



Member Handbook 2026-2027

Member Handbook

Table of Contents

CONTACT INFORMATION	2
WHO WE ARE	3
STATEMENT OF FAITH	4
LEADERSHIP	5
HOW TO JOIN CALC	6
FEES	7-8
HOW TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES	9
CONDUCT POLICIES	10-12
ACADEMIC POLICIES	13
FACILITY POLICIES	14-16
DISCIPLINE POLICIES	17
ACADEMIC TEAMS/CLUBS	18
PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES	19
TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES	20
PARENT CONTRACT	21

Creekside Academy Leaning Cooperative

Mailing address: 2100 Gusmus Ave. Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Meeting Place: Killen Methodist Church, Killen, AL

Website: creeksideflorence.com

Email: mycreeksideacademy@gmail.com

Who We Are

The Creekside Academy Learning Co-op is an interdenominational group of Christian homeschooling families in the north Alabama area who have come together to assist one another in their home education efforts with cooperative classes led by parent volunteers. We also work together to provide supplemental activities, field trips, and opportunities for fellowship among parents and students. Classes and activities offered vary from year to year based on the needs and interests of the participating families.

Classes meet each Tuesday from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M. at predetermined locations in the Shoals Area. Families with at least one child in kindergarten or above are welcome to apply.

It is important to note that Creekside Academy is NOT a homeschool covering. We are only a learning cooperative. Members of the cooperative are registered with various legal homeschool coverings within Alabama.

Most importantly, we are unashamedly a Christian home education group made up of believers who seek to honor the Lord in our families and homeschooling.

Statement of Faith

We believe that our foremost asset in our educational efforts is the Christian worldview (*Deuteronomy 4:6-9*), that God exists (*Romans 1:20*), has created man in His image (*Genesis 1:27*), and has made salvation possible (*John 3:16*) for sinful man (*Romans 3:23*) by faith in Jesus Christ alone (*Acts 4:12*).

Deuteronomy 4:6-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Romans 1:20

For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 3:23

..for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission

All rights reserved.

CALC Leadership Team

All the leaders at Creekside Academy are volunteers who homeschool their own children and have 1 student enrolled at CALC.

- Co-Administrator – Beth Berryman
- Co-Administrator – Rebekah Jeffreys
- Treasurer – Jeannie Pearson
- Administrative Assistant - Shae Lindsey
- Nursery/Preschool Coordinator – Lisa Terry
- Elementary School Coordinators:
 - Grades K-2 Coordinator – Lara Hannah
 - Grades 3-5 Coordinator – Christy Henson
- High School Coordinators:
 - Grades 6-8 Coordinator – Rachel Peoples
 - Grades 9-12 Coordinator- Carol Scheele
- Website Manager – Christy Henson
- Events Committee-
- Facility Manager – Melissa Schweighardt
- Security Team – Hall Monitors/Outdoor Teachers

How to Join Creekside Academy

Step 1:

Read our Statement of Faith on page 4 of this handbook before requesting membership to be sure that this group is what you are looking for.

Step 2:

Complete the following on www.creeksideflorence.com

- a) Request Membership – retain your username and password. You will need these if your family is accepted.
- b) Special Needs Form (if you have a child with special needs)

Step 3:

You will be contacted a week before the family interview to confirm the appointment.

Step 4:

Attend the interview as a family. This is what you might expect:

- a) It is a casual setting where you will meet some of the current co-op parents.
- b) This will only take about 30 minutes.
- c) Be prepared to ask and answer questions to see if this group is a good fit for your family.
- d) The interview will be conducted at a Predetermined location.
- e) All members of your household must attend the interview if possible.

Step 5:

Approval to join will be communicated to you within a week of the interview. Once you hear from us, pay your registration fee per the instructions on page 7-8.

Step 6:

Register for classes. About a week after your registration fee is received, check the website for approval of membership. When you have been approved, you can register for classes.

Fees-Tuition

Registration Fee

1 child - \$175 per family per year
2 children - \$190 per family per year
3 children - \$205 per family per year
4 children - \$220 per family per year

Co-op registration fees cover the cost of our website, janitorial services, use of facilities, special events, administrative fees, insurance and other miscellaneous items that need to be purchased for co-op use.

Tuition Methods of Payment

Payments can be made by check or cash. Checks are to be made payable to Creekside Academy for co-op tuition. Cash or check paid in person must be in a labeled envelope with family name and co-op tuition. ALL cash payments must be given to Beth Berryman, Rebekah Jeffreys, Jeannie Pearson or Shae Lindsey. You may also mail a check to the Treasurer at 2100 Gusmus Ave., Muscle Shoals, AL, 35661.

Class Fees

Class fees vary depending on the class. Read the class descriptions to see the cost of each class and how to pay the teacher. **No teachers** at Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative **earn money**. Teaching positions are volunteer positions only. Class fees are used to cover the cost of supplies for the class. Payment of the class fees is paid directly to the head teacher. Please see the class description for the method of payment for each class. Class fees are due by and cannot be refunded after July 15.

Registration for Current Families

The Managerial team will notify current families each January when your tuition is due. Tuition usually is due between January 1 and March 1. Membership on the website is not approved until the co-op tuition is received and the membership profile is updated. **Co-op tuition is non-refundable.**

Registration for New Families

Interviews will tentatively be in March or April. Co-op tuition is due for new co-op families once accepted into membership. Membership on the website is not approved until the family interview is complete and the co-op tuition is received. **Co-op tuition is non-refundable.**

Grandchildren/Foster Care/Nursery/Preschool Policy

Under special circumstances when grandchildren or foster care children are involved, the Academic Team will consider the families on a case-by-case basis.

Special Events Policy

Any student/parent attending or involved in any special events must be a registered family with Creekside Cooperative for the current school year.

Spring Formal Policy

Spring Formal participants must be in 9th-12th grade AND 14 years of age, or older, at the time of Spring Formal. Spring formal fees are non-refundable, and parents and students must sign a waiver before the event.

Graduation

All decisions on the graduation ceremony itself will be made at the graduation meetings. No changes will be made to the ceremony after the last graduation meeting. The 9th-11th grade students and parents will assist the senior class at the graduation ceremony and with clean-up. This will allow our students and families a final opportunity to serve the senior class and their families. This will also provide our 9th-11th graders and parents with the chance to participate in and learn the graduation process.

How to Register for Classes

Creekside Academy Learning Academy is unashamedly Christian in faith and practice. However, we are composed of many different denominational traditions. For this reason, we encourage parents to carefully examine the class descriptions before registering your child for any classes. Be sure that the class is age-appropriate for your child. Click on the textbook links to gain a better understanding of the material. And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher before you register. Once you have made your final decisions, follow the steps below.

1. Log-in to the Creekside Academy website
2. Click on “class registration” in the top left corner.
3. Click on the class title for which you want to register.
4. On the right-hand side of your screen, you should see a list of your enrolled family members. Click on the student(s) and/or parent(s) who plan to attend this class.
5. Click the word “register.” The individuals whose names you chose will be automatically registered for the class and the class fee will be added to your family account.

CALC Conduct Policies for Parents & Students

Some policies and guidelines listed below may seem obvious to our co-op families, but we have found that it is always better to state the obvious than to leave anything to question. Please remember to appropriately represent CALC when attending off campus events.

Dress Code

Dress should be appropriate and modest for all classes.

- No see-through clothing, skintight tops, spaghetti strap tops, halters, midriff tops, plunging necklines, or mini skirts. No undergarments should be visible through other clothing.
- Sleeveless apparel must cover 2" of the shoulder.
- No clothing or jewelry with inappropriate or offensive words, pictures, or illegal acts.
- No "hoodies" are to be worn on the head during class.
- Hats may be worn on campus. Teachers may ask students to remove their hats in class for any reason. Please be respectful if you are asked to remove your hat.
- Length of skirts should be no more than 2 inches above the knee when standing. It is suggested to please wear shorts under your skirts.
- Shorts hemlines should not be any shorter than mid-thigh around the complete leg. The cut-outs on the sides of the shorts must be included in the mid-thigh length.
- Holes in jeans should be no higher than mid-thigh.
- Leggings are allowed for students in Nursery or Preschool. Students in K-12 may only wear leggings under a dress-code appropriate skirt or dress.
- Always err on the side of modesty.

Accountability:

- Parents and Teachers will work together on holding each other accountable. Please talk to the student about their questionable attire. If the offense is repeated, please know that your Administrators want to be made aware.
- If a particular issue should continue to arise after it has been addressed by an adult (parent, teacher, or administrator), a meeting with the parents may be scheduled to determine how to best address the problem. In some cases, a period of probation may be warranted and could result in dismissal.

Distractions

- Electronic devices, collector cards, and toys (except those being used for class purposes) are not permitted during class time.
- No cell phone use permitted in class including, but not limited to texting, internet surfing, talking on phone -

Please note distractions used in class will result in the teacher and parent helpers taking the items for the remainder of the class. If the problem continues long-term, the item will be taken and given to the child's parent or guardian.

Classroom Behavior

- Arrive on time for each class. Extremely tardy (meaning more than 10 minutes late) students must go to the study hall (if available) or wait with parents until the next class.
- Students should not talk when someone else is talking, especially the teacher. Be respectful of others.
- Students should never leave the room during class without teacher permission.
- Parent helpers should refrain from talking to one another during class. Electronic devices should not be in hand except at the request of the teacher.

Relationships

- Because we are each created in God's image, everyone will be expected to treat others with respect. Whether it's student to student, parent to parent, or student to adult interaction, utmost respect is expected.
- Any forms of public displays of affection (PDA) are not acceptable at co-op or co-op sponsored events. If PDA is observed, please correct the action and tell a member of the Managerial Team immediately. Please remember that NO student is allowed ANYWHERE on campus without adult supervision.
- **Conversations regarding dating or sexual activity of any kind should not take place at co-op or co-op sponsored events.**
- The original leaders of Creekside Academy intended this co-op to be founded in God's Word. They also intended it to be a safe place for everyone. The current leaders seek those same objectives. Therefore, we believe that marriage is created by God to be a covenant between one man and one woman for a lifetime and that any expression of sexuality outside of that relationship is inconsistent with Biblical teaching. Classes such as Bible, Worldview, Biology, Psychology for Christians, and others may reflect this teaching.

If a particular issue should continue to arise after it has been addressed by an adult (parent, teacher, or administrator), a meeting with the parents may be scheduled to determine how to best address the problem. In some cases, a period of probation may be warranted and could result in dismissal.

Sexual Conduct

Students are expected to uphold the Biblical view of sexual morality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). From the beginning God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman. The administration does not believe the body was made for sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:13) and any type of sexual relationship outside of the marriage relationship is unacceptable to God (Hebrews 13:4). We want to encourage our students to be pure from immorality in their minds and body. Students who disrupt the school environment by promoting or practicing any promiscuous or immoral behavior are subject to disciplinary actions.

CALC Academic Policies

Attendance

Your attendance is crucial. You are required to attend no less than 75% of your classes per semester. This means **you may not miss more than 3 classes per semester unless it is due to sickness**. The administrative team reserves the right to review your attendance records. You may be dismissed from CALC if you do not comply. Teachers, please keep attendance on your classroom dashboard on the website. This will be used for proper documentation when students miss class.

Homework

Classes at Creekside Academy are taught by volunteers but they are taught in a manner that will allow high school students to receive credit if they complete the homework and class assignments. For this reason:

- Teachers must make sure the homework load for your class is within your class descriptions.
- Parents should make sure their children do the required homework during the week.
- During registration, check class descriptions to see what will be required. If you do not have time to oversee homework, do not register your child for the class.

Supplies

Some classes will need specific supplies. This information can be found in the class descriptions. Generally speaking, each student should bring the following. Please be sure to label items with your child's name.

- Backpack or tote bag
- Pencils / Pens
- Paper or notebooks
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue, Glue stick
- Eraser

Medical Needs and Allergies

If your child has special medical needs or allergies, please complete this information on the website. Login to the Creekside Page go to Edit My Profile. Once there scroll to the child that has Medical Notes/ Allergies and add all the information there. This automatically gives the information to all of your child's teachers. Also, please know this is visible to any parent in the co-op.

CALC Facility Policies

Building/Grounds Use

It is a blessing to be able to use Killen Methodist Church facilities. We want to show appreciation for that blessing by setting up for and cleaning up after ourselves.

- Please arrive by 8:45 a.m. to ensure there are adults present everywhere students are located.
- Please respect all church property, buildings, and grounds. Be sure to ONLY use the steps when and where they are available, especially traveling between the church building and CLC (gym).
- No students are allowed on any electronic equipment at the church. This includes but is not limited to the overhead projectors, gaming equipment, tv's, sound systems, etc.
- ALL students must always be supervised INSIDE and OUTSIDE the building at ALL TIMES!
- All areas with posted signs that say "STOP Creekside Off Limits" are to be always avoided.
- Please do not bring skateboards, scooters or skates to the co-op.
- No pets allowed anywhere on the facilities.
- No running or rough play inside the building.
- Please properly dispose of trash and drink bottles.
- Make sure to carry all school supplies, lunch bags, and personal items home.

Creekside Lost and Found

The Creekside "Lost and Found" is in our Creekside Closet. Due to lack of storage any items left after the end of the year Park Day will be donated.

Lunchtime

- Preschool-Grade 2 students' parents/high school siblings must pick up their children/siblings for lunch in the classroom. Students will not be dismissed without a parent/high school sibling.
- Lunch hour (11:00-12:00) is ONLY to be OUTSIDE. In case of bad weather, the M-team will set up tables and chairs in the CLC. If you sit at a table, be sure to wipe the tables, sweep the floor and put the tables and chairs back.
- Clean up any crumbs and garbage wherever you eat.
- Parents must supervise their own students during lunchtime.
- There must be a Creekside adult present EVERYWHERE ANY student is located. Make sure the Creekside adult present is actually there watching the kids.

Cleaning Responsibilities

We are trying something new this year, 2026-2027. EVERYONE cleans together every class day!

- When your class is done, take the last few minutes of class time to straighten up your room.
- The last teacher in the classroom will have to reset the classroom for church services. This includes vacuuming, wiping the tables and taking the trash out and placing it in the hall by your door. Attached to each class sign, there will be pictures of the room for resetting.
- The last hour hall monitors are expected to straighten up the bathrooms, swiffer the hall floors and take the trash in your hallways to the dumpster.
- The facilities manager will have a list of specific cleaning responsibilities for each hall and the CLC.
- Before leaving, the facilities manager and M-team will walk the grounds and check to make sure all our responsibilities are met.

Creekside Weather and Safety Policies

Weather

In the event of dangerous weather, Creekside Academy follows the Lauderdale County Schools decision of whether to cancel classes. If the news lists LCS as being closed for inclement weather on a Tuesday, then CALC is also closed. If you do not feel the weather is safe, feel free to keep your family at home, but make sure to get subs for your classes.

Fire

In the case of a fire, teachers will get the children in their classroom to safety. Please trust your child's teacher and DO NOT enter any building when the fire alarm is sounding. The official meeting place is the the playground.

Tornado

In the event of a tornado warning, teachers will get the children to the basement for safety. Please trust your child's teacher to do this. The official "safe place" the basement.

Intruder

RUN to the nearest exit. If you cannot get out - HIDE in a room and lock or barricade the door. Turn off lights and remain quiet. As a last resort SWARM, the intruder.

Students should remain with their teacher during any of the events above.

CALC Discipline Policies

In the Creekside family, the students belong to all of us so we encourage adults to intervene as necessary should they witness inappropriate behavior. However, because you know what punishments and rewards work best for your child(ren), matters of discipline will be referred to the parents. No corporal punishment will be used at any time by teachers or administrators of Creekside.

If a particular issue should continue to arise after it has been addressed by an adult (parent, teacher, or administrator), a meeting with the parents may be scheduled to determine how to best address the problem.

In some cases, a period of probation may be warranted and could result in dismissal.

On rare occasions, the following issues may present grounds for dismissal at the discretion of the administration.

- Continued problems during a probationary period
- Physical violence
- Illegal drug, alcohol, vape or tobacco use
- Student engaging in any form of sexual immorality
- Use of obscene manifestations-verbal, written, or gestured
- Internet statements or images that encourage the violation of law or school rules including negative Social Media posts on ANY platform towards Creekside members or Killen Methodist Church facility/members and/or groups.
- Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. The definition of bullying is repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group. Physical, verbal or psychological bullying face-to-face or online will not be tolerated.
- Any other offense that the administration may deem to fall within the category of “grounds for dismissal.”

CALC Academic Teams/Clubs Policies

Creekside Academy is proud to offer several different clubs. Parents who would like to sponsor a club for our students are invited to do so according to the following guidelines:

- Policies in this co-op handbook apply to all clubs, but clubs may have other rules that apply. All additional rules need to be approved by the Academic Leadership Team.
- All clubs that carry the school's name will operate under the leadership of Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative
- Each club will manage their own financial account and have its own treasurer. However, each club will submit to the academy treasurer a detailed financial statement including all deposits and monthly expenditures. CALC is required to submit monthly bank statements and copies of receipts with our tax information in order to keep our 501c3 status.
- Members of all clubs should also be members of Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative.
- Age level of participants for each team/club is determined by the specific club guidelines.
- Student expectation and Parent participation is determined by the specific club/team guidelines. Please discuss this information with the club sponsor.
- Creekside's administrative team requires that any fundraising done off campus for the club must have an adult present for safety reasons.
- If anyone is sick in the home with a contagious illness all members of the family should also refrain from attending club events or practices.

CALC Parent/Teacher Participation

Parent Responsibilities

Creekside Academy operates solely on **volunteer power**. Therefore, it is vital that every member serve in some capacity for 75% of the time your student is involved. For example, if your child attends co-op for four class periods, you should help during at least three of those hours. If your child attends co-op for less than 4 hours, you should help during the entire time you are on campus.

Nursery/Preschool is for Teacher's students only. If you are not a primary/helper teacher in a class, your baby/preschooler will need to be accompanied by a parent on campus. Preschool students must be actively potty training and registered in the Preschool class before they are to become a student in the class.

At least one parent-figure from each family is required to be on campus during classes/activities. If mom can't come, send dad, a grandparent, or even an adult sibling (doing so will require this parent-figure to take your place for your hours obligations also).

If you need to leave the campus briefly for any reason during the day, it is important that you notify the child's teacher and place your child in the care of another adult. Even if you live within walking distance of Creekside, All students Must be accompanied by a parent.

The Killen Methodist Church campus is a busy place, and it is not uncommon for non-Creekside individuals to walk in the facility. For this reason, we have hall monitors and name badges. Parents will be provided with a name badge at the beginning of the school year. We ask that you wear these to all school days/functions. By doing this, we can learn each other's names, and our children can easily identify co-op adults.

If ANYONE is sick with any contagious illness, we ask that all members of the family stay home. If you have questions about any illness, please call any member of the M-Team or proceed with caution. Please remember the fever rule: fever free (without medicine) for 24 hours to prevent the spread of illness.

Teacher Responsibilities:

What a blessing we have in home schooling, but sometimes we need a little assistance. Each of the teachers at Creekside has chosen to teach the class they are leading. Some of them have expertise in that area, others have a passion for that hobby, and still others simply want to share what they are teaching at home. There is no educational, business, or otherwise “official” requirement placed on our parents who volunteer to teach. However, by offering to teach, these parents take on some greater responsibilities than our other parents.

- Because we are such a theologically diverse group, we ask our teachers to refrain, as much as possible, from teaching personal bias on “hot topics” such as homosexuality, transgenderism, sanctity of life, evolution, etc. We encourage parents to communicate with teachers regarding any issues of concern.
- Each teacher must manage the class fees for her class using the money for classroom use only. If a teacher must quit teaching during the year (due to illness, relocation, etc.) the money envelope with remaining balance and receipts must be passed to the parent who takes over the class. Also be sure to pass on anything and everything that has been bought and paid for through class fees.
- Teachers should communicate to their parent helpers what is expected of them and how they can best be of assistance during class.
- If a teacher must miss class for any reason, he/she should contact a substitute from among the class parent helpers. If this is impossible for some reason, he/she should contact the appropriate grade level coordinator. Please do not contact the academy administrators if you need a sub.
- If any class times happen off campus during any time of the school year, Teachers MUST have permission from the co-op Administrator.
- Teachers should dismiss class 5 minutes before the hour to allow time for students to go to the next class.
- All messy and food activities MUST be contained at the table and cleaned up completely before you leave the classroom.
- Please take a few minutes at the end of EACH class to pick up and straighten up before leaving the classroom.
- Nursery and Preschool please be sure to take all dirty diapers to the dumpster immediately.

Parent Contract

(The following contract must be agreed to prior to an applicant's family being interviewed for membership.)

I have read and agree to abide by the rules and policies of Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative.

I understand that Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative classes are supplemental to what is being taught in the home and are meant for enrichment purposes only. As the parent, I also realize that these classes will not complete any curriculum, only enhance them. The instructors do not teach the entire subject matter but are only enriching and assisting my instruction at home.

I understand that Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative does not keep permanent records or assign grades.

I understand that Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative does not give credit towards high school graduation requirements. Parents may use class time toward fulfilling some requirements in a given subject, according to their own discretion.

I understand that Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative does not give legal protection or legal assistance. Also, it is not obligatory to testify regarding my home school's validity, authenticity, or effectiveness to legal authorities or in court.

I agree that my children will strive to regularly attend all classes for which I have registered them. They will arrive on time, fully participate in the class by completing any homework assignments and engage with other students and the instructor during class time.

I understand and agree that I must remain on the premises the entire time and be responsible for my children regardless of their age whenever they are participating in co-op.

I understand and agree that Creekside Academy Learning Cooperative administration team, teachers and/or Killen Methodist Church will at no time be responsible for mishaps, injuries, or accidents that may occur during the year at co-op classes, field trips, or activities at any location.

Signature

Print Name

Date