

THE HOMESCHOOL ISSUES

April 2026



Our March Giveaway
winner: Melisa!

SAT SCARES?
READ OUR
GUIDE!

SPECIAL FEATURE:
Community Co hybrid
homeschool pod



P.E. CLASS AT
HARVEST VILLAGE



"How do I
study for the
SAT?"

The SAT is viewed as one of the terrifying tests that high school students take in order to be accepted into college. It feels like a life or death situation. I've been there. I was a high school through May of 2025.

Ways you can
prepare:

Join a SAT study group.
The LOL Homeschool
group offers a great one!

Kahn academy SAT Prep.
This is online for free!
visit:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat>

More ways you
can prepare:

Consider a tutor!

Take as many practice tests as possible! Practice, practice, practice. That is the best way to learn and study.

Good luck on your testing and studying!

-Shelby Gwinn

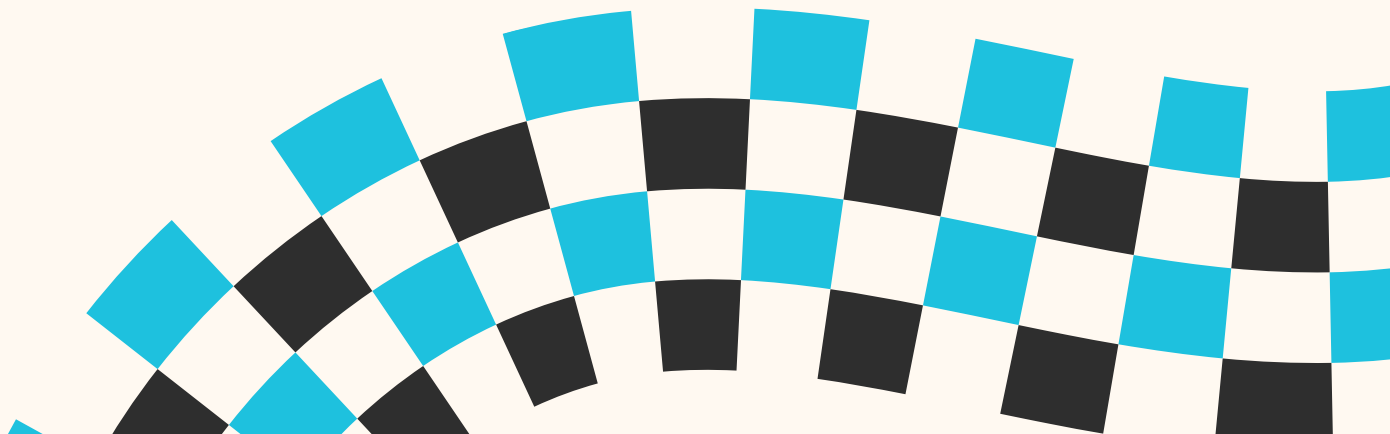
Bluebook is the program used to take practice tests and the official SAT. There are several practice tests to choose from on the program. These tests do not adapt to the user, unlike the official test.

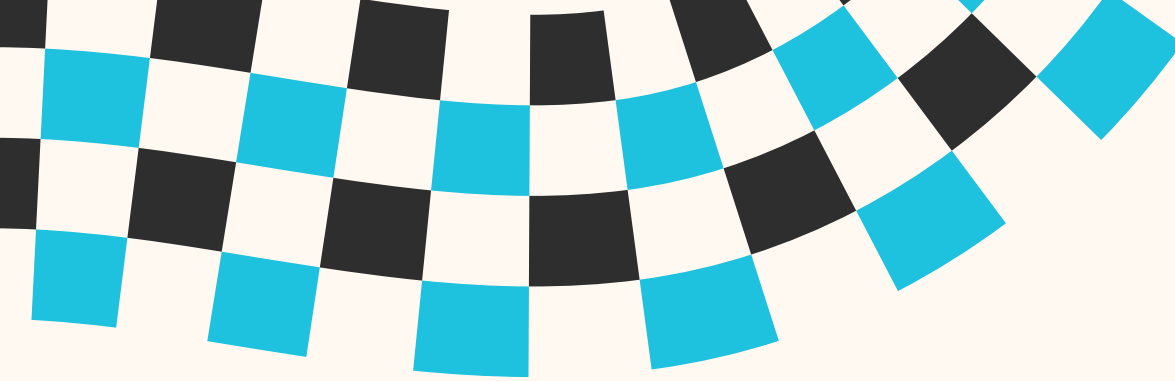
Chess, Mate?



Close readers of The Homeschool Issue will have begun to see a theme of outside the box thinking about education and life in general. We've spoken to parents who haven't pushed college on their kids, and students who have decided to pursue their passion and "Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece." (Ralph Charell).

Selah Williams of Chess Alchemy Academy is no exception. "I chose to pursue building Chess Alchemy Academy instead of attending college, which has been an incredible experience and has taught me so much." Selah and her siblings homeschooled all the way through from K-12. Taught by their dad at a very early age, Selah's curiosity quickly turned to a love of chess's strategy, creativity and mental challenge. "I was drawn to how every position tells a story and how improvement is directly connected to effort and study."





Selah went on to become a highly-ranked competitor in her state, something that she says requires consistent study, tournament play, and learning from losses. “I became serious about competing at 10 years old, and from that point on, I regularly played in rated tournaments, carefully analyzed my games, and sought out stronger competition whenever possible.”



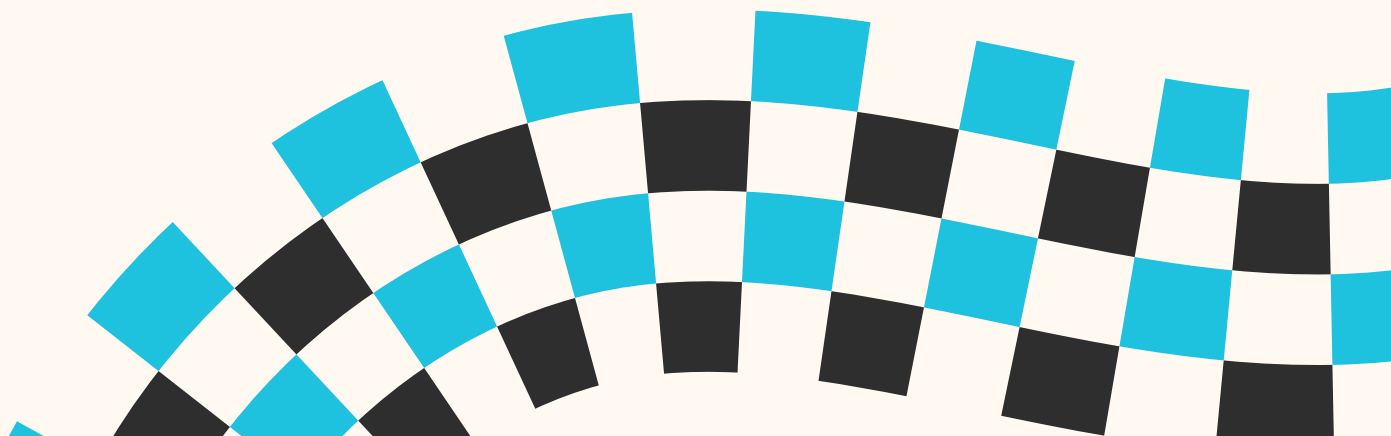
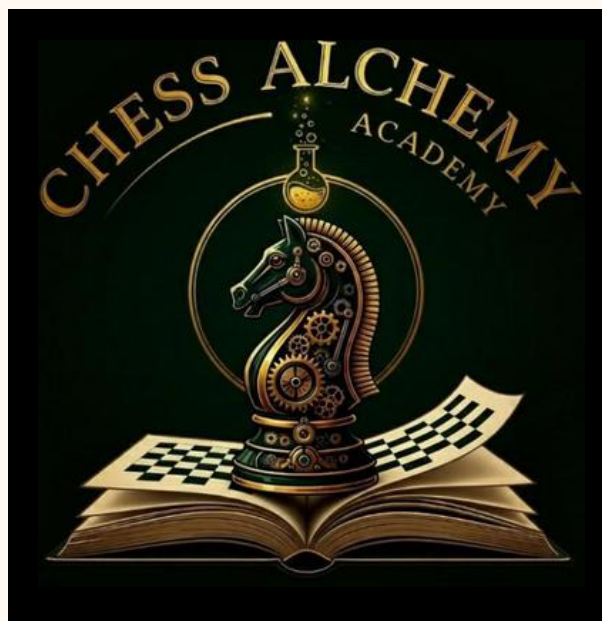
Once again, it was homeschooling that gave her the time to travel to tournaments and to dedicate focused time to improve, something that she says played a significant role in her progress. However, homeschooling was not without its challenges. Like many, she says there were times when it was difficult to connect. Chess, for her, opened many doors to meet people and build meaningful connections and Selah wants to give other homeschoolers this same opportunity of being introduced to chess while also providing guidance and connection.

Selah and her family started a local chess club where they hosted tournaments, taught classes, and helped new players enter the chess world. “Teaching developed naturally out of competing, I enjoyed breaking down complex positions and helping others gain confidence. Eventually, that grew into structured lessons, coaching, and working with homeschool families.” Ironically, it was COVID that gave her the opportunity to build this tool for connection.

“What started as a setback actually became the push we needed to begin teaching online.” Chess Alchemy Academy offers classes for beginners, group classes, teen classes and even classes for adults. All of these classes are available online.

For Selah, Chess has also allowed her to travel to different states to compete in tournaments, meet incredible mentors and students, and build a career around something she genuinely loves. “I’m especially passionate about helping homeschool students see that they can pursue excellence in specialized areas while still receiving a rich, well-rounded education.” If you are interested in getting your student connected with former homeschoolers, Selah Williams and her sister, Teah, who understands that making connections can be difficult but have worked hard to develop their expertise, then visit <https://www.chessalchemyacademy.com/> for more information

- Joni Harrison



An Interview with

Jessica Turner

Write a short introduction about yourself:

Hi, I'm Jessica. I'm married to Charlie, an IT Manager for the county. I'm a stay at home mom to 3 girls, a sweet dog, a gecko, and 2 chickens! I grew up in metro Atlanta where I attended public school until 9th grade then became a homeschool student myself! Before becoming a mom I worked in billing for a transportation company, transferred down to Jacksonville Florida, enjoyed living near the beach for a bit, then came home and began college at Clayton State where I met my husband.

When did you begin homeschooling?

I didn't realize I would be a homeschool mom right away but as my firstborn got closer to school age I knew in my heart that I didn't want to send her into the public school system. My own experience in school was full of distractions like the year my science teacher spent more time being bullied by a kid than teaching, or the time my classmate dropped the gun he brought to school in the hallway. I wanted my kids to enjoy learning uninterrupted by kids like these. I discussed my feelings with my husband who agreed and together we decided that we would homeschool all our daughters from the very start of their education journey.

How did you begin homeschooling?

I learned a good bit about homeschooling from friends I made in the local La Leche League group. If not for those people I might have let the opinions of some convince me I couldn't properly educate my kids. I am very grateful for them. I started out by buying boxed curriculum sets for kindergarten from a company called Timberdoodle. I quickly realized it was more fluff and busy work than we needed but seeing the sets online helped me create my own curriculum based on what worked and what didn't.

What type of homeschooler are you?

I'd say my style of homeschooling fluctuates between structured curriculum all the way to unschooling based on what season of life we are in.

What is your favorite thing about homeschooling?

My favorite thing has to be the fact that we can change our style of learning depending on what life throws our way. The flexibility of it all is beautiful. When our routine gets thrown for a loop with the birth of my youngest, the loss of a grandmother, selling our home after nearly a decade and moving into a house that needed lots of love... we turn to unschooled learning through life experiences.

An Interview with *Jessica Turner*

That's what I love most about it. Instead of being stuck inside a room learning from textbooks, we are learning by living and doing it together as a family. However, ultimately we always end up back in a routine with curriculum and I'm always impressed by how much they've learned organically during those "unschooled" moments.

What are/were your homeschool wins?

I suppose my biggest win is the relationship I've built with my girls and what they've built with each other. They help each other when having difficulty with math or work together to build a story, filling in where the other gets stuck. If I get pulled away to work on something I sometimes come back to find the older sisters teaching the younger one her lessons. It's a close relationship I don't always see among siblings who spend their days apart in different classrooms or different schools. I've also experienced a few moments since reaching the season of raising preteens/teens where my daughters have come to me to share and discuss things I never would have felt comfortable sharing with my mother. Without the opportunity to homeschool and spend the time together that we have I don't know if that would still happen so I am very grateful.

What would you do differently?

If I could do anything differently I think I would have gotten more involved in groups like LOL from the very start. Making connections with other families going through the same experiences and having other moms to learn from is so valuable and it would have been nice to have that support in those early years of being a new mom.

Who inspires you to continue homeschooling?

I'm always inspired by the moms who have made it through graduation. Their wisdom on what it is like and what is required throughout all the stages, especially high school when it can get really intimidating.

Interview by Shelby Gwinn



Want to be a part of the conversation?

Join our
Facebook
group!



SAVE THE DATE!

POP-UP SHOP

**SATURDAY
APRIL 25, 2026
10AM-3PM**

- Food Truck
- Plant Bar
- Jewelry
- Fresh Baked Goods
- Used Books
- Vintage Home Goods
- Local Art
- Hand Made Items

Vendor Registration Contact:
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HARVEST VILLAGE
1974 Walt Stephens Road, Jonesboro, GA 30236
www.HarvestVillage.com

An illustration of a green rain boot filled with pink and blue flowers, surrounded by yellow tulips.

@shelbygwin
@thecurlycreative

**The Curly
Creative Art**

By Shelby Gwinn

Check it out!

Looking for A Prom?

Throughout our lives, we each encounter many rites of passage. One of these momentous events is prom. When I was in the 10th grade, I learned that I could attend a local prom. I was so excited to get dressed up and have fun with my friends.

Whitney Smith, The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom's ringleader, could not have said it better, "Having a high school prom is one of the most iconic events for high schoolers to experience."

I was overjoyed when my mom found The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom. We had been searching for one, but they were too far away or had insane dress codes. This was such an enjoyable experience filled with great memories and my closest friends. I attended my sophomore, junior, and senior years.



Throwback to my senior prom:

How did The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom start? Whitney Smith told us, "Stephanie Evans started The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom in 2015 because the closest prom we could find was about 2 hours away. Her oldest two girls were in 11th & 12th grades and really wanted to have a prom! Being a retired caterer and party planner, she wanted to do this for her kids and our homeschool community." This is a beautiful thing that Ms. Evans did, using her talents to benefit her children's community. Everyone who has been involved with the prom is extremely thankful for the initiative taken.

Many homeschool parents worry that their children will miss opportunities that private and public school kids enjoy. Fulfilling this need was the drive behind The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom. “She [Stephanie Evans] didn’t want the fact that a family chose to homeschool their kids cause them to miss out on this unique experience.” - Whitney Smith “She knew if she handled all the details the first year, she would have the support from the homeschool families going forward. Our homeschool community needed this, and God had blessed her with the gifts and talents. She had to do it! It was definitely a labor of love, but she absolutely loved every minute of it!”

Even though Stephanie Evans retired from the prom, members were willing to take on the role. “In 2019, I [Whitney Smith] was approached to take the torch. Stephanie had noticed that I was involved in several homeschool circles through church and local co-ops, as well as sports through New Creation Christian Academy. As I considered this task, I knew that I would want to have a secure team of four or five that would be able to each use their gifts to continue this beautiful experience for our students.”

The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom team puts in hard work and effort to make the event safe, secure, and enjoyable for all. The Christian moms who help run it have a passion for bringing this event to their community.

They usually have 100-150 students, which is a manageable number. Attendees’ dates can be private or public school students. Volunteer staff provide safety and security. The goal is to keep them safe while attending the prom.

If you have been searching for a prom for your teen to attend, this is the one! The South Atlanta Homeschool Prom is professional, well put together, has a reasonable dress code, and provides a safe environment for your child to dance to their heart’s content. It is a staple social event for all homeschooled high schoolers in the South Atlanta area. Click on the link below for registration, and keep a lookout for a special giveaway coming

soon! *wink*

-Shelby Gwinn

SPORTS JOURNAL

Homeschool P.E. Hour offered at Harvest Village

Editorial by Joni Harrison

Southside Atlanta-area homeschool families looking for weekly physical education classes will find a great option at Harvest Village LLC in Jonesboro. Led by qualified instructor Sonnet Grant, Homeschool P.E. Hour is offered on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. during the school year.

Students do not need to be good at sports to enjoy Sonnet's P.E. session. They just need to show up ready to have fun and move their bodies.

"Basically, it is fitness," says Sonnet, who led these youth-focused classes in other places and now at Harvest Village. "We enjoy relay games. We run obstacle courses. We do fitness circuits. We take whatever materials are available use our imagination."

One of the end goals for Sonnet's P.E. classes is to foster a love for physical exercise that helps kids get away from the screen and off the couch. She has experience as a personal trainer, and she also has extensive experience in Christian ministry, so these P.E. classes bring all of that into one experience for homeschool students, who want to grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually. "All parts are involved," she says.

Harvest Village is located at 1974 Walt Stephens Road, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. Learn more about Homeschool P.E. Hour and other Harvest Village events and services at www.harvestvillage.com. You may also connect by e-mail: info@harvestvillage.com.



EVENTS CALENDAR

April 10 - Newman Wetlands Center

10 a.m., Homeschool Fridays: Monarch Migration

www.newmanwetlandscenter.com

April 15 - Zoo Atlanta

10-noon, Homeschool Academy

www.zooatlanta.org

April 15 - Georgia Safari Conservation Park

8:30-5:00 PM Homeschool Days at Georgia Safari Conservation Park

1761 Monticello Road Madison, GA, 30650

April 16 - Atlanta History Center

10-12:30 Homeschool Day: Hidden Histories

www.atlantahistorycenter.com/learning-research/homeschool-day/

April 17 - Shakespeare Tavern

10-12:45, Shakesploration Day

Midsummer, Jr

April 17 - Griffin Skate Inn

2:00-4:00 Homeschool Skate

EVENTS CALENDAR

April 17 - Atlanta Botanical Gardens

9:00-12:00, Homeschool Day

<https://atlantabg.org/calendar/homeschool-day-2/>

April 21 & 23 - Fayette Environmental Education Center

10:30-noon, Carnivorous Plants

www.sctlandtrust.org

April 21 - Nash Farm Park

10-2:00, Homeschool Fishing

parksrec@henrycountygga.gov

April 21 - Fayette County Library

6-7:30, College Fair

April 28 - Oakland Cemetery

10:00-2:00, Homeschool Day, Earth Explorer

<https://www.oaklandcemetery.com/homeschool-programs>

Add Events to Our Calendar!

Connect with Us on Social Media!

@thehomeschoolissues

Become a Georgia 4-H Ambassador!



The Fayette 4H 2026/27 Ambassador Program is now accepting applicants. The Ambassador Program is a great way for young people to have a teen leadership role within Georgia 4-H, and an even better way to make a difference in their community and learn about a topic of their interest.



Students will complete 6 learning activities (workshops, classes, online seminars, books, tours) to educate themselves on the topics and then 6 helping activities (classes/workshops, volunteer days, project clubs, and more) to teach others (adults or youth) information about their area of interest. The areas of interest for the ambassadorship include: Animal Science, Health & Wellness, Pollinators, Science & Engineering, Wildlife, Bats, and Innovative Agriculture.





Applications are open to 8th-11th graders during the 2025/2026 school year. Those who are currently in 12th grade and will graduate from high school this year are not eligible for the 4-H Ambassador Program, as it will carry over beyond their 4-H eligibility in most cases. The 4-H Ambassador Program requires a one-year commitment that begins upon completion of Ambassador Training at the Ambassador Training Summit.

The Ambassador Training takes place at Rock Eagle on Thursday and Friday, May 28th-29th, 2026. 4H covers the cost of this training, however, there is a small fee for a name tag and polo.

The closing date for this program is April 15th

For More information visit: <https://georgia4h.org/programs/focus-areas/citizenship/community-global-affairs/4-h-ambassadors/>

To apply for the program: <https://uga.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=1QhY1MfUw7sECHrPeIW9eQ%3D%3D>





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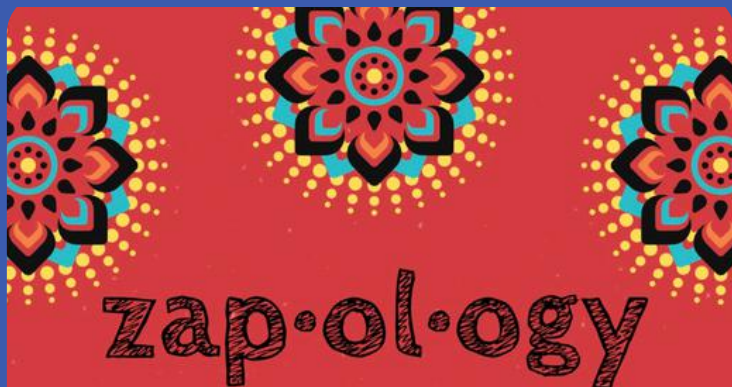
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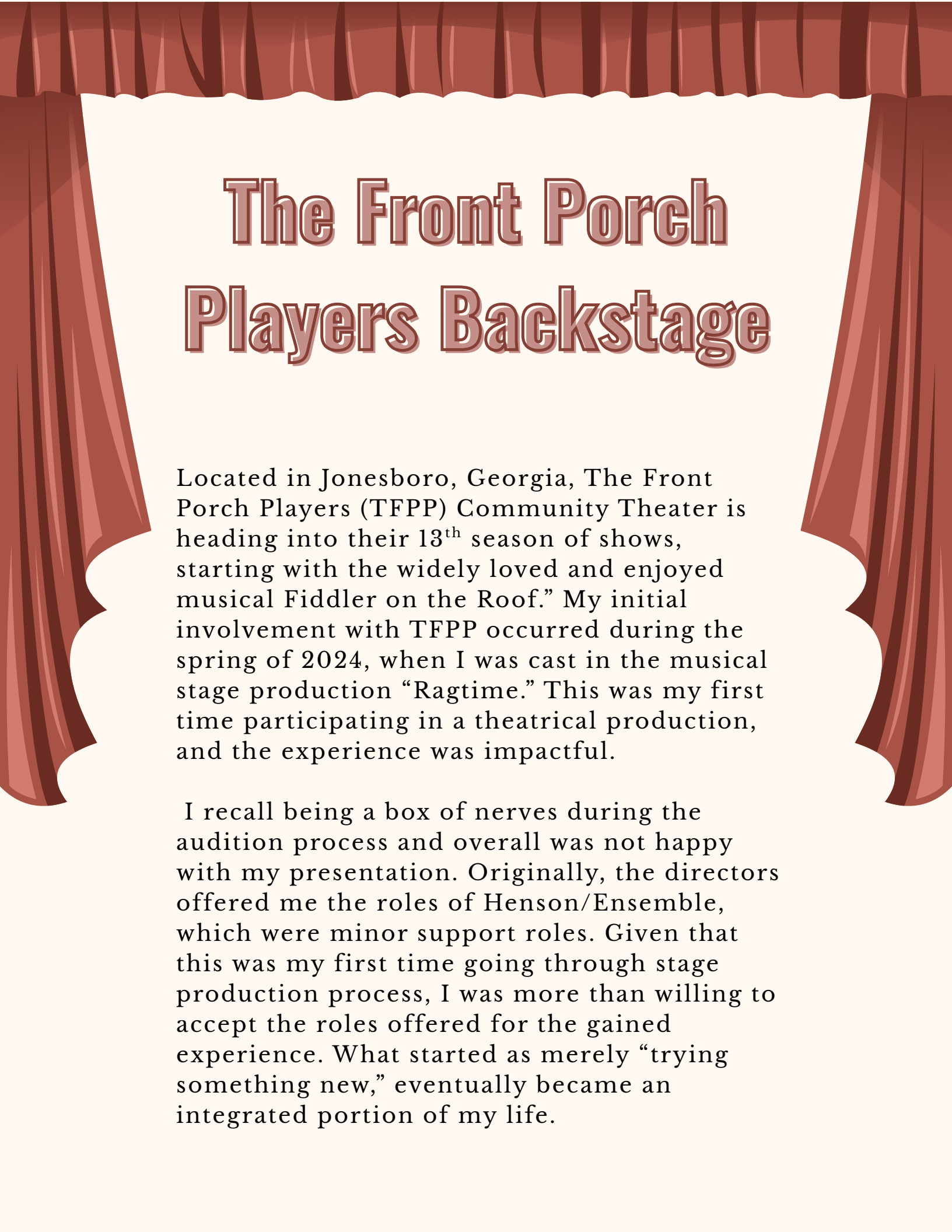
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The Front Porch Players Backstage

Located in Jonesboro, Georgia, The Front Porch Players (TFPP) Community Theater is heading into their 13th season of shows, starting with the widely loved and enjoyed musical *Fiddler on the Roof*.” My initial involvement with TFPP occurred during the spring of 2024, when I was cast in the musical stage production “*Ragtime*.” This was my first time participating in a theatrical production, and the experience was impactful.

I recall being a box of nerves during the audition process and overall was not happy with my presentation. Originally, the directors offered me the roles of Henson/Ensemble, which were minor support roles. Given that this was my first time going through stage production process, I was more than willing to accept the roles offered for the gained experience. What started as merely “trying something new,” eventually became an integrated portion of my life.



The rehearsal process, which started in December 2023, was arduous. One of the greatest challenges we faced was the deficit of men who auditioned and were committed to the show versus the vacant roles within the ensemble. There are three major groups depicted in *Ragtime*: 1) Upper-Class White Suburbanites represented by Mother, Father and their family in New Rochelle, New York; 2) Black Americans represented by Harlem-based pianist Coalhouse Walker Jr. and Sarah; and 3) Immigrants represented by Tateh, a Jewish immigrant from Latvia. Of the three groups, Harlem was the most difficult to cast and to keep cast members in the designated roles.

About a month away from opening night, the gentleman cast as Coalhouse dropped out of the show. This meant that the understudy, originally playing Booker T., moved up to play Coalhouse, and I would take Booker T. Washington. This new development would prove to stretch my abilities and work ethic, as I still would need to fill in for the Henson/Ensemble roles based on the lack of men available for the Harlem group.



When asked what my favorite theater experience is, I usually say it was my first one: Ragtime. Though the following proved challenging, a family atmosphere developed as a byproduct. The people who were strangers to me just a few months prior gradually became a close-knit theater family. Once we arrived at opening night, we were able to put on a successful show. (During our final matinee show, the doors were shut because the show was completely sold out!)



About a month away from opening night, the gentleman cast as Coalhouse dropped out of the show. This meant that the understudy, originally playing Booker T., moved up to play Coalhouse, and I would take Booker T. Washington. This new development would prove to stretch my abilities and work ethic, as I still would need to fill in for the Henson/Ensemble roles based on the lack of men available for the Harlem group. One of the strengths of TFPP is family atmosphere extended to all. Within the community theater scene, it is not unheard of for cliques to occur, nepotism to leak into the casting process, or other unsavory stains to taint the art. TFPP Community Theater has been a great example of the contrast of this due to their love for the stage and the care and integrity in which they engage the community of talent that comes their way.

-Morris Jones



How to Start a Homeschool Nature Club





Several years ago, because of our family's deep passion for nature and a desire to do something meaningful with friends, I decided to start a local nature club for homeschooling families. Looking back, I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions we've ever made. Our little group began with just a few close friends, heading outdoors to explore trails, creeks, and forests together. Over the years, it blossomed into a vibrant community of families from multiple surrounding counties. Today, we've met so many incredible people — families who have become lifelong friends all because we chose to step outside, connect, and grow together. What I love most is how simple it was to start and how rewarding it continues to be.

Why a Nature Club Is So Powerful

Not only does a homeschool nature club create space for kids and teens to explore, play, and learn about the natural world, it also benefits us as parents. Getting outdoors refreshes our minds, reduces stress, and inspires curiosity. Instead of being confined indoors, we breathe in fresh air, get our bodies moving, and learn from the best classroom of all: nature itself.

When I started our group, there wasn't a single homeschool nature club in our area. I'm so grateful I didn't wait to find one — I created one instead. And you can too!

Here are a few things I've learned that can help you get started:

Write Out Your Vision & Goals

Decide why you want to start your club. Do you want it to focus on friendship, physical activity, science learning, or a mix of everything? Having clarity helps you create a flow that works for your family and others who join.

Plan Your Schedule

Choose which seasons you'd like to host outings, how often you'll meet, and what days work best. For example, our group meets mainly in the spring and fall, with occasional winter and summer outings. Keep it realistic and flexible so it feels life-giving, not overwhelming.



Decide the Flow of Your Outings

Some groups keep it simple with hikes and free play. Others incorporate short lessons or themed explorations. In our group, we have blended both:

- Hikes and exploration
- Themed outings led by different families (topics like rocks, wildflowers, ponds, survival skills, edible herbs, and more)

This variety has kept our group fresh, fun, and inspiring over the years.

Choose a Communication Hub

Pick a simple way to keep everyone informed — whether that's a private Facebook group, an email list, or a group messaging app like GroupMe. Make it easy for families to see schedules and RSVP.

Start Inviting Friends

Begin with a few homeschool families you know. From there, word of mouth often helps your group grow naturally. Remember: even if it's just one other family at first, that's enough to begin.

Keep It Simple & Flexible

One of the greatest parts of running a homeschool nature club is the flexibility. Families can attend when it works for them, and if you can't make it one week, the group can still carry on. There's no pressure for perfection. The goal is connection, exploration, and joy.

If you don't know many homeschoolers locally, try reaching out to statewide homeschool networks or posting in Facebook groups or local county discussion pages. You might be surprised at how many families are longing for the same kind of connection. And remember — it doesn't have to be complicated. At its heart, a homeschool nature club can simply be two families meeting weekly to hike and play together. That's how the seeds of community begin.



This is Your Invitation to Begin

Starting a homeschool nature club may feel like a small step, but it has the potential to grow into something life-giving for your entire family and community. You'll create memories on trails and in forests, nurture a love of the outdoors, and give your children and yourself the gift of friendships rooted in nature.

Don't wait for the perfect time or perfect plan. The beauty of a nature club is in its simplicity. All it takes is an open heart, a love for the outdoors, and the willingness to invite others along. From there, the magic unfolds.

Nature as a Core Subject — and a Way to Stay Connected

In our homeschool and family life, nature isn't just an extracurricular activity — it's a core subject. It weaves its way into our learning, our rhythms, and the way we connect with one another and the world around us. Time outdoors has shaped how my children learn, how we build community, and how we stay grounded through different seasons of life.

As our local nature club grew, I began to notice something else: not every family has access to an in-person nature group, yet so many are longing for meaningful connection rooted in the natural world. Families want slower rhythms, deeper relationships, and ways to help their children feel part of something bigger than their own backyard. That desire is what inspired the Nature Pen Pal Exchange.

Extending the Nature Club Beyond Your Backyard

The Nature Pen Pal Exchange is a simple, intentional way for families and nature groups to connect with others through seasonal letter writing inspired by the outdoors. Along with handwritten letters and shared observations, participants also exchange small, meaningful nature treasures — items such as pressed leaves or flowers, feathers, seeds, drawings, or other ethically collected keepsakes that represent their local environment. These treasures become tangible reminders that learning is lived and experienced. Children slow down to notice what grows where they live, carefully choose something to share, and then receive a glimpse of another place through the eyes of a new friend. It's a powerful way to build awareness, curiosity, and respect for the natural world.

For many families, this exchange feels like an extension of their nature club gatherings — or a gentle entry point into nature-based learning when in-person groups aren't available. Letters and treasures travel across regions and seasons, creating a sense of belonging and connection that goes far beyond geography.

Whether you're gathering weekly with friends on the trail or exploring nature as a family on your own, experiences like this deepen observation skills, nurture communication, and foster gratitude for the beauty right outside our doors. They remind us that learning doesn't need to be hurried or complicated — it can unfold slowly, one walk, one letter, one shared treasure at a time.

If you've been longing for more connection, more wonder, and more nature woven into your homeschool life, consider this your invitation. Sometimes the smallest moments — a found leaf, a handwritten note, an open heart — grow into the most meaningful experiences of all.

-Jen Wilmoth



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-Registration for the 2026-27 school
year opens March 1st!

-Fayetteville, GA

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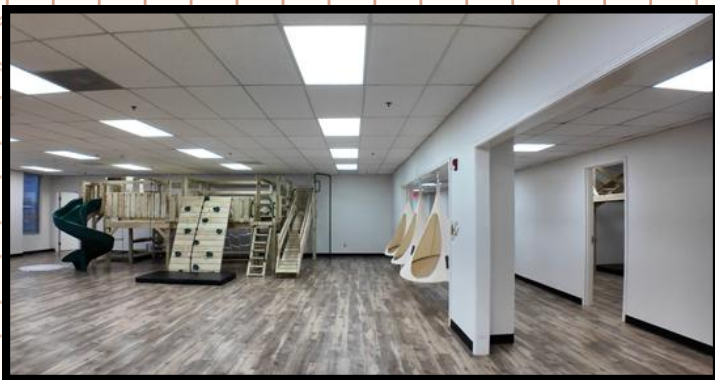
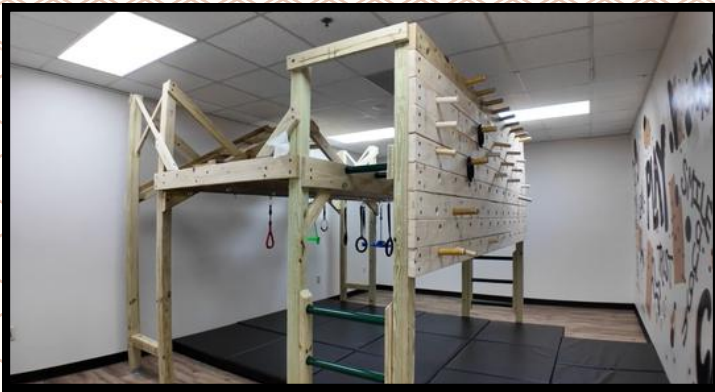


Community Co: a Homeschool Pod

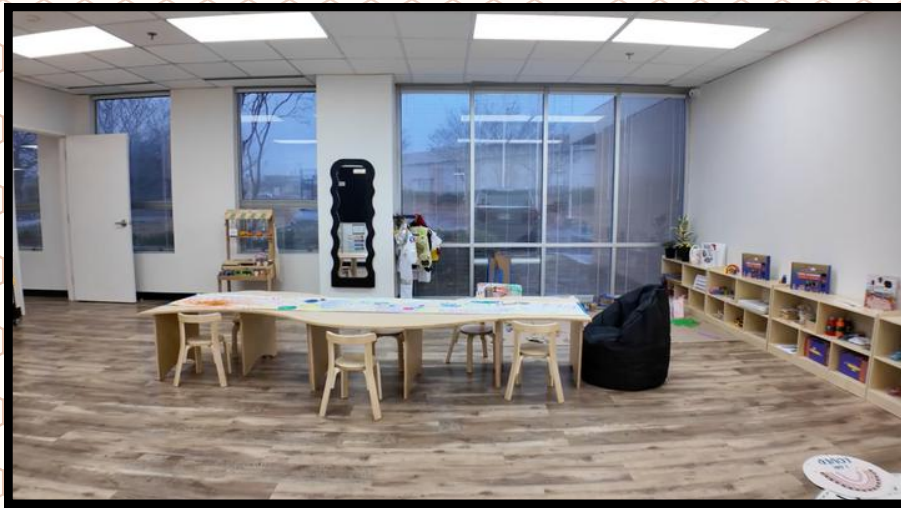
What is Community Co? It is a Montessori-inspired hybrid school for young elementary school aged children. The founder, Chivon Carter, said this, “We're here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3 hours a day, three days a week. Every day they have enrichment in addition to their learning space, project-based learning. Monday's is art and literacy. They bring the story to life. [The teacher] tells a story, and then they have some type of art medium that they work with. Tuesdays is Spanish immersion; we have a native Spanish speaker come in and teach Spanish lessons to the entire school. So even our two and three-year olds get access. Then on Wednesday we have movement and mindfulness, so just making the children aware of their body, their inner breath work. So, think yoga for littles.” Community Co is focused on developmental necessities for children and learning how to operate in the world properly.



The Community Co facility is a relaxing and fun environment for the families. There is a parent lounge, complete with plenty of work spaces and a kitchenette. It is a social area made to accommodate working parents. My personal favorite of all the rooms was the Halo Room, which is a salt therapy room. Salt therapy is great for kids with allergies and overall well-



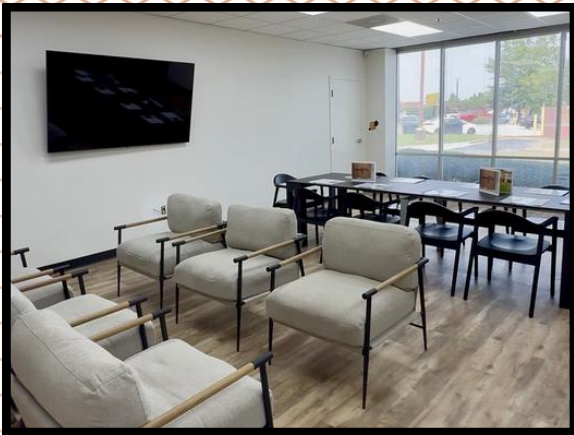
being providing an antimicrobial and anti bacterial environment. When the children are using this space, the parents can also have time to relax and enjoy the benefits of salt therapy. The third room that Chivon brought us to was the Four Year old classroom. It is everything you would want in your child's classroom—a calm, clean space, plenty of books, and activities for the students. The three year old classroom is very similar, "It's a mirror image of the four-year-old classroom, just more sensory rich—lots of dramatic play in here, lots of sensory activities." (Chivon Carter) After a tour of the classrooms, we ended up in a movement space. There is a large, wooden playground and plenty of area for the kids to have yoga class. This space is also used for events and parties. Off of that room is the Ninja Room, where kids can get all their wiggles out. At Community Co, movement is prioritized for the children. All throughout the facility there are affirmation wall murals. "This is probably my favorite place in the entire school and it's by the bathrooms. This is our affirmations wall. I put it by the bathrooms because everybody goes to the bathroom all day every day. I wanted the children to really feel affirmed and really just start to own these words for themselves." -Chivon Carter Community Co is built and designed with the kids and their mental and physical health in mind.



Community Co has a unique education style. Chivon walked us through a lesson. She said, “Currently, we're working on a fairy tale unit - The Three Little Pigs but with a twist because we're also telling the true story of the Three Little Pigs, which is the wolf’s side. Our guiding question for this unit is how do I learn what to believe? We just want to make sure that the children start understanding that there's a process to everything, and we just want to teach the process. And from there, they'll decide what they learn, how they learn, and what's the belief. For the Three Little Pigs, they get both stories and then they decide whose side they believe through an investigation. At the end of the three weeks, they'll do a presentation. Every Wednesday the parents come here, and they present what they did for the week. Always project based. So, at the end of last week, they told us about the Three Little Pigs. Now they're going through the Wolf’s side of the story. This week we'll hear about the wolf and next week we'll see their presentation.” Children learn best through experience. They are not meant to sit in a desk all day and go through busy work. From what I saw, Community Co does an excellent job utilizing hands on projects to help the children learn how to process information and think critically.



Not only is it project based learning, but each child is granted an individualized education. Everyone has a different learning style. Community Co has a director of academic enrichment, Miss Tangi. Her job is to analyze the children and create a curriculum plan based off of that child's strengths and needs. Chivon Carter, the director of the school detailed the process for us, "Because we are hybrids, she sends highly differentiated learning materials home so that the parents know exactly what their child should be working on at that time. It's not just a random curriculum that we're all just trying to figure out if this is gonna work for the child. This way you know it's going to work because it's based on their assessment. And each child is with Miss. Tangi One-on-one for 30 minutes a day." Community Co has very small classes so they can cater to each child in a safe and supportive environment.



While the children are learning, parents remain at the facility in a common space. Community Co. provides a co-working space for the parents to enjoy. There's comfortable chairs, private working rooms, and a kitchenette. It is like a little home away from home. Together, they form a wonderful pod with the same educational mindset for their children. There are also classes and workshops offered for the parents. Professionals come in to help educate the parents on topics such as, Navigating the Holidays, Child Brain Development, and Discipline Without Damage. These classes are in place to help the parents understand their children as much as possible and create a better connection with them.

Community Co stays true to its name. It's an amazing hybrid school for families. It's the community that Chivon Carter wanted for her little girls. She created the school with the children in mind first. Each kid is recognized as an individual learner and the schooling is adapted for them specifically. It's a strong unit of families with the same goal, educating their children in the best way possible. They have a beautiful thing going on at Community Co.

-Shelby Gwinn

(Photos courtesy of Chivon Carter and Abi Harrison)

Spivey Hall Children's Choir



If you're looking for musical opportunities for your student during the 2026-27 school year, Spivey Hall Children's Choir might be a good fit. Auditions take place on April 25 and are open to students aged 10-15 September 1. Audition results will be e-mailed by Friday, May 22, and, if your child is accepted into the program, instructions on how to register will be included in the communication.

The choir is made up of three different ensembles. The youngest ensemble, Young Artists, is led by Ms. Ariel Alvarado and Ms. Susan Wallace. Two additional ensembles, Children's Choir and Tour Choir, are made up for the more musically advanced and often older students. Both are led by Dr. Craig Hurley and Ms. Marcena Kinney. Founded by Dr. Martha Shot, the Choir is in its 32nd season. Dr. Hurley has been on staff for 20 years, and this is his second year as Artistic Director.

When asked what Spivey Children's Choir is looking for and what they offer, Dr. Hurley said, "We are looking for kids who love to sing, who are hard workers, who want to be great musicians. We use music and use choir to teach them lots of musical skills with their voice, with sight reading, and with presentation in front of audiences.

“We also really want to expand their horizon to have lots of opportunities from performing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, performing around the country, around the region, around the world and exposing them to different of cultures,” Dr. Hurley continued. “Choir is unique, in that you have to be a team in order to be successful, so the students go through a lot of character development, such as hard work, discipline and coming together for a common goal.”

Once registered, choir kickoff for the Young Artists and Children’s Choir will take place on Saturday, August 22, at appointed times. After that, regular rehearsals commence Monday, August 24, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m., and continue every Monday evening in that timeslot. There will be performances throughout the year starting in early December, with both the Young Artists and Children’s choirs performing on December 5. The Children’s Choir will perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for their Christmas performance between December 10 and 13. They will also perform on January 28, 2027, at the GMEA Performance in Athens, Georgia. The Young Artists will perform again in March 2027, and all choirs will perform on May 15 and 16 2027.

Choir season runs mid-August to mid-May with a break in December and no rehearsals in the summer. The commitment is for nine months of the year.

-Joni Harrison

A promotional poster for the Spivey Hall Children's Choir at Clayton State University. The poster has a teal background with a hexagonal pattern. In the top left, there is a large stylized 'S' logo. To its right, the text 'SPIVEY HALL CHILDREN'S CHOIR' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Clayton State University' in a smaller font below it. Below the logo and text, the tagline 'Where Opportunity Meets Excellence' is written in a script font. In the top right, there is a photograph of four children in blue choir uniforms. In the bottom left, a dark teal rounded rectangle contains the text 'Open House March 23 - 7:15 PM' and 'Auditions April 25'. In the bottom right, the text 'Auditions are open to students who will be ages 10-15 by 9/1/26.' is written.

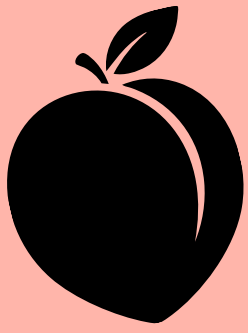
**SPIVEY HALL
CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Clayton State University

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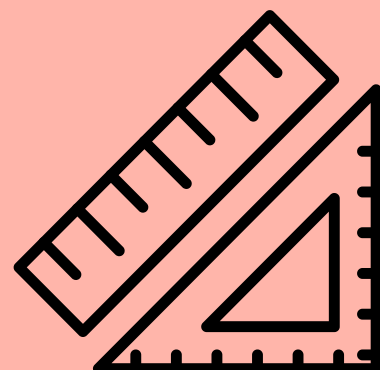
Need a Math Tutor?

For many families, and certainly this is the case for ours, math can be a struggle. When I tell non-homeschoolers that I homeschool my five children, usually the first question is, “Do you teach all the subjects?” For the most part, I do. Especially when they are little. However, I made the decision when my first child reached high school that I was not going to teach math at that level. They would certainly learn a lot from the experience, but they wouldn’t learn much math. Thankfully, there are many options available to homeschoolers in my predicament.

One of those options is to work with Amy Osborne of Love of Learning, who offers math tutoring services to homeschoolers. Amy is a former homeschooler herself, so she understands some of the unique challenges that homeschoolers face. “Each year, the pros of homeschooling outweighed the cons,” says Amy. “What was meant to be a short time turned into sixteen years.”

Amy has a degree in math and has tutored students for most of her adult life, including teaching remedial math labs while attending college at Lee University. Her homeschool specific business started when some friends asked her to teach their kids math. “It started with a few kids around the kitchen table,” she says. “COVID happened, and I went online with Zoom, and the number of students grew since they didn’t have to drive to my home.

“I chose to continue teaching math online, because I love working with homeschool kids and being part of their educational journey,” Amy continued. “I treasure each child that God brings into my classes, and I hope to honor Him by giving them my best. I hope to show them that math is a key to their future. It can open doors for further educational opportunities. It expands their minds and shows them that details matter.”



Amy offers traditional math classes sequenced to prepare students to take College Algebra after doing Algebra 2. Even if a student doesn't want to or thinks they will not go to college, some programs at tech school still require classes such as College Algebra. "You never know what God will call your child to do, so I believe it is best to prepare them for the most they might have to do," she says.

To me, this seems like great advice. Not every child will love math but it can open doors, and if you can find someone who cares and works with you to make this process as pain free as possible, it can really add value to your life.

"My signature thing with the kids is I tell a joke at the end of every class," Amy concludes. "If I ever forget, they are quick to remind me and ask for it."

Amy offers Middle School Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. She also offers test prep services, as well as transcript services and academic counselling services. For more information, visit her website at <https://loveoflearning2.weebly.com/>.

-Joni Harrison



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