

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Church of the Spiral Tree

Winter 2013-2014

**Sacred Grove Academy
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Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama



Happy Yule!

There are several changes in fees and policies at Sacred Grove, so please read the following carefully.

Email Addresses

Do you have email? If you are receiving this newsletter via snail-mail, that means we either don't have a working email address for you, or no response was sent back when we emailed this newsletter to you. As we send a lot of communications to families via email, including changes to policies and fees, newsletters, and reminders about deadlines, we just want to make sure that everyone who has an email address listed is actually *receiving* our emails. So if you do have a working email address that you check on a regular basis, please email it to us. And if at any point in the future your email address changes or if you no longer have access to your email, please let us know as soon as possible.

Sacred Grove has a new email address! We have moved to Gmail, both for security and convenience reasons, and also to cut down on the humongous amount of spam we've been getting. So while you can still send email to <homeschool@sacredgroveacademy.org>, our new email address is <sacredgroveacademy@gmail.com>.

Fee Changes for 2014

Tuition: Tuition is increasing next summer, for the first time since Sacred Grove began in 1999. We will have gone 15 years without a fee increase! But in those 15 years, costs have increased, thus tuition will increase by just \$25, to \$75 per family.

Transcript Fee: We are now charging a \$25 transcript fee. You may prepare your own transcript using the blank forms provided on our website. However, if you'd like Sacred Grove Academy to prepare an official transcript for you, with the director's signature, you will need to fill out the Transcript Request Form (available on our website), and send it in with your check or money order (or pay via PayPal). If you'd like the records faxed, there is a \$5 fax fee, and there is also a \$15 rush fee for faster than two-week service (fax fee is extra). **NOTE: See our transcript policy on page 3.**

Records Mailing Fee: Finally, we now request a \$6 mailing fee for any records held by Sacred Grove that you would us to mail to you. Any school records sent to Sacred Grove by your child's former school will be held in file until the parents request them, in writing, and pay the \$6 mailing fee. To avoid this, please ask your former school to mail the records directly to you, rather than to us.

If You Move:

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, **immediately** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



Attendance Forms Due by August 1

Attendance forms for 2013-2014 will be due at the end of the school year (June), but must be received by August 1. Your completed attendance forms are essential to fulfilling the letter of the law, and without them, you will not be able to re-enroll for the following year, even if you have sent the \$75 tuition fee.

NEW: Submit your attendance through our website!

www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html

You can also email your attendance forms; either by scanning and emailing your handwritten copies, or by emailing your Word or Excel document.

Re-Enrollment Deadline: August 1

The deadline for sending in your attendance forms and for re-enrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2013-2014 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 per family. In order to re-enroll, you must send the \$75 tuition, and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved.

If You Miss the August 1 Deadline:

If you have not re-enrolled by August 1 and have not contacted us to let us know you will be late, you'll be considered withdrawn, and we will send the obligatory letter to the school board stating such. You can re-enroll after that time, but you will need to pay the \$25 admission fee per child in addition to the \$75 tuition, and fill out both the Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Admission Form again.

Late Re-Enrollments With Notice:

If you contact us PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 to tell us you will be late: You will have a grace period of 30 days, until August 31, to send in your re-enrollment tuition for the upcoming school year. There will be a late fee of \$25 per family, which must be paid, in addition to the \$75 tuition, for a total of \$100 per family (no discounts are available to CST members in the case of late re-enrollments), before you will be considered to be re-enrolled. Please note that if your late re-enrollment is not received by August 31, we will begin un-enrollment procedures.

How to Pay for Your Re-Enrollment:

We accept re-enrollment tuition payments either via check or money order sent regular mail, or over the web using PayPal. You can use this free service to pay for your renewal each summer.

The link to pay via PayPal is
www.sacredgroveacademy.org/Paypal.html.

Transcripts Policy

The parent/teacher must supply the subjects and grades for the student, using the Transcript Request Form. Sacred Grove does not know what your child studied nor what his/her grades were. Parents must turn in attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has not turned in an attendance form, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts will not be made for non-graduating students withdrawing before the end of the school year. If a student withdraws during the school year to transfer to another school, parents will need to negotiate admission to another school on that school's terms, without a transcript from Sacred Grove Academy. Official transcripts will not be made for partial years of less than three months. For any partial year of the student's enrollment, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent, school, or college. All transcripts will be mailed, unless a fax is requested and the extra fee (\$5) paid. Every effort will be made to complete the request within 14 days, but Sacred Grove reserves the right to take up to 30 days to complete the request. Note that you may request a rush for an extra \$15 (this does not include the fax fee).

Withdrawal Policies:

All enrollments end on July 1. If you do not re-enroll by August 1, you will be considered withdrawn, but may re-enroll at any point in the future, as long as all other policies have been adhered to. After August 1, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy (as required by state law).

You can also officially withdraw from Sacred Grove at any time during the school year. ****No refunds will be given at any time.**** Families withdraw for various reasons, including sending their children back to public school, or moving out-of-state. To officially withdraw during the school year, just send a notice to Sacred Grove by mail or by email, stating that you are withdrawing. An official letter to your local school superintendent will then be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy.

Removals & Improper Withdrawals:

NOTE: After **any** official or improper withdrawal or removal, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, and we will send a letter to your last known address stating the same. If you are not enrolled anywhere else, you will be subject to truancy laws.

You will be removed from enrollment with Sacred Grove if:

- You do not send your child's previous years' attendance forms in by August 1;
- If you write a worthless check, and restitution is not made within 30 days (civil charges may apply); or if any other fees are in arrears and are not paid within 30 days.

In the above cases, until your fees or forms are mailed in to us, no records or information will be released about your child to you or to subsequent schools that may

request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested about that child. Furthermore, if attendance forms are not received within 12 months of your withdrawal (for example, 2013-2014 forms sent in by August 1, 2015), all of the above will apply, **and** no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll in Sacred Grove Academy at any point in the future for any reason.

You will be considered to be improperly withdrawn if:

- If your summer or winter newsletter is returned undeliverable because you have moved and not sent in a change of address, and we cannot then get in touch with you by phone or email; as we will have no way of knowing whether you are still in your original school district or even in the state (Note: if your newsletter comes back, we make a reasonable attempt to contact you before removing you from the rolls);
- We discover that you have enrolled your child in a different school when that school sends us a request for your child's records, and you have not officially withdrawn (NOTE: We will NOT send any information without receiving an official withdrawal from you!)

In the above cases, no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll at any point in the future for any reason, and no records or information will be released to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested, AT ALL for that child.

Yule Crafts - by April McLeod

In the Northern Hemisphere, Yule occurs on the Winter Solstice – usually on December 21st.

Peppermint Flavored Fudge

This is the easiest fudge recipe I've ever seen!

Yield: Makes about 2 lbs

Ingredients:

1 can sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk) – 14 oz.
1 bag semisweet (or dark) chocolate chips – 12 oz.
1 T. Cream
1 T. Butter
1/2 C. mint chips (if you can't find them where you live, substitute chopped up Hershey Mint kisses or chopped up Andes mints)

Directions:

In a micro-safe bowl, pour milk and add chocolate and mint chips. Microwave on medium power for 2-3 minutes, stirring after 2 minutes. Continue to microwave, making sure you stir every minute, until chips are melted. Add, butter and cream and stir until well blended.

I like to put mine in an 8" or 9" square glass pan which has been greased. Put on cooling rack until cool.

You can add any type of chips- peanut butter, white chocolate, even marshmallows, raisins, cranberries, or blueberries right after cooking – have fun!

This makes a perfect Yule gift – I save all my tins and holiday containers from year to year and wrap each piece of fudge in a little plastic or cloth and tie with a pretty ribbon – you can fill a tin or even a Spaghetti Sauce jar which has the label removed and you've gotten the smell out with baking soda!

Grapevine Wreath

You will need:

- Vines to twine into a wreath (or a purchased grapevine or other natural vine wreath)
- Holly sprigs, with berries if possible – enough to fill in about half the wreath
- Bits of gold and silver decorations – this is a great way to recycle broken ornaments (put the broken part to the back, where you can't see it ;-)) snippets of gold and silver garland, small pine cones, jingle bells or Indian bells
- Any other decorations you wish to add – this is an excellent project to use those items you find, but don't know what to do with – sea shells, beach glass, broken glass or china pieces, etc.– a pentacle looks really nice hanging in the center ;-)
- Twine, hemp string, or fishing line
- Small gauge wire (can be green floral wire, or any thin, sturdy wire you want to recycle – to attach items to wreath.) You may also use a glue gun instead of the wire. As always, small children should always be supervised by an adult.
- Red ribbon, twine, or a strip of fabric to make a bow.

(If you are using natural vines that you cut, you may need to soak them overnight, so they will be pliable and to prevent cracking later.)

Using hand-cut vines, decide how large you want your wreath (10-12" is usually manageable). Beginning at one end, make a circle, using your string to tie the end to the circle. Then begin twisting the vine into and around



REMINDERS

Please do not mail any school work to our office! Also, please do not have your former school(s) mail any previous school records to us. We do not need any of these items. You, the parent, are the teacher, and as such, are fully responsible for grading, and keeping and maintaining school work and records.

What We Do NOT Provide:

- Curriculum (books, etc.)
- Teachers to come to your home
- Teachers at our office to check work or give grades
- An accredited school or program (no cover school in Alabama is accredited)

Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/190035067717206/>



Yule Crafts, continued

the circle, repeatedly, until you reach the other end. Tie off this end as well. Remember, you are not just wrapping the vine in a circle, you are “threading” the end continuously into and around the circle as you make the wreath. You cannot make a mistake; you can always undo your wreath and rewind it until you are happy with it!

Using a store-bought wreath – you are ready to decorate!

Decorating: Using wire, or glue, attach holly sprigs around front and sides of wreath – you want to cover about half the wreath. If you couldn’t find sprigs with berries, you can use any red berries (real or fake) and glue to the sprigs. (Remember to supervise children – never eat a red berry unless you are positive it is not poisonous – many of them are.)

Attach your broken ornaments (if they are glass, be very careful,) bits of garland, and whatever else you have gathered. Try to space your items out so there is a little bit of everything on all quarters.

You can even have your children put a picture of themselves on the back of a cut-out cardboard round or square (this can be decorated with crayons, markers, beads, sequins, etc.) and attach those, as well.

I like to take a piece of red fabric that I have torn into a strip about 3 inches wide and tie a large bow with long streamers and attach it at the top right of the wreath – you can put your bow anywhere on the wreath.

If you are using a pentacle – lay the wreath flat, lay the pentacle in the middle – measure how much wire or string you will need to keep the pentacle in the middle, string up (or wire up) the pentacle and attach it to the top, inside of the wreath.

If you are going to hang your wreath on a nail or other support, you probably need to add a hanger – made from wire or twine to the center back top of the wreath – tie or glue this on. Now, enjoy!



Attendance Form - Version A

School Year: _____ - _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade Just Completed: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

Parent's Email: _____ Do you check this email regularly? _____

Address: _____

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
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19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
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28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31		31		31	31		31		31	

MONTHLY TOTAL

Circle days designated as educational.

Attendance Record - Version B

Student's Name: _____

Grade Just Completed: _____ **School Year:** _____ - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you check this email regularly? _____

Address: _____

Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

	Month Total	Year Total
July	_____	_____
August	_____	_____
September	_____	_____
October	_____	_____
November	_____	_____
December	_____	_____
January	_____	_____
February	_____	_____
March	_____	_____
April	_____	_____
May	_____	_____
June	_____	_____

Have You Moved? If so, have you notified us?

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a *different public school district*, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, ***immediately*** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

