

The Vision

The Explorers Homeschool Co-op was created to enrich the education of school-age children ages 5-19 by offering classes better taught in a group setting or in areas requiring more expertise than every parent might possess. We believe that if we pool our resources, our children's education will be greatly enriched.

We meet bi-weekly on Friday mornings at Woodbine Baptist Church, 4912 Woodbine Rd, Pace, FL 32571, from 9:00-12:30 for 16 weeks each school year. The children are divided by age for classes. Classes/subjects are taught by co-op parent volunteers, and are set up during yearly planning sessions, and children may sign up for their preferred classes.

We all have something to give that would enrich our children's education! Every parent is required to work every week by teaching and assisting within the classes for at least two of the three class periods. Every parent is also required to remain on the church grounds available to help during any time they are not teaching or assisting. The Explorers Co-op can be as great as we make it or as mediocre as we allow.

Requirements

100% parental involvement is REQUIRED, with one adult from each family teaching and/or assisting at every meeting. The oldest child in each family must be in at least K5. There will be absolutely NO drop-offs. In the case of an extenuating circumstance, approval from the Director is needed to send your child with another Explorers family. There will be a mandatory parent orientation meeting at the beginning of each school year for all members. Announcements and events are given solely through the closed Explorers Facebook page. We are not able to offer an email or text option to keep up with all of the announcements.

Family Commitment

We all depend upon one another to make the Explorers Co-op work smoothly. Families are expected to arrive on time and stay the entire co-op day. By signing up for Explorers co-op, you are giving your commitment for the full 16 weeks, or the remainder of the school year. We understand the exceptions of illness and family emergencies, but you will be expected to keep your commitment to attend co-op and fulfill your responsibilities as much as possible.

Families with more than two absences or four tardies in a semester may not be allowed to return the following semester. When texting the substitute coordinator about

an absence, please briefly explain the reason for your absence.

Unfortunately, we are not able to give refunds if a family has to drop out, as the funds will have already been distributed and used.

Teachers: Teachers are responsible to plan and prepare for their class. Teachers are not paid, but will get the bonus of registering their children for classes before parents who are only assisting. Supply fees are set by each teacher. These are to be used for class supplies only, and are not a teacher salary. Teachers may also choose to have students bring their own supplies. Teachers are required to keep students in their classroom the entire class period. Teachers also are expected to clean and straighten their classroom after their class. Every teacher is required to prepare a “sub packet” to keep with the substitute coordinator in case of an unexpected absence. In the event that you are unable to attend a co-op meeting, it is your responsibility to contact the substitute coordinator. Teachers should have no more than one planned absence each semester. Teachers may not give candy or food to students.

Assistants: If you are not teaching, you will be assigned assistant positions. You will help with crowd control,

distributing materials, assisting children with projects, cleaning, and any other tasks that are needed in the class. In the event that a teacher you are assisting is unable to be at a meeting, you will teach the class that day, and a parent from the substitute list will be called to assist you.

Child Participation: Each co-op meeting includes an opening assembly, two class periods, and a snack/PE time. Every child pre-K - 12th grade must be in a class each hour. Students are expected to participate in class and be respectful to teachers and other students.

Classes

Minnows: Birth to 2 years

Starfish: 3-4 years

Sailors: K5-2nd grade

Navigators: 3rd-5th grade

Captains: 6th-8th grade

Admirals: 9th-12th grade

Children will be placed in grades/classes according to their age, based on public school cutoffs, with special requests considered for up to 1 year age difference.

Co-op Schedule

9:00-9:15: Arrival

9:15-9:30: Assembly

9:30-10:30: 1st Hour

10:30-11:30: 2nd Hour

11:30-12:30: 3rd Hour

12:30-1:00: Teen clean-up

(All enrolled teens are required to stay and help out with cleaning chores after each co-op day.)

Infant-PreK children will remain in their classroom all 3 hours and all teachers will transition to them. All other children will transition to their next class with guidance from their teachers. At the end of co-op, parents will pick up all children at their designated pickup locations.

Guests

A guest is anyone who is not part of our normal co-op family.

- Guests who are bringing enrolled children in place of their parent will be expected to help during two class periods. Please communicate in advance to the substitute coordinator that you will have a guest taking your place. You will also need to state whether they would be comfortable filling in the places where you usually teach/assist, or if they will need to be placed elsewhere.
- Adult guests who are coming in addition to the primary adult in the family may also attend/assist in classes if they would like. Please let the

substitute coordinator know if you will be bringing a guest.

- Children in co-op families who don't normally attend co-op, but need to attend for one day (due to school being out, etc.) may attend classes as space permits. Contact the substitute coordinator to arrange the details if you need to bring another child with your family.

Expectations

Christ-Centered

Explorers is a Christ-centered organization, and through all aspects of our program, we seek to honor biblical principles and bring glory to His name.

Our Commitment

We are committed to upholding the following standards:

1. Respect – to each other and to our host church. Leave each other and the building better than when we arrived.
2. Safety – always two teachers per classroom, from two different families. Seek outside help when needed.
3. Courtesy – arrive and dismiss on time, no cell phones in class

4. Listen – listen to teachers and peers, take turns speaking so that everyone gets a chance to contribute.
5. Godliness – speak and act in a way that pleases Jesus; speak life to each other; no bullying, no gossiping.

Dress Code

Please remember we are in a church and school environment. The following dress guidelines apply to all adults and students attending Explorers.

- No underwear showing.
- No tight, form-fitting, or “see-through” clothing (tops or bottoms)
- No short shorts or skirts - they must reach below your fingertips
- Ripped jeans that show skin above fingertip length should be worn with leggings or long shorts underneath.
- No tank tops, unless they are under a shirt or dress. Sleeveless tops that cover the top of the shoulder and don’t gap to show the torso or underclothing are OK.
- No low-cut tops showing cleavage or tops showing midriff

Illness, Injury, & Liability

Help us to make our Co-op a healthy environment by not bringing your child if he/she has had any of the following symptoms within the last 24 hours: fever, diarrhea,

vomiting, severe runny nose, persistent cough, or any symptom of an illness that could be communicable. You must contact the substitute coordinator as soon as possible if you need to be out.

A first aid kit will be available for minor injuries. For any accidents (vomiting, blood, etc.) that need to be cleaned up, please grab a willing parent to help.

In the event of serious injury, parents will be contacted immediately, and if it is life-threatening, the attending teacher may also seek emergency treatment for minor children immediately. Parents are responsible for any costs related to emergency treatment for children listed on their family account.

Parents are responsible for the health and safety of their children while at all co-op functions. Explorers Co-op, the church, and all representatives and staff of these organizations will not accept any liability for any illness contracted or injuries sustained while attending a co-op function.

Conduct Guidelines

Participants are expected to abide by all of the rules, and parents are responsible for their children’s conduct at all times.

- Please do not bring the following items to any co-op related function:

Firearms (exception: parents with a conceal carry permit), knives, BB or pellet guns, real or toy weapons, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or flammable materials, clothing that states or implies rude, disrespectful, or obscene languages or images.

- Please walk and use quiet voices while inside.
- Please clean up after yourselves. No violence, theft, or defacing of church property will be tolerated. We strive to leave our host church better than we found it!
- For everyone's protection, please ensure two unrelated adults are present in classrooms when classes are in session. Please leave any physical discipline to the parents. Instead use time out or redirection.
- Only adults may help young children in restrooms. The only exception is an older sibling helping a younger child in his/her family.
- Please be on time for classes.
- Eat only at designated times and places.

- Students must keep all electronic devices in their bag, pocket, or with a parent during co-op.
- Please do not post pictures of children on social media outside of our closed Explorers FB group without permission from their parents.
- Treat others with Christ-like kindness – no bullying, no gossiping!
- Use appropriate touch – high fives, fist bumps, side hugs.
- Use God-honoring language. No curse words or pseudo-curse words, sexual innuendos, or any other form of language that is disrespectful or inappropriate is allowed at co-op.
- Work with each other to resolve conflict! If a problem arises with a child or another parent, please communicate kindly and clearly with the other parent to resolve the issue between the two of you if at all possible. If an issue cannot be resolved, do not take it to other members; take it in private to a member of the leadership team.