

Welcome to Inland Northwest Christian Homeschoolers!

Inland Northwest Christian Homeschoolers (INCH) was started in 2005 by a group of four homeschooling moms, Anna Heisey, Kristie Lawrence, Kelly Francis, and Karen Cook. They had been attending another co-op which was in the process of dividing its large membership into two smaller groups: IDVA families and traditional homeschooling families.

These four moms took a leap of faith and began planning a co-op that would offer biblically-based classes to Christian homeschoolers in the Coeur d'Alene area and throughout the Inland Northwest. They wanted families who were willing to pitch in and help in all aspects of the co-op, including mandatory teaching (which was a scary concept at first), and who were willing to not just drop off their students, but to take an active role in making INCH all it could be. Would there be enough interest to support a co-op and all the expenses it entailed? They prayed that the Lord would bring 20 like-minded families together—35 responded. By the middle of the second year it was necessary to close enrollment with 45 families because we had outgrown our facility!

Over the years, the Lord has greatly blessed INCH with wonderful, enthusiastic parents and students who all work together each trimester to offer enriching academic and elective classes, fellowship and support for homeschooling parents, and fun and friends for homeschooled children of all ages. Without God's blessing and the cooperation of everyone at INCH, we would be unable to be an encouragement and support to homeschooling families.

Statement of Faith

Holy Scriptures

We believe Scripture, in its entirety, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, written by men in God's control, inerrant and infallible, in the whole and in the part, in all areas (including creation, science, geography, chronology, history, and in all other matters in which it speaks) and is the complete and final authority for faith and life. (1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 11:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Psalms 19:7-9; Revelation 22:18-19).

Creation

We believe in the Biblical account of the creation of the universe in six literal, solar days; (Genesis 1:1-31; Exodus 20:11; John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-19; Hebrews 11:3).

The Godhead

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are identical in essence, equal in power and glory, and possess precisely the same attributes and perfection (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; Romans 5:12-24; 1 John 5:7).

The Condition of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, in innocence and without sin. Because of Adam's sin, we inherited a sinful nature, becoming spiritually dead and alienated from God, and are justly condemned to eternal damnation without defense or excuse (Genesis 1:26; 3:1-24; Romans 3:10-18; 5:12,19; Ephesians 2:1-3).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God's grace given to all who believe on the Son and we cannot earn it (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Home Education

We believe it is our responsibility to pour the foundation of God's Word into our children's daily lives from the time

they wake 'til they sleep, so that when they are grown they will go from depending upon us, their parents, to depending on God. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 22:6; 2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Membership

Membership allows your family to participate in all activities and the opportunities of co-op classes, field trips, and events that we offer. Membership is open to all homeschooling families and is established by paying a registration fee each trimester. The registration fee is non-refundable. In addition, we also offer a limited membership for those who do not wish to participate in weekly co-op classes. Limited members pay a registration fee of \$20 per family per year, which enables them to participate in field trips and events only.

Communication

Email is our primary form of communication. Through email we will make announcements about co-op classes, field trips, and events. For those members who do not have email, we offer a weekly update newsletter that will be mailed via regular mail. To receive these newsletters, you can provide us with eight, self-addressed, stamped envelopes per trimester, and \$2.00 to cover copying costs. Our email address list is to be used for co-op business and homeschool-related issues ONLY.

For snow days, we follow the Coeur d'Alene School District announcements. If their classes are cancelled, then INCH classes and activities will be cancelled as well. For snow day information, please visit our website at: www.INCHhome.com/snow_day_information.htm.

Information Table

The information table is located in the hallway as you enter the MPR. Here you will find items such as family mailboxes, nametags, and field trip and event information and sign-up sheets. We also try to have at least one person there to answer any questions you may have. It is your responsibility to check weekly for updates and news.

Co-op Class Days Schedule

9:30 to 9:55	Prayer and Announcements
10:00 to 10:55	1st Period Classes
11:00 to 11:55	2nd Period Classes
12:00 to 12:25	Lunch
12:30 to 1:25	3rd Period Classes
1:30 to 2:30	4th Period Classes

Most co-op classes at INCH run eight weeks; however, some are all year long. There are three sessions from September through May.

2007-2008 Schedule:

Fall 2007 Trimester

September 17 - Orientation

September 24 to November 12 - Co-op Classes

Holiday Break

November 13 to January 6

Winter 2008 Trimester

January 7 - Orientation
January 14 to March 10 - Co-op Classes
(No classes on January 18)

Spring 2008 Trimester
March 24 - Orientation
March 31 to May 19 - Co-op Classes

Teachers

Families who have a student in a class will pay a class fee to cover the cost of classroom materials and copying. These class fees are listed on the class schedule and should be paid directly to the teacher.

Each class will have a teacher and at least one teacher's aide. They may be certified teachers or a parent who has knowledge or a passion for a subject. Each teacher must sign the INCH statement of faith, stating that they agree with it and will not teach anything contrary to it. If two related people (husband/wife or parent/teen) are teaching a class, we may assign one additional aide to that class. Teachers may be asked to submit to a background check at the discretion of the INCH board.

Even though we do our best to check on the content of classes offered, neither the INCH board nor Coeur d'Alene Bible Church will be held responsible for content taught. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

If a teacher is absent, the teacher's aide will take over the class that day. In the event the teacher and teacher's aide are both absent, the INCH board will make every attempt to find a qualified substitute. Classes may be cancelled at any time at the INCH board's discretion. In the event of a cancelled class, children will remain under the supervision of their parent.

Registering for Classes

Registration is open to any family whose **oldest** child is 5 by August 31, 2007, and exclusively homeschooled. Families whose oldest child is under 5 may not participate in INCH. Our Pre-K/Kindergarten class is for the siblings of older INCH students only.

Classes are filled in the following order: teachers' children for the period(s) they are teaching, followed by current INCH members. After these families have registered, classes are filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

To confirm your children's enrollment in a class, you must pay the registration fee or make arrangements with the INCH board for a payment plan or scholarship. All fees are non-refundable.

Your child may make a class change the first week of a new trimester only. Any material fees for the class that they have already enrolled in must be reimbursed to the teacher.

Emergency Procedures

In case of emergency, we will follow Coeur d'Alene Bible Church's emergency policies. In case of fire, all children should be evacuated to safety away from the building. All exits are clearly marked. Keep children as calm as possible. Move quickly, but do not allow anyone to run. All classes should remain together with the teacher and teacher's aide. A member of the INCH board will notify teachers when it is safe to return to the building. Should we be unable to re-enter, teachers and teachers' aides are to remain with students until parents arrive to pick up their children.

Pick-Up

Please pick up your young children promptly after 4th period is over. Nursery and Kindergarten children will remain in their classrooms until they are picked up. Older children should be given a pre-arranged location to wait for their parents. Once co-op is over, there should be no unsupervised students wandering around the building. In respect to the church's schedule, all members are asked to leave church grounds by 2:45 p.m., unless you are on the clean-up crew.

Attendance

Only registered, paid students or parents will be allowed to attend classes. Siblings of students or children (other than toddlers and infants) of the teacher or their aide will not be allowed in the classroom. If you have children in public or private school who are out of school, they may not attend co-op. All members are expected to stay on the premises. During your free period we encourage you to socialize with the other parents in the fellowship areas, attend a parent class, or observe in your child's classroom.

Absences

In the event you need to be absent on co-op day, it is your responsibility to contact the coordinator (tkcook@roadrunner.com, (208) 772-0904, home, (208) 964-2291, cell), as soon as you know, and no later than 8:30 a.m., Monday morning. Dropping off your children is not allowed. In case of emergency (**not** scheduling conflicts or errands) where you must leave the church premises, ask another parent to be directly responsible for your children. Tell your children, as well as a member of the INCH board, whom your children are accountable to.

If one of your children is ill on co-op day, your other children may attend co-op under the direct supervision of another parent. The supervising parent should sign the children in and write "Under the supervision of [their name]." A signed medical release form should be kept on file at the information table. Remember, one person's absence causes three classes to be short a volunteer. We need you!

INCH Parent Responsibilities

Parental participation is mandatory. Parents are required to teach or co-teach at least one 8-week class per year. Being a teacher's aide or working in the nursery does not fulfill the teaching requirement.

Students will not be allowed at INCH without a parent on site at all times (or a designated substitute in case of an emergency or illness). If a parent must leave the building, they must sign out at the information table.

By registering your children at INCH, you agree to volunteer three hours per week per trimester and fulfill your yearly teaching requirement. Being a member of the events team or field trip team counts as a volunteer period, but does not take the place of the teaching requirement.

It is imperative that you be on time for all jobs. We all depend on one another for a successful co-op day. The INCH board reserves the right to use you on your free period, if additional help is needed to cover absences.

If you are unable to fulfill your assigned job due to absence, it is your responsibility to notify your class teacher and/or the coordinator no later than 8:30 a.m. the morning of your absence.

The standard of behavior expected at INCH for children preschool age and above is first-time obedience. If your child is not trained to this standard, please talk with an INCH board member to determine if INCH is the best opportunity for your child.

We ask that families respect the courtship standard regarding boy/girl relationships. This involves demonstrating a mutual respect for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Any public display of boyfriend/girlfriend relationships is not acceptable at the co-op.

Do not send your child to class during the contagious stage of an illness or if they have green nasal discharge, communicable disease, fever that needs medication to control (child must be fever-free for 24 hours), head lice, chicken pox, or ringworm.

Parents will be contacted if a disciplinary problem arises and may be asked to remove their child from class. Parents are responsible for their children's actions and behavior.

All parents are responsible for enforcing INCH rules. It is understood that if anyone in your family violates the rules, it will jeopardize your participation in the co-op, and the INCH board reserves the right to deny participation to any student or family.

Parents are asked to respect the beliefs and opinions of other co-op members. We ask that parents use discretion when discussing topics that might be contrary to another parent's authority or belief system.

Student Responsibilities

Show respect for all adults and peers. Address adults with titles of respect (Mr., Mrs., Miss).

Inappropriate conversations, gestures, or aggressive physical contact is not permitted. Such actions may cause a child to be removed from co-op permanently. This decision is left to the discretion of the INCH board.

Be on time for class and come prepared with pencil, paper, and any other required supplies.

All supplies, notebooks, backpacks, etc. should be marked with your name.

No CD players, GameBoys, or other electronics are allowed in classes.

Laser pointers, pocketknives, drugs, or weapons (real or play) are not allowed at any function of our co-op.

Show respect for church property. You will be held accountable for any damages caused by your actions.

Give your attention to God when we are praying.

Dress Code: Students should dress modestly.

GIRLS: halter tops, spaghetti straps, tank tops, and tops that reveal midriff or cleavage are not allowed. Skirts should be no shorter than 2" above the knee, and shorts need to be longer than mid-thigh. *BOYS:* Shirts must have sleeves. Shirts with inappropriate pictures or writing are not allowed. Pants must be well-fitting with no undergarments showing. Hats and hoods are not acceptable in the church building.

WE WILL SEE NO CLEAVAGE, BRA STRAPS, BELLIES, BRIEFS, OR BOXERS!

Participate willingly in the class; this is essential for the good of the entire class. Bring all completed assignments, notebooks, and required materials to each class.

Do not leave the room without the teacher's permission.

Help with all cleanup.

Anyone disrupting class will be asked to leave.

Be in a classroom at all times, with the exception of lunchtime. Do not loiter in the hallways or outside. Students may not leave the facility without adult permission.

Food and drink are allowed at lunchtime in the multi-purpose room and designated classrooms only.

Discipline Policy

Discipline slips will be handed out if any of the above guidelines are not followed.

First Infraction—Child and parent will speak with an INCH board member about the infraction. A discipline slip will need to be signed by both parent and child. A copy will be placed on file.

Second Infraction—Child will be immediately taken to their parent. The child and parent will speak with an INCH board member about the infraction. A discipline slip will need to be signed by both parent and child. A copy will be placed on file.

Third Infraction—Child will be immediately taken to their parent. The child and parent will speak with an INCH board member about the infraction. A discipline slip will need to be signed by both parent and child. A copy will be placed on file. The child will possibly be dropped from co-op.

Because we are a co-op, students and parents must comply with the INCH parent and student responsibilities listed above. Parents are required to review these expectations with their children. Failure to comply with these responsibilities will jeopardize your privilege to participate in this program. The INCH board reserves the right to deny participation to any family or student.

We look forward to participating with you at INCH this year. Please keep our co-op, teachers, parents, and students in prayer each week and join with us as we work together to make INCH an edifying, God-honoring family of dedicated homeschooling families.

The INCH Board

Karen Cook, Anna Heisey, Kim Sheetz,
Sunny Tenney, and Gretchen Winde

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds . . . Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up," Deuteronomy 11:18-19.