

MISSION

As a homeschool ministry, Walking Wise Homeschool Co-op desires to encourage **DEEPER** relationships and **WIDER** educational experiences for homeschool families in Wise, Lee, Dickenson and surrounding areas.

PURPOSE

By sharing our gifts and talents we offer a low-cost Co-op with academic and enrichment classes for the whole family. We recognize homeschooling is hard work and we want to lighten the load, not add to it. Our desire is to supplement what each family is already doing at home, not direct it.

We do this by providing...

- Nursery
- Preschool play & learning time
- K-1 students with interesting learning experiences
- Elementary students with classroom experiences to help foster respect for other adults and students. Our desire is that they would become more mature and more independent in their learning.
- Middle school students with opportunities to learn new topics or go deeper in subjects of interest. Our desire is that they would build strong friendships through teamwork, joint experiences, and fellowship times.
- High school students with opportunities to build their faith and their transcripts. Our desire is that they would take ownership of their faith, their education, and their service to the Lord through positive peer relationships.
- All students will have the opportunity to work toward the Co-op Excellence Award.

GOAL

We recognize that every homeschool family is different and use different curricula. Therefore, we offer the “extras” – those things that all too often get set aside at home because of time, ability, or the need for a group setting. We also work on incorporating field trips and fellowship events because aside from Co-op classes, our children simply need time together in order to build strong Christian friendships, and so do the parents.

The Co-op should help us to become authentic Christians through regular, transparent interactions and encourage our hearts to press on toward the prize. If we are so burdened by our children and their schooling, how can we be a light to our husbands, our children, and our community?

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. In order for us to keep our costs low, class variety high, and workload balanced, we need **EVERY** mom or dad to teach or help. There is a job for everyone, and, depending on your experiences and interests; we will work to find a good fit for you.

2. Please take this commitment seriously and consult the Co-op calendar at beginning of the semester in order to schedule doctor/dentist/etc. appointment around those dates whenever possible. Please do not cancel the night before or morning of unless it's for an illness.
3. We expect all teachers/participants to be in control of their thoughts and actions (mentally, emotionally and physically stable) and able to carry out these duties in a responsible, Christian manner in order to be a positive influence on the students. It is your duty/responsibility to bring any issues, concerns, etc regarding yourself or your child to the leadership team.
4. Whatever your responsibilities, you are expected to show up on time and be prepared for the day. If your family is large or has children who need time to transition into classrooms, please arrive with enough time to get everyone settled in their appropriate places.
5. **If you are a teacher/helper in the nursery/preschool - please arrive early in order to be ready to receive your students at drop-off time.**
6. Be alert and aware of all classroom activities. We are ALL hall monitors.
7. It is your role as parent/caregiver to share and discuss "student responsibilities" (no cellphones, appropriate topics, social media rules, etc) with your child. If there is any type of issue or concern about anything listed it is your duty/responsibility to bring it immediately to the leadership team.
8. As a way of saying thank you to Camp Bethel, you will be asked to help clean up and organize our building at the end of each semester.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Please be prepared to teach your class each week by arriving in your room at least 5 minutes before the start of your class. If you teach first block, please leave enough time to get your own family settled.
2. Please be as creative as possible when choosing activities and purchasing supplies in order to keep our overall costs low.
3. **If you are going to be absent, please make arrangements with your assistant to teach your class and let the Morning Coordinator know you will not be there so we can make arrangements for another assistant.**
4. If you have disciplinary issues in your class, please speak to the parent that day and if necessary, please inform the leadership team.
5. NO child should switch classes without parent and leadership approval.
6. The assistant is there to help you in any way possible. Please use her/him as needed.
7. Always straighten up your room after class; leaving it as you found it.
8. Every teacher will be asked to sign a statement of faith. If you are unable to do this, we can find other non-teaching ways you can help.
9. Please dress for co-op with appropriate length skirts/shorts/tops that do not have any controversial logos or stickers on them. We are modeling appropriate attire for our kids.

ASSISTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Your job is to help the teacher in any way possible. This may include taking students to the restroom, passing out items, helping students with projects, keeping the students' attention for the teacher, etc.
2. If the teacher is going to be absent, we would like to have you teach the class since you will know what is going on. We will give you another assistant for that time period.
3. **Remain in the classroom and engaged with the teaching at all times.**
4. Please share any concerns you have about the class to the teacher and/or to someone on leadership. You and the teacher are partners in the class, and we would love for you to work as a team.
5. Help the students get from one room to the next at class changes. Help the students walk in the halls and find their next class in an orderly fashion.
6. If you are not helping in the next class, please help the teacher straighten up the room.

PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be prepared and bring needed class supplies.
2. Walk between classes, inside and outside. No running or yelling. Do not walk around camp except where your classes are, no wandering.
3. **Respect others** - parents, teachers, and students. This also includes having appropriate conversations while at co-op, some topics are for you and your parents to discuss in a private setting like your home, these topics include: dating, questioning your gender, transgenderism, intimacy or sexuality of any kind. And it is prohibited to use language that could be interpreted as bullying, violent, threatening or profanity. We have a zero-tolerance policy and if you participate in conversations of these topics you will be asked to leave Co-op without a refund.
4. **Respect Camp Bethel** - clean up after yourself, do not destroy property.
5. **Respect learning** - pay attention and be a part of the class, complete assignments to the best of your ability. If you find the class is too easy for you, rise up and be a helper!
6. You may not include Walking Wise activities or classes in your personal social media without permission of the leadership team, the same goes for other students without their parent's permission.
7. Please dress appropriately for co-op, that means no midriff/crop tops or shirts/bags with controversial logos or stickers. Please don't wear any type of costume or accessories unless it is a specific Co-op activity. Shorts/skirts must not be above fingertip length and no undergarments (underware, bras, etc) can be visible. Girls make-up must be reasonable (no goth type make up, etc)
8. **No cell phones**, other electronic games/equipment, or personal items such as Legos, trading cards, headsets, etc. should be brought to class unless approved by the teacher. If found being a distraction, the teacher or assistant may confiscate the item until the end of the Co-op day. If questionable items are found, the teacher may return the item to your parent.

DISCIPLINE

Every adult, not just teachers, are expected to intervene if disruptive or disrespectful behavior is observed.

Guidelines for handling disruptive behavior:

1. 1st Offense - Speak to the child asking him/her to stop the particular behavior and give a warning if it is not stopped.
2. 2nd Offense - Remind the child to stop and seat him/her next to an adult or in a time out chair. Inform parent of any recurring issues.
3. 3rd Offense - Remove the child from the class and take to his/her parent. Discuss with the parent any possible intervention ideas.

If a student is excessively rude or aggressive, steps one and two can be skipped. If the student continues to act out during the semester, a special parent-teacher conference will be called in order to determine if the student may continue to attend Co-op.

In order to avoid possible problems, feel free to talk to your student's teachers at the start of the semester if you feel they need accommodations. Be ready to share specific techniques that work or be willing to stay with your child to help them have the best day possible.

It is also important that teachers / helpers talk to parents about a child's misbehavior or difficulty in class as soon as possible. Parents may be able to give insight or help with a proactive plan. If you wait a few weeks, the situation could escalate, and the parent may be caught off guard.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Although most of our time and efforts go into our Co-op classes, we desire extra fieldtrips and fellowship. In order to accomplish this, individual families are encouraged to plan activities as the ideas arise. If you need help posting your event on the web site, please contact the leadership team.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Tuesday mornings for 18 weeks of the school year

MORNING CLASSES

9:30 am - 12:15 pm

We recommend you arrive at 9:15 am.

*We will host an on-site orientation for new families and walk through before Co-op begins each semester.

Morning classes are followed by an optional brown bag lunch to enjoy in the picnic area across from the Outpost. Families are encouraged, but not required, to stay and picnic together.

COST to join CO-OP

\$50 per family per semester for classes and \$20/family/semester cleaning fee.
A few classes may have an additional supply fee or required textbook.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Unfortunately, personal conflicts and misunderstandings can happen. Though rare, it is important we agree on how to deal with these situations before they arise. We've chosen to base the structure of this policy on Matthew 18:15-20 and the spirit of this policy on 1 Corinthians 4:21.

"Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by

the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
(Matthew 18:15-20)

“What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?”
(1 Corinthians 4:21)

Many disputes/differences can be properly resolved by overlooking an offense and forgiving the person who has offended. Because of this, we ask that you pray about the issue to decide if it is important enough to deem confrontation. If, after prayer, God gives you the peace to dismiss the issue, then it is passed and forgotten and is NOT to be discussed with others.

If, however, after prayer, you feel the offense must be addressed, the offended party must first seek to resolve conflict between the two individuals involved. This includes if there's an issue with one of your child's teachers, whenever possible please go directly to them. If either party is unsatisfied or a resolution cannot be agreed upon, they must seek the assistance of an objective party (typically a member of the leadership team) to mediate. As a last resort, the conflict will be taken to the director/pastor of Camp Bethel, and he will help to make a final resolution.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Participants ***should not attend*** Co-op if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

1. Fever (within last 24 hours - unmedicated)
2. Virus or infection know to be contagious
3. Questionable rash
4. Persistent cough
5. Diarrhea, vomiting or nausea (within last 24 hours)
6. Chicken pox, Measles, or Mumps
7. Conjunctivitis or Eye drainage
8. Head lice

If there is any question about a child's health during the Co-op day, the child will be removed to the parent's care immediately. **We would like to err on the side of extreme caution. If you or your child is sick, we ask that you keep the whole family home.** Please keep in mind that this policy is essential for the health and protection of all our families.

LOST AND FOUND

Any items that are left at Camp Bethel will be placed in the Lost and Found container in the area by the front door of the Schoolhouse. Items that are not claimed after a couple of months will be donated.

EMERGENCY / SNOW DAY POLICY

In case of severe weather or other extenuating circumstances, you will be notified by a group email by 8:00 am on the day of closing.

*** If Wise County schools close for snowy or icy conditions we will automatically cancel Co-op for the day. If it is delayed for cold weather, we are likely to still meet. ***

STATEMENT OF FAITH

All parents/guardians must sign the statement of faith. If you are not in agreement with it, we are happy to help you find other homeschooling resources in the area.

MEDICAL RELEASE & WAIVER OF LIABILITY

In order to participate in Co-op, you must sign to release Walking Wise Homeschool Co-op and Camp Bethel and its employees and volunteers from any liability for damage or injury. This form will be part of the online registration process.

SAFETY & BACKGROUND CHECKS

In order to help ensure the safety of our children we will follow the safety guidelines set forth by the church.

1. Any adult working with children must have a background check done within 10 days of registration. It's an easy online process you'll complete at home, a link will be sent to you. The cost of this background check will be covered by each individual.
2. All rooms must have at least 2 adults.
3. Only females are allowed to change diapers.

Remember, everyone is a hall monitor and should address issues as you see them. Some will be assigned to watch specific areas, such as, hallways, lobby, & playground. We all are concerned with the safety and upbringing of our children. Let us work as a community to raise them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.