

Christian Homeschoolers of Northern Michigan (CHNM)

Membership Policies

Mission Statement

A Christ-centered support group established to provide fellowship, encouragement, and to enhance the ability of Christian families to home-educate their children.

Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be inspired of God.

We believe that there is only one true God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the virgin birth and sinless life, literal death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and His ascension into Heaven.

We believe that all have sinned and are lost without salvation. Salvation is offered to all mankind through the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross of Calvary (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:8-10, 13; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Family Policy

While we do realize that each family may differ in beliefs, CHNM recognizes a biblical interpretation of family.

We believe that God has Wonderfully created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman within an exclusive union (Genesis 2:18-25). God intends sexual intimacy to occur between a man and a woman who are united in marriage (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God directs that no intimate sexual activity occur between persons outside the boundaries of marriage. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexuality, bestiality, incest and using pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Membership Requirements

CHNM membership is open to any homeschooling family who has read the information in the membership packet and indicated their agreement with the stated Mission, Statement of Faith, Family Policy, CHNM Behavior Principles, General Policies, and any other applicable policies by submitting an application form online as well as membership fees.

CHNM offers a yearly membership, starting July 1 and expiring June 30. The fee strictly for membership of the group (excluding associated class day fees) is \$60.

Membership in CHNM requires the participation of at least one legal parent or guardian.

Class day membership is open to any homeschool family who is a CHNM Member as enrollment space is available. (See Class Day Policies for additional information.)

CHNM Behavior Principles

These are the expectations of any student participating in CHNM. These behavior expectations apply on Wednesday classes and at any CHNM function.

Students will pay attention in the classroom, listening and participating appropriately and without disrupting the class.

Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40

Students will be respectful of teachers, instructors, coaches, helpers, and adults. This means refraining from all back-talking, eye-rolling, disputing, complaining, etc.

Do all things without murmurings and disputings. Philippians 2:14

Students will be respectful and show kindness for one another. Older students should remember that CHNM classes and most functions involve children of many ages, and should remain a safe and appropriate environment for all.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Romans 12:10

Students will treat others' property with respect (this includes church facilities, locations of any CHNM functions, other students' items, etc.).

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Philippians 2:4

Students will not engage or participate in any fighting or bullying behavior.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. Ephesians 4:31

Students will not engage or participate in any inappropriate language.

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Colossians 3:8

Principles for Correction

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Overall Principles:

Age and ability of the child should always be taken into account. A well-behaved six-year-old looks and acts differently than a well-behaved sixteen-year-old.

Rebellion or willful misbehavior should be treated differently than immaturity or childishness.

The teacher should be given wide latitude in the classroom.

Parents must be diligent to correct any behavior issues of their own children.

Board involvement should be a last resort.

In The Classroom:

Helpers should take notice of any student who is engaging in any misbehavior, and attempt to correct / redirect that student. Helpers and teachers should attempt to distinguish between rebellious or purposeful misbehavior, and childishness or inattention. When deciding whether to remove a student from the classroom, helpers and teachers should take into account the age and abilities of the child. Helpers should take the initiative to do this to allow the teacher to focus on the classroom instruction.

If a student does not correct the behavior, then the helper or the teacher should bring this to the attention of the student's parent after class. The teacher may request a helper to remove a student and bring the student to his or her parent. The helper should defer to the teacher's wishes in the classroom. This should only be done when the student's presence is disruptive to the class continuing properly.

Outside the classroom (i.e., hallways, group gatherings, CHNM functions):

Any adult who observes a student or group of students engaging in any misbehavior should intervene and bring correction to that student or group.

If any student persists in the misbehavior or is disrespectful to the correction, then the adult should bring that student to his or her parent to address the situation.

If the misbehavior witnessed was of a serious nature, then the adult should address it with the student's parent even if the immediate correction seemed effective.

Parent Expectations:

Parents should discuss student expectations with their children and reinforce the need to treat all adults and fellow students appropriately.

Parents will make diligent efforts to correct any misbehavior by their children that is brought to their attention by a teacher, helper, or another adult.

If a student is removed from a classroom for misbehavior, then the student's parent will keep that student with him or her for the duration of that class, and will speak with the teacher about the situation after class. The parent and the teacher may resolve the situation as they see fit.

Board Involvement with Parent:

If parental involvement does not correct the student's misbehavior, or if repeated instances of purposeful or rebellious misbehavior continue to occur, any teacher, helper, or adult may bring this concern to the board's attention.

The Board will meet privately with the parent of the student at issue, to discuss ways to correct the concern.

Board Involvement with Student:

This should be a last resort.

This step should be reserved generally for middle-school or high-school students, except in very rare circumstances, well beyond youthful or childish inattentiveness or distraction (even if repeated).

If the Board / parent discussion has not corrected the situation, then the student (accompanied by his or her parent) will meet with the board to explain his or her behavior, and commit to a plan to correct the situation.

If this does not work, then the Board may suspend the student from further CHNM classes or activities until convinced that the situation has been corrected.

General Policies

Honor Christ

CHNM is a Christ-centered organization.

We aim to honor Jesus Christ at any CHNM Event in the form of actions and prayers, both collectively and individually.

Golden Rule/ Conflict Resolution **(in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18)**

Treat others as you wish to be treated. Show respect to each other.

If you have an issue with someone, take it to him or her.

If they do not listen, take someone as a witness and help.

If someone comes to you speaking badly about someone, ask him or her if they have gone to that person. If not, speak not.

If you are unable to resolve a problem, please go to a member of the Board of Directors.

Visitor Policy

Visitors should notify the Chairperson, Committee Member, or Event Host for prior approval to attend any event associated with CHNM (including but not limited to Teen Events, sports practices, class day, etc...)

Upon arriving, visitors need to check in with the Event Host.

It is expected that all visitors adhere to CHNM's expectations and general policies for all members.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Substance Use

Use of any tobacco products, vaping, marijuana, alcohol, or illegal drugs during CHNM's child related activities – including but not limited to class time at E-free Church, all church facilities, teen events, tween events, field trips, picnics, and archery – is prohibited. Tobacco products, vaping, marijuana, alcohol, or illegal drugs are not to be consumed on the premises while the event is taking place. Tobacco products, vaping, marijuana, alcohol, or illegal drugs are not to be around and/or used while transporting CHNM children to/from CHNM events during carpools.

Dress/Modesty

As a Christian group we want to honor God in all that we do. This includes our actions as well as our clothing attire.

We have many young and impressionable men and women in our group and we need to do our best to dress in an appropriate manner.

Promptness

Please be prompt to all CHNM events and activities.

Privacy

The information in our directory and class day roster is for use by its member families only.

Field Trip, Special Event, and Class Day Etiquette

As homeschoolers we are viewed at times with critical eyes. People want to know what we are about and if we are different from the rest of the world. Homeschoolers are generally associated with devout Christianity, so we aren't just representing homeschoolers, we are representing Christ. We make a big impression when we show up late or not at all and when our children are disrespectful during a class or tour. Let us make sure we do not make that bad impression. We want to shine for Him.

Everyone is expected to be respectful of others' property, including, but not limited to: structures, directions provided by the event host/property owner, church buildings, and landscaping, etc.

Please read and follow these guidelines:

Fee Payment

If there is a cost involved with an activity, field trip, or other special event, the fee must be paid at the time of your registration, unless otherwise specified by the event coordinator.

Please do not consider yourself registered for an event until you have paid the fees.

Those first to pay will be first to be registered.

Refunds because of your cancellation are dependent upon your giving proper notice of not being able to attend, the refund policy of the field trip destination, and/or if there is someone on the waiting list who is willing to step into your place.

Promptness

Please arrive 15 minutes before a field trip is scheduled to begin. This provides us the opportunity to give last minute instructions and to get organized before entering the facility quietly.

Courtesy

Please be attentive, courteous, polite and prepared with good questions for our tour guide.

Remember to thank the tour guide at the end of the field trip. We encourage all families to follow up with a thank-you letter. What an added blessing to our host!

Attendance

It is a privilege to partake in a field trip.

We understand that children will misbehave or just have a bad day occasionally; however, this should be corrected and inappropriate behavior addressed.

Dangerous, belligerent, or blatantly disrespectful behavior may result in immediate expulsion from field trips for a set amount of time deemed appropriate by the coordinator or event host.

Your field trip coordinators will do their best to provide fun and educational field trips and provide information in a timely manner.

If there are any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the Event Host, Field Trip Coordinator, or Committee Members as appropriate.

CHNM Class Day Policies

Parent Policy Parents (legal guardians) are expected to remain in the building for the entire Wednesday morning 8:15 AM to 12:30 PM, if their child/ren are there. If parent needs to be absent, each student/child/ren must have a designated adult who is responsible for them, and has signed the statement of faith or is willing to do so, during the time of co-op each week. The designated adult can only be responsible for one family at a time. The designated adult is also responsible for helping in the classes the parent is signed up to help in.

If the child is a high school student they may come 1 week without a parent or designated adult.

Attendance Policy

If a family has 3 or more absences in a semester, then that family needs to come to the class day committee and explain the reason for absences. Excuses for missing classes include, but are not limited to, family illness.

A no show, or lack of communication with the committee, will result in termination from classes and being put on the bottom of the waiting list for the next school year.

Class Day Registration

Class day teachers/coordinators will be allowed to register one week before other class day members.

Registration then opens as follows:

1. Current class day families – 1 week
2. Member waiting list – 1 week
3. Non-member waiting list – 2 weeks
4. Open to new families as space permits

Registration will close no later than July 31, with exceptions made for new-to-the-area families if space permits.

Class Change Policy

1. Families will be able to change their students' classes in the first two weeks of classes only.
2. If a class is still not a good fit, changing classes may be considered at semester break.
3. The class change request form must be filled out by the family and signed by the teachers of both classes in question.

Class Day Helper Policy

1. Helpers are expected to be present in their assigned classrooms. This ensures sufficient adult coverage for each class, and ensures we can find you if your child needs you.
2. Responsibilities:
 - Help maintain order in class
 - Assist students as needed
 - Take attendance
 - Teach when regular teacher is absent

Exceptions to policies, may be requested by submitting in writing to the class day committee for approval.

Infants and Toddlers in Class Proposal

We strongly encourage parents to take advantage of our nursery while helping/teaching in older students' classes. However, we understand that many infants and toddlers are breastfeeding and/or have difficulty separating from parents, especially for a four-hour class day.

Infants and toddlers who are having difficulty separating may attend class with a parent as long as the child is contained in either a baby carrier or stroller, and not being disruptive to the class. If the child cannot remain quiet, he/she should be returned to the nursery.

Adult Children at Class Day Proposal

Adult children (those over 18 and graduated) are welcome to attend class day with the family. However, they must sign the statement of faith and agree to all policies. They will be assigned as helpers where needed, but generally not in a high school classroom.

They must fulfill helper requirements according to CHNM helper policy. If attending in place of a parent who is unable to attend, they will be assigned to help and/or teach in place of that parent.

*Revised on 5-26-2020