

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church

Summer 2020

**Sacred Grove Academy
P.O. Box 505
Auburn, AL 36831-0505**

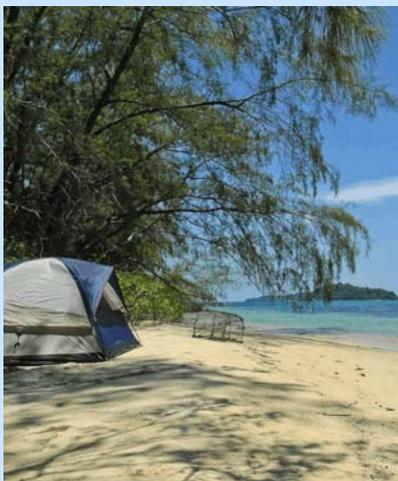
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Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama



What a Year...

What a year—COVID-19, murder hornets, and now protests in every major (and many smaller) cities across the county and even across the world. I hesitate to ask if 2020 can get any crazier, because I'm afraid the answer would be yes!

One really great thing about homeschooling is that when the rest of the world was sent home to school and work from home, we were already AT home, so the transition wasn't as sudden or traumatic for most of us. But it's still been tough in other ways —no field trips, no park play dates, no mom's nights out. And for many, a drastic reduction in income.

One of the positives I see from all this is that so many activities, have, out of necessity, moved to an on-line format, which means homeschoolers have even more options for learning than previously.

Another change is that more families have been exposed to homeschooling, again by necessity, and many may decide to make the switch permanently. I found a great article which I'm re-printing in this issue (page 4), on this topic.

Lastly, I must address the current national conversation—the protests over the murder of George Floyd at the hands (knee) of police, just three months after the murder of Ahmed Aubrey by two white men, and just two months after the killing of Breonna Taylor by police. This senseless and wanton killing of black people is shameful, horrible, and must be stopped.

I believe that black lives matter. I have found myself trying to educate friends and family who respond to that statement with “all lives matter.” I even have a family member who stated “white lives matter.” (I can't even.)



BLACK LIVES MATTER

As a white woman, I have never, and will never, know firsthand the fear that black people do when they try to go about their ordinary, day-to-day lives. I've never had to teach my child what steps to take to reduce the risk of being killed by a police officer. I've never worried that a white person will call the police on me for just walking down the street, or for birding in the park, or for barbecuing on a grill. This is white privilege. I have it, I own it. How can I use it constructively to help black people, and to help bring about change? And that's not an easy question to answer. But I will continue to try.

Attendance Forms Due by August 1

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 for 2019-2020 are due now, and 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 your tuition fees.

EASY! 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 2020-2021 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 for the first child, and \$25 for each additional child. In order to re-enroll, you must send the tuition fees 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 tuition fees, 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 tuition fees, 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

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, there is a \$25 transcript fee. 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).

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. Official transcripts can only be made for the period of time your child was enrolled with Sacred Grove. We can not create transcripts for any school years, full or partial, prior to or after your child's enrollment in Sacred Grove. 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.

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, 2018-2019 forms sent in by August 1, 2020), 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.

Will COVID-19 Usher in a New Era of Homeschooling?

By Anna Rudnitsky

From: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/will-covid-19-usher-in-a-new-era-of-homeschooling/>

The pandemic compelled parents to see their kids educated at home. As schools gradually reopen, some educators hope the changes wrought by this enforced experiment are here to stay.

Homeschooling does not necessarily mean schooling at home, or at least it didn't use to.

"People think that homeschoolers stay at home all the time, so the coronavirus did not change our lives. This is not true," says Efrat Campagnano, mother of three and an active member of a Jerusalem homeschoolers' group. "Actually, the girls and I did not stay at home much before the virus. We visited museums, socialized with friends, walked in parks. Members of our group of Jerusalem homeschoolers used to meet several times a week for all kinds of activities. So, coronavirus has changed our lives dramatically. But maybe we were just better prepared for spending much time – most of the day – with our kids."

With families kept at home under the COVID-19 restrictions, and parents suddenly finding themselves responsible for the schooling—or unschooling—of their kids, the pandemic has caused turmoil and hassle in many households, in Israel and abroad. However, the giant social experiment of homeschooling on a national scale—now possibly drawing to an end as schools begin to reopen—has allowed for some insights, too.

Why do we send children to

school at all? How does a child learn? What is the role of a parent and a teacher in this process? Homeschoolers tend to ask themselves questions like this, so they may be a good place to look for some answers.

"I chose to homeschool my girls because this is how I take my role as a mom—to be responsible for what my children learn and how they do it," says Campagnano. "What we do is unschooling rather than homeschooling. The kids do not have classes at home. They are exposed to the world and learn out of curiosity, because they are designed to learn."



"Homeschooling is not distance learning, nor is it school at home," says Valeria Gumush, mother of two homeschooling kids from Kiryat Tivon near Haifa. "It is an encounter of natural curiosity with the world of opportunities. You cannot teach anyone; you can only help pave the way."

With bedrooms turned into

classrooms because of the pandemic, the border between school and home has blurred. In the new reality, many of the educators who urged reform of the school system found that the pandemic is changing it—without asking anyone.

"We have long been talking about the advantages of an individual approach to students. Some kids learn easily in the morning, for example, while others learn better in the evening. In a regular classroom, the teacher needs to synchronize them all. The coronavirus has allowed for de-synchronization of learning," says Reut Naor, who is responsible for educational innovations in the AMIT network of 107 schools countrywide.

"We have been urging a change in perception of the teacher's role—from teaching to tutoring, from being a source of knowledge to being a person who guides a student in his self-learning. The learning process can be very different from how it looks now in a regular school. The coronavirus has let us see it happen," she continues. "It has been an experiment that has propelled many things we looked forward to. We were taken directly into the future—the future of education, among other things—and needed to face it."

Tsurriel Robbins, head of AMIT Wasserman junior and senior high school in Beersheba, maintains, too, that some of the challenges the coronavirus educational experiment has brought about are here to stay.

"The fact that schools started to use technology to deliver

knowledge is the less interesting part,” he says. “The big story is that the coronavirus time has broken the concept of the traditional class with its 30 pupils listening to the teacher and its 45-minute long lessons. We have seen that a lesson can last as long as a pupil wants; some get tired after 15 minutes, while others prefer to study for two hours without a break. Some will prefer to study at 10 p.m., or even at midnight.

“One of the reasons why educational gaps exist is that the school treats all pupils as if they are the same, while they are all different.”

There is one positive effect the coronavirus has had on the school system that even very tired parents can attest to: They have been given a glimpse of what their kids do at school.

“When we realized the children would need to learn from home, we pondered on how they can take advantage of their new learning environment,” says Yulia Biran, head of the young, experimental Hillel school in Jerusalem.

“With this in mind, we tried to give them tasks that could be interesting for the whole family—like interviewing grandparents or doing a project involving family pictures. We have got very good feedback from the parents who said they always wanted to know more about their kids’ activities at school, and now they had a chance. And for us teachers it was insightful to see how important relationship with parents is. I’m excited about the idea of creating a community where children and grownups could learn together.”

Tsurriel Robbins from Beersheba is optimistic about recent changes being retained as schools reopen: “A lot depends on the Education Ministry, on its

willingness to give schools more autonomy. I talk to people there, and they seem to understand. There is no way back.

“Take final exams, for example. Before the coronavirus, we spent so much effort and recourse to make sure students do not use textbooks and do not copy answers from one another. Now you can’t check it—the exams will be held from home, so we need to change the exam materials.

Instead of testing the students’ memory, they will test their ability to think and to find the information they need. Is it bad?”

Homeschoolers are optimistic about the changes, too.

“If we were a political party,” says Efrat Campagnano, “it would be time for us to advertise ourselves aggressively, because due to the coronavirus so many parents got a taste of what life with children can be when you are not in the office for most of the day. Many of them start asking themselves questions about their role as a parent, and about whether they need school. I am not saying all of them will choose to homeschool, and this is not the point! The point is to start thinking. Now that you had a taste of an alternative, the choice will be more conscious.”

“I would not call what’s happening now homeschooling,” says Valeria Gumush. “Homeschooling is something that comes as a result of free choice. The experiment that we have been witnessing was forced upon parents.”

She says, however, that a few of her friends said they were glad to try it, hard as it was to combine work from home with trying to educate the kids.

“You can find out that it is easier to spend a whole day with a kid than to spend an hour in the evening with him. Or that kids are quieter and happier at home. It

does not mean these parents will turn into homeschoolers immediately. But maybe they’ll decide to cancel a few of their children’s afternoon classes. There are so many opportunities for learning now, and we want to use them all.”

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 church cover school in Alabama is accredited)

Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

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



How to Talk to Young Children About the Black Lives Matter Guiding Principles

By Lalena Garcia

From: <http://weac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/kid-friendly-language.pdf>

As we think about discussing big ideas with little people, we consider age-appropriate language so that our students or children can grasp the concepts we're introducing and incorporate these ideas and language into their own thinking and conversation.

While adults can obviously talk about any of the principles (and many of us already do) without mentioning the Black Lives Matter movement, we can

also mention the movement as a group of people who want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, regardless of the color of their skin. We can say something along the lines of, "The Civil Rights Movement, with people we know about, like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, worked to change laws that were unfair. The Black Lives Matter movement is made up of people who want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, because, even though many of those laws were changed many years ago, some people are still not being treated fairly." The idea of police violence is frightening to young children, and the same way we don't discuss the violence which met Civil Rights activists, I would not discuss this kind of violence with our youngest children.

After each principle, I've suggested some language you

might want to use when talking to young children. Whenever possible, make connections to children's lived experience, in your classroom, your home, or out in

would feel if the same thing that happened to your friend happened to you. Another way to say that is empathy."



Loving Engagement is the commitment to practice justice, liberation and peace.

"It's so important to make sure that we are always trying to be fair and peaceful. We have to keep practicing this so that we can get

better and better at

it. Another way to say that is loving engagement."

the world.

Restorative Justice is the commitment to build a beloved and loving community that is sustainable and growing.

"We know that if you knock down someone's block building, you have to help them rebuild it, you can't just say, "Sorry," and walk away. Another way to say that is restorative justice, and it's the idea that we have to help people when something happens to them, even if it was by accident."

Empathy is one's ability to connect with others by building relationships built on mutual trust and understanding.

"It's so important to think about how other people feel, because different people have different feelings. Sometimes it helps to think about how you

Diversity is the celebration and acknowledgment of differences and commonalities across cultures.

"Different people do different things and have different feelings. It's so important that we have lots of different kinds of people in our community and that everyone feels safe. Another way to say that is diversity."

Globalism is our ability to see how we are impacted or privileged within the Black global family that exists across the world in different regions.

"Globalism means that we are thinking about all the different people all over the world, and thinking about the ways to keep things fair everywhere."

Transgender Affirming is the commitment to continue to make space for our trans siblings by encouraging leadership and recognizing trans antagonistic violence, while doing the work

or location, matter.

“Everybody is important, and has the right to be safe and happy. Another way to say that is collective value.”

might be related, or maybe they choose to be family together and to take care of each other. Sometimes, when it’s lots of families together, it can be called a village.”



Antiracist Baby is bred, *not* born.

Antiracist Baby is raised to make society transform.

Black Women is the building of women-centered spaces free from sexism, misogyny, and male-centeredness.

“There are some people who think that women are less important than men. We know that all people are important and have the right

required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk.

“Everybody has the right to choose their own gender by listening to their own heart and mind. Everyone gets to choose if they are a girl or a boy or both or neither or something else, and no one else gets to choose for them.”

Queer Affirming is working towards a queer-affirming network where heteronormative thinking no longer exists.

“Everybody has the right to choose who they love and the kind of family they want by listening to their own heart and mind.”

Collective Value means that all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status

Intergenerational is a space free from ageism where we can learn from each other.

“It’s important that we have spaces where people of different ages can come together and learn from each other. Another way to say that is intergenerational.”

Black Families creates a space that is family friendly and free from patriarchal practices.

“There are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it’s people who take care of each other. It’s important to make sure that all families feel welcome.”

Black Villages is the disruption of Western nuclear family dynamics and a return to the “collective village” that takes care of each other.

“There are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it’s people who take care of each other; those people

to be safe and talk about their own feelings.”

Unapologetically Black is the affirmation that Black Lives Matter and that our love, and desire for justice and freedom are prerequisites for wanting that for others. These principles are the blueprint for healing and do not include nor do they support ignoring or sanitizing the ugliness and discomfort that comes with dealing with race and anti-race issues.

“There are lots of different kinds of people and one way that we’re different is the color of our skin. It’s important to make sure that all people are treated fairly, and that’s why we, and lots of other people all over the country and the world are part of the Black Lives Matter movement.”

ABCs of a Social Distancing Summer

By Tina Pratt

From: <http://cincinnati.familymagazine.com/family-fun/abcs-of-a-social-distancing-summer>

Mom reporters, Tina Pratt's, kids came up with a creative list of summer social distancing fun! Give it a try or make up your own, and don't forget to have a blast.

Just for fun, let's see how many letters of the alphabet you can complete! Share your photos with us on our social media page and hashtag #CincyFamilyABCsofSummer! Can't wait to see what you come up with!

A – Arts and Crafts – Be creative and make your kids' favorite craft.

B – Bake Cookies – Kids love helping in the kitchen. Get baking!

C – Campfire Cookout – Roast hot dogs and then marshmallows for dessert, for example. What campfire foods can you come up with.

D – Donut Trail – Grab your favorite donuts to-go. Try a new donut place every Sunday to complete your "trail."

E – Explore the Outdoors – There are some may trails and parks to explore! Go somewhere new.

F – Friendship Bracelet Making – Grab a kit at Target or simply gather an array of beads and pipe cleaners or yarn make bracelets for each other.

G – Game Night – Let the kids choose the game, pop some popcorn and have a blast.

H – Hide and Seek Indoors – Kids love hide-and-seek, indoors or out.

I – Insect Hunt – Search and identify insects right in your backyard together.

J – Jump in Puddles – Put on some rain boots and have a "splashing" good time.

K – Kite Flying – Take the kites out to an open field on the next windy day.

L – Learn a New Skill – It's never too late to learn something new. What can you come up with?

M – Movie Night – You have a projector screen, set up an outdoor movie night on a warm evening, or take it indoors and make a big deal of it.

N – Notes to Friends and Family Members – More than ever, we need to connect with family. Have the kids write family members nice letters and help them mail them out.

O – Obstacle Course – Create your own obstacle course indoors or out! Think – hula-hoops, cones and jump ropes.



P – Picnic Lunch – Grab a blanket and a tasty lunch and have a picnic in your backyard or favorite park.

Q – Quick Races with Family – Kids love to race! Race to the stop

sign and back or to the end of the street.

R – Rube Goldberg Machine Making – tinkerlab.com/engineering-kids-rube-goldberg-machine

S – Straw Painting, Soccer, Strawbees, Sunday Snoozes – Enough said.

T – Trivia Night – Put teams together and play Kids Trivial Pursuit (you can order this game on Amazon for \$16 + or come up with your own trivia questions).

U – Under the Stars ... Sleep or Play – Looking at the stars is a great calming activity before the kids go to bed. Lay outdoors with your sleeping bag or simple sit outside and see what you can find in the night sky.

V – Vegetables! Grow Vegetables or Try New Veggies – Kids need their veggies! It's extra motivating if they learn to grow their own.

W – Walk your Neighborhood – A great way to get moving as a family, easy, too.

X – Xtreme Challenges – Create fun challenges for your family! How long can your kids camp out in their playscape, for example.

Y – Yarn Art, Yahtzee – YOU Choose!

Z – Zoo Virtual Tours/Fieldtrips – Lots of your favorite places are offering virtual fun for the kids to stay busy. Check out our list here: <http://cincinnati.familymagazine.com/home-living/20-local-online-resources>.

Attendance Record

Student's Name: _____

Grade Just Completed: _____ School Year: _____ - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you check this email regularly? _____

Current Address: _____

Have you moved? _____ If yes, are you in a new school district? _____ (If yes, you will need to submit a new Church School Enrollment Form ASAP, so we can send it to the school superintendent in your new area)

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

