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CHESS



# Christian Home Educators Support System Guide Book

2023-2024

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# CHESS -WHERE EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM BEGINS!

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For over 17 years, we have empowered parents through our "two-in-one learning center" that brings together homeschooled families and students from our private school, KGCA, creating a fun and inspiring Christ-centered learning experience. We offer both in-person and virtual e-learning options.

We believe in our God-given power and authority as parents to lead and actively participate in our children's education by providing a safe and holistic education beyond textbooks.

We understand that every child is unique, and a personalized approach to education is essential to a child's learning experience and unique needs and interests, providing them with a solid foundation for success.

This "transformative movement" empowers parents and ignites children's potential. Together, we are shaping kingdom citizens for the glory of God.

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## **Latasha H. Fields**

Founder | Director | Home Educator | Parental Rights Advocate



# WHO WE ARE

CHESS is a "two-in-one learning center" that brings together homeschooled families and students from our private school, KGCA, to create a fun and inspiring Christ-centered learning experience. We offer both in-person and virtual e-learning options.

Our Homeschool Co-op meets every Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm. Our daily activities and programs are carefully designed to cater to the educational needs of homeschooling families from September through May. We arrange monthly educational and fun field trips for students. In addition, monthly support group meetings are scheduled for parents, and a quarterly moms' night out event is also organized.

Also, we host various events and workshops through our parent organization, EPIC Cafe (Empowering Parents Igniting Communities), in order to promote civic and political engagement. These carefully curated programs aim to encourage parents and the community to actively participate in the democratic process.

These events empower parents with the tools to protect their parental rights, fight for their children's innocence, voice their opinions, and contribute to policy-making discussions that can either support or undermine the nuclear family.

We also host gatherings that provide opportunities for families seeking to engage in Biblical fellowship. During times of fellowship, our aim is to foster personal growth, hold fast to the understanding of the importance of the divine family, and facilitate connections with other believers who share a deep passion for learning and adhering to the teachings of Jesus Christ and principles found within the Holy Scriptures.

2006 — 2011 — 2024







# VISION MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

## VISION

Our vision is to empower parents to take the lead in their children's education, enabling them to effectively prepare their children to navigate and thrive in today's world.

## MISSION

At CHESS, our mission is to establish and foster an educational culture that embraces the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment that supports families in pursuing academic excellent, all rooted in Biblical principles.



## PHILOSOPHY

We strongly believe that parents play a vital role in shaping and guiding their children to become responsible leaders. This can be achieved by consciously prioritizing, adhering to, and embodying Biblical principles above all other considerations.

# WHAT WE OFFER

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## CLASSES

We offer a wide range of enriching courses for pre-K to 12th-grade students. From learning to read and count to mastering finance, writing skills, public speaking, black history, civic studies, U.S. constitution, Spanish, Greek, and Latin languages, and SMARTE (Science, Math, Art, Robotics & Engineering) - our classes are designed to ignite a passion for learning and empower your child. Please note that CHESS does offer its virtual e-learning student co-op classes. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children complete any missed assignments before the next scheduled class time.

## CLASS REGISTRATION

Co-op day offers a structured homeschooling experience where parents must enroll their children in classes corresponding to their age or grade level. The class materials are designed to be appropriate for the age and grade level of the children, ensuring that they can benefit from the educational structure and experience the necessary level of maturity to excel. For example, a child who demonstrates advanced reading abilities may not necessarily possess the required comprehension skills or level of maturity expected for that specific academic level. Our objective is to ensure that students maintain their focus and master the material with minimal interruptions.

## TEACHERS

Our classes are parent-led. They do not receive payment for their teaching services. However, we do require families to purchase the necessary materials for each class. Occasionally, we invite experts from various fields to enhance our curriculum. In such cases, they may charge a reasonable fee for their services. The administration determines which classes will be offered; however, we are open to suggestions. All parents are required to participate in the class by either being the lead teacher, assisting the lead teacher, or helping facilitate the class. All parents bring unique skills, gifts, and talents to the classroom.

## CO-OP FEES

The annual registration fee of only \$55 per family covers essential expenses, including insurance, web-hosting, and host facility fees. The cost of materials for classes can range from \$5 to \$45 per student, covering expenses such as copies and books. We make every effort to keep these costs low for our families. In the case of field trips, there may be additional expenses, and parents will be notified in a timely manner. Please note that all fees are subject to change.

# HOUSE RULES

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**At CHESS, we believe in respecting other people's property and maintaining a clean and organized environment. To maintain a spirit of excellence, we kindly ask all members to adhere to the following guidelines:**

## **Cleanliness is key**

We request donations for cleaning supplies such as toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, hand and dish soap, cleaning solutions, wipes, garbage bags, etc.

## **Kitchen guidelines**

The stove/oven use is **NOT** permitted; you are welcome to use the microwave and refrigerator. Please wipe down these appliances after each use, leaving them clean and ready for others to enjoy.

## **Lunchtime guidelines**

All families must bring their water, utensils, microwave-safe plates, and a healthy lunch that does not require cooking or heating in an oven.

## **Maintaining teaching/eating areas**

We ask parents to monitor their children during teaching and eating times and clean up after them.

## **T-shirt**

Purchase your Co-op T-shirt for \$12 per shirt on our website. Remember it must be worn every Wednesday.

## **Supplies**

Remember to bring your school supplies every week.

## **Drop-offs**

Children are not permitted to be dropped off on co-op days unless the student is enrolled in KGCA. In extenuating circumstances, if a parent is unable to participate in the co-op, their child may attend under the supervision of another responsible adult. This arrangement must be communicated to the Director in writing.



# REQUEST MEMBERSHIP

Join our supportive and vibrant homeschool community and experience the benefits of a dedicated community that is committed to your child's education.

## Here's how it works

You can become part of our thriving community in just a few simple steps.

### **Step 1: Schedule a Chat**

We believe in finding the perfect fit. Schedule a chat to talk about your needs, interests, and goals. We want to ensure that our homeschool group is the right choice for your family. You can find the schedule here:

<https://calendly.com/chessupchicago/homeschool>.

### **Step 2: Visit Our Website and Request Membership**

You can head over to our user-friendly website to request membership. Please fill out the membership application at [www.chessup.org](http://www.chessup.org) and let us know why you want to join our community.

### **Step 3: Await Membership Approval**

Once we receive your request, relax and enjoy a cup of coffee while we review your application. Rest assured that we strive to provide prompt responses and will notify you as soon as your membership is approved. Keep an eye out for an email from us.

### **Step 4: Pay Applicable Fees**

Once approved, it's time to take the next step! To access the full membership benefits, pay any applicable fees for joining our homeschool group.

### **Step 5: Register for Classes**

Now that you are officially a part of our homeschool group, you will gain access to a diverse range of classes tailored to your child's interests and academic growth. Let the learning journey begin!

### **Step 6: Share Your Knowledge or Suggest a Class**

We welcome your input if you're passionate about teaching or have ideas for new classes! Complete our "Teacher Class Interest Form" at <https://www.chessup.org/teacherform>; let's explore exciting class options together.



## PRE-K PROGRAM

Ages 2-4

- Alphabet Mini-Books will help your students learn about concepts of print, letter identification, and sounds.
- Name Bundle! One of the most important lessons you'll teach is getting your students to learn and recognize their names in print—and it's NOT EASY.
- Counting books for numbers 1-10 to help your preschool, pre-k, or kindergarten students learn counting and number sense skills.
- Hook on Phonics Program
- Financial Literacy (Financial Peace Junior)
- History365:
  - Tuttle Toddlers Book Series! Our 3-book ABC series and our 3-book 123 series each feature colorful, simple introductions to economics and liberty principles for fun, early learning.
  - U.S. Constitution coloring pages

**Please note that some groups and classes may be subject to change based on the needs.**



## Financial Literacy

- Identify ways to earn income
- Differentiate between money received as income and money received as a gift.
- List simple skills required for jobs

## Read & Sequence

This BUNDLE has 92 simple stories that kids can read and sequence! Each story provides BEGINNING and/or STRUGGLING readers with a genuine opportunity to practice reading short stories they can decode with early phonics skills and basic sight word recognition. The short stories on these pages work with CVC words, CVCe word families, Blends, Digraphs, and basic sight words.

## History365

- The Woodson Center's K-12 black history and character curriculum is based on the Black's tenacity and resilience to overcome adversity and make invaluable contributions to our country. It also teaches character and decision-making skills that equip students to take charge of their futures.
- U.S. Constitution gives students an overview of the Constitution through short, easy-to-understand reading selections followed by questions and activities from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, the articles, and the amendments of the U.S. Constitution.
- U.S. civic education teaches children how to become active and responsible citizens, actively participating in their communities and positively impacting society. It empowers them with crucial knowledge about their rights, the democratic process, and the importance of civic engagement.



# GRADES K-2

09

## Greek & Latin

English From the Roots UP: Teaches how English words are created from component root words originating in other languages, focusing on 100 Greek and Latin roots.

## Spanish

La Clase Divertida to teach Spanish to your students. The first teaching tip for this streaming program is essentially the most important to remember (and the easiest)...RELAX and ENJOY! La Familia Gamache does all the teaching! All they need are their student packets (copybooks). Parents will be notified ahead of time when extra supplies are required for activities.

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# GRADES 3-5

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## Financial Literacy w/Junior Achievement

- JA Our City featuring Cha-Ching introduces students to financial literacy and learning objectives for third-grade social studies, including how people manage their money and the importance of economic exchange within a city. (Grade 3) This learning experience is available for classroom-based or remote classroom implementation. It includes five 45-minute sessions, extended learning activities, and optional digital assets offered throughout. Spanish translation is available for JA Our City.
- JA Our Community immerses students in the daily life of their community—the people who work there, the money decisions they make, the flow of the community’s economy, and the importance of being involved and responsible community members. (Grade 2) It includes five 45-minute sessions, extended learning activities, and optional digital assets offered throughout.
- JA It’s My Future Blended Model offers middle school students practical information to help prepare them for the working world. Students will develop the personal branding and job-hunting skills needed to earn a job. (Grades 6-8) The program includes six 45-minute sessions, with additional extended learning activities and optional digital assets offered throughout.

## Writing Skills

Instructing and implementing practical writing skills is paramount in children's education. Educators can equip young learners with the fundamental tools to excel in written communication by providing comprehensive lessons and actively integrating writing exercises into their curriculum. This enables students to express themselves articulately and fosters critical thinking, creativity, and analytical abilities, essential for their future academic and professional endeavors.



# GRADES 3-5

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## Public Speaking

Help your child take command of the audience and become an excellent communicator with this incrementally skill-building curriculum.

- 81-page, full-color teaching guide with tools that make learning fun for young students!
- 24 skill-building lessons – 5-10 minute lessons, once a week
- Suggested weekly speeches by your student
- Each week introduces a new performance skill or speech creation technique
- All lessons are completely scripted – we tell you exactly what to say and do!
- Full-color Posters with images associated with the new skill for easy memory by kids
- Classroom Interactive Images to keep the class engaged
- Best of all, it can be used year after year as your student masters his skills!

### **Student Workbook:**

- The Roadmap – Students use this to prepare their speeches with additional tools and skills to practice each week
- The Outline – Students convert their speech to an abbreviated outline and practice presentation skills
- The Scorecard – Students evaluate their weekly progress utilizing the skills taught.

## History365

- The Woodson Center's K-12 black history and character curriculum is based on the Black's tenacity and resilience to overcome adversity and make invaluable contributions to our country. It also teaches character and decision-making skills that equip students to take charge of their futures.



# GRADES 3-5

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## History365

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# GRADES 6-12

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## Financial Literacy w/ Junior Achievement

- JA Economics is a one-semester course that connects high school students to the economic principles that influence their daily lives and futures. (Grades 11-12)
- JA Personal Finance allows students to experience the interrelationship between today's financial decisions and future financial freedom. To achieve financial health and wellness, they learn about money-management strategies, including earning, employment and income, budgeting, savings, credit and debt, consumer protection, smart shopping, risk management, investing, credit card usage, debt management, and net worth. (Grades 9-12) The program consists of eight 45-minute sessions with three additional modular sessions.

## Fondations in Personal Finance (Dave Ramsey)

Your teens will learn the money skills they'll use now and for the rest of their lives to have a solid foundation when out on their own (see where we got the name?) But it doesn't stop there. This course trades boring formulas and financial theories for time-tested principles, real-life applications, and humor (yes, personal finance can be fun!). Devotionals and a scripture reference guide for additional study on the biblical view of finances.

## Writing Skills

**Biblical Writing:** This collection of writing lessons provides an incredible opportunity to increase your students' understanding of Scripture as they improve their writing abilities. Working through all of IEW's nine units—and beyond, these writing lessons use actual passages from Scripture as source texts. This Student Book includes assignments, blank outlines, source texts, checklists, and vocabulary cards.



# GRADES 6-12

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## History365

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## Public Speaking

- Your high school student will learn to organize his thoughts with our tools, such as speech maps and note cards.
- Our tools can help your high schooler overcome and even prevent nervous habits that plague novice public speakers.
- Your new public speaker will learn exactly how to use visual aids.
- You and your student will have all the help you need with our topic ideas, online resources, evaluation forms, and rubrics.
- Your student's high school transcript can be pumped with our optional honors track.
- Your high school student interested in debate will have an excellent preparatory course



# GRADES 6-12

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## Greek & Latin

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# ADMINISTRATION TEAM

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**RONALD & LATASHA H. FIELDS**

FOUNDERS | HOME EDUCATORS OF 3  
PASTORS | EVANGELISTS | PARENTAL  
RIGHTS | PRO-LIFE | 2A ADVOCATES  
ENTREPRENEURS (CHICAGO)



**MRS. ANGELA HARRIS**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | INSTRUCTOR  
HOMESCHOOL MOM OF 2 | NAVY VET |  
PARENTAL RIGHTS | MEDICAL & HEALTH  
FREEDOM | MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS  
| PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE (CHICAGO)



**DEVIN JONES**

ACADEMIC ADVISOR | LATIN INSTRUCTOR | U.S. NAVY VET,  
FORMER PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATOR | 18TH WARD  
COMMITTEEMAN | POLITICAL STRATEGIST | CIVIC EDUCATION,  
SCHOOL CHOICE | PRO-LIFE | 2A ADVOCATE (CHICAGO)

# LEAD HOME EDUCATORS



MRS. NIKEYA YOUNG

HOMESCHOOL MOM OF 3 | AUTHOR | CERTIFIED  
MASTER LIFE COACH | SPEAKER | MINISTER |  
PODCASTER | FORMER PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER  
(CRETE, IL)



MRS. ASHLEY MERCED

HOMESCHOOL MOM OF 4  
HAIRSTYLIST | ENTREPRENEUR |  
PARENTAL RIGHTS | MEDICAL  
FREEDOM ADVOCATE  
(CHICAGO)



# THANK YOU!

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Whether you are new to homeschooling, a veteran, or a parent looking for K-12 school options, we are here to support you every step of the way.

Our mission is to help you discover or embrace a learning environment where values, faith, and academic excellence seamlessly intertwine.

Please visit our website at [www.chessup.org](http://www.chessup.org), call us at 773-814-6843, or email us at [info@chessup.org](mailto:info@chessup.org) for more information.

