



*"Charting the Way to Destinations of Excellence in the Real World"*

March 2, 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing to remain at Rocky Mountain Classical Academy (RMCA) and for filing your letters of intent. Choosing a school for your child is a life decision. We at RMCA want to ensure you understand who we are, what we are, why we serve in those ways, and how we serve students, families, faculty, staff, and our community.

RMCA is a public charter school in Falcon District 49. We receive state and local funds. We are also a charter school. A charter is a legal document similar, but smaller in scale, to the American Constitution. It establishes how we govern the school, educate children, and our mission. Each parent or primary caregiver of a RMCA student has a voice, just as every citizen has one in governing America. RMCA parents elect members of our seven-person Board of Directors. The Board governs RMCA, providing resources to organize, train, and equip school, faculty, and staff. Imagine the Board of Directors as a small Congress. All Board meetings are open to the public, and they occur at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Check the Board of Directors tab on our website.

The Board of Directors hires the Headmaster, who leads the students, faculty, and staff at the K-8 facility on Antelope Ridge Drive (1,145 students in School Year 2016-17) and the Home School on Akers Drive (479 students). The Headmaster hires the Home School Director, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Home School. The Headmaster hires the K-8 Principal and Assistant Principal, along with remaining administrators, faculty, and staff at that campus. The Headmaster represents RMCA at District and State meetings, as well as to the Board of Directors.

The Falcon District 49 Board of Education certifies to the Colorado Department of Education that RMCA conducts itself in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and requirements. Falcon District 49 is our "chartering agency." This means that RMCA's relationship with Falcon District 49 parallels that of, say, Canada within the British Commonwealth. We are part of the District, but we are also an independent entity with our own governance structure. We cultivate this relationship.

RMCA does not charge tuition. RMCA does not "cherry pick" students. RMCA's ethos is to serve the community in which it resides. We know that every child, given a high-quality education, can and will succeed. We do not mass-produce students. We craft educated citizens of character. On our faculty and staff, we have published authors, former university professors, holders of Doctorate and Master Degrees, and all of our teachers meet or exceed Colorado's definition of a "Highly Qualified" teacher.

By charter, we use the Classical Approach to education. Whatever the subject, we teach from this perspective, engaging students with content and mental application. Within our program, students learn in three major phases, what Classical Educators term grammar, rhetoric, and logic. Grammar equates to content knowledge, rhetoric is expression, and logic is reasoning with defensible theses, premises, linkages, inferences, and evidence. Visualize this as an ongoing, upward spiral as students learn more and develop their intellectual, physical, emotional, and social skills.

We teach classically, and regarding content, RMCA utilizes Professor Emeritus E. D. Hirsch's (University of Virginia) Core Knowledge Curriculum. This is not the national common core. While we legally meet all of the necessary federal and state standards, our Core Knowledge curriculum delivers

content integrated across grade levels and academic disciplines. Students learn content, expression, and reasoning in deeper explorations. Students encounter topics multiple times over multiple years, each successive encounter deepening their knowledge, comprehension, application, expression, and reasoning. Our Classical Approach, Core Knowledge Curriculum work.

Students study books that have stood time's test. Reading quality works develops quality writing and speaking. We guarantee you there is no better way to do this. We push rigorous reading, writing, and speaking skills, as well as mathematics, history, science, foreign languages, art, and music. The Education Profession demands a great deal of technical training, but in the end, students remember their best and worst teachers. The best teachers are scholars.

We develop character, which is central to our mission, which follows:

Rocky Mountain Classical Academy (RMCA) exists to support parents in developing citizens of integrity and character who are equipped with a strong knowledge base and academic skills. The basis of this development is rooted in an academically rigorous, content-rich, classical education program with Core Knowledge emphasis.

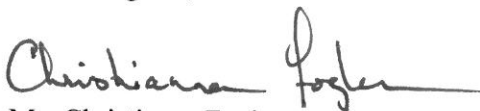
Parents come to us because they want something better. They want a better school; they want a voice, and they want better education for their kids.

Today's educational, political, and legal climates differ significantly from your school days. RMCA needs and wants more from parents than other schools. We do not want you to drop off your kids and leave. We want--no, expect--you to be involved. We want you here volunteering. We want you to model our character traits. Doing so helps us learn who you are, and it helps you learn who we are, how we function, and why we do it that way.

One of the lessons we teach our students is, "You get what you give." We want everyone associated with RMCA to become a better person from being an RMCA Knight. From the car pool line to how you talk about school problems around your children, we want every RMCA Knight to model our traits of kindness, nobility, initiative, honesty, trustworthiness, and self-awareness. We require volunteer hours. By meeting our parents and parents meeting our administrators, faculty, and staff, we learn how to help each other. We become a team, a community. Get involved. Sell candy for the sports teams; join the Parent Teacher Organization; volunteer in your kid's room; let a teacher hand you some papers and spend two hours standing in front of a copier. Be there, and we promise you it will pay off for the better.

Charter Schools are a true innovation, and they depend upon two-way service. Come to RMCA. Give more. Earn more. Receive more. Chart your child's way to destinations of excellence in the real world.

Warm Regards,



Ms. Christianna Fogler  
Headmaster

**Rocky Mountain Classical Academy – A Tuition-Free D49 Charter School**

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