

Alternative Resources for Home School & Charter School Students

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If your child is a home school, charter school, pre-school or even public school student, you may be looking to supplement their education with adjunct experiences like sports, art, drama production, children's chorus, band ensemble or music lessons. There are local educational centers that provide those opportunities.

Upon calling a local art, dance, athletic assoc. or performing arts school you may find that their schedule does not work for you. In that case, I recommend that you speak to the director or owner to pursue the development of a schedule that meets your needs. Private schools are also businesses that provide employment for teachers as well as education and training for the students. They want your business and the opportunity to build stronger programs. Help them to help you!

As the director of a small private music school, each summer we struggle over the schedule of offered classes for the

fall and spring semesters. When is a class too early for Mom's to get there? When is it too late for the children taking naps or going to bed early. Does this time interfere with bus schedules? Basketball practice? Etc. No matter what and when we offer classes someone always wants a different time slot!

Is this unsolvable? NO! But you may need to work with the school to start a class at a time that is 'magic' for you. So here are a few guides:

1. All schools must be able to afford to run the class - to cover all teaching, building and administrative costs and therefore must have adequate enrollment and compensation.
2. Private training centers often are busiest after-school and after-work hours. They may be very flexible for morning or early afternoon classes.
3. Most school districts will allow children to take a different bus to an after-

school location with written permission from a parent.

4. Many areas have latchkey programs that for a fee will pick up your child at school and transport them to an after-school facility.

With these items in mind, explore with your music, art or dance school what alternatives will benefit you, your child and them. Perhaps you are part of a parenting group and can help them achieve an adequate enrollment to run an extra class at a time that meets your needs. We, for example, have some classes that require a few as six children to run. I have an on-going offer that if a parent can enroll six students for any given time, we will find them the appropriate teacher for that class.

Working with your local training centers and helping to network with other parents with similar needs will benefit the children, the parents and the educational center - definitely a triple win worth pursuing!