

# Homeschool Hub - Frequently Asked Questions

## How is this program different from a school?

Our program is designed to offer students and families all the best parts of school (collaborative learning, expert teachers, community) without removing each individual family's autonomy in deciding what is best for their child's education as a whole. All families remain in the role of "Homeschool Administrator" for their personal Homeschool. Our classes are supplemental and will not sufficiently provide for a child's full educational experience. You can find more information about opening a homeschool at the NC Department of Administration website.

## Is this program a Christian program?

The mission of the Y is "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all", and we take the "for all" very seriously.

Our Mission compels us to embrace, reflect and celebrate the richness of diversity within each other and the many communities we serve. In that Christian principles are caring and inclusive, we are respectful of various expressions of faith and serve families and individuals from all traditions, backgrounds and perspectives. Together, we work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity at our YMCA.

All Homeschool Hub classes utilize secular curriculum and activities to ensure all students feel like they belong.

## What does it cost?

All tuition is charged per class, per semester. Our most up to date pricing can be found on our website. Tuition can be paid up front, or drafted monthly throughout the semester.

## Is financial aid available?

Yes! We are able to accept ESA+ grant funding for eligible students, and also offer financial assistance through generous donations to our YMCA Annual Campaign. Please see our Course Catalog for more information.

## Can my child sign up for just one class?

Students must enroll for half day blocks of classes. On Thursdays, students may sign up for just one class in either the morning or afternoon. Because our Monday/Wednesday classes are only 1 hour long, students must sign up for two or four classes on these days to meet the half-day requirement. This policy is to reduce the number of transitions in and out of the building each day to protect the safety of our students.

## My child has special needs. Will this program work for them?

Our program is designed to be flexible and meet the needs of as many different types of learners as we can. While our program is not a "special education" program, we serve students with many different strengths and challenges.

Students in our program must be able to remain with their class, communicate with their teachers, and cannot exhibit behaviors that are dangerous to themselves or others. Students should be enrolled in classes that are a good fit for their developmental age. This might mean that an older student enrolls in a class for younger ages. It also might mean that a younger child who is chronologically old enough to join our program may not yet be developmentally ready. If you have questions about your specific child's needs please contact us!

## How many students are currently enrolled in the program?

In the Spring semester we are currently serving 245 students across our 4 days of programming. This is broken down into about 40 students between the ages of 4-6, 145 students between ages 8-11, and 60 students ages 12 or older. We expect these numbers to increase next year, especially in our oldest cohort.

## Will my child interact with members of the Y or the general public?

Our program operates out of the Crosspointe Church building, which is attached to the Northwest Cary YMCA. All of our classroom spaces are reserved for our program, and other adults should not ever be in our areas during our program time.

## What safety measures are in place to protect students?

All of our staff are employees of the Y, and are fully trained in Y safety protocols. Our classroom spaces are all within hallways that require badge access, and only Y staff and approved/trained volunteers will be in these spaces with students.

## Who teaches the classes?

Our teachers are chosen based on their love of the subjects they teach and sharing that love of learning with students. Many have experience in public or private school settings, and all have experience teaching students in a group setting. All teachers are trained in supporting the needs of all students, including those with a variety of neurodivergencies.

## What happens between the morning and afternoon classes?

Students who enroll in a full day participate in a supervised Lunch/Recess break between 11:00-12:00. Students will be with the same teachers and group of students each day, and these groups are determined based mostly on student age to ensure that students are interacting with developmentally similar peers during this time. At this time Lunch/Recess is only available for full-day students.

## Can my child purchase lunch?

Unfortunately at this time we do not have the facilities available to provide lunch to students.

## How can I find out if there are openings?

Our most up to date registration information can be found during the registration process. You will need to create an account on the Y website, and then proceed as if you are registering. This will show you what classes are available for your child, and how many seats remain in each class.

## How do waitlists work?

If a class your child is interested in is full, you can register for that class' waitlist. As spots open up, we will reach out to you to confirm that you are still interested in that spot, and help with processing that class transfer if you are.

## Will my child receive grades?

The goal of our classes is student engagement and love of learning, and we therefore do not utilize grades or required assignments in our classes. Families are responsible for assigning grades to their own students if they determine this is necessary in their own homeschool. Teachers will share weekly what students are working on in class, and parents are always welcome to ask their child's teachers about their learning in class.

## What if my child doesn't like their classes after they start?

We want our classrooms to be a good fit for everyone, so we offer a 2 week drop/add window at the beginning of each semester. Until this date, students can withdraw or transfer to other classes that have openings. These changes will result in a loss of the \$25 administrative fee/deposit paid for the original class.

Because our classes are intended to be semester long and knowledge is built from class to class, we do not accept additional registrations after this two week window. To protect the financial sustainability of the program, we are therefore not able to offer refunds after this time and families are responsible for the full class tuition for the remainder of the semester, even if their payments are set up as a monthly draft.

## Do students have opportunities to build community outside of program hours?

We are always looking for ways to connect our families outside of program time! Field trips and playdates are often planned by teachers and families, and these are shared on our private Facebook page or Class Dojo, which is a communication app all of our classes use. We hope to continue to expand these opportunities as our community continues to grow.

## Are there Homeschool Hub programs at other YMCA locations?

Currently the only full Homeschool Hub program is offered at the Northwest Cary Y, but we are exploring offering some satellite classes at other locations. Our first offering will be at the Kerr Y in Spring 2024. Please see our website for more information.

**For more information, please contact us at [NWCHomeschool@ymcatriangle.org](mailto:NWCHomeschool@ymcatriangle.org)**