



Dear Future Leadership Team,

Thanks so much for your interest in forming a Catholic Schoolhouse Chapter! The following pages will introduce you to how to begin a Catholic Schoolhouse chapter. Please read them over, then let us know if you have any questions. The decision to start a chapter and join with your leadership team is a big one, but also one that will bless your family and community in big way.

As with any important decision, set aside time for prayer, and remember, "Thy will be done..." Be assured of our prayers for you as you go through the decision making process.

Blessings,

The Catholic Schoolhouse New Chapter Support Team

Mission

Empowering families to share Catholic Culture. At Catholic Schoolhouse we bring families together, allowing them to share and experience immersion in a loving Catholic Community--a community that strives to grow in virtue and holiness. Together we encounter the true, good, and beautiful while forming tomorrow's Catholic adults to be light in the world.

Values

At Catholic Schoolhouse, we respect the dignity of every person, child and adult--this respect embodies kindness, acceptance, forgiveness, and listening. Utilizing the individual God given gifts of each member, we empower leaders to match those gifts of others in order to overcome divisiveness with love, understanding, acknowledgement of other ways, all as we strive to become the best versions of ourselves.

Philosophy

Our goal is to give students a classroom experience and provide opportunities that require a group setting, not replace the parent-teacher. Our time at Catholic Schoolhouse will focus on developing skills and experiences that are better in a group. Students will sing in chorus, give presentations in front of their class, learn to raise their hands to speak, and experience positive peer-pressure. Hands-on projects in art and science take one more job off a busy home-schooling mom's shoulders. CSH can offer structure if needed, but will never replace or mandate what the parent-teacher has chosen to teach at home. CSH flexibility allows it to be used as a back-bone for curriculum development in a classical or Charlotte Mason style or as an add-on to another packaged curriculum.

We believe a serious approach to academics helps raise the bar for our homeschool families. Families like how the Tour Guide helps prevent holes in their education while reinforcing what they are doing at home. They also like that their children are learning appropriate classroom etiquette. Our classroom virtues (rules) that we post include: self-control, courtesy, responsibility, generosity and respect. Class leaders are trained to encourage a positive attitude in the classroom where everyone feels accepted and loved.

The Steps toward forming your chapter:

1. Inquiry and Discernment
2. Gathering and Commitment
3. Team Training and Launch

Inquiry and Discernment

Sign Up for the live webinar session

Is Starting a Catholic Schoolhouse Chapter Right for me? ~where you'll hear from our co-founder Kathy Rabideau. Each month, the CSH New Chapter Support Team hosts a free information, live webinar. You will learn how a Catholic Schoolhouse Chapter can create a community that will bless your family. Contact newchapters@catholicschoolhouse.com to sign up. There is no obligation to attend this free live webinar session. You will learn about CSH, and discern if God is calling you to start a local Catholic Schoolhouse Chapter community.

Discern if God is calling you to continue to step 2.

Once you have prayfully discerned to continue with starting a chapter, you'll be assigned a CSH Guide. Your Guide will walk with you through all of step 2, forming a personal connection as you learn to grow your new chapter community.

Gathering and Commitment

Gather Your Group

Whether you have an existing co-op that is simply transitioning to the Catholic Schoolhouse format or are starting a new one, holding an **informational meeting** is the next step. Choose a date, review the materials and philosophy, and publicize your event! Your CSH Guide will share resources with you to help you know what to say and how to successfully share CSH with families in your area. You'll be working together to form your new chapter community of 6 or more families.

Planning the Information Night

Catholic Schoolhouse (CSH) makes it easy to plan an information night with ideas for locations, how to publicize and what to expect.

Information Night – What to Say & Do?

Your CSH guide will offer detailed ideas and instructions so you won't have to worry about leaving something important out! We'll tell you what to bring, how to introduce the classical method, how to explain Catholic Schoolhouse and more. A great way to get people interested is to bring brochures (available by request at no extra charge), a Tour Guide, History Cards, and play the Memory Work CD. Showing the Art and Science Lesson plans will get people excited.

Preview the Program and Products

Program: Catholic Schoolhouse is a comprehensive three-year cycle. In each of the three years, your group will meet for a total of **four 6-week quarters** to cover the memory work found in the Tour Guide. During a three-hour session class leaders will introduce the students to the memory work through a variety of activities. Students will move to a different class for integrated science and art projects (30 for minutes each class, detailed lesson plans

provided).

Materials: The Catholic Schoolhouse materials can be found at Catholicschoolhouse.com/shop.

Tour Guide - includes **quarterly overviews** of the material covered as well as full color weekly sheets with all of the key information to be memorized available at a glance.

History Cards - includes a complete set of 120 4.25 " X 5.5" full-color cards. There is one card for each item in the CSH timeline with a full color picture on the front side and a description back.

Memory Work CD or App- All the memory work in the Tour Guide set to fun tunes your kids will enjoy singing.

Coordinator Team Selection

As you share CSH information with local families your CSH guide will explain and help you set up the details for your leadership team that includes a Team Director, and a team of coordinators. Using our **flexible team approach** to leadership the coordinators offer their talents in roles of administration, programs, community, facility and supplies.

Consider the gifts and talents of those joining your new community of a Catholic Schoolhouse Chapter. Your members will love the opportunity to utilize their gifts within their new community while gaining leadership skills and new friendships. Your team of coordinators will work together to run your chapter community. They will use the Coordinator Team Handbook and CSH mentors to access training and documents to learn their tasks while having a support system from our regional team of experienced team directors.

Team Training and Launch

You have gathered the beginning of your community with the minimum of 6 families, you are now ready to register your chapter and begin member registration with the families in your new chapter. As your team continues to share CSH in your community, more families will join you for launch this fall.

Complete the Chapter Registration form

You will complete a chapter registration form joining our family of CSH non-profit chapters. Upon completion of the chapter registration form, you will receive a chapter email address, member registration access and the CSH Coordinator Team Handbook.

Member Registration

Your new chapter community of families will complete the CSH member registration form. As a member of CSH chapter each family is added to our national online community called basecamp. In basecamp there are numerous resources, and opportunities that every member can use as he/she chooses. Examples include, copy work pages for memory work, video hand motions, member sharing pages, and so much more. You will also have a private basecamp page for your chapter community allowing you to share and communicate easily in one location.

Training

Team Director, coordinators, and class leaders have required training. CSH continues to walk with you as you form your new chapter community. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, we teach you what we have learned works well with a set of best practices. You just implement from our simple training videos and get started on your first chapter day. There is a small bit of work involved to set up your chapter for the first day but once you've done the work the weekly chapter days run smoothly.

Find a Facility

Your effort to locate a facility can begin during any step of the process to start a chapter. But if you have not yet located a facility now is the time to do it. We've helped many people find a suitable site. CSH Coordinator Team Handbook offers additional documents to help you, as well as a regional team of experienced team directors.

Here are a few ideas:

- Catholic Church
- Community Center
- Library Meeting Rooms
- Technical College
- Other Christian Church

Class Leader Selection

A great benefit of Catholic Schoolhouse is that class leaders are trained and supported through our national support system. Training and support results in very dedicated group of class leaders. The class leaders can be parents in your program, young mothers who don't yet have school-aged kids, or even grandparents or retired members of your Catholic community. We will give the Program Coordinator in your chapter helpful guidelines of what to look for when selecting class leaders.

We'll also guide the Program Coordinator in the number of class leaders needed, how to train them, and how to make them feel appreciated.

Consider the Classes—The following is an overview of the classes

We offer classes for all of the children in your family. There are no specific age breaks for each class, as these are unique to each program but we offer guidelines based on our experience and best practices in our chapters. Expect to have multi-aged classrooms that are divided according to your students' abilities and the number of kids in your program. Typically, there are 8-12 students per class. Classes may include, nursery/pre-grammar, grammar, dialectic and rhetoric for ages baby through grade 12.

Nursery

Our experience has shown a nursery is an essential part of the program. We have some great ideas for planning a successful nursery and reassuring parents. These ideas and tips are available to every registered team director and shared with the Program Coordinator.

Pre-Grammar

Keeping with our primary goal of family unity, pre-grammar is a bridge between Nursery and Grammar class for young children. They experience a virtue based class with adapted art, science and memory work. They complete their morning with presentation, story time, group activities and a closing section helping them form good habits of cleaning and packing up.

Elementary Years

Catholic Schoolhouse is a memory-based program during the grammar stage. At this age children readily memorize facts. Mastery of the memory work will give the students hooks on which to hang future knowledge. CSH memory work is not intended to bring stress, but rather inspiration, accountability and encouragement. Scholars attend a 30 min art and a 30 min science, and have the opportunity to give presentations to their peers twice a quarter.

Middle and High School

Catholic Schoolhouse is a program for the whole family. Following Dorothy Sayers' classical stages of learning, older students move away from memory work and toward the dialectic stage. Our upper level program which includes grades 7-12 is available only to chapters at this time.

Dialectic scholars Grades 7-9

- Communications -Latin, Composition and Speech
- Fine Arts - Music Appreciation and Featured Artists
- Science Lab - General and Physical Science
- Seminar - Literature, History timeline, Catholic Culture (Catholic culture includes-virtue discussions, logic and philosophy discussions, world geography with map making and group interaction with discovery days)

Rhetoric scholars grades 10-12

- Communications -Latin, Composition and Speech
- Fine arts - Music Appreciation and Featured Artists
- Rigor Course - US Government (Tour I), Logic (Tour II), Economics (Tour III)
- Seminar - Literature and Catholic Culture (Catholic culture includes -weekly Socratic discussion and Church Document Discussion)

What a Typical Day Looks Like — Elementary

8:40 – 9:00 Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance, Chorus

9:00 - 9:30 Academics (Class leader will lead the students through the memory work)

9:30 - 10:00 Art (art leader leads students in art history and hands on projects)

10:00 – 10:30 Academics (snack & presentations with class leader)

10:30 – 11:00 Hands-on Science (Science leader guides students in science experiment.)

11:00 - 11:55 Academics (class leader continues memory work, review)

11:55 – 12:00 Closing Prayer, Angelus, announcements

Optional gathering for lunch and playtime after class gives moms a chance to chat and social time for kids.

Our pre-grammar and upper level classes have a similar schedule, with their specific class leaders and class schedules.

What do I do Now?

We invite you to join Catholic Schoolhouse chapters throughout the US. By joining our Catholic Schoolhouse community you will eliminate the need to reinvent the wheel while having the flexibility to meet your local needs.

Contact chapters@catholicschoolhouse.com.

Let us know that you would like to get started on your journey!

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