

DATES:

- Mar. 31—Apr. 2—MidWest Cincinnati Home School Convention
- Apr. 1—RW classes
- Apr. 5—Ohio Statehouse & Supreme Court Tours
- Apr. 6—3:15 7-12 Curriculum Choices—MCS
- Apr. 9—Flamin' Hot Breakfast
- Apr. 12—Mom's Night Out at Linda's (date change)
- Apr. 15—Grandparents Day—K-6 RW
- Apr. 15—book orders due
- Apr. 18-22—Spring Break
- Apr. 25—School back in session
- Apr. 25—6th grade Parent meeting
- Apr. 29—1-3 pm Science Classes/Open Gym K-6
- Apr. 29 1-3 pm—K-6 Curriculum Choices RW
- May 2-5—IS testing 1-8
- May 3—7th gr. Parent mtg.
- May 5—National day of prayer
- May 9-11—Heartland Outdoor School
- May 13-14—Used Book Sale
- May 17—7-12 awards night; senior recognition
- May 19—Senior/Board breakfast, chapel, & senior picnic
- May 20—IS Field Day, Awards
- May 27— 1:00 K-6 Awards RW following classes
- June 5—3:00pm Graduation at Berean Baptist
- June 8—last day of school

Check your folders at MCS, especially grades 7-12!

School year extended to make up calamity days, so we will be having school June 6, 7, & 8.

Home Sweet Home

"Choose you this day whom you will serve. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15

APRIL 2011

HB 136—School Choice

On March 1, Ohio Representative and Majority Floor Leader Matt Huffman, introduced House Bill 136, a innovative proposal to *dramatically* expand school vouchers throughout the state and increase the ability of Ohio parents to choose the right educational setting for their child.

The bill proposes two new scholarships: the Parental Choice and Taxpayer Savings Scholarship and the Special Education Scholarship. The text of the proposal can be found via this link: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_136. The proposal already has bipartisan support and more than 35 legislative co-sponsors.

If it passes, hundreds of thousands of families would be eligible for school vouchers for the first time in Ohio history.

Under this plan, eligibility for vouchers would increase more than ten-fold. This is the most meaningful school choice proposal we have ever had in Ohio and is one of the most forward-thinking proposals in the country.

It is a tremendous step toward true student-funded school choice where families are able to make sure that the tax dollars allocated for their child's education are being spent at a school where she or he can learn best.

There is expected to be a lot of excitement about House Bill 136 (HB 136) in the legislature, but it has a long way to go to become a reality. Your legislators need to hear from you that you're excited too. The opponents of this bill are going to be shouting very, very loudly against it and they will be speaking out in droves. That's why we all need to do our part. **Here's what you can do to speak out:**

E-mail/mail/call your Representative and Senator to let them know in 3 paragraphs or so why House Bill 136 is SO valuable for families. Anyone in the state can find their personal legislators' contact information by visiting this website: www.schoolchoiceadvocates.org.

Jay Goyal, Representative
House District 73

77 S. High St
Columbus, OH 43215-6111
(614)466-5802
district73@ohr.state.oh.us

Kris Jordan, Senator
Senate District 19

77 S. High St
Columbus, OH 43215-6111
(614)466-8086
SD19@senate.state.oh.us

I encourage you all to contact your legislators and encourage them to support HB 136. I was privileged to attend a rally in support of this bill last week at our state capitol. I was moved to tears to hear our state leadership support freedom of parental choice for the education of our kids; I can remember the early days of homeschooling when we were doing so under the threat of having our kids taken away from us. At this rally, homeschooling was listed as a school choice right along with charter, public, Christian, Catholic schools, etc. Please pray about this. I have a copy of the bill or you can access it online; these truly are exciting days! Praise the Lord!

Important Reminders

Please make every effort to return your textbooks by May 27, the last RW class if possible; book orders for next year are also due that day.

Please **return any textbooks or materials from the Resource Room** you're not using now as well. All Resource Room items must be returned before May 27.

Flamin' Hot Breakfast—
Saturday, April 9! Thank you to

those of you that have donated items and money; we really appreciate all of your help. Please keep selling those tickets and inviting friends and family. If you have any questions, contact Marie.

The school also added an Easter basket/bake sale and a pre-school Easter Egg Hunt to the morning of the breakfast so hopefully that attracts a few more people.

Magazine Sale: Thank you for your participation! Independent Studies alone sold over \$1000 in magazine sales. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Fair—April 11—16 in the MCS Elementary Library—great books and other items for your child to choose from. Stop in during the school day

Roscoe Village Home School Days

April 25, 26
Living History Exhibits & Hands-On Crafts;
Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War

For information on pricing and times please refer to the Home School Days brochure at www.roscoevillage.com or contact Roscoe Village at 800-877-1830 or by email at rveducation@roscoevillage.com.

Activities include: Monticello III Canal Boat Ride; Johnson –

Humrickhouse Museum.



Picture Yourself in the People's House

2011 is the 150th anniversary of the Ohio Statehouse. This historical celebration is an opportunity for students in grades K-12 to demonstrate their creativity by participating in the celebration. Students are asked to create a work of art based on the theme: *Picture Yourself at the People's House.*

(I have registration forms in the IS Office)

Complete an entry form, create a work of art and follow the guidelines. Artwork and instructions can be uploaded to the Ohio Statehouse website, www.OhioStatehouse.org.

Submissions will be accepted from September 30, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

The student artwork will be made available for the Governor, legislators and local businesses and storefronts to highlight the art.

If you have questions or need clarification please feel free to contact the Capitol Square

GOD DOESN'T CALL THE QUALIFIED, HE QUALIFIES THE CALLED.



Heartland Retreat

Heartland Outdoor School, scheduled for 3 days and 2 nights **May 9-11, 2011**. Cost approximately \$110/person. Adult rates are half the student cost.

Payment is due Friday, April 15. It's not too late to sign up if you'd like to go.

New this year will be the opportunity for you to **invite your friends that home school independently.** I will be staying again this year and will welcome other adult supervision, both men and women.

Dorms have been assigned by grade level for the most part with a parent in charge of each group. Nola Starling will again be in charge of the younger boys, which worked very well last year.

A typical day looks like: breakfast, 2 class hours, lunch, 2 class hours, 1 hour of activity time, dinner, and evening program.

All luggage must be labeled with the student's name.

You will be given a list of things to

bring which will include bedding, pillow, toiletries, and a couple changes of clothes.. No radios, money, CD players, iPods, video games, etc.

We will need to arrive at Heartland between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Each meal is "serve yourself" style with both hot and cold options available. Seconds are offered so students never go hungry. Drinks are served on the tables and include water and juice. Caffeine and sugar are not given to the students. At each meal, it is "dinner and a show" with entertainment including songs, skits and games.

Each person staying must fill out a health form; I will be getting those to you soon. This can also be



downloaded off of the website. If any student is on medication, it must be turned in to the camp nurse and will be administered by the nurse. It is strongly recommended that each student have a zip-lock bag with their name on the outside and all their medication on the inside. Only put the amount of medication needed for the camp trip.

Check out their website, Heartlandretreat.com for specific information concerning what you should bring, etc.

Directions:

For those of you with a GPS, the address is 3201 County Road 225, Marengo, OH 43334.

From I-71

Take Exit 140, Rt. 61 South. Turn right (west) on CR 15. CR 15 will go back over I-71. Turn right (north) on CR 218. Turn left (west) on CR 225. The entrance to



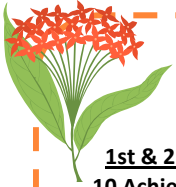
Testing:

May 2-6 at Ranchwood —Stanford Testing for grades 1-2

OAA testing for grades 3-8/ Grades 7-8 IS students will take the OAA at MCS with the fulltime students. I will email you the times as soon as they become available.

I can't encourage you enough to **be preparing your 3rd—8th grade students for the OAA tests.** Make sure that you are covering the state standards. www.Ohio3-8.success.ode-state-oh-us.info. It is important that you're also having your students write extended response answers in every subject area. Those areas should not be left blank, but at least attempted. Even though we're not giving that test, it would still be good preparation. If you're interested in those books, let us know or you can sign them out of Resource Room.

Www.infohio.org Username: learn Password: infohio You will find test preparation activities on this website as well.



Ohio Achievement Assessments (Grades 3-8)

1st & 2nd graders: Stanford 10 Achievement Testing at Ranchwood May 2 through May 5 from 9:30-12:30 p.m.

3rd—8th graders take the OAA (Ohio Achievement Assessments) with the following schedule: 2 1/2 hours are allotted to take each day's test.

Grades 3-6—9:30-12:30 p.m. (approx. ending times) at RW

3rd grade: OAA
May 2—Reading only
May 3—Math only

4th grade: OAA
May 2—Reading only
May 3—Math only

5th grade: OAA
May 2—Reading only

May 3—Math only
May 4—Science only

6th grade: OAA
May 2—Reading only
May 3—Math only

Grades 7-8 at MCS with full time MCS students: Times to be announced later

7th grade: OAA
May 2—Reading only
May 3—Math only

8th grade: OAA
May 2—Reading only
May 3—Math only
May 4—Science only

Swimming lessons follow testing at the Y from 1-2 p.m. It's not too late to sign up if you've not done so. Students can bring a lunch to

eat at RW in the cafeteria after testing if that would help. Students should not be on the playground after testing without adult supervision.

I do need some **volunteers for outside breaks testing week.** Please let us know if you can help out.

Students on a service plan will be contacted individually about testing times, which will most likely be in the afternoons that week. It is very important that your child come to testing when assigned.

Students should bring a book to read or something quiet to do in case of finishing early. Also bring 2 #2 pencils for testing; mechanical pencils are not permitted.

*COINCIDENCE IS
WHEN GOD
CHOOSES TO
REMAIN
ANONYMOUS*



Notes

Math by Mail results will be returned by mid May. Thank you to all that participated.

Speech Meet Thank you to those that participated. You were all great!

Grandparents Day for K-6 at Ranchwood is Friday, April 15.

Students are asked to invite either grandparents or other adults important to them. Our guests will simply participate in classes with the kids; I will have coffee and refreshments available for them as well. Students are welcome to go out to lunch if approved beforehand.

K-6th Grade

Curriculum Choices

Parent Meeting will be held Friday, April 29 from 1-3 p.m. At RW. That is also the same day as science classes. More details will be coming. We will provide someone to supervise kids either for open gym or on the playground if you have need.

Registration for 2011-12

Even though there is no early registration discount this year, it would be very helpful to me if you registered before the end of May at least. I will be ordering curriculum that we need by that time and making decisions about

staffing for next year, all of which are based on enrollment. I'd love to have you all return. Let me know if you have questions.

One Day without Shoes:

April 4-8 MCS is having a shoe drive. These shoes will be taken to El Salvador. Bring in your gently used shoes or money and shoes will be bought from your donation.

Chocolate-Peanut Butter Eggs

The junior class is selling their delicious eggs again—3/4 pound, homemade, hand-dipped eggs for \$5.00 each. Beautifully packaged and perfect for gifts! Order forms have been put in your

CHEO Convention

Christian Home Educators of Ohio is presenting their 27th annual convention June 16-18 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio. Speakers include Michael & Elizabeth Smith from HSLDA, Diana Waring, author of *Mystery of History*, Bill Jack from Worldview Academy, & many more.

Prices are very reasonable—for an individual it is \$55 for two days.

Pre-registration is only open through May 14, then registration will have to be on site in Akron.

To see exhibitors displaying in the vendor hall go to www.cheohome.org

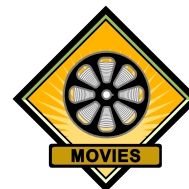
OSU Camps for 3rd—12th grade

Two wonderful summer camps for students brought to you by OSU Mansfield and Mid Ohio Writing Project.

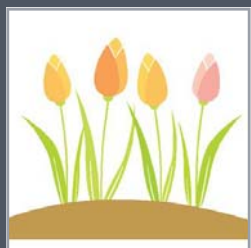
Young Writer's Camp—grades 3-6 (in Sept.) - June 27—July 1 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Cost is \$100 which is supplies & snacks.

Movie Production Camp (Tech Camp) for students entering grades 6-12. June 20-24 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Cost is \$100.

Registration forms for both camps are available in the IS office or by emailing Margaret Hersman at hersman.10@osu.edu.



*The Will of God
never takes you
to where the
Grace of God
will not
protect you*



Congratulations to Andrew Stephan

Marvin Memorial Library in Shelby held a LEGO Structure Contest Saturday, March 12th. Participants were to build an original structure with bricks they brought. This structure was to fit within a 12X12X12 space and be completed in 90 minutes or less. In the 10-13 year-old group MCS had two representatives. Congratulations to Andrew Stephan (6th grade IS student) for receiving 1st place for his 'Office Supplies',



Summer Times

Summer version of God's World News magazine. Give your students the opportunity to receive this newspaper over the summer; Each student will receive 3 large (16 pages) colorful summer issues filled with news, photos, and games. Each issue is fun and educational. You will welcome the chance to give your children summer reading from a Christian perspective. Cost is \$6.95. Issues will be sent directly to your home this summer. Deadline to sign up is April 15.

Violin course online

Just turn on your computer and watch your lesson as many times as you want. For \$30/month, you can subscribe to a full course. Check it out at 4thLightStudio.com.

7th-12th grade students can take the **STAR Reading Diagnostic Test**; just let me know and that can be given in my office.

Wednesday, April 6, at 3:15 will be the 7th—12th grade curriculum choices meeting in Room 109 at MCS. Several families will be sharing curriculum they have found useful this year; I will be discussing changes to MCS courses and after school class changes. Order forms for curriculum for next year will also be available at that meeting.

Live online SAT Math Prep.

There are also summer accelerated online math and programming classes, math and physics classes live online that may be of interest to you as homeschoolers. For more information, email chris@phil4.com or call Christian Seberino at 832-585-9253.

Online Chess Classes—30-40

minute chess lesson that you can hear and see the chess pieces. Then you get a chance to play a chess player using your new found skills. For more information and

to sign up go to ChesmatesFC.com and go to the online lessons tab.

Rising Stars Engineering

Camp—7th—8th graders are introduced to engineering through a hands-on, week-long, summer camp. June 13-17 and June 20-24 from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. located at NCSC Kehoe Center. For more information email dstrauss@ncstatecollege.edu. Or www.collegetechprep.net/risingstarts.

Sylvan ACT Prep class begins May 2 for the June 11 ACT. If

if the school, call 419-528-4440.
SCRIP at Ranchwood

One of the ladies from SCRIP will be with us when we have classes at Ranchwood Apr. 1, 15, May 20, & May 27. You can call in your order and they'll bring it over to you on those Fridays or you can purchase SCRIP choosing from the gift certificates they bring with them, which are some of the most popular establishments.

Thank you, SCRIP, for thinking of this convenience for Independent Studies!

Ohio Statehouse/Supreme Court



4th-8th graders only

We are scheduled to tour the Ohio Statehouse and Ohio Supreme Court Tuesday, April 5. Our tour of the Supreme Court begins at 10:00 a.m. and is a 75 minute tour; the court is in session that day. The Court is two blocks from the Statehouse so we will be walking.

The Statehouse tour begins at 2:00 p.m. And is an hour and a half tour. The senate is in session that day as well and begins at 1:30 p.m. Depending on lunch, we may be able to sit in on session before our 2:00 tour. We also hope to meet with one or

both of our Representatives—Rep. Jay Goyal and Sen. Kris Jordan.

The tours are free. However, we are charging \$5 for a lunch

We will meet at the back parking lot at MCS at 8:00 a.m. So we can carpool. Parking is always quite a challenge, so that should help us Be prepared to walk quite a distance even if it's raining. You will need money for parking which costs \$5 -\$10 or more for the day. Check out www.ohiostatehouse.org

If your child will be riding without you,

you will need to sign a release form to allow another adult to drive them. You will find those forms at the desk in the Ranchwood office.

All students should be dressed up and at the very minimum in the dress code for RW. We will be asked to go through a strict security check before entering the Supreme Court.

Elementary News

The **next scholastic book order is due April 15.** If you have any questions, let Charlie know.

B is for Buckeye Festival—May 7 Main Library—Author will talk about her book, Ellen Ford will share stories and songs, Gorman Nature Center will bring Ohio animals, Tim McKee will share movies about Richland County's history. Also enjoy a Marketplace full of Richland County attractions,

demonstrations, crafts & face painting.

B is for Buckeye Contest—

Choose a letter of the alphabet and create an item that represents a person, place, event or thing from Ohio or Ohio history. Contest runs April 11—May 3. Pick up an entry form at any Richland county library or in the IS office. Follow guidelines listed on the registration form.

K-6 Awards

Friday, May 27 @ 12:30 p.m. in RW cafeteria. Parents are invited to come as students receive character awards, awards for Speech Meet, Math Olympics, Creative Writing, etc. This will be held whether we have Field day that day or regular classes and will be our last class of the year.

At the conclusion of the assembly you are free to leave.

Volunteers Needed

Help!! All day Thursday, May 12 and Friday, May 13, I will be setting up for the Used Book Sale which opens Friday from 6-9 and Saturday from 8-10. I really do need your help. The other dilemma I have is that I have a daughter and a daughter-in-law that are expecting babies that week so I may be called upon to babysit. Pray for the timing of that. Before the May dates, there is much to do in marking books appropriately. Please call Marie or I if you have any time to spare.



Mansfield Christian School

Independent Studies

Mansfield Christian School
500 Logan Road
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

Ranchwood School
1138 Larchwood Blvd.
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

Phone: 419-756-5651 x. 219
(MCS IS)

Phone: 419-756-1725 (Ranchwood IS)

Fax: 419-756-7470

E-mail: hoeflich.linda@mcsflames.org



www.mcsflames.org

Independent Studies Staff

Linda Hoeflich—Principal—419-756-5651 x. 219 (MCS)
419-756-1725(RW)
Hoeflich.linda@mcsflames.org

Charlotte Higgins—Coordinator & RW tchr.

JoAnn Walthour— Coordinator & After School Admin.

Nola Starling— Coordinator & Science tchr.

Marie Baumann— Office Assist.

Dan Bourcier— IS K-6 PE tchr.

Robin Rothaar— IS K-6 RW tchr

Lori Bourcier— IS K-6 Music tchr

*“Choose you this day whom you will serve
but as for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.”*



The Fike Family

When Tim and Mary Fike came in for an interview, I recognized Tim as my “propane man.” What a small world! We have enjoyed getting to know Samuel this year and know you will be interested in Samuel’s passion.

“Samuel Fike enrolled this past fall at MCS for his 9th grade year in the IS program. He lives 12 miles northwest of Bucyrus with his parents Tim and Mary Fike. They are the owner and operators of Fike Energy INC, a petroleum distribution company and a general partner of Doggone Shack LLC, a distributor of High Standard Dog food located in Tiro, Ohio. Samuel, also has an older brother that attended the MCS IS program. He is currently studying Systems Technologies at Owens Community College in Toledo.

Samuel’s interests include hunting, fishing, electronics, four-wheeling and most of all trapshooting. He started

trapshooting in the spring of 2007 joining the Bloomville Sportsman Club, The Clay Crushers. Samuel’s team was fortunate to come in 1st and 2nd several years in a row at the state level which qualified them to travel to Sparta, ILL to participate in the National Scholastic Clay Target Program.

Individually, Samuel has been blessed with making the American Trapshooting Association’s All American Sub-Junior 1st Team and Captain of the Sub-Junior Team for the Ohio State Trapshooting Association in 2010. He has been able to participate in shoots located in Tucson, Arizona, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and is getting ready to travel to San Antonio, Texas where, besides shooting, he is looking forward to exploring the Alamo.

He appreciates being a part of the IS program because it allows him the flexibility to pursue his education and interests.”

Registration 2011-2012

You should have received your registration packets for 2011-2012 by now. I encourage you to prayerfully consider sending those back as soon as possible. It really helps us to plan for the following year when we know how many families are returning.

This year Mansfield Christian celebrated its 50th anniversary. Stay tuned for many special events as we look back on 50 years of God’s faithfulness to us.

The MCS board of education and administration has agreed to use the following days to make up the excess calamity days. School will be in session Monday, April 25, 3011 and Monday, June 6, though Wednesday, June 8, 2011. This does not affect the seniors.

