

# Sacred Grove Academy

*A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church*

**Yule 2015**

Sacred Grove Academy  
P.O. Box 505  
Auburn, AL 36831-0505

Linda Kerr, Director

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gmail.com

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org

*Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama*



## Re-Enrollment Fees For 2016-2017

IMPORTANT: Next year, tuition for new and re-enrolling families will be \$75 for the first child, plus \$25 for each additional child.

## Sacred Grove Updates

Sacred Grove Academy is now a ministry of Sacred Grove Church, rather than of Church of the Spiral Tree (CST). The administration, website, fees, enrollment procedures, etc., are all still the same. The only real difference is that there is no longer a discount offered on tuition for members of CST. We wanted to establish Sacred Grove as its own entity, separate from CST, and so a new church was incorporated.

As a result, Sacred Grove Academy has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 505, Auburn, AL, 36831-0505. However, if you send mail to the other address, we will still get it.



## Email Addresses

**Do you have email?** If you are receiving this newsletter via snail-mail, that means we either don't have a working email address for you, or no response was sent back when we emailed this newsletter to you. As we send a lot of communications to families via email, including changes to policies and fees, newsletters, and reminders about deadlines, we just want to make sure that everyone who has an email address listed is actually *receiving* our emails. So if you do have a working email address that you check on a regular basis, please email it to us. And if at any point in the future your email address changes or if you no longer have access to your email, please let us know as soon as possible.



## **If You Move:**

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, **immediately** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



## **Attendance Forms Due by August 1**

Attendance forms for 2015-2016 will be due at the end of the school year, and must be received by August 1, 2016. Your completed attendance forms are essential to fulfilling the letter of the law, and without them, you will not be able to re-enroll for the following year, even if you have sent the \$75 tuition fee.

NEW: Submit your attendance through our website!

<[www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html](http://www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html)>

You can also email your attendance forms; either by scanning and emailing your handwritten copies, or by emailing your Word or Excel document.

## **Re-Enrollment Deadline: August 1**

The deadline for sending in your attendance forms and for re-enrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2016-2017 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 per family. In order to re-enroll, you must send the \$75 tuition, and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved.

### **Late Re-Enrollments With Notice:**

If you contact us PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 to tell us you will be late: You will have a grace period of 30 days, until August 31, to send in your re-enrollment tuition for the upcoming school year. There will be a late fee of \$25 per family, which must be paid, in addition to the \$75 tuition, for a total of \$100 per family (no discounts are available to CST members in the case of late re-enrollments), before you will be considered to be re-enrolled. Please note that if your late re-enrollment is not received by August 31, we will begin un-enrollment procedures.

### **If You Miss the August 1 Deadline:**

If you have not re-enrolled by August 1 and have not contacted us to let us know you will be late, you'll be considered withdrawn, and we will send the obligatory letter to the school board stating such. You can re-enroll after that time, but you will need to pay the \$25 admission fee per child in addition to the \$75 tuition, and fill out both the Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Admission Form again.

### **How to Pay for Your Re-Enrollment:**

We accept re-enrollment tuition payments either via check or money order sent regular mail, or over the web using PayPal. You can use this free service to pay for your renewal each summer.

**The link to pay via PayPal is**  
<[www.sacredgroveacademy.org/Paypal.html](http://www.sacredgroveacademy.org/Paypal.html)>.

## **Transcripts Policy**

You may prepare your own transcript using the blank forms provided on our website. However, if you'd like Sacred Grove Academy to prepare an official transcript for you, with the director's signature, there is a \$25 transcript fee. You will need to fill out the Transcript Request Form (available on our website), and send it in with your check or money order (or pay via PayPal). If you'd like the records faxed, there is a \$5 fax fee, and there is also a \$15 rush fee for faster than two-week service (fax fee is extra).

The parent/teacher must supply the subjects and grades for the student, using the Transcript Request Form. Sacred Grove does not know what your child studied nor what his/her grades were. Parents must turn in attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has not turned in an attendance form, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts will not be made for non-graduating students withdrawing before the end of the school year. If a student withdraws during the school year to transfer to another school, parents will need to negotiate admission to another school on that school's terms, without a transcript from Sacred Grove Academy. Official transcripts will not be made for partial years of less than three months. For any partial year of the student's enrollment, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts can only be made for the period of time your child was enrolled with Sacred Grove. We can not create transcripts for any school years, full or partial, prior to or after your child's enrollment in Sacred Grove. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent, school, or college. All transcripts will be mailed, unless a fax is requested and the extra fee (\$5) paid.

## **Withdrawal Policies:**

All enrollments end on July 1. If you do not re-enroll by August 1, you will be considered withdrawn, but may re-enroll at any point in the future, as long as all other policies have been adhered to. After August 1, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy (as required by state law).

You can also officially withdraw from Sacred Grove at any time during the school year. **\*\*No refunds will be given at any time.\*\*** Families withdraw for various reasons, including sending their children back to public school, or moving out-of-state. To officially withdraw during the school year, just send a notice to Sacred Grove by mail or by email, stating that you are withdrawing. An official letter to your local school superintendent will then be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy.

## **Removals & Improper Withdrawals:**

NOTE: After *\*any\** official or improper withdrawal or removal, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, and we will send a letter to your last known address stating the same. If you are not enrolled anywhere else, you will be subject to truancy laws.

*You will be removed from enrollment with Sacred Grove if:*

- You do not send your child's previous years' attendance forms in by August 1;
- If you write a worthless check, and restitution is not made within 30 days (civil charges may apply); or if any other fees are in arrears and are not paid within 30 days.

In the above cases, until your fees or forms are mailed in to us, no records or information will be

released about your child to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested about that child. Furthermore, if attendance forms are not received within 12 months of your withdrawal (for example, 2014-2015 forms sent in by August 1, 2016), all of the above will apply, and no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll in Sacred Grove Academy at any point in the future for any reason.

## ***You will be considered to be improperly withdrawn if:***

- If your summer or winter newsletter is returned undeliverable because you have moved and not sent in a change of address, and we cannot then get in touch with you by phone or email; as we will have no way of knowing whether you are still in your original school district or even in the state (Note: if your newsletter comes back, we make a reasonable attempt to contact you before removing you from the rolls);
- We discover that you have enrolled your child in a different school when that school sends us a request for your child's records, and you have not officially withdrawn (NOTE: We will NOT send any information without receiving an official withdrawal from you!)

In the above cases, no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll at any point in the future for any reason, and no records or information will be released to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested, AT ALL for that child.

# Pagan Curriculums

As far as I can tell, there are no organized, hard-copy, Pagan curriculums for homeschoolers. However, there are some resources on-line. If you have access to the internet, check out these pages. You will need to click on the links (or type the address into your browser) to see the contents in their entirety.

## Little Pagan Homeschool Curriculum

[delaney-smith.net/school/Year\\_1/](http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year_1/)

Little Pagan's Homeschool is a Charlotte Mason inspired education with a pagan slant. It uses history as a spine around which to organize the rest of the subjects, although in the interest of thoroughness, not everything in a unit is related to the era under examination.

We are trying to make the best use of the classical, eclectic, and unschooling ideas we have come across in our research, so this lesson plan is in no sense 'authentic' to any specific method out there.

Unit 1 is intended to be started sometime between ages 5 and 6. It starts the year slowly with mostly stories. As the year progresses, more subjects will be covered per unit. As we progress, some books will be dropped and others added as we discover what works for our family and future units will reflect that. If those books we drop work well for your family, checking the Table of Contents to see whether anything related to the current unit's focus is available is a simple matter. Please, by all means, continue to use what works for your family and drop anything that doesn't.

We will add the detailed curricula as we finalize them.

Please check back to this page to see how they are progressing.

### Year 1

#### Unit 1 Summary

[http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year\\_1/Unit\\_1\\_Summary.pdf](http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year_1/Unit_1_Summary.pdf)

#### Unit 2 Summary

[http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year\\_1/Unit\\_2\\_Summary.pdf](http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year_1/Unit_2_Summary.pdf)

#### Unit 3 Summary

[http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year\\_1/Unit\\_3\\_Summary.pdf](http://delaney-smith.net/school/Year_1/Unit_3_Summary.pdf)

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## Winter Solstice Preschool Homeschool Curriculum

### Week 1-Day 1 Activities (Yule and Sun Theme)

by Danie @ Primordial Willow  
[primordialwillow.com/2014/12/23/winter-solstice-preschool-curriculum-week-1-day-1/](http://primordialwillow.com/2014/12/23/winter-solstice-preschool-curriculum-week-1-day-1/)

*(Editor's Note: Danie wrote in her blog:*

[primordialwillow.com/category/pagan-homeschool-curriculum/](http://primordialwillow.com/category/pagan-homeschool-curriculum/) that she intended to create an entire Pre-K curriculum, but so far only the part below has been published.)

### Arts & Crafts, Math, and Science Yule Cinnamon Salt Dough Ornaments

1 cup flour  
1 cup salt  
2 1/2 teaspoons ground cloves  
3/4 cup water – you may need more, depending on the type of flour you use.  
2 tablespoons ground cinnamon  
2 teaspoons ground nutmeg

\*Preheat oven to 200 degrees Fahrenheit. \*Combine all of the ingredients together. This is a

great activity for your little one to do. \*Roll out the dough. It shouldn't be sticky. If it is, add more flour. If it's crumbly and will not roll together, add a little more water. \*Have your kiddo use cookie cutters to cut the ornaments out of the dough. If you don't own any cookie cutters, you can always mold the ornaments yourselves into whatever shape you like. \*Lay out the ornaments on an ungreased cookie sheet. \*Bake for 4 to 6 hours, or until completely dry. Your bake time may vary depending on your location and oven, so keep an eye on these bad boys! \*Once done baking, allow to completely cool. This takes about an hour. \*When your ornaments are completely dry, you can paint them or just leave them as is. These have a lovely brown hue thanks to the spices added, so they look great without paint.

### Language Arts Visual Story Book (Making Ornaments)

A visual story book is a way for children to learn how to develop their own stories based around their experiences. After making the salt dough ornaments, encourage your child to make their own visual story book to detail the steps that they took to make the ornaments and how much they enjoyed it.

The child can use multiple mediums to create their stories. They can draw, paint, color, or use puppets (or their favorite doll) to create their stories. It doesn't have to be perfect. The point is to encourage them to remember events and be creative.

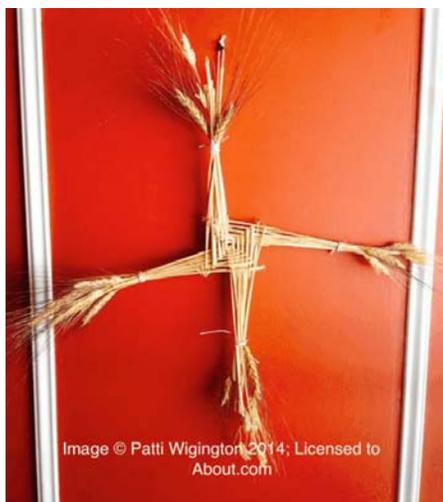
# Make a Brighid's Cross

By Patti Wigington  
Paganism/Wicca Expert

[http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/imbolccrafts/ss/Brighids\\_Cross.htm](http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/imbolccrafts/ss/Brighids_Cross.htm)

## Origins of the Brighid's Cross

The cross has long been a symbol of Brighid, the Irish goddess who presides over hearth and home. In some legends, the girl who became St. Bridget wove the first of these crosses as she explained Christianity to her father, a Pictish chieftain. In other stories, the cross is not a cross at all, but a wheel of fire, which explains why it's a bit off-center in appearance. In parts of Ireland, Brighid is known as a goddess of the crossroads, and this symbol represents the place where two worlds meet, and the year is at a crossroads between light and dark.



A Brighid's Cross can be purchased in many Irish craft shops or at festivals, but it's actually pretty easy to make your own. You can incorporate the creation of your Brighid's Cross into your Imbolc rituals, use it as a meditative exercise, or just put one together with your kids as a fun craft activity.

To make your Brighid's Cross, you'll need straw, reeds, or construction paper—if you're using plant material like straw or reeds, you'll want to soak it overnight so it's pliable when you go to make your Cross. Your end result will be about the length of one piece of your material—in other words, a bundle of 12" reeds will yield a Brighid's Cross just slightly longer than 12".

\*\* Note: for a super-easy, kid-friendly edition of this project, use pipe cleaners.

## Brighid's Cross, Steps 1 & 2

To begin, you'll form a base for your Cross by bending two pieces of straw in their middles to create a pair of loops—in fact, you'll do this with each piece as you make your Cross. Link the two pieces together at their centers, as shown in Figure 1.

Next, turn these two pieces so they lie flat, and at a right angle to one another, as shown in Figure 2. This basic two-piece unit is the base for the rest of the Cross, and it's the only time you'll have two pieces hooked together in the middles like this.

Figure 1

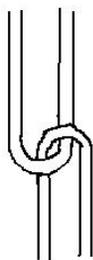
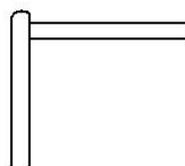


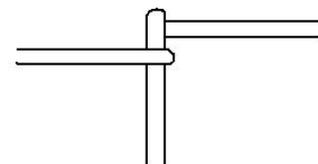
Figure 2



## Brighid's Cross Step 3

Next, bend a third piece of straw in half, and loop it over one of your two base pieces, as indicated in Figure 3. Both legs of the loop in the new piece will pass over both legs of the base piece. Pull this third piece tight to hold it in place.

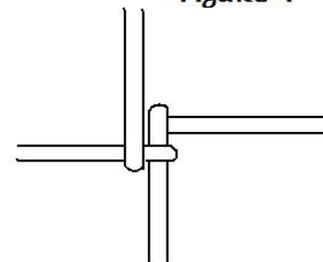
Figure 3



## Brighid's Cross Step 4

Take a fourth piece, and bend it in half as you've done with the others. Loop this one over the legs of the piece you added in Step 3. You should now have four pieces, each pointing in a different direction, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4



## Brighid's Cross Step 5

Finally, you'll continue looping pieces over one another (see Figure 5) as you did in the last step, until your cross reaches the size you want. Each piece loops over the previous one. When

**Continued on page 7**

# Make a Spring Weather Station

By Patti Wigington  
Paganism/Wicca Expert

<http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/ostaracrafts/ss/WeatherStation.htm>

## Why Watch the Weather?

As Ostara rolls in, we begin to see a shift in weather patterns. Warm breezes and sunny days suddenly pop up out of nowhere... but may be immediately followed by a snowstorm with subzero temperatures! We might see no clouds at all, or we might get a massive thunderstorm that floods our backyards. It's hard to keep track of what's going on outside from one day to the next. In theory, we know that Ostara means the beginning of spring, but at times, it sure doesn't look like it!

If you have children—or even if you don't—one good way to mark the arrival of spring is to make a home weather station. After all, if your spirituality marks the changing of the seasons as the Wheel of the Year turns, it certainly makes sense to monitor these changes as they take place. A home weather station is a great way to teach kids awareness of changes in weather patterns. It doesn't have to be complicated or difficult, and you can typically put one together with things that you have around the house already. A home weather station is simple, and you can use it to keep track of temperatures, wind, rain, and even barometric pressure.

You'll need the following supplies:

- Outdoor thermometer
- Notebook or journal
- Clear, straight-neck glass bottle
- Clear glass jar
- Rubber bands
- Food coloring

- Water
- Plastic ruler
- Clear waterproof tape
- Glass jar with a wide bottom (a one-quart jar works well)
- Craft foam
- Ribbons or gimp string
- Paper clip

## Temperature Trends

To keep track of temperatures, place the outdoor thermometer in a place where you'll be able to check it each day. Try to keep it in an area that doesn't receive direct sunlight, but isn't too shady either. Have your kids check the temperature in the morning, midday, and evening. Write down the results in your notebook, and see if you or your kids can predict weather trends. Will it be warm tomorrow?

Will it start out chilly and then get even colder?

## Changes in the Air

To make your barometer, use the clear glass bottle and the clear glass jar. Place the bottle upside down into the jar, without touching the bottom of the jar (peanut butter jars work really well for this project, if you can find a brand still available in glass jars). Fill the jar with water so that it comes up an inch or two over the mouth of the upside-down bottle. Add some food coloring to the water, and angle the jar and bottle just enough to let some air escape.

Slide the rubber band around the jar—this will be your marker line—at the water line. Place the barometer in a spot outside, but not in direct sunlight. As the water level rises and falls due to

barometric pressure, mark the new level with a Sharpie marker or additional rubber bands. As pressure in the air increases, the water in the jar gets pressed down, which then makes the water go into the open bottle. As pressure drops, air will rise and eventually cool—in your barometer, the water will drop away.

## Raindrops are Falling On Our Heads

To make your rain gauge, place the ruler inside the clear one-quart jar, so that the side with the numbers faces out. Use the tape to secure it into place. Put your jar out someplace where it will be able to collect rain—make sure it's not under a tree or next to the house. After it rains, check the jar to see how much rain fell. Keep track of how much rain falls over the course of a week or month.

Remember, rain can come in handy for a variety of magical purposes as well - be sure to read about Water Magic and Folklore: <http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/bookofshadows/a/Water-Folklore-And-Legends.htm>.

## Blowing in the Wind

Make a wind sock to measure wind direction. Cut a length of craft foam about 16" long by a few inches wide. Curve it into a circle, overlapping one edge over the other, and hot glue it in place. Punch holes in the bottom, around the edge, and tie ribbons or gimp string into each of the holes (make your ribbon a few feet long so you'll be able to see it blowing in the wind).

Along the top edge of your

circle, punch four holes around the edge.

Run a few foot-long pieces of ribbon through them, and tie them together at the end. Anchor them onto the paperclip, and then use the paper clip to hang your wind sock outside. Make sure you hang it someplace where it will be able to blow in any direction, and not get tangled up in branches or buildings.

If you're in a pinch and don't have time to make your own windsock, you can use a tube-shaped kite!

Teach your kids which direction is where, so they can write down which way the wind is blowing, and whether it's blowing a little or a lot. Think about ways you can incorporate wind and air into your magical workings!

### Upcoming Events:

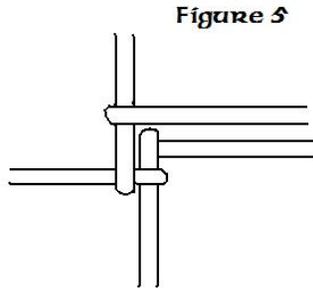
**Susan Betke** is hosting a Winter Solstice family celebration on Sunday, December 20, at Buck Creek Park in Helena (at the waterfall). It will feature a lot of history of symbolism for the season and some crafts, and will mainly be geared toward children ages 3 to 12.

**Church of the Spiral Tree** is hosting a family-friendly Yule Celebration at Roxanna near Auburn on Sunday, December 20. Activities will include a ritual, Dirty Santa (bring a wrapped gift), and a potluck (bring a dish).

<https://www.facebook.com/events/472761862907857/>

## Brighid's Cross, cont. from pg. 5

you're all done, use a piece of string, ribbon, or even another bit of straw to secure the four ends. Trim off excess pieces.



### Brighid's Cross Step 6

In Ireland, homes traditionally had a hearth in the center of the house. This was where much of the household activity took place—cooking, washing, socializing—because it was a source of both light and warmth. A Brighid's Cross was hung over the hearth as a way of honoring Brighid at Imbolc. Most people today have multiple sources of heat and light, but because Brighid is a domestic sort of goddess, you may want to hang your Brighid's Cross over the stove in your kitchen.

A Brighid's Cross hung over a hearth traditionally protected a home from disasters such as lightning, storms, or floods, as well as keeping family members safe from illness.



## REMINDERS

*Please do not mail any school work to our office! Also, please do not have your former school(s) mail any previous school records to us. We do not need any of these items. You, the parent, are the teacher, and as such, are fully responsible for grading, and keeping and maintaining school work and records.*

### What We Do NOT Provide:

- Curriculum (books, etc.)
- Teachers to come to your home
- Teachers at our office to check work or give grades
- An accredited school or program (no cover school in Alabama is accredited)

### Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/190035067717206/>



**Attendance Form - Version A**

School Year: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Just Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you check this email regularly? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
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29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30		30	30	30	30
31	31		31		31	31		31		31	

MONTHLY TOTAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Circle days designated as educational.

**Attendance Record - Version B**

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Just Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you check this email regularly?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year?** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Month Total</b>	<b>Year Total</b>
<b>July</b>	_____	_____
<b>August</b>	_____	_____
<b>September</b>	_____	_____
<b>October</b>	_____	_____
<b>November</b>	_____	_____
<b>December</b>	_____	_____
<b>January</b>	_____	_____
<b>February</b>	_____	_____
<b>March</b>	_____	_____
<b>April</b>	_____	_____
<b>May</b>	_____	_____
<b>June</b>	_____	_____

## Have You Moved? If so, have you notified us?

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a *different public school district*, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, *immediately* (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.

**Sacred Grove Academy**  
**Linda Kerr, Director**  
**PO Box 505**  
**Auburn, AL 36831-0505**

**Phone:**  
**(334) 408-7372**

**Email:**  
**sacredgroveacademy@gmail.com**

**Website:**  
**www.sacredgroveacademy.org**



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