

Dear Family Center Families,

After hearing from our families, prayer and discussion we have decided to offer a framework for online classes in the fall. We know some people may think, "Oh, no, more Zoom." But **keep reading!** We feel that this best meets the needs of the CHC families because:

1. It can't be canceled due to changes in the pandemic and state restrictions.
2. It provides flexibility to families with a mix of needs, ages and distance from Stratford Park.
3. It allows us to minister to more than 50 people (the maximum number allowed in the church at this time).
4. We realize that families will be making choices in the fall where they will be investing their time and 'exposure' and this gives us the opportunity to provide accountability and encouragement to more people than those that may decide to participate in an in-person environment.

All of us on the Board are excited about the opportunity to continue to minister to the homeschooling community and we welcome your input on additional ideas for classes in the fall or comments and suggestions for the Spring, when we reevaluate circumstances.

We are currently accepting class submissions for 40 minute (or less) classes starting at 9, 10 and 11am on Thursday mornings beginning September 10 and continuing up to November 19. Classes can be anywhere from 4-11 weeks long and will be hosted on Zoom. There is also an option to offer an 'on your own pace' class. Teachers can offer optional in-person safe opportunities if they desire. Please include that in the description. (An example may be a **Nature Journaling** class that meets outside a few times at nature trails or parks in the area) Teachers can also charge for supplies for their classes if they plan on buying in bulk, bagging the supplies, and offering parents a front porch pick up plan. (An example of this could be **Science** or **Art** classes and the students will be provided all they need for the activities. This would be a great service to moms of multiple kids.) Teachers will still decide on class size limits, but we encourage everyone to accept the maximum that will comfortably be served and to include as wide a range of ages as possible. To those new to Zoom, we will be able to help get you started. Teachers of live online classes, followed by teachers of 'on your own' classes, will have first opportunity to sign up, followed by general members.

Already submitted- **50 Day PE Challenge**, grades PreK-12 (On Your Own) and **Homeschooling Mom Group** (Live online), **Reptiles and Amphibians**, younger grades (Live Online), **Art**, middle grades (Live online)

Other ideas to start you thinking...

Book Clubs

Lego Clubs (kids are given a weekly challenge and can share their creation in class)

Geocaching

Secret Encouragers (Like a Secret Santa experience, but you leave things outside or mail for the kids in the group)

STEM Challenges

Lego Movie (At the weekly meetings the teacher would share new techniques, kids would share what they have so far)

Movie discussion groups

Crafts

Art appreciation (Virtual fieldtrips and projects)

Poetry

Scavenger Hunt (Challenges and clues around town for family groups to do)

Geography (Have a series of videos, book readings, etc around the world and each week one or more students make a presentation or share artwork, etc from that country.)

Ministry and Volunteer (This would be a great idea for our high schoolers. Not only the obvious service and benefits, but leading or participating in a group like this is very helpful for college and scholarship applications)

We Need Human Contact (Small class dedicated to socially distant safe activities 3rd hour and lasting over lunch. Nature trails, kickball, bike rides, fishing, boating at Crystal Lake, disc golf at Lohmann Park in Urbana, Soccer Golf at Lake of the Woods, yard games, archery, kite flying, scooter Meadowbrook Park, Zoo Trip, etc)

FC LIVE (Check out SGN with John Krasinski on you tube. Are there a group of kids who would like to produce a news show showcasing Homeschooling kids, interesting stories in the area?)

Laugh out Loud (Class on just making and sharing funny IMovies)

Jr. High and High School Academic Support (Perhaps your teen is taking a free online class. Ask others to join the class and use the Zoom time on Thursday mornings for discussion, accountability and support.)

Almost anything could be adapted to online. Lesen has a box of complete Family Center Classes donated by Carin Brown that include: **Electricity, Island of the Blue Dolphins, American Girl (12 week classes each on Kaya, Molly, Samantha and Felicity), Voyage of the Dawn Treader, Biomes, Detective Science, Duct Tape, USA History, The Hobbit, Survival Skills, Veterinarian and Creative Writing.**

Lesen has taught 3 semester long classes on the **Little House** series. Outdoor fieldtrips in our area match nicely with this class. Talk to her if you want more information.

Find some ideas that have already been developed for online learning here

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/k-12-online-classes-and-activities-to-continue-school-at-home-during-coronavirus/>

Please contact Lesen Schideman at 217-766-8554 or lancelesen@hotmail.com if you have any questions on classes.

If you think you might want to participate as a teacher or student, make sure you are a member of CHC and Family Register for Family Center. Family registration is not a commitment to participate. It only allows you access to sign ups if you choose later to join a class.

Family Center still has to pay for insurance and scholarships for families with a financial need, so there will be a \$10 per family registration fee. Any other costs are for supplies only as determined by the teacher, which will be described in the class description.

We are here to help support families that would like to share their time and talents with others and provide a community for support. Family Center Fall Session will continue as parents decide to participate, so if you are interested in offering a class, we encourage you to submit as soon as possible.

We hope you are all enjoying your summer!

The Family Center Board