



HillsLight, LLC.

93 Kildare St
Port Charlotte, FL 33954

2024-25 HillsLight Microschool Overview

Mission & Vision

We established HillsLight Microschools as a way to support home education students and their parents by providing a core set of lessons, activities, and learning opportunities in a cooperative group environment. We also use a multi-grade-level classroom model to encourage healthy relationships and to facilitate the development of age-appropriate leadership skills.

This is all done in a student-led, teacher-facilitated environment where students are given the time and support to dive deeper into the things that they find interesting and engaging. Subjects are woven together into three main blocks of instruction (and one “flex block”). We introduce the skills and tools necessary for success in the areas of logic, oral communication, writing, research, computation, and team development. Then we give the students time to use those skills in various “flex projects” throughout the year.

Most importantly, all of this is done through the lens of Scripture, and with the support of a Christian community.

Schedule

Our 20 hour/week microschool day typically runs from **8:30am – 1:30pm**. Students choosing to participate in the 16hr/week schedule (no Flex block) will need to be picked up between 12:00pm and 12:30pm (lunch time). Our school week runs from **Monday through Thursday**, giving students ample time for personal study, family time, and extra curriculars.

A full school calendar with holidays and other important dates can be accessed at www.hillslightllc.com.

Homeschool Minder (app)

HillsLight Microschools currently use Homeschool Minder to record all the important information you will need (from us) for your student’s end of the year portfolios. **Students will be given their log-in details during the first week of class.** Your teaching mentor will be using it to enter information on what your student has been learning, along with attendance and grades. This is typically done contemporaneously with (or after completion of) the recorded lessons/projects, due to the flexible nature of our student-led learning environment. If a teacher records an assignment in Homeschool Minder that needs immediate attention, they will give your student a verbal or written reminder to check their account. **Please do not expect daily/immediate feedback through this platform. For concerns or a more urgent nature, please call or email your teaching mentor.**

Learning Objectives

HillsLight Microschools use a variety of curriculum and resources to assist the student in working on their personal and academic goals. This is done through three primary periods of instruction. Each period has its own syllabus with specific details and objectives. Here is a condensed list.

Periods

1. History-Bible-Literature Core.
2. Grammar & Writing
3. Science/Math Core
4. Flex Block

Our primary objective is to encourage our student(s) to use their gifts and abilities to explore individual interests in a way that facilitates the development of:

1. communication skills,
2. social skills,
3. critical thinking skills,
4. persuasive skills,
5. leadership skills & team work,
6. a Biblical worldview,
7. work ethic,
8. independence,
9. time management, and
10. personal character

Expectations for Parents

1. **Our microschool is a “Drop-off” program.** Allowing parents to use this time to work with younger siblings or run errands. However, **parents are welcome to join and participate in activities when it fits into their schedule** (pending a successful background check and minimum 48 hours’ notice, so that the host teacher can prepare for the extra person(s)). We ask that you make every effort to drop off and pick up your student within 30 minutes of the scheduled start and end times. Late pick-ups will incur additional fees.
2. **HillsLight Microschools are part-time programs.** We offer a wide variety of curriculum and resource options during our microschool hours. However, this is meant to enhance the home education experience and does not replace it altogether. It is recommended that parents continue to work with their students at home as they complete additional coursework on their own schedule.
3. **We suggest supplementing your students exposure to math & science concepts.** Because of the fused nature of our curriculum, it is possible for students to use their microschool hours to study a wide variety of topics. However, because our objectives are primarily related to Social Studies, Bible, and Language Arts, individual instruction in math and science is limited in nature. Parents may use microschool resources to work with their students at home, or they may choose their own resources to meet this goal.
4. In order to prepare for a successful year, teaching mentors put in a lot of time and resources to prepare in advance for each school year. This is based on the number of students they are expecting. **We ask that you commit to the entire school year when you sign your student up for courses.** If you are unable to do so for any reason, please contact us immediately at thills@hillslightllc.com.

Tuition & Fees

Tuition & Fees for our 2024-25 Hillslight Microschool Pods will be as follows

1. **Enrollment Fee: \$100 per student, due upon enrollment.**
2. **a. 20 hr/week program (with Flex) Tuition: \$5800 per student (K-8) or \$4700 per student (9-12).** (see tuition & fees schedule for payment options).
b. 16 hr/week program (without Flex) Tuition: \$4900 per student (K-8), or \$4000 per student (9-12). (see tuition & fees schedule for payment options). (This is payable in yearly, quarterly, or monthly payment plans).
3. **Fieldtrip Fees:** Fieldtrips are optional and can be paid for by parents on a case-by-case basis.
4. **Exam fees:** Optional (K-8 only) \$80/year, due by 4/1.

*You will be required to set up a payment plan before your student begins attending classes. If you have not yet completed your tuition and fee agreement form, please see www.Hillslightllc.com for more details and payment options.

Tuition will not be prorated for days that your student is absent or tardy.

Grades & Grading

Approach to Grading: Grades are given as a form of feedback for both students and parents. We do not overtly emphasize grades. For this reason, we do not formally grade each assignment that a student completes. We allow students a large degree of creative freedom in their daily work. A sample set of student work is graded at the end of each unit. Grades will be compiled into a standard progress report around the beginning of January. Final grades and transcripts will be emailed to parents at the completion of the school year. However, parents are welcome to log into their student's Homeschool Minder account and review any information the teaching mentor has entered usually on a weekly or monthly basis. Please do not expect daily feedback on this platform!

Please see individual syllabus for each of our microschool components to see a more specific breakdown of grading.

Flex Block

Students who choose a 20 hour per week microschool schedule will have an additional period called "Flex Block". This period of time is set aside for student-led learning projects. This time is meant to encourage leadership development while giving students the opportunity to study what is most interesting or engaging to them. Students will be assigned to teams. Each week a new student will take on the role of "team leader". The leaders will select an activity from a specially curated list of options, and the group will work together to complete the Flex project goals for that week. Every student will have an opportunity to be the Flex block leader, but students may choose to opt out of the leadership role if they so choose.

Primary Curriculum

1. **History** (Modern US & World History & Geography) – Beautiful Feet Books Intermediate Modern History, and Biblio Plan Year 4 Modern.
2. **Bible & Missions** – YWAM Christian Heroes Then & Now, Not and Consumed Ministries New Testament Survey.
3. **Writing & Grammar** – IEW Structure and Style (Bible based subject content), and IEW Fix-it Grammar..
4. **Science** - Beautiful Feet Books World Ecology, and Apologia Botany
5. **Math:** Teaching Textbooks (individual assignments).