



## *Vine & Branches Homeschoolers*

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA [John 15:4-5](#)

# Code of Honor 2022/2023

This Code of Honor is a tool that we will use within our co-op to help us honor Christ, one another, and our host, Dove Westgate Church. We believe that clearly presented expectations will help our times together flow smoothly, building a trellis on which our branches can spread and flourish. Your awareness and affirmation of these guidelines will help all of our children know how to succeed in this group setting, offering safety to all as well as producing peace for families as we enjoy precious time together. As we all labor together and uphold these principles, we will offer support and respect to our whole community, especially our teachers and volunteers who give their time so graciously.

An atmosphere of legalism and rigidity is not the heart behind or goal for these guidelines. We desire that the Vine & Branches community grows more and more deeply rooted in the love of Christ, abiding in him and bearing much fruit! Thus, we will function with grace and truth, offering and upholding a warm and inviting atmosphere of care and encouragement for parents and children alike. Please join with us by familiarizing yourself with this code and reviewing the appropriate elements with your children.

### 1. Parking/Entering/Exiting:

Families should park at the East side of the building closest to Ephrata and enter through the double glass doors into the hallway for check in. Check-in begins with a greeter team and lanyards/stickers. After check-in, all doors will automatically lock. If you arrive after this time an LT member will check you in.

### 2. Off-limits areas:

Dove Westgate church offices will be actively in use during co-op hours. They have a separate entrance beside the outdoor cafe to the left of the lobby doors. Children are not permitted there, in the kitchen, the sanctuary, the prayer room, the nursing mothers room, the ministry room, any storage areas, or the two side parking lots. Children should not be in any classroom unless attending their in-session class.

### 3. Physical Property

Children should not move furniture or other items/equipment/supplies in the areas of the church used by Vine & Branches. Please do not bring unapproved sports equipment in or out of the building. Parents are financially responsible for any damage their children might cause to Dove Westgate church, Vine and Branches Property or any other co-op participants' property.

#### 4. Outdoor Play

All outdoor play must be kept to the parking area at the rear of the building and the grassy area behind it. Outdoor play and lunch time will be supervised but please note it is ultimately the parents' responsibility to keep watch over and guide their own children.

#### 5. Behavior Expectations – “3Rs” Our Structure for Respect & Peace

During group learning times we will review and use the “3Rs” listed below. Respect for one another and all property (property of Vine and Branches, Dove Westgate, co-op families, and guests) is expected during our entire time shared together.

WALKING - Please make special note that respect for property and ensuring everyone's safety necessitates that we all walk while inside the building. The single exception to this is during learning and play time in the gymnasium.

The Word of God is our guide for attitude towards others. When we choose this path it produces peace for all. I Corinthians 13:4-7 is a foundation for this: *“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

#### “3Rs”

❖ RESPECT PARENTS & TEACHERS - Respect elders who are serving and teaching to make this a quality time for all. This means listening attentively, doing what is asked of you cheerfully, and contributing when asked. Being an active participant in learning and activities shows respect. Patiently raising a hand during class time and knowing you may not always be able to speak shows you value others. Promptly heeding the directions of lunch, recess and hall monitors shows respect. We are also asking children to address adults as Mrs. or Mr. using parents last names, rather than first names. Students are expected to engage with their classes and participate in their group learning activities.

❖ RESPECT OTHERS & PROPERTY - Respect other students, the personal space of others and all property. This includes all classroom materials, church property and the belongings of other students. Again, waiting to speak and listening to others shows value and respect in meaningful ways.

❖ RISE TO CHALLENGES – During learning time or physical education some challenges may seem difficult or complex. We want to inspire children to trust the Lord to equip them in their attempts and know that He and the teachers desire to see them reach new places of learning, growth and understanding. Students should seek to cheer one another on and build each other up.

#### Repeated Disrespect:

We are all parents; we know that children have times of struggle and issues arise. We will give children 3 opportunities to adjust behavior if they are struggling to comply with our “3Rs” system. When a child is creating issues or disturbance in a class a parent will be notified and asked to assist as soon as possible. If this occurs more than 3 times in a given semester we will have to consider limiting that child's attendance for a period of time, to be determined by the Vine and Branches Leadership Team. On a case by case basis we will set parameters for a child to return within that semester.

## 6. Dress Code:

### Spiritual Clothing:

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."

Colossians 3:14. Our expectation is that adults come clothed with an attitude of willingness to serve and encourage one another toward excellence in actions and speech. Likewise, we expect students to clothe themselves with an attitude of humble submission to those in authority and to treat each other with kindness and grace.

### Physical Clothing:

We ask that everyone err on the side of modesty. We desire to create an atmosphere that will not distract from building healthy relationships and learning well. Please avoid spaghetti strap, strapless, low cut, cropped, sheer, ripped, or back cut-out tops. Please avoid tight pants or tops. If leggings are worn they should be covered by a tunic/dress/skirt/shorts that reach to fingertips or below. Shorts can be worn alone if they reach fingertips or below. Skirts/dresses can be worn without leggings if they come to top of kneecap or below. Students should wear appropriate shoes for active play; a physical component will be included at all of our meetings. (Please dress children in sneakers, tennis shoes, secure sandals meant for aggressive use.) Also Dove Westgate Church requires that no one wears marking soles or shoes with spiked heels or anything that could damage the gym floor.

Please let your countenance and outward appearance reflect the goodness of God! If you wear accessories or clothing with images or logos they should inspire Godly character, and the fruit of the Spirit. *"Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people."* Philippians 2:15

## 7. Digital Device Policy

Our desire is to create an atmosphere during co-op where both parents and students can connect in person without the distractions and pitfalls of our digital culture. With this goal in mind we are asking that parents join us in helping support and affirm the following guidelines for electronics use during co-op.

### Devices for Class Purposes

From time to time there may be classes offered where families or students need to bring a laptop or tablet for class purposes. When that is the case, we require that these only be used during class time and that parents retain the devices outside of class time.

### Parents Device Usage

Whenever parents are serving and overseeing children we ask that you exercise discretion in using personal electronic devices. At times devices are used as learning tools but other uses can be highly distracting. While in those roles, we are depending on one another to keep children guided in the right direction and safe.

### Student Device Usage

Personal electronic devices need to be left at home. We are striving to curate prime opportunities for group learning and relationship building. In effort to preserve these goals and decrease the likelihood of behavior problems, all electronics such as phones, MP3 players, gaming devices, etc. are not permitted during co-op. Classroom teachers and assistants as well as the LT team reserve the right to retain any found item that compromises the safety, goals and values of our cooperative for the duration of the meeting time.

## **Questions & Help on Co-op Meeting Days**

If you need help or have questions throughout a co-op day, please speak to an LT member.

Vine & Branches Leadership Team consists of: Glori Brubaker: Director, Natasha Gregorio: Board Member, Laura Hostetter: Board Member, Nevin Brubaker: Treasurer, Mallory Lanz: Secretary

Group email: [admin@vineandbrancheshslanco.org](mailto:admin@vineandbrancheshslanco.org)