

# **CHESSTHURSDAY ACADEMIC CO-OPS**

## **WHAT are CHES Academic Co-ops?**

CHES Academic Co-ops are a cooperative effort on the part of CHES families who desire to work with other homeschoolers in the body of Christ to supplement our children's education in the academic subjects. This year, we plan to cooperatively offer three periods of co-ops: writing, history, and science.

**WHO can participate?** These co-ops are intended for homeschooling families who have membership with CHES. Co-op classes are planned, coordinated, supervised, and led by teams of CHES homeschool parents. One adult from each participating family is expected to be an active participant on one team for each period in which the family participates. Co-op periods are designed so that every child—from nursery through high school—has a class to attend.

**WHEN do Academic Co-ops meet?** Academic Co-ops meet on Thursdays of each week. Writing Co-op meets approximately every other week from 11:00-12:30 for a total of 16 weeks. History Co-ops and Science Co-ops meet weekly for 30 weeks beginning in September and concluding at the end of April with a few breaks for holidays. History Co-ops will meet this next academic year during 2<sup>nd</sup> period after lunch (1:00-2:15). Science Co-ops will follow during 3<sup>rd</sup> period from 2:30-3:45.

**WHERE do Academic Co-ops meet?** Academic Co-ops currently meet at South Church on Snow Road, just south of 496.

**HOW do I register to participate?** CHES families will be able to register for Academic Co-ops beginning at Open House each year (usually early June) **until June 30 or when classes are full**. Registration for each period is done separately so that families can participate in as few or as many co-ops as desired. If you are unable to attend the Open House due to a scheduling conflict, registration forms will be available to download from the CHES website after Open House; look in the "Newsletters/Forms" section of the website.

**WHY Academic Co-ops?** Homeschooling families have joined efforts to learn together at times for a number of years and a variety of reasons. CHES Academic Co-op Day came about as a result of several small group co-ops coming together in one place on one day both for convenience and a desire to more effectively meet the needs of the growing number of families homeschooling through high school.

We desire the focus of our academic co-op meetings to be on those things we can best accomplish when we are together:

- When we pool our God-given gifts and abilities, we can bless one another by sharing our talents and expertise. One parent may be great at caring for little ones, another may have the energy and creativity for working with primary-aged children, another may be a gifted organizer and the perfect choice for gathering supplies and preparing for experiments, and yet another may be able to help explain those challenging chemistry concepts.
- Coming together allows for some opportunities that may be more effective when done as a group: conducting experiments and discussing results, presenting projects and oral reports, sharing writing which is meaningful when an audience can respond and give feedback, engaging in special activities that may have been eliminated at home, and playing fun review games to help cement concepts and study for tests.
- Interaction with other adults and children allows great opportunities for character development. We want our teaching teams to promote respect for others, encouragement, kindness, thoughtfulness, and learning to put others first. It is our desire that our children develop diligence as they work hard to come prepared for the activities of the next co-op class, encourage excellence as they see one another put forth their best efforts in writing, projects, reports, labs, and other activities, and promote perseverance as they spur one another on to grow in character and wisdom.
- As parents working together, we can also support, encourage, and mentor one another as we take this journey of discipling our children. In an informal way, we learn from one another working side by side.