

THE CLASSICAL ORCHARD

# Class Catalog

2025-2026



Shalom

[www.classicalorchard.com](http://www.classicalorchard.com)



# Welcome!

The Classical Orchard exists to support Christian homeschool families in a classically-minded educational cooperative. We meet on Thursdays in Manhattan, KS at Faith Manhattan Church. What started out as a small group of fifteen families interested in forming a local co-op three years ago, has grown to an established community currently serving seventy-one families.

Each year high school students choose from an à la cart schedule. HS only parents are not required to stay on campus, though they are welcome. We offer core subjects and elective courses for our students based on student interest and instructor availability. We desire to support upper level families fulfill Kansas educational requirements for graduation through valuable classroom experiences with qualified, engaging instructors. Each class has a complete course description and student expectations provided by the instructor for families to review prior to registering their students in a class.

The Full-Time Family Orchard program (grades 1st-8th) requires that a parent stay on campus and serve in several classes. Roles include content teacher or homeroom teacher. Being a full-time family requires weekly commitment and a willingness to serve alongside others for a common goal. When the parent is not serving, they are free to fellowship for the remainder of their time at Orchard. Space is limited so we are considering serious inquiries only.

Our 25-26 catalog is released March 1 and our JOIN button will direct interested families to an application for pre-approval. Once pre-approved, families will receive notification on when class registration is open to register their student. Feel free to reach out with any questions.



*Emily Weddle*

The Classical Orchard Coop Director  
emily@classicalorchard.com

Early Education  
Jami Berrgren

High School  
Jada Sharp & Kendra Campbell

Kindergarten-4th  
Kristen Page

Finance  
Aubrey Durbin

Middle School  
Shasta Long

Education Director  
Lauren Jones

# The Classical Orchard High School Fees

Fees we charge at The Orchard for high school help us to attract and maintain qualified instructors, cover administrative costs, and keep our systems running smoothly. All leadership positions are volunteer. Only our contracted class instructors receive an income from these fees.

Annual High School Registration Fee \$75/family

Full Year Class \$300/student per class

Semester Class \$150/student per class

Materials Fees vary per class

Student Book cost varies per class

Important Dates:

- March 1 High School Catalog Released
- March 8 High School Registration Open on [classicalorchard.com](http://classicalorchard.com)
- April 30th Determination if minimum enrollment met to officially offer class (enrollment number varies per class)
- Registration will stay open for classes officially offered until the High School Director closes it. Payment due dates will be adjusted for late registration.
- May 1 Invoices sent via email\*
- June 1 Payment due unless payment plan established\*\*

\*Invoices will be sent from our Classical Orchard Quickbooks account on May 1 to the email address you provide. All fees for the entire school year will be included. There will not be a separate charge for the spring semester as in the past. Also, all invoices need to be paid online. We no longer accept check or cash.

\*\*Payment is either due by June 1 or spread into payments upon request. Please email our Finance Director if you'd like a payment plan. [Aubrey@classicalorchard.com](mailto:Aubrey@classicalorchard.com)

# The Classical Orchard Full-Time Family Fees

\$375 Annual Family Registration

\$600 per Early Ed Student (Nursery, Preschool, Pre-K)

\$350 per Kinder -8th grade + books per class

Important Dates:

- March 1 New Application Accepted
- March 1-15 Interviews
- March 15 Acceptance and Invoice for Family Fee / or denial emails sent
- April 1 Family fee due
- May 1 Invoice for grade fees
- June 1 Payment due for grade fees or payment plan set up.

Thursday 8:15 am - 3:30 pm

# Early Education



Jami Berggren  
Early Ed Director

Homeschooling families must be a full day Orchard family to enroll in the following classes. Students will be led by hired preschool teams. All personnel are trained and background checked. The Early Education Director is a volunteer position. Jami Berggren will serve again as the 2025–2026 Early Education Director. Jami provides oversight of a crucial part of the Orchard that needs extra nurturing, attentiveness to detail, predictable routines, and flexibility.

## Nursery Class

\$600 Grade Fee

The nursery serves younger Orchard siblings 6 months to 2 years. Nursery is led by a team of care givers. Our student to nursery teacher ratio is 1 to 4. It is a full day of calm, caring, and restful routine. Nursery provides allergen friendly snacks. Parents provide lunches, a diaper bag, blanket, and pack-n-play. This full day will require time and preparation to be certain students have what they need weekly.

## Preschool Class

\$600 Grade Fee

This class serves younger Orchard siblings using the Gentle and Classical Preschool program. Students enjoy a full Orchard day routine including: circle time, snacks, sensory learning, craft time, recess, lunch, play learning, nap time and more. Parents pack a nap mat and nut-free snacks and lunch. Assuring students have what they need for the full day will require parental preparation of 15–20 minutes weekly.

## Pre-Kinder Class

\$600 Grade Fee

Pre-Kinder serves younger Orchard siblings. Pre-K is taught by a pair of hired instructors. Students enjoy an Orchard day routine including: phonogram and pre-writing, show and tell, Christian Liberty Press Preschool Science, snack time, Memoria Press Junior Kindergarten, recess, lunch, play learning, and more. Parents pack a nap mat and nut-free snacks and lunch. Student having what they need for the full day will require parental preparation of 15–20 mins weekly.



Thursday 8:15 am - 3:30 pm

# Elementary



Kristen Page  
Elementary Director

Homeschooling families must be a full day Orchard family to enroll in the following classes. The Elementary Director is a volunteer position. Mrs Page returns again next year as Elementary Director and provides oversight of a crucial part of the elementary student's experience including overseeing welcoming students, equipping teachers, safety practices, sub needs and dismissal. Orientation is required for all families.

## Kinder

\$350 Grade Fee

While kinder enrollment is for younger Orchard siblings, this class enjoys an Orchard day routine similar to first grade. Classes include Assembly, Science, Fine Arts, Presentation, Read -a-loud and several recesses. Students bring a presentation to share. Students having what they need for the full day will require parental preparation of 15-20 mins weekly.

## 1st

\$350 Grade Fee

Students will be shepherded by a homeroom teacher and instructed by content teachers. Classes include Assembly, Science, Fine Arts, Spelling, Presentation, Read -a-loud and several recesses. Daily work at home includes 10-15 minutes for memory links, 5-10 minutes for practicing presentation. Parents choose a math and reading curriculum best suited for their student at home. Estimated book cost: \$25.

## 2nd

\$350 Grade Fee

Students will be shepherded by a homeroom teacher and instructed by content teachers. Classes include Assembly, Science, Fine Arts, Spelling, Presentation, Read -a-loud and several recesses. Daily work at home includes 10-15 minutes for memory links, 5-10 minutes for practicing presentation. Cursive sheets (provided) and regular read alouds are encouraged. Parents choose a math and reading curriculum best suited for their student at home. Estimated book cost: \$25.

## 3rd

\$350 Grade Fee

Students are shepherded by a homeroom teacher and instructed by content teachers. Classes include Assembly, Science, Fine Arts, Grammar, Writing, Read -a-loud and recesses. Daily work at home includes reviewing memory links (10 mins), daily grammar (15 mins), and IEW assignments (15-20 mins). Families choose their own math curriculum.. Estimated book cost: \$50.

## 4th

\$350 Grade Fee

Students are shepherded by a homeroom teacher and instructed by content teachers. Classes include Assembly, Science, Fine Arts, Grammar, Writing, Read -a-loud and recesses. Daily work at home includes reviewing memory links (10 mins), daily grammar (15 mins), and IEW assignments (15-20 mins). Families choose their own math curriculum.. Estimated book cost: \$50.

Thursday 8:15 am - 3:30 pm

# Middle School



Shasta Long  
Middle School Director

Homeschooling families must be a full day Orchard family to register in the following classes. The Middle School Director is a volunteer position. Shasta Long will serve as the 2025-2026 Middle School Director. Shasta provides oversight of a crucial part of the Orchard that includes welcoming students, supporting teachers, routines, safety practices, sub needs and dismissal.

## 5th-6th

\$350 Grade Fee

Students will be shepherded by a homeroom teacher and instructed by content teachers. Daily work at home includes reviewing memory links (10 -30 mins), daily grammar (20 -30 mins), and IEW assignments (30-40 mins). Classes include: Claritas memory links, Grammar, Science, Writing (IEW), Fine Art and a class TBD. Families choose their own math curriculum for home. Orientation is required. Owning the IEW training or attending an 8 hour IEW training (free) is required. Books are not included in the grade fee and will cost approximately \$100.

## 7th-8th

\$350 Grade Fee

Students will be overseen by a homeroom teacher and instructed by content teachers. Daily work at home is expected and varies by class. 7th and 8th graders will experience a significant increase in workload compared to 5th and 6th grade. Classes include: History, Science, (Apologia), Writing (IEW), Logic, Humanities + a class TBD. Families choose their own math curriculum for home. Orientation is required. Owning the IEW training or attending an 8 hour IEW training (free) is required. Books are not included in the grade fee and will cost approximately \$225.

# HS Block 1



## Drama

Kendra Campbell

Full Year | \$300

An acting and production class which exposes students to many aspects of a theatrical experience. The course has regular exercises in impromptu acting, dramatic interpretation, and character development, as well as experiencing what's required behind the scenes. Students will learn how to use a variety of sources and multimedia to research, create, perform and refine dramatic and theatrical interpretations. Sacrifice of personal goals and input is a constant necessity for the sake of working together to create honest art. Students will be involved in dramatic experiences which will enrich the Orchard community. Students should leave this class with an understanding of how art can be selfless, humble, and collaborative while bringing glory to God. *Counts as 1 elective credit.*



## American History

Alan Gerling

Full Year | \$300

Class Materials fee | \$50

This course will explore the sweep of American history, from the initial encounters between Europeans and Native Americans through the challenges of the 21st century. The class will provide a balanced approach to political and cultural issues, while also giving significant attention to religious and intellectual threads that have shaped the nation. .



## Spanish II

Andrea Osorio

Full Year | \$300

Class Materials fee | \$50

This class will present a unique opportunity to further learn the Spanish language from a native speaker. Ms. Osorio will be joining us weekly online from her home in Colombia. Students will be practicing conversational Spanish, grammar, learning culture and practicing self-reflection. Ms. Osorio describes her teaching style as "personal and learning through stories" with a Christian perspective. The uniqueness of this class is sure to produce questions. While the class meets in person weekly, instruction is virtual. Completion of a Spanish I class is a pre-requisite for enrollment.

# HS Block 2



## Classic Literature

Jada Sharp

Full Year | \$300

This class will cover a sampling of Classic Literature from around the world: novels, poetry, speeches, letters, fairy tales, picture books, and the authors who wrote them. A wide range of works will be studied and discussed. Students will discuss the story line, author's purpose and influence, the historical context, and learn how to read carefully. Students will receive a book list prior to the beginning of class. It is recommended that students purchase the books because we will be making notes in them.



## Speech

Melissa Basel

Fall | \$150

Speech (Fall Offering) – We'll be using IEW "Introduction to Public Speaking". From the publisher: "Students learn memory and delivery techniques as they write and present five speeches: self-introductory, narrative, expository, persuasive, and impromptu. Students evaluate recorded speeches in preparation for self-evaluation." Prior IEW families will enjoy continuity building on current knowledge, though NO PREVIOUS IEW experience is needed.



## Debate

Melissa Basel

Spring | \$150

Debate (Spring Offering) – Students will learn Lincoln-Douglas style debate, studying the parts of an argument, how to evaluate sources and evidence, Lincoln-Douglas style, and argument formulation. We'll end the year with in-class debates. This class will teach both the thought process for persuasive arguments as well as how to debate.

Expectations: Students will have weekly homework assignments. Students should plan to bring a pencil and paper for taking notes.



## Government

Blaine Darnell

Fall | \$150

The student will study Biblical teachings about government and leadership, definitions and historical examples of different forms of government, and the background to the American constitutional system. The course provides a thorough study of the U.S. Constitution and the workings of the federal government today. The student will also study state and local government, the revenue and budgeting process, international relations, specific issues that government faces today, and ways that the individual citizen can be involved in government. The student will read a significant number of original source documents and essays about government while studying the narrative of lessons. Students will be asked to purchase a book.



## Economics

Blaine Darnell

Spring | \$150

The student will receive an introduction to Biblical teaching related to economics, economics in church history, and the economic history of the United States. The student will then explore the basics of macroeconomics and microeconomics, learning about markets, money, trade, business organization, and labor. The student will also learn how government is involved in the economy and look at modern economic challenges. The student will read a significant number of original source documents and essays about economics while studying the lessons. Students will be asked to purchase a book.

# HS Block 3

(Continues on next page)



## Personal Finance

**Sharp/Campbell/  
Weddle**

FALL | \$150

This high school personal finance course equips students with essential financial literacy skills to make informed money decisions. Taught from a Biblical worldview, students will learn key concepts such as budgeting, saving, investing, credit management, and entrepreneurship. Through real-world applications, led by a trio of Orchard dads who have years of financial and business experience, students will develop practical money management skills and an entrepreneurial mindset. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in financial responsibility, preparing them for future financial independence and success. This identical class is offered both semesters.



## Personal Finance

**Sharp/Campbell/  
Weddle**

SPRING | \$150

This high school personal finance course equips students with essential financial literacy skills to make informed money decisions. Taught from a Biblical worldview, students will learn key concepts such as budgeting, saving, investing, credit management, and entrepreneurship. Through real-world applications, led by a trio of Orchard dads who have years of financial and business experience, students will develop practical money management skills and an entrepreneurial mindset. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in financial responsibility, preparing them for future financial independence and success. This identical class is offered both semesters.



## Photography

**Jamie Scholberg**

Fall | \$150  
Materials \$25

This course is designed to ignite your creativity and build your skills as a visual storyteller through the art of photography. Whether you're picking up a camera for the first time or looking to refine your abilities, you'll explore the technical and creative sides of photography while discovering more about yourself and the world of art. By the end of this course, you'll have a portfolio of work you're proud of, a deeper appreciation for photography's role in art history, and the confidence to communicate your vision—both behind the lens and beyond it. DSLR or mirrorless camera recommended, but point-and-shoot or phone can work.



## Art

**TBA soon**

Spring | \$150  
Materials \$20

*Introduction to Art* instructs students in 9–12th grade on the basics of visual arts, both conceptually and in practice, with an emphasis on two-dimensional art. The \$20 materials fee is listed as students will use and keep a variety of supplies. The weekly class time is designated to instructor-developed lessons that include relevant art history, select artists, vocabulary, techniques, guided practices, and demonstrations. Students will also be provided designated class time to work on larger projects.



## Linguistics

**Carol Russell**

**Full Year | \$300**

This Linguistics course will explore the history of the English Language, beginning with Old English, then Middle English, Early Modern English, and end with a look at some modern English argots. Although there will be much time taking notes, there will be lots of time for questions, discussions and a myriad of ways to explore our language. While the class will meet in person weekly, the instruction will be hybrid – varying between in-person and virtual.

# HS Block 3 *(Continued)*



## Algebra 1

Merl Page

**10:40–11:55 75 MIN PERIOD**

**Full Year | \$300**

**Online grading fee \$20**

This Algebra 1 course will provide students with a college-prep math course that will give them the foundation they need to successfully move into higher levels of math. Saxon Algebra 1, 4th Edition covers all of the traditional first-year algebra topics while helping students build higher-order thinking skills, real-world application skills, reasoning, and an understanding of interconnecting math strands. Saxon Algebra 1 focuses on algebraic thinking through multiple representations, including verbal, numeric, symbolic, and graphical, while graphing calculator labs model mathematical situations. Students will need to own Saxon Algebra 1 textbooks. Online grading will be done through Nicole the Math Lady co-op account.

# HS Block 4

## Lunch

**11:55–12:40 45 MIN PERIOD**

High school students who attend all day or are in the building during this time will have a 45 minute lunch period. During this time there will be club meetings, student council meetings, and time for hanging out with friends. Students who are not on campus during this time may return for meetings when they occur.

# HS Block 5



## Art

**Renay Melcher**

Fall | \$150  
Materials \$25

This Intro to Art- Drawing 1 class will be a drawing focused class for high school students. The class time on Orchard day will be focused on learning about a drawing skill and working with Mrs. Melcher to apply it. There will be a take home sketchbook with drawing assignments as well as other homework assignments, including inspiration research and critiques. This class will be focused on basic drawing elements, shading, perspective drawings, still life's, portrait drawings and more.



## Choir 7th-12th

**Ashley Bray**

Spring | \$150  
\$15 music fee

This Choir class is designed for any students interested in using their God-Given instrument – the voice. The course will focus on some basic music theory, vocal techniques, choral tone, sight reading, and performance techniques in a Christ centered environment. The class time will also focus on learning the musical selections in the assigned vocal parts based on each student's vocal range. There will be a music theory lesson each week that may include homework to be graded by Mrs. Bray.



## Sign Language

**Carol Russell**

Fall | \$150

This beginning Sign Language course will focus on using Sign Language to communicate with the Deaf. We will work on introducing ourselves, asking questions, and some basic ways to interact using a signed language. A dictionary will be helpful. I use Signing Exact English, but any dictionary can work. You may want to have an online dictionary downloaded to use as a reference. Fun is the expectation. Learning Sign is the goal. Assessment will consist of forming the signs and reading the signs. While the class will meet in person weekly, the instruction will be hybrid - varying between in-person and virtual.



## Intro to Cajon

**Jennifer Altwegg**

Spring | \$150

The Introduction to Cajon class is geared towards students with no previous musical experience OR students with experience on other instruments that are new to percussion. The goal of this class is to equip students with the musical skills and confidence required to play a cajon at a beginner level. Lessons will be geared towards fundamentals with the end goal of playing in a band setting, such as a worship team at a church. Students would purchase their own \$50–150 instrument.



## Coding

**Jay Herrmann**

Fall | \$150

This engaging, hands-on course introduces high school students to the fundamentals of computer programming using Python 3, one of the world's most popular and versatile programming languages. The course begins with visual programming concepts using Scratch to build a strong foundation in computational thinking, then transitions to text-based programming with Python.

# HS Block 6



## Physics

**Carol Regehr**

**Full Year | \$300**

Apologia describes this course as follows: "Exploring Creation with Physics" is a college-prep course that provides a detailed introduction to the methods and concepts of general physics. Heavily emphasizing vector analysis, this text is ideal preparation for a university-level physics course. It provides the student with a strong background in one-dimensional and two-dimensional motion, Newton's laws and their application, gravity, work and energy, momentum, periodic motion, waves, optics, electrostatics, electrodynamics, electrical circuits, and magnetism." Prerequisites: Algebra, plus familiarity with the definitions of sine, cosine, and tangent. Use Saxon free math placement tests to determine readiness – your student should test into Advanced Math or higher to be prepared to study physics.



## Spanish I

**Amy Torpen**

**Full Year | \$300**

Using Breaking the Spanish Barrier: ¡Vamos! Beginner "A" – both printed and online, students will study the beginning basics of the Spanish language, including basic vocabulary, present and preterite (past) tenses, subject and object pronouns, adjectives, ser/estar verbs, prepositions and conjunctions. We will look at different Spanish-speaking cultures and countries and engage in projects and activities in class and outside class. In order to communicate clear expectations, rubrics for projects and activities will be included in the detailed syllabus to be handed out the first day of class. (We will also utilize My Father's World's Foreign Language Enrichment Guide: Real Life Activities, which will be handed out then as well.)



## Chemistry

**Dr. Matthew Basel**

**Full Year | \$300  
Lab fee | \$60**

The chemistry class will be a laboratory focused high school chemistry course based on the Apologia Exploring Creation with Chemistry 3rd edition textbook. In order to facilitate a high school level laboratory course, class time at the Orchard will be dedicated to performing the associated laboratories each week. In order to be a rigorous, college-preparatory course, we will be performing each of the laboratories in the textbook as well as the laboratory exercises in the optional MicroCHEM kit.



## Sewing 7th-12th

**Melissa Basel**

**Full Year | \$300**

This sewing class will be an introductory sewing class focused on apparel construction. Our learning will be project based. There will be several projects throughout the year. Students will get to pick out and keep their own finished projects that fit into the project guidelines.



# Meet the Teachers



**Dr. Basel** is an associate professor of physiology at the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine where he teaches a variety of courses including Systems Physiology, Cell Physiology, Biomedical Techniques, and Histology to professional and graduate students. He has a Ph.D. in Biological and Materials Chemistry and a Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning and has been

licensed (currently unused/expired) in the state of Kansas in secondary education with endorsements in chemistry, biology, and physics. Dr. Basel has received multiple teaching awards for his teaching at K-State, including receiving the first-year instructor of the year award multiple times. He and his wife have homeschooled their four children for the last twelve years and their oldest is about to graduate!

**Melissa Basel** has been homeschooling her four children since 2012. She enjoys watching her children progress from skill to skill and celebrating each tiny step of learning. Melissa began sewing as a small child with her mother. She has studied pattern design, history of clothing, apparel construction, and tailoring. Melissa has taught sewing classes for six years and looks forward to watching her students excel in their skills with each project.



**Kendra Campbell** grew up in Olathe, earned her Masters in Music Education at KU, and has called Abilene home for the last 22 years. She taught for 8 years at public schools and has been home with her kids since, homeschooling for the last 16 years and graduating 3 so far. She enjoys relaxing in the sun, reading, talking with others, and welcoming change. Pouring into her family is her favorite thing. Kendra has been married to Kyle for 24 years. They have 5 children: Edith, 22, Lela, 21, Warren, 19, Margaret, 17, and George, 13.

**Kyle Campbell** is a father of five home-schooled children. He has enjoyed supporting his wife, Kendra, in this very worthwhile educational endeavor. Professionally, Kyle is a third-generation community banker who is actively involved in the banking industry and serves as an instructor for the Schools of Banking. Kyle is also actively involved in his community, currently serving as Board Chair for the Eisenhower Foundation Board of Directors. Kyle has also served on boards for his church, the City of Abilene, the Salina Symphony Orchestra, and numerous local non-profit organizations. He has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Kansas State University and a Master of Business Administration from Rockhurst University. He is also a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

# Meet the Teachers



**Ashley Bray** is a homeschooling mom of five children, originally from Anchorage, Alaska and music enthusiast. She comes from a very musical family and knew she always wanted to teach music in some way. She participated in multiple High School and College Choirs traveling and even recording several albums. She graduated from California Baptist University with a Bachelors in Music Education and has always had a love for church music, worship teams, and church choirs. She has directed her local church choir here in Manhattan for over three years now and loves to help others experience the joy of singing with excellence and harmony. Mrs. Bray has taught K-6th grade music on the Fine Arts team at the Classical Orchard since it began and also teaches private piano lessons out of her home.



**Blaine Darnell** had a career in the architectural hardware industry as an estimator for both distributors and manufacturers. His children briefly homeschooled in Southwest Missouri prior to the family being transferred to the Kansas city area. His wife (Marian) taught at both Whitefield Academy and Kansas City Christian School. His wife is an RN, daughter (Melissa Basel) a homeschool mom and teacher here at the Orchard, and their son recently retired from the military.



**Alan Gerling** is an associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church. Alan earned his Masters of Theological Studies from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2020. He moved to Manhattan to minister at Grace in 2008. Prior to that, Alan taught various music classes and ensembles for five years first at the Mediapolis school district in Mediapolis, Iowa and then the Clark County R-1 school district in Kahoka, Missouri. During those years, Alan held a K-12 teaching license in Iowa and then Missouri. Alan and his wife Jodie have three children they homeschool.

# Meet the Teachers

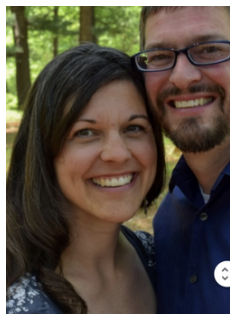


**Renay Melcher** received her K-12 Art Education from College of the Ozarks. From there, she went on to teach elementary art for 6 years in El Dorado, Ks and Manhattan, Ks. She resigned from teaching to be home when her second child was born. When her oldest child was going into 1st grade, she made the decision to homeschool her family. She was so grateful to have been part of the Orchard the first year as it grew and developed into what it is. She teaches classical art to the elementary students of the Orchard and also led the 3rd- 8th in developing their IEW presentation projects. This next school year, she is looking to add High School art as an option for the Orchard, with drawing being the focus. Drawing has always been a personal favorite of hers. She loves being part of this homeschool community, it has been a blessing to her and her family. She currently lives in Manhattan with her husband Mike. They raise three awesome boys, Jack (going into 4th), Blake (starting kindergarten) and Luke (nursery).



**Jay Herrmann** brings 35 years of programming expertise to the classroom, backed by both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Kansas State University. His extensive career in software development spans more than three decades, during which he has witnessed and adapted to the evolution of programming languages, methodologies, and technologies. With his strong academic foundation and rich industry experience, Jay combines theoretical knowledge with practical applications to deliver comprehensive instruction to his students. His degrees from Kansas State University and decades of hands-on experience make him uniquely qualified to guide aspiring programmers through both fundamental concepts and advanced programming techniques. He and his wife have homeschooled their six children for the last fifteen years with one a sophomore at K-State.

# Meet the Teachers



**Amy Torpen** grew up in the north (Wisconsin) and transplanted to Manhattan over 9 years ago. After studying in Mexico for a semester and earning her Bachelors in TESOL and Spanish Education K-12, she taught refugees in Fargo, ND, for three years before staying home with her first child. Since then she has homeschooled for the past eleven plus years with a growing family of five kids, girls and boys ranging from 16 to 5 years old. Amy has traveled to Spanish-speaking and other non-Spanish-speaking countries and enjoys learning and curiosity, languages – especially Spanish – and people, as well as knowing God deeper and watching Him work. In a classroom setting, she has taught Spanish I and II and is currently teaching Spanish III; she's eager to start the cycle again with Spanish I and eager to stir excitement in your students for the perspectives, doors, and hearts that learning another language and culture can open in them and to them.



**Jennifer Altwegg** is currently a full-time homeschool mom and treasurer for The Classical Orchard. She played bass drum in the KSU Drumline for 2 years. She was awarded the Rod Funk Memorial Band Scholarship after her freshman year. She also plays or has played piano, guitar, bassoon and clarinet. She has taught piano lessons and served on a team or led worship in a variety of settings. She graduated with honors from Kansas State University with degrees in Secondary Education and Mathematics. She taught math at Junction City High School before staying home with kids. She loves both teaching and music and is eager to point students towards the kingdom of heaven in all their releasing of sound. This is her first time to offer Introduction to Cajon.



**Carol Regehr** retired from teaching Engineering Physics lab at Kansas State University. She has taught Physics to college-age students at all levels. Her main focus in teaching is to get students to understand that Physics is simple, but not easy, and they can do it. Students will also understand how to write a proper lab report. Mrs. Regehr holds bachelor's degrees in mathematics from Sterling College and accounting from Kansas State, and holds master's degrees from the University of Kansas in mathematics and from Kansas State University in physics. Carol and her husband, Lowell, live in Manhattan and worship at Faith.

# Meet the Teachers



**Jada Sharp** grew up in Leoti, KS. She earned her Masters degree in Communication Disorders from Fort Hays State University and worked as a speech-language pathologist with children ages birth through high school for 10 years before leaving the public schools to stay home with her kids. She and her husband, Lance, moved to the area 2011. They have 5 children ages 21-7 and have been homeschooling the youngest three since 2020. They have a small farm where they raise sheep, dairy goats, and dairy cattle. Jada enjoys reading, fiber arts, working in the garden and flower beds, and being outside barefoot in the sunshine.

**Lance Sharp** graduated from Riley County High School. He then earned a bachelors in secondary education and a masters in education administration from Fort Hays State University. He taught high school math for three years and has coached multiple sports for over ten years. They moved back to the area in 2011 for Lance to start a career in insurance with Copeland Insurance. He writes all lines of insurance from home, auto and business to life insurance. Lance and his wife Jada have a small farm near Leonardville and have 5 kids, with three of them being homeschooled and part of the Orchard.



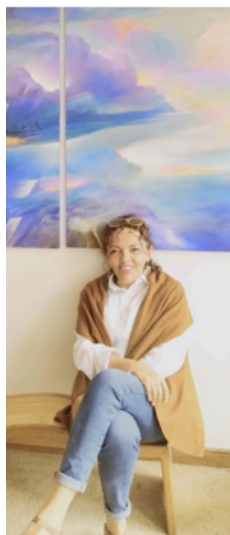
**Allyn Weddle** is a native of Manhattan, KS. Being an entrepreneur was evident early on when he started a business with his brothers, while still teenagers. Allyn is a husband, dad, foster parent, KSU fan and business owner. Allyn and his family attend Faith Manhattan Church. He is the president and owner of Weddle and Sons, Inc. He and his wife, Emily, have been homeschooling their children for 10 years



**Carol Russell** is a retired teacher of 34 years. She was a teacher of English, grades 7-12 at Flint Hills Christian School, an adjunct professor at Kansas State University English Department, and senior English teacher at Abilene High School. Carol has a Bachelor of Science in Education, a Master of Arts in English/Linguistics. She has a certificate from ACUE for teaching at the university level. She and her husband Jay have 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.



# Meet the Teachers



**Andrea Osorio** is a Colombian Visual Artist and Educator. Her life has been immersed in the world of art, particularly in printmaking, which she started exploring at a young age. She studied art under the guidance of masters such as Jaime Osorio, David Manzur, Angel Lokkart, Margarita Monsalve, and other artists. She also pursued photography with Javier Sandoval in Bogota. She completed two years of History at Universidad Javeriana in Bogota. Her printmaking studies took her to the Pyramid Atlantic workshop in Maryland, USA. Throughout her life, she has participated in various national and international exhibitions.

As a homeschooling expert, she leads personalized programs for families nationally and internationally. She supports youth transitioning to college, working with them to identify strengths and weaknesses and develop

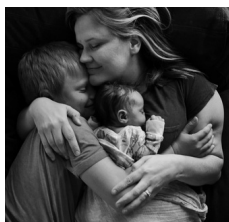
personalized learning plans. She conducts individual tutoring sessions as an ESL teacher and helps students improve their academic performance, track progress with assessments, and adjust their learning plans accordingly. Collaborating with teachers, she develops effective teaching strategies for students facing challenges. She maintains regular communication with parents to update them on student progress and address their concerns. Additionally, she facilitates professional development sessions for teachers for best practices.



Merl Page graduated from Herington High School and then attended Emporia State University (ESU), where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. It is there he met his wife of 41 years, Brenda. They are both members of Crestview Christian Church. Together they raised one son, Michael Page, who lives in the western part of Pottawatomie County, with his wife, Kristen Page, and their two daughters, Eliana and Jayne Allison (Pip Pip). He started his career in healthcare, serving as the Business Manager of the Trego County-

Lemke Memorial Hospital. He got started in Public Administration, being the first City Administrator for the City of WaKeeney. Upon completing 6 plus years in that position, he was hired by the City of Wamego to fill the position of City Manager. He held that position for over 23 years, at which time he retired from the City. He recently was elected to the Pottawatomie County Commission.

# Meet the Teachers



**Jamie Scholberg** brings a wealth of experience and passion to her role as an instructor of Humanities, Photography I, and Fundamentals of English Grammar. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a Bachelor's of Arts in English, Jamie honed her editorial and writing skills as the photography editor for the university yearbook, co-editor of the literary magazine, and a tutor in the university writing center. Her teaching journey spans diverse settings, including public school classrooms, learning center tutoring, and over eight years as a homeschool teacher for her four children. Beyond her role as an educator, Jamie has spent the last decade as a professional photographer, capturing family stories with a distinctive photojournalistic style, and has had her work showcased in art exhibitions. Her multifaceted background equips her to inspire students in both creative and analytical pursuits.

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