

Family Handbook



Grace and Glory Academy

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OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe there is only One True God, Our Father, The Creator of the Universe, Maker of Heaven and Earth, His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Counselor. We believe in the entire Bible, Old and New Testament to be the inspired, Holy Word of God. We believe in God's design for marriage, between one man, and one woman. We believe each person is created in God's image for the purpose of worshiping and serving Him, following His commandments and decrees.

COMPLYING WITH THE LAW

Our state law requires that children between the ages of 6-18 must be enrolled in school. California does not have a specific homeschool law; California is one of the 12 states in which homeschools may operate as *private in-home schools (or under supervision of a public school)*. Grace and Glory Academy students are filed on our Grace and Glory Academy private school affidavit.

HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION [H.S.L.D.A.]

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) is an association of attorneys who defend the home schooling rights of members nationwide. One of the most comforting areas of support any homeschool family can have, is the assurance of knowing you have a team ready to defend you in any/all legal matters that may arise at any time. HSLDA will represent any privately homeschooling family; HSLDA will not represent families from public charter schools. *We highly encourage but do not require membership with HSLDA.* You can apply online at <http://www.hsllda.org>.

CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATIONS ASSOCIATION [C.H.E.A]

Since 1982 CHEA has been California's primary advocate for private home schoolers, offering Christian support and events which connect families with vendors, authors and family protection organizations. Grace and Glory Academy is partnered with CHEA of California as a Private School Support Network Member, and the Roekle's serve as Regional Board Members on the CHEA leadership team. CHEA has a blog, online store of resources and much more. We highly encourage becoming CHEA members. Visit their website at <http://cheaofca.org>

CURRICULUM

Parents are responsible for purchasing, leasing or borrowing curriculum for their student(s). We provide academic counseling and guidance at Grace and Glory if desired. Families have the freedom and flexibility to select the best resources which suit their student(s) needs and learning styles. As a California private school, students must be taught in the state required branches of study, as noted by the California educational code.

DAYS REQUIRED

Grace and Glory has set a minimum number of 155 educational days which must be met, in order to complete a grade level at Grace and Glory Academy. We encourage families to avoid truancy and reach as close to 175 educational days as possible, aligning with traditional school attendance for California. *Any family, who notes less than 155 days on their annual attendance sheet, must provide a letter stating the reasons for excessive absences. (ie: hospitalization, prolonged illness or injury) Families who fall short of 155 days without reason, may be reported to the district for truancy.*

STUDENT FILES

Upon your signed approval, Grace and Glory Academy will request the permanent

cumulative file from your student's former school. All files are kept locked and viewed only by Administration; files will not be shared with others without your permission. Files contain report cards, attendance records, logs, notes from teachers and administrators. If your student is beginning Kindergarten, we will create a new cum file for your student.

OPERATING YOUR CLASS

Our state law requires us to keep a record of daily attendance for every student enrolled in our private school. Though your student should never really be absent (*aside from illness or extended vacation*), you do need to keep a record of educational days. One attendance sheet per academic year, per student, is required to be submitted. Grace and Glory will provide an attendance sheet to be used. Do not create your own attendance form.

Please note: we do not have a minimum number of minutes or hours per day required to determine a "school day." If you take a week or more of vacation time off school, do not count that time period for school attendance. If your student is ill and thus absent from co-op classes or LIFE Group, do not count that for school attendance.

GRADING and COURSE OF STUDY

We require an annual report card submitted for all students in grades 8+; reports are optional for K-7th graders. We provide the required report card form for you. Please use the A, B, C, D, F grading system.

California also requires an annual Course Of Study/Curriculum Report to be submitted for all students; we will provide the form for you. If at any time during your academic year, you decide to change or remove curriculum or courses out of your student's educational plan, you must notify us and complete a new form.

TESTING

It is important in your day-to-day schooling to evaluate your students understanding and progress. During the elementary years, testing can be verbal or completed by simple weekly discussions. Standardized testing is not required for elementary students.

We do require a test to be completed for jr high and high school. We utilize Christian Liberty Press Testing system; families may choose paper or online tests for \$25 per student. These tests are based on the IOWA 1970 Achievement test (before Common Core) and include Reading, Mathematics, English and Spelling. It is acceptable for a student to score low in one weak area, but the scores cannot be low in every area. *IEP students have special considerations and exceptions.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Back to School Night is the only mandatory meeting of the entire year. Grace and Glory Academy does not require monthly parent meetings, training workshops or seminars; however, we know successful home schoolers are not doing it alone. We encourage homeschooling mothers to participate in our Mother Culture activities and reach out to our leaders for regular support. We do not make phone calls or home visits, without request.

All families must submit to the PSP "Accountability Checks", which involve submitting a copy of your student's attendance count, 4 times per academic year. **This can be submitted in person or via email.**

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are initiated and planned by Grace and Glory leaders. Parents are always welcome to suggest a trip and request to host their own trip. Field Trips may be free or cost a fee; participation is always optional. We will utilize our email list, social media and website to promote Field trip opportunities. Once payment is submitted for an activity, it is considered non-refundable.

OTHER SERVICES

- School Photos and ID CARDS by Lesley Lukens Photography
- Promotion/Graduation options

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Annual Family Registration Fee

This adds your family to our program. The amount is due in full at the time of enrollment.

Academy Tuition Fee

This adds all of your students to our Private School Affidavit, regardless of how many you are home schooling.

Because we are an official non-profit organization in the state of California, we only collect fees to cover our basic costs. We have no paid employees. We have to pay for accounting and banking services, IRS filing, web/email servers, promotions, HSLDA, CHEA, and more. We accept tax-deductible donations.

Any family who fails to keep their financial commitment, can expect the following action:

1. Late payment penalty fee of \$40 per incident
2. After three penalties, we reserve the right to suspend your membership
3. There will be a \$25.00 fee for all returned checks
- 4: Failure to submit your Year-End paperwork on time will result in a \$40 late fee for our inconvenience in processing.