

Hope Handbook

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
Colossians 1:16-17

Education does not happen in a vacuum. All things are subject to God’s authority or they are in disobedience to Him. There is no neutral education. As such all of our academic endeavors will be taught as part of God’s story and domain.

To that end, we will:

- Treat each subject grounded in Scripture and as one part of the integrated whole of God’s creation. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 1:15-20)
- Model biblical living by our staff and administration (Matthew 22:37-40), subject to the Biblical authority of both a local church (Matthew 18, 1 Corinthians 5) and within the covenant household (Ephesians 5, Colossians 3).
- Encourage every child to begin and develop his relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 19:13-15)

Not all education is equal in value and rigor. Value implies that the content be rich, exposes the student to topics that are timeless and varied, and allows the student to be a part of the greater conversation that is our history. Rigor implies that students are continually challenged in appropriate ways, promoting growth, fostering a better understanding of the world as God has created it, and encouraging a culture of working hard for God’s glory. To that end, we will:

- Teach each subject using time-honored methods that are tailored to students as they grow and mature.
- Encourage each student to develop a lifelong love of learning and a desire to strive for excellence.
- Provide an environment that is orderly and conducive to the pursuit of education.

The following is the foundation of beliefs on which Hope Academy is based. They are also the key elements of Protestant Christianity that will be taught in various ways through all grade levels.

- We believe the Bible alone to be the Word of God, the ultimate and infallible authority for faith and practice.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is omnipotent; that is, He can do all things. He is omnipresent; that is, He is present to all creation, and has under His immediate authority all things which are in Heaven, in the earth, and under the earth. He is omniscient; that is, He knows all things. He readily exercises His power which is present everywhere, and to Him there is nothing that is impossible or unknown, that is, He knows what has been from eternity, what now takes place everywhere, and what will be to all eternity.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that, for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary.
- We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone.
- We believe that faith without works is dead.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably created each person as distinctly male or female (Gen. 1:26-31; 2:18-25; 5:1, 2). These two distinct and complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We cannot change our biological gender because God alone is the author of creation.
- We believe that marriage was created and sanctioned by God in which God joins one man and one woman in a single and exclusive union. (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6)
- We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps. 139.)

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the final source of all that we believe.

Core Values:

Hope Academy wants our focus to be outward instead of inward. Our values are built around these ideas.

Our Values:

Christ Centered- At Hope Academy RVA, we are committed to embracing and embodying Christ-centered values in all that we do. As followers of Jesus Christ, our actions, attitudes, and interactions are guided by the teachings and example of Him.. These values define our character and shape our community, allowing us to create an environment that honors God and fosters growth, love, and service.

Family Focused- After our first love of Jesus, our second love is nuclear families. We want to support your homeschool journey. We believe strong families are the building block for strong communities. Connecting homeschool families together through volunteering, serving and friendships is the backbone of our co-op.

Partnership- We are mission minded and want to impact our community in a positive way. At Hope Academy RVA, we strive to teach our students to be building partnership with the community and volunteering their time and service.

Engaging and Fun- We want you to love your time here. We will work hard to provide engaging classes and fun social activities. Our desire is not solely to educate, but to love the students who walk into our co-op. We desire to build a community that extends past the walls of Hope Academy RVA.

Leadership:

Joy Moody email: joym@hopeacademyrva.com
Kristy Wilson email: kristyw@hopeacademyrva.com

General Policies:

Joining Hope Academy RVA:

The classes at Hope offered are for the purpose of enriching and complementing your homeschool and are not meant to be a substitute for the learning your children do at home. The nature of a co-op involves a commitment and contributions from each family.

1. All parents must volunteer in some capacity during the year. With set-up, clean-up, lunch monitors, study hall monitors and serve days, there are plenty of opportunities to serve at Hope. Building community and serving others are 2 of our values. Volunteering is essential to what makes Hope, Hope.
2. Every March we will hold an Open House. Registration begins then. You can sign your children for the class(es) available for their ages at registration time. You do not have to participate in all that is offered for your child's age. You may pick and choose. It is an ala carte service, take one or take all.
3. Registration fees are non-refundable and due at registration. These fees allow us to rent our building, pay our insurance and other incidentals needed to keep our co-op up and running. We do our very best to keep the registration fees low.
4. After registration is complete, you will receive a tuition contract in the summer before classes begin. Sign and Return. Tuition may be paid annually or divided into monthly installments.
5. Classes are final after the students first 2 weeks of classes. After this full tuition is locked in and no adjustment may be made.

Discipline Policy:

All students enrolled in Hope Academy RVA are expected to behave appropriately, which includes being respectful to both parents and other students in the classroom. Inappropriate behavior (i.e. defiance, unruly disruptive behavior, etc.) will be given prompt attention.

Please remind your child(ren) to respect all adults as an authority, and to show up to class on time. No child may attend or participate in the Co-Op unless a parent/guardian or designated member in good standing accompanies the child to the Co-Op.

Misbehavior will be handled as follows:

1. On the first offense, the teacher or appropriate adult will talk to the student about his/her inappropriate behavior. This will serve as a warning to the student to change his/her behavior.
2. On the second offense, the teacher will discuss the student's behavior with the child's parent.
3. On the third offense, the child's behavior will be discussed in a meeting with the parent, the teacher, and Hope Administration.
4. On the fourth offense, the child will sit out of the class for a specified time ranging from one week to the entire semester. There will be no refunds.

Homework Policy:

Homework policy is set by each tutor for their class. This is to be age appropriate and class specific.

Grading Policy:

Not all classes are graded. The classes that are grades will use a grading scale set for by the tutor at the beginning of each school year.

Dress Code:

Modest dress is expected (parents and students alike).

We will be reasonable but expect you to be reasonable also.

Devices:

At Hope Academy RVA, we recognize the importance of technology in education, but we also understand the need for balanced and responsible usage. Our device policy is designed to create a conducive learning environment while fostering healthy digital habits and values consistent with our Christian principles.

The purpose of this policy is to guide students, parents, and staff members on the appropriate use of electronic devices within the school premises, ensuring that technology enhances education and supports our values.

-Device Usage: Electronic devices, including but not limited to smartphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches, may only be used for educational purposes as directed by teachers or school staff. Non-educational use is only allowed during designated break times.

-Classroom Etiquette: During class time, electronic devices should be put away unless specifically allowed by the teacher for educational purposes. Any device use must be respectful and not disrupt the learning environment.

-Personal Responsibility: Students are responsible for their devices. The school is not liable for lost, stolen, or damaged devices. Personal devices should not be lent to others without the owner's permission.

-Cyberbullying and Inappropriate Content: Any use of electronic devices that involves cyberbullying, harassment, or accessing inappropriate content is strictly prohibited. Students are expected to uphold Christian values and treat others with respect, both online and offline.

-Privacy and Consent: Students must obtain permission before recording, photographing, or sharing images or videos of others. Respect for personal privacy is paramount.

-Distractions and Disruptions: Devices should not be a source of distraction or disruption in the classroom. Students must silence or turn off notifications during class time.

-Use of Headphones: Headphones may be used in study halls but content on the screen must be appropriate and consistent with our policy.

-Parental Consent: Parents/guardians must provide written consent for their child's use of personal electronic devices on the school premises. The school reserves the right to inspect devices when necessary to ensure compliance with this policy.

-Role Modeling: School staff and teachers are expected to model responsible device usage, adhering to the same guidelines as students.

Consequences:

Violations of this device policy will be dealt with in a fair and consistent manner, in line with the school's disciplinary procedures. Consequences may include warnings, device confiscation until the end of the day,, parent notification, and further disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate.

Hope Christian School's device policy aims to create a respectful and focused educational environment while nurturing digital responsibility and Christian values. By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure that technology is a positive tool for learning and personal growth.

Attendance, Absence and Illness Policy:

Students may NOT attend classes if they have had diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting, fever, uncontrolled cough, or any other sign of communicable illness within the past 24 hours, whether you deem them to be ill or not. 24 hours does not mean overnight; it must be a full 24 hours symptom-free. Do not give your students medicine and send them to Hope Academy. Medicine wears off.

If a student becomes ill while at Hope, the student must be picked up immediately. If the parent or guardian does not answer the call, the authorized contact will be called.

If a student needs medication to feel well enough to attend class, they may NOT attend class.

Security:

We work with Sycamore Presbyterian church to ensure the safety and protection of all individuals.. We are constantly learning and striving to take measures to prevent unauthorized access to our premises and our sensitive information. Regular assessments and updates of security protocols guarantee our commitment to maintaining a secure environment for our community.

Visitors:

Our visitor policy mandates all guests to register at the main reception upon arrival, providing identification and purpose of visit.

Weather & Cancellations:

In the case of inclement weather, Hope Academy will not meet for in-person classes if CCPS cancels or delays class by 2 hours. If for any reason a parent decides that it is not safe to drive to class, the student should stay home.

If class is canceled, instructors may provide lessons via an alternative format. The instructor will contact the students the same day in order to arrange for any work or assignments that must be completed in lieu of class that day.

In the case of instructor illness or conflict, a substitute will be arranged for the class. If a substitute cannot be found, classes will be rescheduled or lessons will be presented in an alternative format.

Allergies:

Please alert Hope Academy RVA of serious allergies.

Solicitation of Products or Services:

To maintain a focused and respectful environment, we strictly prohibit solicitation on our premises. This includes the distribution of promotional materials or services without prior authorization from our administration. Any unauthorized solicitation may result in immediate removal from the premises.

Restroom Policy:

Our restroom policy ensures a clean and safe environment for all. Boys are boys and Girls and Girls, use the correct bathroom. Respectful behavior and proper hygiene are expected at all times.

Parent Policies and Responsibilities:

Parent Participation and Volunteering:

Each family is needed to make this co-op run. Many hands make the work light. There are multiple ways to serve including but not limited to, set-up, clean-up, chaperoning, & social committees. We look forward to having you volunteer.

Drop off/Pick up:

Our drop-off policy ensures the safety and punctuality of our activities. Parents and guardians are expected to drop off their children at the designated times. If a delay of more than 15 minutes is anticipated, please inform us in advance. If this becomes a habitual problem, fees will be assessed.

Grading:

We are the tutors. The parents are the teachers. Since parents are the teachers, parents give the final grades.

Transcripts:

Hope Academy RVA does not provide transcripts, this is the sole responsibility of the parent. There are great homeschool resources to help you write a transcript. Hope Academy is happy to help discuss those options with you. Each teacher may provide grades for classes and for homework but grades are ultimately up to the parent.

Financial Responsibilities:

Refunds:

There is a 2 week trial period for classes. After this, tuition is locked into place. No refunds can be given after this time.

Due Date:

Monthly installments are due the 5th of every month

Copy Fees:

Copy Fees are due by the first day of class. They are to be paid directly to the tutor.

Payment Plans:

Tuition can be paid annually or paid in monthly installments.

Student Code of Conduct:

Behavior and Character:

Our Christian student homeschool code of conduct policy is rooted in values of respect, integrity, and love. Students are expected to treat others with kindness, adhere to the principles of honesty, and foster a positive and supportive learning environment. This policy reflects our commitment to upholding our Hope Academy RVA values in all interactions and activities.

Academic:

Workload is set by each teacher.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV):

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Plagiarism, Cheating, Late Work

Plagiarism and Cheating are prohibited.

Late Work policy is set by each tutor.

Facility Stewardship:

We are so fortunate to have our facility. Any misuse or disrespect of our facility will not be tolerated.

Posters/Flyers:

Do not post, hang, display anything in the church without their permission.