

Christian Homeschool Arts & Music Programs (CHAMPs) FAQs

When does CHAMPs meet?

We meet on Mondays during the school year at Mount Prospect Bible Church (please do not contact the church for info). We have breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring, and Easter, but we do meet on other school holidays, such as Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Day, and President's Day. Classes are available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, but you are NOT required to attend all day; classes are offered "a la carte", so you simply attend the classes you want and make your own schedule.

What classes are offered?

CHAMPs offers a variety of classes, mostly in arts and music, but some academic classes are offered as well. We have instruction in Art, Drama, Band, Piano, Violin, Choir, Spanish, Latin, Science, and more. There are two types of classes: those taught by an experienced or otherwise qualified teacher, and those taught by a parent or student volunteer (referred to as "co-op" classes).

What is the age range of students?

Classes are offered for Kindergarten through High School, and we often have something available for Preschoolers as well. Parents can participate in some classes, too, or create one for themselves!

What do I need to pay?

There are four types of fees collected at CHAMPs:

- *Registration fee:* (Currently, \$55 per family per year, but discounts are offered for early registration) This fee is paid to CHAMPs upon registration and covers insurance, overhead and operational expenses. It is non-refundable unless your chosen classes are canceled.
- *Class fee:* (Varies for each class, but typical range is \$10 - \$40 per month; more for private lessons) This money is paid to the teacher(s) for each class your student(s) take. It is collected on the first Monday of each month, and most teachers will accept semester payments. In September, we also collect an additional month to serve as a "security deposit" for the teachers, to compensate them for lost income in case your child drops the class during the year. This counts as May's payment. Each teacher determines his or her own fee for each class, and it is usually very economical when compared to a similar park district or marketplace class. The fees are usually charged on a monthly basis, although some are determined on a weekly basis. *Since most teachers are already offering their service at a sacrificial rate, monthly fees are the same regardless of the number of weeks CHAMPs meets during the month.*
- *Material fee:* (Varies for each class, but typical range is \$0 - \$20 per semester, plus any necessary textbooks) When applicable, this is paid to the teacher each semester (fall and spring). It covers expenses for art supplies, theater costumes, books, etc.
- *Building fee:* (Currently \$5 per class per month; family cap of \$25/month on teacher-paid classes only) This fee is paid to CHAMPs on the first Monday of each month and covers rent and other operating costs. Co-op classes are not included in the building fee cap, since they do not have a class fee (they are taught for free).

I didn't find out about CHAMPs until November (or February). Can I still join?

Yes! Registration is available throughout the year for most classes that are not full. There may be catch up work required for some classes – check with the teacher about the classes you're interested in taking.

Do I need to stay at CHAMPs, or can I drop off my kids for classes?

CHAMPs is a cooperative structure, so your attendance and participation is necessary. It takes many people to help our organization run smoothly and safely! A benefit of this structure is that it results in a supportive community atmosphere that provides social interaction and refreshment for the homeschooling parent. However, if you have extenuating circumstances that limit your availability, please speak to a Board Member to work out an arrangement.

What if I need to run an errand or go back home to get my child's Spanish book that he forgot?

As long as you do not have a service assignment at the time, you are free to sign out your child(ren) to the care of another adult at CHAMPs if you need to leave.

What are these service assignments you're talking about?

There are two types of service assignments expected of each family. One is classroom monitoring. Our insurance requires that we have an extra adult in each classroom for security purposes. Depending on the class, the monitor may need to assist the teacher in the classroom as well. In addition to classroom monitoring, each family needs to participate on an Operational Team. These teams help CHAMPs run smoothly and foster community.

How much time do I have spend on service?

Your classroom monitoring requirement is dependent on the number of class hours for which your family is registered. Operational Teams vary in the amount of time they take. We strive to spread out the workload so that it is minimized for everyone.

What are Operational Teams?

They are groups of members who perform a specific service for CHAMPs, such as setting up the coffee and snacks each week, writing a monthly newsletter, coordinating a "picture day" as well as taking and compiling casual pictures, setting up classrooms in the morning or cleaning at the end of the day, promoting and marketing CHAMPs, etc.

What can my child do if he or she has time between classes?

There are various hang out places – two preschool/early elementary play rooms; a teen room with a pool table, ping-pong, and foosball; a gym for active play; and the lunchroom for board games or other sit-down activities (as well as eating!)

Is lunch available?

Not usually. Families need to bring their own lunches. There are refrigerators and microwaves available for heating food. There is also a Subway, Little Caesars, McDonalds, and Boston Market nearby. We do have snacks and drinks available for purchase, and about once a month or so, there will be a fund-raiser lunch offered. Proceeds from these lunches either go toward the Spanish class summer missions trip or toward the CHAMPs general fund.

Okay, this sounds great. How do I register?

You can visit us on a meeting day to preview the classes and fill out the registration forms. Or, you can print out the registration forms from our website at www.champshomeschool.com, and mail them with the registration fee to CHAMPs Registration, PO Box 59851, Schaumburg, IL 60159.

What if I have more questions?

Email champs-board@yahoo.com, and we'll do our best to answer them.