

Charis Homeschool

2026–2027 School Year



Parent Handbook

A Ministry of Charis Church

"Partnering with parents to raise a generation that intimately knows God, walks in His truth, and understands their identity in Christ."

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Welcome

Welcome to Charis Homeschool!

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our homeschool community. We are honored that you are considering joining us for the upcoming school year.

Charis Homeschool was created with a simple desire—to encourage homeschooling families as they pursue Christ together.

Whether you've been homeschooling for many years or are just beginning your journey, we pray CHS will be a place where your family feels welcomed, encouraged, and supported.

We recognize that homeschooling is about much more than academics. It is an opportunity to disciple our children, strengthen our families, and cultivate lifelong friendships centered on Jesus Christ.

Our prayer is that every family who joins CHS experiences genuine encouragement, meaningful relationships, and opportunities to grow in their faith together.

As a ministry of Charis Church, we desire to create an environment where children learn about God, discover the gifts He has placed within them, and grow in confidence as they learn to hear His voice and follow Him.

Just as importantly, we want parents to find support, friendship, and encouragement from other families walking a similar journey.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this handbook. It is designed to provide a clear understanding of who we are, what we believe, and what you can expect as a member of Charis Homeschool.

We look forward to getting to know your family!

Blessings,

Sarah Grindel, Lexi Bishoff, and Andra Johnson
CHS Leadership Team

Statement of Faith

The Scriptures Inspired

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, given by divine inspiration, and is the final authority for faith, doctrine, and daily living. – 2 Timothy 3:16

One True God

We believe there is one true God, eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh, fully God and fully man, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. – Ephesians 4:6 • Deuteronomy 6:4 • 2 Corinthians 13:14

Salvation

We believe all have sinned and are in need of salvation. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins through His death and resurrection. Salvation is received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. – Ephesians 2:8 • Titus 3:5 • Romans 3:23 • Romans 6:23 • Romans 10:8–10

The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit continues to work in believers today. We believe believers can and should be filled with the Holy Spirit and that the gifts of the Spirit remain active in the Church today. – Acts 2:4,17

Divine Healing

We believe healing was provided through Christ's atoning work and remains available to believers today. – Isaiah 53:4–5 • Matthew 8:17 • 1 Peter 2:24

The Return of Christ

We believe Jesus Christ will return for His Church. – John 14:3 • 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 • 1 Corinthians 15:51–58

Heaven & Hell

We believe in the reality of Heaven and Hell as described in Scripture. – Hebrews 9:27 • Revelation 20:11–15 • Revelation 21:1–8

Marriage

We believe marriage is God's covenant between one man and one woman. – Genesis 2:24

Gender

We believe God intentionally created mankind male and female. – Genesis 1:27

Our Vision

To partner with parents in raising a generation of homeschooled students who have an intimate, vibrant relationship with God and know their identity in Christ.

Our Mission

To create an environment where homeschooled children and parents can meet, learn, and grow together in the Lord, discover the gifts and passions God has placed within them, and cultivate meaningful, Christ-centered friendships.

Our Heart for CHS

Every homeschool family is unique.

As you prayerfully consider Charis Homeschool, our desire is not simply to invite you into another activity or co-op. Our desire is to invite you into a Christ-centered community where families encourage one another, serve together, and grow in their relationships with the Lord.

Because CHS is a ministry of Charis Church, everything we do flows from our desire to know Jesus more deeply and help others do the same. We believe the Holy Spirit is active and working today. We desire to create opportunities for children to hear God's voice, discover their identity in Christ, develop the gifts God has placed within them, and grow in wisdom and faith.

At CHS, we believe parents are the primary disciplers of their children. Rather than replacing that role, we desire to come alongside parents by providing opportunities for learning, fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual growth.

More than simply offering classes, we want to cultivate authentic relationships.

We desire for children to develop lasting friendships while parents find encouragement, prayer, wisdom, and support from other homeschooling families walking a similar journey.

Our desire is to faithfully build the homeschool community God has called us to steward. We recognize that every homeschool family is unique, and no single homeschool community is the perfect fit for everyone. We believe the families who are meant to be part of CHS will find encouragement, meaningful friendships, opportunities to grow together in Christ, and a community where both parents and children are loved, supported, and equipped to thrive.

A Typical CHS Day

9:00–9:30 a.m.

Welcome
Worship
Flag Salute
Prayer
Announcements

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Classroom learning and activities

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (Optional)

Lunch and fellowship

Parent Expectations

Charis Homeschool is a parent-led ministry of Charis Church. One of the greatest strengths of our community is that every family contributes in meaningful ways to help create an environment where children and parents can learn, grow, and thrive together. Our expectations are not intended to be burdensome, but rather to help us cultivate a Christ-centered community that is safe, welcoming, organized, and enjoyable for everyone.

As members of CHS, we ask each family to prayerfully commit to the following:

Christ-Centered Living

We desire for every interaction within CHS to reflect the love and character of Jesus Christ. We ask parents to: Demonstrate Christlike love, grace, patience, and kindness. Encourage and support one another. Avoid gossip, strife, and unnecessary conflict. Seek unity and healthy communication. Be an example to both children and other families through your words and actions.

Parent Participation

Because CHS is a parent-led ministry, every family plays an important role in making our homeschool community successful. Each family is expected to serve throughout the school year by using the gifts, talents, and abilities God has given them. Whether teaching a class, assisting another teacher, helping with special events, serving in the nursery, or assisting with setup and cleanup, every act of service helps strengthen our community. Our desire is for every parent to both give and receive as we serve one another.

Safety

The safety of every child entrusted to our care is one of our highest priorities. Parents are expected to help maintain a safe environment by remaining on campus during CHS, supervising their children when not serving in a classroom, following all safety procedures, and completing the required background screening before participating.

Communication

Healthy communication helps our community flourish. We encourage parents to communicate promptly with the directors regarding questions, concerns, absences, schedule changes, or any needs that arise throughout the school year.

A Spirit of Excellence

As representatives of Christ and Charis Church, we desire to serve with excellence in everything we do. Whether teaching a class, preparing materials, cleaning a classroom, or simply encouraging another parent, we pray that everything we do reflects the love, joy, and excellence of Christ.

Parent Agreement

By participating in Charis Homeschool, parents acknowledge and agree to the following:

- We have read and agree with the Statement of Faith.
- We have read and understand the vision, mission, and expectations of Charis Homeschool.
- We understand that CHS is a ministry of Charis Church and desire to support its Christ-centered mission.
- We understand that CHS is a parent-led homeschool community and that every family is expected to participate by serving throughout the school year.
- We understand that we are responsible for providing and overseeing our own homeschool curriculum and educational program.
- We understand that parents are required to remain on campus during all CHS class days and are responsible for the supervision and care of their children.
- We agree to communicate promptly with the directors regarding absences, schedule changes, or withdrawal from CHS.
- We understand that participation in CHS is voluntary and that either our family or CHS leadership may discontinue participation at any time if it is determined that CHS is no longer the appropriate fit.
- We understand that Charis Church and Charis Homeschool reserve the right to deny or discontinue participation when necessary to protect the safety, mission, beliefs, or healthy functioning of the ministry.

Media Release

We understand that photographs and videos may be taken during CHS classes, field trips, and events. We grant Charis Church and Charis Homeschool permission to use these photographs and videos for ministry purposes, including printed materials, the church website, social media, and promotional materials, unless we notify the directors in writing that we do not wish to participate.

Medical Responsibility

Parents remain responsible for the supervision, medical care, and well-being of their children at all CHS classes, field trips, and events.

Charis Church and Charis Homeschool do not assume responsibility for medical expenses resulting from illness or injury and are released from liability to the extent permitted by law

Final Acknowledgment

Our family has carefully reviewed this handbook and understands the expectations of participation in Charis Homeschool. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this

ministry and desire to help cultivate a Christ-centered community where children and families can learn, grow, serve, and flourish together

Policies & Procedures

The following policies are designed to help Charis Homeschool provide a safe, organized, and enjoyable environment for every family. If you ever have questions about any of these policies, please don't hesitate to contact the CHS directors.

Attendance & Absences

Consistent attendance helps children build friendships, allows teachers to prepare appropriately, and strengthens our homeschool community. If your family will be absent from a CHS day for any reason, please notify the directors as soon as possible by emailing CharisHomeschoolCHS@gmail.com. If you are scheduled to teach or serve on the day you will be absent, please notify us as early as possible so we can arrange for a substitute if needed. If your family decides to withdraw from CHS during the school year, please notify the directors by email.

Illness

To help protect the health of our families, please keep your child home until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. If illness prevents your family from attending CHS, please notify the directors as soon as possible.

Weather Cancellations

In the event of severe weather, Charis Homeschool will follow the weather closure decisions of the De Soto School District. If De Soto schools are closed due to weather, CHS will also be canceled. Families will be notified by email of any cancellations.

Classroom Procedures

Children should arrive ready to participate and show respect for teachers, helpers, and classmates. Parents are encouraged to help reinforce respectful behavior and positive attitudes throughout the day. If behavioral concerns arise that cannot be resolved within the classroom, a parent will be asked to assist.

Discipline

Our desire is to create classrooms characterized by kindness, respect, and encouragement. Teachers and helpers may redirect behavior, provide gentle correction, or adjust seating when

necessary. If behavior continues to be disruptive, the child's parent will be asked to assist. We believe discipline is most effective when parents and volunteers work together with love, consistency, and grace.

Child Needs

If your child needs comfort, assistance, medication, or parental attention for any reason, you are always welcome to leave your assigned area to care for your child. There will always be at least two adults serving in each classroom whenever possible.

Potty Training

Children who are not yet able to use the restroom independently will need assistance from their parent. For child protection purposes, volunteers will not accompany children into restroom stalls unless assisting their own child. If your child needs restroom assistance during class, you will be notified.

Diapers

Volunteers may change diapers with parental permission. Please provide diapers for your child, preferably labeled with their name. CHS will provide wipes and disposable gloves. If you prefer to change your child's diapers yourself, please let the nursery workers know.

Baby Bottles

Parents are responsible for preparing and warming bottles. Volunteers are happy to feed prepared bottles to your child if requested, but they will not prepare formula or warm bottles.

Guests

For the safety of our children, attendance at regular CHS class days is limited to enrolled families, approved guest teachers, and authorized ministry volunteers. All regular adult participants are required to complete a background screening.

Security

Families should enter through the designated entrance upon arrival. Typically, that is the front entrance to the church building. Once classes have begun, church doors may be locked for the safety of those inside the building. Church leadership will determine any additional security procedures as needed.

Fire & Emergency Procedures

Emergency exit routes will be reviewed with volunteers and teachers. Families should become familiar with designated exits upon arrival. In the event of an emergency, all families should follow the directions of CHS leadership and church staff while proceeding calmly to the designated meeting location.

Field Trips

Throughout the school year, CHS may organize optional field trips to enrich our students' learning experiences and provide opportunities for fellowship. Participation in field trips is optional unless otherwise noted. Families are responsible for all admission fees, transportation, and the supervision of their own children throughout each outing. Guests may attend field trips when appropriate. Additional details will be communicated prior to each event.

Theme Days

Throughout the school year we enjoy several fun theme days. Participation is completely optional, but we encourage families to join in the fun! Information about upcoming theme days will be shared through email and the Flare app.

Party Days

CHS celebrates several special events throughout the year. Additional information regarding classroom parties, supplies, and volunteer opportunities will be shared as each event approaches.

Family Events

Throughout the school year we plan family events that include dads and other family members. These events provide opportunities for our entire CHS community to build relationships outside of our regular class days.

Parent Fellowship

One of our greatest desires is to encourage and support homeschooling parents. Throughout the year we may organize opportunities for moms to gather for fellowship, encouragement, prayer, and fun outside of regular CHS days.

Parent Free Time during CHS

While parents are actively involved in CHS, we also strive to provide each family with opportunities to enjoy fellowship, catch up on work, or simply relax between serving responsibilities.

During your free time, you're welcome to:

- Visit with other parents
- Enjoy a cup of coffee
- Work in one of the common areas
- Sit in on another class
- Use the nursing moms' room (including the massage chair)

Yearbook

Throughout the school year we enjoy documenting many of the wonderful memories made at CHS. Photos may be taken during classes, field trips, and special events for inclusion in the annual yearbook and other CHS promotional materials as outlined in the Parent Agreement. Information regarding yearbook orders will be shared near the end of the school year.

Teaching Responsibilities

Parents who are scheduled to teach should communicate any classroom setup needs to the directors at least one week before their scheduled lesson. Teachers are responsible for providing the materials needed for their lessons and activities unless other arrangements have been made. CHS provides many common classroom supplies including:

- Construction paper
- Copy paper
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Glue
- Tape
- Staplers
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Tables and chairs
- TVs and computers (when available)

Substitute Teachers

If a teacher is unable to attend on their scheduled day, CHS leadership will arrange for a substitute teacher whenever possible. We encourage teachers to keep lesson plans organized so another parent can easily step in if needed.

What to Bring

Each student should bring:

- Backpack
- Folder (if requested by teacher)
- Water bottle labeled with child's name
- Nut-Free Snack
- Nut- Free lunch (optional)

Children who wear diapers should also bring:

- Labeled diapers
- Bottle or snack (if applicable)

Please help us maintain a nut-aware environment by avoiding foods containing nuts whenever possible.

Check-In

Please check in at the designated welcome table upon arrival and pick up your family's name tags.

Pick-Up

At the conclusion of CHS, parents should promptly pick up their children from their classrooms.

Lunch & Fellowship

Families are welcome to bring a lunch and enjoy fellowship together following CHS until 12:30. Please help us leave the building by the designated closing time so the church can prepare for other ministry activities.

Building Care

Charis Church has generously opened its facilities for our homeschool community. We desire to honor that generosity by caring for the building with excellence. Thank you for helping us care for the church God has entrusted to us. Before leaving each week, please help:

- Return rooms to their original condition.
- Throw away trash.
- Wipe tables as needed.
- Return supplies to their proper locations.
- Leave classrooms even better than we found them.

Communication

Email and the Flare app are our primary forms of communication throughout the school year. Through Flare, families can:

- Receive announcements and reminders
- View upcoming class days and events
- Stay informed about schedule changes and weather cancellations
- Connect with other CHS families
- Share photos from class days, field trips, and special events

We encourage every family to download the Flare app and enable notifications so you don't miss important communication.



You can join our CHS Flare group by scanning the QR code.

Quick Reference

Meeting Days

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
September–May
9:00–11:30 a.m.

Communication

Email
Flare

Website

chariskc.org/chs

Weather

De Soto School District

Absences

Please email the directors as soon as possible.

What to Bring

Backpack
Water bottle
Snack
Folder (if needed)
Lunch (optional)

Questions?

CharisHomeschoolCHS@gmail.com

Contact Information

Charis Homeschool

A Ministry of Charis Church

Email:

CharisHomeschoolCHS@gmail.com

Website:

<https://chariskc.org/chs>

Thank you for considering Charis Homeschool.

We count it a privilege to partner with families as they raise children who know God, understand their identity in Christ, and walk in His truth.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love the opportunity to get to know your family.

We look forward to an incredible year together!

Blessings,

Sarah Grindel, Lexi Bishoff, and Andra Johnson
CHS Leadership Team

Appendix A

2026–2027 CHS Calendar

The following calendar provides an overview of planned CHS class days, breaks, field trips, parties, and special events. While we strive to follow this schedule, dates and events may occasionally change. Families will be notified of any updates through email and Flare.

Wednesday, Sept 16th – 1st day of CHS – Get to know you, Yearbook Pics

Wednesday, Oct 7th – Regular CHS day

October Field Trip to Louisburg Cider Mill TBD

Wednesday, Oct 21st – CHS Theme Day – Crazy Hair/Mismatched Outfit

Wednesday, Nov 4th – Regular CHS day

Wednesday, Nov 18th – Thanksgiving Day Party

Wednesday, Dec 2nd – Regular CHS day

Wednesday, Dec 16th – Christmas Party

Wednesday, Jan 6th – Christmas Break – No CHS

Wednesday, Jan 20th – CHS Theme Day – Favorite Sports Team Threads

January – Family Night Event TBD

Wednesday, Feb 3rd – Valentine’s Day Party

Wednesday, Feb 17th – Regular CHS Day

Wednesday, March 3rd – Regular CHS Day

Wednesday, March 17th – No CHS – Spring Break

March Field Trip to Deanna Rose TBD

Wednesday, April 7th – Regular CHS Day

Wednesday, April 21st – CHS Theme Day – Pajamas

April – will take end of year school pictures TBD

Wednesday, May 5th – Regular CHS Day

Wednesday, May 19th – End of year Party – pass out yearbooks if purchased

May – Family End of Year Party TBD and Field Day TBD

*Mom events TBD