



Humphreys Junior High Parent and Student Information

Thank you for inquiring about my program. I have been teaching home-school children since 1997, and I love it more every year. Students in my classes represent a wide spectrum of learning styles and abilities. They come from varied backgrounds. One thing we all have in common is a love of learning and respect for each other. My goal is for my classroom to be a happy, nurturing place where each student feels comfortable, accepted by me and his other classmates, and becomes enthusiastic about learning.

Ask any of my students, "Who is the best teacher in the whole, wide world?" and he or she will reply, "My mom!" (The second best teacher is me, of course.) I am here to be your encourager, helper, and partner in the education of your child. Woven throughout everything I teach is a love for God and this wonderful world He created. We will tie biblical principles into all areas of learning. I will also help students discover how they learn best, teaching study and organizational skills at every opportunity. My students know I have high expectations, and they work hard to meet them.



Below is a schedule of classes for next year. For a complete schedule of classes for elementary, high school, science, and math, visit our website at prhe.net.

Cecil Humphreys

Meeting at:

Pine Ridge PCA
3900 S. Hiawassee Road
Orlando, FL 32835

in the Metrowest area
across from Turkey Lake
(Bill Frederick) Park

**Cost for Core
Academic Classes:**

\$350 registration fee*
includes textbooks, materials,
standardized testing, and
end-of-year evaluation
*\$325 before April 1
*\$400 after July 15

Tuition Grades 5-8
\$185 per month/10 months

Cost for Math 5-8 Classes
\$75 registration fee
includes textbook and materials

\$75 per month/10 months

Algebra 1
\$75 registration fee
includes textbook and materials

\$85 per month/10 months

**Tuition due first day
of each month August - May**

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
9:30	Grades 7 & 8 Devotion Study Skills Vocabulary Writing	Grades 5 & 6 Devotion Study Skills Vocabulary Writing
12:00	Literature	Literature
12:30	Grammar History & Geography 12:30 - 2:15	Grammar History & Geography 12:30 - 2:15
2:15		
2:30 to 4:00	Math 7 or Pre-Algebra SAT Prep (1st semester) high school elective	Math 5/6 Algebra 1 2:30 - 4:00 2:30 - 4:30 L. Gurr Humphreys

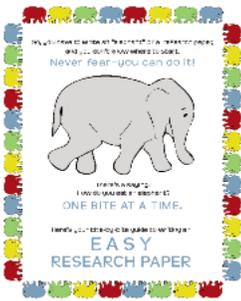
Meet the Teacher

Ceil Humphreys

1145 Palm Cove Drive, Orlando, FL 32835
407-523-6361 humphreysjuniorhigh@gmail.com

Since 1975 Ceil Humphreys has taught or volunteered in public, private, college and homeschool classes. For six years she taught at The First Academy, where she was the sixth grade team leader and high school newspaper adviser. She began tutoring homeschool students in 1997. In 2000, 100% of her sixth grade students qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program (top 5% in the nation in standardized test scores), and a high percentage of her students qualify each year.

Teaching a high school SAT prep class each year helps Mrs. Humphreys prepare her junior high students for high school and beyond. She is also the author of *Easy Research Paper*, the fruit of over 20 years of teaching students to write. Every year her students complete a research paper about a state, country, or person from history.



Mrs. Humphreys received her Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Georgia and worked toward a masters degree in educational computing at the University of South Florida. She holds a Florida certification in elementary education, English, and middle school math.

An avid volunteer, Mrs. Humphreys has taught computer classes to everyone from children to adults, served as PTA president, and helped create a school publishing center for her sons' school. In her spare time she designs counted cross stitch patterns of historic homes and sites for The Posy Collection, which can be viewed at www.posycollection.com, and she knits little baby hats for the NICU at FL Hospital. She also volunteers at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission.

Mrs. Humphreys attends Pine Ridge Church where her husband Wesley is the treasurer and a ruling elder. She is the proud mother of Rob and Mike and grandmother of six.



Classic students



Sophisticated teachers



Watch out for the grammar police!



Welcome to Humphreys Junior High!

What HJH is: Humphreys Junior High is a one-day-a-week program designed for home school students from grades five through eight. Subjects covered include vocabulary from Greek and Latin roots, grammar, composition, literature, and history and geography. Study skills, logic, and test-taking skills are also covered. Biblical principles are interwoven throughout.

Mom and Dad are the number one teachers. Mrs. Humphreys is the number two teacher, helper, supporter, and encourager to Mom and Dad. Mom should plan to spend at least 3-4 hours each day actively teaching and/or supervising her child.

What HJH is NOT: A full-time school separate from the teaching of Mom and Dad. In order for the students to be as successful as possible, the parents must also be integrally involved in the education of their children. **The higher the involvement is from the parents at home, the better the child will perform.** This is not a program where the child is sent to a room to do school work with no interaction or oversight from the parents.

Who is welcome at HJH? Any student who wants to learn, will work hard, and keep a positive attitude is welcome at HJH. Students of all backgrounds, learning styles, and ability levels attend. I ask only that they be kind to one another, complete their work as assigned, and that Mom and Dad be actively involved in their education.

WHAT DO I EXPECT FROM STUDENTS?

- ✓ Bring a good attitude; be ready to learn and show kindness to others. Treat others as more important than yourself. (Phil 2:3,4)
- ✓ Strive to use speech that is building up and edifying, not tearing down. Before you speak, think of the impact your words will have on others, then decide if those words should be spoken. (Eph 4:29)
- ✓ Arrive at class on time, dressed properly, prepared with all necessary supplies and completed work. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord. (Col 3:23,24)
- ✓ Use your best manners, treating others as you would like to be treated. This includes listening when others are talking and being encouraging. (Matt 7:12)
- ✓ Participate in class. This includes asking and answering questions, sharing your ideas, and encouraging others when they participate. In a nutshell, **work hard and be kind to others.**

WHAT DO I HOPE FOR FROM PARENTS?

- ✓ Support, encouragement, and prayer for both the teacher and the students.
- ✓ Read all materials sent home and oversee students completing work according to schedule. This means a **very close oversight** of all work and being sure that it meets **your standard of excellence**. Initial the assignment sheet and return it to class in your child's folder every week. **Be prepared to spend at least 3-4 hours each day teaching and working with your child.**
- ✓ Send a nutritious snack and lunch each week for your child. Put it in a container with an ice pack so it will not need additional refrigeration.
- ✓ Have children at school on time and prepared. Pick up children no later than 15 minutes after class is over.
- ✓ Timely payment of tuition fees.
- ✓ Spread the word to other home school parents!

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE TEACHER?

- ✓ To treat students with love and respect, praying for and with them on a regular basis.
- ✓ To cover the curriculum designated in a manner that helps each student learn to the best of his or her ability.
- ✓ To constantly search for interesting and innovative materials and methods to use in class.
- ✓ To keep parents informed on a weekly basis of their students' progress. This includes a weekly newsletter with an assignment schedule and information about what we are doing in class.
- ✓ To work in close partnership with parents and students for the best interest of child and family and to be open to ideas and suggestions from students and parents.
- ✓ To seek God's guidance on a daily basis for wisdom and help in educating His children, for my words, actions and thoughts to bring glory to Him.

Pine Ridge Home Educators - Frequently Asked Questions

I've never homeschooled before. Where do I start?

We are here to help! We have assembled an outstanding curriculum that is challenging and will meet your child's academic needs. We will partner with you in the education of your child and help you every step of the way. You can do it, and we will help.

What subjects are taught in the core program?

All academic subjects for each grade level are offered, along with optional classes in math, science, and various high school electives.

How will I know what to teach my child at home?

Each week a detailed assignment sheet is sent home with the students. It covers all assignments for the week and also includes information about upcoming events and other activities.

How much time should it take each day?

That depends on the age and ability level of your child. We have found that the key to success in our program is a high level of involvement from Mom. Mom will need to read all assignment sheets, oversee all work, check all answers, help children study, and see to it that all assignments are complete and turned in on time. You can expect to spend at least 3-4 hours a day, possibly more or less. Our program is not something that a middle school child can do at home on his or her own. We are available to answer any questions you have and also to give encouragement, but remember that you are the #1 teacher.

When do you meet?

Weekly classes are held at Pine Ridge Church. Grades 7&8 meet on Tuesdays, 5&6 meet on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 2:15. Consult the schedule on the prhe.net website to see times for all classes.

What are your fees?

Registration is \$350 (\$400 after July 15), and tuition is \$1850, broken into ten monthly payments of \$185 each, due the first day of the month, August - May. Families with more than one child at HJH receive a \$20 discount each month for second children. We encourage you to set up automatic bill pay with your bank, and that way you never have to worry about your payment being late.

Do I pay one check for all services?

Each school program (Keystone, Humphreys, Smith) is a separate entity, so you pay separately for each class. For example, if you have a fifth grader who is at HJH and a fourth grader at Keystone, you would pay two checks, one to HJH and one to Keystone.

What if I want to send my child for only part of the school year?

Our classes have limited space available, so we want to fill those spots with students who will remain with us all year. Please make sure our program is what you are looking for before you enroll, as students who leave for any reason other than an out-of-town move will be charged for the next three months' tuition.

Do I have to purchase books?

No. All books and materials will be provided and are covered by your registration fee. Answer notebooks are also provided for parents to check their children's work. All you have to buy are school supplies.

Do you allow visitors?

We would love for you to come and visit class to see if our program is a good fit for you. Just send an e-mail so we will know to expect you and your child.



Do you provide for children with learning disabilities?

Yes, we have students with a wide range of abilities, and we are willing to accommodate when appropriate.

Will gifted learners be challenged?

Our track record shows that academically gifted students thrive in the learning atmosphere we provide. Over the years they have been honored scholastically, become valedictorians of their graduating classes, awarded college scholarships, and accepted into prestigious universities.

Do students have to be of one particular faith to attend your program?

Students from all faiths are welcome in our classes. However, our teaching is specifically from a Christian perspective, and the Bible is our standard for truth.

Do you provide grades?

All graded papers are sent home each week, and computerized grade sheets or report cards are provided at the end of each semester.

Do we have to write a research paper?

Well, I wrote a book about it, so I think it's pretty important! Communication skills are a vital part of any child's education, and upper level classes require a lot of writing. Our job is to get them ready for high school, college, and beyond. That includes not only how to research and write an excellent paper, but also how to acquire the time management skills and self discipline to complete a huge task. When it's all done, we celebrate and bask in the happy feeling of knowing we've done our very best. Eventually, I hope that happy feeling will contribute to their becoming mature, self-motivated adults.



Do you administer standardized tests?

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is offered for students in grades 3-8 in late April, and the cost is covered in the registration fee for those classes. Ninth and tenth graders may take the test for an additional fee.

Does your calendar follow the public school system?

We match our schedule with the Orange County Public School System calendar. We also take a fall break in October, a week at Thanksgiving, three weeks at Christmas, and a week for spring break.

How do I report to the county?

You have three choices for reporting to your county school administration at the end of the school year. We provide two of those options: standardized testing and a state certified teacher who will review your portfolio and sign your evaluation form. We will also remind you when the time comes to send in your end-of-the-year report.

Do you offer field trips?

We love to go on field trips, both for academics and for fun. All students at Pine Ridge are invited along, plus their families and friends. We start the year with a back-to-school party and end it with a beach day. Some field trips include Medieval Times, Fun Spot, Green Meadow Farms, strawberry picking, Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf (after standardized testing), and plays at the Orlando REP. Making friends is important, and we want to provide lots of opportunities for the students to get together.

Bill and Merilee Clifton of Science Partners offer a wide array of field trips, from one day at SeaWorld to overnight trips to the Keys for snorkeling. Visit www.sciencepartners.net for more information. Their field trips are amazing and not to be missed.

Do you offer art classes?

No, but we recommend someone who does, the Art Room in Windermere. They offer classes for all ages, from preschool to mature artists. They even offer special classes for homeschool students, Friday night and Saturday morning workshops, and birthday parties. We love The Art Room, and you will, too.

Do you offer foreign languages?

We teach English from a Greek and Latin root word perspective in the elementary and middle grades. Latin 1 and 2 are offered on a high school level.

Do you offer high school transcripts?

We are proud to be associated with Veritas Academy, which offers a wide range of services for parents of high school students.

What does my county school system require?

We provide everything you need to homeschool your child. Visit our website at prhe.net for links to your county's public school website for more information.

More questions?

Feel free to contact us with your specific questions, and we will be happy to answer them for you. We wish you all the very best, and may God bless you on your homeschooling journey!

humphreysjuniorhigh@gmail.com



Humphreys Junior High for Home Schoolers

School Hand Book 2016-2017

Wesley and Ceil Humphreys 1145 Palm Cove Drive Orlando, FL 32835
H (407) 523-6361 C (407) 451-9351 humphreysjuniorhigh@gmail.com prhe.net



School Policies:

Humphreys Junior High started with seven students in 1997 and has grown so much! In order to accommodate all students with the quality that I like to maintain, some policies and guidelines will be followed. I thought it would be best to write them all down.

Textbooks and materials:

Textbooks, most literature books, and answer notebooks will be provided by me and should be returned at the end of the year. Consumable workbooks are the property of the students and will not be returned. From time to time I will also send home extra books to read, such as Kids Discover magazines, that are for fun and enrichment. Please take good care of all of my materials and return them in good shape, as I use them year after year.

When we finish a book, please return it promptly, as it saves me time with storage and inventory. If a book is lost or damaged, I will expect it to be replaced. I strongly recommend putting book covers on text books to keep them in good shape. Bring lots of pens, pencils, and paper to class.

Tuition:

Tuition is due the first day of each month and is considered past due on the 10th. Parents, please pay your tuition on time. It adds to my work load and is also very embarrassing to me when I have to remind you to pay. I really like for parents to arrange for automatic bill pay with their banks, and that way the check is mailed directly to my home. You can also send it to class with your student. **Payments made past the due date should include a \$20 late fee.**

Communication:

Folders:

I send home folders every week. They contain the weekly assignment sheet, all graded papers, and announcements about various things. The folders are to be returned to me at the beginning of class. Please keep the folder cleaned out and include only the initialed assignment sheet and papers that need to be turned in to me that week.

Assignment sheet:

Each week you will receive an assignment sheet that includes all assignments for the week and other information about upcoming events and things that are happening at school. Parents, this assignment sheet is the heart and soul of my program and is very, very important. Please read every word on both sides of the paper. You are to check all work each day and initial the block for each assignment, indicating that the work was completed to your satisfaction. The assignment sheet should be put back into the folder to be checked by me each week. Please save all assignment sheets in your portfolio at home as a record of work completed during the year.

E-mail

I love communicating by e-mail and check it several times a day. If you need me right away, however, feel free to call me at home after 9 a.m. Also, from time to time I will communicate with you by e-mail. It is so fast and saves me tons of money in postage. If your e-mail address changes, or you prefer not to have messages sent to you, please let me know.

Cell phones:

Students should leave their cell phones and other electronic devices at home.

At school:

I will have my cell phone at school to receive calls. Please call during breaks only, so as not to disturb us during instruction times. Breaks are from:
9:15-9:30 10:30 - 10:45
12:00 - 12:30 2:15-2:30

Absences or vacations:

A big advantage of homeschooling is the ability to take vacations at off-times of the year. If you know you are going to be gone, please give me at least two to three weeks notice. I will get your assignments together, and your child can begin working ahead.

If your child is sick, please call or text me before class so I will know not to wait for him. I will gather all assignments and quizzes and have them waiting for you in the classroom. All work from the missed week should be turned in the following week.

Late work policy:

All work is expected to be turned in on the due date. After the first week, one letter grade will be counted off. After that, the grade will become a zero.

Exceptions:

If a student is absent, he or she will have one week to get work turned in. If a student has been very ill or there has been a family emergency, a note from the parent listing missing assignments should be in the folder and another week will be allowed.

A word to the wise:

It is very important for you to be organized. The night before class, make sure all work that is due is in the blue or green folder and that your folder is safely tucked away in your backpack. There will be no excuses accepted for missing work.

Birthdays and other special days:

We love to have fun at Humphreys Junior High, and just about any occasion is a good reason to party. We especially love it when moms bring in goodies for birthdays. We also dress up for certain occasions, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Skittles, Runt's, and M&Ms:

I am a big believer in positive reinforcement and reward the students for all kinds of wonderful things they do. They get candy for bringing in their folders, turning in books on time, finding errors in books, or anything I've typed, and for many other challenges I send their way. I also provide alternative snacks for those who don't want so much sugar.

Gum:

The church building is used every day of the week, and it is a real job to keep it neat and clean. **Please don't bring gum to the church property.** If you have it in your mouth on the way to school, dispose of it before you get out of the car. Chewing gum at school will result in loss of outside privileges.

Recreation:

Students like to bring balls to play volleyball, basketball, baseball, and football on the big field outside. I ask that students not engage in tackling or rough play. Sometimes accidents happen, and children sustain cuts, bruises, or broken bones. Your health insurance will need to cover those expenses.

Grades :

I will send home progress reports regularly. Grading periods will be divided into two semesters, ending at Christmas and the end of school in the middle of May.

All grade sheets, graded papers, workbooks, writing assignments, and any other completed work should be saved. At any time the county can ask you for proof of the work your child has been doing, and it is wise to keep a portfolio of everything. Get in the habit of saving old tests, as many high school teachers compose their semester exams from old chapter tests, and these tests make an excellent study tool.

CURRICULUM is a four-year scope and sequence alternating every two years between American history and world history:

Geography and World Cultures: (grades 5 and 6)

ABeka New World History and Geography / Old World History and Geography

History: (grades 7 and 8) *American Republic* (Bob Jones)

History of the World (ABeka) & *Streams of Civilization* (Christian Liberty Press)

Grammar: (all grades)

Bob Jones Grammar / Easy Grammar and Daily Grams

Vocabulary: (all grades)

A study from Greek and Latin roots and from the literature books we read

Literature: Books reflect the time period we are studying.

For example, *Across Five Aprils* covers the Civil War period.

Math: Grades 5-Algebra 1 Bob Jones University Press

Study Skills: Problem solving, logic puzzles, and test-taking skills, including *Scoring High on the ITBS* (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)

Behavior:

I love my students and expect the very best from them. I have high expectations regarding their work habits and behavior. I like for the students to call me "Mrs. Humphreys" and to hear "yes" or "no" or "excuse me?" instead of "yeah" or "huh." I will treat each student with the utmost respect, and I enjoy it when I am treated the same.

Providing a happy learning environment is very important to me. I expect my students to treat one another with respect and apply the Golden Rule in their relationships. Bullies are not welcome at Humphreys Junior High. We all make mistakes and say and do things that we are not proud of. In that case, we apologize and ask the person we've harmed for forgiveness. If someone consistently makes life miserable for others, he or she will be asked to leave.

If you have a problem with me, a decision I've made, or with some aspect of my curriculum, please see me privately instead of discussing it with others behind my back.

Our motto at HJH:

**Do unto others as you
would like for them
to do unto you.**

PROPER ATTIRE



Navy blue Polo-type shirts with either short or long sleeves and collars. These may be ordered from Land's End school catalog at 1-800-469-2222.

HJH school # is 9000-7448-5.

Logo # is 0233232K.

Solid khaki-colored shorts touching the knee, slacks or capri pants. No skirts or shorts, please. Pants should be at waist level, not low-rise. Land's End carries appropriate pants in case you have trouble finding them in stores.

What to bring to school each week:

- ✓ Your blue or green folder (containing papers to be turned in and your initialed assignment sheet)
- ✓ Looseleaf paper, pencils, and a red checking pen
- ✓ Grammar, history, and literature books
- ✓ A water bottle to drink after breaks
- ✓ A lunch and several healthy snacks

History Notebooks:

I have a very specific way I like for the students to complete their history notebooks. All of the review questions are typed and available for download on the Resources page of the school website, along with PowerPoint presentations I use in class. If done correctly, these notebooks help the students retain what they've learned, prepare them for high school, and provide an excellent study tool.

Standardized testing:

I will administer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills near the end of April. When the scores come back, I will e-mail you copies of your children's scores and explain their significance. The cost for this testing is covered in your registration fee.

After Christmas we use the book *Scoring High on the ITBS* to prepare for testing and to develop good test-taking skills. Standardized test scores are one evaluation option provided by Orange County. It is each parent's responsibility to send evaluations to the county. I will sign the evaluation form provided by the county if you desire that option instead.

Accountability to your county public school system:

Each family is responsible for reporting directly to the county unless you are affiliated with an umbrella school. Following are county addresses:

Orange County:

Office of Home Edu. and Student Services
Educational Leadership Center- 7
445 West Amelia Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Lake County:

Student Services Office
509 S. Palm Avenue
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

Seminole County:

Home School Department
1722 W. Airport Boulevard
Sanford, FL 32771



Research Paper book

My research paper book which was in the works for 20 years has finally been published. Each student at HJH receives his own copy of my book to keep and take to high school and college. It is also available at Amazon.com.



**It's hard work,
but it's so worth it!**

Support groups:

I highly recommend that each family be active in a local home school support group.

You can join Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA), the state home-school support group, as part of Pine Ridge Home Educators and receive a group discount.

If you are a first-time homeschooler, write a letter to your county apprising them of your decision to homeschool.

In late May you must send an end-of-the-year evaluation. This can be ITBS (or other standardized test) scores or an evaluation signed by a certified teacher who has met with you and examined your child's portfolio. I am certified and can sign these forms.

Please remember, at whatever point you decide to discontinue home schooling, let the county know. Otherwise they keep you in their records and wonder why you didn't send in an evaluation for your child.

Enrollment for HJH:

My present students receive first choice at available spots when reenrollment begins in January. Next are their siblings, Keystone Academy students, and members of Pine Ridge Church, then I take students on a first-come basis. I like to meet with them and their parents before final acceptance. Students and parents are invited to visit in class for a day to see what it is all about and to determine if HJH is the right fit for them. Parents may send in registration forms at any time, and they will be placed on hold. The registration fee is refundable until the first of April, when the checks will be deposited. **Because class space is limited, parents are expected to keep their children in the program for the duration of the school year. Once the school year begins, if your child leaves for any reason other than an out-of-town move, you will be charged three months tuition.**

For a copy of registration forms,
contact Ceil Humphreys at
humphreysjuniorhigh@gmail.com
Thank you for your interest in HJH.

Testimonial from a former HJH mom

Our children's education is our top priority.

When we moved to the U.S. from Europe, I hadn't even heard of homeschooling before, as such a thing didn't exist in my country. It was a very new and different concept for me. I was introduced to it through quite a few friends here but sent my children to public elementary schools. My son was very quick to learn everything, was tested and placed in the gifted program, with teachers' recommendations skipped a year of school, and even still it was a great challenge to keep his mind developing at the pace of which he was capable. Approaching middle school, I was looking at options, and at this point took more interest in the homeschooling idea by visiting and researching Humphreys Junior High.

Without a doubt, it was one of the best decisions made in my son's educational career. Over the years, Mrs. Humphreys has developed an outstanding curriculum. The foundations of grammar that she provides are especially hard to find elsewhere, as well as a very detailed and intricate exploration of both U.S. and world history. In addition to outstanding academics, Mrs. Humphreys herself has the remarkable ability to connect with students at their most important development age as preteens and teenagers. She knows how to keep them interested in the fun to be found in learning while remaining disciplined and focused on academics.

Furthermore, the very structure of homeschooling forced my son to develop greatly in managing in his own workload, being self motivated, and maintaining responsibility for his tasks. With the successful self-imposed structure he developed with Mrs. Humphreys, he had time to explore what he really enjoyed. He was free to supplement his schooling with extra classes of his interest, as well as developing skills and resources outside of normal middle school.

After graduating from Humphreys Junior High, my son went to one of the most prestigious private schools in the area with concentration in the rigorous International Baccalaureate program. I was a little concerned that he'd have a hard time adjusting to "regular" school, and would maybe even need some catching up, but after meeting with his new teachers and attending a few "Parents' Concerns" meetings, I was greatly pleased to find that he was prepared exactly for what was required, and his transition to high school was easier than the other students' - even those coming from the same school's middle school. My son graduated #1 in the class rankings by GPA with outstanding service hours, extracurricular classes, and other activities.



Proof that Humphreys Junior High was the right choice came even as he was applying for Ivy League schools for his undergraduate education. In interviewing for admissions, one of my son's interviewers, an alumnus of Brown's undergraduate and later Cornell and Harvard's graduate programs, was surprised to find that my son mentioned Humphreys Junior High. Apparently, my son's interviewer had also chosen to enroll his own child with Humphreys.

Humphreys Junior High

Classical or Traditional? We're a blend of the best of both!



Humphreys Junior High seeks to partner with parents to help prepare their children for life so they may be used to the utmost by God. My goal is to **“light a fire of a love of learning”** in each of my students so they will go on to be life-long learners. We do that by giving them the **“tools for learning”** as Dorothy Sayers stated in her essay of 1947 at Oxford.

Below are excerpts from an e-mail I received from the mother of two of my students. For years, she and her husband had been seeking a classical education for their children, and she was so pleased with Humphreys Junior High that she sent me this message. I couldn't say it better myself, so with her permission, I am reprinting what she had to say:

“According to Andrew Kern at the CiRCE Institute, **Classical Christian education is the cultivation of wisdom and virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty by means of the liberal arts so that, in Christ, the student is better able to know and enjoy God.** HJH is doing this.

“Classical education is old, yet not so old. In Western Civilization, it was the type of education from ancient times until mid-to-late-18th century; from St. Paul to St. Augustine, our Founders, Lewis & Tolkien. Not the only Christian education but, nonetheless, a Christian education. It had and has a **strong focus on language, history, and virtue.** So does HJH.

“**Grammar** is the first of the three liberal arts of the trivium. The classical study of grammar involves studying not only one's native language and literature, but the ‘classical’ languages and literatures of ancient Greece and Rome. Traditionally, grammar students learned about the history, culture, and morals of the civilization in which they would live. HJH students have, too. **HJH is a strong proponent of rigorous grammar studies and provides tools for learning Latin and Greek.**

“Classical Education focuses on the Quadrivium, tackling first the Trivium. This is the first three of the seven liberal arts, the division of classical education made in Medieval times--to learn in progression the arts of **grammar, logic, rhetoric** (also called tools) using the content of Humanities. The next four are arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. (‘Stages’ - A term first used by Dorothy Sayers, and used by many classical educators today.) In the grammar stage of the Trivium, Ceil, it has been our experience of seeing you teach these things as well as the beginnings of logical thinking at HJH.

“**‘The Great Ideas’** are the often-heard buzz words among Classical educators; ideas such as **Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Liberty, Equality, and Justice** are sought and found in the content and study of the Great Conversation. All these ideas are discussed at HJH in studies such as Bible, history, literature, and composition.

“What is ‘The Great Conversation’? - The contribution of all the great authors to the discussion of great ideas throughout Western Civilization. It tells us what men believed about these ideas and how they lived encompassing history, literature, philosophy, and more. This, as you know, is the study of Humanities. I have seen samplings of such at HJH through studies of great authors like Shakespeare.

“We can honestly say that with our earnest pursuits at home combined with your great contributions and assistance, our children are receiving the Classical education that we longed for eight or nine years ago.”

Over the years I have sought out the best of the best in methods and curriculum, and even written much of my own, to help provide the students with the very best education possible. Come join us at HJH and have fun while learning.