



HANDBOOK

HCHC CO-OP

Homeschool Co-op & Umbrella Group | EST 2013

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Head of School



JOHN REMONDINI
Chairman



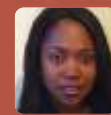
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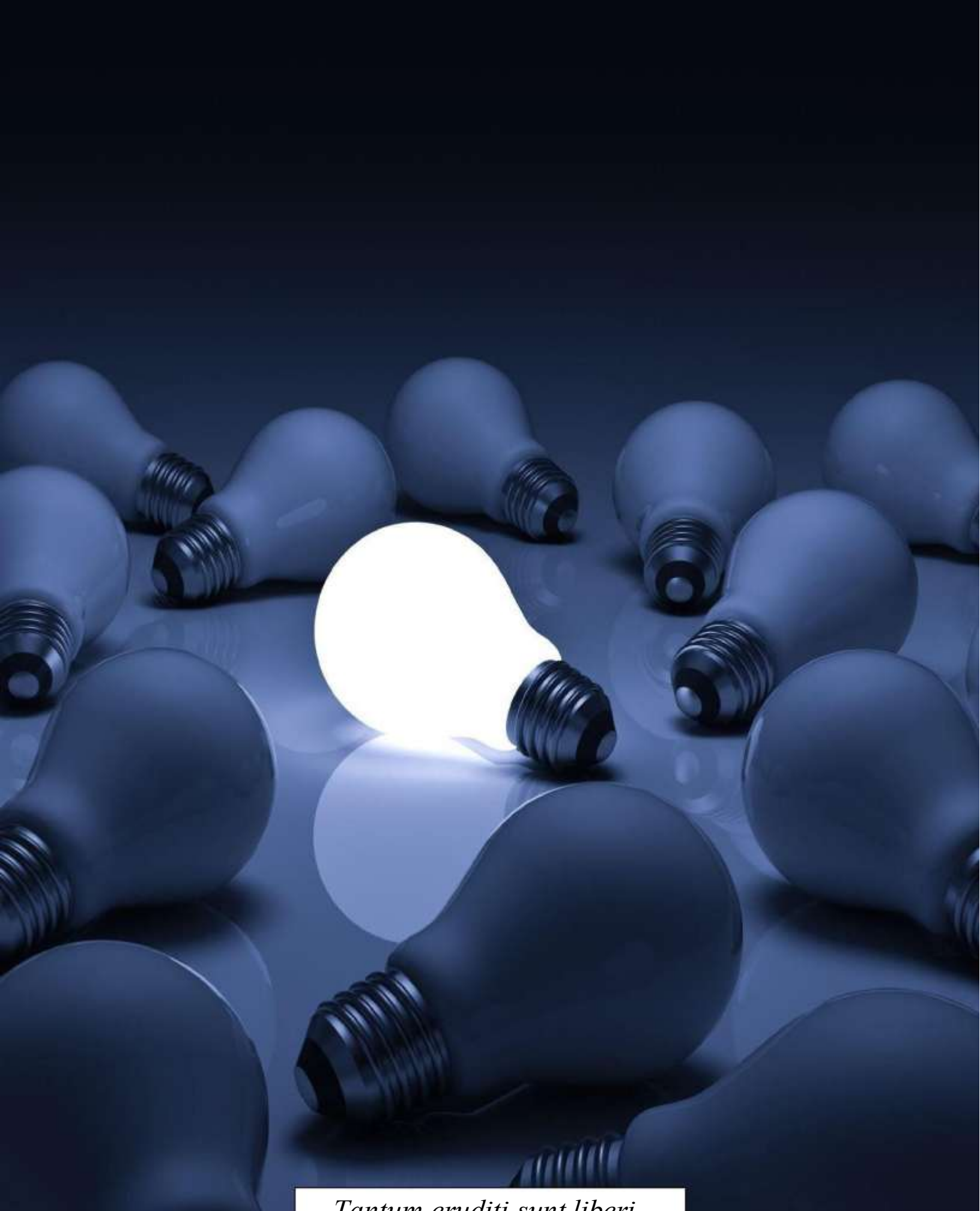
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Tantum eruditi sunt liberi.



School Picture Day
Spring 2020



FROM THE DESK OF RAYNA REMONDINI
RTR
- HEAD OF SCHOOL -

Welcome to HCHC.

It's both a joy and a privilege to welcome you to another school year. Whether you're just beginning your homeschool journey or continuing down a path your family has been walking for years, please know that you're entering a community built on courage, connection, and the belief that learning should be meaningful, personal, and fun.

Over the years, HCHC has had the honor of walking alongside many families, each with their own story, their own needs, and their own reasons for choosing to homeschool. Some came looking for peace. Some were searching for flexibility, support, friendship, or a place where their child could be seen and heard. No two homeschool journeys look exactly alike, and that's what has made this community so special.

HCHC's longevity didn't happen by chance. It's been built over time by families who believed in this vision, by students who brought curiosity and heart into our classrooms, and by parents who were willing to choose a path that was thoughtful, intentional, and at times, unconventional. Through changing seasons and growing families, HCHC has remained a steady place where homeschoolers can gather, learn, and belong.

Since 2013, hundreds of families have come through our doors, and each one has added something meaningful to the story of this community. Every family has been on its own unique journey, yet together they've helped shape a school culture of encouragement, resilience, creativity, and mutual respect. What began as a small vision has become part of so many homeschool stories, and that's something we don't take lightly.



Rayna Remondini is an American educator and founder of the non-profit organization Howard County Home-Educators Corp., and its accredited Umbrella Group and Leadership Academy headquartered in Columbia, MD. She's a mom of 3, and bonus mom to 3 adult daughters.

To our students, I want you to know that you matter here. Your voice matters. Your ideas matter. Your growth matters. This is a place where you're encouraged to move freely, ask questions, build confidence, try new things, and become more fully yourself.

To our parents, thank you. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for the love and sacrifice you pour into your children every day. Homeschooling asks a great deal of families. It calls for intention, perseverance, and faith. It's not always the easiest road, but it's often one of the most meaningful. We see your effort, and we honor it.

As we begin this year together, my hope is that HCHC won't simply be a place your family attends. I hope it will be a place where you feel supported, inspired, and reminded that you're not walking this journey alone.

Welcome to HCHC. We're so glad you're here.



SCHOOL POLICY

Parents are expected to read our school policies.

01 ATTENDANCE POLICY

Co-op is a year-long commitment and attendance matters. While we do not enforce or penalize student tardiness and excessive absenteeism, we do ask that families arrive on time and give written and/or verbal notice when there is an expected or unexpected absence. Tuition is not refunded, pro-rated, nor reimbursed for tardiness or absences.

04 CELL PHONE POLICY

We understand parents' desire to stay in touch with their children. And while we permit students to bring cell phones on campus, the device must be housed in the student's backpack. Cell phones must not be present or out in the open during class, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Students are permitted to make use of their phones only during lunch and recess. However, we ask that students refrain from using apps like Tik Tok and YouTube. Other electronic gadgets such as personal laptops and tablets are welcome in the classroom when used for learning purposes.

“Students learn that hard work, focus, and deep practice are required to master subjects.”



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

COMMITMENT – Parents are expected to volunteer at Co-op a minimum of 2x times during the fall semester, 1x time during the winter term, and 1x time during the spring term.

VOLUNTEERISM – Parents play an important, key role in keeping student tuition costs low and affordable. Your volunteerism helps to offset overhead costs for facilities, materials, instructors, and insurance.

VOLUNTEER DUTIES:

- Parent Teacher Assistant
- Lunch and Recess Supervision
- Lunchroom and Restroom Clean Up
- Campus Wide Trash Collection

ACTIVE MEMBER –

Play an active and supportive role in your child's co-op experience by staying engaged beyond the classroom. HCHC is not intended to function only as a drop off program. HCHC is a community where families grow together through shared responsibility and a homeschool connection. When parents engage and build relationships with other parents, put in their volunteer hours, attend field trips, and join in on social events, it strengthens the overall experience for everyone and makes the co-op more meaningful, supportive, and enriching for the entire family.

Unable to Volunteer?

Pay the \$97 Opt-Out Fee (per family)



SCHOOL POLICY

Parents are expected to read our school policies.

07 DISCIPLINE POLICY

Families should understand that student behavior is taken seriously, and consequences vary based on the nature and severity of the offense.

Physical Confrontation/Physical Aggression: may or may not result in injury. Altercation involves the use of force or violence including (but not limited to) kicking, punching, scratching, spitting, biting, slapping, pushing, or pulling of hair.

Bullying and harassment are handled through a clear disciplinary process. A first offense may result in a meeting with administration and parents, a second offense may lead to a two-to-four-week suspension, and continued behavior may result in expulsion from the program.

09 WITHDRAWAL & TERMINATION

Enrollment at HCHC is a commitment for the full academic year. This commitment helps provide consistency, stability, and a dependable learning environment for students, teachers, and the broader co-op community. Because staffing, class placement, budgeting, and program planning are all based on annual enrollment, families are expected to honor that commitment once it's made.





CO-OP DAY SCHOOL

Nine out of ten instructors at HCHC are state certified and teach using state approved secular curriculum. They guide instruction, review course material, and support parents by assigning weekly lessons for students to practice at home.

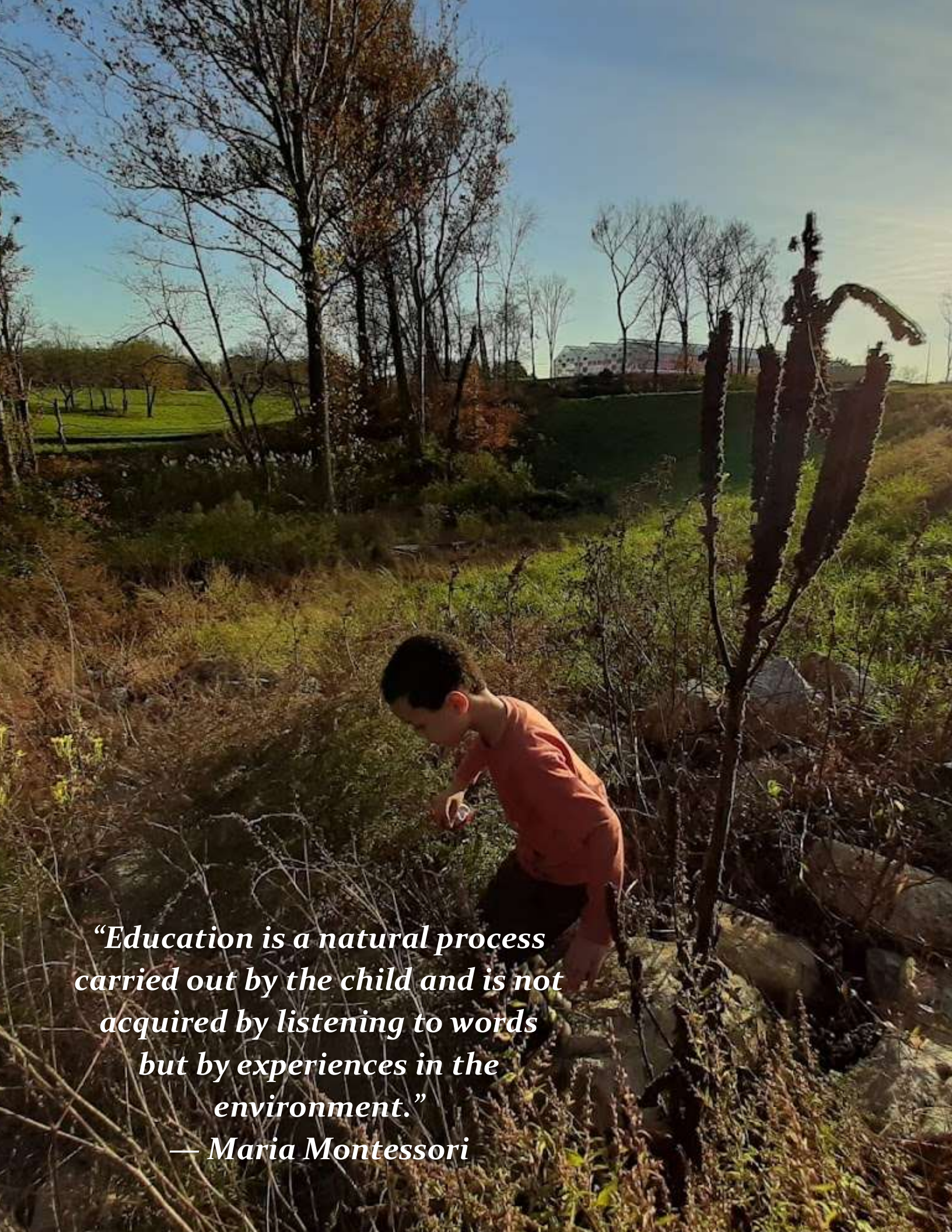
Students spend the day in Montessori style, mixed age classes that foster a strong sense of community. In this setting, younger students often gain confidence and security from learning alongside older peers, while older students build leadership, patience, and a sense of accomplishment by helping to guide and mentor those around them.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

- 9:50 am** – Drop-Off
- 10:00 am** – Morning Activity
- 11:00 am** – Morning Study
- 12:00 pm** – Lunch Break
- 12:30 pm** – Recess
- 1:00 pm** – Afternoon Study
- 2:00 pm** – Pick-Up

PU after 2:15pm incurs a \$35 Late Fee

Enrichment courses offered by the Cooperative are considered as supplemental education by the State of Maryland. Parents are fully responsible for providing “...regular and thorough instruction...” as mandated by **COMAR 13.20.01**.



*“Education is a natural process
carried out by the child and is not
acquired by listening to words
but by experiences in the
environment.”*

— Maria Montessori



GROUP FIELD TRIPS

We host regular social events and field trips throughout the school year to help families build meaningful connections beyond the classroom.

Parents are encouraged to stay informed by signing up for our [Meetup](#) group, checking the [school calendar](#) on our website, and reviewing posted signage at the co-op so they don't miss upcoming activities and special events.

Families can also find updates, invitations, and registration details through [Eventbrite](#) listings, [Facebook](#) page, and [X](#) account.

Social Events:

- Picture Day
- Holiday Parties
- Scavenger Hunts

Field Trips:

- Local Farms
- Medieval Times
- Baltimore Aquarium

Competitions:

- Speech & Debate
- Scripps Spelling Bee
- Odyssey of the Mind



“SPEAK TO YOUR CHILDREN AS IF THEY ARE THE WISEST, KINDEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MAGICAL HUMANS ON EARTH. FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS WHAT THEY WILL BECOME.”



BULLYING POLICY

We Value Community that Cooperates

The Anti-Bully Policy exists to deter and stamp out any hostile behavior(s) that would threaten to disrupt our harmonious learning environment and impede upon the healthy development of students.

SUSPENSION – If found culpable of bullying, a parent meeting will result for the first infraction, with a two-to-four weeks suspension for a second infraction.

EXPULSION - If found culpable of bullying for a 3rd time, students face expulsion from the program.

PLEDGE – [View](#) the Student Pledge.

All students are enrolled on a provisional basis for sixty calendar days to ensure that our program is the right fit. Students must demonstrate personal, social and intellectual character traits that will help them excel in our program.

Bullying defined as:

CYBER - Hurtful messages sent via digital devices
VERBAL - Name-calling, teasing, taunting, slurs
PHYSICAL – Kicking, punching, biting, spitting
RELATIONAL – Excluding, rumor-spreading

Student Bill of Rights

Each student has a right to:


1. Be treated with respect
2. Learn in a safe & friendly environment
3. Receive help & support from caring adults



TUITION OPTIONS

CO-OP – An in-person, drop-off where parents are required to volunteer 2 days each semester.

HYBRID – A combined experience where students meet in person (2x) and online (2x) a month.

 CO-OP PROGRAM	 TUITION	 DEPOSIT	 9 PAYMENTS (MONTHLY)
1 Day/Week Incl. 3 classes a day + Lunch/Recess and access to social events	\$3,108	\$310.00	\$310/month
Half Day Program (2 Days/Week) Incl. 2 classes a day + Lunch/Recess and access to social events	\$4,144	\$460.00	\$460/month
 Full Program (2 Days/Week) <i>Best Value – Save \$600/year</i> Incl. 3 classes a day + Lunch/Recess and access to social events	\$5,595	\$559.00	\$559/month
 HYBRID ENRICHMENT PROGRAM A flexible hybrid program designed for homeschool families who want consistent enrichment, social connection, and guided learning without the full co-op commitment.	 TUITION	 DEPOSIT	 9 PAYMENTS (MONTHLY)
1 Day/Week Incl. 1 class each week + field trips and Umbrella Membership	\$1,175	\$117.00	\$117/month
 SOCIAL CONNECTION Build friendships and community	 ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT Engaging classes and activities	 FLEXIBLE OPTIONS Choose what works for your family	 UMBRELLA MEMBERSHIP Added support and resources

REFUND POLICY

Partial Refunds – Up until the third week of classes, partial refunds can be processed. SEE: [Request Form](#)

Suspension/Expulsion – Students absent due to behavior issues are not entitled to refunds (partial or otherwise) nor pro-rated tuition.

Missed Classes – No reimbursement, refunds, nor pro-rations are given for missed classes. Instead, we aim to provide make-up classes for disruptions in the class schedule.

Early Withdraw – is considered a breach of contract and families will be charged a \$450.00 termination fee

Continued Payments – After your child completes the program, families on extended payment plans amortized beyond 9 months may continue making tuition payments through Partial.ly until the balance is paid in full.





HEALTH POLICY

HCHC does not require that parents submit medical or vaccination records. We have no religious nor political stance regarding face masks and coverings. Our focus is keeping our student body, staff and parents safe in our in-person, nature-based learning environment.

08 HEALTH & WELLNESS POLICY

When attending co-op, please make certain your child does not have a yellow or green mucus filled runny nose, acute cough, or high fever. Please help us lower the spread of contagious viruses, by erring on the side of caution and staying home until your child is healthier. Staff may ask sneezing and/or coughing students to wear masks indoors.



SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE

Help continue our support of homeschooling families when you [donate](#) a small amount to the organization each month. \$5, \$10, \$50 goes a long way to help a child and family in need.

 substack



Teachers Pay Teachers

 PayPal

 Donate Now



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HCHC Leadership Academy does not discriminate in admissions, the award of grants and scholarships, nor employment based on race, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, or handicapped status in violation of existing state or federal laws and/or regulations.