

Dear Church Family,

In a prayerful response to the current pandemic and considering the challenges facing families as they transition to full-time online learning at home - while still balancing work, health, financial, and other family commitments - we are excited to launch a new ministry to serve our church families!

The goal of City Kids Homeschool Co-op is to provide a safe environment where children can complete their online schoolwork under the supervision of adult classroom facilitators and volunteer aids. We also plan to offer extracurricular activities and opportunities for social engagement. Our hope is to bring together a caring community of families who are committed to traveling this road together.

Can I help (even if I am not a parent)?

- YES! You can *pray* for us as we launch this new ministry,
- You can *volunteer* as a classroom aid, substitute classroom facilitator, or use your unique gifting to offer an extracurricular activity.
- And you can *give*! We are hiring 3 Facilitators to manage our classrooms. Our estimated ministry cost for 4 months is \$10,000. Any gift that you can give towards defraying this expense would be greatly appreciated!

Tell me More?

The co-op will run four days a week, *Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 to 12:30pm.*

Children will be placed in pods of 8 under the supervision of 1 Facilitator and 1 Aide. Pods will be arranged by grade level: K through 1st grade, 2nd through 3rd grade, and 4th through 6th grade.

There will be two academic options: The church will provide a Christian based homeschool curriculum for those who wish to make use of it; or children can participate in the online public-school curriculum provided by the Greater Albany Public Schools system. Both of these options will be under the primary oversight of parents who will need to provide a copy of the child's class schedule at registration. Co-op Facilitators and Aides will simply act as tutors and mentors, encouraging children, helping them to solve problems and stay on task.

Other activities will include a daily devotional time in the Sanctuary from 7:30 to 8am as well as extracurriculars such as art, choir, P.E, special interest classes, and service projects

Due to limited resources, registration will only be open to active church families. The reality is, that we are currently not equipped to handle an unlimited number of kids with highly varying expectations from parents in the community. Although space is limited, we will make every effort to accommodate all the church families who wish to participate.

Initially, we plan to offer this program from September to December. Over Christmas break the program will be re-evaluated based on decisions made by the Albany School District and needs of our families.

What will be the level of parent involvement and is there a cost involved?

Co-op classes will be led by paid Classroom Facilitators assisted by volunteers who serve as Classroom Aides.

There will be no cost for attending the program. However, parents are expected to provide school supplies, computers, and any other books or materials that a child might need to participate in a class or activity.

Parents are expected to contribute to the co-op by volunteering for a minimum of 5 consecutive hours a month. These volunteer hours can also be filled by an approved relative or friend. All volunteers must fill out a volunteer application form (included in the registration packet) and undergo a background check.

How do I register?

I have included a registration packet which must be filled out and returned to the church *no later than August 31st*. You can also register online at <http://sacchurch.org/resources/city-kids-homeschool-co-op>.

Who will lead our City Kids Homeschool Co-op?

I (Dyan) will serve as the Director and Cyndi Hatfield will serve as the Volunteer Co-Ordinator. Included in this registration packet is a Classroom Facilitator job description and application. We are hoping to add a K-1st Grade Facilitator, a 2nd-3rd Grade Facilitator, and a 4th-6th Grade Facilitator to our leadership team. Ultimate oversight of the Co-op falls under Pastor Josh and the South Albany Community Church Leadership Team.

What about classroom discipline?

Co-ops typically have different expectations both for parents and children than what you might find at schools. Children will be expected to participate independently with adult supervision. In cases where discipline becomes necessary and students need re-directing or special management, parents will be invited to attend the class or activity *with* their child until they have learned to self-regulate. Include in the registration packet is our discipline policies and procedures form. Please read through it with your children before you sign it so that they are aware of our expectations.

How will we communicate with parents?

We will be hosting an Open House in the Fellowship Hall on September 7th at 5:30pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to familiarize themselves with the program and procedures and meet the teachers. We will communicate with parents through email and via a private group Facebook page. We will also organize regular parent/teacher meetings to ensure that every parent feels engaged in their child's learning process.

COMMON FAQ'S

What Is a Homeschool Co-op?

A homeschool co-op is a group of families who come together and work cooperatively to achieve common goals. Activities and classes that are part of a co-op may be led by parents, or the parents may chip in to pay all or some of the teachers and activity leaders.

Co-ops may be enrichment-oriented and have a focus on the arts, social time, or unique angles on traditional subjects. Children in these co-ops typically come together once a month or once a week and do most of their “formal” learning outside of their co-op. University model co-ops meet one, two, three, or even four days a week, with a full slate of schoolwork that covers typical academic credits. These co-ops and their assignments to be completed at home usually make up the bulk of a child’s education, and they work much the same way that accredited private schools work.

I just took my child out of school. Will a homeschool co-op meet *all* our needs?

The short answer is “NO”!

Co-ops typically are *not* the “big box of school,” meaning they do not provide sports, lunches, transportation, or other “all-in-one” type programs. Most co-ops do *not* have any expectation that they are providing *all* a child will be learning — *that responsibility remains with the parent*. They are much more like an ala carte aspect of putting together your own homeschool program.

How is a homeschool co-op different from school?

Parents participating in a co-op are generally expected to have more “skin in the game,” contributing in a significant way with their time, talents, and finances.

No matter how formal the documentation and no matter how much learning has taken place, most public schools in Oregon do not accept “credit” from typical homeschool co-ops. This means that if credit is important to your child for possible re-entrance into a public school in a future year (especially during high school), a homeschool co-op with independent Christian homeschool curriculum won’t meet your child’s needs by itself.

CITY KIDS HOMESCHOOL CO-OP STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

One of the primary goals of the City Kids Homeschool Co-op (CKHC) is to provide a positive classroom environment that promotes learning and fosters a safe and caring experience for students, volunteers, and staff. Effective learning cannot take place in an environment where student behavior interferes with the ability of the teacher to help other students, or the ability of other students to participate in classroom learning activities. To foster an orderly and distraction-free environment, CKHC has established this Student Code of Conduct.

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

The following discipline management techniques may be used – alone or in combination – for misbehavior violating the Code of Conduct and/or classroom rules.

- Cooling-off time or “time out.”
- Parent-teacher conference
- Parent participation in class with child
- Removal from the classroom

Prohibited Offenses

The Code of Conduct does not define all types and aspects of student behavior. Thus, CKHC may impose campus and classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code. The following behaviors are prohibited:

- Disrespect of, or disobeying, staff, parent volunteers, and/or persons in authority.
- Fighting or engaging in harassing and bullying conduct.
- Leaving a classroom or the church property without permission.
- Any illegal or immoral offense.
- Violating Covid 19 classroom regulations

I, (Student’s name) _____, acknowledge that I received a copy of this City Kids Homeschool Co-op Code of Conduct on ___/___/___ and understand that I am responsible for thoroughly reading this document and being familiar with its terms. I agree to conduct myself in a Christ-like manner. I understand that I am responsible for following the code of conduct and any offensive behavior I exhibit may have consequences up to and including permanent expulsion from City Kids Homeschool Co-op. Signed:

_____ Date: ___/___/___

As witnessed by: Mother’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Father’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

City Kids Homeschool Co-op Permission Slip

Student(s) name(s) _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Other people who have permission to pick up my child(ren) _____
(a photo ID will be required)

STUDENT AGREEMENT: I agree to follow the laws laid out by the State of Oregon by wearing a mask indoors at all times and maintaining 6ft distance. Student(s) signature: _____

PARENT PERMISSION: I understand that South Albany Community Church and the City Kids Homeschool Co-op cannot guarantee my child's health and safety. In the event of an emergency where medical treatment is required, and I cannot be reached, I give permission to the church staff or sponsor to obtain necessary medical treatment. I also agree to not hold South Albany Community Church or its representatives liable for any damages.

Parents signature: _____ Date: _____

Person to notify if I cannot be reached: Name: _____

Phone: _____

Medical insurance information: _____
(Note SACC liability insurance acts as a secondary insurance)

Important medical information/allergies/
medication: _____
