

HANDBOOK

2022-2023

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Welcome!

I am so excited that you plan to participate in STAR Homeschool Community for the 2022-2023 school year. This is our very first year as a community and it is exciting to see what God is doing and how He is moving! I trust fully that God knows each and every family that is supposed to participate this coming school year. As we follow Him and learn more about Him together, I believe that we are going to build an incredible community and be a blessing to one another.

Make sure to read through this Family Handbook to get a good idea of how this community will function and what the expectations are. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions.

In Christ,

Brenda Scott

Community Structure

STAR Homeschool Community exists to support Christian homeschool families by providing a one day per week program, curriculum, and activities.

Currently, STAR Homeschool Community is a legal nonstock corporation in the state of Virginia. We will be applying for 501(c)(3) status very soon.

In order to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we will need a board of at least three unrelated adults to oversee our operations. Our current board includes:

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- Rebecca Wright
- Beatriz Ibarra
- Susan Seavers
- Sandy Roy

The director of STAR Homeschool Community is Brenda Scott. Brenda can be reached at Brenda@STARHomeschool.org.

Tutors will be hired as legal employees and will report to the director.

Statement of Faith

We are a distinctly Christian community. We operate according to Biblical principles and follow the teaching of Scripture in our policies and overall operation. As a Christian community, we are especially careful about the materials used and presented on Community days.

The members of our community come from various churches and backgrounds. However, all of our members unite around the Nicene Creed and the STAR Homeschool Community Statement of Faith.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

STAR Homeschool Community Statement of Faith

- 1. We believe the Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. The Holy Bible, as our sole written source of truth, is complete and altogether sufficient for Christian faith (belief) and practice (behavior). We believe that it is the only trustworthy testimony of Jesus Christ. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)
- 2. We believe in the Trinity—that there is one and only one God, eternally existent in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are not only one in purpose, but also one in essence. (Is. 43:10-11; John 1: 1-2, 10:30, 37-38)
- 3. We believe in the full deity and the true humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:9), the Son of God and God the Son, Who, although eternally pre- and co-existent with the Father and the Spirit, took on Himself a human nature (although remaining sinless) through the virgin birth for the purpose of redeeming lost sinners through His death on the cross. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no person comes to God the Father but by Him [Christ] (John 14:6). Further, there is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). We also believe in Christ's literal bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory. (Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:23; Luke 1:35; John 11:25; Acts 1:11; Heb. 4:15; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 19:11-16)
- 4. We believe that all people are sinners, beginning with Adam, (1 Cor. 15:22) and have fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23; Rom 3:19 Is. 59:2), and that the wages of sin are death (Rom 6:23) and eternity in hell (II Thess. 1:8-9). Salvation was purchased by Christ's vicarious and atoning death through His innocent shed blood (Eph. 1:7). Christ is therefore our only mediator (1 Tim 2:5). We believe that we are saved from the guilt and penalty for sins by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ as personal Savior (John 3:3-6, 16-19; John 5:24; Rom 10:9, 13; 2 Cor. 5:17). Salvation is a free gift, wholly granted by Divine grace alone. There is nothing we can do to become worthy of or add to this all-sufficient gift; any and all of man's works are ineffectual for salvation (Titus 3:5-6, Eph 2:8-9).
- 5. We believe that God lives in us, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, whereby the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life. (Gal 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18; Eph. 4:30; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- 6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they who are saved, unto eternal life with God in heaven in a resurrected, perfected body, and they who are lost unto eternal punishment in hell. (John 5:28-29; Rev. 14:11; Rev. 20:14-15)

Statement on Marriage and Gender

We believe that God designed marriage to be between one man and one woman, and that God does not make mistakes in determining a person's gender, which can be seen at birth (or before via ultrasound) by the presence of male or female organs. (Gen 2:18-25, Matt 19:4, Mark 10:6, Rom 1:26-27, 1 Cor 6:9, 1 Tim 1:19)

Mission

Memorize God's Word.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

The day will include worship, the monthly hymn, Scripture memory and announcements. This will be a decidedly, unwaveringly Christian co-op. Scripture memory is SO important! Memorizing presidents, states and capitals and multiplication facts are all great endeavors. Memorizing God's very own words = PRICELESS! What will get our kids (and families) through the toughest times in our lives? Resting in God's everlasting care. How do we learn about Him and what a great Father He is to us? HIS WORD!

Worship God regularly.

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30

Each week we will be offering praise to our Creator and the Father who loves each and every one of us. He is good and faithful and worthy of our voices being lifted to Him! Our community will grow stronger together as we spend this time in corporate worship. This will be an essential part of our community. If you're a mama or a student who plays an instrument and/or enjoys singing and would like to participate, tell Brenda!

Build up Christian Homeschool families and support them.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:20

If you are home educating any age or any amount of children, you are a ROCKSTAR and a SUPERHERO! We want to support you, to provide a community that comes alongside you in your journey.

Create a close and loving community.

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

We want to create a community of families who pray for one another, spend time together, and to build each other up. We plan to host regular events and field trips and include whole families in these activities. Do you crave this kind of community?

Promote the importance of a strong nuclear family.

"But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children—with those who keep His covenant and remember to obey His precepts." Psalm 103:17-18

Within the walls of your home, you are training up future leaders of the country. You are doing the work of discipleship when you teach the children God has blessed you with about His Word. Your family is important to God and to His kingdom. We want to support, encourage and build up your family as you do this incredibly important job.

Train students to be able to give an answer for their faith.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as LORD. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so

that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." 1 Peter 3:15-16

There comes a point when our children will have to decide if they trust in God like their parents do, and if they want to follow Him and worship Him with their whole heart. We pray that they choose Him, and recognize that God, in His good nature, has given our children free will. When they face this big, life-shaping decision, we want them to understand God's Word. This is why we are going to be spending time doing Apologetics on our community days. We consider this to be one of the most important things our kids will be learning during the coming school year.

Teach students to discern truth.

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1

There will be false teachers in our kids' lives, and we want them to be able to discern truth from lies. We don't have any desire to train up children who simply go along with the crowd, because a crowd is so easily swayed. Instead, wouldn't it be wonderful if our children learned to ask important questions and seek out the truth in every situation they are faced with? Let us endeavor together to raise children who ask questions!

Express the gifts God has given each of us (even the children) within the community.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:4-5

Isn't it wonderful that God did not create us all the same? He knew what He was doing when He gave each of us, even our children, different gifts and talents. We believe that our community will thrive when students and parents are allowed to utilize the gifts and talents that God has given them.

Equip students to do whatever good works God is preparing them for.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Our children's education matters to us. They can be better servants in God's kingdom when they: 1. Know His Word and 2. Have a proper education. We want our children to be prepared for whatever God has planned for them. Maybe that is higher education, a trade, a profession, or training up the next generation in the home. Whatever God calls them to do, we want our children to be prepared.

General Information

- Signing up for STAR Homeschool Community is a mid-August to mid-May commitment.
- Classes start at 9 am on Wednesday mornings and end at either 1:15, 2:15 or 3:15, depending on your class selections.
- All students in grades pre-K through 12 who are on-site will need to be enrolled in a class and remain in their classroom during class hours, unless excused for a bathroom break.
- Classes are called Forms. The forms are organized as follows:
 - o Form 1: pre-K through K
 - o Form 2: 1st through 3rd grade
 - o Form 3: 4th through 6th grade
 - o Form 4: 7th through 9th grade
 - o Form 5: 10th through 12th grade
- Class sizes will be a minimum of 6 students and a maximum of 10 students. In order for the community to hire 5 tutors for all 5 Forms, we will need a minimum of 33 students. If there are fewer than 33 students, we will hire 4 tutors with 26 students and would need to put two Forms together (the Forms that are combined in this situation will be determined by the director and based on the demographics of the applicants). Each afternoon class will need to have a minimum of 6 students in order to hire a tutor. If we do not meet the 6 student minimum for an afternoon class, it may be canceled or combined with another class (perhaps a science course that includes Form 4 and 5 together, for example).
- STAR Homeschool Community does not discriminate and we do our best to work with every student; however, we do not have specially trained staff to deal with special needs. If your student has special needs, please contact Brenda before enrollment in order to make sure STAR Homeschool Community can meet your child's needs. We are happy to work alongside parents to support a student. Just know that we do not have special training in learning disabilities or physical disabilities.
- All families who apply will complete a series of paperwork and have a family interview with the director.
- All families and tutors must attend a Bible-believing Christian church regularly and consistently and able to agree to the Statement of Faith and the Statement on Marriage and Gender.
- STAR leadership reserves the right to refuse registration to families who do not hold these beliefs, who have shown behavioral issues the previous year, or who were delinquent in payments owed.

Educational Philosophy

At STAR Homeschool Community, we recognize that each family will homeschool in different ways. We respect you and your educational methods. The Family Guide has been designed to work with different family styles.

STAR Homeschool Community is a Christian community. All tutors, parents and students must sign and uphold our Statement of Faith and Statement on Marriage and Gender. All materials will be taught from a Christian worldview.

Tutors

We do not call our instructors "teachers" in order to avoid any confusion with a legal school. STAR is a homeschool community where we recognize parents as their child(ren)'s official teachers. Instructors at STAR Homeschool

Community are called "tutors" as they offer supplemental instruction to what you are providing at home.

Tutors at STAR Homeschool Community will be required to sign the Statement of Faith and have a background check done.

Curriculum will be planned and designed for tutors of Forms 1-3, and so tutors will not be bringing in or planning their own materials. This will provide consistency across the community.

Form 4 and 5 tutors may bring in additional materials to supplement the curriculum. These materials will align with the community's Statement of Faith, Mission, and a Christian worldview.

Communication

The director and Tutors will contact parents via:

- Text
- Email
- Phone Calls

A community forum or chat app will be set up for this community to keep in touch with each other. Enrolled families will receive this information when it is available. One or both parents may receive access to the community chat and receive all community emails. Select your preference on the Family Information Form.

Students may receive emails from tutors if parents approve. Select your preference on the Student Information Form.

Students in Forms 4 and 5 may receive group texts from tutors if parents approve. Select your preference on the Student Information Form.

Important Dates

- June 10 is when the Application Fee of \$195 per family is due.
- August 1 is when the Tuition per class, per student is due as well as the \$70 per family Building Fee.
- August 9 (Tuesday Evening), we will have a Picnic and Family Meet & Greet. Location TBD. Make sure to come
 to this in order to get to know the families in this community. All Community Supplies will be due on this date.
- August 17 (Wednesday Daytime) is Family Orientation. This is a super important time to get all of the information you will need for the school year.
- August 24 is our official start date! YAY!
- Other dates on our calendar are important as well! We will keep an active calendar of events, please try to come to as many as you can in order to build connections within the community.

This is the tentative calendar for STAR Homeschool Community. An online calendar will be shared with families enrolled in the community:

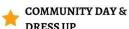
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Tentative Sample Calendar

Tentative Calendar Date: 3/30/22

STAR Homeschool Community 2022-2023 Calendar







Seven Week Units

- ONE: AUG 24-OCT 5
 TWO: OCT 19-DEC 7
- THREE: JAN 18-MAR 1FOUR: MAR 22-MAY 10

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FACEBOOK: STARHomeschoolCommunity INSTAGRAM: STARHomeschoolCommunity EMAIL: Brenda@STARHomeschool.org WEBSITE: www.STARHomeschool.org

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- AUG 9: Picnic Meet & Greet (Whole Family)
- AUG 23: Orientation
- SEPT 13: Mom's Night
- SEPT 23: Field Trip
- SEPT 28: Pajama Day
- OCT 1: Worship at the Fire Pit (Whole Family)
- OCT 18: Mom's Night
- OCT 26: Costume Day
- OCT 28: Field Trip
- NOV 8: Mom's Night
- NOV 18: Field Trip

- NOV 30: Flannel Day
- DEC 9: Christmas Party
- (Whole Family)
- JAN 14: Game Night (Whole Family)
- JAN 17: Mom's Night
- JAN 25: Stars Day
- JAN 27: Field Trip
- FEB 7: Mom's Night
- FEB 17: Field Trip
- FEB 17: FIELD 17: p
 FEB 22: Hat Day
- FEB 25: Bring Your Best Banquet (Whole Family)
- MAR 2: Science Fair

- MAR 8: Snow Makeup Day
- MAR 21: Mom's Night
- MAR 29: Twin Day
- MAR 31: Field Trip
- APR 18: Mom's Night
- APR 26: Backwards Day
- APR 28: Field Trip
- MAY 5: Track & Field Day
- MAY 12: End of Year Celebration (Whole Family)
- Summer Camping Trip
 TRD

The Community Day

The day will start promptly at 9 am. Please arrive a little before 9 and have your child pick out a bag of tea and head straight to class. Students will remain in their classes the whole morning unless they are excused for a bathroom break.

Morning (CORE) Classes for students in Forms 1-3 (pre-K through 6th grade) will include:

Bible/Apologetics, Projects, Jr. Speech (the first half of the year), Money Skills (the second half of the year), Memory Work, Poetry & Tea, and Show & Tell.

Morning (CORE) Classes for students in Forms 4-5 (7th through 12th grade) will include:

Bible/Apologetics, Survival Presentations, History, Literature, Tea, Speech (first half of the year), Personal Finance (second half of the year).

During the CORE Classes, students will be able to hear classical music from the composer of the term, hear poetry from the poet of the term and see an art piece by the artist of the term.

CORE Classes will meet from 9 am to 12 pm. At 12 pm, the whole community will participate in Worship and Hymns together in the Fellowship Hall. This is a required time of community worship.

At 12:30, we will have lunch together in the Fellowship Hall or outdoors at the picnic tables, until 1 pm.

At 1 pm, parents and students will walk outdoors and observe nature together. Feel free to bring a sketchbook, colored pencils, or painting supplies for this time. We encourage you to document your observations with your children. This will be a time with little guidance/structure, but it is still very important for children. This is a 15 minute nature walk.

Plan to stay for worship, lunch and nature walk. Sometimes the baby will be cranky and it will be difficult to stay. We understand! Worship and Bible time is the most important part of our day, please consider it a required part of the community day. If you need to leave after worship for an unexpected reason, you are free to do so. Please note that lunchtime and the nature walk will be community and friendship building times and we truly hope that every student and parent can participate.

At 1:15, afternoon classes begin. The options for afternoon classes include:

- Language Arts (Form 3)
- Science (Forms 4 and 5)
- Math Tutoring (Forms 4 and 5)
- Board Games/Study Hall (Forms 3-5 and younger students who have older siblings enrolled in afternoon classes)

The community day will end at 3:15 pm. At this time, we will clean up the spaces we used and then vacate the building and property.

What to Bring to Community Day

Forms 1-3 will need to bring a Show & Tell item, a snack, a lunch, a water bottle, and a tea cup. (Hopefully we will be able to store the teacups at the building).

High school students will need to bring their curriculum, pencils, paper, and any projects or assignments they have to turn in as well as a lunch, snack, and water bottle.

Please do not bring any peanut or peanut butter items with you on community days.

Worship Team

We need talented parents, tutors, and students to lead us in worship and hymns each week. If you are interested in participating, please let Brenda know.

Tuition

The family Application Fee is \$195 (per family)

This is due at the Family Interview or by June 10.

If paid after June 10, a \$40 late fee will be added to the Application Fee.

The Application Fee is non-refundable.

Tuition is \$755 per student for the morning program (CORE Classes)

Tuition for each afternoon class is \$315 per student

Tuition for Board Game/Study Hall time is \$45

Tuition for Board Game/Study Hall time for younger siblings who are on site and waiting for an older sibling to finish class is \$15 (note that this is not unsupervised time, mom will need to stay with these students)

The Building Fee is \$70 per family

Tuition and Building Fees are due by August 1 for the year.

Tuition and Building Fees are non-refundable.

Payments should be made by check to STAR Homeschool. They can be given to Brenda in person or mailed to her address (ask her for this).

Supplies

A supply list will be posted in July and each family will sign up to bring in a few supplies per student, to be added to the community supplies (for example: paints, paint brushes, modeling clay, dry erase markers, paper). Each student will also bring in a box of their favorite flavor of tea bags for our Literature, Poetry & Tea time (these boxes will be set out and shared with the community).

Facility

We have been blessed with the opportunity to meet at a large and beautiful church this year:

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church

5810 Fort Avenue, Lynchburg

We will pay a building fee of \$70 family plus a Love Offering at the end of the school year. This is an amazing price!

Please make sure to respect the building and show how much we appreciate their kindness and generosity to us. Hosting a group like this in a home would be extremely difficult--we need a building. Praise God He has provided one. Now let's honor this gift together.

Staying in Our Section of the Building

We will have access to classrooms in a wing of the building downstairs as well as a Fellowship Hall up above the classrooms, at the end of the wing. We can use the kitchen to heat up lunches or on potluck days (assuming we clean up our own messes, of course). There will be a quiet, prayerful service meeting in the Sanctuary during part of our community day. It is at the opposite end of the building, and our students, tutors, and parents will need to stay in our section of the building and be respectful of their service.

Parking

The church has requested that we do not park in the lot closest to the front door. There may be people using other

parts of the building who will need these closer spots. Here is a picture to give you a better idea:



Park where you see the green checkmarks, but not where you see the red x's. Enter the door where the yellow arrow is pointing. The facility will be locked when we arrive on Wednesday mornings, but Brenda will have a code to let us in. A mom will need to be posted at the door in order to let families in.

Respect Other People's Property

The church we are meeting at also hosts a Classical Conversations group on Tuesdays. That group has tubs of items in a classroom, as well as items hanging on the walls in classrooms. We need to respect those items when we are in the building, just as we would want them to respect ours.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Luke 6:31

This section may be updated if the church has policies about our use of the building. Families will be notified if this section is updated.

Transportation and Pick-Up

If a student is able to drive him or herself to STAR Homeschool Community, parents will need to clarify this on the Transportation and Pick Up Form.

Also, we expect that students will be picked up and dropped off by their parents. If someone else will be driving your child, their name and information will need to be on the Transportation and Pick Up Form. This is for your child's safety.

If you plan to pick up your student (Forms 4 and 5) and give permission for your student to be picked up without you coming into the building, please indicate this on the Transportation and Pick Up Form. Students will need to confirm with the director that they see you or have a text that you are in the parking lot (not on the way) in order to be allowed to go into the parking lot.

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Please drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot. Remember that there are little children in this community, and we want to make sure that everyone is kept safe.

Parents On Site

All students in Forms 1-3 are required to have a parent on site and in the classroom with their child (or one of their children, rotating as needed to help in the class that needs the most help from parents).

If a parent is unavailable, make sure to contact the director and let them know who you will be sending with your student (A grandparent or close friend, for example. Just make sure to communicate this to the director).

Parents of students in Forms 4 and 5 are not required to stay on site but are welcome to.

Siblings On Site

Unenrolled siblings who will be present on community days will need to stay with a parent. The only exception to this would be if parents of young children decide to pool together and pay for a sitter in an extra room at the church. If parents need to wait for an older student to finish afternoon classes and will have younger students with them, there are a couple of options:

- Enroll the students in a Board Games/Study Hall session (\$15 for the year per younger student).
- Supervise your children on the playground, making sure to respect the property.

Attendance Policy

If your family is going to be absent for sickness or any other reason, please let the director and the Tutor(s) know as soon as possible. We only meet 28 weeks through the school year, with ample breaks. Please try to make it to as many of these weeks as possible.

That said, we recognize that homeschoolers have more freedom to travel than families who have children enrolled in traditional schools, and we support your family in these endeavors. If possible, try to book vacations during our breaks. If this isn't possible, just make sure to communicate clearly with both the director and Tutor(s). Also note, refunds will not be given for missed days.

Academic Expectations

Families with children in Forms 1-3 are expected to: read the Bible, memorize Scripture, study the history period (using whichever materials they choose) and read from the assigned chapter book. We also expect that families will follow the law regarding homeschooling (this is also mentioned in the Family Expectations below). Other than that, you are free to homeschool your children in the way that you have determined is best for them and for your family.

Students in Forms 4-5 will have assignments with due dates and will be expected to turn these in on time. Grades will be given by the tutor, late assignments will be marked down 25%. Tutors for Forms 4-5 will communicate with the student and his or her parents about late assignments.

STAR Homeschool Community has a policy against all cheating and plagiarism. Students in the Form 3 Language Arts class and Form 4 and 5 classes will be provided more details about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

As a homeschool family, it is your responsibility to follow the laws in the state of Virginia. This means that you will need to file a <u>Notice of Intent</u> with the division superintendent by August 15 and provide <u>evidence of your child's progress</u> with the division superintendent at the end of the school year.

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Homeschool well in order to serve as a good representative of this community and of homeschoolers in general. This can look different for every family, and this community does not have any standard of "how to homeschool" for you.

Moms, We Need Your Help

This is a community where we work together and help where there is a need. We will need moms to help with:

- Opening the door as families come in.
- Filling tea pots and bringing tea supplies to classrooms.
- Washing tea cups at the end of the Literature, Tea & Poetry time.
- Managing children during projects as the tutor gives instruction.
- Maintaining order in the classrooms (especially of your own children).
- Cleaning up the space at the end of the day. We will need to return the rooms to the way we found them.
- Organizing activities and making them happen. (If you're gifted in this area, please contact Brenda!)
- Playing an instrument, or singing, or both for our worship and hymn time.
- Setting up potlucks and helping clean up afterwards.

"Many hands make light work." We don't want one or two people staying late *every single week* and cleaning up without help. Join in, chat together as you work, and make the clean-up time a fun time! (Note that the director, Brenda, has a heart condition and must not lift more than 20-25 lbs. We will need the whole community to come together to lift things and get them set out and put away at the beginning and end of the school day.)

Most of all, please do not forget to pray for this community!

Also, moms of older kids may have more free hands to step in and help with community needs and to help get a mom with young children to her car safely. (When our kids were little, we participated in a homeschool co-op where the teens did the clean up and volunteered to carry supplies to tutors' cars, etc. It was amazing! Can we do our best to train our kids up to *be* that kind of community? Note: they will learn by both our example and by our instruction).

Potlucks

We will have quarterly potlucks during lunch time. A Sign-Up will be sent out, and every family is expected to sign up to bring something to share with the community. Please make sure to cook meat thoroughly and use safety precautions when you cook (we would hate for a whole community to get food poisoning!). When you bring in your food items, keep hot items hot and cold items cold (put them in the fridge or freezer, depending on the item). Please bring a serving utensil for your food and clearly mark your containers and utensils with your family's name. Please remember to keep foods peanut-free. If your food items contain other common allergens (or other allergens of children or adults in our community), please make a little label to place in front of your food). We will need extra hands to help on these days, but it will be well worth it! Please plan to hang out with us and clean up after a potluck.

Dress Code

Make sure that all students and adults wear modest clothing that covers all private parts as well as the belly, back and undergarments on community days and at community activities outside of class. Do not wear clothing with coarse speech or scary or inappropriate images. Do not wear tank tops, tops with straps, see through clothing and short shorts, skirts or tops. Keep shoes on during community days.

Activities

Participate in community activities as often as you can. Families are busy, it's true! We are trying to create a close community here, and activities will help build that community. Try to get these on your calendar early in the school year, after the official calendar comes out, and then do your best to make this community a priority in your family's schedule. (Again, there is grace in this! Just do your best.)

When we are out together in the public, we are both representatives of Jesus Christ and also of STAR Homeschool Community. Let's be respectful of the places we visit, follow their rules, and teach our kids to do the same.

Electronics

Students need to keep electronic devices and screens put away. While students may have a phone for emergencies, there is no reason to use it during the community day. Each family has different standards about screens and content, and the way we have chosen to handle this on STAR Homeschool Community Days is to **keep all screens and electronics out of sight**. Students in Forms 4 & 5 may request an exception from their tutor if they need a device to show a slideshow presentation or to do their schoolwork properly. Social media, videos, memes, etc. will not be accessed on community days nor shown between students. Also, students' phones and other devices will need to be silenced during the community day so that notifications do not disrupt class time.

Rules Regarding Behaviors

Our community requires cooperation of parents and students to run smoothly. As a Christian community, it is especially important that the behaviors of all members honor God our Father.

"Even a child is known by his actions; by whether his conduct is pure and right."

-Proverbs 20:11

Please train your children. While we believe in gentle and even "Wild + Free" homeschooling, we still believe it is necessary and beneficial to train children properly. Everybody has children who will slip up sometimes, and likely right when we don't want them to. There is grace in this! (We're all mamas, we get it!!). What we don't want is a totally wild community of unruly children. A church may never invite us back if we show up this way.

Students and adults in this community should treat each other respectfully. Students need to make sure to respect their tutor and obey the rules of the classroom.

All students will need to respect the community's property. We will have art supplies, books and other items that belong to the community. All of these add up. Please respect these items.

There are some obvious expectations: no smoking on campus or at community activities, no drug use, no alcohol use, no sexual activity, no cheating or plagiarism, no vandalism, no illegal activity, no assault, no pursuit? of a relationship with someone of the same sex, no coarse language. These situations are particularly serious and may result in dismissal from the program without a refund.

If a student is disrupting his or her class, dishonoring the tutor, or disrespecting another student, he or she will be asked to stop by the tutor. If the student continues with disruptive, dishonoring or disrespectful behavior, they will need to leave their class and stay with their parent who is on site. If the student shows a repentant attitude and the tutor approves, he or she may be able to return to class.

Situations may arise where a student needs to stay out of his or her classroom for the remainder of the day. While this would be discouraging and probably embarrassing as a parent, it is really okay. We're all coming together as humans who have made mistakes in our lives, and we are all raising children who also make mistakes. Yours might choose to make their mistake in front of a whole community, but it's okay. Every moment at this homeschool community is a true teaching opportunity, for everyone! The hope is that we would have a community that shows grace to one another and supports each other through tough stuff. A kid disrupting class and having to sit by mom is tough stuff. We're with you. We will uphold the rules together and be a better community for it.

Family Guide and Form 4 & 5 Guides

Each family will receive a Family Guide (after Tuition is paid) with the assigned chapter book reading, history topics, Bible reading, and other suggested work. The digital version of the Family Guide will be completed by May 31, 2022 and the paper version will be available by August 1, 2022. Families who pay in advance will be able to see the digital version ahead of the August 1 date.

Each student enrolled in Forms 4 and 5 will also receive a Guide. Digital versions of these guides will be completed by June 30, 2022 and the paper version will be available by August 1, 2022. Families who pay in advance will be able to see the digital version ahead of the August 1 date.

Note: Parents will all receive a book list for the year as soon as the guides are completed, regardless of tuition being paid (but assuming the Application Fee has been paid).

Bad Weather

In the event of bad weather, the director will make the call about meeting for the day based on local school closures and communicate via email and the community forum/chat. Please use discretion and make sure conditions are safe in your area.

We have one snow makeup day scheduled on March 8. If we do not need to make up a snow day, families will have two weeks of Spring Break.

If bad weather occurs during the school day, the director will make a decision about whether to continue the school day.

Sick Policy

Masks will never be required in this community. We think it is so important for children and adults to see each other's faces and smiles. We're all about building a strong community, so let's be brave and go maskless.

If your child has a fever, green snotty nose, a major rash, is vomiting, has diarrhea, or has had any of these symptoms within the past 24 hours, please stay home. Testing for a particular virus will not be required in this community. Quarantining for a period of time will not be required in this community.

Conflicts

Occasionally, a parent or student may have a disagreement with or a concern about a tutor. Please use Matthew 18:15-16 as a reference in how to handle these situations:

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen

to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

-Matthew 15-16

First, speak to the person with whom you have the disagreement or concern about. Please do not wait and allow issues to fester. If matters cannot be resolved with the tutor, the next step is to contact the director. We pray that all matters of disagreement or concern can be resolved using these two steps.

If matters arise that are larger than basic conversation with the parties involved or the director, the next step is to contact the board. The board's contact information will be updated in this handbook before the beginning of the school year. We ask that families of STAR Homeschool community agree to settle matters Biblically and not by using formal legal processes. We are happy to speak and to work with families and pray that all issues can be resolved peaceably.

Emergency Procedures

FIRE

Fire drills will be practiced twice per school year. Remember the following procedures:

- If clothing is on fire, STOP, DROP, and ROLL.
- If smoke is in the room, crawl to the nearest exit.
- 1. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the building due to a fire, students will follow their tutor out of the classroom, according to the route posted on the door, making sure that every child is accounted for. Students and tutors must leave belongings in the building so that the building can be evacuated speedily.
- 2. The community will meet at the playground and attendance will be taken by each tutor and the director.

MEDICAL

In the event of an emergency situation, this will be the order of procedures to take:

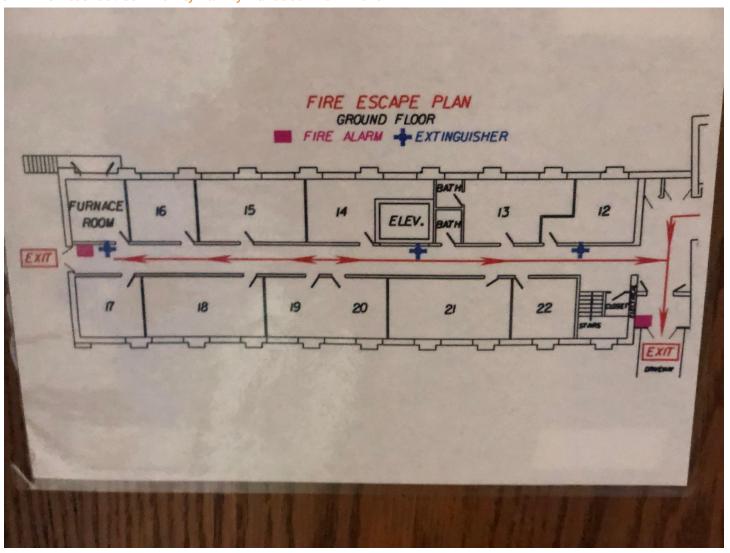
- 1. Secure the person.
- 2. Call 911. (The church's address is: 5810 Fort Ave, Lynchburg)
- 3. Find the director and alert her.
- 4. Notify a parent. (Phone numbers are in the director's blue binder).
- 5. Find the student's Release document in the blue binder and have it ready when emergency personnel arrive.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

If there is an emergency that requires law enforcement (illegal activity, drug possession or weapons, for example):

- 1. Call Lynchburg Police's non-emergency number (434) 455-6050.
- 2. Find the director and alert her.
- 3. Call a parent (Phone numbers are in the director's blue binder).

STAR Homeschool Community Family Handbook 2022-2023



ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE

HOW TO RESPOND when an active shooter is in your vicinity.

1. RUN

- Follow the fire escape route and run out towards the playground.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible.

2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors.
- Silence your cell phone.

3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- o Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter.

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

HOW TO RESPOND when law enforcement arrives.

- Stay calm and follow instructions.
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e. bags, jackets).
- Raise hands and spread fingers.
- Keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety.
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating.

INFORMATION you should provide to law enforcement or 911 operator.

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of shooters
- Number and type of weapons held by shooters.
- Number and potential victims at the location.

SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.