



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I want to homeschool, but where do I begin?

A: 1-Define why you want to homeschool. Write a few key points/reasons you want to homeschool. You will want to refer back to these points on days that your homeschool journey is extra challenging. Having a detailed “why” will also help guide some of your homeschool choices like using tutorial or which tutorial to use.

2-Choose an umbrella school. The umbrella school will be your liaison to the state. You will report attendance and grades to the umbrella school and they will report to the state that you are legally compliant with homeschool state regulations. Your umbrella school may or may not require standardized testing. You can choose standardized testing for your student even if it is not required by your umbrella school. Umbrella school is not a curriculum or program provider, they are your partner in reporting state regulated attendance and program standards.

3-Choose a tutorial program or co-op program (or don't!).

4-If you choose a tutorial program, determine how you will utilize it: will tutorial classes be the core of your students curriculum or will tutorials be used as an added value for elective courses and an opportunity for social interaction.

5-If you choose not to enroll in a tutorial or co-op program, consider joining other homeschool groups for events, sports, tutoring, etc.

6-Choose curriculum. If you are using a tutorial program most likely they will determine curriculum for courses taken through the tutorial. If you are adding subjects at home you can choose your own curriculum.

7-Don't Google "How to Homeschool"! It's tempting, but unless you want to overwhelm yourself, try not to Google or ask Alexa how to homeschool...if and when you have questions, please reach out to an umbrella school or our Tutorial Team and we will call or meet up with you! Email us at homeschool@fcswarriors.org.

Q: What is a homeschool tutorial?

A: The FCS Homeschool Tutorial offers classes to homeschool students as a way to supplement or complement what is being taught at home. These classes are a great way for students to come learn in a structured setting, but also allows them to meet fellow homeschool students or come and learn from an instructor who is passionate about the subject they are teaching. You may choose for your student to come for just one class or a day full of classes - whatever meets your family's needs.

Q: What is an umbrella/cover school and do I need one?

A: According to state law, homeschool families may choose to homeschool their children in one of two ways: independent homeschool (through your local school district) or enrollment in an approved church-related non-public school (aka umbrella or cover school). An umbrella school will take care of record keeping and reporting grades and attendance to the state of Tennessee. Please refer to this website for more information: [Homeschooling in Tennessee](#)

Q: How much are class fees and when are they due?

A: Class fees vary by class. You can refer to the schedule, summary of classes or class descriptions all on our website that will list class fees. Fees are per student for the entire year. Tuition is due on April 1, June 1, August 1 and October 1. Late fees will apply after October 31.

Q: Does FCS Homeschool host tours so my family can see what a tutorial is like?

A: Absolutely! Contact us at homeschool@fcswarriors.org to schedule a tour.

Q: Do you issue grades at the tutorial?

A: FCS Homeschool uses an online gradebooking system to administer grades so that families can actively see how their student is progressing in each class for grades 5 and up. (Please note that FCS Homeschool does not report grades to umbrella schools or to the State...that is the responsibility of individual families.)

Q: How can I keep my students engaged in social activities/sports? Does my family have to be a part of the tutorial to participate in homeschool activities?

*A: There are numerous homeschool groups and organizations that host organized events, sports, community service, field trips and more. Our FCS Homeschool Network hosts field trips and park day meet ups throughout the year and we offer athletics for our students. Unless specifically noted, our homeschool activities/events/field trips are open to the homeschool community. *Please note that our Athletics Department, which offers competitive school sports, does have specific eligibility requirements.*

Q: Do I need a dedicated school space in my home?

A: Maybe, but you can certainly have a successful homeschool at your kitchen table. Do not feel like you have to replicate school at home. Learning at home should compliment your students' learning style. For some that means a desk with dedicated space for learning, for others that can mean reading in a favorite chair and math on the trampoline! You (parents) are the captain of your homeschool ship!

Q: How do I teach multiple children in different age levels?

A: Educating multiple students at different grade levels will look different for every family. Some families choose to learn all together in all subjects, teaching to the higher grade level and letting younger learners glean what they will from the lessons (this can be very effective if your students are close in age/learning level). Other families choose particular subjects to learn together while branching off into age groups for other subjects (possibly literature studies together with quality reading and math done individually according to grade level). While other families may choose an individualized approach for all learners (each student will have their own resources and curriculum with parents dividing their teaching time to each student as needed).

Q: How do I choose a curriculum?

A: This can be one of the most overwhelming parts of beginning homeschool. There are LOTS of choices when it comes to curriculum. Remember, you are the captain of this ship! You can choose all-in-one style curriculum or you can decide on an à la carte style. There are pros and cons to each style. Considerations when making these choices should be both your students' learning style as well as your teaching style. If you're just starting to homeschool, you may not know your teaching style. Simple is always a good place to start. If you are utilizing a tutorial or co-op that will help guide your curriculum choices. If you are not utilizing a tutorial your umbrella school can offer resources to help guide curriculum choices.