

FAQs

What is TRCS's approach to discipline and school safety?

TRCS believes in logical consequences for behavior. We work to discuss and draw conclusions from any/all instances that are difficult, hoping to teach students the values of kindness, grace and wisdom in all interactions. We also believe that having clearly stated lines helps students become their best student's selves. We are clear, consistent and allow for students to make mistakes, as long as it is learning and moving forward.

School Safety is a huge staff focus. We have a locked campus and have adult supervision on students at all times. Everyone that works as a volunteer or an employee has a current background check on file. You may ring our doorbell, and wonder why the students do not answer the door. They are not allowed to let anyone into the school; our office/adults handle that.

What about volunteer opportunities?

We love our volunteers! We try to have parents mostly work outside of the school because our space is limited and it can be a bit disruptive to have many different faces coming and going. Some of the things we have families help us out with: gardening, class parties, fundraising, events, errands, handyman, field trips, enrichment classes, teacher appreciation and carpool.

Is there recess/break in the learning day?

Yes, we have a morning recess each day after our brief school meeting. There are many things to do at recess. Outside there is tetherball, basketball, soccer, four square, and football. Inside you can do homework, chat with your friends, go on the computers in the computer lab or play a board game. Recess is also snack time, so in your lunch you can bring a snack that you can eat during recess time.

How is technology used to support classrooms and learning at TRCS?

Our teachers are trained on the latest technology software that we are using. We hire experts to spend time with them to implement the many interfaces that we have. We have computers/iPad for everyone. We use technology constantly and consistently as a part of our teaching and learning – in each and every class.

Do you teach keyboarding and cursive?

Yes and yes!

What about lunch?

Our students bring their own lunches each day. We have several microwaves that allow students to re-heat items (not cook!) like leftovers. If by chance you forget your lunch we have a lunch we can put together for you and we charge \$5.00 to cover our cost for the items. In addition, we have recently started offering hot lunches twice a week from Fresh n' Local, a locally owned and operated company that provides healthy, wholesome lunches made with locally sourced ingredients. Menus are released monthly and all orders must be in advance.

Do we have an after school program?

We offer after school care on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, if school is in session. This is an after school work time, supervised by our office staff 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Teachers are not available for tutoring or extra help during this time. The cost is \$10.00/hour. Prepayment and signed agreement are required.

Does TRCS have a program for gifted students?

We have a great deal of gifted students attend TRCS. We believe that challenge is part of the personalization we believe in – through our mission and vision statements. Over the last 15 years, we have challenged and allowed students to reach their potential in many forms.

How does TRCS support students who have academic, emotional and/or social needs?

We personalize the program to your child. We all have needs – we are all individuals. We know that sometimes more adult interaction is needed, more support, but we believe that this support is not a constant. Students need to learn to cope with the world around them... through the vision of knowledge of themselves. We work to help each see themselves through multiple perspectives. We fully support students on existing Individual Education Plans.



Three Rivers Charter School

2565 SW Ek Road

West Linn, OR 97068

503-673-7850

Three Rivers Charter School
INNOVATIVE EDUCATION • RESPECT • PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE
INTEGRITY • ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING • SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY
HONOR INDIVIDUAL, UNIQUE & DIVERSE CONTRIBUTIONS

Who are we?

We are a group of dedicated parents, teachers, and students who have created a charter school of choice within the West Linn-Wilsonville School District. This school, Three Rivers Charter School, is limited in size and personalizes education to meet each student's needs.

The academic program of Three Rivers Charter School (TRCS) has three cornerstones: genuine relationship, academic individualization and personal rigor. We believe that each student carries a unique set of talents and should be assisted in developing, showcasing, and mentoring these expressions. We believe that young people are capable of deep thought, and that curriculum should be carefully tiered to present challenging material and critical experiences. We believe that students rise to the expectations of their parents, their educators, and their peers, and that school is the natural venue in which to dialogue, explore and develop these ideals.

School Motto: Your Life is What You Make It!

Core Values: Respect, Integrity, Passion for Excellence, Innovative Education, Enthusiastic Learning, Honoring Individual, Unique & Diverse Contributions

Vision Statement: Academic Excellence and leadership experiences will empower us all to change the world.

Mission Statement: Build a community with the belief that becoming creative, compassionate, accountable leaders, we will positively change all of society.



What is a Charter School?

A Charter School is a public school that is open to all who wish to attend it (i.e. without regard to race, religion, or academic ability), paid for by the public, and accountable to the public authorities for its results. Charter schools are rooted in their local communities; they are related to magnet schools, lab schools and special focus schools. Charter Schools are an opportunity to adapt and innovate on a smaller scale.

The Charter itself is a formal, legal document, viewed as a contract between those that launch a Charter School and the public body that authorizes and monitors it. In our case, the public body is the West Linn-Wilsonville School Board.

Charter schools offer a choice in public education.

In order to attend Three Rivers Charter School students must reside within the West Linn-Wilsonville School District boundaries 51% of the time, and will be able to prove that percentage of residency.

How is TRCS funded?

The TRCS Boards primary responsibility is to cover the gap in funding. This is possible through many events. The shortfall fund is called the Kids First fund. After the budget is proposed to the Board, the deficit is divided amongst the families and they are requested to make a yearly donation to cover the costs of the shortfall. We strive to keep the number stabilized, but is subject to change each year, after review of the budget in August by the board.

Because we are a public school, we cannot require families to make this donation. At the same time, without the needed revenue we will cease to exist. Thus the need for fundraisers arises. We try to allow for many types of events - so that families can participate at all levels. We hope to continue to offer both social activities along with fundraisers that will allow for all of our community to find many positive reasons to belong to the TRCS community.

What is our relationship with WLWV School District?

We are chartered by the WLWV School Board but are not bound by curriculum or personnel constraints of the surrounding district. We are a small business with top notch teachers. We provide the best possible education in a small school environment, with a focus on leadership, character and interpersonal relationships.

Which school calendar do I follow?

We set our own calendar after looking at both the elementary and middle school calendars for the district and try to meet families' needs in both of these settings. Our in-service days may be different from other schools. The best place to check this is on our website. We work on a trimester system of assessment.

What about transportation?

We do not have bus transportation to our school per Senate Bill 100. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from school. We have families that work together to carpool and we are happy to help you find a family close to you if this helps.

What is our curriculum?

Please see our website www.3rcs.org for the most current information on our curriculum. We do adhere to the Common Core State Standards.

Does TRCS participate in the State of Oregon testing?

Yes! We are a public school in the State of Oregon that participates fully in all required state tests.

Does TRCS participate in district testing?

Yes! We offer MAPS testing three times a year that tracks your kid's progress leading up to State of Oregon Testing. We use these scores at conferences and also if needed to remediate or extend the learning in particular areas for your child. They are one point of data that we use several to identify strengths and weaknesses in all of our students.

What about PE?

We have physical education units instead of daily classes. Most of our PE is taught by a volunteer PE teacher. We teach in-depth 2 week PE units with approximately 5 -6 units per year. Some of these units are held off site and taught by professionals in their field. Some of the off-site locations are: Clackamas Aquatic Park, Oregon Soccer Center, Oregon City High School Jackson Campus and Track, and The Courts.

Does TRCS provide art or an Artist in Residence?

We are 100% supportive of arts education. We have a half time Art Teacher. The 4/5 will have a class in Art one term; the 6/7/8 will have a class one term. The third term is an integration of topics (a class that ties the curriculum together).

What is the average class size at TRCS?

Average class size is 20 Students.

How do we enroll?

Each year, the number of students who would like to attend TRCS exceeds the spaces that are available. We hold a public lottery each year to assure that everyone has the same opportunity. The first qualification to be considered is that the interested families are residents within the West Linn-Wilsonville School District boundaries. The only other qualification is that the student be eligible for the grade levels offered at TRCS.

What is a wait list?

During our lottery we draw all registration cards that have been postmarked and received by the due date. These students are all placed on a wait list in the order they are drawn. We will then fill the class openings with the first name on the wait list and go down from there. If a family turns down an offer for placement they will need to re-submit a registration card and become part of a post-lottery wait list or wait until the next year lottery if they would like to be considered again.

Who is my teacher?

You no longer have just one teacher. There are several teachers at TRCS we all know all about your child. This is our job. We personalize based on the whole child, often we share information together so that continue to grow and learn about your child – constantly and consistently. The program is based on a smooth flow from one teacher to the other – throughout each day.

What are the homework expectations for my student?

Our homework policy is:

4/5th grades: 1 hour Monday – Thursday nights

6/7th grades: 1 ½ hours Monday – Thursday nights

8th grade: 1 ½ - 2 hours Monday – Thursday nights