St. George Home-School Learning Center FAQ

**What will be the weekly schedule at the Learning Center (LC)?**

The Learning Center classrooms will be in session on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday from 8:30am-1:30pm.

**What homeschool work will I be doing with my child at home?**

This depends on the age of your child and what is agreed upon between you and your child’s tutor. Young children will have very little work that needs to be done outside of the classroom, while older children will have more. It may be reading time together, practicing letter formation, or going outside to watch bird behavior and then having the child describe it to you. Whatever it might be, it will coincide with the work your child is doing during their time in the LC, so that work at home and in the LC will be joined together to create a rich educational experience for your child and family.

**What will the school calendar be?**

We will generally follow 4J’s school schedule, modifying it to fit the Orthodox liturgical calendar. Specifics will come out with the parent handbook in August.

**What will tuition be? Do you have any financial assistance?**

$225/month per child (Pre K - 6th grade) paid directly to the child’s tutor.

A scholarship program at St. George’s GOC is in formation. More details to come.

**Can I volunteer?**

Absolutely! Our enrolled families can participate in several volunteer roles, for instance:

- Routine care and cleaning of the Learning Center

- “Noble Attendant” volunteer: This will be a supportive role to the tutors and children during the day. Noble Attendants will “attend” for 1.5 hrs in the morning or lunchtime.

We have Volunteer Cards available which list a number of other volunteer opportunities. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering by filling out a volunteer card.

**What curriculum will be used?**

Our curriculum will primarily follow the classical model, the heart of which is great works of literature, art, history and science. Through these works children and their families are invited to encounter the great ideas and events of history together and to inspire strong relationships and love of learning amongst everyone involved. The focus will be on a "living" education and the formation of the individual person through relationship and exposure to what is good, beautiful and true. Curriculum details to be discussed further at our July family meetings.

**What is an Orthodox Christian Classical & Montessori-Inspired education?**

“Classical Education” refers to the manner of educating children according to the Classical model. The Classical model, time-tested since ancient Greek, Roman, and medieval times, known as the Trivium, meaning, “triple-way.” The Classical model recognizes three stages of mental/physiological development in children with corresponding stages of learning - Grammar, Dialectic & Rhetoric. These stages closely parallel the three levels of spiritual development: purification, enlightenment, and unity with God. The goal of an Orthodox Christian classical education is to produce students able to live out and give strong witness to the True Faith as adults.

Montessori-inspired education engages the child in a holistic way, through academic and sensory-based activities that encourage thoughtfulness, independence, and love of learning. This lays the foundation for learning in the classical model, which places high emphasis on these qualities. Elements of Montessori include: Mixed-age classrooms, uninterrupted blocks of work time, student directed learning within a prescribed and limited range of options, and learning through the use of hands-on materials. These components serve to foster responsibility at a young age, help children solidify their own learning by having an opportunity to teach younger children, and allow for maximized learning at crucial periods of a child’s developmental growth.

**What is Orthodox Christianity? Does my child need to be an Orthodox Christin to participate**?

This is an Orthodox Christian learning environment, but your child does not have to be an Orthodox Christian to participate. As part of their time together, children will be exposed to the Orthodox Christian Faith and worship services in a loving and respectful way.

**I have never home-schooled before, how do I start? Do I need to register as a home-schooler?**

This article is a great place to start: <https://hslda.org/teaching-my-kids/starting-strong>.

Our planning team will be happy to answer your questions, and your child’s tutor will also be a great resource. As a homeschooler, you will register with Lane ESD (if you live in Lane County) for a child in grade 3rd or higher - Lane ESD - [www.lesd.k12.or.us/homeschooling/](http://www.lesd.k12.or.us/homeschooling/). Their website provides information on state testing as well.

As an additional option, some virtual charter schools in Oregon may work well with our program (such as Fossil Distance Learning and Teach NW) and provide additional homeschooling resources and support for K-12. If you are interested in pursuing this route let us know and we can supply you with further information.