

OUR PURPOSE

Our mission is to cultivate a soil true to the Word of God for which our homeschool families can be planted; to provide our students with academic and spiritual learning whilst creating connections within the community; and a place for your child and their homeschool journey to be rooted on good ground and grow to their fullest potential according to God's plan.

OUR STATEMENT of FAITH

We are a Christian Co-op and subscribe to the historic Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED-- We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. Was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Welcome! The Lighthouse Christian Homeschool Academy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian co-op open to all students in pre-K-12th grade.

This handbook is for all students, parents, and teachers. Lighthouse Christian Homeschool Academy (hereinafter "LCHA") expects all participants of LCHA to abide by the rules. Each family and teacher is to read the handbook and sign the acknowledgement contained within the LCHA administrative forms of this handbook indicating agreement to abide by its terms. Students who are already 18 when co-op starts, or who turn 18 during that school year, must still follow all rules and policies as set forth in this handbook. Teachers are expected to enforce the policies outlined in this handbook, with the cooperation of our homeschooling families. This handbook is not intended to be exhaustive. Issues not covered herein will be addressed as needed by the Board. LCHA reserves the right to deny participation to any family or student for any reason, and failure to comply with the policies set forth herein will jeopardize the privilege to participate in the co-op. Information contained in this handbook is subject to change.

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SECTION 1: DATES AND CLASS SCHEDULE

A. DATES FOR CO-OP:

Traditionally, all LCHA classes meet on Tuesdays beginning the first Tuesday after Labor Day. We take the Tuesday before Thanksgiving off. Christmas Break begins the Tuesday before Christmas and we return the 1st or 2nd Tuesday of January. We follow Pasco County for Spring Break. The Tuesday Schedule is on the LCHA website (www.lchaco-op.org)

Since Living Word Church is a polling place on November 3, 2026, we will NOT have classes. In order to compensate for that day off, we will begin the school year BEFORE Labor Day on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

B. TUESDAY CLASS SCHEDULE:

8:45 - 8:55 a.m.	Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance & Announcement
9:00 - 9:55 a.m.	1st Period
10:00 - 10:55 a.m.	2nd Period
11:00 - 11:55 a.m.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade Lunch / 3rd Period
12:00 - 12:55 p.m.	3rd Grade - 12th Lunch / 3rd Period
1:00 - 1:55 p.m.	4 th Period
2:00 - 2:55 p.m.	5 th Period
3:00 - 3:55 p.m.	6 th Period

SECTION 2: YEARLY FAMILY REGISTRATION FEES AND PROCESS, CLASS REGISTRATIONS AND OPEN HOUSE

A. YEARLY FAMILY REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees are \$150.00 per year per child attending LCHA, regardless of how many classes are taken. **Registration Fees are non-refundable.** Registration fees are used to cover insurance fees, church usage fees, background checks expenses, website fees, and co-op supplies. If you will not have children in classes but would like to participate in LCHA events, you can opt to choose an affiliate membership plan for \$40.00.

Registration fees are payable via our website after July 1st.

B. REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. New families must complete the following under Family Registration on the LCHA website:
 - a. Request New Membership
 - b. Pay your non-refundable membership fee (**after July 1st if using PEP**)
 - c. Read the handbook
 - d. Complete all required forms

2. Returning families:

- a. Fill out a mandatory Family Survey online in March. When prompted, state your intention of returning.
- b. A paper registration packet will be given to you to complete and return promptly.
- c. Upon receiving your fully completed packet, your family will be entered manually.
(Please note that this process has been implemented to calculate how many new family spots will be available and to time your registration fee for after July 1st so as to not impede PEP reimbursement requirements.) *Note- Please make sure your profile is up to date on the website.

C. PERMISSION for TREATMENT, LIABILITY RELEASE

A copy of the Permission for Treatment and Liability Release Form must be *signed and notarized* by every family as part of registration. Every family that attends LCHA must have this form on file for each child who will be on campus. You may list all of your children in one form. This form states that you participate in co-op activities at your own risk and that Living Word Church, Lighthouse Christian Homeschool Academy, and all the teachers are exempt from any and all liability. Teachers who do not have children enrolled in classes must also sign this form. This form will be included in the application process and will be due by the date designated by the board.

D. CLASS REGISTRATIONS

Each family will be notified by text/email of the dates that individual classes will open for registration on the website. At that time you can log into your account and add your child to your desired classes. The classes are first come first serve. Please add your student to the waitlist if the class is full as families do change classes often.

Class Description Information:

Each class is color-coded green, yellow or red.

- **Green** indicates that all of the work for the class will be completed during the designated class time and will not require any outside preparation or work.
- **Yellow** indicates that there will be some preparation or homework required during the week other than the scheduled class time.
- **Red** indicates that substantial work and/or preparation is required during the week other than the scheduled class time.

We ask that prior to registering a student for a class, both parent and student seriously and prayerfully consider the expectations, requirements and commitment to successfully complete the class. When registering for a class you are committing to the entire year.

Teachers will be available during Open House to discuss these expectations and requirements and to answer any questions.

We have designated suggested grade levels for each class. If your child is outside the listed grade level, you are free to contact the teacher to see if your child may enroll in that class. Teachers have the discretion to make those determinations. Each teacher's e-mail address is listed in the class description on the website. All classes are year long unless stated otherwise.

E. OPEN HOUSE

Open House will be held in early August at 6:30 p.m. at Living Word Church in New Port Richey. The date will be announced on the website and is mandatory for new families. Current families are encouraged to attend. Teachers will have tables set up at that time to highlight classes they are scheduled to reach and to speak with families. The Board will also be there to meet new families and answer questions.

SECTION 3: PAYMENT FOR CLASSES / FEES

Co-op participation is contingent upon fees being paid on time. **Fees are non-refundable, including fees paid in advance. There are no partial refunds if your child drops a class in the middle of the month. The cost of books, workbooks or other material ordered specifically for your child is non-refundable.**

Each teacher sets the fees for the classes and supplies. It is very important that class fees are paid in a timely manner because the co-op must use those fees to pay the teachers. Class fees need to be paid on or before the 20th of the month. Failure to pay class fees on time creates great difficulty in paying teachers in a timely manner.

If fees are not paid by the last day of the month in which they are due, a **\$50 LATE FEE** will be added to your account. If all fees are not paid by the 1st of the month following their due date, your student will be asked not to attend class until your account has been brought up-to-date. (Please see the Tuition Payment Policy for the applicable due dates.)

Families will be responsible for paying all bank fees in the case of insufficient funds.

A. CLASS FEES and SUPPLY FEES

The monthly class fees constitute eight equal installment payments for the entire class' tuition. Class fees for September and Fall Supply Fees are due at Registration.

Once registered all your invoices can be viewed and paid through your online account with LCHA on our **website**. Login and click "**Balance**" at the top of the homepage. Your account will list all your invoices for the entire year. To pay invoices, check the box next to the applicable invoice(s) in the "Pay" column and click the **CONTINUE** button on the top right. This will take you to the site to process payment. Fees can be paid on a monthly basis via our website only.

If you decide to pay for the entire school year, you can pay via our website. It is the family's responsibility to review the invoices. If a family finds any inaccuracies, it is the family's responsibility to contact our Treasurer at **treasurer@lchaco-op.org**.

The fees for classes are a monthly “tuition” and there are no refunds. **If you are absent for any reason, including on vacation or due to illness, you will still be expected to pay for all the classes every month.** This includes private classes.

If a class must be canceled for any reason by the teacher or the co-op as a whole a make up class will be scheduled. If the teacher is unable to provide a make-up day, the families will be compensated for that missed class. Teachers are allowed to miss 1 day per semester without make-up.

Some classes have no supply fee. Others have one supply fee for the year payable at registration.

B. DROP/ADD

It is our hope that students have a good experience in each of their classes. **We ask parents to consider carefully with their children their class selections when registering. Dropping a class is only permitted during the first two weeks of the school year. If a family drops a class after the Drop Period, the family will be charged class fees for that class for the remainder of the school year. You are committing to the class for the entire school year.** Many of our teachers require a minimum number of students in order to move forward with a class. If students drop a class, it may create hardship for the teacher. Therefore, please prayerfully consider your decision about registration. **The last day to drop a class is the second Tuesday of the fall semester.**

If a parent drops or adds a class, it is the parent’s responsibility to notify the teacher and the Treasurer immediately. Parents are also responsible to drop or add the class on the website. Any tuition and/or supply fees already paid will be non-refundable and you are committing to pay all remaining tuition for the school year. Please prayerfully consider your decisions regarding each class registration.

C. TRANSFER FROM ONE CLASS TO ANOTHER:

A parent can transfer a student from one class to another with the same instructor with commitment to the new class at that class's annual fees.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding. Many of our instructors have made teaching their main source of income. It is not fair to the teacher for students to drop their classes after the teacher has committed based upon the decision to move forward with the class since the minimum requirement was met. These fees will be strictly enforced.

SECTION 4: SAFETY

A. MANDATORY CO-OP CHECK-IN AND PICK-UP

Every child under 14 must be signed in and out of co-op by a parent, relative, or other authorized adult. Students 14 and older must sign themselves in and out of the co-op as well.

If there are any special instructions for the drop off or pick up of your student, please write them in on the “Note” section of the sign-in sheet next to your student’s name. If the special instructions apply to every Tuesday, please email your instructions to the Director at president@lchaco-op.org, and they will be permanently added to the sign-in sheet.

During each class period, we will check class attendance and note any child who should be in the class but is absent. A volunteer will then check the absentees against the sign-in and sign-out lists to make sure we are aware of each child’s whereabouts at all times.

Each Tuesday at 8:45 a.m., we will gather for prayer and announcements. All are invited to participate and those present are expected to handle themselves respectfully. Please arrive early enough to attend the announcement session in order to stay informed about co-op information and activities.

Since we are a hybrid co-op, one where families can stay on-site or leave, we ask that no child under the age of 10, with the ability to self-sufficient, be left on campus without adult supervision (returning families.) Please no children under the age of 13, with the ability to self-sufficient, be left on campus without adult supervision (new families.) The Board reserves the right to require a parent to stay with the child should such be necessary at the discretion of the Board.

B. TEEN DRIVERS/WALKERS

Teens who have driven themselves to co-op must sign themselves in and out. Riders should not leave with another teen without permission from both parents.

C. LUNCH TIME

There are two lunch periods.

Pre-K to 2nd Grade lunch is from 11:00 - 11:55 a.m. Families are to provide lunches for their own children.

3rd - 12th Grade lunch is from 12:00 - 12:55 Families are to provide lunches for their own children or the co-op will take orders for pizza in the morning.

Once students finish lunch, they will be responsible for cleaning up their area prior to getting up to play.

In the event of a severe food allergy, the Board may implement certain dietary restrictions on campus. Should this occur, announcements will be made to alert families.

D. BACKGROUND CHECKS

We ask that every LCHA family submit information for a background check for anyone age 18 and over who will be on campus during class times during our regular meeting times. All

teachers undergo a background check as well. Those who have a background check will have a badge available at the front desk and must be worn at all times. LCHA contracts with a background check company to run the checks. The online form requests personal information, such as date of birth, social security number, etc. This information goes directly to the company and LCHA does not see it. Visitors must sign in at the front desk and wear a visitor badge while on campus. Guest speakers will be escorted to and from classes. In addition, LCHA requires that two adults be present in each classroom.

E. SICKNESS

Parents should keep their children home if they are sick. If a child has symptoms such as a temperature of 100 degrees or more, rash, vomiting, nasal discharge, the flu or diarrhea, you must keep your child home. If your child falls ill while at co-op, you will be notified. We request that you bring them home.

F. MEDICATIONS

Parents: Please do not allow your child to carry medications. All medications are to be kept at home. The co-op has a basic First Aid kit on premises. If your child needs any medication, you will be called to come to the co-op and administer it. If the child is on prescription medicine, please leave the medications at home, if at all possible, or make arrangements to administer it personally. If it does not have to be taken while at co-op, please leave it at home. If your child needs to have medication handy at all times, please see the Director at the beginning of the year to discuss this.

G. SPECIAL NEEDS

If a student has any special need or requirement (allergies, learning disabilities, behavior issues, etc.) it is the responsibility of the parent to advise each of the student's teachers and the Director. **The co-op, or the teachers (unless otherwise noted in the teacher's biography), make no representation of specialized training for special needs students. We will seek to work with students and their families as best we can.**

H. ALLERGIES and CANDY

It is imperative that teachers and parents be aware of potential life-threatening food allergies of certain students and be in regular communication with each other. Parents please encourage your children to not share food or candy with other children. Teachers are not to distribute candy or food in class unless it is a disclosed part of the class (such as Cooking Class) or unless parents are notified in advance. In addition, many members have allergies to animals or their dander. Please request permission from the Director before bringing a pet or animal on campus.

SECTION 5: CODE OF CONDUCT: “THE GOLDEN RULE”

A. BEHAVIOR/CODE of CONDUCT is as follows:

Treat others with honor and respect, choosing kind words, and actions at all times. *If a student can not abide by these rules, parents will be notified to correct the issue and/or disciplinary action will be taken.*

1. General Rules:

- a. Be respectful of the church grounds and property at all times.
- b. Keep your hands to yourself.
- c. Refrain from profane, obscene and improper language, gossip and gestures.
- d. Inappropriate public displays of affection will not be allowed.
- e. Maintain inside voices while in the building.
- f. Bullying is strictly prohibited.

2. Classroom Rules:

- a. All students are expected to show respect to the classroom teacher and TA.
- b. Listen when others are talking.
- c. Raise your hand when you need something.
- d. Do not leave the room without permission.
- e. Please do not distract others from learning. This includes improper cell phone use, loud side conversations, and disruptive physical activity.

3. Lunchroom Rules:

- a. Place all trash in the cans provided.
- b. Keep your hands to yourself during play. No rough housing allowed.
- c. Students are not to get up until they clean their area.
- d. Students are to remain seated for the first 20 minutes of the lunch hour.

B. DRESS CODE

The Dress Code and Code of Conduct will be followed by all who attend LCHA, teachers, parents and students alike. These codes are also in effect for co-op field trips, co-op fundraisers or any LCHA event away from the facility.

1. DRESS CODE FOR ALL:

Modesty and respect is key to clothing choices. All clothing must be appropriately sized, securely fastened and cover midriff, back, sides, and all undergarments at all times. No spaghetti strap tops, halter tops, exposed bra straps or one shoulder shirts. Tank tops must meet the “three finger” width strap rule. **Shirts must cover the stomach at all times – even when hands are raised over your head (no abdominal or waist skin showing at any time).** A

camisole or tank top must be worn under a sheer or cut-out top. **Shorts and skirts must come to the finger-tips when hands are at the side.** Form fitting athletic or spandex type clothes are not allowed unless proper outer garments cover to mid-thigh length or longer. Pants will be worn properly and underwear will not be showing. Writing and images on clothes must not be of an offensive, violent, or explicit nature. *Please note: If improper attire is not noticed or corrected on a particular day, it does not mean it is allowed.* This code is not to shame or harm body image, only to show respect for oneself and others.

Any individual who violates these provisions, regardless of age or gender, will follow the protocol outlined below:

1st Violation: Parents will be notified and asked to bring a change of clothes to the student.

2nd Violation: Parents will be notified and asked to bring a change of clothes to the student.

3rd Violation:

will be asked to leave and return dressed appropriately, or If this is not an option, an appropriate T-shirt can be provided to be worn for the rest of the day.

Formal attire for dances should cover cleavage and be at least fingertip length. Please keep in mind what activities you will be participating in, such as dancing, sitting, climbing stairs and bending over to ensure coverage and modesty.

All students are to practice good personal hygiene at all times, and should refrain from make-up, piercings, clothing, or hair that is distracting or inappropriate. For certain events at the Co-op, there may be a specific dress code. Please consult the event sign-up on the calendar for details.

2. POOL PARTIES AND SWIMSUITS:

Boys shall wear correctly fitted swim trunks. Girls shall either wear one-piece swimsuits, tankinis or two-piece swimsuits with a T-Shirt worn over the swimsuit. We encourage modesty for all students.

C. DISCIPLINE POLICY

No one at LCHA will use any form of corporal punishment. Physical violence is not permitted. Incidents will be addressed by the Board and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion.

All teachers will encourage and instruct students in ways to promote positive behavior. We will not degrade or embarrass your students but encourage them in the Lord to do what is right at all times. In return, we ask that each of the students promote an attitude of honesty, respect, and integrity with each other. No disorderly or disrespectful behavior to each other or the facilities will be tolerated. Discipline for violations of co-op policies will be addressed by the Board.

1. NO WEAPONS POLICY

No weapons of any kind shall be brought to co-op. Knives, lighters, matches, brass knuckles, martial art weapons, guns, fake guns, air guns, and b-b guns are prohibited. This is a very serious offense. Please leave anything even resembling a weapon at home. Violations of this policy will be addressed by the Board, which has discretion to determine the appropriate sanction up to and including expulsion.

2. CIGARETTES, E. CIGARETTES (VAPING), ALCOHOL, and ILLEGAL DRUGS

No cigarettes/ e. cigarettes(vaping), tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed on campus at any time. This is a very serious offense. Violations of this policy will be addressed by the Board, which has discretion to determine the appropriate sanction up to and including expulsion.

3. MUSIC, CELL PHONES, GAMING DEVICES and LAPTOPS

Cell phones, iPads, and electronic gaming devices may be brought to co-op at your own risk. However, such devices may not be used during class time without the teacher's permission.

Cell phones must be off, including texting, during class time. You may have a cell phone, but it must be off during class. If cell phones are used during class, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the class period

Laptops may be used for class work or homework. Due to limited bandwidth, WIFI access will not be available for personal use. Internet content must be appropriate. Parents will be held responsible for what their students are viewing online. Please instruct your student on the sensitivity of this matter. Content acceptable for some families is problematic for others. This includes websites containing violence, improper language and other inappropriate content. LCHA reserves the right to terminate any improper electronic activity.

4. CONFLICT/GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

All grievances should be handled following the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses." Unresolved disputes and conflicts shall be brought to the LCHA Board for resolution.

SECTION 6: PARENT VOLUNTEERING REQUIREMENTS

In order for the co-op to function effectively, we require that each family fulfill volunteer requirements. After registration is complete, please go to the Parent Volunteer Matrix in our Class Schedule section of our website and select your jobs. Each family is required to select two jobs. Because we require two adults to be in every classroom, there will have to be another adult present in each class in addition to the teacher. Therefore, we strongly encourage each family to

fulfill one teacher's assistant job. If you will be absent or unable to fulfill your duties on a specific Tuesday, please notify the teacher, find a replacement and notify the Director. Teachers are not required to complete volunteer requirements however they are strongly encouraged to do so.

Please consult the Parent Volunteer Matrix for job descriptions. If you are not able to fulfill the volunteer requirement, a \$300 or \$600.00 buyout option is available. Contact the Directors with any questions.

SECTION 7: LCHA WEBSITE

All members are welcome and encouraged to use the LCHA website. E-mails to the group may be posted in the forum. We request that e-mails be courteous.

The LCHA website now has an app to quickly access the communication board and calendar. It can be found on the top right corner of the homepage.

LCHA is a 501(c)(3) organization and as such may not participate in political activities. Political e-mails may not be posted on the forum.

LCHA also has a Facebook page for active members. (LCHA Family Private Page.) Each year the roster of members will be updated.

SECTION 8: MISCELLANEA

A. VISITORS TO CO-OP

There are times when family and friends visit from out of town and your child would like to bring a visitor. Please e-mail the Director with the date that your child will be bringing a visitor so that she may contact the teacher. Visitors may attend once WITH permission. Repeat visitors will be asked to pay for the classes and visitors that continue to attend co-op will be asked to register. Visitors must wear a visitor's badge while on campus.

B. VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING OF CLASSES

There will be no video or audio recording of classes unless permitted by the teacher.

C. PHOTOGRAPHY

There may be photos taken of co-op activities for use in the yearbook or class projects. Photos of individuals other than your own family are not to be posted online or on social media sites without the consent of the parents of the individuals in the photo. Please refrain from tagging others without prior consent when posting on-line.

D. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES FOR CREDIT OPTION

LCHA offers some courses designed to meet the requirements for high school credit. It is the

responsibility of each student's family to document the credits, save samples of work for the high school portfolio, and determine whatever is required by the overseeing school board or umbrella school. LCHA does not issue certifying letters.

Please note that for a student to have legitimately completed a high school course, regular attendance and completion of all work is necessary. If a student misses a class, he/she is responsible for communicating with the teacher, submitting homework assignments, getting class notes from the teacher or another student, and making up any missed tests/quizzes at the discretion of the teacher. Final grades will reflect attendance and completed work. Please note that some courses will not totally finish a curriculum within the time constraints of the co-op year and may require additional work for completion over the summer.

E. STUDY HALL

Students who are on campus but do not have a class during a particular period must be in Study Hall. Study Hall is a gathering place for students and parents to socialize with one another being mindful of the classes in session around them. Children must be supervised at all times. Please be considerate of classes in session surrounding Study Hall.

F. HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Parents who would like opportunities for their high school student to earn volunteer hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship should contact the Director to make arrangements.

G. DONATION OF SUPPLIES

The co-op uses a number of supplies on a weekly basis. These include paper products (plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues), and cleaning supplies (hand soap, all-purpose cleaner, cleaning rags, 13 gallon and 55 gallon trash bags). We welcome any periodic donations from families or local businesses of any of these items.