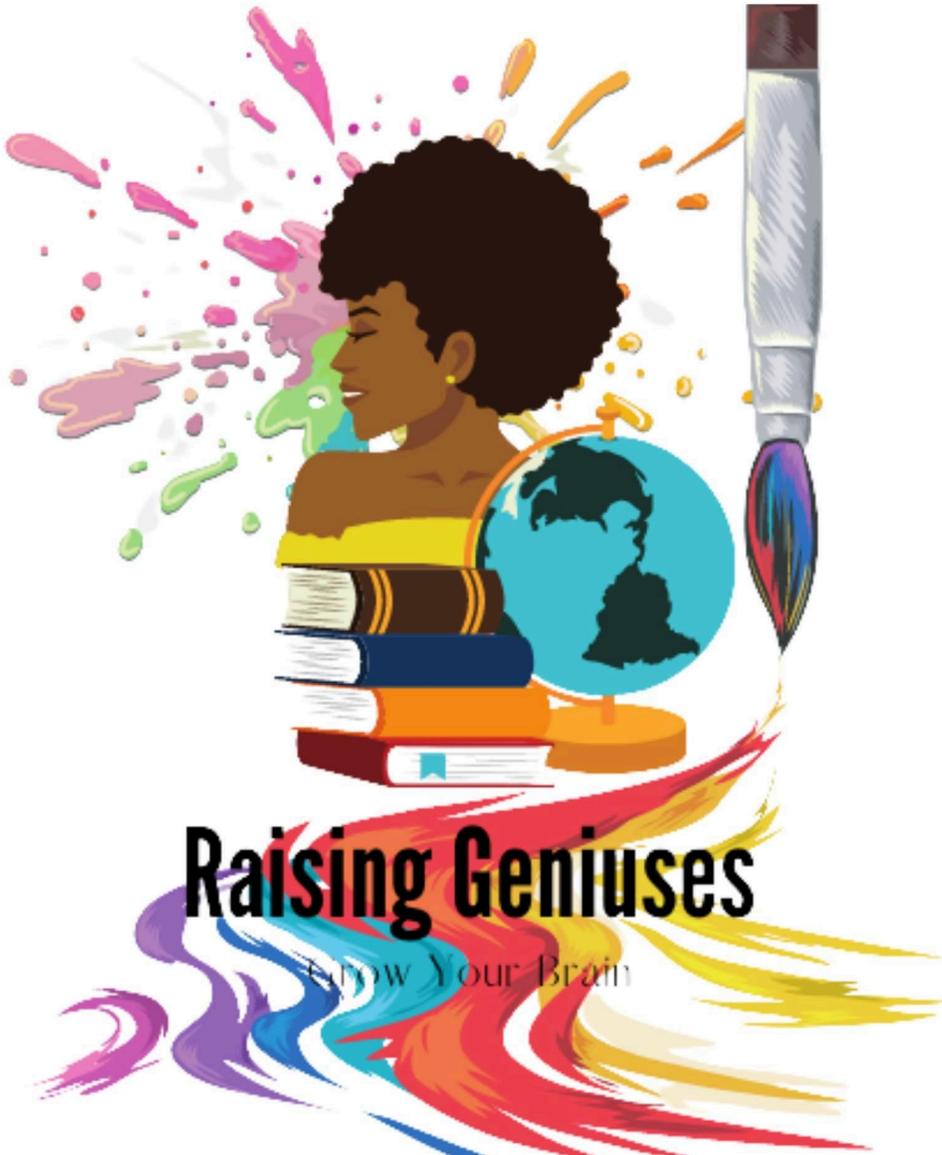


RAISING GENIUSES PARENT HANDBOOK



Raising Geniuses
Know Your Brain

Welcome to Raising Geniuses

Dear Raising Geniuses Families,

Welcome to Raising Geniuses! We are so excited to have you and your family as part of our growing community.

Raising Geniuses was created from a place of purpose, passion, and a deep desire to provide our children with more than just education — we wanted to create an environment where they are seen, supported, challenged, and inspired to truly thrive.

As mothers, educators, and leaders, we understand the importance of building a space where children can grow not only academically, but also in confidence, character, and creativity. Raising Geniuses is not just a program — it is a community built on collaboration, consistency, and commitment.

What makes Raising Geniuses unique is our co-op model. Every parent plays an important role in shaping the experience for all scholars. By contributing your time, knowledge, and gifts, you are helping create a rich and dynamic learning environment that benefits every child involved.

Our goal is to expose our scholars to academic enrichment, real-life skills, and hands-on learning experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom. From STEM and creative expression to leadership and collaboration, we are intentional about developing well-rounded, confident learners.

We believe:

- Every child is capable of greatness
- Every parent has something valuable to contribute
- Community creates opportunity

This journey requires commitment, communication, and teamwork — but the reward is something truly special. Together, we are building a foundation not just for education, but for lifelong growth and success.

Thank you for trusting us, supporting this vision, and being part of Raising Geniuses. We are excited for all that this season will bring.

With love and purpose,

Stephanie Williams
Co-Founder, Raising Geniuses

Aisha Miller
Co-Founder, Raising Geniuses

Mission, Vision & Core Values

At Raising Geniuses Homeschool Co-op, our mission is to nurture a lifelong love for learning by providing a safe, inclusive, and creatively rich environment where children are empowered to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

We believe every child is a genius in their own right, uniquely gifted with talents, ideas, and the ability to make meaningful contributions to the world. Our commitment is to cultivate that genius by fostering curiosity, encouraging exploration, and creating opportunities for scholars to learn through both structure and creativity.

Serving children across multiple age groups, we provide academic enrichment experiences rooted in hands-on learning, structured play, and culturally affirming education. Through intentional instruction and collaborative learning environments, we aim to strengthen foundational skills while also nurturing confidence, independence, and a love for discovery.

Guided by Montessori-inspired principles, we emphasize experiential learning, emotional intelligence, and real-world application. Our scholars are encouraged to think critically, express themselves freely, and engage with their peers in meaningful and respectful ways.

As a parent-led co-op, we value community as a cornerstone of our mission. We believe that when families come together with a shared purpose, we create a powerful support system where children thrive. Through this partnership, we are not only educating our scholars — we are building connections, strengthening families, and creating a village rooted in growth and excellence.

With a strong focus on literacy, communication, and self-expression, Raising Geniuses provides a foundation where young learners can discover their voice, build lasting friendships, and develop the confidence to navigate the world around them.

At Raising Geniuses, every lesson is intentional, every child is valued, and every moment is an opportunity to grow.

Together, we are not just teaching — we are shaping the future.

Program Overview

Raising Geniuses Homeschool Co-op is a collaborative, parent-led academic enrichment program designed to support scholars through meaningful, hands-on learning experiences in a structured and nurturing environment.

Our program serves children ages **4–13**, with instruction taking place in small groups that prioritize both academic growth and personal development.

AGE GROUP STRUCTURE

Scholars are grouped based on a combination of:

- Age
- Academic readiness
- Skill level (particularly in literacy and foundational learning)

While age is considered, placement is ultimately determined by where the scholar will be best supported and most successful.

For example, a scholar who is older but still developing foundational reading skills may be placed in a group that better aligns with their current learning level.

Our goal is to ensure that every child is:

- Confident
- Supported
- Set up for success

CULTURALLY ROOTED GROUP NAMES

Each group is intentionally named after influential Black historical figures who represent courage, intelligence, leadership, and impact.

Age 4

The Rubys (*Ruby Bridges*)

Representing bravery, strength, and the power of early leadership.

Ages 5–7

The Maes (*Dr. Mae Jemison*)

Representing curiosity, exploration, and limitless potential.

Ages 8–10

The Malcolms (*Malcolm X*)

Representing transformation, knowledge, self-awareness, and the power of education.

Ages 11–13

The Hueys (*Huey P. Newton*)

Representing leadership, confidence, critical thinking, and community awareness.

OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING

At Raising Geniuses, we believe learning should be:

- **Intentional** – Every activity has purpose
- **Hands-On** – Scholars learn by doing
- **Culturally Affirming** – Representation matters
- **Confidence-Building** – Growth happens in a supportive space

We combine academic enrichment, real-life skills, creative exploration, and collaborative learning to support the whole child.

WHOLE CHILD DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to developing scholars in all areas:

- Academic Growth
 - Communication & Expression
 - Social Skills & Collaboration
 - Emotional Intelligence
 - Confidence & Leadership
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OUR GOAL

Our goal is to meet scholars where they are, build them up, and remind them daily that they are capable of greatness.

At Raising Geniuses, we are not just grouping students — we are shaping leaders, thinkers, and change-makers.

Program Structure & Commitment

Raising Geniuses is a structured, parent-led academic enrichment program designed to cultivate confident, capable, and curious learners through collaboration, creativity, and community.

Program Schedule

- The program operates in three (3) 9-week sessions throughout the year
- Classes are held twice per week: Mondays and Wednesdays
- Time: 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Consistency and commitment are essential to ensuring a successful experience for all scholars.

Daily Class Rotation Schedule

10:30 – 10:40 *Meditation and Daily Check-In*

10:40 – 10:45 (5 minutes) *Transition to First Rotation*

10:45 – 11:30 (45 minutes) *Rotation Block 1*

11:30 – 11:35 (5 minutes) *Transition*

11:35 – 12:20 (45 minutes) *Rotation Block 2*

12:20 – 12:50 (30 minutes) *Lunch*

12:50 – 12:55 (5 minutes) *Transition*

12:55 – 1:40 (45 minutes) *Rotation Block 3*

1:40 – 1:45 (5 minutes) *Transition*

1:45 – 2:30 (45 minutes) *Rotation Block 4*

Class Rotation Model

Scholars will rotate through four instructional blocks each day:

- Three (3) enrichment classes
- One (1) study hall period

Each age group (The Rubys, The Maes, The Malcolms, and The Hueys) will follow a rotation schedule that may vary.

Not all scholars will be in Study Hall at the same time. Some groups may begin with Study Hall, while others begin with an enrichment class.

Study Hall

Study Hall is a structured and supervised period designed to support reinforcement and independent learning.

During this time, scholars may:

- Practice reading or math skills
- Complete assignments or guided work
- Receive additional support from a parent or teacher

Study Hall is a quiet, focused environment intended to strengthen understanding and build confidence.

Parent Commitment (Required)

Raising Geniuses is a community-driven co-op. Parent participation is required and essential to the success of the program.

Each family plays a direct role in supporting instruction, structure, and overall operations.

Teaching Expectations

Each parent is required to:

- Participate in teaching and class rotations
 - Submit at least three (3) class ideas they are interested in teaching
 - Develop and implement curriculum for assigned classes
 - Come prepared with materials and a structured plan for each session
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Curriculum Requirement for All Age Groups

Because scholars rotate between classes, each parent must be prepared to teach their class to all age groups.

This means curriculum must be adaptable for:

- Age 4 (The Rubys)
- Ages 5–7 (The Maes)
- Ages 8–10 (The Malcolms)
- Ages 11–13 (The Hueys)

Parents should adjust instruction based on age and ability level. Younger scholars may focus on foundational concepts with guided support, while older scholars may engage in more advanced work, critical thinking, and independent application.

Examples of Enrichment Classes

Parents may propose and teach classes such as:

Academic Enrichment:

- Math skills and problem-solving
- Reading comprehension and literacy development
- Writing, journaling, or storytelling

STEM and Critical Thinking:

- Science experiments and hands-on learning
- Engineering or building challenges
- Logic and reasoning activities

Life Skills:

- Financial literacy and money management
- Cooking basics or nutrition
- Organization and time management

Creative Expression:

- Arts and crafts
- Music or rhythm
- Public speaking and presentations

All classes should be engaging, interactive, and adaptable across age groups.

Attendance & Punctuality

Consistent attendance is essential to maintaining the flow of instruction and the overall experience for all scholars.

Scholars are expected to attend the full co-op day. Missing more than 25% of the co-op day (approximately one hour) will be considered an absence.

Accumulating three (3) absences within a session—whether full-day or partial-day—may result in removal from the current session without prior notice.

Repeated patterns of tardiness, early departures, or missed classes (e.g., consistently arriving late, skipping individual classes, or leaving early) will also count toward absences and may result in dismissal from the program.

Homework Policy

Raising Geniuses is an enrichment-based program, and homework is intended to reinforce learning without overwhelming scholars or families.

Homework may be assigned at the discretion of each teacher and may include:

- Practice activities (reading, math, or writing)
- Simple projects or extensions of classwork
- Skill-building exercises

Homework expectations will be:

- Age-appropriate
- Manageable
- Designed to reinforce concepts taught in class

Completion of homework is encouraged to support retention and growth; however, the primary focus remains on engagement and participation during class time.

Tuition & Sessions

Tuition for Raising Geniuses Co-op is **\$450 per family, per 9-week session**, and covers **up to three children per family**.

Families with **four or more children** will pay an additional **\$75 per child** beyond the first three.

There are **three (3) sessions per school year**, each lasting **nine weeks**.

All tuition payments must be **paid in full at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the session** to secure your family's placement in the program.

Please note that **tuition reserves your family's spot and reflects a commitment to participate for the full session**.

A **supply fee may be required for certain classes or activities**, and these fees may vary by session depending on the materials needed.

Our Standard

Raising Geniuses is built on structure, accountability, and collaboration.

Every parent contributes. Every scholar benefits.

Together, we are building a consistent, enriching, and high-quality learning environment for all.

Student Behavior Expectations & Resolution Process

At Raising Geniuses, we are committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment for all scholars.

Our goal is not only to support academic growth, but also to develop character, self-awareness, and positive social interactions.

Student Behavior Expectations

All scholars are expected to:

- Show respect to teachers, parents, and peers
- Follow directions the first time they are given
- Participate in activities and remain engaged during class
- Use kind and appropriate language
- Keep hands, feet, and materials to themselves
- Take care of shared spaces and materials

We encourage scholars to take pride in their behavior and understand their role in contributing to a positive learning environment.

Classroom Environment

Because Raising Geniuses is a structured, rotating co-op:

- Consistent behavior helps maintain a smooth and productive flow between classes
- Respect for each instructor and classroom is essential
- Scholars are expected to adjust and follow expectations across different teaching styles

Guidance & Redirection Approach

Our approach focuses on guidance, redirection, and growth rather than punishment.

When behavior expectations are not met, the following steps will be taken:

Step 1: Verbal Reminder

The scholar will receive a clear and respectful reminder of expectations.

Step 2: Redirection

The scholar will be guided back to the activity or given an opportunity to reset and re-engage.

Step 3: Reflection

If behavior continues, the scholar may be asked to take a brief break or reflect before returning to the activity.

Step 4: Parent Communication

If behavior persists, the parent will be notified and may be asked to assist or support during class.

Ongoing Behavior Concerns

If a pattern of behavior continues:

- A discussion will be held with the parent and leadership
- A plan may be created to better support the scholar
- Additional parent involvement may be required during sessions

Our goal is always to support the scholar while maintaining a positive experience for the group.

Serious Behavior Concerns

The following behaviors may require immediate action:

- Physical aggression toward others
- Intentional harm or bullying
- Repeated disruption that prevents learning
- Disrespect toward adults or authority

In these cases:

- The parent may be asked to step in immediately
- The scholar may be removed from the activity or day
- Further participation in the program may be reviewed

Resolution & Partnership

We believe behavior is best addressed through partnership between parents and leadership.

Our commitment is to:

- Communicate clearly and respectfully
- Address concerns in a timely manner
- Work collaboratively toward solutions

We ask families to:

- Remain open to feedback
 - Reinforce expectations at home
 - Partner with us in guiding scholars toward growth
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Our Approach

At Raising Geniuses, we are not only managing behavior — we are building character.

Every moment is an opportunity to teach responsibility, respect, and self-control.

Our goal is to help every scholar grow into a confident, respectful, and self-aware individual.

Communication Policy

At Raising Geniuses, clear and respectful communication is essential to maintaining a positive, organized, and collaborative environment for both families and leadership.

Primary Communication Platforms

All official communication will take place through the following platforms:

- Private Facebook Group
- ClassDojo

Each platform serves a specific purpose and should be used accordingly.

Private Facebook Group

The Private Facebook Group is used for:

- General announcements and updates
- Event information and reminders
- Community engagement and shared experiences

This group is reserved for enrolled families only. All members are expected to maintain a respectful and supportive environment.

Parents are responsible for checking this group regularly to stay informed.

ClassDojo

ClassDojo will be used for:

- Direct communication between parents and teachers
- Classroom updates and important notices
- Behavior updates or individual student communication (if applicable)

This platform should be used for structured, classroom-related communication.

Response Time

Leadership and parent instructors will make every effort to respond in a timely manner.

- Standard response time is within 24–48 hours
- Messages sent outside of normal hours may be addressed the next business day

We appreciate your patience as we balance program responsibilities and family life.

Communication Expectations

To maintain a respectful and organized environment:

- Review posted information before asking questions
 - Keep communication clear, respectful, and appropriate
 - Be mindful of message frequency and relevance
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Addressing Concerns

If a concern arises regarding your child or the program:

- Please communicate directly through ClassDojo or with leadership
- Do not address concerns in the Private Facebook Group

Our goal is to resolve concerns quickly and respectfully.

Boundaries

To maintain balance:

- Communication should take place during reasonable hours
- Non-urgent matters should be sent during daytime hours
- Responses may not be immediate but will be addressed within the stated timeframe

Our Commitment

We are committed to clear, consistent, and transparent communication.

In return, we ask all families to remain engaged, responsive, and respectful in all interactions.

Strong communication supports a strong and successful community.