

ARCH is a Catholic cooperative established in 2006 by a small group of families. Growing every year, ARCH currently consists of 75+ families and approximately 200 students. ARCH's mission is to create a holy and wholesome environment for students and their families to gather and support each other in their vocation as homeschoolers.

The foundation of ARCH has always been the Eucharist. We feel that Jesus Christ must be the focus in all our homeschooling endeavors, and ARCH is no exception. We offer the celebration of Holy Mass and confessions at ARCH every month, and we encourage all of our families to celebrate together the gift of our faith and each other.

ARCH classes meet each week at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church in Crestwood, MO. Our Co-op day begins at 8:30 and ends at 4:30 from September – April. Preschool and elementary students meet for 25 weeks (taking off all of December), while high school students meet for 29 weeks. A variety of classes are offered for students of pre-school age through high school. Families are welcome to come for one day or both days, for as many or as few classes as they wish.

Our Co-op is managed by a volunteer Coordinating Committee. The committee members plan class schedules, register families, place teachers, establish rules of behavior, and coordinate volunteers. They also handle all logistics with the parish and diocese, maintain financial accountability, implement Archdiocesan programs, and communicate with ARCH members.

Our Committee also ministers to the questions and concerns that may arise among the families, students, and teachers. They meet and consult throughout the year to develop procedures and structures that ensure that daily co-op activities run smoothly, efficiently, and most importantly safely. Any initiatives concerning Co-op need to be presented to the Coordinating Committee. They are open to comments and suggestions.

Along with our Committee, ARCH has a three member board of directors (Monsignor Timothy Cronin, Patty Fletcher, Peggy Oliver, Laura Vaporean, and Michael Vento) who oversee the running and operations of the Co-op. The Board is guided by Monsignor Timothy Cronin, who leads us spiritually and ensures our Catholic faith remains central in all the decisions that are made. The Board of Directors prayerfully handles any new policy changes, considers the selection of Committee members, and helps in deciding teachers and classes.

ARCH is not a drop-off Co-op. When planning for the year, the number of students must be considered, as well as the family members that accompany and stay with each enrolled student. With this in mind, we do rely on the help of all parents to volunteer in many capacities. Our cafeteria is available for parents and children not attending classes, which provides a time and space for friendship building.

Our teachers are a combination of Co-op parents and teachers from outside ARCH. Decisions concerning the addition of teachers and classes are prayerfully considered by the Committee and Board of Directors, according to the needs of the Co-op each year. Class fees are individually determined by teachers, within parameters set by the Committee. Our teachers offer their time and talents in a spirit of charity, keeping fees to a minimum to help support single income homeschooling families.

As we gather together each week, ARCH Co-op strives to focus on our Catholic faith, the formation of children both spiritually and academically, and to help support and encourage homeschooling families. We believe that although God has called each of us individually to home-school our children, He knows we need the help and support of each other at times to complete the task!