



Classical Homeschool Community of Shrewsbury

About Us

Mission

To provide homeschooling families a Christ-centered community where hearts and minds are nurtured and guided to think critically, reason clearly, and communicate effectively all while cultivating a love of learning.

Purpose

CHC seeks to encourage and equip families in classical home education by providing classes that focus on the truth, beauty, and wonder of our creator God. We aim to accomplish this by providing children with an enriching academic environment that fosters godly relationships and balances diligence with delight.

History

Our community has been providing engaging and exciting Christ-centered classes to homeschool families since 2018. We operated as a licensed Classical Conversations community for the first five years, then as the needs of our families shifted, we founded Classical Homeschool Community in 2023. We now operate as a 501c3 nonprofit, which allows us the flexibility to continue honoring the rigorous academic standards of Classical Conversations while giving us the ability to adapt to the specific needs of our families. For example, we built in extra time for our history and science classes to allow students to fully engage in the material, ask questions, and discuss answers. This change also allowed us to consider students' academic and developmental abilities when placing them in classes—taking into consideration both the structure of the community and parents' thoughts about class placement—instead of considering only birthdates when placing students. Sometimes, this means a child may be in some classes with younger children and others with older—giving all students a balanced school day that takes multiple factors into account.

When & Where We Meet

We meet once a week on Tuesdays from mid-September through late April/early May. We meet at Grace Fellowship Church in Shrewsbury, PA.

How We Operate

Our community operates as a true co-op with each family contributing to its overall success. Unlike a drop-off community, parents stay the whole day and participate in a meaningful way that aligns with their interests and giftings and fulfills a community need. There are many areas where parents can serve, including setting up and breaking down classrooms and shared spaces; helping with special events, fundraising, or field trips; becoming a tutor or co-tutor; serving on the Board of Directors/leadership team (or shadowing these positions with the intention of serving later years); overseeing the community's financial or administrative responsibilities; etc. Parents who are not teaching or directly helping with the administration of the day are expected to be in a classroom with their children—either providing an extra set of hands for the tutor or learning alongside their children so information learned at co-op can be reinforced throughout the week at home. All adults in the community must submit Pennsylvania clearances prior to the first week of the school year.

Class Offerings, Curriculum Choices & Schedule

At Classical Homeschool Community, we currently offer classes for children from preschool through middle school.

We begin our day together at 9:00 as a community for Morning Gathering. During this time, we share announcements, say the Pledge to the Bible and Pledge of Allegiance, sing a hymn, and participate in a Bible teaching. Students are then dismissed to their classes.

Pre-Grammar:

- Preschool aged children attend our pre-grammar class, which boasts learning through meaningful play. Children learn foundational skills through songs, activities, and hands-on projects.
- The pre-grammar tutor has the flexibility to choose and facilitate a curriculum of her choosing after Board of Director approval. We do have a curriculum that has been taught in the past that tutors are welcome to use.
- Sometimes, older preschool aged children will be invited to join classes (usually science, art, and music) with older children when it is age- and developmentally-appropriate.
- Pre-grammar classes end at noon. From noon to 1:00, students eat lunch together and then have recess.

Lower Grammar (kindergarten through 3rd grade)

- In the Grammar Stage, students love to chant, sing songs, and memorize through repetition. This is an important stage in which students learn facts on which to build for later studies. To nurture this learning, CHC offers:

- Memory Work & Presentations
 - History (we use the *Mystery of History* curriculum; parents will need to purchase this textbook*)
 - Science (we use the *Learning with Friends* curriculum; the community purchased the license and parents do not need to buy anything**)
 - Art & Music (this curriculum is determined by the tutor and covers artists/composers, technique/theory, design/elements, etc.)
- Lower grammar classes end at noon. From noon to 1:00, students eat lunch together and then have recess.

Upper Grammar (4th through 6th grade)

Upper Grammar students participate in the same classes as Lower Grammar students, but their lessons are scaled to meet their more advanced academic needs. In addition, these students are offered Upper Grammar Language Arts (UGLA) classes from 1:00 to 3:00, which consists of:

- Writing (we use the *Institute for Excellence in Writing* curriculum; parents will need to purchase this book)
- Grammar (we use the *Shurley English* curriculum; parents will need to purchase this book)

The capstone project for our Upper Grammar Language Arts class is a highly-anticipated Faces of History event. Students work through the year learning how to write five-paragraph papers and then craft an essay highlighting an historical figure. These papers are then converted to first-person, memorized, and presented by the students (in full costume!) during a special evening event.

Depending on whether or not our community has the ability to provide a tutor for this class, we may hire someone outside of our community to teach this. In this case, there is a separate charge for this class.

Siblings of UGLA students are welcome to participate in Play & Learn, an afternoon class consisting of a Bible story, crafts and art activities, and play time. Play & Learn is taught by a high school student who came up in the community and whose two younger siblings are in UGLA. There is an additional fee for this offering.

Middle School (7th grade and up)

Our Middle School program combines the Dialectic Stage (during which students intuitively become more argumentative as they want to know “why;” in this stage, they are given tools to learn how to argue logically and thoughtfully) and the Rhetoric Stage (during which they learn

how to express themselves persuasively and are logically able to communicate their message to others with wisdom and sound judgement).

Middle school classes and schedules are determined each year based on the interests of the families with middle school aged students and the capacity of parents to teach desired classes.

- Previous classes have included Logic, Debate, Newsletter Writing & Design, Literature & Cinema, and Spanish.
- Middle school students typically also participate in Upper Grammar Language Arts (UGLA).
- For the 2025-2026 school year, middle schoolers will be offered the following classes: Logic (one semester); Debate (one semester); History, Science, Art, and Music (with Upper Grammar students but scaled to their academic needs); and UGLA.
- Middle school classes end at 3:00 (if students participate in UGLA). From noon to 1:00, students eat lunch together and then have recess.

Nursery

This offering, available for siblings of enrolled children, changes from year to year based on need. Typically, mothers requiring nursery care will coordinate amongst themselves to provide coverage for their children. Depending on the ages and abilities of nursery-aged children, it may sometimes be appropriate for them to join the pre-grammar class for some activities. Infants who can be worn may stay with their mother as long as this does not cause a distraction in the classroom.

**Mystery of History* is a four-volume series. For the 2025-2026 school year, we will be working out of Volume I. History memory work directly relates to what is learned in History class. Geography is also taught during History and directly relates to the content of the history lesson.

***Learning with Friends* is a three-volume series and is often considered a companion curriculum to Classical Conversations science since the modules and lessons directly correspond. For the 2025-2026 school year, we will working out of Volume II, which covers Ecology and Physics.

Events & Field Trips

Each year, we offer a variety of special events (such as a Christmas party, Valentine's exchange, and Faces of History), special days (like crazy hair day, pizza day, or PJ & popcorn day), and field trips (including a corn maze/farm day in the fall, Keystone Kidspace, roller skating, etc.). Events and field trips may vary each year based on the interests of families.

Tuition & Fees

Because we are a true co-op, our only costs are those which directly benefit our community, including supplies, insurances, rent, and funding for special events. Cost varies from year to year based on the number of families enrolled, but we aim to keep the total amount per child as low as possible. For the current school year, the total cost was \$300 per student. Rates for the 2025-2026 school year will be available early- to mid-summer.

Leadership Team

The leadership team also sits on the Board of Directors. These leaders change from year to year based on need, interest, and capacity. The Leadership Team for the current school year consists of Kelley Welsh, Jen Webb, and Liz Piette. The Leadership Team for the 2025-2026 will include Kelley Welsh, Michelle Kelly, Jess Kearney, and Jillian Goedeke.

Contact Information

For more information about joining Classical Homeschool Community, please reach out to a member of the upcoming year's leadership team or email CHCShrewsbury@gmail.com.