



## The Bridge Homeschool Co-op

A Homeschooling Ministry of The Bridge Bible Church

### Mission

This Christian homeschool cooperative exists to honor God while supporting homeschool families through enrichment classes for students as well as fellowship time for parents.

### We strive to:

**Promote** Christian values, character development, and a biblical worldview.

**Complement** the homeschooling journey by offering classes in a group setting.

**Offer** social opportunities through field trips and group events.

**Support** families through prayer, relationships and practical ways.

**Encourage** our students to be a positive influence in the world for Christ.

**Utilize** our shared resources to benefit the community.

Parents stay on site and are involved in their families co-op experience as classroom helpers or ministry coordinators (possible roles: field trip coordinator, moms time coordinator, nursery coordinator).

We hope that when we walk away from our times together we will be encouraged and able to persevere in all that God has called us into as homeschool families.

**Meeting place:** The Bridge Bible Church, 701 Rivard Street, Somerset WI 54025

**Meeting Dates:** 2nd and 4th Mondays for 16 classes

September 9, 23, October 14, 28, November 11, 25, December 9, January 13, 27, February 10, 24, March 10, 24, April 14, 28, May 12. No class December 23, 2024.

**Meeting Time:** 8:40 am - Noon. Please arrive before 8:40 to check in at the welcome table.

	<b>K-2nd*</b> <b>(non-readers)</b>	<b>3rd-5th*</b>	<b>6th &amp; Up*</b>
<b>8:40-8:50 am</b>	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
<b>8:50-9:50 am</b>	Science	Literature	Art
<b>9:50-10:50 am</b>	Literature	Art	Science
<b>10:50-11:00 am</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>11:00-12:00 pm</b>	Art	Science	Literature



\*As a board we will do our best to keep the classes balanced and manageable in size. The maximum class size is 20. The grades listed above are a general guideline. We will do our best to honor those but based on birthdate and class size, children may be placed above or below typical "grade level." Please feel free to let us know if your child will be most successful at a certain level, but please understand if we cannot accommodate all requests or suggestions.

**Mom's Time:** First hour on 2nd Monday of the month, second hour on 4th Monday of the month.

**Upon arriving:  
Sign In At Welcome Table**

Parents, or the person given full permission to care for your children (guardian), must sign in at the welcome table. Indicate all children's names participating in classes that are under your care. Children may not be dropped off; parent/guardian must be on-site. Guardians must complete and sign the guardianship form for the day they are responsible for children.

**Name Tags**

All parents/guardians and participating children must wear name tags. Name tags will be at the welcome table.

**Assembly time**

All families gather together at 8:40 am. We will say the pledge of allegiance, share announcements, and pray over the day. Again, please be timely and plan to arrive a few minutes before 8:40.

**Class Information**

**Language Arts**

**Bethany Kaczmarek** has been homeschooling her own five kids since 2004 both in and out of America, and when her family moved to Wisconsin, they all jumped into Somerset School District together. She's been recognized as teacher of the year in two public schools where she's taught Reading, Language Arts, and High School English. An avid reader and writer herself, Bethany Kaczmarek just flat out believes that reading leads to thinking. She disguises learning to read and write effectively by making it fun, but she wants kids to know that expressing their ideas effectively and genuinely is a really important part of being a human who relates to other humans. As far as writing goes, she's a professional editor and a published author, and she's on staff for a writer's conference for Christian authors who write fantasy and sci-fi. Most of all, she is a fan of story because of the Author and Finisher of her faith. He knows what it is to be the very truest hero. You can find out more about her at [www.bethanykaczmarek.com](http://www.bethanykaczmarek.com)



### **6<sup>th</sup> grade and up:**

This novel-based class will be full of fun, laughter, and critical thinking, based on rich literature. As a bonus, we'll even have a little writing sprinkled in. We'll read great books like *The Giver*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *The Hobbit*, *Little Britches*, and *The Little Prince*. With these titles, we'll be able to cover the importance of setting, plot and summarization, character analysis, external and internal conflict, the hero's journey, symbolism, and more. Each student will need to purchase their own copies of the books, and we'll read and keep a log outside of class. In class, we'll have great discussions, read and chat about a few key excerpts together, and I'll occasionally (not every co-op session) assign a short writing assignment.

For high school parents, with the addition of an additional four books and writing assignments, this can easily count as a full HS credit. You can add those yourselves or Bethany will have a packet with book suggestions and HS level writing assignments that can be used, for an additional \$10 each per family. She's also glad to be a resource for your high school kids too.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

This novel-based class will be full of fun, laughter, and critical thinking, based on rich literature. As a bonus, we'll even have a little writing sprinkled in. We'll read great books like *Gooney Bird Greene*, *Frindle*, *The Westing Game*, *Fudge*, and *Charlotte's Web*. With these titles, we'll develop our vocabulary, answer comprehension questions, learn to summarize and analyze plot, watch how characters grow and learn from their mistakes and risk-taking, and talk about setting, symbolism, foreshadowing, suspense, and more. Each student will need to purchase their own copies of the books, and we'll read and keep a log outside of class. In class, we'll have great discussions, read and chat about a few key excerpts together, and I'll occasionally (not every co-op session) assign a short writing assignment.

### **K-2<sup>nd</sup>:**

Do your kids love using their imagination and being read to? This class will revolve around amazing picture books! We're going to read a different picture book each week, and we'll talk about all sorts of things from the story: setting, seasons, identifying themes and lessons, conflict, character growth, fact v. opinion, and more. Titles will be some of my very favorites, like: "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," "Lafcadio," "Curious George," "Miss Nelson is Missing," "Bedtime for Frances," "Stellaluna," "The Sneetches," and "Amelia Bedelia," "Small Gifts in God's Hands," and "The Topsy-Turvy Kingdom." We can color while we listen, and share pictures with each other, but the talking time will be focused and involve the whole group. It's going to be super fun and sweet as we learn.



## Creation Science

**Julie Von Vett** began homeschooling in the early 1990s with her children. In 1992, she attended worldview classes at Summit Ministries and began to teach year-long classes in worldviews to high schoolers and parents. She realized that the foundation of a biblical worldview began with creation, Genesis 1-11. Since then, she has been teaching creation science to homeschoolers and churches. She literally has 500 students she teaches every two weeks. She has written three creation science devotionals with her co-author, *Inspired Evidence, Have you Considered, and Without Excuse*. She and her husband along with a creation team have just finished a three-year project, before Covid, and spoke at all the secondary schools in Fiji (~ 170) and distributed one of the devotionals to each student (65,000 devotionals). Julie teaches creation science to homeschoolers on a 6-year cycle: Human Body, Botany, Geology, Weather/Astronomy, Animals, Flying Creatures.

## Geology: The Very Rocks Cry Out

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

If you were to study geology from a secular book it leads you to believe in evolution and millions of years. If you were to study geology from a Biblical creation and Flood perspective, it would lead you closer to the Creator. This year I want to lead the student closer to the Creator by answering questions like: How old is the earth, are there dinosaurs in the Bible, how many ice ages were there..... My prayer is for each student to be in awe of our Creator through the study of rocks. We will cover these topics:

Lesson 1 Intro to Geology, Days of Creation

Lesson 2 The Lost World: pre-flood world, Genesis 1-5  
Lesson 3: Sedimentary rock/ Flood of Noah's day Genesis 6-9. The Flood made the sedimentary layers.

Lesson 4: Fossils and Dinosaurs: Fossil recipe. Are dinos mentioned in the Bible?

Lesson 5: Volcanoes and Igneous rocks

Lesson 6: Metamorphic rocks, review of 3 rock groups

Lesson 7: Mountains and plate tectonics

Lesson 8: Dating the earth: carbon dating, geological column, index fossils

Lesson 9: Ice Age and Mammoths: How do they fit into the biblical timeline?

Lesson 10: Minerals: Difference between rocks and minerals, identifying minerals, panning for gold.

Lesson 11: Minerals

Lesson 12: Caves and geysers



Lesson 13: Earthquakes  
Lesson 14: Oil, gas, coal- products of the Flood  
Lesson 15: Erosion  
Lesson 16: National parks through Creationists eyes  
(This is a tentative schedule)

Classes can stand alone without the books. Other ways to enhance the study of geology is by checking out library books and DVD's about rocks, dinosaurs, gems, volcanoes, earthquakes, fossils..... Recommended but not required:

- *Exploring Geology with Mr. Hibb Discovering Evidence for Creation and the Biblical Flood* by Michael J. Oard.... (very good! If you were to pick a "textbook" this would be the one)
- *Life in the Great Ice Age* by Michel and Beverly Oard
- *Jonathan Park series*, CD series
- *God's Design for Heaven and Earth: Our Planet Earth* by Debbie and Richard Lawrence. Find it at [www.answersingenesis.org/curricula](http://www.answersingenesis.org/curricula)
- *The Geology Book* by Dr. John D. Morris with study guide (free downloadable study guide@[www.masterbooks.net](http://www.masterbooks.net))
- *The Fossil Book* by Gary Parker with study guide (free downloadable study guide@[www.masterbooks.net](http://www.masterbooks.net))
- *Dinosaurs Unleashed* by Kyle Butt and Eric Lyons
- *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved* by Ken Ham
- *Dinosaurs and Creation* by Donald DeYoung
- *The Puzzle of Ancient Man* by Donald Chittick
- *Genesis Finding our Roots* by Ruth Beechick
- *Adam and His Kin: The Lost History of their live and times* by Ruth Beechick
- *Geology and Creation: 100 questions and answers from a biblical perspective* by Don DeYoung

## Art

Steve Martin is a homeschool father of 4 who has been the homeschool Principal and art teacher for over 11 years. He has a background in studio art, drawing and web design. Steve currently is a project manager, graphic designer and freelance web developer. Steve believes that God is our Creator and we are made in His image and that we are creative in many different ways. Some are creative with coming up with solutions. Some are creative with coming up with



a plan. Some are creative with words. Some are creative artistically and that can manifest in many different avenues.

Steve teaches some of those ways with studio art skills like drawing, painting, character studies, some art history, crafts and a few more surprises along the way while drinking coffee.

Email Address: [steve9405@gmail.com](mailto:steve9405@gmail.com)

Website: [stevemartin.design](http://stevemartin.design)

### **Course Description: Beginning/Intermediate Studio Art**

We will be exploring our creativity by focusing on 3 specific areas of art. Drawing, painting and sculpting. We will be applying the Fundamentals of Art and exploring different styles within these mediums and learning from some Masters of Art and their styles. Sketchbooks will be used weekly to brainstorm ideas, practice techniques and most importantly, CREATE!

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- 8 x 10 (or larger) Sketchbook - [Amazon](#) (Pentalic 8.5" x 11" Traditional Wirebound Sketchbook, 160 Pages, Black)
- Drawing Pencil Kit - [Amazon](#) (Amazon Basics Sketch and Drawing Art Pencil Kit - 17 Piece Set)

If the kids have their sketchbooks and pencil kits already and they are in good shape, they can reuse them.

#### **Field trips**

We hope to offer optional field trips for families to participate in once per month. These would likely be scheduled during the weeks that we do not have scheduled co-op classes.



## **Parent Handbook**

### **Statement of Faith**

**THE NATURE OF GOD:** God eternally exists as three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and is the sovereign Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1). We affirm the mystery of the Trinity and seek to do life in community as modeled by God himself (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14).

**THE BIBLE:** We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally inspired, perfect, trustworthy and sufficient word of God, the final authority for faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**THE PURPOSE OF GOD:** Everyone and everything has been made by God and for God and therefore all glory belongs to him (Colossians 1:15-20).

**HUMAN NATURE:** God made man – male and female – in his own image, as the crown of creation so that man might glorify him through enjoying fellowship with him (Genesis 1:27).

**SIN:** The world is fallen, and all humanity is separated from God because of sin (Genesis 3, Romans 3:23).

**THE NATURE OF JESUS:** Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human and absolutely sinless and perfect (John 1:1-2, Luke 1:35).

**JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION:** Jesus Christ died on the cross, rose from the dead, appeared to many and ascended to heaven (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

**SALVATION:** Salvation comes through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross plus nothing on the part of humanity (Ephesians 2:1-10).

**THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, seals at conversion, gifts, guides and empowers the believer and the church (John 16:5-15, Ephesians 1:13, Acts 1:8).

**THE CHURCH:** The church is the body of Christ, with Christ as the head, and functions to fulfill the mission of God (1 Corinthians 12).

**JESUS' SECOND COMING:** Jesus will one day physically return, and there will be a final judgment (Matthew 24, 25).

**THE ETERNAL STATE OF HUMANITY:** All people who have faith in Jesus Christ will spend eternity with God in his Kingdom, and all people who do not have faith in Jesus Christ will spend eternity separated from God in hell (Matthew 25, John 5:24, Revelation 20;11-15).



## Co-op Family Code

As a homeschool co-op family, each member is asked to accept their God-given responsibility to “grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2:52

We want to encourage our students to glorify God by their respectful behavior toward teachers, parents, and peers. The intent with the following policy is to provide an enjoyable and optimal learning environment.

I will abide by the following family code:

- Willingly attend co-op to participate in a Christ-centered learning and sharing experience.
- Work hard each time we meet to develop my God-given talents to the best of my ability.
- With the help of God, I will show that Jesus is a part of my life by:
  - Treating others with love, kindness, and patience; walking in the fruits of the Spirit.
  - Being respectful to teachers, parents, pastor and staff, students and other adults.
  - Keeping my hands, arms, feet and legs to myself.
  - Wearing appropriate and modest attire (no midriffs exposed, low-riding pants, offensive “sayings” on shirts, etc.).
  - Respecting the building and property during co-op:
    - Do not run.
    - Do not go outside without an adult.
    - Treat all furniture, walls, doors, etc with respect.
    - Do not enter any room not assigned for co-op activities.
    - If you make a mess, clean it up. If you need help, do not hesitate to ask.
- Giving teachers my full attention (eyes on teacher) and cooperatively participating with a good attitude.
  - Do not interrupt a teacher or classmates. Raise your hand to speak, and wait for the teacher to call on you.
  - Leaving toys and cell phones, etc. outside of the classrooms.

I understand that if I do not abide by this family code, I will accept the appropriate consequences for my behavior.





### **Discipline Policy**

If a child is disobedient, disruptive, or disrespectful during class, the teacher or class monitor will:

1. On the first offense, talk with the child and explain that the behavior is unacceptable.
2. On the second offense, remove the child from the activity and contact a board member who will then contact the parent/guardian.
3. If the behavior continues, it will be required that the parent/guardian sit with the child during class.
4. If needed, the overseeing pastor will be consulted.

If the unacceptable behavior is occurring during unstructured time, the above procedure will be followed but the child may indefinitely lose the privilege of unstructured time if step #3 is reached.

If the unacceptable behavior continues after following the above procedure, the child and parent/guardian will be required to meet with the overseeing pastor, and, perhaps, additional board members, to discuss the situation.

Our desire is to help each student grow in their care for others and not interfere with the co-op's educational and character mission.

### **Family Reconciliation Policy**

We always aspire to honorably and peacefully resolve disappointments and/or conflict at co-op, and we seek to do so by following the biblical guidelines given in Matthew 18. As a general rule, when any one of us (leadership, teachers, members, students) who is a part of co-op encounters conflict, it is important to first go directly and *only* to the individual with whom we have an issue. We must kindly listen, seek to understand, express our concerns, and hopefully resolve things without linking any other individuals into that process, therefore unfairly burdening them with information and issues they cannot address. This means that when you have a concern or a complaint, it is rarely (if ever) appropriate to *first* bring it up to a board member or to draw in other co-op members. Any issue that you may have needs to be brought directly to the individual with whom you have the concern. If, after faithfully seeking to resolve any issues one-on-one, you find the problems cannot be reconciled, then it may be warranted for you to bring the issue to the board for help. At that point, we will gladly walk with you. The co-op leadership is committed to diligently seek out reconciliation. If, after many attempts, and in the very rare event that a conflict simply cannot be resolved, the board reserves the right to revoke membership in the group without refund.



## **Background Checks**

We are all working with children so it will be required that the primary adult responsible for your children on co-op days pass a background check. A form is included in the registration packet that will need to be signed and returned upon registration. The Bridge will conduct the background check and retain files.

## **Health Policy**

In order to provide an optimal learning environment as well as a courtesy to others, we require that a child not be brought into any classes if he or she demonstrates any of the following symptoms:

- A fever within the last 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Pink eye
- Any undiagnosed rash or lesions
- Runny nose with yellow or green discharge
- Persistent cough
- Nits or lice found on anyone in your family

\*If in doubt, please do not bring your child out of consideration to the other co-op families.

\*If *anyone* in your household has had a fever, vomiting, diarrhea within 24 hours of co-op, please keep all children home, even if they are not currently showing symptoms.

\*If you determine your child has been to class and later exhibits symptoms of a communicable illness (i.e. chicken pox, lice, Covid-19), please let the board know so we are able to notify our other families and the staff of the church of a possible exposure.

## **Emergency Procedures/Policy**

Parents agree to assume all responsibility for their children while participating in co-op. Parents also agree to accept any and all financial responsibility for any medical or legal expenses that may occur due to taking part in any group activity. We require that each student has an Emergency Procedure Form on file before he/she may begin attending classes. The group and all its members, teachers, and The Bridge and all its employees and members shall be exempt



from any legal actions or financial responsibility due to any injury, etc., that may occur during any co-op activities.

### **Attendance Policy**

Please do your best to attend co-op regularly. Refunds will not be given for missed classes.

### **Weather Policy**

If cancellation due to bad weather is indicated, the co-op will notify members via email. If this is necessary, we will use our predetermined make-up day. Please note there are no refunds for any further weather-related cancellations.

### **Fire Procedures**

If a fire is discovered, which cannot be safely and quickly extinguished, a board member or any responsible adult should be notified. A board member will go to the classrooms and calmly, but loudly say, "Teachers, there is a fire in \_\_\_\_." Fire exits are listed in each room. Teachers and class monitors will lead students to a safe exit. Board members will sweep bathrooms and common space. A board member will gather sign in sheets and will help direct people to a safe exit away from the fire. All will meet in the parking lot. Those who have cell phones will call 911 at the earliest opportunity. The main objective for all involved is to vacate the building as quickly as possible.

### **Tornado Procedures**

Upon hearing civil defense sirens or upon learning of an approaching tornado, the board members or another responsible adult will direct children to the designated tornado shelter in the building. A board member will sweep the building to ensure all adults and students seek shelter. The board member will loudly and calmly say, "Teachers, there is a tornado warning, please usher students to the designated tornado shelter" as she walks the building. Teachers and class monitors will help usher students.

### **Intruder Procedures**

If an intruder (a person intent on doing harm) enters The Bridge, a board member or another responsible adult will discreetly dial 911 and other responsible adults will work to subdue/injure intruder with whatever tool or item is handy. Use utmost force and shouts to surprise and disarm the intruder. Board members or responsible adults will do their best to shut doors, block them, and help children hide out of sight or lead them to safety by vacating the building if possible. In addition to blocking the door, adults will help secure children in the classroom and calmly instruct them to hide behind tables and/or out of sight - not in one large group. Those who have cell phones will call 911 at the earliest opportunity.