

CONCORDIA

WCA's Shared School Experience

July 15, 2020

What is Concordia?

An excellent collaborative study experience designed to meet the needs of the Christian family seeking the quality of classical Christian education provided by WCA while having much of the parental involvement and flexibility they would find in homeschooling. This K-6 program allows for the parents to come under the WCA umbrella *and* invest instructional time with their children in the home setting. Partnering well with WCA will help their children achieve a high degree of academic excellence and Christian virtue. The student is enrolled as a WCA student but completes the majority of the academic work at the satellite campus (home) with academic support and oversight, accountability, and enrichment opportunities.

Mission

Concordia (Latin for harmony/agreement) is committed to quality education through the lens of a biblical worldview in a unique partnership with WCA and its mission to integrate biblical truth with academic excellence so that our students will become genuine leaders committed to impacting the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Details

Concordia provides the WCA classical Christian curriculum at a satellite campus (home), with the distinction of being an integrated, comprehensive curriculum. The student will generally keep pace with the main campus classes using the WCA curriculum including:

- Bible
 - English language arts including writing, grammar, spelling, and literature
 - Math and math enrichment
 - History and Geography
 - Science and Health
 - Enrichment subjects: art, music, phys ed, Latin
 - Occasional video lessons by WCA teachers on Google classroom
 - Modifications or accommodations as recommended by the education specialist for students in need of a special plan
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- Placement testing and/or recommendation by teacher as part of the admissions process

Advantages of Concordia vs Homeschooling

- Identification as a WCA student
 - Enrolled in WCA as a private school student
 - Parents are considered to be tutors with WCA guidance and support
 - Work is completed at the satellite campus and overseen by WCA
- Academic support and oversight:
 - Regular and open communication with the program director through various means which may include emails, newsletters, phone calls, conferences, and seminars
 - Academic program syllabus listing course objective, required texts, scope and sequence
 - Weekly lesson planning provided by WCA teachers with clearly defined lesson requirements and student objectives
 - Video instruction available on Google classroom, especially for new concepts
- Accountability:
 - Regularly scheduled reviews of student progress in all subject areas, including home visits, observations, portfolio review, and tests
 - Daily attendance log
 - Standardized testing
 - Quarterly conferences (two with students included--winter and spring)
 - Year end review to evaluate the program and student progress
- Enrichment opportunities at central campus
 - Specials (One: art, music, phys ed or Latin), class field trips, weekly chapel, special events and competitions such as Speech Meet and Math Olympics
 - Grades 1-6 student attends central campus classes one day a week to integrate with peers
 - Group learning opportunities, projects and/or special classes in various subjects on central campus days
- Allows for a smooth transition to traditional program
- A sound classical Christian curriculum all in one
 - All books and most material worksheets provided (loaned)
- Intimacy of home educating while still being apart of a “class”

What parents can expect

- WCA classical Christian curriculum in all subjects
 - Textbooks (subject to loan agreement)

- Materials such as literature books or consumable materials (workbooks, study cards, etc.) as part of tuition
 - Involvement in curricular capstone projects
- Basic lesson plans with assignment sheets
 - Scope and sequence for each grade level subject (syllabus)
 - Weekly assignment sheets
 - Clear expectations for coursework including a syllabus for each class
 - Provided by the grade level teacher
 - Oversight by program director
- Teacher oversight and support
 - Regular and open communication with the program director through various means which may include emails, newsletters, phone calls, conferences, and seminars
 - Seminars for parents on various topics which may include classical education, teaching methods, shepherding, etc. (parent encouragement)
- Record keeping
 - Grade cards and progress reports as a WCA student in collaboration with parents
 - Program coordinator is considered the WCA teacher and responsible for grade cards in collaboration with parents.
 - Iowa Test of Basic Skills
 - End of year WCA assessment as tests and/or portfolio samples in reading, writing, and math
- Accountability
 - Signed statement of agreement with program's core values and parent responsibilities
 - Daily attendance log
 - Regularly scheduled reviews of student progress in all subject areas
 - Quarterly conferences (two with students included--winter and spring)
 - Year end review of program and progress
 - Quarterly home visits by the WCA teacher/director
- Possible customization of curriculum to meet mild or moderate special needs
 - As recommended by education specialist
 - Modifications and accommodations per Student Plan of Progress
- Meeting some of the the social needs of the student
 - Regular central campus programming
 - Indoor and outdoor activities
- Field trips, special days, and school-wide initiatives

- Special programming for the collaborative school such as art, nature, history, and/or science classes on central campus days
- Field trips with grade level assigned class or with collaborative school (requires parent participation)
- School-wide initiatives may include Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing, school fundraisers, etc.
- Partnership with open communication and collaboration
 - Per the WCA model
 - Regular communication with the program director through various means which may include emails, newsletters, phone calls, conferences, and seminars
 - Use of Google classroom
 - Shepherding as needed/requested
- Community
 - Student is a WCA student
 - Part of a recognized group of like-minded families in the Concordia collaborative education experience
 - Parents may participate in WCA parent activities
- Flexibility
 - Allowing for relationship building and family time
 - Travel opportunities
 - Opportunity to work according to ability, rather than grade level alone

What Concordia is not

- This is not ***part-time schooling***. Although students would be on campus one day a week, education occurs five days per week. Students are expected to work at home on the satellite days to complete assignments.
- This is not ***a homeschool group or co-op***. We appreciate the success of homeschooling; however, collaborative education is something different: a comprehensive, unified curriculum under the co-teaching of professionals and parents.
- This is not ***professional tutoring***. Tutoring is specific to one subject or area. By contrast, a collaborative school functions from a holistic paradigm of education that seeks to shape students in *every* area of learning.
- This is not ***traditional private school***. Though working in partnership with WCA, collaborative education requires a larger commitment of time and effort from the parents in the direct education of their students.

Requirements

- Same admission requirements and process as WCA
- WCA placement assessment
- Commitment by parents for high parental involvement
- Uniform worn on central campus days: chapel uniform if attending chapel or formal events, daily school uniform otherwise
- Tuition, enrollment, and application fees
- Adult supervision on satellite campus days
- Parent training seminars
- Quarterly conferences

Tuition and Fees

- Application fee: \$75
- Enrollment fee is \$385
- Grades 1-6 tuition: \$3750
- Kindergarten tuition: \$3300

Questions for Parents to Consider

To determine if this collaborative study program is right for your family, please consider the following:

- Will our family benefit from having someone organize and plan the curriculum for our children?
- Can we provide an environment conducive to learning within our home?
- Are our family dynamics such that our children will respond to us as their teachers?
- Does our family lifestyle allow us to commit to the workload required at home?
- Can we commit to regular communication with the school?
- Do we need accountability for our children's education?
- Is this the best educational model for us?

Considerations for Homeschoolers Joining the Concordia program

Homeschooling families are quite diverse in their reasons for homeschooling, their methods of tailoring instruction for their children, and their patterns of interaction with the larger community. Current homeschooling families, already accustomed to a high level of involvement with their children, generally need to adjust to

- Fewer controllable factors
- Accepting a more structure with oversight by a WCA teacher
- Firmer deadlines

- Sharing control over their children's learning process, curriculum, and pace
- A partnership with WCA
- More activity options/opportunities
- Using predetermined curriculum

The goal is not a change of philosophy of home education, but a continuation of it albeit in a unique way. The collaborative school, with the independent study experience, is an environment that explicitly encourages and affirms the active involvement of the parents. In truth, the program depends upon high parental involvement for the student to be successful.