday "On-Campus" (OC) Days 9 am-2:45 pm
- Monday and Friday will be "At-Home" (AH) Days (assignments provided)
- Space throughout the year to round out your homeschool program with your own ideas and plans. We take extended breaks from November to January and June through August in order to allow you ample time to learn together at home as a family. We recommend a year-round schooling plan with the majority of your schooling taking place at home.

As we look toward the future with your student, together we will form a plan to meet their unique needs and goals. **Your student will still be under the jurisdiction of whatever homeschool program you choose to run your records through, as each family will file their own affidavit with the state.** Our Community will then partner with you and your student to help them reach their God-given potential through excellent academics and spiritual development. The goal being, to become servant leaders who will impact the world for Christ.

Statement of Faith



We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority of faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed.

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made by His literal and physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; gives eternal life to those who place their trust in Christ, unites all believers to Christ in one body by His baptizing ministry, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, fills (controls) those who are yielding to Him, and empowers them for service. He seeks to direct their attention not to themselves nor to their experience, but to Christ.

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin, the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. We believe that enabling gifts for service are bestowed according to God's sovereign will upon all believers by the Spirit of God to be exercised for the edification of the Church and for the glory of the Lord.

We believe that God is the creator of all things. We believe in the literal interpretation of scripture which states that God created the world in 6 days and rested on day 7.

We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society.

Is Our Co-Op Right For You?



If you can answer these questions in the affirmative, then Ramona Christian might be a great choice for you and your student:

1. Is my student currently performing at or above grade level?

Ramona Christian has classes of 15-20 students, typically. We are NOT equipped, physically or financially, to deal with students who are struggling in academics or require extra attention for behavioral/learning issues.

2. Am I willing to track my student's progress daily and provide a significant amount of time helping my student when they require assistance?

You are responsible for ensuring your student is not only completing daily assignments but is understanding them. Younger students require a higher level of involvement. We do not collect or grade daily work.

3. Can I provide a reasonable level of in-person volunteer assistance if provided with defined days/times and positions in advance?

We need parent volunteers in classrooms, on our playground, for check-ins, etc. We provide a sign-up sheet for parent volunteers each semester and require everyone to fill one spot per year, at a minimum. Volunteering is a condition of enrollment in our Co-Op program and can play a role in influencing enrollment decisions for future enrollments.

4. Am I willing to commit to the financial support of Ramona Christian to ensure they can meet their annual budget?

We are funded by your donations. Donation commitments are NOT a part of our enrollment consideration, however, we ask each family to honestly consider if they can help us financially. Our budget requires a donation of approximately \$300 per student, per month, June through May. We have committed to paying our facilitators year-round because they work hard year-round. If you cannot provide a reasonable donation each month from June through May, please reconsider that you are possibly taking a seat from a family who can. If we are not funded, we will not be able to continue to operate.

5. If my student is enrolled, can I commit to my student's consistent attendance for on-campus days?

Students missing class on occasion is to be expected, but if your student(s) will miss regularly for travel, sports, other co-ops, etc., we ask you to consider another alternative to Ramona Christian. It is a hardship for both the student and the facilitator.

6. Life can get messy, but can we commit to finishing what we start?

Most classes have a waiting list. If you can't commit to starting and finishing the year in our co-op, please allow a student from our waitlist to take that spot and commit. If you suddenly vacate a spot, it is difficult for someone to step in late and catch up.

7. Can we commit to purchasing curriculums early and, in most cases, without charter or other funds assistance?

We want to stress this point this year...Our curriculum choices can not be purchased with charter school funds because most are Christian and all will need to be purchased BEFORE FUNDS DROP. When you receive your curriculum list, you should be prepared to purchase it immediately. If you wait, there is a STRONG possibility of backorders, shipping delays, etc. NOT HAVING CURRICULUM ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS MAY MEAN WE ASK YOUR STUDENT TO SIT OUT UNTIL IT ARRIVES. We understand this is a huge expense so please be prepared to commit. To give you a general idea, the curriculum can cost \$200 to \$400 per student depending on grade. Siblings in the same class CAN NOT SHARE curriculum.

Schedules & Attendance



The Schedule (A sample day – many variations exist)

Arrive Promptly at 9am for our school-wide time with announcements, pledges, and prayer. After this time, students will depart under the supervision of their facilitator to their class locations. Students arriving late should be escorted to class by their parent to ensure safe arrival and entrance into the building. There will be scheduled lunch breaks (and possibly other breaks for snacks and play during the day) at the discretion of your facilitator. Our school day ends promptly at 2:45 pm. Please make every effort to arrive on time. If you have any issue that keeps you from being on time, please call or text your facilitator immediately so that they know whether or not to expect you.

Pledges, Affirmations, and Prayer

Our campus days begin every day with our Pledge to the Christian Flag, Pledge to the Bible, and Pledge to the USA Flag, followed by prayer. We believe they are an important start to our day and encourage our mission, vision, and values statements proclaiming our loyalty to God and each other.

Legalities/Attendance

CA State Law requires private homeschoolers to keep track of their student's attendance, a minimum of 175 days a year. Ramona Christian's schedule will go from mid-August to the end of May. Mondays and Fridays will be At-Home days, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays will be On-Campus days. We recommend a year-round schooling program with fun learning activities taking place as a family all year long. We take extended breaks from Thanksgiving through New Years and a two-week Spring Break.

Sickness/Absences

If you have any signs of sickness within your family, please keep your student home. Your facilitator will provide lesson plans for them to stay on top of their schooling while they are absent. The same will be done if there is a need for the teacher to be absent and no substitute is available.

Parent/Facilitator Meetings & Relationships

Facilitators will plan parent meetings if there is a need. Grades will be sent home semesterly as a courtesy, as well as updates and notes if there is a need. Your facilitator will determine which method of communication is best for your class.

Field Trips

Field trips are a fun way to learn! We will need a few parents each trip to help with driving and chaperoning. Facilitators will reach out to the parents when the time comes.

Safety & First Aid



Fire Drills

We will comply with Grace Community Church for any fire drills and inspections.

First Aid

First Aid Kits are located in each classroom. Please refer to the Medical Permission section in our enrollment forms for a way to inform us of allergies and to allow or deny permission for over-the-counter medications.

Emergency Procedures

Each facilitator has been instructed in the campus procedures for emergencies. In the event of an emergency, your first point of contact is your classroom facilitator. If law enforcement is present and involved, please carefully follow all instructions as given.

Building Security

Grace Community Church is an open campus. RCHC will be on guard for the proper care and watch of all students. Please advise your student that they will need to be responsible and responsive to RCHC authority if we see they are in danger.

Allergies

The GCC Campus is not an allergy-free environment. **Students need to be respectful of others food and not touch or play with others food. Some students have severe allergies and being foolish in this area will not be tolerated.**

Miscellaneous Information

All teachers will have their cell phones on all day if you need to contact your student, but during class time we will have the ringers silenced. So please allow time for us to answer you back if you have a need. If there is an emergency you are free to just drop in or send an authorized person to pick up your student.

Code of Conduct



Ramona Christian Homeschool Community Code of Conduct

1. We love God and love others.
2. We cheerfully and promptly obey and respect our teachers and authorities.
3. We may appeal respectfully and courteously. We do not argue or negotiate.
4. We give encouragement to each other.
5. We do not point out the shortcomings of others in order to build ourselves up.
6. We tell the truth.
7. We do not disrespect the classroom and teacher by passing notes or otherwise interrupting.
8. We do not spread rumors or gossip.
9. We will not make excuses for our wrong actions but will admit them.
10. We avoid cliques and games that exclude others.
11. When others are sorry, we forgive them.
12. When others are sad, we comfort them.
13. When we have work to do, we do it without complaining and to the best of our abilities.
14. If we make a mess, we clean it up.
15. We clean up our workspace and classroom before leaving each day.
16. We treat one another with respect and patience.
17. We treat each other appropriately as brothers and sisters in Christ according to 1 Timothy 5:1-2.
For example: no PDA (public displays of affection), pushing, shoving, hitting, fighting, etc.
18. We respect all property, including church property, personal property and food, and other's property and food.
19. We dress modestly and not distractingly. We want to uphold our mission statement in all areas, including the way we dress. We want to honor God and love others by dressing in a way that is not distracting or dishonoring (i.e. mid-drift baring tops, see through leggings, short shorts, low necklines, etc.). If you are in doubt, please wear something else. We also ask that the lower grade levels wear closed toed shoes. We want to keep them safe and prevent teachers from needing to assist them with their shoes throughout the day. Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers may wear open toed shoes but may be requested to bring close toed shoes for PE. Each facilitator has the final say on what is the appropriate dress code and/or footwear in their classrooms.
20. Ramona Christian is an electronics-free zone. Cellphones and any other distracting technology will be gathered at the beginning of each OC-Class Day and given back at the end of the day. Parents may contact the teacher if they need to get a message to their student. Smart watches, music devices, games, computers, tablets, and/or any other electronic devices will need to be put away or silenced unless they've been OK'd through the facilitator.
21. We have zero tolerance for vandalism. We don't write or carve on our desk or school property.
22. We have zero tolerance for illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, foul language, crass talk, pornography, or weapons of any kind. They are not allowed on campus or during any Ramona Christian activities.

Discipline



A note about RCHC Discipline

All discipline will be handled with Christian love.

Components of Godly discipline include:

- **Confrontation** - making clear the nature of the offense and why it is wrong. Teachers will not hesitate in this area. Please make sure your student is aware of this. If they don't comply to our code of conduct, they will be confronted.
- **Correction** - depending on the offense, there may be a consequence.
- **Redirection and Restoration** - the student will be encouraged to do the right thing through the process of redirection and restoration.

If your student is noncompliant to this discipline, your student will be sent home.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in such a way as to show at all times they understand and accept RCHC's Codes of Conduct. We endeavor to provide a safe, orderly and nurturing environment that honors our Lord Jesus Christ. This environment is conducive to the learning and growth of each student and teaches them personal responsibility for their choices and decisions.

Miscellaneous Information



Report Cards

Semesterly report cards will be given as a courtesy and guideline, but you are ultimately responsible for decisions with regards to your child's grades. You and your student will be responsible to keep track of their records if there is a need to turn them in to a charter school/umbrella school. You are also responsible to file your own affidavit. We use traditional grading systems. Students are encouraged to master what they need to learn. Expectations will be clear and students will need to take initiative to accomplish their work. If they receive a grade they are not happy with, they may be given opportunities to raise their grades at the teacher's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to ask how they can raise their grade.

Contacting Students/Teachers During On-Campus Days

All teachers will have their cell phones on all day if you need to contact your student, but during class time we may silence non-emergent calls. So please allow time for us to answer you back if you have a need. If there is an emergency you are free to just drop in, or send an authorized person to pick up your student.

Supplies

All students will need to provide their own basic school supplies, snacks, lunches and water bottles. Each teacher will have a list of needed curriculum, literature, and lab supplies depending on your student's education level. **Upon your acceptance into our co-op you will have a curriculum/supplies fee that will need to be paid in full, which is non-refundable.** Your specific teacher will give you a list and let you know when the fee is due.

Early Education will have an added fee for an assessment.

Once your application forms are received, the Early Education Teacher will contact you to set up a time for your student's assessment. We are not able to accept any kind of government or charter school funding because we are a religious organization.

Technology

Cell phones will be checked in to the teacher, at the beginning of each OC Class Day, and given back to the student at the end of the day (this includes lunch time). If a parent needs to contact a student, they can contact the teacher and the teacher will allow the student to use their cell phone for that contact. **Use of any other technology or device such as laptops, iPad, tablets, and smart watches for any means other than assigned schoolwork will not be tolerated.** Please have your students leave all devices at home unless it's needed for their assigned schoolwork. You will also need to provide a regular calculator for their math, so we don't have the need to use a device for that purpose.

Misc. Information Continued



Lunch

Students will need to bring their own lunches, snacks and water bottles to On-Campus Days. We will respect Grace Community Church campus and keep it clean. Students will be expected to clean up any messes they create and also expected to take initiative if they see a mess that wasn't theirs, to help out and get it cleaned up. Only high school students have access to refrigerators and microwaves, so please plan and pack your student's lunch accordingly. **Students need to be respectful of others food and not touch or play with others food. Some students have severe allergies and being foolish in this area will not be tolerated.**

Expectations of AH Days (At-Home Days)

Students in Middle School and High School will be given assignments to fulfill during their AH Days. The expectation of what is to be accomplished will be clearly given. If they have any questions, they need to take the initiative to seek clarification before they leave on Thursdays. At times, there may also be homework during mid-week. Students will be encouraged to make time to accomplish all that is expected of them. If the student has any questions, please reach out or have them reach out to their teacher. Having open communication if your student is struggling will be of great value to us all. Early Education and Elementary Education will also have assignments that the parents will be responsible to help the student accomplish on AH learning days.

RCHC reserves the right to address unique, individual situations that may not be described herein this handbook and reserves the right to address them in a manner that it deems appropriate. Student enrollment may be terminated at any time and for any reason by a parent, facilitator, or acting authority of RCHC.

School Schedule

Our school schedule will be released via calendar as soon as it's available. Generally, classes start mid-August. We take an extended break from Thanksgiving to New Years. We have a two-week spring break near the Easter holiday. The on-campus school year ends in late May. Teachers and/or students have the flexibility to cancel or miss school days due to planned vacations, illness, etc.