

Introduction to Hammersmith

Our unique approach blends a Charlotte Mason philosophy with a rich collaborative educational environment. We look forward to welcoming you into our school!

Our Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision: To form a small army of joyful warriors in the kingdom of God fully equipped to take ground from the kingdom of darkness and lay siege to the gates hell.

Mission: To foster the students' identities as active participants in God's unfolding of history, to shape their loyalties to God and his people, and to train them to love the true, good, and beautiful.

Values:

- We maintain Charlotte Mason style classroom atmosphere and teaching methods
- We value classical style Christian education
- We prioritize the centrality of history and biblical narrative
- We aim to foster the culture of the New Jerusalem
- We maintain a well-ordered family-like atmosphere
- We value honest relationships and same-day conflict and discipline resolution

Hammersmith's Education Philosophy

As a Charlotte Mason inspired school, Hammersmith seeks to implement her key insights. Children are created in the image of God with a God-given curiosity about the world and an in-built desire and capacity to learn and grow. Education is an act of feeding the mind, and we want to give our students a feast.

Charlotte Mason described her approach to education as atmosphere, discipline, and life. *Atmosphere* refers to the context of education that the teacher creates in the classroom. This includes the physical surroundings but also, and perhaps more importantly, the spiritual and emotional climate in the room. The atmosphere should be characterized by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. It's not enough to teach the kids the right content; it needs to be delivered in a joyful context that draws out the students' natural love for learning.

Discipline is a reference to habit formation. For Charlotte Mason, these were not just habits of behavior, but also habits of mind and spirit; these include the disciplines of attention, self-mastery, accuracy, neatness and order, respect for others, kindness, truthfulness, and good temper. At Hammersmith, we focus on specific habits each year and reinforce these throughout the day as opportunity arises.

By *life*, Charlotte Mason means the presentation of living ideas. Again, education is feeding the mind, and we want to give our students a feast. This means giving them the best resources possible: the finest literature, the most beautiful art and music, and the best curriculum communicated in an engaging manner. Students digest this food through discussion and narration.

Acclimating to the Hammersmith Philosophy and Culture

Students new to Hammersmith may find the environment a little different than they're used to, but in our experience, children quickly adapt to an educational feast! We encourage families to continue the feast at home. As you shape your family's homeschooling life, we encourage you to include imaginative play while getting plenty of time outside, reading great books alone and out loud as a family, and practicing kindness towards others and respect for those in authority. We also encourage families to practice narration in their home studies to help their kids thrive in Hammersmith.

In addition to periodic social gatherings for moms and dads and various informal opportunities along the way, we host a recitation night twice a year for the whole family. We don't expect every parent to participate every time, but we encourage parents to lead their children by example, demonstrating a lifelong habit of learning and memory.

Parents who will be participating in Hammersmith as teachers/assistants adapt to our culture and learn the skills necessary to work together to create a unified learning environment. We find that while the Charlotte Mason approach *sounds* intuitive, it's surprisingly difficult to implement well. The onboarding process may include attending scheduled summer training and team-building events before you begin in the fall. Margin permitting, new teachers will have the opportunity to assist and learn from one of our experienced teachers before assuming a lead teaching position.

Annual Tuition/Fees:

Preschool:	\$1875
Primary School:	\$2200
Middle School:	\$3200
Per Family Facility fee:	\$460

Is Hammersmith a school or a co-op?

While we enjoy a variety of the social opportunities and benefits of a co-op, when we come together for school, we are a school. While you as parents are responsible for the overall education of your children, we are committing to you to deliver an excellent education in the subjects we cover. In order to do that, Hammersmith maintains a disciplined school atmosphere: students exhibit habits of attention and respect towards teachers and classmates, line up and walk calmly from class to class, and are responsible to help maintain a clean and neat environment. Even for students who have a parent present at Hammersmith, the teacher is the delegated primary authority within the classroom. Teachers will model the habits of attention, respect, hard work, and good temper, prepare well for their classes, and maintain a joyful and disciplined classroom environment. Finally, parents are responsible for ensuring that your students come to class well-prepared with all the assigned homework completed.

Can I teach for Hammersmith?

We are a family-oriented collaborative and are often able to welcome a parent to attend and fill a role within the school. The roles include childcare, teaching assistants, and teachers for History, Bible, Artist Study, Nature Study and Music. We provide childcare while teaching to make it possible for a parent to attend with all of their children. Teaching or assisting at Hammersmith comes with a substantial tuition discount for primary and pre-school students.

Hammersmith Statement of Faith

We hold to the Apostles Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

In addition, we hold to the following statement relevant to our culture:

We believe that God immutably creates each person to reflect his image as male and female and that God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good (Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:31, Deuteronomy 6:4, John 10:30). Maleness and femaleness are biologically determined at conception and are not subject to change. We believe that marriage was instituted by God, is the life-long covenant between one man and one woman, and that all forms of sexual activity outside of marriage are sin (Mark 10:6-9).

Committing to Hammersmith

When you apply to Hammersmith, you are expressing agreement with our statement of faith and alignment to the Hammersmith educational philosophy. If accepted to Hammersmith, each family will commit to learning and upholding our educational philosophy and practices.