

HOME SCHOOLING GUIDELINES AND CONTRACT

(not offered for Confirmation preparation)

In his 1994 *Letter to Families*, Pope John Paul II writes: "Parents are the first and most important educators of their children." When parents present their children to be baptized, Catholic parents are reminded that they have the responsibility to train their children in the practice of their faith. *We expect that all homeschooled children in the Prep Program are attending mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation.*

The following is an agreement between St. Philip Neri Parish Religious Education Program and parents/guardians of children participating in the Parent Instructed Home Based Catechesis Program.

Student(s): _____

Parent Email _____

Home School Grade: _____

Reason for Home Schooling: _____

Parent Responsibilities: I understand and agree to the following-

1. The family, children, or designated legal guardian must be registered members of Saint Philip Neri Parish.
2. Members of St. Philip Neri Parish are part of a community of worshipers because we believe in the Mystical Body of Christ. As such, the children and their parents/guardians are required to participate in the communal devotions that are scheduled for families in the Parish Religious Education Program.
3. I understand that I will receive the appropriate curriculum materials needed to effectively home school my child (ren). The materials provided are the same texts, supporting documents and online resources that are in use within the Parish Religious Education Program and will be grade specific for each student.
4. **I understand that as the parent I take on the responsibility of Catechist and it is my responsibility to teach the lessons to my child(ren) in a timely manner. My child(ren) is not responsible to engage in the lesson independently.**
5. **I understand that lessons will be posted weekly and that there is a two week window in which to complete each lesson. Once the lesson expires it is considered an incomplete. I understand that 3 or more incomplete lessons in a given year may make my child(ren) and I not eligible to continue with the Parent Instructed Homebased Catechesis Program and that my child(ren) may need to repeat the level.**
5a. NOTE-missed assignments will not be resent or reassigned.
6. **I understand that my child(ren) must earn a passing grade (70% or better) on each exam. Inability to receive passing grades may result in my child repeating the grade level.**
7. Prayers appropriate for each grade level will be memorized as designated in the Archdiocese Religion Guidelines. <http://phillyocf.org/prayers/>
8. If this is a sacramental preparation year for my child (2nd grade), I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain the dates and times for all parent meetings, practices and retreats.

9. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that the child(ren) are participating in the sacrament of reconciliation during the Advent and Lenten Seasons.
10. I agree to attend all appropriate sacramental meetings. (2nd grade -First Penance, 2nd grade - Communion).
11. I agree have my child attend all appropriate practices and retreats relating to the preparation required for reception of sacraments.
12. I understand that if, after careful and thoughtful reflection, a student who is preparing for the reception of a sacrament has not demonstrated a reasonable level of understanding regarding the curriculum, the Pastor may defer the student's reception of the sacrament.
13. I understand that if, after careful and thoughtful reflection, it is determined that a student has not successfully attained a reasonable level of understanding regarding the curriculum that he/she is studying, the Coordinator of Religious Education may recommend that the religious educational needs of the student may be better served in the formal Parish Religious Education program at the grade level specified by the Coordinator of Religious Education.
14. The Basic Catechetical Certification Policy (Formation Series from Loyola Press) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia fosters practical applications rooted in theological teaching. To support the role of volunteer catechists and PREP parents in the spiritual formation of children, the parish chooses the following option for fulfilling the formation requirements by pastors and the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education (D/CRE): • It strongly recommends parent(s) achieving the Basic Catechetical Certification: Complete the Basic Catechetical Certification Program provided by the Office for the Catechetical Formation. This certification involves a structured curriculum designed to deepen theological understanding and enhance practical catechetical skills. To access the formation series from Loyola Press, DREs should share the following information with parents: • Go to <https://digitallibrary.loyolapress.com/> and enter this Access Code: CFSPHILHOME
15. As part of the Saint Philip Neri PREP Program parents are required to review the Safe Environment Lesson Plan (grade appropriate) with your child (ren) and return the required form by the date listed. (**Attachment A – Safe Environment Form**)
<https://phillyocf.org/safe-environment-2/>
16. I understand that student tuition for home schooling is **\$200 (1 child), \$300 (2 children), \$400 (3 or more children)**. The tuition amount supplements material and sacramental expenses and administrative costs (copying costs, office overhead), and professional services from the Coordinator of Religious Education.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

CRE Signature _____ Date _____

Office use only:
Chapter Reviews completed _____

This student has successfully completed the _____ grade religion curriculum.

Attachment A

*Saint Philip Neri Parish
Wendy Benner, CRE
1325 Klinerd Rd. Pennsburg, PA 18073
Office 215-679-7839 Email- prep@spnparish.org*

Dear [Parent/Guardian],

In the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 12 calls for all dioceses to establish “safe environment” programs at all grade levels, both in the Parish Religious Education Program and Parish Elementary School. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia provides a Safe Environment lesson for Parish Religious Education Program catechists and mandates that this lesson be taught during one session of the instructional year.

The Safe Environment lessons are intended to supplement the conversations that you are having with your children about their personal safety. We recommend that parents, who choose not to have their child present during the classroom lesson, review the Safe Environment lessons with them at home. Please call Mrs. Benner with any questions or concerns.

Please review lesson plan (grade appropriate) <http://phillyocf.org/safe-environment/> and return this form to the Religious Education office. This form can emailed, returned in the collection basket, dropped off Wednesday nights during PREP or mailed to the address listed below.

*Saint Philip Neri Parish
Wendy Benner, CRE
1325 Klinerd Rd.
Pennsburg, PA 18073*

Sincerely,

Reverend Michael Saban, Pastor
Wendy Benner, Coordinator of Religious Education

AS PART OF THE HOME SCHOOLING GUIDELINES FOR SAINT PHILIP NERI PARISH I HAVE REVIEWED THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT LESSON WITH MY (CHILD) REN.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Instruction for the school year _____

School SAINT PHILIP NERI RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Name of Child / Level(s) _____

Name of Child / Level(s) _____

Name of Child / Level(s) _____