

Community Conversation, August 25, 2021

On August 25, 2021, as part of a “Libraries Transforming Communities” grant project, the Gibsonville Public Library facilitated a Community Conversation with local homeschool families to discuss their ongoing needs. The results of this conversation can be loosely grouped under three general themes: ways to engage with the local community, homeschool specific resources, and socialization opportunities.

One of the greatest needs in the homeschool community is usable indoor spaces where they can get together for collaborative teaching and activities. Specifically, they need spaces that are available during the traditional school day, which is when they plan the majority of their activities. Similarly, homeschool families look for guided activities that are held during these times.

In addition to the needs and suggestions for possible activities listed below, the families expressed appreciation for all of the activities offered on the town green (organized by the Parks and Recreation Department), and to the library for holding homeschool-specific information sessions and discussions, as well as lending interactive materials such as games and puzzles.

Library staff are planning ways to address some of the needs and suggestions offered during this discussion, with the understanding that many of them would be best filled by other organizations. This document will be shared with Gibsonville Town Hall, Parks and Recreation Department, and Historical Society, as well as area churches, museums, and libraries.

What follows is the list of the current “missing pieces” for our local homeschool community, grouped under general headings.

Ways to engage with local community

- Indoor meeting space
- Intergenerational and all ages or family events and activities
- Monthly career day with guest presenter
- Volunteering opportunities
- “Zoom Passes” similar to those offered by Alamance Libraries
- Tours of places in town: Town Hall / Police, Trains / Caboose
- Historical Tours
- Cemetery Tours
- Heritage Day style event
- Charlotte Hawkins Brown Homeschool Day
- Veterans Visits

Homeschool specific resources

- Availability of space/programs/activities during weekdays
- Music Class
- List of people/resources like tutors, speech therapy, music, etc
- “Homeschool Day” discounts at local businesses
- Homeschool sports opportunities
- Homeschool gym class
- Battle of the Books style challenge
- Nature Studies classes at local parks
- Introduction to the Library for students

Socialization opportunities (especially during winter/cold weather)

LEGO league

Game Days

Chess club



"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL)."