

## Collaborative Education Program FAQs

Below are some frequently asked questions about the Collaborative Education Program at LCS. We hope these are helpful to you as parents with students enrolled in the program.

- **Why is the LCS Collaborative program three days a week? Why did you choose Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday as “at-school” days?** We know that some other schools with similar models may only choose to have students at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. While we respect their methodology, we feel strongly that three days at school will be the best practice at Longview Christian School. Here are some of the reasons:
  - Expertise – An additional day at school under the direction of LCS certified teachers who have extensive training and years of experience will help to ensure the education experience for each student is top-notch. You are paying us for our expertise, and we want to give you another day of it!
  - Continuity – Our observations of young students have taught us that an inconsistent schedule (every other day at home/school) makes adjustment more difficult. The three days at school/four days at home schedule provides continuity for the students.
  - Complete LCS Experience – LCS elementary students are involved in many “special” classes outside of traditional academics. These once-a-week classes include art, music, Spanish, library, and chapel. We want our collaborative students to have the same opportunities as the traditional students. Three days/week allows us to involve them in a larger number of these classes.
  - Class Unity – Especially since some of our traditional and collaborative students are mixed in the same classroom, three days together at school promotes class unity between the students.
  - Family Time – Our schedule does not significantly diminish precious family time. We still provide the four-day at-home weekend every single week, which allows for flexibility in scheduling special family outings and activities.
- **Do we need to purchase our curriculum?** Similar schools often require parents to buy their own curriculum. At LCS student curriculum is included in tuition/registration cost. Any materials CEP students need for their “at-home” days will be sent home on Thursdays in their backpacks. Parents will also be provided with a list of teacher materials used by the LCS teachers. Each parent will discuss these materials with the classroom teacher to determine if they need/want to purchase any of them for use at home.
- **How will at-home assignments be communicated to parents?** Teacher lesson plans will be published on RenWeb in the homeroom class. This should give the information you need in addition to the materials in the folder. If you have questions, teachers will be available to assist you. Your teacher will establish their preferred method of communication at the beginning of the school year.
- **Will tests be taken at school or home?** Tests will be taken whenever they fall in the regular course of instruction. They may be sent home or taken at school. As the co-teachers, parents are completely trusted to administer tests and oversee assignments with integrity and according to school policy.

- **Will I grade my student's work?** You are welcome to “grade” it if you wish to help you know how your student is doing. However, all work will be returned in your student’s folder each Tuesday and the classroom teacher will officially grade it for entry into RenWeb gradebook.
- **If there are field trips, special activities, or class parties on Mondays or Fridays, does my child miss out?** You are encouraged (but not required) to bring your child on a Monday or Friday if the class has a special activity. They should be in dress code. Please communicate with the classroom teacher in advance.
- **If for any reason I would like to bring my child to school on a regular at-home day, is that allowed?** We do allow CEP students to “drop-in” on Monday or Friday if the traditional class is not completely full. Please notify the school office and the classroom teacher by email in advance that you wish to drop-in, and we will let you know if that is acceptable. The daily fee for drop-ins is \$30.
- **Can we come on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school even though it is a Monday?** We are asking all students to come to school on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. As the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, we believe it is very important that all students experience the introduction to the new class. There will be no extra charge for coming on August 29.
- **What happens when my child is sick during the at-home days?** That depends on the situation. Ultimately you, as the parent and co-teacher, will have to make the judgement call on their ability to do schoolwork while sick. Hopefully, they will feel well enough at some point during the 4 days at home to get the work finished. If they are not able to finish, the normal LCS sick day policy will be in affect (see the LCS handbook). The most important thing to remember is to communicate with the classroom teacher so everyone is on the same page.
- **May parents observe the teacher within the classroom?** Yes, we encourage you to feel free to observe your child's teacher within the classroom. We do ask that you make an appointment with the teacher in advance.
- **Will parents be allowed to attend field trips?** Of course! We want your involvement and contribution to your child’s education. In most circumstances the entire family is welcome to participate in field trips. If the venue or activity has specific restrictions, the teacher will let you know.
- **If circumstances change or it's just not working out, can we switch to the traditional program during the year?** The short answer is yes. It’s normally no problem to switch. The only problem would occur if the traditional class was full. Just let us know if you want to switch, and we will discuss the options.
- **Will everything run perfectly this year?** No! There will always be growing pains as we learn together throughout the year. Open honest communication between parents, teachers, and administration will be critical for successful collaboration and continued improvement to the program in the future. Please give us your feedback throughout the year.