



Since 1984

*The Learning Community*  
International School

**Homeschool Umbrella Program**

Grades K-8 and High School

Flexible, Supportive, and Professionally Guided



## **Overview**

The Learning Community International is a Middle States accredited private school registered with the Maryland Department of Education and offers a Private School Home Education Fusion K-12 program in Maryland, the United States and internationally.

TLCI also operates a K-12 homeschool umbrella recognized by the State of Maryland as a registered nonpublic educational institution. Enrollment in the homeschool umbrella satisfies the Maryland compulsory attendance laws for Maryland homeschooled learners.

## **Mission and Philosophy**

Empowering learners to create and achieve their educational goals through a customized collaborative process using the whole world as their classroom.

The purpose of education is for the learner to gain the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to create a satisfying, successful, and meaningful life. Education is not a collection of knowledge handed down from teachers to learners, nor a race to finish a book, nor a course just for credit, nor simply memorizing facts and figures.

We are passionate about inspiring and nurturing learners to honor their natural thirst for learning by taking increased responsibility for their education and success.

## **Umbrella Program Services and Options**

### Dedicated Consultant

- Via video conferencing, telephone, and email communication every enrolled family receives the care and attention of our experienced and trained TLCI consultant providing support, encouragement and guided feedback for parents and learners.

### Bi-annual Video Conferences

- Face-to-face conferencing allows for more personal and effective communication enhancing all aspects of the homeschooling journey for the parent, learner, and consultant.

### Quarterly Reviews

- Consultants will review and validate the learner's electronic portfolio submitted by parents which includes a recordkeeping form, selected artifacts of learning and the learner's academic studies, and extra curricula experiences.

### Includes

- Three (3) annual Family Support and Guidance Video Conferences.  
*\*Start-Up Conference (1<sup>st</sup> year), \*Mid-Year, and \*End of Year*
- A copy of the Living is Learning K-12 Curriculum Guide. These guides were compiled by Nancy Plent, a pioneer homeschool parent and founder of the New Jersey Unschoolers Network. She reviewed the scope and sequence charts and curriculum guides of dozens of schools in various states, then combined the highest standards of elements from each to create these guides.

- TLCI consultants will provide guidance while parents negotiating the galaxy of educational resources and curricula based on the learners' interests and needs.

### Optional Services

- Math and English Language Arts Assessments
- ADHD and Special Needs Consultation
- Custom Designed Courses
- Math and English Tutors
- College and Career Counseling
- Peer Cohort Virtual Classes
- Additional Support and Guidance

## **Records, Validation and Exemption**

### Exempt from County Review

- Enrollment in TLCI's homeschool umbrella program exempts families in Maryland from homeschool reviews by their local school district. (State regulations vary)

### Annual notification

- TLCI notifies the Maryland local school districts and validates your official status upon enrollment and re-enrollment. Provides other official communication with your state based on regulations when needed.

### Effective and memorable recordkeeping

- TLCI provides parents with convenient recordkeeping forms and portfolio instructions to maintain a record of study throughout the year and to keep track of their children's learning and progress.

### Certification of Completion

- TLCI consultant validates that the secondary (9-12) high school program has been reviewed, successfully completed, and issues an official Certification of Completion. (*Inquire about MD Private School Home Education Fusion*)

## Official Documents

- TLCI administration will provide official communication with colleges or other institutions and submit necessary official documents.

## **Umbrella Tuition**

- Elementary and Middle School: First oldest child, \$597, 2<sup>nd</sup> and additional children, \$297.each
- High School: First oldest child, \$997, 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent children \$497.each

## **Discount Private School Tuition**

Families enrolled for at least one year in the Homeschool Umbrella are eligible for TLCI Private High School\*Home Education Fusion discounted tuition. (Ask for details)

**Founder and Principal Director Manfred Smith** Manfred is an award-winning, retired Maryland public school teacher with over 50 years of experience in the field of alternative education. He is a certified Theory of Constraints facilitator, who has had impressive results teaching public school students to apply the theory's analytical reasoning and communication strategies in academic settings. He is also the co-founder and Principal Director of The Learning Community International. Manfred's passion for educational alternatives grew beyond the confines of the traditional classroom to have a much wider impact when he established the first Maryland Home Education Association in 1979. He coordinated the legal defense of homeschooling parents and led Maryland's legislative efforts, playing a decisive role in shaping Maryland's home education laws. He is a prime mover, who has organized conferences, led workshops, and who remains in perennial demand as a speaker. Manfred is the father of three adult children, all TLCI graduates, and this year he celebrates 52 years of marriage with his wonderful wife, Jeanne.

**Executive Director Nancy De Luca Stempel** After serving honorably in the armed forces during the Viet Nam era, Nancy joined an intentional community in 1977 and was immediately recognized for her ability to draw out the best from learners in the small alternative school she helped establish. In the late 1980's, Nancy met Manfred Smith. While participating together in TLCI's dynamic educational environment, Manfred recognized Nancy's natural educational gifts and became convinced that she shared his vision for the TLCI mission. In the early 1990's she was invited to become an educational advisor and later TLCI's high school director. While continuing as an advisor, Nancy created workshops and seminars that facilitated learners' exploration of empowered learning. Nancy is also TLCI International Director. As the International Director Nancy draws upon her experiences from traveling and living in countries such as Mexico, Korea, Italy, and India. These experiences have given her a practical understanding of international families and their educational needs. She is deeply committed to providing access to TLCI's empowered learning programs all over the world. Nancy is the mother of three adult children who are all TLCI graduates and she celebrates over 40 years of marriage with her husband, Harvey, who serves on the TLCI advisory board.

**Please complete the Complimentary Discovery Conference form found on the TLCI website [www.tlcischool.org](http://www.tlcischool.org) to speak with Executive Director, Nancy De Luca Stempel to see if TLCI is the right match for you and your family.**