

Florida Driftwood Schoolers, Inc

Teach With Us

Have you ever considered teaching a class at FDS? If you have an idea for a course that would be a good fit for our homeschooling students, please read this page and consider submitting a class description for our next semester. We are always open to new instructors and class ideas that meet the needs and interests of our families.

NOTE: Teacher submissions for Fall 2023 are OPEN. The deadline to submit classes is 6/31/2023.

Please take the time to thoroughly read all of this information before submitting a class. If you have any questions, please ask before submitting a lesson by sending all questions here: scheduling@floridadriftwoodschoollers.org

About FDS

FDS Co-op is an interest-led and student-driven co-op for all homeschooling students and families. Before each semester, we ask families about their interests and the classes they wish to take. Our directors attempt to meet those needs. Our teachers are comprised of parents, FDS students, and outside educators that we source from the community. Our classes are aimed at various ages, generally from 2 to adult. (Yes, some of our parents are interested in taking lessons too!) However, please note adult classes are not being offered at this time.

There are two semesters for classes per year at FDS (Fall and Spring). Each semester has 12 weeks' worth of lessons and meets once a week, on Tuesdays. Classes are 50 minutes long.

Our Families

FDS is comprised of a very diverse group of homeschooling families who use various educational methods and philosophies to educate their children. We welcome all homeschooling families, regardless of the homeschooling method. We welcome all families, regardless of age, political affiliation, religion, race, skin color, national origin, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. FDS is a secular co-op, which simply means that our co-op is not connected to any religion or faith-based system. We do not offer classes that include religious instruction, shared prayer, or faith-based content. We welcome people of all backgrounds and aim to foster a community that supports tolerance and understanding for people with differing beliefs. We value and appreciate diversity.

Policies

We have developed policies that honor our diverse homeschooling population and help our teachers succeed. We are not a public school, and our families have needs and requirements which often differ from families that use public schools. All of our teachers must be familiar with and adhere to our policies.

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Benefits of Teaching at FDS

The best thing about the FDS Co-op is that it is a joyful place. Teachers tell us they enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and that our children have a deeply ingrained love of learning new things. Our teachers also appreciate that our parents are highly involved in their children's education and are apt to lend a hand. We also offer our teachers these excellent benefits:

- Teachers who have children attending classes get priority registration. This means they can register before the other families in our co-op. Guaranteeing space for all of their children.

Classroom Policies:

Our teachers are not permitted to use any penal systems in the classroom. Both teachers and students must be treated respectfully and kindly at all times. Both teachers and students must be treated respectfully and kindly at all times. Parents, along with the directors, are welcome to sit in on classes as needed. Teachers must arrive before class begins and be ready to teach on time. Teachers are expected to teach each of the 12 weeks of classes unless there is an emergency or illness. If teachers need to miss a class due to illness or emergency, or if they will be delayed due to an unavoidable situation, they should notify us immediately by texting or calling a director.

Other Teacher Policies:

If you know ahead of time (before class submission) that there is a particular date during the semester when you cannot teach, you should include that information in the class information. If you are a teacher that has children who will be attending classes at FDS while you teach, please remember that your children will need to be supervised at all times, which is a rule that applies to everyone. While you teach, your child/children may attend a class, stay with you, or be supervised by another parent who agrees to help you.

Age Ranges

At FDS we currently separate students into the following age brackets: Babies (Birth-23months), Preschool (2-4), Early Elementary (5-6), Elementary (7-9), Intermediate (10-13), High (14-18), and Adult (19 and up).

Note: Our classes are usually one period long (50 minutes). There are occasional classes that, due to the subject matter and class design, meet for longer, such as a two-hour block. If you have a class that you think might work better in a different time, block than our regular 50-minute period, please discuss this with one of the directors before submitting the class description.

Co-Teacher

Each class must have a lead teacher and one co-teacher. When submitting your class, include your co-teacher if you have someone that you want to co-teach with you. If you have no co-teacher selected, leave the selection blank, and we will choose a co-teacher for you.

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Additional Supervision

If your class requires more assistance other than one co-teacher, you must indicate this on your class submission. Any class submission failing to indicate additional help needed will be automatically removed from the roster.

How to Set Class Fees

We currently only charge \$3 class fee for each class. Please keep this in mind when submitting classes. A class that will take additional money will likely not be added to the roster.

Parents (and Students) Can Teach, Too!

At FDS, we recognize that all people have valuable talents. If you are a parent with an idea for a great class, we encourage you to teach with us. Our current roster of teachers includes an eclectic mix of parents from our community. Some of our teachers were formerly public school teachers. Others are experts in their field, whether they learned by going to school or learning from experience alone. There is no one perfect background that makes a good teacher. We encourage our very own co-op students to teach classes!

One benefit for parents who choose to teach is that teachers get priority in registering their children for classes, which can be helpful with new families wanting to register. Parents who teach also benefit from getting to know other students here at FDS in an exciting educational setting. It's fun to teach!

Your Commitment

We ask all our teachers to take their job seriously. By submitting a class to FDS, you are committing to teach that class, provided you attain the minimum number of registrations. Once registration has begun, you can only cancel that commitment with us without inconveniencing many people. Please only submit a class to us if you are FULLY committed to teaching that semester.

Communication:

Communication with our teachers is essential. We need to be able to reach you, and we need you to be able to contact us and, sometimes more importantly, your students (parents).

Therefore, we require the following communication tools for all of our teachers:

Mobile phone. If we need to reach you for any reason, we may use a mobile phone as a direct call, a text to you, or a group text to all teachers. Email. We require that all teachers have an email account that they check frequently. The directors are volunteers, so we ask our teachers to make it easier for us to communicate with them to make sure our FDS semesters run smoothly.