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*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience  
and a sincere faith." 1 Tim. 1:5*

# **CONSULTING PROGRAM INFORMATION AND POLICIES 2007-08**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome – or welcome back - to the Almaden Valley Christian School consulting program! . **Do not hesitate to call** if you have any questions or concerns before registering. While there is very little paperwork involved with the consulting service, there are other things you need to know - so please read the following information and policies.

We pray that you will be encouraged and supported through your association with AVCS.

Sharon Hensley and the AVCS Staff

## **PURPOSE and PHILOSOPHY**

The purpose of Almaden Valley Christian School is to provide support, encouragement, training and supervision to families homeschooling children with special learning needs. The Consulting Program is for families already enrolled in an ISP or other school Program (in California) or meeting the requirements of their own states. This is NOT a full school program. If you need the additional accountability and record keeping provided by our school program, please request registration information from our office by calling (408) 776.6691. This option is only open to California residents.

We believe that God has charged us as parents with the responsibility for instructing our children (Deut. 6:6-9), and that children with special learning needs particularly benefit from the one-on-one instruction and individualized curriculum that is possible through homeschooling. However, we also recognize that working with children with learning problems has unique frustrations and that we, as parent-teachers need to especially support and encourage one another. We also believe that to effectively teach our special children, we need to be continually growing, both as teachers and parents. Finally, we believe that accountability is important to ensure continued progress and that all legal requirements are met.

## OUR STAFF

**Sharon Hensley - Director**    *sharon@avcsbooks.com*

Sharon is the mother of three and the author of Home Schooling Children with Special Needs. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and has worked with a variety of special needs children including her oldest daughter who is autistic.

**Kathy Johnstone – Webmaster**    *kathy@avcsbooks.com*

Kathy is the mother of four and a former homeschooler. She is in charge of our website and online bookstore.

**Pam Lindsay – Consultant**    *pamelalindsay@hotmail.com*

Pam is the mother of two children, one of which has special needs. She is a veteran classroom and homeschool teacher.

**Roneta Dickey – Consultant**    *roneta@burrelross.com*

Roneta is a veteran homeschool teacher of her two dyslexic boys. She consults primarily with other families dealing with dyslexia and other reading issues.

**Elaine Hays – Office Manager**    *elaine@avcsbooks.com*

Elaine is a homeschooling mother of five. She manages the Independent Study Program.

**Becky Bergeron – Finance & Bookstore**    *becky@avcsbooks.com*

Becky is the mother of three and a veteran homeschool teacher. Becky manages our finances as well as the bookstore.

## Registration Information

### ENROLLMENT

Refer to the “Checklist for Consulting Families” and return all items on this list.

### CONSULTING FEES

Our fees are based on the initial time spent in consulting and program set up. All follow-ups through out the year are considered a benefit. For this reason, we do not pro-rate the fees if you withdraw before the school year is over. ***If you withdraw from AVCS, the balance of the fees is due and payable at the time of your withdrawal.***

First year - \$500 for one child (\$550 if paid in 10 monthly payments of \$55)

Each year after first year - \$300 for one child (\$350 if paid in 10 \$35/mo. payments)

Subtract \$50 per each additional child you want to enroll in the full consulting service.

Fees are due upon registration - either in full or include the first monthly payment with your registration. **The remaining monthly payments are then due on the first of each month September through May.** A 10-day grace period is extended, and then a late fee of \$10 is added unless arrangements have been made with the office in advance.

### ADDITIONAL FEES

The consulting fees cover only time spent working with you, the special needs homeschool teacher. Testing – either formal or informal - is charged at an additional rate of \$50/hr.

All fees must be paid in full before you can re-enroll for the following year.
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## MONTHLY REPORT FORMS

Upon registration, you will receive instructions on how to download the monthly report forms. One should be returned on the first of each month. **These forms are the basic communication tools of the Consulting Service.** Although you are free to call with questions at any time, it is helpful to have questions written out so that your consultant can think through ideas and resources for you before calling. The monthly report must be returned even if no specific questions are asked in a certain month. This form acts as a reminder to send in fees if you pay monthly and keeps a good communication flowing. It also acts as a way for you to stop and reflect on your month, which is helpful in realizing your progress towards your goals.

Curriculum list forms and IHEP forms will also be provided as needed to help you document your goals and materials. You will receive information on how to download these forms when needed, after you enroll.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

**The purpose of our school is to provide consulting and support in all aspects of your home schooling. Please bring any concerns, questions and/or frustrations to our attention. There are no dumb questions! The monthly report forms and the teacher's meetings have been designed to give you an easy way of communicating with us. However, if something comes up that you need help with right away, don't hesitate to call.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SUPPORT GROUP/FACULTY MEETINGS

Because one of the purposes of AVCS is to offer support and encouragement to one another, attending monthly faculty meetings is encouraged unless distance or other circumstances make attendance impossible. These meetings are a time to get to know other homeschoolers with special needs children; to share frustrations, concerns and triumphs; and to learn about and discuss topics related to teaching special needs children. Every effort is made to keep business to a minimum.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Willow Glen Baptist Church in San Jose. A schedule and map will be available to you on-line after your registration is processed.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings – so feel free to invite your friends.

### HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION (HSLDA)

Membership in HSLDA is optional for our Consulting Families. The cost is \$95 per year with our group discount (**group # 295169**). If you need an application, or if you have questions regarding the application, call HSLDA at 540.338.5600 or visit their website at [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org).

We pray that you will be encouraged and supported through your association with AVCS. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

The AVCS Staff