

GFHSG Information for new families

Below is info that I send to everyone asking about Grace Family Home School Group (GFHSG) and the co-op. It does include information about both our Van Dyke and Land O Lakes campuses. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is full and has closed, but you can be added to our waiting list for the future. Please continue reading to see if we are a good fit for each other.

For the 2020-2021 school year, we were blessed with a second campus to hold co-op classes. GFHSG co-op now meets at our flagship campus, Van Dyke, and the newer Land O Lakes campus. Both campuses meet on Fridays throughout the school year (twelve weeks before Christmas and twelve weeks after Christmas). Van Dyke meets from 9:00 - 2:15 and Land O Lakes meets from 9:00 - 12:15.

Both campuses are **completely full** this school year, and with the little turnover that we experience each year, the waiting list can be upwards of two+ years, depending on the ages and grades of your children. With the addition of the Land O Lakes campus, we were excited to be able to invite more families than anticipated last year and this year. I've attached the schedule for the Van Dyke campus **for the 2020-2021 school year** for you to get an idea of the type of classes offered each year. We have fun while getting academics done too! The Land O Lakes schedule has fewer offerings due to the limited number of classrooms. Each of the schedules is COMPLETELY dependent upon what the parents want to teach each year. The LOL campus is extending the grade range for the upcoming year to K4 through 9th grades, and LOL does not have accommodations for children younger than K4 or older than 9th grade. The Van Dyke campus has classes and nursery from birth through 12th grade, with a lengthy wait for those 2nd grade and younger.

GROUP INFO

GFHSG consists of two 'divisions': the 'group', and the Friday 'co-op classes'. The group coordinates a few parties, school pictures, a yearbook, kindergarten graduation, student achievement night, along with other events of which any member of the homeschool group may participate. Field trips and park days are sometimes coordinated by moms for the group also. If someone plans it, we usually have it. As for co-op, we hold classes on Fridays during the school year. We are not an umbrella school, and we do not hold any accreditations. We are just a bunch of homeschool parents with volunteer co-ordinators (also homeschool moms) who get together one day per week to teach our children in a group setting. At this time, there is no 'drop-off' of students allowed. **These classes are all taught by the parents, and the parents are required to teach and assist in 3-4 classes per day (or more, if your child needs extra assistance) and remain on the premises when not teaching.** New members who are not yet ready to 'teach' may just assist in classes **their first year.** Our group does provide a discounted FPEA rate (Florida Parent Educator's Association www.fpea.com).

PLANNING INFO

At this time, **the wait list for Van Dyke is typically a year or two**, as we do not have much turn over each year. We pray for the success of the new Land O Lakes campus and that we may be given the opportunity to open additional campuses in upcoming years. Please keep this in mind, as some of the groups listed below will have a registration deadline in early spring for the next school year, *before GFHSG* typically knows how many new families will be invited for the upcoming year.

Continue reading to see if GFHSG would be a good fit for you and your family. I've included options with our group and other groups in the area.

We do have a few families who join the 'group' and not the 'co-op' in order to participate in our extra-curricular activities. This cost is \$35 per family for the school year. Again, since these are coordinated by anyone within the group, I can't say how many events will be organized for this upcoming year. If you are interested in this group-only option, please reply to this email accordingly.

The fee to participate in the co-op is \$150 per family, in addition to the class book and supply fees. Each year, if there is any money that is unspent by the classes, we use that money to lower our registration fees for returning families the following year. For the past several years, we have been able to offer a \$50 discount for returning families along with another \$50 discount for teachers, making the membership cost as low as \$50 total for returning families. There may also be a \$75 cleaning/setup/tear down fee, and/or a background check fee (should be around \$12) this upcoming year.

There are other groups that offer weekly classes, park days and many field trips. You can find a list of those groups at fpea.com/groups.

A few that I know about are listed below:

Christian Family Co-Op	(contact hswett71@gmail.com)
Class Source	class-source.com
Classical Conversations	classicalconversations.com
	- Input your zip code to find locations near you.
Tampa Covenant	https://www.homeschool-life.com/fl/tampacovenanthomeschoolers/
Trinity Academy	trinityhomeschoolacademy.com
Lighthouse	Lighthouse Christian Homeschool Academy

Class Source, Classical Conversations, Lighthouse, Tampa Covenant, and Trinity are groups that pay their teachers, with some allowing drop-off of students, with the trade-off being higher prices than our parent-led co-op. If you are not in a position to commit your time and energy to a parent-led co-op, I strongly suggest that you consider one of these other groups.

Also on this website, you will find the file "What is GFHSG?" which will explain more about the group. AT VAN DYKE ONLY, Moms with infants work together to watch each others children on campus *in addition to* teaching and/or assisting in their scheduled classes.

I am aware that this is a large amount of info. If you are interested in the GFHSG co-op after reading all of this information, please send an email to GFHSGinfo@yahoo.com and let me know the names and grades of your children, and I will add you to the waiting list. If you have a preference of the Van Dyke or Land O Lakes campus, please include that in your email.

While the addition of the Grace Family Church Land O Lakes campus is a HUGE blessing, there is still a need for additional parent-led co-ops in the area. If you are interested in getting a group started at your location, I'm willing to provide some guidance to help you get started.