

Harvester Teaching Services Frequently Asked Questions

www.htslink.org

I am looking forward to joining the Ladies Bible study. How do I do that? Come! That's all you have to do to join the Ladies Bible study.

Where will my children be while I am in Ladies Bible study? Child care is provided for children aged birth through 4 years old for moms during the Ladies Bible study. Children in grades K-12 are to be enrolled in the appropriate Bible class.

Do I need to enroll my child(ren) for all of the classes that HTS offers? No. HTS classes are offered "a la carte." You may enroll your child(ren) in the number of classes that accommodate your family schedule and your educational goals for your child(ren).

Do we enroll for the full year or by semester? Enrollment is for the full year except in specifically-noted single-semester classes.

What is the cost of classes? Each class lists the tuition and any materials fees in its course description on-line here <https://www.htslink.org/course/list/>.

I saw that the Family Agreement talks about Core classes and Elective classes. What differentiates a Core class from an Elective class? A combination of criteria is the determining factor: time, subject matter, and target grade level are the primary criteria. For instance, we consider language/writing to be a core subject and the classroom instruction and level of homework will reflect that, as will the class length and tuition. If you have questions about a particular class, please email Corinne Hayes at htsadmin@harvesterpca.org or contact the instructor.

Is HTS a school? HTS is not a school; HTS is a ministry of Harvester Presbyterian Church in America and offers academic and elective instruction to homeschool students. HTS does not take the place of the home educating parents, but comes alongside parents to help them meet their family's educational goals.

How is student progress monitored? Quarterly evaluations (semi-annual for Elective classes) and a final year-end evaluation for Grades 6-12 are issued to parents in sealed envelopes or sent to parents via email at the discretion of the instructor. An end-of-year Certificate of Completion, suitable for framing or keeping in a notebook, is issued for Grades K-5.

Does HTS provide a transcript for my high school student? HTS does not provide a transcript. There are numerous resources available to parents to make a transcript.

How is lunch handled? **NOTE: Due to life-threatening allergies in some of our students, do not bring products containing peanuts into the building during HTS. Please plan your lunches and snacks accordingly.** Children bring cold lunches from

home. HTS does not supply paper products, utensils, hot water, microwave, refrigerator, etc. There are a few fast-food places and delis close to HTS for parents to purchase lunches to bring to their children. Parents are encouraged to eat lunch with their younger children. Many families use the lunch period as a time to get to know other families and meet new friends from their children's classes. Hot lunches are sold on-site by pre-order only to raise funds for our Resource Center (pizza, Chick-Fil-A, etc.) as time and volunteer interest permits.

What if I'm not there at lunch to supervise my child? Staff members and adult Lunch Monitors are on-site to supervise students when their parents are not in the building.

How can I find my books? Aren't there used books out there somewhere? Each course description lists the ISBN of any book needed so that families can use their own sources to find a new or used book that meets their budget. Some sources include Christian Book Distributors, Rainbow Resources, Amazon, ABE books.

Does HTS order any books for any classes? In the case of books that are restricted to "schools", are hard to find, are very course specific, or are less expensive to buy in bulk, HTS purchases those books and adds the cost to the class as a materials fee.

How will I know what homework is assigned? Core academic instructors provide a syllabus at the beginning of the year and send out weekly emails. If you are unsure of a particular assignment, email your child's instructor. It is each family's responsibility to maintain valid family and student email addresses in their Family Account—please inform instructors when you have an email address addition/change so they can update their records.

Does HTS schedule field trips or outings away from HTS? Any field trips are class specific. Parents and, sometimes, siblings accompany the class and make it a family event. HTS does not arrange program-wide field trips. Outside of HTS, many families get together for outings or field trips that they arrange among themselves.

Does HTS offer clubs or extra-curricular activities? Clubs and extra-curricular activities are parent-driven and are carried out with the guidance of the HTS Director. In the past, HTS parents have led LEGO Club, Chess Club, American Girl Doll Club (to name a few), and have organized a CPR class and Scripps Spelling Bee competition. Have an idea for a club/activity? Talk to Joan Silver! We will help to publicize the club/activity within the HTS community.

What are Family Volunteer Hours? Family Volunteer Hours are a requirement of participating in HTS classes, and they provide an opportunity for everyone in the HTS community to serve one another in Study Hall, at lunch, or in Child Care during the Ladies Bible study. See the Family Agreement for the number of hours committed to each year.

I have a toddler and an infant. How do I fulfill my Family Volunteer Hours commitment? Providing child care during the Ladies Bible study is the most popular choice for moms who have children too young to be enrolled in classes. Moms may bring their children to play in the nursery while they serve with other moms in the nurseries.

What is the Resource Center? The Resource Center is a “library”, coffee room, and moms’ “hangout.” Families may check out 6 resources (books, CDs, DVDs, curriculum) per day per family. Resources are checked out for a period of three weeks, after which overdue fines of \$.10/day begin accruing. We do not have the ability for automatic “Resources Due Soon” and “Resources Overdue” emails, so it is up to you to mark your calendars with the due dates.

May I leave my children in the Resource Center while I am elsewhere in the building? Children must be **actively** supervised by an adult who is engaging in reading or quietly playing with your child. If you need to step out of the RC for a few moments (not for an off-site errand), please ask another adult in the RC if they would be willing to watch your child. Please help us to make the Resource Center an “inside voice” area so that moms can visit, encourage one another, and pray together and so that Harvester’s church staff can focus on their work—noise carries through the walls and ceilings.

When may I check out and check in resources? The RC schedule is:
Tuesdays: 9:45am-4:00pm, Thursdays: 8:30am-4:00pm.

I have children in classes and younger children with me who are not in classes. Where can I work with my younger children? While we recognize the desire to redeem the time spent at HTS while waiting for children to finish classes, our primary focus at HTS is classroom instruction. Because of seemingly unlimited class offerings and limited physical space, quiet space is a hot commodity, particularly before lunch. Please check the posted classroom assignment schedule to see if there is an empty room (nurseries are not available for parent/child study time). If a classroom is available, you are welcome to work with your child, though other families may be sharing the room for the same purpose. Other on-site possibilities are: the chairs in the foyer (blue tiled floor area outside of the Sanctuary), picnic tables, and playground—weather permitting. Your car/van is also another possibility if there is no empty room and the weather is less than ideal. An off-site possibility is Lorton Library (less than 10 minutes away).

I have a question that I didn’t see answered in the Family Agreement on-line and don’t see answered here. Please email Corinne Hayes at htsadmin@harvesterpca.org with your question. Chances are you are not the only one with the question.