



Homegrown Heroes Academy Homeschool Co-op

Mission Statement: We are a group of families dedicated to serving and including any and all homeschooling families in their efforts to educate their children in the Southern New Mexico area. We strive to be a safe place of learning where homeschooled children can come to be themselves, make friends, and learn something new at the same time!

Ext: We believe each child is a hero on their own journey to self discovery, service of their fellow men, and stewards over the earth.

Commitment: We are a good fit for your family if:

- You aren't already part of a co-op or are looking for a change
- You want a homeschool community to help your kids learn and grow
- You respect each individual's spiritual path, whether it includes religion or not (e.g. this co-op does not require signing a "statement of faith")
- You treat others with dignity and respect
- You are willing to either teach a class, assist a class, or hold another position that provides support to the upkeep and growth of this co-op
- You can commit to attending each Tuesday 9:30-12:30pm (minus Breaks, see Calendar)
 - Obviously, you can miss on occasion due to sickness or family trip, etc. But please be respectful of each teacher's preparation for each individual student that is signing up and/or your own commitment to teach or assist! Please see the Attendance Policy below.
- You are committed to helping all members feel included and that they belong here the same as you do
- You believe that if you or your kids are showing symptoms of illness or have in the last 24 hours, you will not share those symptoms with others at co-op and stay home

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Logistics:

- Location: St Paul's Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall 225 W Griggs Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Use South Entrance as indicated on the map.



- Please be aware that the arrival window for co-op is 9:00-9:20 am. We will begin promptly at 9:20am and will not be waiting for anyone. Please be respectful of everyone's time and especially of our host! They are placing a Ring doorbell at the entrances for added safety for the property and its tenants. Doors may or may not be locked (not up to me) so please be sure to arrive between 9:00-9:20 am so there will be someone available to open the door for you. (Of course there are extenuating circumstances, please just message me and we'll figure it out!)
- We are a neutral (non-religious) group. Many of us are religious and many of us are not. Please know that I will not be controlling what parents say in their classes but I do ask that if you are willing to teach, please also be sensitive to kids in your class that live in households with differing beliefs than your own.
- For those parents who have infants or those too young to participate in most classes, we will have a Nursery where parents are welcome to hang out with their child(ren). If you have other responsibilities that day, such as teaching or assisting, you are also allowed to drop off your child (if you feel comfortable doing so) if you coordinate with another parent to help you watch your child. If you prefer and you feel that it will work out fine, you are also welcome to bring your infants into class with you.
- Please always communicate your needs and ask ALL questions! We promote curiosity, understanding, and acceptance in this group.

Student Expectations:

- Do not show up sick.
- Be respectful of others: raise your hand and don't interrupt.
- Don't leave the group or the room without communicating.
- Be kind.
- Participate in the activity.
- Help others feel welcome by being polite and introducing yourself!
- Clean up after yourself!

Parent Expectations:

- You will be in charge of enforcing your own forms of discipline when necessary for your own children. As far as conflict resolution goes, we will allow kids to find ways to work things out themselves and if needed we will ask parents to step in.
- Please stay up-to-date on what is happening in classes as you may be asked to bring various supplies for a project. You will be notified on the group message approximately a week before the supplies are needed to bring them the next week.
- Please pay the fee for co-op and sign the Release of Liability form.
- Please inform the Director of any concerns, suggestions for improvement, and offers of help!
- BAND will be our official messaging page. Please contact the Director if you are not able to download the app.
- Please help clean up after each co-op day!

Class Descriptions and Schedule:

When registering your students, please be aware that you must fill out a separate registration form for each child you're enrolling (ages 5 and up. For PreK ages you will see the instructions in the Omella form). Our structure this year does allow for a few extra options for some ages at different hours throughout the day. Please refer to the spreadsheet schedule you will be provided to make sure your child's schedule will be lined up correctly. Note: Some of the classes only run for 8 weeks at a time and some run for the full semester. Also, there will be a limit to the number of kids in each class. Students will be admitted in the order registration is received. So be aware that just because you have registered for a class does not mean you will have a spot. We will contact you if this is the case and let you know what classes are still available.) And lastly, the teachers have provided a description of their classes. Ages listed for the class are recommendations and not requirements. We trust you as the parent to make the right decision for your child in placing them in the classes that are appropriate for them. If a teacher finds that they are not a good fit, they will discuss it with you and may recommend a different placement. The classes and schedule for the 2024-2025 year was heavily influenced by parents and students as we obtained their feedback and ideas!

"Recess" for All families: The church will be open at **9am** for whatever families want to meet a bit early to allow kids to play and meet together. Recess will last for 20 minutes (9:20am) at which point the Morning Meet-Up will begin.

Pre-K Fun 1 - Tanzi Brungard (Ages 3-4): This class will follow the schedule outlined in Volume one of the Early Years from the Blossom and Root Curriculum. Feel free to learn more at their website: <https://www.blossomandroot.com/early-years-vol-1>

Pre-K Fun 2 - Vanessa Cordero (Ages 3-4): This class will follow the schedule outlined in Volume one of the Early Years from the Blossom and Root Curriculum. Feel free to learn more at their website: <https://www.blossomandroot.com/early-years-vol-1>

Spanish Language Class - Cali Ortiz (Three separate classes: ages 3-4, 5-8, 9+): This Spanish class is designed for beginners to intermediate learners looking to develop their language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course focuses on building a strong foundation in Spanish grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, while also introducing students to the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Through interactive lessons, group activities, and real-life conversational practice, students will gain confidence in expressing themselves in Spanish. By the end of the course, students will be able to hold basic conversations, understand common phrases, and read simple texts. Students are expected to bring a pencil and notebook.

Kinder Class with April - April Gray (Kinder ages 4-6): Come have fun with us in the interactive learning class! There will be several unit studies over the semester including chickens and goats!

Story and Art Time - Kendra Johnson (Kinder ages 4-6): In this class each week, children will be enriched by a specially selected story and then complete a craft or an activity reflecting the story they read! Children need to be able to sit and listen to a story for 10-15 minutes. Children need to be able to work on an activity for 30-40 minutes, and help clean up messes. Children need to have an understanding of how to use scissors, glue, and markers. Parents will be expected to provide the following for their own child: a set of watercolors, scissors, glue, a pencil, markers and occasionally other supplies as dictated by the teacher.

Coding for Kinders - Jessica Russo (Kinder ages 4-6): Introduce your kindergartner to the exciting world of coding with our fun, hands-on class! This engaging course uses playful activities and interactive games to teach young learners the basics of coding, such as sequencing, patterns, and problem-solving, all while fostering creativity and critical thinking. Perfect for building a strong foundation in tech from an early age!

Outdoor Explorers: Movement, Music, & Storytime Adventures - Tracie Cerna (Kinder ages 4-6): In this lively class, kindergartners will enjoy an interactive mix of movement, music, and storytime -- mostly experienced outside! Each session will bring a new adventure, where children will engage in fun physical activities like dancing, jumping, and stretching -- allowing them to release their energy while building motor skills and body awareness! Incorporating music and rhythm games, students will sing, clap, and move to upbeat tunes that inspire creativity and rhythm. Storytime will introduce students to captivating books, sparking their imaginations and nurturing a love for reading. Outdoor Explorers is intended to be a joyful, multi-sensory class that celebrates the beauty of being outside, the excitement of music, and

the magic of stories, helping kindergarteners develop a well-rounded foundation for lifelong learning.

Games for Growth: Fun and Learning through Play! - Tracie Cerna (Ages 7-9): In this engaging class, students will explore a variety of educational and board games designed to foster creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. Each session features different types of games that encourage students to use strategy, practice decision-making, and develop social skills. Through structured play, students will strengthen their ability to focus, communicate effectively, and work cooperatively with their peers.

Human Anatomy (1st session is for kids ages 8-10, 2nd session is for kids ages 5-7) - Leah Gibson: Students will learn about the skeleton, muscles, brain, blood, vein, heart, lungs, and stomach through hands-on experiments, craft projects, snacks, and stories. We'll learn where each of those parts are located, what their function is, and why they are important to us. Approximate age range/skills needed to be successful in this class include: be approximately 5-10 years old. Skills needed to be successful: ability to color and draw, listen and follow directions, take turns. Using scissors would be a plus, but I can help them! Nothing too advanced here. Supplies students need to bring weekly: Colored pencils/crayons, and scissors.

American Girl History: Josefina - Leah Gibson (Ages 6+): This class is for boys and girls alike but fair warning that this class is on the girly side. Students will dive into New Mexico history and life on the western frontier in the early 1800s using the Josefina book series by American Girl. We'll learn the history of the area during her time period (1824), learn about farm animals and their purpose on Josefina's ranch, the architecture of her home, prepare recipes from the time period, and work on crafts that Josefina and her sisters would have created (corn husk dolls, weaving, and embroidery are just a few examples). We will also record what we've learned through notebooking, painting pictures and writing short summaries of what was learned. Skills required for this class: They'll need to be able to write words, draw, paint, use basic scissor skills, listen to and follow directions. Most of the crafts are simple enough that the younger girls could do them with little assistance. Ability to read would be nice, but not required, they won't be doing any reading on their own. I can help with spelling and/or writing out their summaries for them in their notebooks if the younger ones need it. Supplies students need to bring weekly: Mixed media notebook to be used just for this class, watercolor paint and paint brush, colored pencils or crayons, scissors, glue stick, and pencils.

Art (1st 8-week session only)- Isabel Ramos (Ages 6-8): This is a project based class. There will be five projects for the kids to create. The first is learning about Vincent van Gogh and recreating a still life portrait from him. The second art project they will create will be mini Landscapes where they will paint and cut out different Landscapes that will have a pop out effect on a single frame and change in color value, which will help them learn about this Art principle. The third art project they will do is a landscape of the Northern Lights using chalk. Doing this will help them learn how to manipulate chalk and learn how vibrant colors can pop on black paper. The fourth project they will do will be a landscape picture focusing on one point perspective. The fifth project will be announced once we're closer to that date. Students need to provide their own: Scissors, Watercolors, Color pencils, and Pencils.

Kitchen Time with Grandma - Shirley Gray (Ages 7+): This is exactly as it sounds. Provided by some of our very own students' Grandma, in this class students will have more chances to explore the world of food through cooking and baking! Tasty!

Art (2nd 8-week session only) - Isabel Ramos (ages 9+): This is a project-based class. For the first project, the kids will work on one point perspective where they will create a collage using a series of different shapes using one point perspective. For the second project, they will use the methods they learned from the first project and create a landscape project called a Glimpse of Galaxy. The kids will use watercolors to create a Galaxy. The kids will also use one point perspective to create a picture of a concrete wall. They will cut out a piece of the wall to make the appearance of looking through the wall into the Galaxy. For the third project I will have kids use chalk and they will learn how to shade using color theory. They will create a picture of hanging light bulbs. For the fourth project, kids will learn how to manipulate watercolors to create a small landscape of a sunset using value change creating a small portrait that will be on a bookmark. Students need to provide their own: Scissors, Watercolors, Color pencils, and Pencils.

Book Making - Kendra Johnson (Ages older 6 year olds and 7-8): We will read a picture book and then create our own book based around the book we read. Some books will be class books, others will be individual books. Children need to be able to sit and listen to a story for 10-15 minutes. Children need to be able to work on an activity for 30-40 minutes, clean up messes. Children need to be willing to write as part of their story. Sentence frames will be provided as guides. Parents will be expected to provide the following for their own child: a set of watercolors, scissors, glue, a pencil, markers and occasionally other supplies as dictated by the teacher.

Learn the Ukulele! (1st 8-week session only) - Tanzi Brungard (Ages 6+): Come learn and play the ukulele with us in this fun class for beginners! Learners are expected to be able to focus and listen to the teacher and have the hand coordination for holding a ukulele. Students must supply their own ukulele which should be a soprano or a concert ukulele.

Intro to Theater (2nd 8-week session only) - Tanzi Brungard (Ages 6+): Come learn the basics of being an actor in this fun and interactive class. Learning objectives consist of group exercises to develop physical awareness, concentration, imagination and trust. Basic physical, vocal and analytical concepts; methods; vocabulary; and discipline required of the beginning actor will also be explored. The first four weeks will be fine tuning skills and the last four weeks we will concentrate on a small scale production we can put on for the co-op.

Math Fun! - April Gray (Ages 7+): This class will consist of math activities through fun projects. We will not have projects based on multiplication/division at this time. We will have projects based on adding/subtracting, perimeter/area, grids, graphing, money, etc. Your child does NOT need to already love math. Hopefully, they will end the class enjoying math a little more than before. Your child does NOT need to be "good at math" to be in the class. They will come home with a packet for each project. They can work at their own pace. My hope is that

they will understand the concept and get a bit more practice with the concepts they are already familiar with.

The Constitution and Its Applications - Thomas Limon (Ages 9+): This class will explore a brief history of the Constitution and the people who made it. We will discuss the branches of government with special emphasis on the judiciary and the American legal system. Students will learn about statutes and case law through age appropriate literature and film. They will also have an opportunity to visit a local courthouse where students will meet a local judge and ask questions. Finally, we will conduct a short mock trial, which will demonstrate the legal system in action.

Yoga - Kendra Johnson (Ages 11+): In this class, students will be taught about the different types of Yoga and practice the movements involved in each type. Children need to be able to understand that this is a class that requires participation and if they choose to not participate they will need to be quiet. There is no physical requirement to this class. Each student will need to provide their own yoga mat if possible.

Business Building Blocks - Carly Ludlow (Ages 9+): In this class, students will participate in the building and growth of Homegrown Heroes Academy. Alongside the co-op's Director, Carly, they will learn about marketing, advertising, budgeting, non-profits, fundraising, insurance, commercial real estate and zoning, and legal considerations as it relates to our own non-profit homeschool organization. Students should only be enrolled in this class if they want to help Carly and be involved in growing and building the next step for the co-op. They might be involved in social media posts, photo/video advertising, and other content creation.

Outdoor Program: Note Outdoor days for in the Calendar below. These are instead of regular classes and everyone is welcome to come. We will not have the formal weekly Friday program for kids 8+ for this Spring Semester. I may still plan something at a later date. Please stay up to date on BAND.

Class Calendar:

Classes are every Tuesday from 9am - 12:30pm

Weekly Friday Outdoor program starting at 10am. Monthly Outdoor Program: Every 3rd Tuesday at 10am instead of regular classes.

For the year 2025, classes will begin January 14th and continue every Tuesday till May 13th. Important Dates and Breaks to be aware of:

- Orientation is January 7th at 10am at St Pauls.
- 1st Session begins January 14th and ends March 4th (8 Weeks).
- Feb 18th is Outdoor Day instead of regular classes. Location will be announced on BAND.
- Spring break is two weeks: No official co-op classes or programs from March 10-21st.
- 2nd Session begins March 25th and ends May 13th when we will break for the summer.

- April 15th is Outdoor Day instead of regular classes. Location will be announced on BAND.
- Last day of classes is May 13th.
- Our Summer Break Social will take place on May 20th at 10am.

What to Wear and What to Bring:

Wear whatever is appropriate for the weather and comfortable. Use your best judgment as far as age-appropriateness. Be mindful that the kids may get messy in any of the classes depending on the activities that day. Teachers for each class will announce ahead of time if there are any supplies the students need to bring. Please stay up to date on BAND.

Cost and Liability Forms:

The cost to participate in co-op this semester will be \$75 per family (includes one student only) + \$20 per each additional student you are enrolling. You only need to enroll and pay for children aged 3+ if you are enrolling them in any of the classes. If you are planning on having your littles only in Nursery with you or the other parents, there is no need to enroll or pay for these children. The fee is for the entire semester. These funds are to cover the cost of supplies for the classes and to purchase curriculum.

There is also a form for General Release of Liability that will be available for viewing on the Registration site. If you'd like a physical copy, let an admin know. Registration for classes and payment for the semester can be accessed on our new website, listed below. On the Home page, there will be a button that says Class Registration. Click on that and it will navigate you to the Registration page. Fill out the form, sign the waiver, and pay the fee. After that you should be good to go! Please, don't hesitate to reach out if there are any questions.

- <https://home-grown-heroes.com/>

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required and roll will be taken each week. We understand that life happens and we want to be as flexible and understanding as possible without causing detriment to the class's functionality and without disrespecting the teacher's preparation. Each family will have *three **Free Passes*** for the semester. This means that as long as you let one of the admin know beforehand, you can use one of your Free passes to miss class that day, for whatever reason, no questions asked. This does not include sick days. Being sick cannot be planned and as such, if you have to miss a day because you or your child are sick, this will not affect your Free Pass status.

Once the three Free Passes have been used, if you have to miss for other reasons other than sickness, this will put you on the bottom of the list for registration for the following semester. We understand there are always exceptions and extenuating circumstances and emergencies. Simply reach out to one of the admin and let us know what's going on and we can allow for those circumstances so it won't affect your Free Pass status. We also care about you and your family and want you to reach out so we can help in any way possible.

Sick Policy

Please stay home if you or your child(ren) are sick:

- Active fever or in the last 24 hours
- Severe cough or congestion (not seasonal allergy related)
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)
- Other contagious illnesses (use your best judgment)
- Mental Health

Drop-Off Policy

We are NOT a drop-off co-op. As the parent, you are required to be in attendance with your child to help, to teach, to discipline, or to supervise. We need you and want you to be there! With that being said, we understand the usefulness of having a trusted place to leave your child while you run a quick errand or appointment. If you have no other obligations that day, you let one of the admin know, and you designate another parent to be in charge of your child(ren) in your absence, you may leave your child on site to attend to other things. If you think you will be needing to do this at any point in the semester, please sign the additional waiver in the Registration form.

Final Thoughts:

A big THANK-YOU to everyone who is making this happen: parents, students, teachers, assistants, group leaders, and especially the staff at St Paul's!