1 General Information About Rio Hondo College

History

The Rio Hondo Community College District was established by election in October 1960, but first classes were not held until 1963-1964. Since the district's boundaries at that time were identical to those of the Whittier Union High School District, administration of the district was by the high school district Board of Trustees. Creation of the El Rancho Unified School District in 1962 required that Rio Hondo College establish its own Board of Trustees, and an election for that purpose was held in April 1962.

The new Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Phil Putnam as the founding Superintendent-President in February 1963. In May 1963, the Board chose Rio Hondo as the name for the college. The name, long associated with the area surrounding the Rio Hondo River, means "deep river."

College classes were offered for the first time in the late afternoons and evenings in September 1963 at Sierra and El Rancho High Schools. Following selection of the present campus site, a $12 million bond issue to build the college was approved by 80.1 percent of the district voters in October 1963. During 1964 and 1965, Rio Hondo College conducted classes for a limited enrollment at the former Little Lake School in Santa Fe Springs.

The present campus opened in the fall of 1966 with an enrollment of 3,363 day and 2,682 evening students. Measure A, a $245 million bond passed by voters in 2004, now provides new buildings and facilities upgrades campus-wide as well as new off-site educational centers in South Whittier and El Monte. Today, Rio Hondo enrolls approximately 20,000 students per semester.

Rio Hondo College is an open-access California community college that contains nine cities, in whole or part, four distinct unincorporated communities, and a portion of one other unincorporated community of Los Angeles County within our district boundaries. The cities include El Monte, South El Monte, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, and Whittier. The District also encompasses portions of Norwalk, Downey, La Mirada, and the City of Industry. The unincorporated communities within our District include Los Nietos, East Whittier, South Whittier, West Whittier, and a portion of Avocado Heights. The College is a Hispanic Serving Institution with over 70 percent of students identified as Hispanic/Latino/a and a total ethnic minority student population nearing 90 percent.

School districts within the college boundaries are the Whittier Union High School District, El Rancho Unified School District, and the El Monte Union High School District. Students come to Rio Hondo seeking a variety of educational experiences. Rio Hondo's educational program includes courses for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, general education courses for greater

understanding of individual and community life, vocational training in certain areas, and courses for improving academic performance necessary for studying at a higher level.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation was established in 1992. The Foundation assists the college in meeting the needs of its students and community. The Foundation's focus is to secure financial and community resources to support Rio Hondo College programs and services such as student scholarships, innovative educational projects, teaching and training support, and capital expenditures.

Vision

Rio Hondo College strives to be an exemplary California community college, meeting the learning needs of its changing and growing population and developing a state-of-the-art campus to serve future generations.

Mission

Rio Hondo College is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency, and lifelong learning.

Values Statement

As a teaching/learning community, we come together and strive to meet the needs, aspirations, and goals of our changing student population and communities. Since what we value forms the core of who and what we are, the college community--trustees, faculty and staff--recognizes the importance of openly and candidly expressing the college's values. Rio Hondo College values the following:

1. **Quality teaching and learning**
   The college is dedicated to excellence in instruction and student services to develop the intellectual and

personal competence of each student. Rio Hondo College is committed to preparing students to adapt to the demands of a multicultural society.

2. **Student access and success**
   Rio Hondo College recognizes the individual worth and potential of every human being. Accordingly, the college offers an open access, comprehensive educational program to its students including basic skills, vocational education certificates and degrees, general education and transfer courses, and, for its community, economic development opportunities.

At Rio Hondo College, students will have an opportunity to develop ethical values, learn the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, develop career skills, and understand the scientific, artistic and social achievements of various cultures including their own.

3. **Diversity & Equity**
   Rio Hondo College remains committed to the diversity of students, faculty, staff, and management. Diversity can be defined in many ways including ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, learning styles, political beliefs, or other ideologies. Appreciation of diversity means the following:

   - Recognizing that each individual is unique and understanding individual differences.
   - Recognizing the things that people have in common despite being members of diverse groups.
   - Creating a safe, positive, and nurturing environment that cultivates respect for what these differences are.
   - Moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity as a way of coming together as a community with a common purpose.

The concepts of educational equity and student learning outcomes are central to the values of the College. Access to education and the opportunity for educational success for all students shall be provided, with particular efforts in regard to those who have been historically and currently under-represented. Education should prepare students to adapt to the demands of a multicultural society.

4. **Fiscal Responsibility**
   Rio Hondo College recognizes the importance of maintaining a fiscally sound, efficient, and effective college operation. It uses its resources—human, facilities, and financial—to the optimum benefit of its students, community, and staff.

5. **Integrity and Civility**
   We value integrity, honesty and respect in our actions and words.

Goals Statement

With the rapid pace of change and the need to respond in a reasonable, timely, and organized fashion - and keeping the focus on our students - Rio Hondo College recognizes the following goals as important to our collective success:

- to provide quality instruction to enhance the teaching/learning process
- to provide quality student support programs
- to provide quality student services, utilizing a student-centered process
- to meet the changing technological needs required to support the educational process and to enhance student access and success
- to maintain a safe and pleasant environment for students, staff, and community
- to support participatory governance processes through effective communication among and involvement of students, faculty, staff, trustees, and community
- to provide leadership in the academic, cultural, and economic life of the community
- to support the personal and professional growth of trustees, faculty, and staff
- to develop and utilize fiscal resources in an efficient and effective manner.

Institutional Code of Ethics (BP 3050)

I. The employees of Rio Hondo Community College District are committed to providing a high quality learning environment to help our students successfully achieve their educational goals and objectives. Accordingly, they have interests in, and commitment to ethical behavior. Ethical persons are those who abide by principles and exemplify virtues as understood within a given moral framework. Many believe that virtue is intrinsically rewarding. At the very least, that one be perceived as ethical is instrumental in establishing credibility and trust.

II. To support Rio Hondo's commitment to ethical behavior, college employees adhere to standards of ethical and professional behavior related to their duties, and have responsibilities to the institution and to individuals they serve. Although one cannot "legislate morality" in the sense of mandating virtuous intentions, we can, and do, establish general expectations of conduct.

III. There are many sources of ethical inspiration and guidance. All employees of Rio Hondo College are subject to official College policies and procedures; applicable regulatory agency requirements; local, state, and federal laws; and professional standards (when applicable). This includes policies such as the Rio Hondo College Policy on Sexual Harassment (BP 3430), its Policy on Nondiscrimination (BP 3410), and its Policy on Academic Freedom (BP 4030).

IV. In addition, the Board of Trustees is subject to its own Code of Ethics (BP 2715), and most of our employees are members of professional organizations with their own established codes of ethics, such as the CTA, CSEA, and ACCCA. Employees are encouraged to consult their own organizations, when applicable, for further guidance. As constituents of Rio Hondo College, students are likewise encouraged to maintain high Standards of Conduct (BP 5500).

V. As a further demonstration of commitment to high ethical standards, employees of Rio Hondo College aspire to be guided by the following values statements. These are guidelines and aspirations to be used for educational and not disciplinary purposes, with our own conscience as the first and most salient means of evaluation:

- The College values open communication, honesty, and truthfulness, and aspires to an "open door" philosophy.
- The College values open inquiry and honors academic freedom.
- The College strives to protect human dignity and individual freedom.
- The College values clear roles and responsibilities, teamwork, and cooperation (as outlined in AB1725), and therefore aspires to develop a climate of trust and mutual support.
- The College is committed to providing excellent educational opportunities to the community, and the instructional faculty seeks to evaluate students by honest appraisal of student performance against faculty standards.

Institutional Philosophy

Recognizing the individual worth and potential of every human being, Rio Hondo College offers an open access, comprehensive educational program to residents of the college district.

The college is dedicated to excellence in instruction and student services to develop the intellectual and personal competence of each individual.

At Rio Hondo College, students will have an opportunity to develop ethical values, learn the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, develop career skills, and understand the scientific, artistic, and social achievements of various cultures.

Institutional Affiliation

Rio Hondo College is a member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the California Association of Community Colleges. The college is also a member of the San Gabriel/Foothill Association of Community Colleges (SanFACC).

Accreditations & Certifications

Rio Hondo College is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is authorized by the California Community College Board of Governors to offer courses which parallel the lower-division courses of four-year institutions and qualify the student for junior classification at the university level. College transfer courses are accepted at full value at most colleges and universities throughout the United States.

- Police Academy – California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) (Certified)
- Fire Academy – California State Fire Marshal (Accredited); Accredited Local Processing for "Fire Officer Certifications"- California State Fire Marshals office
- Regional Homeland Security Training Center - certified by California State Fire Marshal and California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and certified as a UASI homeland security regional training center in Los Angeles County.
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – Los Angeles County Health Services EMT/Paramedic Program Approval Section (Accredited)
- Wildland Fire Program – U.S. Forest Service (Certified)
- First Aid and CPR – American Heart Association & American Red Cross (Certified)
- Expanded Scope Practice for EMTs – LA County Department of Health Services (Certified)
- Drug Studies Program – Accredited by California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
- Nursing Program – Approved by the Board of Registered Nursing, State of California and the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, State of California.
- CNA Programs – Approved through the Department of Health Services State of California.
- Automotive Programs: National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) (Certified); California Automotive Business Coalition Automotive Technician Training Standards (ATTS) (Certified); California Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Smog Check Technician Training Institution (Certified).

Facilities

Art Gallery

The Rio Hondo College Art Gallery is located inside the Art Building and is open to students and the community during the academic year. The gallery provides an intimate setting for exhibits showing both student and professional artists representing a variety of artistic disciplines. Used also as a teaching gallery, many of the exhibits are displayed and created by students enrolled in Art courses. The gallery is open to the public and exhibits are advertised in the College's Cultural Events brochure available from the Division of Arts & Cultural Programs and online at: http://www.riohondo.edu/arts. Call (562) 908-3471 for more information.

Black Box Theater

The Black Box Theater is located behind the Wray Theater. With seating for approximately 80 guests, the Black Box provides a more intimate setting for student and visiting performers. The performances are open to the public and are advertised in the College's Cultural Events brochure from the Division of Arts & Cultural Programs. Call (562) 908-3471 for more information.

Bookstore

The Rio Hondo College Bookstore is located at the first floor of the Administration Building and stocks new, used and electronic textbooks, class supplies, RHC merchandise, and a variety of educational materials. Used textbooks are bought back year-round, at up to 50% of the new price. The bookstore accepts cash, credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express), personal checks (with valid driver's license and student ID), and bookstore gift cards. Students can order their textbooks online at www.riohondoshop.com. Books ordered online can be picked up at the store or shipped via FedEx. The Rio Hondo College Bookstore offers textbook rentals, saving students 65% or more on select textbooks. Information is available in the bookstore or by logging on to www.rent-a-text.com. The bookstore is open Monday through Saturday, except college holidays. The bookstore offers extended hours the first two weeks of each semester. Students should refer to www.riohondoshop.com for exact hours each semester. Ninety percent of the commissions received from the bookstore goes to the Auxiliary Service Fund for student activities.

Rio Café

The Rio Café, located on the first floor of the Student Union, is the place to grab a snack or meal on the run. The 300 seat dining room is ample enough to enjoy a delicious breakfast, lunch, or dinner with friends. The café offers a mix of healthy dining options, a mouth-watering grill featuring an exhibition grill of hot sandwiches, International Cuisine, Panini Grill, and Crepe station. Several beverage choices to choose from and a variety of sweet and savory fresh-baked pastries. Enjoy your favorite Starbucks Lattes, cappuccino® Blended Beverages, Coffees and Teas at our Starbucks Coffee Bar. The café accepts: Cash, Credit, and Apple Pay. Hours for the Rio Café are: Monday through Thursday 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; Friday 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Saturday 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. Catering is available at riocafe@riohondo.edu.

Child Development Center/ Pre-School Laboratory

The Rio Hondo Pre-School Laboratory located at the Child Development Center provides quality pre-school services to the children of Rio Hondo students, staff, and community. Children must be between the ages of 3 and 5 years old and are required to be partially (without the use of a diaper or pull-up) to fully toilet trained. The Center is supported by state funds and parent fees. Eligibility for state subsidized funding is determined by a combination of family size and income. Some families may pay fees based on a sliding scale. Hours of operation are 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Holidays and breaks are observed in accordance with the RHC academic calendar. For more information, please call (562) 908-3494 or visit the Rio Hondo website (click on Student Services and then Child Care). Rio Hondo College students from the Child Development/Education Department, the Behavioral and Social Science Division and Nursing utilize the Pre-School Laboratory to observe the development and behavior of pre-school children and to apply the knowledge that they gained in their courses working directly with children.

El Monte Educational Center (EMEC)

The El Monte Educational Center (EMEC) is one of Rio Hondo College's off-campus educational centers. It is located at 3017 Tyler Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731. There are classrooms and a computer resource lab. Regular college credit courses are offered at EMEC, including basic skills, general education courses for graduation and transfer to a university. Continuing Education also offers noncredit courses at EMEC. For more information about classes and services at EMEC, please call (626) 443-8932.

Fitness Center

Rio Hondo College's state-of-the-art Fitness Center is located in the Kinesiology Department (room 150). Access is available by enrolling in KINA 130, a one-unit Kinesiology Activity Class. Additional information is listed in the Class Schedule and on the Fitness Center web page.

Observatory

Rio Hondo College is one of only 10 California Community Colleges to possess an observatory. The Gordon D. Crowell Astrophysical Observatory has been serving the students of the college and residents of the community for over 45 years. The Observatory houses a 16-inch reflecting telescope that is the largest telescope available to the public in the Los Angeles area. We are open to the public, year round, no fee, from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. PDT and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. PST on selected clear Friday evenings. Visitors are asked to park in Lot C and walk up the observatory road to the Observatory. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, dress warmly, and bring a flashlight. Visitors are also advised that we do not have rest room facilities at the observatory. Call (562) 908-3472 for more information, or visit www.riohondo.edu/mathmatics/astronomy/observatory-nights.

Parking: Students/Visitors

Parking facilities are provided for students and visitors at nine locations on campus as designated in this College Catalog. Students are required to display a Rio Hondo College parking permit on all vehicles parking on campus. Parking permits should be obtained at the time of registration and thereafter at every semester registration or

where there is a change in vehicle(s). Motorcycle parking is permitted only in specially designated areas in Lot B, Lot C, Lot E, Lot 1, and Lot 4.

Visitors on campus may obtain temporary parking permits at the Parking Information Booth located off College Drive to the left at Parking Lot 2 of the lower level parking stalls or at one of three day parking permit dispensers available in these locations:

- Parking Lot A, center of lot
- Parking Lot A, near the bridge
- Parking Lot 6, near the stairs
- Parking Lot C, southeast corner of Lot C
- Parking Lot E, near entrance of PE Building

One (1) day parking permit fee is $3.00. The dispenser accepts one dollar bills, credit cards, coins (including dollar coins). Dispenser does not give change for bills or coins. A five (5) minute parking stall is located alongside the dispenser for temporary parking while you purchase your permit.

Persons operating vehicles on campus are expected to abide by all California vehicle codes as well as posted regulations. Citations will be issued by campus security officers for violations of such codes or for failure to abide by college parking or vehicular regulations. Everyone is required to pay all fines in connection with such violations. Unpaid fines will be referred to the DMV, and a hold will be placed on your vehicle registration.

Persons using the parking facilities at the college do so at their own risk. The college assumes no liability for the use of the parking facilities.

Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera

The Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera is one of Rio Hondo College's off-campus educational centers. It is located at 9426 Marjorie Street, Pico Rivera, CA 90660. There are classrooms and a computer resource lab. Regular college credit courses are offered at the Pico Rivera Educational Center, including basic skills, general education courses for graduation and transfer to a university. Continuing Education also offers noncredit courses. For more information about classes and services at the Pico Rivera Educational Center, please call (562) 222-1482.

Santa Fe Springs Training Center

The Rio Hondo College Fire Technology program is located at the Santa Fe Springs Regional Training Center at 11400 Greenstone Ave., Santa Fe Springs. The Training Center houses the equipment and facilities for the College's Fire Academy, Homeland Security Training Center, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program, Biddle Physical Abilities Testing, and Advanced Fire Marshal Training Programs. Some Fire Technology classes are also held on the main campus at the new Administration of Justice Building. The Wildland Fire Technology program and the Wildland Fire Academy are located at the AJ Annex on the main campus. Please see Schedule of Classes for more information.

South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC)

The South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC) is one of Rio Hondo College's off-campus educational centers located at 14307 East Telegraph Road, Whittier, CA 90604. There are classrooms and a computer resource lab. Regular college credit courses are offered at SWEC, including basic skills, general education courses for graduation and transfer to a university. Continuing Education also offers noncredit courses at SWEC. For more information about classes and services at SWEC, please call (562) 941-2356.

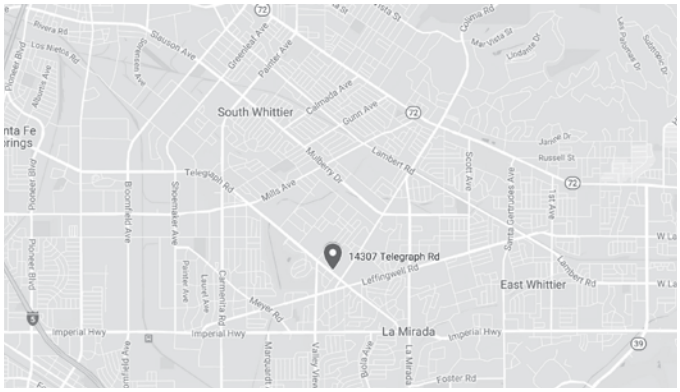
State Smog Center

Rio Hondo College's State Smog Center is a state-contracted test facility that provides certain Smog Check services for motorists. Working with Automotive Technology departments at the community colleges, the Consumer Assistance Referee Centers provide motorists the opportunity to receive independent smog checks on their vehicles. Visit the web site www.smogcheck.ca.gov for the eligibility conditions necessary to utilize a referee station. Depending on the State's schedule of operation, the Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment only. Closed on State-determined holidays. Call (800) 622-7733 for hours of operation and an appointment.

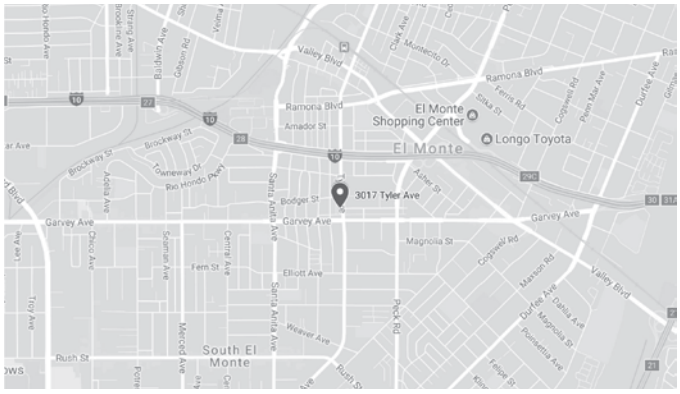
Wray Theater

The Wray Theater, located on the lower quad, functions as the main performance space for the college. Showcasing a variety of student and professional performances in the areas of theatre, dance, music, film, and guest lectures, the theater seats approximately 300 persons. The performances are open to the public and are advertised in the College's Cultural Events brochure available from the Division of Arts & Cultural Programs. For more information, call (562) 908-3471 or visit our web site at: http://www.riohondo.edu/arts.

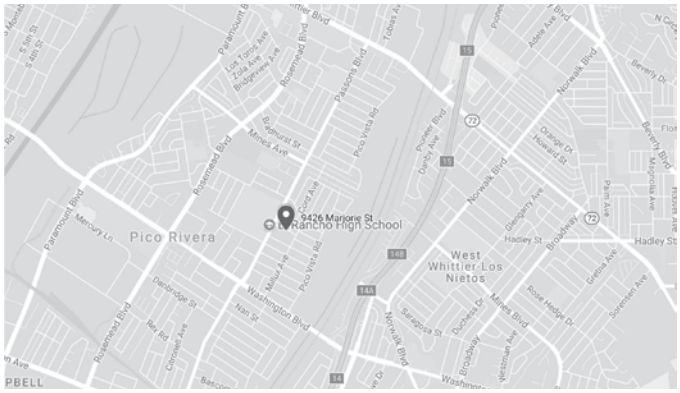
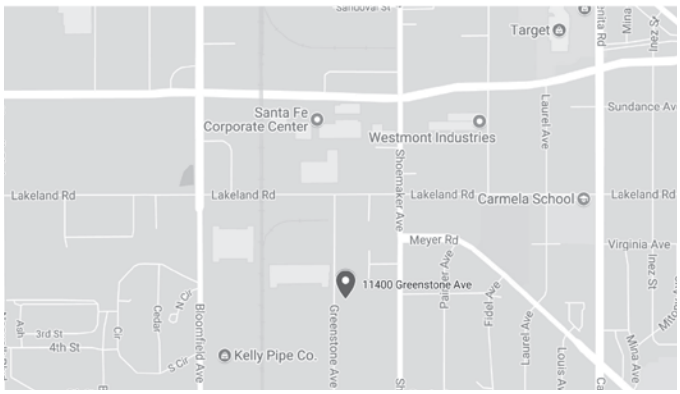
SOUTH WHITTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER
14307 E. Telegraph Road
Whittier, CA 90604
Phone: 562-941-2356
Fax: 562-946-3817
DIRECTIONS:
1. Go northeast on Workman Mill Rd. toward College Dr.
2. Stay on Peck Rd.
3. Turn right onto Rooks Rd.
4. Merge onto I-605 S.
5. Take the Telegraph Rd exit, EXIT 12.
6. Turn left onto Telegraph Rd.
7. Make a U-turn onto Telegraph Rd.
8. SWEC is on the right.



EL MONTE EDUCATIONAL CENTER
3017 Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA 91731
Phone: 626-443-8932
Fax: 626-443-8997
DIRECTIONS:
1. Go northeast on Workman Mill Rd. toward College Dr.
2. Stay on Peck Rd.
3. Peck Rd turns into N Durfee Ave.
4. Turn left onto N Peck Rd/E. Rush St.
5. Take the 1st left onto E Rush St.
6. Take the 3rd right onto N Tyler Ave.
7. EMEC is on the left.



RIO HONDO EDUCATIONAL CENTER
AT PICO RIVERA
9426 Marjorie Street,
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
Phone: 562-222-1482
DIRECTIONS:
1. Go northeast on Workman Mill Rd. toward College Dr.
2. Stay on Peck Rd.
3. Turn right onto Rooks Rd.
4. Merge onto I-605 S.
5. Take the Washington Blvd. West exit.
6. Turn right onto Washington Blvd.
7. Turn right on Passons Blvd.
8. Turn right on Marjorie St.
9. The Pico Center is on the corner of Passons and Marjorie.



SANTA FE SPRINGS TRAINING CENTER
11400 Greenstone Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Phone: 562-941-4082 extensions 21, 23, or 25
DIRECTIONS:
1. Go northeast on Workman Mill Rd. toward College Dr.
2. Go onto Peck Rd.
3. Turn right onto Rooks Rd.
4. Merge onto I-605 S.
5. Take the Telegraph Rd exit, EXIT 12.
6. Turn left onto Telegraph Rd.
7. Turn right onto Bloomfield Ave.
8. Bloomfield Ave. becomes Lakeland Rd.
9. Turn left to stay on Lakeland Rd.
10. Take the 1st right onto Greenstone Ave.
11. Academy is on the left.