

## **General Policy**

**CHAT Is a Christian home school co-op designed to reinforce and enhance home schooling In Bartow County and surrounding areas. Through fellowship in fun educational activities, we hope to help home schooling families.**

## **Statement of Faith**

**CHAT Is a Christian co-op for families involved in home education. As a Christian group we find that our members have basic beliefs in common. Though our group includes many facets of the Christian faith, our members believe:**

- **The Bible is the inspired Word of God and as such contains God's completed and final revelation. (John 1:1)**
- **God exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:16-17)**
- **All men are in violation of God's law by nature and act. As a result, all are under His condemnation. (Romans 3:23)**
- **Jesus came to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death. ( John 3:16)**
- **Man cannot save himself from God's condemnation by his own works, but must receive His free gift of salvation through the grace of God. (Eph. 2:8-9)**

**You will find a wide variety of motivational forces behind our members' desire to home school. The majority of our members are home educating because of their belief in their God-given responsibility to oversee and supervise the education of their children.**

**Our Statement of Faith is based on fundamental Christian beliefs that we strongly support as a foundation of our organization. CHAT does not promote or endorse any particular denomination. We desire to remain united in the salvation and love of Christ, avoiding any dissension that may be caused by denominational differences. All members wishing to participate in this program must agree to respect our beliefs be compliant and participate during Prayers and displays of Patriotism and not be disruptive of our rights to conduct these traditional and ceremonial events.**

## **Attendance Policy**

CHAT will begin promptly at 9:00 AM with assembly in The Factory. Assembly is MANDANTORY for all CHAT members (parents and children). Please have your children quietly seated prior to the beginning of the assembly. It is the responsibility of each parent to maintain control of their children during assembly. Please hold all conversations until after assembly is over. This is an important time for reflection before we begin our day. Each assembly will begin with a song, announcements, prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The CHAT co-op was designed to be a three hour class program. So that we may function in an orderly manner, children are expected to participate in all three of their classes. If your child does not wish to participate in the full program, we ask that you please make other arrangements for him/her away from co-op and contact the appropriate Sub-coordinator as to your decision. (See sub-Coordinator list below). Children are not allowed to be at CHAT without participating in CHAT classes.

One parent must be present during co-op hours. That parent will be asked to teach and/or assist for 2 hours with classes and must remain on campus. We understand that there are times when parent cannot attend. In such cases, you must communicate to your Sub Coordinator your intentions. We all depend on one another to make CHAT work smoothly. When people fail to fulfill their commitment and are absent, gaps are left in the program. If an emergency arises or you need to leave CHAT campus during class times please notify your sub-coordinators. If you are unable to relay the message to the sub-coordinators then contact Ronda Thomas.

***If you need to be absent, please follow this procedure:***

### **Teachers**

1. Contact your assistant and arrange for him/her to teach your class.
2. Contact Ronda Thomas at the number listed on the next page. If you have less than two assistants Ronda will find a substitute to assist. Please make sure you contact ALL assistants and Ronda if you teach in more than one age group.

### **Assistants**

1. Contact each teacher you assist and inform them of your intended absence.
2. Contact Ronda Thomas at the number listed on the next page.

### **Tardiness Policy**

**It is the responsibility of the parent to contact Ronda Thomas if not at CHAT by 9:00AM.**

### Sub Coordinator List

- Absences and Substitutes- Ronda Thomas 770-655-1338
- Nursery & Early Childhood - Summer Hudson 678-848-9288
- Preschool- Jenny Jordan 678-516-5284
- Primary-Tiffany King 770-695-9263
- Beginner- Joanna Moody 706-766-4821
- Intermediate- Tracie Hyde: 706-980-7774
- Middle School- Carol Galloway 678-787-6216
- High School- Mistee Smith 706-346-1977
- Director- Heather Lavigne 678-986-9413
- Administrative Assistant- Esther Stroup 678-315-3792

***If a first time, non-communicated absence occurs the parent will be issued a verbal or written warning from the sub-coordinator. If a second non-communicated absence occurs the family will be suspended from CHAT for the remainder of the semester with no refund.***

### Behavior Policy

All members are expected to be on their best behavior while at co-op. Members will be expected to:

- Be on time or early
- Use correct and polite language (Absolutely no profanity will be tolerated. CHAT maintains a zero tolerance for profanity)
- Follow the teacher's rules and directions the first time without argument
- Be in the appropriate areas at all times. Roaming the building is not allowed.
- Treat others with Christ-like kindness
- Clean up after themselves
- Refrain from physical harassment of any kind
- No electronic devices in the classrooms ( ie Cell phones, iPods, iPads, or handheld games of any kind) If an electronic device is brought out during classes or assembly the child will be asked to give them to their parents for the remainder of the day. The only electronics that are allowed will be those deemed by the class teacher for education use only.

**If there is a problem:**

1. The teacher or another authority will speak to the child. The problem will be explained and a request made for the behavior not be repeated.
2. If the problem continues, the parent will be notified.
3. If the problem still continues, the parent will be asked to take the child out of co-op for the day.

### **Disclaimer**

Parents are responsible for the safety of their children while at CHAT functions. Neither CHAT nor the Church of Liberty Square will accept any liabilities for any injuries sustained while attending a CHAT function. All members must sign a liability form for the church and CHAT at Orientation.

### **Allergy Policy**

CHAT will provide allergy bands for parents to list any allergies that could impede the health of a child. It is the parent's responsibility to put the allergy bands on their child each week.

### **Illness Policy**

It is our desire to provide the best possible environment for your children. Please help us to make all CHAT functions healthy environments by not bringing your child if he/she has had any of the following symptoms within the last 24 hours:

- Fever (with or without the use of an anti-fever product)
- Diarrhea
- Severe runny nose
- Persistent Cough
- Any symptom which can be communicable

If the teacher or sub coordinator notices any of the symptoms mentioned above, they may ask the parent to remove the child from the premises. **Please do not bring any students to CHAT if they are sick.** If your child has a chronic condition that mimics one of these symptoms, please explain the situation to the appropriate coordinator. In some extreme cases, we may request a note from a physician stating they are safe to be in a group environment.

### **Dress Code**

Please remember we are in a church/school environment. Please dress conservatively. No excessive baggy pants, tank tops, or offensive t-shirts. No short-shorts, short skirts, short dresses or cleavage. Shorts and skirts should come below finger tips. Please do not wear clothes that show your undergarments or their straps. No hats or costume wear will be allowed inside the building except on special occasions which will be announced.

All students must wear tennis shoes for PE activities. Students may bring their tennis shoes and change before gym. **This dress code applies to parents as well; we need to set the example for our children.** Thank you for helping us set a higher standard for CHAT.

This dress code will be strictly enforced. Anyone violating the dress code policy will be asked to go home and change. If the parent is unable to take their child home to change CHAT will provide some type of cover-up for the child.

### **Peacemaker Plumb Line-Matthew 18:15-17**

Because we work closely with one another throughout the year, there is always the possibility of disagreements, misunderstanding, or conflicts arising, We desire to have an impartial plumb line and therefore stand on God's word for the best way to resolve issues within the body.

1. If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou has gained thy brother (Matt. 18:15)

**Pray about the situation; and then go to the person regarding the offense. Keep the offense confined to your spouse.**

2. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. (Matt. 18:16)

**If not settled, guard your lips, and contact a director for help. If you are the accused, pray for the truth to be revealed. Ask for forgiveness, or forgive freely, and do what you can to rectify the situation.**

3. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglects to hear the church, let him be as a heathen man and a publican. (Matt. 18:17)

**If further steps are needed, the directors will council, if necessary to resolve the problem. Steps will be taken accordingly, including, but not limited to verbal discussion, face to face reconciliation, or expulsion from CHAT.**

After the situation has been dealt with, there must be no derogatory comments or accusations made to others in the co-op. As we pursue God's Way, which is higher than our own, we can be assured that peace will reign in our body and the love of Christ Jesus will shine forth to all.

## **Field Trips/Special Events Guidelines**

**Because we represent homeschooling to the public, it is important that we portray a responsible, moral, and positive group. It is our responsibility, not that of others, to guide our children in respect for the property and feelings of others. Guidelines for CHAT field trips and events are:**

- Be on time, 10-15 minutes early
- In order to attend a field trip/special event, you must make a reservation with the person in charge unless otherwise specified
- If you cannot attend a field trip/special event after you have made a reservation, contact the person in charge and cancel
- Show respect for speakers, tour guides, etc. Use correct and polite language at all times. Keep your children under control and within sight at all times. Be positive and pleasant when disciplining your children
- Respect restrictions placed on the group by the sponsoring facility concerning the age of children, handling of objects/equipment, staying in designated areas, and eating and drinking.
- Express appreciation for the activity in an appropriate manner. Thank you notes from children are a good teaching opportunity.
- Parents are solely responsible for their own safety and that of their children while attending CHAT functions.
- Deposits made for field trips are usually non-refundable after the deadline date