

Classical Strands Community

COMMUNITY

Community Defined: A big draw for most families who are interested in joining CSC is community. In a community, everyone has a role to play. At CSC, you are the teacher, but we have tutors who partner with you to assist you through the journey of homeschooling. Since this is a partnership, we ask parents to recognize their role in the process, as well, not only as the lead teacher at home, but also as an active member of the Classical Strands Community.

Questions for Parents to ask themselves:

1. Do you see CSC as a community that your family actively participates in or as a drop-off school program?
2. What is your vision of, or hope for, community?
3. What is important to you in community? Support? Accountability? Activities?
4. How can CSC serve your family? What are some areas you desire to be equipped/strengthened in?
5. Where can you serve in CSC? What gifts or talents can your family contribute to help maintain a thriving community?

- Community is a powerful tool for parents, providing strength, wisdom, and accountability. Homeschooling well is not easy. It will test your commitment and your determination, but when you are surrounded by others of like mind, the burden is lessened. Trials are shared over a cup of coffee, and soon turn from tears to funny stories. Many mistakes can be avoided by listening to those who have already walked down the road you are traveling. And as students grow up, they also benefit from the conversations they have with their peers and their tutors, enriching the studies they are completing at home.
- CSC is an academically rich community, with the goal for achievement set high. With that in mind, it is understood that families may need to scale the work to meet the needs of their families. This does not mean, however, that students and families should feel free to “cherry pick” their work. When students come to class with nothing prepared, the entire class suffers. Classes are kept small for the purpose of conversation and discussion. Every student is expected to bring something to contribute to every strand. Some will go above and beyond in their work; some will not. But engagement and effort are expected of all students. As parents, please be aware of where your student is at with their studies. As they grow older, they will become more and more independent, but it still holds true when we say, “Don’t expect what you don’t inspect.” The act of checking where your students are at, reading their papers, and having conversations about their work will make a world of difference in what they contribute in class... not to mention, how they will succeed at home.
- There are certain weekly tasks that must take place for community days to happen (cleanup, organization, supervision of small children, etc.). In addition to these, there are occasional jobs that must be fulfilled (EOY setup, slide shows, rewards for students, etc.). ALL parents MUST participate for our community to function successfully.
 - LOOK for opportunity to serve and do it with excellence. Don’t wait to be asked. If you see a need, find out if others are aware of it, and offer to meet it.
 - If you cannot be at community every week (with your Connections student), determine how to participate in the life of the community and communicate that to your student’s tutor or to the Communications Director.
 - Make every attempt to be at community whenever possible. Ideally, we would love for ALL of our parents to attend the lunch hour every week. This is an excellent time to build relationships with other families.
 - Should there be a Connections student that is having difficulty with self-control, we reserve the right to require a parent to be present on campus throughout the school day until that student manages to regulate themselves.

Classical Strands Community

COMMUNITY

- Students and parents are also expected to participate in caring for the facility. This includes students respecting their area of study throughout the day. It also includes students and parent cleaning up at the end of the day. Do not plan to leave immediately at 3:30. At least 15 minutes should be given by everybody to facility care at the end of the day.
- There are some specifics that must be observed on a community day:
 - Those with children under 4 years old must have a plan for their child during class time. Nursery care will be provided. If you choose not to use it, you must have a plan that does not distract or interrupt class, and that does not keep you out of class on a regular basis.
 - It is important that parents respect the tutor and make extra effort to not usurp either their time or their authority. Parents SHOULD take responsibility for their child, and if there are behavioral issues, they should take the initiative and correct their child so they do not disrupt the class. At the same time, the overall direction of the class is up to the tutor. It is often tempting to add stories and details to the information being presented. Instead of interrupting or monopolizing the classroom, remember those moments to share with your kids at home, or bring it up in conversation over lunch. It can be challenging for tutors to fit everything into the day that should be included, and parental interruptions complicate that job further.
 - In addition to being a distraction or an interruption in class, parents need to take care that they, themselves, are not distracted. We hold the line on cell phone use with our students. Please maintain the same standard for yourself. Put away cell phones during class time, and mute any notifications. Parents should be the first example for their children as to how to behave in class.
 - If you have multiple students in the Explorations program, establish a rotation schedule so that you visit different classes on different days. With rare exceptions, parents should not be entering and exiting classes throughout the day.
- The benefits of community are indisputable, but they don't happen automatically. It takes effort and commitment to have a vital community. But it is well worth it. The end result truly does become greater than the sum of the parts.