



# ARCHERS Homeschool Group

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### Membership

**When are applications accepted?** May 1 through June 15. No applications will be accepted after that date. Families interested in membership are strongly encouraged to apply by May 31 to be guaranteed a spot in the fall classes. The membership acceptance process may take approximately one month after the application and payment are received.

#### What are membership requirements?

- Agreement with the Grace Christian Missionary Alliance [Statement of Faith](#).  
*Note: You do not need to be a member of Grace Church*
- At least one traditionally homeschooled student
- A completed application and payment (done via PayPal)
- Regular internet access
- Commit to [service to the group](#)
- Steering Committee approval

**How much does membership cost?** The Membership fee is a nominal flat fee for families of any size. Most of our events are a la carte, that is, they are not required. There may be a nominal fee required for certain events. Classes do require a fee to cover the cost of materials purchased for the specific class. Concert/theater tickets, and any fees charged by a field trip provider are also separate. Check with the Membership coordinator for the current membership fee.

**What is the Application process?** An application is initiated upon completion of an online application and receipt of payment. The application is reviewed by the Steering Committee and an interview may be requested. Once a membership decision is made,

the membership coordinator will contact the applicant. Those applicants who are not accepted into membership will have their fee refunded. Accepted applicants will receive notification and further instruction via email. Once the new school year begins in mid-July or August, the new member will be given full access to the website, where all group communications and group business are conducted.

## Group Information

**Who does ARCHERS serve?** ARCHERS serves Christian families that educate their children in a [traditional homeschool manner](#). Families are welcome to join if they traditionally homeschool at least one child that is at least five years of age by September 30 of the joining year.

**When was ARCHERS started?** ARCHERS, formerly known as the Grace Church Home Education Support Group, was started in 1989 by Marlin and Flo McKinley.

**How large is the ARCHERS Support Group?** We serve approximately 80 - 100 member families.

**Are the members of ARCHERS from Grace C&MA Church?** No. ARCHERS is a ministry of Grace Church, and we serve Christian families from a wide variety of denominations throughout the greater Cleveland area.

**What does ARCHERS offer for students/families?** (Offerings vary from year to year.)

- Field trips
- Service projects
- Spelling bee
- Oral presentations
- Fairs (Geography, Science, History)
- Talent night
- Model UN
- Group rates for theater tickets and orchestra tickets
- Parties (Fall, Christmas, Valentine)
- Classes (extra fee required)
- Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge
- SAT testing
- Book fair
- Spring formal
- Graduation

**What does ARCHERS offer for parents?** (Shared on our secure website, [archersofgrace.org](http://archersofgrace.org))

- Homeschool How-To
- Interested Member Meeting
- Moms' Night Out
- Couple's Night Out
- Book Fair
- End-of-year picnic
- HSLDA membership discount
- Affinity group meetings (Moms of Teens, Moms of elementary age students)
- Information-sharing (on legislation that affects our ability to homeschool, on activities and events in our area that may be of interest to homeschooling families, discounts or deals available to homeschoolers, etc).

**Does ARCHERS have regular meetings?** ARCHERS holds a mandatory annual meeting at the beginning of each school year. To minimize distractions and enable a large distribution of information, children are NOT allowed at the Annual meeting. Nursing babies are the only exception.

ARCHERS holds periodic emergency preparedness meetings that are also mandatory. Optional meetings throughout the school year may include:

- How to organize your school day
- Show and Tell Nights (what curriculum have you found helpful)
- How to school your children with toddlers destroying the rest of the house
- How to prepare transcripts, etc.

**Where does the ARCHERS Group meet?** Most of our activities occur at Grace C&MA Church in Middleburg Heights, OH.

## **Commitment/Service**

**What's required of me as a member?** ARCHERS members serve the group with their God-given talents. Examples of service commitments are: planning a field trip, teaching a class, helping with a holiday party.

**What is the "Points" system?** Duties are given a point value. Duties are valued from 1-5 points based on the time required to fulfill them. Each family must contribute at

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least 5 points a year. Note: So that new members to ARCHERS may become acclimated to the group, they are required to contribute only 2 points their first year.

**How are points assigned?** As part of the membership application process, an applicant selects 6 ministry choices (not all will be assigned!) from the Commitment Form. The available options are indicated on the Commitment Form along with the descriptions and dates of various services needed by the group. Commitments are then assigned by the Points Coordinator in a manner that will best meet the needs of the group as a whole, while giving every effort to honor the member's requests. Commitment assignments are communicated during the Annual Meeting.

## **ARCHERS CLASSES**

**What are "Classes"?** Classes are provided by group parents and are meant to supplement core curriculum taught at home. Classes are an opportunity for the students and parents to interact with other group members.

**Who is eligible to participate in classes?** Classes are open to group member children of school age (Age 5 by September 30 of their kindergarten year).

**What is a typical class day like?** There are 3 consecutive class periods on each of the scheduled class days. Each class period is approximately 45 minutes. Students and parents must be present for all three daily classes.

**Who teaches the classes and what kinds of classes are taught?** Adult members teach classes ranging from arts & crafts to high school chemistry. Examples of classes that have been taught in the past are: Speech, Ohio History, Black History, Back Yard Birds, Crochet, Cake Decorating, Owl Pellets, Hermit Crabs, Electricity, Reader's Theater, and Sign Language. Gym class or some sort of physical activity class is offered.

**How many children are in a class?** Class sizes range anywhere from 5 to 15 children. Gym class sizes may be much larger with 20 or more students.

**How are classes grouped?** Classes grouped into five age ranges: Pre-K (age 4), Kindergarten (age 5), Primary 1-3 (ages 6-8), Intermediate (ages 9-12), and Middle School/High School (ages 12+) levels.

**Is child care available on the premises during Classes?** Yes, child care from Nursery to preschool is provided for classes.

**Why are there separate fees for the classes?** Class fees are based on supplies deemed necessary by each teacher in each class. A class fee typically ranges from \$1–\$10 depending on the type of class.

**Can I drop my student at classes?** No. Because ARCHERS is operated completely on a voluntary basis, parents are required to be present and contribute to the group in some way. Not all parents need be teachers; parents also assist in classes or the nursery.

**May individuals who are thinking of joining ARCHERS observe classes before they join?** No. For the safety and security of the children, only members of ARCHERS are allowed to be present during classes.

## Homeschool Information

**What is “traditional homeschooling”?** Parents that traditionally home school are using curriculum that they choose, direct, and teach their children without the oversight of the Ohio Department of Education. These homeschoolers are not required to complete any of the state-mandated tests, nor are they accountable to the ODE for their educational methods.

**What are the requirements to home school in Ohio?** As regulations may change, please refer to the following website: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Quality-School-Choice/Home-Schooling>