

AGAPE at Tower Hill 2023-2024 Guidelines

Welcome Parent Educators,

AGAPE at Tower Hill welcomes you and your family to another year with our organization! We are a ministry of Tower Hill Church and have grown from three families during the summer of 1998 to over 40 families! The principles and goals that guide our co-op have not changed in the twenty-five years that we have been in existence, one of the most important being an acknowledgment that our children are a gift from God. As such, we are accountable to Him in their upbringing. We feel privileged to be able to follow God's leading in Deuteronomy 6:5-7 by home educating our children. We acknowledge that God is the author of our life stories, and seek to honor Him in all that we do, especially in the training of our children to be ready to accomplish all that God has planned for their lives. They have an eternity to live, and the need to complete their math homework pales in comparison to the responsibility we have to surround them with that which is noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8), and to encourage the development of their faith, after which is added virtue, and then knowledge (2 Peter 1:5).

As a ministry of Tower Hill Church, *part of the church's mission statement includes training people to go out and impact the world for Christ.* Thanks to each parent and helper that participates and assists in tutoring, monitoring, and cleaning, Agape is successful in helping fulfill that portion of the church's mission statement. In addition, the co-op's ministry vision is to come alongside homeschool families to provide support in spiritual and educational areas through fellowship, prayer, and classroom experiences.

Our ministry is directly accountable to the Pastor and Board of Elders. We have an advisory board made up of a group of ladies who establish guidelines for day-to-day operations and who are responsible for implementing the policies that are set forth below. We have developed practical guidelines to help keep our activities and meetings running smoothly. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with this information. If you have any questions or concerns related to any of the guidelines, please contact Michelle Cavanaugh, Lynn Middleton, Nicole Henry, Kristen Weddle or Charlene Hoell.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cavanaugh (5bagshotrow@gmail.com) Lynn Middleton (lynnmiddleton@metrocast.net)

Nicole Henry (1jnhenry@comcast.net) Kristen Weddle (shinybluecrayons@gmail.com)

Charlene Hoell (charhoell@gmail.com)

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

We urge you to join HSLDA, to not only protect your right to freely home school in the manner in which you believe you should, but your membership dues also help protect millions of home schoolers across the US and abroad.

HSLDA protects home schoolers from inappropriate or unlawful interference by government officials and provides the following:

- employs a team of attorneys and home schoolers
- provides a myriad of resources including: teaching aids, curriculums, online courses, advice concerning your state's laws, links to helpful resources, as well as alerts concerning any issues arising in your state that may affect your family's ability to freely home school your children.
- provides legal representation for any reason related to home education, all the way to the Supreme Court without any extra fees.
- Costs \$110 per year with our group discount- **Group Discount #299618**

Parental Involvement Requirement

❖ Mandatory Meeting:

Required: A parent of all attending students **AND** teens turning 13 years or older during the calendar year must attend

Consequence if missed: Delayed admission until \$75 fee paid and material reviewed with a member of Advisory Committee

❖ Clean-Up/Hall Monitoring

Required: Option 1: serve 1 day per semester; sign up for your dates by **September 26th**
Option 2: pay \$75 per semester for payment of a replacement
Payment plan possible if you contact Nicole **prior** to due date
First semester due **September 26th**
Second semester due by **February 6th**

Details for serving: Sign up for your dates by **September 26th**.
Receive reminder text on Monday of week serving
Arrive by 8:00
Consider having someone else watch toddlers or babies for you
Follow hall monitor guidelines and remain on duty **until 2:30**

Illness/ emergencies: Contact Nicole Henry 603-370-1965 as soon as an issue arises
You may reschedule twice
Third cancellation requires paying the fee within 2 weeks to continue

Consequences: Failure to meet deadlines or make arrangements with Nicole prior to deadlines results in removal from classes until dates are selected or fees paid.

❖ **General Rules of Conduct**

Goal: Raise Godly men and women through establishing and enforcing basic guidelines

Expectations: All in attendance will abide by established standards of dress, language, and behavior and clean up after themselves when they finish using an area.

Consequences: Repeated disregard could result in suspension or expulsion

❖ **Electronic Devices**

Music- not allowed

Headphones- allowed only for school work

Gym - cell phones, computers, Ipads, & Ipods are allowed if screens are visible.

Study rooms – Computers are allowed for school purposes only

Screens must face the door and be visible to others at all times.

No cell phones in the study rooms.

Classrooms - at Tutor's discretion

Cameras are NOT allowed. The **only** exception is yearbook staff/students. **Do NOT take pictures. This is for security/privacy reasons.**

❖ **Online Activities:** It is the parent's responsibility to monitor their child's online presence. Agape has one Facebook group that is monitored by a board member. All other social media groups are not monitored or approved by Agape.

❖ **Dress Code**

Applies to **all students, parents, tutors, and visitors and at any co-op sponsored event.**

Acceptable: Shorts that are no more than 2 inches above the knee
Skirts/dresses: reach the knee or have leggings underneath
Leggings: with long top that fully covers bottom
Tops: with inch wide straps or sleeves, fully cover midriff
Ripped jeans allowed as long as no skin is exposed above the knee

Unacceptable: Items which are:
Too tight or too short

Too low or revealing
Show boxers or underwear
Spaghetti straps and strapless tops
Tops that have graphics or saying which go against the mission of the co-op
Cropped tops

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure proper dress.

Consequence: Anyone who comes dressed inappropriately will be asked to change and/or sent home to do so.

❖ **Bullying**

Bullying or behaviors that may be perceived as bullying will not be tolerated and will result in suspension. This includes words spoken, cyber bullying, gestures made, and actions. All attendees, students and parents will be held to a high standard in this regard. Bullying will not be tolerated in any form.

❖ **Language (Oral and Body)**

Scripture (Ephesians 4:29) states that our language needs to be uplifting. Parents need to ensure their own language is appropriate and set an example. As a co-op, using appropriate language also means abstaining from gossip in any form. This includes both students and parents. As the body of Christ, we need to make sure that our words are bringing life, not death (Proverbs 18:21). Proverbs 16:24 “Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.”

Refrain from verbal language or gestures that could be considered crude or a swear in today's society.

Consequence: 1. Memorize Ephesians 4:29 and one other of your choosing that deals with the tongue and speech.
2. Quote the Scripture to an Advisory Board member and explain the value of that Scripture before you are able to attend classes again.
3. May be sent home and/or suspended for 2 subsequent class days.

❖ **Public Displays of Affection**

It is inappropriate in the co-op setting to have public displays of affection between members of the same gender or opposite gender on the church premises (inside and outside) as well as the store, as we are a testimony to those around us.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Holding hands
- Sitting on laps or the same chair
- Kissing
- Arms around each other

You will be sent home immediately and action could result in suspension.

❖ **Property Damage**

Accidental: Assessed fee for repair/replacement at a minimum of \$25

Deliberate act of vandalism: Assessed fee for repair/replacement at \$25 minimum.

Serve minimum of four hours community service at the church

❖ **Drop-Off/Dismissal**

1. All cars **must be** in the front lot
2. Students 13 and older
 - a. May arrive/be dropped off up to 15 minutes before their first class
 - b. Do not need an adult on-site for supervision
 - c. Should leave promptly after their last class
3. Students 12 and under
 - a. Require a parent or adult member of Agape on site at all times
 - b. If parent leaves, assign a “designated Agape adult” to be responsible for the child and make notation on clipboard by front door

❖ **Class time**

Parent Responsibilities: Sickness (These policies may change as information is made available.)

1. Must check their child for symptoms and fever prior to leaving the house.
2. Must keep students home if they are sick or running a fever.
3. Please stay home if you have a flu, vomiting, covid 19 or any other known viral contagion.

Parent Responsibilities Continued:

1. Are responsible for their children’s education. We, as tutors, are here to assist you in your homeschool program.
2. Oversee that homework is being completed
3. Sign up to watch the tutor's small child if needed during class time.
4. Get students to class punctually
5. Communicate with tutor if child will be absent from class
6. Notify tutor and Kristen Weddle if student is dropping a class

Student Responsibilities:

1. Arrive at class on time and with needed materials
2. Behave respectfully towards all in class
3. Complete assigned work
4. Abide by tutor’s rules regarding use of electronics in the classroom

Tutor Rights:

1. Establish prerequisites for classes and hold students accountable
2. May deny entrance to class if student is too late
3. May remove students from class for consistently being disruptive or failing to complete required work

-Students under 13 years of age will be dismissed to the parent or Designated Adult.

-If over 13, the child will call his/her parent to be taken home.

There will be a follow-up meeting with the parent and the tutor, which may also include the student. After the follow-up meeting, if satisfactory resolution has not been reached, a tutor may refuse to accept a particular child back into the class, depending upon the circumstances. If a tutor has made the decision to permanently suspend a child from a class, the decision is final and not subject to review or appeal.

❖ **Non-Class Time**

Prohibited areas: balcony, sides of building, woods, church office wing, non-coned in area of parking lot, or loitering in hallways and stairwells

Kitchen: off limits except for classes and pre-approved fundraising events

Study Rooms

1. For **quiet** study only
2. Computer screens must face door
3. No other electronics allowed
4. Water is allowed, nothing else

Gym

1. Food and beverages allowed
2. Card and board games allowed at tables
3. School work can be done
4. Computers allowed for schoolwork
5. Headphones allowed for schoolwork
6. Family friendly video games only
7. No photos allowed
8. Clean up after yourselves
9. Teens have designated table with card games to hang out at if they choose
10. Students are expected to be respectful of the hall monitors and others around them
11. Designated play area is at back of gym
 - a. No balls allowed
 - b. No running outside of this area
 - c. Chairs are for sitting in, not riding

Outdoor Play

1. Children playing outdoors **may only play in the two coned-in areas** of the parking lot
2. Stay out of the woods
3. Do not play with the stakes or stones in the parking lot.
4. On a trial basis, in the far back coned off area of the front parking lot, small wheeled toys will be allowed. These include skateboards, scooters, toy trucks, wagons, etc. **NO BIKES** Students using skateboards or scooters **MUST** wear a helmet.
5. Students will also be allowed to use the Gaga ball pit on the back hill of the church. Students younger than 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
6. **Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult in these play areas.** Parents must be with their children if there is no hall monitor present. Monitors will be outside during September, October, April and May weather permitting between 9:00-12:00.
7. Students will be respectful of the hall monitors and any other adults outside.
8. **No teens should remain in cars together or alone.**
 - First offense, the parent will be called and the child will be asked to leave the premises immediately. For the next two class days, the parents will have to drop their teen off and pick him/her up.
 - The second offense, the student and parents will meet with the Advisory Board and/or the elder or pastor.

❖ Nursery: Room 142/144

1. Parents are welcome to use room 142/144 with their children as long as they are present. Under no circumstances should a parent leave their children, sleeping or awake, in the nursery without direct supervision.
2. Please observe all posted nursery rules.
3. All toys need to be picked up each time you leave the nursery. Even if you are just going to have a snack in the gym, please pick up the toys first.
4. **NO eating** is allowed in the nursery. Please use the gym for feeding your child(ren).
5. Please refrain from taking apart the rubber mats.
6. If you remove an outlet cover to charge a phone or laptop, please replace it when finished.
7. Please do not let your child run back and forth from the nursery to the gym. We do not want any collisions with another child or adult

Graduation Night

Graduation for seniors will be held on **May 18, 2024 at 11am.**

Seniors and a parent are required to attend a graduation informational meeting on: **September ??, 2023 at 1:30pm.**

- In order for a student to participate in graduation, the student must participate in at least one (1) class during the current school year. Any class that meets for four consecutive weeks will fulfill this requirement.

- If a student has not taken a class, participation in three (3) activities will also meet this requirement. Activities that will satisfy this requirement include: the science/art fair, talent show, musical concert or Agape field trips (each event would count as one activity).
- **JUNIOR FAMILIES PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** Juniors and at least one parent are responsible for set-up/clean-up relating to graduation as designated by the graduation coordinator. **Please set aside May 18, 2024 from 10am-1pm for this purpose. You will be contacted with details closer to that date.**

Inclement Weather

If we need to close due to bad weather, a decision will be made by 6 am. It will be posted on WMUR and our Facebook page. A text and newsletter will also be sent.

Website

Check out the website at www.agapeth.church **Please be sure to sign up for our newsletter.** All news and announcements are distributed through the newsletter.

Some of the features include:

- Sign up for text messages if desired
- Calendar with all events
- Class descriptions and schedule
- Links for HSLDA, education sites, state laws, etc.
- And much more!

Visitors

All visitors should be pre-approved prior to coming, should have a liability release form filled out, and should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please stop by the work room so that the board can say hi and keep updated on who is in the building.

Any visiting students and alumni must abide by co-op rules as if they were still students while visiting the co-op. Failure to do so will cause their visitation rights to be limited and require board approval.

Permission to Leave the Building and Release Forms

Without express or written parental permission, no student will be allowed to leave the building for any reason (including trips to Myles Travel Plaza or Dunkin Donuts) without either a parent's verbal permission (if the parent is present), or a written permission slip if the parent is not present. No permission slip is required if the parent is present. If you need a permission slip, one is attached for your convenience. Please emphasize to your child (ren) that they should not leave the building if we do not have a permission slip on file. If you should decide not to grant your child permission to leave the building or premises, you agree to take responsibility for your child's decision to leave without permission and any consequences associated with that decision.

Should you decide to grant your child permission to leave the building at his/her discretion, you are responsible for providing the guidelines that govern that permission. Tower Hill Church is not

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responsible for providing safety guidelines to your child (ren) or for the monitoring of the guidelines that you give to your child (ren) concerning them leaving the building.

In order to be present at Agape or participate in any of our sponsored activities, all parents and legal guardians must sign the attached Liability and Medical forms each year for anyone under the age 18. Tower Hill Church is not responsible for the safety of your child. We provide these guidelines to assist you as the parent.