



HOMESTEAD Homeschool Parent Handbook
Policies and Procedures

July 2023-2024

HOMESTEAD Homeschool Parent Handbook Welcome

Hello HOMESTEAD Homeschool Parents,

My staff and I are thrilled to begin this new learning adventure with your family! Before we begin, I would love to welcome you, share some expectations with you and get to know your family a little better. Please take a careful look at the following policies and procedures, important information, submit answers to the family questionnaire, and sign at the end when completed.

HOMESTEAD Homeschool's Hours of Operation are Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 AM-11:30 AM, 12:15-2:15 and serve grades Kindergarten-4th. These hours are subject to change.

Admission Policies and Procedures

To complete your enrollment for HOMESTEAD Homeschool, the following must be completed:

- Parent must complete application and submit application fee
- Please be aware that the \$90 registration fee is due when receiving a spot, and the \$90 curriculum fee is due July 1st. These fees are annual fees, paid once a year no matter which trimester/s you attend. The "monthly" payments for tuition are due the 1st of each trimester. Please see the tuition agreement for more details on this.
- Curriculum Fee listed in the tuition agreement is waived for Law Enforcement, Military, and Fire Families
- Parent must bring a copy of all paperwork before services can begin.

Property boundaries/classrooms

During our learning adventures together we will be sharing the property with our early childhood program. The entire property is owned and run by Stavness Early Learning, under my care and supervision (Michelle Stavness, Mrs. Michelle). Early childhood will be in a separate building than our Homeschool supplement program, and our outdoor classroom and play times will mostly be separate as well.

Curriculum

Our program values and prioritizes our time and space together in the outdoor classroom (farm, gardens, and play yard). We will spend a great deal of time allowing our children to both play and lead the way through exploration, while coming alongside to guide and support any and all learning taking place. My co-teacher and I will start the new year with introductions, establishing relationships, guidelines and routines, while subtly presenting our curriculums. Our main focuses will be agriculture, natural sciences, and social studies, however we will be overlapping ELA, and Mathematics any chance we get! We will participate in some homesteading! We will bake and create and visit some simple times of the past in the most playful ways. In future trimesters we may change subjects. I am open to suggestions/requests. Social emotional learning is also a main focus for our facility. Our goal and mission are to help nurture well-rounded, whole brain children, and we feel privileged to come alongside your family and be a team with you on this journey. My staff and I will be trialing a couple of curriculums to see what

our kids enjoy most. For this first trimester, we will be looking into The Good and the Beautiful-Fields and Flowers, and another being, For the Love of Homeschooling-Nature Study. The Good and the Beautiful occasionally shares spirituality in regards to “God’s creation,” however religion will not be our focus. The curriculum focuses on the course of study, being science, and good character, honesty, kindness, etc. 😊 All learning days will consist of hands-on activities where we explore, and discover. During our time together we will be outside, we may play in the water, we may garden, we may paint and/or create, so please dress your child appropriately.

Clothing

Daily play and learning can get messy, especially when playing outdoors or working on art projects. Please dress your children in comfortable, washable play clothes every day. When we’re outside the kids are running and playing. If your child wears flip flops a strap on the backside of the ankle can be helpful for safety.

Community service

Parts of our social studies curriculum will be spent participating in community service projects together. Two of the organizations we will be working closely with are Olive Crest (fostering, adoption, and families in crisis support), and YAPS (Yucaipa animal shelter).

Student-led farmer’s market

Our program will lead the way in this year’s on-site student-led farmer’s market, where students will have the opportunity for social exchanges, math and money management, entrepreneurship, expressing one’s creative ideas, and teamwork. Any money that is raised, through egg sales and other materials/supplies we decide on as a group, will go towards a goal that we have discussed and agree upon. This goal may be a new fun science kit, books, a field trip, etc.

Behavior guidance

We try to be respectful of children’s basic needs. Our staff supports positive behavior by setting up child-friendly play areas, following consistent routines for eating and resting, providing breaks and space when necessary. Children under our care are taught simple rules and manners that they can easily understand. Our behavior management strategies are positive reinforcement, vs. punitive reinforcement. This means that we praise positive and choice behavior in order to teach what is considerate, pleasing and socially appropriate. If a child is engaging in an interfering behavior, we will offer a, “Replacement behavior,” in hopes to redirect the behavior, as well as seek to figure out the needs of the individual. Please feel free to request further elaboration on behavior guidance and redirection.

When children have a disagreement, dialogue takes place and we work our conflicts out together as a class family. If necessary we may have a cooling off period such as a, “time away,” or a, “break.” At times we may also choose to ignore misbehavior if a child is attention seeking. Our staff practices evidence-based strategies, collaborates and ultimately makes our student’s safety and mental emotional well-being a priority. We encourage and teach children to develop

problem-solving skills. Our ultimate goal in redirecting interfering behaviors is to help each child grow in positive social-skills, their behavior and self-regulating their big and valid feelings.

Our facility does not give timeouts.

Items to bring

-Backpack

-Our class family will share a small snack during our time together. Please pack something for each learning day.

-Labeled Water bottle

-Change of clothes

-Your child will receive something called a “take home bag” that they can check out a book with and will also have their completed school work in. It is helpful to bring this bag for each learning day

Pets

We believe children benefit greatly from playing with and caring for animals. We have a class guinea pig, goats, chickens, a cat, and a great pyrenees dog your child will help care for and be responsible for. This is a big part of our curriculum. Look at this incredible list that mentions some of the excellent reasons why we provide these learning opportunities for our children in our program:

•Children who raise and develop positive feelings about pets (another LIFE), show many benefits. This can contribute to a child's self-esteem and self-confidence. Positive relationships with pets can aid in the development of trusting relationships with others. A good relationship with a pet can also lead to developing non-verbal communication, compassion, and empathy.

Pets can serve different purposes for children:

* They can be safe recipients of secrets and private thoughts--children often talk to their pets, like they do to their stuffed animals

* They provide lessons about life, including reproduction, birth, illnesses, and more

* They can help develop responsible behavior in the children who care for them

* They provide a connection to nature

* They can teach respect for other living things

Other physical and emotional needs fulfilled by pet ownership include:

* Physical activity

* Comfort contact

* Love, loyalty, affection

and more!

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Celebrations

We do recognize birthdays for each child. We enjoy doing something special for the children in our care. If you'd like to contribute anything edible on a special day, we ask that it be pre-packaged goods. No baked goods for the wellbeing of the class. We do recognize major holidays and enjoy exploring other cultures, with special foods and activities!

Illness

Children cannot attend if they have a temperature above 99.0 degrees Fahrenheit, if they have contagious conditions, are vomiting, have diarrhea, and are not able to function well in daily activities. Examples of this may be a constant cough, the need to have their nose wiped continuously, ultimately requiring more supervision than we can provide without neglecting the other children. Please notify the teacher if your child will not be attending. If your child becomes ill during school (fever, diarrhea, or vomiting), you will be notified to pick up your child. Children must be picked up as soon as possible to consider the wellness of the rest of the group.

- Your child must be free from the fever, diarrhea, and/or vomiting for a full 48 hours before returning to school
- If your child is well but has a sibling that has a fever, stomach bug and/or contagious virus, we ask that you wait before sending your child to school to prevent germs spread
- Suspicious sores or rash must be documented and deemed not to be contagious by child's doctor before returning to school

Medications will be given with consent from the parent's or doctor's direct written consent.

Medications

We will only be accepting the following medications:

- Epi Pens
- Inhalers

The administration of medication shall be provided only on a prescription from a physician to the child's parents or guardian. All prescribed medications must be in their original container and not expired. Parents must sign, and date the medication consent release form. Children may not have any medication, over the counter or prescription, in their backpack or lunch box. In the event of an emergency the school will call 911 and the school will not be responsible for any fees that may be charged.

In the event of an emergency, this form includes your written consent for our facility to seek medical attention necessary to ensure the safety of your child.

Smoking-Smoking is not allowed at the facility, including outdoor areas.

Termination

Service will be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- If a child is extremely disruptive, e.g., does not make progress in complying with school routine, excessive biting, rages, etc. and we feel we do not have the proper resources and staffing to support and help a child thrive
- If a parent chooses to violate the policy or payment agreements

Child's Name _____
(Please print first and last name)

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Director's Signature _____ Date _____

Earthquake preparedness kit

Please prepare and bring an Earthquake preparedness kit for your child. In a one gallon zip-lock bag, please place the following items and return it to school on the first day of attendance.

Your child's name on a 3×5 card, readable from the outside of the bag. On the reverse side of the card, write the names of people authorized to pick up your child and sign as the parent or guardian. Also, add contact phone numbers (include an out of state phone number of a friend or relative who we could relay a message to), and any helpful medical information (physician, allergies, etc.)

- 2 each 8oz. Juice (canned or boxed) with a pop tops
- 2 each 4 1/2 oz. cans small fruit with pop tops
- 2 each dried fruit snacks packages
- 2 each 3oz. cans tuna or lunch meat with pop tops
- 2 each cheese crackers or other crackers type
- 2 each granola bars
- 2 each moist towelettes
- 2 each individual tissue packs
- 1 plastic spoon

A family picture and an "I love you" note to your child

1 Mylar space blanket (can be purchased in camping supply store, sporting goods stores, Wal-Mart, etc.)

Please check the expiration dates for the longest shelf life. We do have limited storage space, so please limit the items to those that will fit in the one gallon zip-lock bag. We will be requesting these personal supplies from each child each year. The items in the bag will be your child's personal "comfort" package in the event of a disaster which we'll hopefully never need to use.

Thank you!!!