

Orangeburg Christian Home Educators Association

“Encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thess 5:11

www.ochea.net

OCHEA Mission Statement

We purpose to nurture, educate, and lovingly discipline our children according to the Word of God. We intend to do this by teaching them spiritual and moral values and to lead them by consistent lifestyle example. We believe that God ordained marriage as the unity of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children are a blessing and gift to that union and are to honor and obey their parents. **We recognize home schooling as the privilege of educating our children at home, using the curriculum of our choice, free from public, private or governmental control of any kind.** Each member family has the responsibility of portraying Christian values in their homes and to one another by displaying respect, courtesy, honesty, fairness, understanding, guidance, patience and brotherly love towards one another at all times.

(References: Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 22:6, Mark 10:6-9, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 6:1-3, Philippians 4:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15)

Group Information and Policies

OCHEA is a support group for home schooling families in the Orangeburg area. **We are not an accountability group!** (You must be part of an accountability group to be compliant with SC homeschool laws.) Our members vary in experience from new to veteran and teach children of all grade levels using their own choice of curricula and scheduling. While many different Christian denominations are within this group, our focus remains the same--working together to do what is best for our children.

OCHEA can be joined at any time during the school year for families to join in on OCHEA hosted activities, field trips planned by OCHEA members, holiday parties, school pictures (when available) and access to communication with all OCHEA members through Heylo. Co-op, however, can only be joined before the registration deadline.

Our group has one mandatory planning meeting at the start of the school year at which we schedule opportunities for our children to learn and grow together. **The planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:00pm at Cornerstone Church.** Members are required to attend this meeting. We communicate initially via email and then via Heylo to make announcements concerning this meeting and other planned gatherings.

Communication

Since we only have one meeting at the start of the year, it is vital to be an active participant in our Heylo communication app. Heylo can be accessed via web browser on any computer or via mobile app. Members are encouraged to download the mobile app and turn on all notifications to stay informed about OCHEA topics and events. Heylo does give users the ability to join (or not join) relevant discussions, so that you are not overloaded with notifications of posts that do not interest you. Only major announcements will be sent out via email, so keeping up to date through Heylo is essential to your OCHEA experience. It will be expected that all members keep informed via Heylo.

Activities offered by OCHEA

Without member involvement, our group cannot remain productive. Our group is only as good as we make it. With the exception of first year members, you are required to host (or co-host with one other person) ONE event, field trip, or serve on a committee. First year members are not *required* to host any events, but are encouraged to help and participate whenever possible. Potential activities and committees are listed below. Please prayerfully consider how you will contribute this year.

Social Studies/History Night

Science Night

Mom's Night Out

Field trips

Spelling Bee

Family Talent Night

Holiday Parties

Age-based Gatherings (i.e. Middle School Madness)

Members are asked to plan and host these events. The host(s) are responsible for securing a location for the event, making a plan for potential activities and/or food, and set-up/clean-up. Holiday parties can be held at any location suitable for a crowd, on any date/time desired. If food will be served, please provide details so other members know what they should bring or to contribute money to a meal. OCHEA provides the paper goods for these events. (Please check our supply before purchasing more.) Once plans are made by the host, they should create an "Event" on Heylo so all OCHEA members get an invitation and can respond with questions or RSVP.

Committees

Listed below are volunteer committees that need your help. Each position is for one school term.

Yearbook- on this committee, you will be responsible for helping organize OCHEA's annual yearbook. You may be asked to submit photos, layout pages, help sell ads, etc. High school aged students are encouraged to volunteer for this committee as well.

Graduation-Parents of graduates as well as OCHEA board members make up this committee.

Committee members meet and help plan all of the following for our graduation ceremony- meeting dates, securing a convenient location, printing programs, setup, and serving refreshments, clean up and any other areas which help alleviate some of the responsibilities of the parent of graduates.

OCHEA Leadership

Our Board is made up of five volunteer members. Board members offer advice and provide information to members and prospective members, provide and moderate a platform for members to communicate within, lead planning meetings, schedule classes, handle fundraisers and monies, provide an internet support platform, help plan graduation, and lead the various aspects of the group. Board positions should be held no less than 2 consecutive years, but will be voted upon should a member wish to join the board before a current board member steps down. The board members for the 2026-2027 term are as follows:

Allison Bates 803-308-1630

Annie Garvin 803-682-2090

Catherine Roberts 803-378-4732

Joy Dekker 803-466-6566

Pamela Morse 803-347-4328

Parent Responsibility/Discipline Policy

As homeschoolers, anytime we are together as a group in public, we represent the entire homeschool movement as well as our families, and it is our desire for OCHEA members to always

be viewed in a positive light. All members should respect the hard work and effort it takes to organize an event and encourage their children to participate. Please thoroughly consider an event before signing up for it. Cancelling at the last minute may cause a problem for the organizer or event. We respect the right of each family to discipline their children according to their own consciences, providing the children are not disruptive or disrespectful in their language, dress or behavior. We seek to promote the happiness and contentment of each family without offending one another. However, we will not permit the obvious disregard of rules or regulations to affect the activities provided for the group, or cause us to lose privileges at any given facility. Parents are responsible for the actions of their children and will be asked to appropriately handle any disruptive conduct that may prevent members from enjoying group events. There should be no “dropping off” of children at an event unless proper consent of an attending adult is obtained beforehand. OCHEA cannot accept liability for injury or neglect at group functions. Your signature on the application form attests to your notification and agreement to the above policies.

To join OCHEA, please complete the “OCHEA ONLY” online application found on our website at www.OCHEA.net. Mail check payment to PO Box 2498 Orangeburg, SC 29116 or email info.ocha@yahoo.com to arrange in-person payment. Plan to attend our mandatory planning meeting to help create an amazing year for our children. **The planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:00pm at Cornerstone Church.** When you join OCHEA, you will be invited to join OCHEA’s Heylo group.

The remainder of this document specifically concerns OCHEA weekly Co-op classes.

OCHEA Co-op Policies & Information

As a member of OCHEA, you are eligible to participate in Co-op classes. To register for Co-op classes, please complete the “OCHEA + Co-op” online application on our website at www.OCHEA.net. Mail payment to PO Box 2498 Orangeburg, SC 29116 or email info.ocha@yahoo.com to arrange in-person payment. The online application will calculate your payment due, which is half of your family’s yearly fees (OCHEA membership + Co-op tuition + background check if applicable). Plan to attend our **mandatory** planning meeting to help create an amazing year for our children.

GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY

ONLY children for whom you are the parent/guardian/primary homeschool teacher may attend co-op as a family unit. Extended family, friends, or children of friends may only attend co-op if their parent/family joins OCHEA + Co-op and provides a parent helper. Students **MUST** be in **5K-12th grade. All children enrolled in a class 5K and higher must be potty trained, and not needing assistance with the bathroom.** Nursery is only available for siblings of 5K-12th students, and only on the weeks their parent is helping or teaching.

Primary students are defined as 5K — 5th or 6th grade, with the oldest age group advancing to middle school classes every other year. It is up to parents to decide if their 6th grader will move to intermediate/middle school classes, in which their academic ability and independent responsibility should be considered.

Intermediate students are defined as 7th grade – 8th grade (6th included every other year) taking intermediate level academic classes with an option for 8th graders to move to secondary classes if appropriate.

Secondary students are 9th – 12th grade students taking secondary level classes. This could include 8th graders earning high school credit if parent deems student of academic maturity. Confirm with your association which classes can count for HS credit for 8th graders.

Nursery (Birth - 4yr): This service is provided for the children (birth - 4y) of parents who are either teaching or assigned as a helper, only on the days they serve. Nursery is **not** offered for children that do not have an older sibling participating in the 5K-12 co-op classes. Parents assigned to serve in the Nursery are required to facilitate structured play, reading time and general care of children present. If a parent would like for their child to participate in the structured play/learning time on their "off" day, they are welcome to accompany their child in the Nursery. There is no fee for Nursery.

TUITION AND MEETING INFO

Tuition per YEAR: (half for each child is due with application)

- 5K-Elementary - \$120 per student
- MS/HS students - classes are a la carte at \$40/class with an additional \$10 lab fee for science classes.
- Tuition prices are per student, for the academic year, and help to cover the expenses for security officer on site at each week, liability insurance for the Co-op, and cleaning/maintenance of the facility.
- First-time members participating in co-op will be responsible for paying \$25 for a background check fee for the volunteering adult. This background check will be good for three years. If more than 1 adult from your family will be regularly serving as the adult volunteer, all adults will need to have background check.

Half of total fees is due with application. The balance is due on the 1st January Co-op meeting date. Families are expected to honor their commitment to pay tuition regardless of attendance. Families who have unpaid tuition from a previous year will not be allowed to rejoin Co-op until the remaining balance is paid. There is no charge for nursery children.

Vital Information (please read carefully so you will be informed):

Serving in co-op: Each family is to provide a responsible adult to serve every other Co-op day, 15 days total for the school year. A schedule will be provided before the start date with your assigned days. It is imperative for the success of the co-op for parents to be active participants. It is the expectation that parents will honor their teaching/helper assignment. If a family is unable to serve consistently at co-op, or if the family does not show up for their assignment 3 times within the year, the family will be asked to meet with the board, and determine whether co-op is the right fit for their family.

Location: Classes are held on Mondays at Cornerstone Church, 1481 Chestnut Street in Orangeburg.

Time: There are 3 class periods that are 1 hour each and run from 9:00am-12:00pm. Families should arrive no later than 8:45, to ensure all children are checked in and parent helpers/teachers are in their respective rooms to receive students no later than 8:50. Classes will begin promptly at 9:00 and classroom area doors will be closed

and locked. If you arrive after 9:00, you will need to check-in with the Coordinator to get children into their classes.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Parents who do not teach a class will be required to serve 15 days; roughly twice a month (every other Coop) as a Parent Volunteer and will be assigned a position and specific dates. **If you cannot serve** on your assigned day, you may switch with another member parent, but you **MUST inform the co-op coordinator of any absence/changes in the schedule**. If you have another member cover your serving shift, you must make up that day by serving for them as well. Please be proactive in finding replacements ahead of time for planned travel that will cause absence. If a parent is unable to fulfill their commitment to the co-op and misses 3 times within the year, a meeting will be scheduled with the board to discuss the family participation in co-op going forward.
2. On the parent's day to serve:
 - a. Be in assigned serving area no later than 8:50am to greet students as they arrive. Provide name tags for children/helpers for the first month of Co-op meets.
 - b. Maintain order in classrooms. (*1 Cor 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace."*)
 - c. Encourage children to participate.
 - d. Remove a child who is being disruptive from class if needed. Inform Co-op coordinator of problem. (See discipline policy for protocol)
 - e. Monitor bathrooms; Leave door open if child needs assistance. For multi-stall bathrooms, allow older children to go ONE at a time. Stay outside or in doorway, then escort them back to class.
 - f. Supervise classroom clean up by students.
 - g. Ensure children are signed out by parent before leaving.
 - h. Return furniture if needed and return binder to coordinator.
3. Students are **not** to be left on the premises without adult supervision before or after co-op classes. They must be signed into their first class and out of their last class by the parent. Middle school students can be signed out from Hangar 1, in the back hallway. High school students may gather quietly in the Concourse to wait on parent to arrive. Cornerstone is a community church that is open to the public and operates a cafe with patrons. Children will not be allowed to wander the building or run around in open spaces while adults are chatting across the room. As soon as your children are in your care and you have completed any end-ofday tasks, you should exit the building.
4. If it is NOT your scheduled week to serve, you MUST be able to be reached by phone and able to return in the case of a medical emergency or behavior problem that results in a child's removal from class.
5. If your family chooses to patronize the Cornerstone Cafe for lunch following co-op, you are to keep all food in the cafe dining area and are expected to clean up all trash and crumbs from your meal. Your child(ren) should remain under your direct supervision during this time. Children may NOT eat in the Concourse area or in classrooms.

Co-op Visitor policy: You may NOT bring extra children, extended family or friends, or out-of-town visitors to Co-op. For emergency situations, please contact a board member for guidance. Only prospective members may visit, as a family, and they must communicate with the board to schedule a guided visit.

Photo and Media Release: By participating in OCHEA Co-op, parents and guardians understand that photographs and video recordings may be taken during classes, field trips, and events. These materials may be used in co-op publications, including our handbook, newsletters, official website, and organization social media pages. If a parent does NOT want photographs published of their child, they need to notify the board and indicate that on their application.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student Behavioral Expectations for Co-op

1. Students should treat other students and teachers with respect—keep hands and feet to themselves, no talking while someone else is talking, and speak kindly to and of others. Students must listen to and obey all adults. Bullying will NOT be tolerated. *Eph 5:4 "and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."*
2. Students must dress in modest attire. No spaghetti straps, crop tops, short-shorts, low-cut necklines, or other inappropriate/revealing clothing. Shorts should not be shorter than/hidden by shirts. *I Timothy 2:9 "Women (and men) adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation."* Please no flip flops, sandals, or boots for students taking PE; socks and sneakers are required.
3. Always respect campus staff and property. *Matthew 25:29 "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away."* OCHEA Co-op greatly values the privilege to meet at Cornerstone Church and will protect that privilege. Any student who jeopardizes that privilege forfeits their enrollment in OCHEA Co-op. Likewise, any parent who jeopardizes that privilege will forfeit their family's enrollment in OCHEA Co-op as well as OCHEA support group.
 - a. Due to Cornerstone's open-to-the-public entrance, doors to classroom areas will be locked by 9:05 for safety reasons. If you arrive late, you will need to have the Coordinator escort you to class.
 - b. Stay in assigned areas set by those in authority. The Main Auditorium is closed to Co-op students.
 - c. Students/parents must replace anything they waste, damage, or break.
 - d. No running and/or yelling in hallways or concourse.
 - e. Water bottles are allowed in the classrooms. No other drinks or food during class time, unless provided by the teacher.
4. Students may not bring any electronic devices or toys to class unless asked for by their instructor. Cell phones should not be seen during class, unless the use is part of the lesson.
5. Intermediate and secondary students (middle and high school) must remain under authorized adult supervision from 9:00-12:00p. If student is not attending one of the scheduled classes, they MUST stay in the area designated by the Board, which will be supervised. If a student does not report to class, Cornerstone security staff and the parent will be contacted to help locate the student.

ACADEMIC POLICY

1. Students should always come prepared for class with books, assignments, and necessary supplies.
2. Primary responsibility for a homeschool student's education falls to the parent. Parents are to take an **active role** in oversight of the comprehension, completion, and integrity of all assignments including daily work, quizzes, tests, projects, labs, etc. The parent should review the assigned work and assist the student with time management if necessary.

3. Parents and students should understand the purpose of intermediate and secondary classes is not for “exposure,” but are courses that require daily commitment of time and effort. If grades are assigned by the teacher, the parent may not dispute this. Ultimately, the parent is responsible for submitting grades to their homeschool association and may choose to use or not use the grade provided by a Co-op teacher. The teacher will not be asked to change grades or make exceptions to their grading policy.
4. Students should always complete and turn in assignments on time. However, if a student misses class for medical or travel reasons, the **parent/student is responsible for contacting the teacher for assignments.**
5. Students and/or parents who do not uphold these academic guidelines may be subject to teacher/board review with appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Disciplinary actions for Primary students

1. First offense (Warning)- If child is being disruptive in class by not following directions or disrespectful to others, they will be verbally corrected by the teacher or parent helper.
2. Second offense- If behavior continues, the parent helper is to speak to child outside the classroom to explain the offense and expectations of behavior. Child may return to class.
3. Third offense- If behavior continues after both corrections, parent helper removes child from classroom, parent will be called, and parent must accompany child the remainder of the day. These instances will be documented.
4. If parent has to be called to accompany child on 3 separate occasions within a Co-op school year, a meeting will be held with the parent and OCHEA Board to discuss suspension and/or expulsion from Co-op.

Disciplinary actions for Intermediate and Secondary students 1.

First offense: Name on the board as a warning.

2. Second offense: Check mark by the name and parent will be notified.
3. Third offense- Two check marks by the name and the parent **must** escort the student to all co-op classes on the next occurring day. (If the parent cannot come at the next scheduled co-op, the student will return when the parent is able to attend.)

****A student will receive a strike (X) if he/she receives a third offense. If a student receives 3 strikes (**which means that he/she reaches a third offense on 3 separate occasions during the same co-op year**), the student will be expelled.

2026-2027 Co-op Meeting Dates

1st Semester Dates	2nd Semester Dates
August 10, 17, 24, 31	January 4, 11, 25
September 14, 21, 28	February 1, 8, 22

October 5, 19, 26	March 1, 8, 15, 22
November 9, 16, 30	April 5, 12, 19, 26
December 7, 14	May 3

Co-op Coordinator: if you have any questions about Co-op, please go to the coordinator for answers to your questions. This is also who you will contact if you make changes to the helper schedule by swapping with another helper or have last-minute illness and cannot attend on your week to serve.

2026-27 Coordinator: TBD (Text or Heylo direct chat)

Primary Classes (5K - 6th)

Primary students will attend all 3 classes offered for their grade level. They may not mix and match classes across grade level groups, or exempt any classes. Tuition includes all class offerings for their grade level for the entire year. Classes will be year-long. Generally, primary classes at Co-op are not meant to replace core curriculum courses, as they are only supplemental learning experiences once a week, geared more towards socialization.

Grade appropriate academic and social/behavioral criteria are provided below to help decide where to register your child. Primary classes are mainly social, so it is important to assess not only academic ability but also social behavior readiness. This helps teachers keep students more engaged in class. We do not have time in one-hour classes to focus on individual needs and make accommodations. We are not trained or equipped to provide for special needs/disabilities. Please consider your child's needs before applying to classes.

- K5/1st: Potty trained. Beginner readers (know letter sounds), write letters, follow 3-step directions, 10+min focus, keeps hands to self
- 2nd: Be able to write a simple sentence, early readers, focus/be still for 15-20 min, be able to follow directions and respect normal social boundaries (self-control)
- All higher grades should include all these criteria as well as handle grade-level academic expectations.

PRIMARY CLASS SCHEDULE

	9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00
K5-1st	Mother Goose	Science	PE
2nd-3rd	TBA	STEM	Spanish
4th	Fine Arts	PE	STEM
5th/6th	PE	Science	TBA

INTERMEDIATE/MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES (6TH-8TH)

Intermediate classes may be chosen a la carte, if a student does not select a course for each time slot, they must report to a designated area to be supervised. Tuition is \$40/class with a \$10 additional lab fee for science courses. Please note there may be more than 1 option for some class periods. See class descriptions to decide which option is best for your child; some classes are more academically rigorous and others will require little to no at-home commitment. See schedule below to ensure there are no conflicts with your class choices.

6th-8th	9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00
	PE	American History	Book Club
	Science		Spanish

Middle School Course Descriptions:

MS Science: God's Design for Chemistry and Ecology

This is a pre-chemistry and ecology curriculum for 3rd-8th graders (best for grades 7-8), which presents God's amazing world through the study of atoms, molecules, matter, and ecosystems. This course is a comprehensive science curriculum and will have daily assignments to be completed at home each week.

Students will need: ONLY the student textbook, 1-1.5" 3 ring binder. PDF files will be sent via email to be printed at home. Experiment supplies will be provided as needed throughout the year.

Textbook:

- God's Design for Chemistry and Ecology Set (MB Edition)
Subtitle: Properties of Ecosystems, Properties of Atoms and Molecules, Properties of Matter Master Books ISBN (13): 9781683441427

MS Book Club: An elective geared towards lower-middle school. We will read novels that will help the students problem solve, and develop a sense of self. We will work on reading comprehension, word patterns, vocabulary, and feeling comfortable reading/speaking in front of peers. The books for this class will be released at a future date. Students will have assigned reading between co-op meetings, but will have the option to complete additional assignments if desired.

Spanish: Open to middle and high school students. This course will cover common expressions, alphabet, colors, numbers, asking questions, nouns, verbs, vocabulary building, and more. The instructor for this course will be following the Abeka curriculum for course content, but students will not be required to purchase this. This course will meet state standards, and a full credit can be acquired if desired.

Required Materials:

- Skills for Success Spanish Middle/High School - Carson Dellosa Education ISBN (13): 9780887247583
- Spanish Workbook for Middle School and High School Students - My Daily Spanish ISBN (13) 9798418048455
- 1"-2" binder with pockets/loose leaf paper
- Pen or pencil
- Ability to download audio files

American History: America the Beautiful is a history course centered in God's Word. The complete curriculum contains 2 textbook volumes. This class will only require Part 1 textbook, covering the story

of America from early Native American cultures through Civil War recovery. Students will complete the reading and assigned workbook pages at home each week.

Required Materials:

- America the Beautiful Part 1 (2nd Edition) - Notgrass History ISBN: 9781609991418
- America the Beautiful Lesson Review - Notgrass History ISBN: 9781609991401

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES (9th-12th grade)

Personal Finance: This class will introduce students to the math they'll need in order to operate a business, make investments, manage their personal finances, and apply principles of good

9th-12th	9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00
	Personal Finance	Marine Biology	Government/Econ
			Spanish

stewardship. It will fulfill the ½ credit Personal Finance graduation requirement. -Students will need: Abeka Business Mathematics Worktext

Marine Biology:

Deep dive into God's fascinating sea creations with this High School Marine Biology course! Geared towards 10th-12th graders, we will explore marine life using Apologia's High School Marine Biology curriculum, which includes an entire education on ecology that gives students self-directed learning tools to master key concepts.

Required Materials:

- Apologia *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* Textbook (2nd Edition). ISBN: 9781946506610
- Apologia *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* Student Notebook (2nd Edition) ISBN: 9781940110981

Government/Econ:

Notgrass curriculum will be used for both Government and Economics courses. Each will be covered over a semester and provide ½ credit of each, as required for high school graduation. *Exploring Government* is a one-semester course centered in God's Word that equips your student to better understand our country's system of government.

Exploring Economics is a one-semester course centered in God's Word that equips your student to better understand what economics is and how it affects our lives.

Students will need:

Exploring Government Textbook, Student Review Book, and Quiz & Exam Book

Exploring Economics Textbook, Student Review Book, and Quiz & Exam Book

Spanish:

See "Spanish" information above, listed with Intermediate course descriptions.