

Grace Bible Church Homeschool Cooperative Purpose & Goals

1. Purpose

Grace Bible Church Homeschool Cooperative is a function of the Christian Education Ministry of Grace Bible Church and therefore shares in its purpose of “*Glorifying God by Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.*” The GBC Homeschool Cooperative seeks to enable families that share this purpose and agree to abide by the GBC Statement of Faith to help one other in the raising of their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). While this may include academic subjects such as reading, writing, speaking, history, math, the sciences, the arts and also practical life skills, the underlying emphasis in any and all of these will be a Biblical perspective of truth, godly behavior and skills. Greater importance will be placed on training the children to develop godly character than on academic success.

The GBC Homeschool Cooperative will be open to all families that share in this purpose statement and agree to abide by the GBC Statement of Faith. The GBC Homeschool Cooperative Committee will be restricted to members of Grace Bible Church.

2. Goals

- A) Glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ
- B) Provide opportunity for families that share the purpose statement of Grace Bible Church and agree to abide by the GBC Statement of Faith to help one another in raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).
- C) To assist in training children in the development of godly character
- D) To assist in training children to understand the world from a Biblical perspective
- E) To assist in training children in academic skills by which they can understand the Scriptures, the world God has made, and be able to effectively defend the Christian faith
- F) To assist in training children in life skills by which they can care for themselves and serve others to God’s glory.

3. What makes the GBC Homeschool Cooperative Different

The two key elements that makes the *Grace Bible Church Homeschool Cooperative* different from other educational cooperative organizations is 1) The emphasis upon Biblical doctrinal integrity in what is taught under the direction and authority of a local church, and 2) The emphasis upon training children to develop godly character.

1) Biblical Doctrinal Integrity. While we do not disparage other support groups which have a wide range of stated or unstated beliefs among those who belong to them, the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative* is very serious about doctrinal integrity and its requirement for all participants to abide by it as detailed in its Statement of Faith. Those who do not abide by it will be counseled by the Director or the Pastor. Those that will not abide by it will be excluded from the cooperative. (See Link: <https://www.gracebibleny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Doctrinal-Statement-for-GBC-Homeschool-Cooperative-Ministry.pdf>)

Curriculum used in the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative* must be in agreement with Statement of Faith or taught in such a way as to correct the errors and bring the teaching in line with the Statement of Faith. Curriculum is to be reviewed by the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative Committee* before use.

2) Development of Godly Character. While academic success is important, the key to such success in academics and life is the development of a godly character. For that reason emphasis will be given to developing godly character in all aspects of teaching and in the relationships of those in the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative*. Subjects are to be taught from a godly perspective with opportunity taken to stress moral lessons in the teaching. Children will be lovingly but firmly corrected to godly standards of conduct (See: <https://gracebibleny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GBC-CO-OP-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>)

4. Registration process

The Registration information and Forms are posted on the GBC Website (See:

<https://www.gracebibleny.org/educational-support>)

Registration Procedure

- 1) Fill out the online Registration Form and send
(<https://www.gracebibleny.org/gbc-homeschool-co-op-registration-fall-2022>)
- 2) If you are not a member or regular attender of Grace Bible Church, please have your pastor fill out the Pastoral Recommendation Form and submit it to us. (See:
<https://www.gracebibleny.org/pastoral-reference-form-for-homeschool-families>)
- 3) Registration reviewed by *GBC Homeschool Cooperative Committee*
- 4) Interviewed by a Cooperative Committee member
- 5) Acceptance into the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative*
- 6) Assignment of responsibilities within the Cooperative
- 7) Information on how to join our Slack group for communication will be sent

5. Financial Considerations

- *Cost of Curriculum & materials will be the responsibility of each individual family
- *Grace Bible Church is providing the facility & utilities without charge
- *Membership fee of \$20 per family. This will cover the cost of replacing church supplies used by the Cooperative
- *Families in financial need should talk with their pastor for any possible help (Note: GBC is already subsidizing the Cooperative by suppling the facility and utilities)

6. Student cap

The physical size of the facilities will limit the number of students that can be accommodated. For that reason, if admission to the group must be restricted, priority of admission will be as follows:

- 1) Members of Grace Bible Church
- 2) Regular Attendees of Grace Bible Church
- 3) Current members of the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative*
- 3) Those personally recommended to the Cooperative by a member or regular attendee of Grace Bible Church
- 4) Those personally recommended to the Cooperative by a current member of the Cooperative
- 5) Those with no connection to Grace Bible Church or a current member of the Cooperative

It is not the purpose of the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative* to become as large of possible. We view it much more advantageous to our Homeschool families and to the cause of Christ for other churches to start similar cooperatives as part of the ministry of their own church. We will gladly help other churches in such efforts.

7. Shared teaching responsibilities

A cooperative program by nature requires each family to be involved:

1. An adult family member or representative will attend the meetings. (No child is to be dropped off to attend without a specific adult having responsibility for the child)
2. Each family will help with the teaching in some manner - either regular class teaching or a special class
3. Each family will help with the maintenance chores needed for using the facilities.

8. Commitment

- *Everyone is to attend the regular weekly classes from 10:00 AM - 2 PM including helping with cleanup afterward
- *Optional classes and activities will vary depending on the particular group
- *Field trips / Saturday activities will be optional. Commitment on to such trips / activities will be dependent on the particular trip / activity

9. Curriculum

Curriculum used in the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative* must be in agreement with Statement of Faith or taught in such a way as to correct the errors and bring the teaching in line with the Statement of Faith. Curriculum is to be reviewed by the *GBC Homeschool Cooperative Committee* before use. Not every aspect of any curricula must be taught (Example: the Latin portion of the Claritas program). Other specific materials in keeping with the GBC Doctrinal Statement may be substituted that may be better than the general curriculum being used. (Example. Use AIG material for particular science classes, etc.)

10. Schedule

See <https://www.gracebibleny.org/educational-support> for information on current schedule including the times of particular required and optional classes listed on the Registration Form

See Registration Form for the times

11. Code of Conduct

See: <http://www.gracebibleny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/078/GBC-CO-COP-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

(Approved 7/3/2022)