



**DEERSTREAM LEARNING CENTER
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2019-2020**



CALENDAR 2019-2020

September 9, Monday.....	Opening Day for Monday morning classes
September 12, Wednesday.....	Opening Day for Wednesday morning classes, Welcome Back Picnic
September 16, Monday.....	Cafe & Play / afternoon classes start
September 18, Wednesday	Cafe & Play/ afternoon Classes start
November 27, Wednesday.....	No classes, Thanksgiving Break
December 9, Monday.....	Last Monday morning and afternoon classes, 1 st semester
December 11, Wednesday.....	Last Wednesday morning and afternoon classes
January 6, Monday.....	Morning classes resume
January 13, Monday	Cafe & Play / Afternoon Classes resume
January 20, Monday.....	No class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19, Wednesday.....	No class, Parent Teacher Conferences
March 23, Monday.....	No class, Spring Break
March 25, Wednesday.....	No class, Spring Break
April 29, Wednesday.....	Last day for Café and Play/afternoon classes
May 6, Wednesday.....	Last class, End of Year Picnic
May 11 and 13	Standardized Testing (optional)
May 11 and 13.....	Snow make-up days to be used if 3 or more days are canceled due to inclement weather.
May 18 and 20.....	Testing make-up days, if needed

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deerstream's inclement weather policy follows the procedures of the Chapel Hill Bible Church.

If the **Chapel Hill-Carrboro City** schools are closed, Deerstream classes will be cancelled. Local radio and television stations will announce the closing of the school system. Deerstream will **not** specifically be mentioned.

If the Chapel Hill Public Schools are on a delayed opening schedule, Deerstream will hold classes as usual, starting at 9:15. Please use your own discretion about whether it is safe to drive from your location.

We will post the cancellation of classes on our Facebook page. As a last resort you may email deerstream@gmail.com or text Kelly Kirk: 919-672-4954. Please be sure to check after 7:30 a.m. because CCCSS usually makes their decision later than most school systems.



WELCOME

We are delighted that you have chosen to be a part of the Deerstream community. In this handbook you will find information which should answer most questions about the general operations of Deerstream. Please print and read this handbook carefully and keep it on hand for reference throughout the year.

I feel privileged to partner with you and the teachers at Deerstream to provide a wonderfully unique educational opportunity for your children. We pray that Deerstream is a special and helpful part of your child's overall spiritual, social, and educational experience this year. Please feel free to call me if you have questions or if you desire more information. We value your input; mutual understanding and open lines of communication are vital to the successful operation of Deerstream.

Kelly Kirk

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of Deerstream Learning Center is twofold:

- To provide a classroom experience for homeschoolers, taught in a Christian environment by qualified faculty; and
- To offer parents support and encouragement for their own teaching.

ADMISSIONS

Deerstream offers instruction from a Protestant Evangelical Christian perspective. We welcome families of other faiths, or none, who would like to learn with us. It is expected that all participating families respect our doctrinal commitments and express support for the work of Deerstream.

Deerstream is non-denominational. It is operated on the basis of the following doctrinal commitments:

1. That there is one God, externally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has revealed Truth in His Word and in His creation;
2. That Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, took on our humanity and died on the cross to atone for sins and redeem a people for Himself;
3. That since humanity is sinful and lost, the regeneration of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation;
4. That Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave and that all humanity shall also be resurrected at the judgment, some to salvation and some to eternal separation from God;
5. That salvation is by grace alone, in Christ alone, through faith alone and not the result of good works;
6. That good works are the fruit of the true faith;
7. That Jesus Christ is King of all the realms of life and society now and that He will return personally to consummate His kingdom; and
8. That the Bible is the Word of God, the authoritative rule for faith and practice, without error in all that it affirms.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays and Wednesdays

- Morning Classes: 9:15 AM-12:15 PM
- Café and Play: 12:15 PM -1:00 PM
- Afternoon Enrichments: 1:00 PM- 2:15 PM

LOCATION

Deerstream meets at the Chapel Hill Bible Church, 260 Erwin Road, Chapel Hill. Deerstream families and students should use **the side entrance past the playground** for all comings and goings. From 9:30 AM until 11:45 AM, the external doors will be locked for security purposes. Please text Kelly Kirk (919-672-4954) for entrance if the doors are locked.

OFFICE

Deerstream has no administrative office at Chapel Hill Bible Church. The church office will not be able to help you with Deerstream-related questions. Please contact the Executive Director, Kelly Kirk, if you need assistance.

Kelly can be reached by email at deerstream@gmail.com and text or phone at 919-672-4954. You can speak with her in person at the Bible Church during class hours. Periodically she will not be available on campus and therefore should be contacted by phone or email.

For business and financial matters, contact our Business Administrator, Mary Hamilton, at gary@ham-fin.com. Our mailing address is Deerstream Learning Center, P.O. Box 3203, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

EMERGENCY MATTERS

Please do not call the Bible Church. In case of an emergency, call 919-672-4954.

Students are not allowed to make calls from school. If a child becomes ill at school, he should inform the teacher and a call will be placed if necessary.

ARRIVAL

The doors open at 9:05AM. Earlier arrivals must remain with their parents outside the building but may play on the playground with parent supervision. Students should be in their seats by 9:15. **Please remember to use the side entrance past the playground.** Once inside the building, students should proceed straight to class without running in the hallways so as not to disturb church staff and others working nearby.

Upon arrival, feel free to walk your child to class. You may also pull up alongside the entrance, near the spaces marked with cones, to drop off your child. Please ensure that your child enters the building safely.

DISMISSAL

In the afternoons, the building will be open for pickup at 12:05 PM for morning classes, at 12:55 PM after Café and Play, and at 2:05 PM for afternoon enrichments. **Please do not enter before those times.** Parents should enter the building using the same side entrance and proceed to their child's classroom for pickup. The teacher will open her door when she is ready to dismiss students. She will dismiss each child

individually to a parent. Students who have upstairs classes will be picked up in a designated area downstairs. You will not need to go upstairs.

If your child will be picked up by a friend or family member other than a parent, please send a note indicating that plan. We cannot release a child to someone other than a parent without your permission. We may require identification for those other than parents who are picking up children.

Parents should arrive by 12:15 PM sharp to pick up their children from Monday and Wednesday morning classes. Café and Play pick-up is at 1:00 PM, and pick-up for the afternoon classes is 2:15 PM. **A late fee of \$15.00 will be charged if students are not picked up 10 minutes after class ends.** Our teachers have after school commitments, and it is important to respect their time by arriving promptly.

Once you have picked up your child, please be sure your child remains with you. Children are not to be unattended in the building or on the playground. **Please exercise a great deal of caution in the parking lot.** There are many comings and goings during this time.

DRESS CODE

Our dress requirements are designed to help homeschoolers recognize that the atmosphere of Deerstream is more formal and structured than a relaxed home-learning situation. We want our students to take their work seriously and to feel a part of the Deerstream community.

The following dress code does not prescribe uniforms or dictate where parents purchase clothes. It does provide a sense of uniformity we deem desirable. Modesty, fit, and comfort are key guidelines. Please, no over-sized shirts or pants.

- **Bottoms**-Bermuda-length shorts, long pants, skirts or skorts in navy, khaki or black; belted (if called for); no jeans or sweatpants.
- **Leggings are not to be worn as pants.**
- **Tops**-collared tops (polo-style, dress shirts or blouses), turtlenecks or mock turtlenecks in any solid color. No undergarments should be visible.
- **Dresses or Jumpers**-navy, khaki or black.
- **Sweaters**-Pullovers or cardigans in any solid color; no sweatshirts.
- **Shoes**-closed-toed, and suitable for weather; no flip-flops or crocs.

Additional Notes:

- ❖ Hats and caps are not to be worn inside the classroom.
- ❖ Lunch boxes, backpacks and other school gear should be plain, not adorned with pictures, characters, sports teams, or writing.

SUPPLIES-ELEMENTARY DIVISION

Rather than asking parents to purchase supplies, each family pays a supply fee of \$30 per student/per class and teachers buy what is needed. Supplies are kept in the classroom and used in common. There may be occasions where families are asked to purchase a specific item for use in the classroom by their child.

BOOKS/SUPPLIES/LAB FEES-JUNIOR DIVISION AND HIGH SCHOOL

The supply/lab fee for Junior Division students enrolled in both the English and science class is \$105. The supply fee for English-only is \$50 and for Physical Science-only is \$55. High school students are also required to pay a \$55 supply fee. The supply fee is due on or before October 1. Additionally, parents of Junior Division English students will be asked to purchase four to seven paperback novels throughout the year. A list of titles and publishers will be distributed. Other texts will be distributed on the first day of class and throughout the semester as needed.

BACKPACKS

Students are encouraged to bring backpacks to class to make transporting snack, lunch and class work easier on the student. These should be plain and unadorned with slogans or characters. Any color is fine.

SNACK

All students need to bring an individual nutritious snack to eat in class. The snack should include two items such as carrots and an apple or pretzels and cheese. Students should bring **water only to drink**. If your child stays for Café and Play, please pack the snack in a separate container. **NO TREE NUT OR PEANUT PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED** for snack or lunch.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Students are welcome to bring birthday dessert to Deerstream to share with their classmates after checking with the teacher. **NO TREE NUT OR PEANUT PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED.** (*Note: Please do not distribute private party invitations at Deerstream.*)

VISITORS

Parents and their guests may visit a classroom with prior approval from the Executive Director. Student guests are permitted on a limited basis after receiving approval from the Executive Director. Please contact the Executive Director prior to talking with the classroom teacher. All adult visitors are asked to be “silent observers” so as to minimize distractions for the students.

ILLNESSES

Any student sent to Deerstream must be well enough to participate in our regular program, including outdoor play. We also ask each family to respect the health of other families, some with sensitive medical needs, by avoiding exposing fellow students to known illness. Here is a quick reference guide to help you judge whether it is wise for your child to be interacting with others:

- ❖ Coughing---A mild, intermittent cough, (i.e., can go 15 minutes between coughs) may be considered safe. A more persistent cough indicates contagious infection.
- ❖ Runny Nose---If discharge is clear, child is safe.
- ❖ Fever---Children should be fever-free for 24 hours before coming to class.
- ❖ Sore Throat---Safe if mild, unless strep is suspected or the child has a fever.
- ❖ Diarrhea---More than two loose stools in a single day should be considered infectious and given a 24-hour waiting period.
- ❖ Eye Discharge---If discharge is wiped away and new discharge returns, there is probably an underlying infection and should be considered contagious.
- ❖ Other---If you know your child has a contagious ailment (“pink-eye,” for example) keep him/her home.
- ❖ Antibiotics---Child is no longer contagious after being on antibiotics and fever-free for 24 hours. Some bacterial infections such as strep, may require 48 hours of antibiotic treatment before children are no longer contagious.

Teachers or other Deerstream agents reserve the right to call a parent and request that his/her child not be in school due to illness. In such case, that student should be picked up as quickly as possible.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

If a student becomes ill during the day, parents will be contacted and asked to pick him/her up as soon as possible. Please be sure to include cell phone numbers on the Emergency Form. Any injury occurring at Deerstream will be reported immediately to the parent. At the direction of the parents, Deerstream officials will treat minor injuries or the parents may take their child for medical attention. If a student is injured or becomes ill and immediate medical attention is necessary, emergency assistance will be requested by calling 911. You will be notified immediately.

Parents must sign a Parental Medical Consent Form, which lists emergency phone numbers, in case parents cannot be reached. This form will be sent via email in late August. The Emergency Form must be turned in prior to the start of classes for a student to attend.

MEDICATIONS

Teachers may not administer any medications to students at Deerstream. With parental permission and written instructions from home, students may take their own medication or a parent may administer the medication.

ABSENCES

It is not mandatory that parents notify teachers if a student is going to be absent, but teachers appreciate a courtesy email. Parents of Junior Division and High School students must arrange (perhaps with a classmate) to pick-up any papers or assignments given that day. However, if you plan to take your child out for vacation, please let the teachers know ahead of time. Note there is no reduction in tuition for absences.

WITHDRAWALS OR EXTENDED ABSENCES

Please notify the Executive Director at least two weeks in advance if you are considering withdrawing your child or if you anticipate an extended absence. The ED will co-ordinate with the teacher to make a smooth transition for all.

LOST AND FOUND

Check with your child's teacher for lost items. Labeling with names helps! Left items will be placed in the Chapel Hill Bible Church's lost and found.

FINANCIAL POLICY

Each student payment schedule is according to one of the two plans agreed to in the Enrollment Contract. If payment is not received by the fifth day of the month in which payment is due, parents will be assessed a \$20.00 late fee. Please notify the Executive Director if your bank notifies you that you have bounced a check.

All supply fees and tuition payments should be mailed to Deerstream Learning Center, P.O. Box 3203, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

For questions relating to financial matters, please contact Mary Hamilton at gary@ham-fin.com. Please refer to your Enrollment Contract for other financial stipulations.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Teachers are expected to hold students to an uncompromising standard of respect, kindness, and attentiveness. In doing so, teachers are to be firm, clear, and loving after establishing clear expectations. Deerstream teachers will endeavor to maintain control with a whispered reminder, a timely touch, a

penetrating look, a private talk outside the classroom door, or some other such non-humiliating tactic. School officials will not use corporal punishment.

If a student does not respond to correction, the teacher will make the parents aware of the situation that they might work together for resolution. A student may be sent home if necessary. If problems persist, the Executive Director will offer further direction. Students must be able to function appropriately in a group to participate in Deerstream.

SPECIAL RULES

1. Students are not to bring stuffed animals, “loveys”, games, cards, silly bands, or toys to Deerstream. *No ipods, cell phones or other electronic devices should be brought to class.*
2. Items for “Show and Tell” should relate directly to classroom studies. Live critters may be brought only with prior notice and permission from the Executive Director.
3. Students and their siblings are not to run in the hallways.
4. Students shall not bring any type of weapon (pocket-knife/ knife/dagger, or any type of firearm) to Deerstream. If any type of the above-mentioned weapon is brought to Deerstream, the Executive Director will be notified immediately, and she in turn will contact the parents.

CURRICULUM

Elementary Division

As a homeschool tutorial, Deerstream does not offer reading, writing, or math instruction to elementary students. Such core-academic courses are the domain of the homeschool. Deerstream offers a content-rich “unit-studies” program. This interdisciplinary approach to social studies and science includes related literature, biographies, music, Scripture, spiritual lessons, art activities, fine art, etc. Deerstream also features games and group activities at recess as well as memory work (Scripture, poetry, facts), so appropriate for eager young minds. Instead of textbooks, children will peruse “living books” which will be available on current topics at a variety of reading (and non-reading) levels.

Junior Division Prep

The 11/12 year old science class bridges the gap between the elementary and junior divisions. Called “Junior Division Prep,” the aim is to gently prepare students for the increased rigor of the Junior Division through the use of textbooks, assigned homework, and some tests and quizzes.

Junior Division

Deerstream offers courses in English and science for seventh and eighth graders. Emphasis is on subject content, composition, study skills, and critical thinking, laying a foundation for further study in high school.

High School

Deerstream offer college preparatory high school courses in science and English. Class sessions will feature lab, lecture, discussion, and activities to help cement the students’ knowledge of the material that they have studied at home throughout the week. Students will receive a course grade based on homework, classwork, quizzes, and tests.

HOMEWORK

Deerstream recognizes that students need time at home to spend on other courses and to be about the business of childhood: playing and spending time with their families. For elementary students, homework will be minimal. The upper level elementary students will have opportunities to research assigned topics and participate in class presentations throughout the year. Junior Division Prep and Junior Division students will have regular homework assignments to carry over learning between classes and to practice good habits of study and responsibility. High School students will have significant course work to complete between class meetings. They will be assessed formally on their content mastery. All students will be held accountable for work assigned.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Parent Teacher Conferences

Deerstream offers several opportunities during the year for parents and teachers to talk together.

In October, teachers will call parents to hear how the year is starting off for their Deerstream students. As a part of this conversation, teachers would appreciate any information parents can offer at that time that would help them know their students better and work with them more effectively.

Parents will be invited to meet with science teachers for individual conferences on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, to discuss student progress and participation at Deerstream. **Please set aside this date and plan to attend, as it is difficult to reschedule conferences.**

Additionally, parents are encouraged to email teachers any time during the year if they have questions or concerns. Please request any after-school meetings with a teacher ahead of time. Out of respect for a teacher's afternoon commitments, we ask that you avoid impromptu after-class conferences.

Roster

In order to facilitate connection and community among families, you will receive a roster of Deerstream families, including contact information. **Please do not use this roster as a group list to publicize any programs, events, or products.** You are encouraged to join the Deerstream Yahoo group which is an appropriate venue for sharing that kind of information.

Electronic Communication

We will regularly use email and Facebook to notify parents of class cancellations, upcoming events and other Deerstream-related information. The Monthly Update will be emailed at the end of each month, posted on Facebook, and is available on the website, www.deerstream.org. Upcoming dates and activities will be highlighted. Classroom teachers will also use email to notify parents of upcoming units, assignments or class presentation.

Junior Division and High School students will be given homework assignments and other classroom information during class time, posted on class blogs and/or in emails. If students have questions about homework they can email their teacher.

Faculty-Student Communication

It is against Deerstream policy for employees to interact with students via student cell phones and/or social networking groups (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Google +, etc.) due to the accessibility of potentially inappropriate personal information and privacy issues. Instead, employees and students should communicate via home telephone lines, parent cell phones or email. With parental permission, students are welcome to call or email teachers. All emails from teachers to students will "cc" their parents. Teachers will not respond

to student requests for "friending." Our goal is to avoid misunderstandings and be above reproach in employee-student relationships.

STUDENT PLACEMENT POLICY

Deerstream pays careful attention to creating classrooms with dynamics that work best for all students. The Executive Director of Deerstream, in consultation with teachers, will determine student placement if there is more than one age-appropriate class available to students. Gender and classroom dynamics will be key considerations in the placement of students.

Although Deerstream does not take parent requests, parent information is welcome if there is something the Executive Director should know before placing a student. Parents should communicate this information to the Executive Director in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment.

POLICY FOR ACTION OR SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND PROBLEMS

Any concern regarding your child or the class should be directed to the teacher. You may make an after school appointment to meet with the teacher or talk with her by phone.

If a mutual resolution is not achieved, or if you are unable to speak directly to the teacher, then bring your concern to the Executive Director, Kelly Kirk.

We ask that complaints not be discussed among parents or in front of students.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or policy concerns you would like the Board to consider, please put these in writing addressed to the Board of Trustees. They will be discussed at the earliest appropriate Board meeting.

Friends, we are partners together with you. We value your input and are thankful to have you with us. May Deerstream be a rewarding experience for children, parents, and teachers, all!

Deerstream Learning Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national or ethnic origin.



Appendix: Origins Statement

“We had the sky, up there, all speckled with stars, and we used to lay on our backs and look up at them, and discuss about whether they was made, or only just happened—Jim he allowed they was made, but I allowed they just happened; I judged it would have took too long to *make* so many. Jim said the moon could a *layed* them; well, that looked kind of reasonable, so I didn’t say nothing against it, because I’ve seen a frog lay most as many, so of course it could be done.”—Huck Finn in Twain’s Huckleberry Finn

DEERSTREAM STATEMENT on ORIGINS

Parents sometimes ask about Deerstream’s position on the teaching about the origins of life and matter. In responding to what can be a controversial and divisive issue among believers, the board is guided by the following adage: *In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, freedom; and in everything charity.*

What is important?

God created the heavens and the earth (that is, the whole universe) and He created mankind in His image, which distinguishes mankind from the animals since man alone has an eternal spirit and is called into relationship with God. God saw all that He had made and it was very good. These are the essential truths from the first chapter of Genesis upon which Christians agree. On the other hand, Christians hold different views on how God created and how long it took. We believe that salvation depends upon a person’s relationship with God through repentance from sin and the atonement of Christ’s blood and not one’s interpretation of the creation account, and it is not the policy of Deerstream to challenge anyone’s beliefs with regard to their interpretation of the creation account.

Science and Christianity:

As is stated in Romans 1:20, the creation clearly reflects the attributes of its Creator, His eternal power and divine nature. The tools of science can be used to better our understanding of the working and design of God’s creation and lead to valuable insights into the nature of God and Scripture. Furthermore, scientific methods and conclusions can be an important part of a Christian apologetic. We echo the observation of Thomas Aquinas that all truth is God’s truth. While affirming the integrity and values of the scientific method, we recognize that it is an imperfect process and that science, in and of itself, is inadequate as a means of proving articles of faith.

If you have questions or desire clarification, contact Kelly Kirk.

Deerstream welcomes students of any ethnic, racial, and national heritage.