



ORCHARDS Homeschool Cooperative

Organization Reaching Christian Homeschoolers Advancing, Rearing, and Developing Students

PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to ORCHARDS! We are a cooperative group of homeschooling families working together to provide educational and socialization opportunities for our children. We are glad to have you as a part of our group. We are an inclusive Christian organization and outline our Statement of Faith below.

ORCHARDS believes

- ✚ The Bible is the only Word of God, fully inspired and without error, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; the Bible has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct
- ✚ The Genesis account of creation
- ✚ There is one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- ✚ The Son, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is fully God and fully man, yet His life was sinless. His death provides the substitutionary atonement for our sins, without which we are doomed to a literal hell. He physically arose from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and will return for the church (those individuals who have accepted the gift of salvation according to John 3:16 to take Christians to Heaven)
- ✚ In the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who guides, equips, and enables the believer to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus
- ✚ In Spiritual Unity of all believers: the Church, the Body of Christ, including unity within ORCHARDS
- ✚ Marriage was ordained by God to be the union between one man and one woman
- ✚ God's desire for every believer is to obtain a personal, daily, dependent relationship with Jesus and to instruct our child(ren) toward the same relationship

The above Statement of Faith is the basis on which all ORCHARDS activities are provided and Leaders are chosen. While ORCHARDS does not require participating members to sign a Statement of Faith in agreement, we do ask and expect that no Parent or Child will participate in any teaching against our Statement at any ORCHARDS event.

Vision Statement: It is the vision of ORCHARDS is to equip and support families in their calling to homeschool.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents will:

- Be present at all events or arrange for a caregiver to be present
- Be prompt for events/activities
- Volunteer for at least 4 events a year
- Attempt to keep your children with you as much as is reasonable at all times on field trips
- Not use social media to inform others of the location of children at current or future events
- Privately discipline child(ren) if they need discipline
- Refrain from using alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at ORCHARDS events

Teachers and teaching assistants will:

- Ensure they can be present for all co-op dates before committing to teaching
- Have a plan of instruction for class
- Alert a member of Leadership if a class must be missed due to illness or injury (If your child is sick, let us know. It is easier to find care for your child than to replace a teacher)
- If in the event a class must be missed, have a replacement lined up and ensure the substitute has a copy of the plan of instruction
- Be at least 15 minutes early before you are due to teach
- Refrain from using a phone/tablet for personal use during class
- Refrain from using alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at ORCHARDS events
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Students will:

- Not use phone/tablets during class or at during any structured activity
- Refrain from using social media to post the location of an activity
- Refrain from using social media to bully, harass, or intimidate other students
- Be honest personally (no lying, cheating, stealing) and academically (no plagiarizing)
- Be respectful of all other students and adults i.e. no foul language or crude remarks/coarse jokes, vandalism, horseplay, fighting
- Dress modestly at all events (both male and female students)
- Remove hoods/hats/sunglasses inside of buildings
- Refrain from personal displays of affection during events with a boyfriend/girlfriend
- Not bring weapons to events
- Refrain from using alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at ORCHARDS events

Leadership will:

- Adhere and agree to the Statement of Faith
- Plan and execute cooperative classes twice a year
- Plan various field trips throughout the year
- Plan Mom's Night Out monthly
- Set policies and procedures for the group
- Prepare and distribute a monthly newsletter
- Monitor and maintain various social media accounts that members can use to communicate (Facebook, website, email)
- Set up educational opportunities for the group (science fair, etc)
- Consider all member suggestions seriously
- Be fair in settling any and all disputes
- Be available for member concerns

Since conflict will occur, any dispute arising from or related to membership and participation in ORCHARDS should be biblically based on Matthew 18. If either party is unsatisfied with the results of the attempted one-on-one resolution, the party can consult with a member of Leadership for mediation. Judgments made by Leadership will be considered final.

Membership may be revoked in the event any leader, member, or family or ORCHARDS persists in violating the above named policies. Upon first violation, a verbal warning and reminder of policy will be given. If there is a second instance of violation verbal warning and a follow-up discussion with a parent will occur. If a third violation occurs within the same semester, a family meeting with Leadership members will be necessary, to develop a disciplinary course of action. If none of these efforts correct the behavior, suspension of all activities for the remainder of the semester will take place.

ORCHARDS illness policy

Please refrain from attending any class/activity/event if you are experiencing:

- Fever within the last 24 hours
- Colored mucus
- Diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Eye drainage
- Spreading rash
- Lice