

Prairie Christian Home Schoolers Handbook and Policies

First Nazarene Church, Minot, ND

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Purpose Statement

We are a support group of families who encourage each other in our home schooling endeavors. The Prairie Christian Home Schoolers group seeks to be an enhancement to the home education of students by offering classroom instruction in a variety of core and supplemental classes, all of which reflect a Christian worldview and offer the opportunity to learn and fellowship in a positive and dynamic environment.

We meet throughout the school year for two ten-week sessions on Thursdays at First Church of the Nazarene in Minot, ND. Additionally we often sprinkle in field trips, band and drama performances, and other social activities. We also have social events just for the homeschooling moms to get together as well.

We are not a ministry of the First Church of the Nazarene. We do not endorse any specific denomination. We do practice Biblical Christian principles and conduct during meetings, class time, and activities offered by PCHS. Christian teachings are also incorporated into the fabric of most of the classes offered by PCHS. Families of all denominations are welcome, as long as they are willing to operate within these stated parameters. We offer classes for grade school through high school age along with a nursery **ONLY** for the nursery age children of those who are leading classes or volunteering during that session.

We currently only offer Preschool – Kindergarten classes for those families who have 2nd grade-high school aged children **and** preschool-age children. We offer a preschool merely for those families who have “littles” in addition to their older, grade school-high school age children. We are not set up to accommodate any more children in our preschool classes apart from the families who have older children involved in our group.

If you would like more information, you can contact group coordinator Kate Turnbow at 901-496-9823 or 701-453-3609 or on Facebook. We have a Facebook group where information is regularly posted.

Parent Responsibilities

You as a home schooling parent are the lifeblood of PCHS. It is because of your time, energy, talents, and commitment to this group that we are able to support and encourage each other in our home schooling endeavors. Parents offer planning, ideas, and instruction in a classroom setting. **In order for children to be registered for classes in either the fall or spring session,**

the parent(s) is responsible for paying the per family per session fee and is responsible for fulfilling the volunteer commitments.

A parent or guardian of a child (or children) enrolled in classes must participate and fulfill their volunteer credits by either:

1. Planning and leading or co-planning and co-leading a class during either the fall or spring session of Thursday classes.

or

2. Participating in one of our 4 volunteer positions:

a. Nursery duty for the 10:00-12:00 class hours. (Two people are needed in the nursery every Thursday)

Nursery duty includes:

Care for the children of the nursery age children of class leaders and volunteers. Pick up toys at the end of the day. Clean up volunteers will vacuum, take out trash, and do any other heavier cleanup.

b. Recess monitor duty during 12:30-1:00 recess time.

Recess monitor duty includes:

Accompanying children outside into the parking lot for recess. In case of inclement weather they can be accompanied into the four square room by the staircase and monitored. (Two volunteers are needed each Thursday)

c. Hall monitor/Clean up for entire Thursday class time.

Hall monitor duty includes:

Ensuring children are either in a classroom or nursery during class time from 10:00-12:00, that children are in the lunchroom/fellowship area from 12:00 to 12:30 and that children are not running or playing outside of designated areas in the church. Assist class leaders with anything they may need.

Clean up duty includes (from 12:30-1:00):

Ensuring that all trashes in all classrooms, bathrooms, the fellowship area, and the kitchen area are taken out to the back dumpster. Ensuring all usable areas including the upstairs nursery, fellowship hall, and all hallways are vacuumed and picked up. All tables and counters in the fellowship area and kitchen are wiped down and clean. All items in the usable areas are to be picked up and neat. All usable areas are to be left better than we found them.

d. Float position for Thursday class time.

The volunteer assigned to float position is available to fill in or trade as needed for their assigned Thursday. (One float is needed each Thursday. In the event that we have more than 7 volunteers in a session, additional Float positions will be added.)

Remember that if you should need a substitute for you volunteer hours, it is your responsibility to message the group volunteer message. Please inform the Coordinator of any planned absences prior to the session start date.

Additionally, it is important to remember that when your children are participating in a class, the class leader or leaders become responsible for making disciplinary decisions based on their discretion. You are placing the class leaders in that position of authority over your children when you choose to allow them to participate in group classes. Please be respectful and appreciative of the time, energy and dedication they put into their class time and into keeping it orderly and respectful.

Dress Code and Student Responsibilities

It is the student's responsibility to arrive promptly, complete assignments on time, and be ready to participate in classes or field trips. It is the student's responsibility to treat the class leaders, parents, fellow students, and the facility with complete respect.

1. Student attire should be clean, neat, and reflect modesty.
2. All hats must be removed when entering the facility and remain off while inside the facility. This includes "hoodies."
3. No t-shirts should be worn that conflict with Christian values. No "muscle" t-shirts are allowed.
4. No "gothic" dress, makeup, or jewelry should be worn on girls or boys.
5. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.
6. Shorts must be modest in length (approx. no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Tank-top straps must be at least one-inch wide with no bra straps showing.
7. No short tops or low riding pants on girls that show belly buttons, stomachs, or hip bones.
8. No yoga pants or tight athletic body forming pants. Leggings are appropriate with an appropriate length shirt or tunic.
9. No excessively low-cut or tight tops on girls. Rule of thumb is no lower than three fingers below your neck bone. Dress modestly.
10. No gum, pop, food, or candy is allowed outside the designated lunchroom area. (not applicable to class leaders and parents)
11. No student is to leave the PCHS site during the school day unless leaving with a parent or guardian.
12. If students drive themselves to any activity or group time, they must not take other students with them in the car for lunch, errands, or any other reason.
13. No electronic devices allowed in the classroom (cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, CD players, video gaming device, etc.)
14. No weapons or illegal drugs of any kind.
15. No swearing, bathroom talk, or foul language.
16. Students must show respect and Judeo-Christian conduct in their speech and demeanor toward class leaders, parents, and fellow students. No bullying of students or adults will be tolerated.
17. Sexual/physical affection (ie. holding hands, kissing, tight hugging, "making out", etc.) is not allowed.
18. Remember to reflect Christian modesty and respect for others in your dress, language, and actions.
19. Anyone who visits PCHS should be able to see, by the students appearance and example, that we are Christians.

Discipline Policy

As class leaders and parents, it is important that we remain consistent and follow the discipline policy for all families and children involved in our group. Everybody is expected to act in an orderly and respectful manner, maintaining Christian standards of courtesy, kindness, language, morality, honesty, and striving toward unquestionable character in dress, conduct and attitude. Keeping with the code of conduct a child is expected to:

1. Respect God and Authority

Respect for God and authority includes viewing God as the Supreme Authority in the life of the Christian. We believe that God delegates that authority to various agencies who exercise that authority in our lives. "Children be obedient to your parent in all things, for this is pleasing to the Lord." Col. 3:20. Parents are viewed as the primary agency of authority in each child's life. In our class setting, class leaders and administrators act in the place of authority. Therefore, all students are to respond to the God-given authority with respect and obedience. Respect for authority includes, but is not limited to, addressing our teachers, parents and other adults in a mannerly way.

2. Respect Each Other

Respecting each other includes but is not limited to using proper given names of the students, keeping hands and feet to self, treating each other fairly and courteously, respecting the personal property of others, and using quiet voices in the halls. Bullying of other students will not be allowed or tolerated.

3. Respect Property

Respect for property includes but is not limited to walking and not running in the building at all times, cleaning up after yourself, keeping hands off the walls and ceilings, taking proper care of your personal property and any part of the facility.

If a child chooses to act in a way that is not consistent with these guidelines, we as class leaders and parents will implement the following steps:

Infraction #1: The child will be given a verbal warning by class leader or parent.

Infraction #2: The child will be dismissed from class and sent to the coordinator. Parents will be notified if not present.

Infraction #3: The child will be removed from class.

The second time a student is sent to the coordinator, a parent-student-teacher conference will be arranged, and a plan to remedy the situation will be set up. Continued infractions may result in dismissal depending on the severity of the situation. This includes but is not limited to: fighting, disruption, swearing, stealing, or disrespect for authority.

Dealing with Conflict

As is true in any family, conflict arises at times. We all make mistakes. However, we need to solve problems in a Christian manner and forgive and ask forgiveness. Some good things to remember are:

1. Fighting never solves a problem.
2. The 8th commandment forbids us to lie or gossip about others.

3. Name calling or making fun of others is not the way of a Christian.
4. If we have a problem with another person, we should follow Jesus' way as described in Matthew 18.
 - a. Talk to the person about it before talking to anyone else.
 - b. If the problem is solved, never talk about it again. Forget about it.
 - c. If you cannot solve the problem, try to get someone else to help you such as the group coordinator or the class leader. Discuss in person and discreetly if at all possible.
5. Sometimes a relational issue cannot be solved, and at that point it is important to agree to disagree respectfully, forgive when needed, and out of respect for each of us being a child of Gd, make peace regardless of the disagreement.

Building Use

Families may enter through the basement door when coming to First Nazarene Church for PCHS classes. Students' presence should be limited to the basement classrooms and upstairs nursery only. All other areas of the church including the church parking lot are off limits unless accompanied by an adult.

Weather

In case of inclement weather, the decision to cancel or reschedule classes or events will be posted in the group Facebook page. It is the parents' responsibility to check the page if in doubt about the weather.

Registration for Classes during Fall or Spring Session

Registration for classes for the Fall Session will occur in August of each year. Registration for the Spring Session will occur in January. **You will be required to register for the respective sessions during our Registration/Orientation day.**

At each session's scheduled mandatory orientation day, you will be required to fill out a family information form, a liability waiver, and a policy acceptance form if you haven't already done so, and you will pay your per family per session fee in addition to any separate class fees and any class fees.