



# Happy Hearts Homeschool

(In association with Alamo Area Christian Educators, Inc.)

## Parents' Handbook 2023-2024

# Statement of Faith

## Jesus-based

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

We believe there is only one way to Heaven and that is through Jesus Christ.

## Family-based

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

We believe that God created the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman.

## Creation-based

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work." Genesis 2:1-2

We believe that God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh.

## Child-focused

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew. 19-14

We want your children to understand that they are each one of God's unique creations. Each child is one-of-a-kind and was placed on this beautiful earth at precisely the right time – chosen by God to fulfill His specific purpose for that child's life.

# Mission & Philosophy

Creation-based by using God's creation to grow and nurture young minds in a small-group learning environment.

Family-based by choosing to preserve childhood and foster a love of learning by partnering and equipping parents to give their children the education they want and need.

Christ-based because He is all that matters.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."*  
Deuteronomy 6:5

We believe at the end of our lives that God will care more about how we loved Him and others than at what age we learned to read at a certain grade level or how high we scored on the SAT. However, we are also called to be good stewards of what He has given us, so we believe in developing a child's mind in the way God designed that child to be.

# About Us

Happy Hearts is neither a school nor a co-op. Happy Hearts is a small, faith-based, child-focused, homeschool enrichment program taught by tutors from Alamo Area Christian Educators, Inc., which is a non-profit 501-C3 organization.

Our goal is to partner with parents in the education of their children thereby replacing the parents' feelings of being overwhelmed and frustrated to homeschool on their own with a renewed assurance that they can successfully and happily educate their own children with some help from us.

## Proposed 2023-2024 School Year Schedule\*

\*Schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen situations (*i.e.: weather, Covid, etc.*)

### **Fall Dates:**

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#### **September –**

12th, 14th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th

#### **October –**

3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th, 26<sup>th</sup>, 31st

#### **November –**

2nd, 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 28th, & 30th  
(Off for Thanksgiving Nov. 21st & 23rd)

#### **December –**

5th, 7th, 12th, 14th, (We end on Thursday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.) Christmas Holidays: Dec 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th, Jan 2nd & 4th

### **Spring Dates:**

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#### **January –**

9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, 30th

#### **February –**

1st, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th, 29th

#### **March –**

5th, 7th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th  
(Off for Spring Break Mar. 12th & 14th)

#### **April –**

2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, 30th

#### **May –**

2nd, 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th  
(Award ceremony & graduation – last day)

### **Tuesday and Thursday Time Schedules**

All grades meet from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Drop-off begins at 9:25am, and pick-up begins at 2:25pm.

#### **Tuesday CORE Day**

##### **Sample Schedule (PreK4 – 4th)**

Morning Meeting (*Prayer, Character, Bible, Pledges, Phonemic Awareness, Calendar, Fantastic Fingers, & Weather Report*)

1. Math
2. Language Arts/Reading or Pre-reading
3. History Read Aloud
4. Spanish
5. Nature Study/Handicraft (as time permits)

#### **Thursday ELECTIVE Day**

##### **Sample Schedule (PreK4 – 4th)**

Morning Meeting (*Prayer, Character, Bible, Pledges, Phonemic Awareness, Calendar, Fantastic Fingers, & Weather Report*)

1. "Show & Tell" during lunch time
2. Art
3. Science & Science Lab (Botany)
4. Texas History & Geography Activities
5. Gym Time/PE

# Expectations & Policies

- We love Jesus and will teach about Him in a non-denominational way, which means we stick to what the Bible says and do not push any certain denomination.
- We LOVE God's creation and believe we should take care of it.
- We realize God has created each one of us (including our children) in a special, unique way. None of us are exactly alike, so our mission is to appreciate our children's learning differences, strengths, and weaknesses.
- We believe in open communication and ask that you, the parents, communicate with the instructors or program creator directly and not gossip or use slanderous language if a disagreement should arise. If a miscommunication occurs, which at some point may happen, we will strive to right the miscommunication as soon as possible.
- We trust our instructors' skills and years of experience, which is why our own children are a part of this program; therefore, we will let the instructors have the freedom to teach as they deem necessary.
- We are **not** a school, but we are a private instructor share, which means we have the ability to keep our groups small and teach in a specific and intentional way for each child.
- We **REQUIRE** families to be involved in their children's education. If this involvement is not something your family desires, please reconsider whether this program is an appropriate match for your family's lifestyle. This method will not work if both parents work full-time **without** other help in the home. This instructor share SHOULD NOT be expected to replace all the work to be done at home.
- We are not competing against or comparing your children to broad-based expectations that are set by the public school system. We do believe we will help prepare your children at an appropriate learning rate.
- We want to develop independent, creative, self-disciplined, caring, kind, responsible, and motivated children who are leaders in their generation and not merely followers.
- All children participating in the Happy Hearts Homeschool program MUST be potty-trained.
- All children participating in Happy Hearts Homeschool and their siblings, parents, caretakers are asked to respect the property and not be destructive.
- Once-a-month Parental Volunteering may be required for classes that require extra adult supervision or help with setup or cleanup. Sign-ups will be available at the beginning of each month. A caretaker (over the age of 18) can also fill this requirement if a parent is unavailable.
- One parent or caretaker (over the age of 18) is required to accompany his/her child on any field trips or special outings.
- If anyone other than the parent or legal guardian comes to pick up a child for the parent or legal guardian, he/she MUST be named as an alternate pickup on the registration form and will be asked to present a valid driver's license.
- To enroll in Happy Hearts Homeschool, there is a non-refundable \$200 registration fee for the year.
- Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

- A mandatory orientation will be required of ALL parents, regardless of prior enrollment, length of home schooling status, or volunteer position.
- It is the parents' responsibility to inform the tutor/director if the child will be absent.
- It is the parents' responsibility to inform Happy Hearts Homeschool of any allergies or conditions that could put their child at risk while attending classes.
- Happy Hearts Homeschool is not responsible for students while on the grounds of **Bulverde Baptist Church** (1331 Bulverde Rd., Bulverde, Texas 78163); parents bear the ultimate responsibility for their children and their children's actions. The Palmer, Ras, and McMinn families are not liable for any accidents or mishaps that may occur on the Bulverde Baptist Church's campus. Likewise, Happy Hearts Homeschool is not liable for any accidents or mishaps that may occur on the premises. The full Release of Liability is part of the registration form.
- To withdraw from Happy Hearts Homeschool Program, you must follow our withdrawal process and turn in the appropriate forms. Failure to do so will jeopardize the possibility of returning to Happy Hearts Homeschool in the future. Our instructors are making a commitment for the entire semester, and you need to make the same commitment. Refunds are not given for the registration fee or for the remaining months of the semester. By enrolling in this program, you are reserving a spot that cannot be refilled once the semester begins, and you are committing to attend each week. **If you withdraw your student after classes begin, payment for the remainder of the semester will be due.** Supply fees are not refundable. A drop fee is available if there arises a unique circumstance, such as an unexpected move or other special circumstance that cannot be avoided. The drop fee total will be determined by the director and will be available in case of special need.
- If weather conditions prevent us from meeting on any given class day, an email will be sent out by 8:00 am that morning. Please check your email before leaving your home when questionable weather conditions exist in our area. If notification can occur sooner, it will.
- Due to the limited student capacity of this program, if a question or a problem arises please contact Trudy Palmer [happyheartsschoolhouse@gmail.com](mailto:happyheartsschoolhouse@gmail.com) on Tuesday and Thursday between 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. If it is an emergency, please call or text (210) 364-5179.

## Registration, Tuition, and Fees

### Pre-Kinder – 4th Grade Program:

To reserve your child's spot for the 2023-2024 school year, the \$200 non-refundable registration fee must be paid in full at time of registration.

The first month's tuition (\$190 for 1X a week or \$380 for 2X a week) and the fall semester's supply fee (\$150) will be due on September 1, 2023.

If payment is not paid on September 1, 2023, we will contact you, and if payment is still not made within 48 hours, we will have to replace your child's spot with another child's registration. ***The registration fee will not be refunded.***

The spring semester supply fee of \$200 (**because the spring semester is longer**) will be due on January 1, 2024. Tuition payments are also due on the first of each month.

**Reminder: Tuition payments are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.**

**Please Note:** You are required to make the same monthly payment each month regardless of the number of school days in that month or the number of days your child misses class due to illness or vacation. Your children are receiving an amazing and unique program at a reasonable price point because all families are splitting the costs involved in utilizing private tutors to teach foundational, core, and elective subjects in high-interest, hands-on ways.

## Class Size and Grouping

We strive to meet children where they are, both academically and socially, and will place them in appropriate groups for our various activities based on our analysis and parental input rather than the traditional grade-level distinction dictated merely by their age. We want to instill confidence in these children and do not want to make them feel behind just because they might be at a different level than another child in their same age group. We strive to maintain a 1:8 instructor-student ratio.

## Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures\*

**Drop-off for all grades will begin at 9:25 am on Tuesday and Thursday.** Since we have limited time, we ask that the drop-off be done as quickly as possible, so if there is something you would like to address with one of the instructors, we ask that you wait until pick-up time or during one of the instructors' open-call times. Please be as prompt as possible when picking up your child.

**Pick-up for all grades will begin at 2:25 pm.**

Please make sure our instructors know your child is being picked-up.

Since our instructors do have teaching engagements elsewhere, they need to leave shortly after class, so we ask that all children are picked up by 2:35 pm. If an emergency arises, please make sure you have a back-up plan to pick up your child.

On the registration form, you will have space to write all the names of individuals who are allowed to pick up your child if you are not available to do so. Please make sure these adults bring their driver's license to show upon pick-up.

**\*We MUST ONLY USE the designated Circular Roundabout Drive near the playground area (as per the rules of the Bulverde Baptist Church) to avoid interfering with the pick up and drop off of the other children enrolled in the Mother's Day Out Program.**

# Visitors

We usually have an open-door policy. However, due to Covid-19 the past three years, we are not allowing parents to stay indoors for an extended amount of time. If parents do come to visit, a facemask may be required as per the policy of The Bulverde Baptist Church, and **indoor** visitation will be limited to 10 minutes. Parents will be allowed, at times, to watch or participate in any of our **outdoor** activities for any length of time as long as CDC guidelines, church rules, and social distancing is practiced. We ask parents to keep siblings, who are not part of the program, with them at all times and to allow the child who is part of the program space to be with his/her classmates. If a sibling is present and over the age of 10 years old, the sibling may need to wear a facemask as per the policy of The Bulverde Baptist Church.

If there is a grandparent or other family members who would like to visit, please list them on the alternate pick-up line on the registration form and inform them that a facemask may be required on the premises.

# Dress Code

Since we plan to be outside each class day, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day. Also, due to our exploration of the outdoors, please make sure to provide one extra change of clothes in case of wet or muddy clothes. We do recommend that your child wear closed-toe shoes (although we may end up barefoot some days), sunscreen, and bug repellent depending on the weather conditions for the day and the planned events for that week.

# Health & Attendance/Covid-19 Waiver

Due to Covid-19, we are taking extra precautions to make sure your children and our tutors stay as healthy and safe as possible. We will be washing hands every hour and before snack time and lunchtime and between any change of spaces. We are limiting the number of students again this year in order to keep our group as healthy as possible. All families must be aware that a sudden resurgence of Covid-19 could occur, and a signed Covid Waiver may be requested if needed.

We ask that if your child is sick, or otherwise seems unwell, please be respectful of the other families and instructors involved in this program and do not bring your child to class if your child has any one of the following symptoms:

- A runny nose or has recently started with a runny nose, or has discolored or cloudy nasal discharge
- A sore throat
- A fever within 24 hours of class
- A stomach bug or diarrhea or has vomited within the last 24 hours
- A "croup-sounding" cough

- “Flu-like” symptoms, or has had the flu and not been fever-free for 48 hours
- Presence of lice, child must be lice-free for 48 hours before returning to class.

If a child seems unwell anytime during the class time, the instructors will call the parents to come pick up their child. We will make sure the child receives all instructions to be able to complete any homework at home.

- If anyone in your family contracts Covid-19 during this program, your child must miss class and self-quarantine for 14 days regardless of whether your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19 or not.
- There will be **NO** refunds or prorating because of missed classes due to any type of sickness or personal trips. We are able to offer this group-tutoring program to your families at a much lower rate than you would pay in a one-on-one tutoring session with our tutors.
- Due to the uncertainty of the Covid variants, if you decide to fly or be in an indoor, crowded area during our program, we ask that your child remain in self-quarantine for 3 days before returning to class. For example, if your family flies back from a vacation on a Sunday evening, your child will be asked to skip Tuesday but can return on Thursday (if your child is registered for both days).

## Assessments & Evaluations

Our instructors will be keeping parents aware of what they can specifically be working on through their child’s take-home work. We will not be giving typical grades but will be reporting on what the child needs to be working on. Children will be keeping various subject binders throughout the year, which will serve to organize the projects and activities they have completed.

## Snack & Lunch

We will have a short snack time in which your child is free to bring any snack as long as the ingredients do not pose an allergy threat to any other student. We will also have lunchtime, so please pack accordingly, and any food is welcome as long as there are no food allergies within our group of students. We will notify the parents of our students if any food allergies do exist soon after our registration is complete. Please communicate with your children that they won’t be able to share food with other children during this time. We will be watching to make sure children aren’t passing around their food or drinks, but it helps us to have that extra instruction reiterated at home. Please send a clearly labeled drink bottle. It is best to send water for proper hydration.

## Communication

Any questions or concerns you have are extremely important to us. There will be set times of availability for each instructor through email, phone calls, or scheduled in-person meetings. These will be provided before each semester.



# Code of Conduct

- Being enrolled in Happy Hearts Homeschool program, I agree to conduct myself in ways that honor God and others in speech, conduct, and outward expressions. I agree to model desirable social behaviors and to guide my children in following Biblical standards.
- I will respect the beliefs and scriptural foundation with which Happy Hearts Homeschool was established, and I agree to their policies and requirements. I will be responsible for my children and expect them to respect Happy Hearts Homeschool policies and requirements as well.
- I will teach my children to respect the facility and leave it cleaner than we found it.
- I will teach my children to be a blessing to their classmates, teachers, and surroundings and not to be a distraction by being discourteous, late, or ill mannered.
- I will teach my children to respect all adults and students.
- I will be respectful of any scriptural teachings and prayers led by the teachers and will expect my children to do the same.
- I will look for opportunities to help others and encourage others with kind words and expect my children to do the same.
- I will refrain from: using nicotine products or alcohol, uttering profanity, or possessing weapons of any kind while on campus.
- I will model moral behavior defined by Scripture, and my children will be responsible to do the same.
- I will refrain from conversations that are not appropriate for all ages and will expect my children to be responsible for their conversations as well.
- I will refrain from displaying any offensive materials (i.e. books, literature, flyers, posters, videos, etc.), and my children will refrain from displaying objectionable materials as well.
- My children and I will consistently exhibit self-control, even in difficult situations. Above all, I agree to demonstrate behavior pleasing to God and to reflect the uncompromising Biblical standards and Christian values held by Happy Hearts Homeschool.

## Discipline

If there should be a violation of the Policies or Code of Conduct by you or any members of your family, please be aware of the following consequences.

**First Offense** – You and possibly your children will be asked to meet with the instructors or leadership team.

**Second Offense** – Your family may be asked to leave, and your enrollment with our program may be revoked. Future applications to return will also be denied.

# Your Commitment

Do you agree to respect and adhere to all of Happy Hearts Homeschool Policies, Expectations, and Code of Conduct delineated above?

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Printed Name of Student(s)

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Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Date

I understand that Happy Hearts Homeschool reserves the right to refuse service to anyone for any reason at any time and agree to abide by any such decision made by Happy Hearts Homeschool. Signatures are required of parents or legal guardians.

# ACTIVITY RELEASE OF LIABILITY (READ CAREFULLY - THIS AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS)

In exchange for participation in this homeschool enrichment program, organized by Happy Hearts Homeschool, and the use of the property and facilities at The Bulverde Baptist Church, 1331 Bulverde Rd. Bulverde, Texas 78163, I agree for myself and for the members of my family, to the following:

1. I agree to observe and obey all posted rules and warnings, and further agree to follow any oral instructions or directions given by Happy Hearts Homeschool or the tutors, employees, representatives or agents of Happy Hearts Homeschool.
2. I recognize that there are certain inherent risks associated with the above-described activities, and I assume full responsibility for personal injury to myself and to my family members, and further release and discharge Happy Hearts Homeschool and Happy Hearts Homeschool tutors for injury, loss, or damage arising out of my or my family's use of or presence upon the facilities used by Happy Hearts Homeschool, whether caused by the fault of myself, my family, Happy Hearts Homeschool, or other third parties.
3. I agree to indemnify and defend Happy Hearts Homeschool against all claims, causes of action, damages, judgments, costs or expenses, including attorney fees and other litigation costs, which may in any way arise from my or my family's use of or presence upon the facilities of Happy Hearts Homeschool.
4. I agree to pay for all damages to the facilities rented, used, or owned by Happy Hearts Homeschool caused by my or my family's negligent, reckless, or willful actions.
5. Any legal or equitable claim that may arise from participation in the above shall be resolved under Texas law.

**I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND UNDERSTAND IT. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE, I VOLUNTARILY SURRENDER CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS**

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian