

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

DATES:

- Oct. 1 RW classes
- Oct. 8 Canal Fulton Canal boats & Glassworks
- Oct. 13 PSAT test, MCS for 10th-11th
- Oct. 15 No school
- Oct. 19 prayer rescheduled for Nov. 10
- Oct. 20 PLAN test, 9th grade, MCS
- Oct. 22 RW classes
- Oct. 25-27, Nov. 1-2 OGT make ups
- Oct. 28-29 No school
- Nov. 3 Explore Test, 8th graders
- Nov. 6—MCS Auction (note date change)
- Nov. 8 Huck Finn, Renaissance
- Nov. 9 Money Museum Fed. Reserve
- Nov. 9 Junie B. Jones, Renaissance
- Nov. 9 Picture Retakes—all at MCS
- Nov. 10—7-12 grade parent meeting—3:15—4:30—RW—Grading & prayer
- Nov. 11—Meet the Team Night 4:30-6:00 pm
- Nov. 18—Chasen Concert
- Mar. 31—Apr. 2—MidWest Cincinnati Home School Convention

- **Check your email every day for messages pertaining to Independent Studies. That is your main avenue to get information about field trips, schedules, and much more.**

Keep Saving Those Box Tops! Even if you don't need the credit for Heartland, we sure can use the money in the IS Program.



Home Sweet Home

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

OCTOBER 2010

Vigilant Prayer & Faithful Obedience

"We must instill a sense of duty in our children; every right implies a responsibility, every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty." John D. Rockefeller, Jr. on the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness afforded Americans. Our nation needs a spiritual revival of traditional values that made us great in former times.

"Finally brother, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

"Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance

the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. . . ." Heb. 12:1-2

Set your affections on things above. Where your treasure is your heart will be also.

Those who wait on God in expectation, keeping His way, are sure to have the blessing they seek. In Him our desire is fulfilled. Expect the Lord and keep His way and He will exalt you to inherit the land.

"Trust in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land and truly you shall be fed. . . Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. For evil men will be cut off but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

Wait on the Lord and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it." Psalm 37:3,7,9, 34.

He glorifies Himself through us while using our most difficult circumstances to conform us to the image of Christ, but "as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me." Micah 7:7

God's people and His angels work together to perform His will in Heaven and earth through vigilant prayer and faithful obedience.

(An insight into some of my favorite scriptures)



Important Reminders

For updates on activities specific to our program, check out the calendar at www.mcslflames.org. The MCS website is being redone. You should be able to find daily announcements, calendars, IS information and much more there. It will be ready soon!

Emails pertaining specifically to home schooling and the IS program are sent regularly - check your email every day. All

families should also check your family folders at least once a week. They are outside the MCS IS office and at RW during Fridays there.

Thursday evening, October 21, is the annual MCS banquet which is a fundraising event. With a decrease in enrollment and a new wing to pay for, we can certainly use the money this year. Friday, Oct. 14, has been set aside as a day of prayer and

fasting. Please join with us in praying for God's favor on MCS. If you know of anyone that would like to attend or if you would, call Sara in the Central Office. God has been faithful to us for almost 50 years; I am confident the Lord will continue to bless Mansfield Christian School.

The Auction this year is Saturday, November 6 in the high school gym. Again, another great opportunity to support MCS.

Field Trips in General

Gorman Nature Center—**Moms & Kids** every Wednesday morning either from 9-10 am or 10-11 am. Geared for pre-schoolers—a wonderful free program!

COSI Home school Workshops:
Oct. 7 Energy Basics
Nov. 4 Intro to Robotics
Dec. 2 Alternative Energy
COSI members: \$20 each adult/child pair then \$10 additional person/ non members twice above price. Check out www.cosi.org. For other great activities for the family.

Ohio Genealogical Society on 97 near Bellville; The lady in charge said that often kids are asked to learn family and local history in 3rd—4th grade. There is a computer lab and a full library of books and records of information from 1930 and before. You can search out info from local to county to state, even foreign records. There are books of family histories, and families are encouraged to leave any family records they would want to share. When attending, it's best to have students go with an assignment to research. We may set up a trip there.

MCS Field Trips

Friday, December 10 is our annual Project Serve Day at the Salvation Army. We will plan to work around the building in whatever way they choose to use us from 9:30 to 11:30. Pizza will be served for all at 11:30. All are welcome.

Friday, January 14 - We will assist in "Bird Banding" at the Gorman Nature Center at 10am. Gorman Nature Center feeds birds throughout the winter and study the many birds that visit their feeders. We will watch how the birds are caught then help to band them for future study. This field trip is free.

Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center - either Thurs. Oct. 28 or Fri., Oct. 29. We will tour the facilities and serve them by raking leaves. There is no school either of those days at MCS. Watch your emails for details

*“Teach us
to number our
days, that we
may gain a
heart of
wisdom.”*

Psalm 90:12



Field Trips arranged for IS Families

October 8, 2010—Canal Boat Rides, Canal Fulton at 10:00 am. Cost is \$8.50 per person for both the canal boat museum and canal boat ride followed by the Glassworks tour. The boat ride lasts an hour with an on-board historian; the Glassworks is with-in walking distance and includes a glass-blowing demonstration. Limit of 60 & still room.

Heartland Outdoor School, scheduled for 3 days and 2 nights **May 9-11, 2011.** cost approxi-

mately \$110/student with adult costs being half that. Begin saving your money now; we may try to have additional fundraisers to help with the costs.

November 8 Huck Finn, Renaissance Theatre; recommended for 4th—8th. \$3.50/person

November 9—Learning Center & Money Museum of Federal Reserve Bank in

Cleveland. 10:00 am—noon—Free! Geared for 4th—8th graders. What is money? Why do we have it? How has it changed? The lessons and activities will cover “inflation” and involve students in decision making. Limit of 50 & still room

Suggested in the afternoon on your own: The Great Lakes Science Center, NASA Glenn Visitor Center is now a part of that Center. This is not far from the Money Museum. Tuesdays are free to youth 18 and under when accompanied by an adult. So only parents would pay that day.

Nov. 9—Junie B. Jones at Ren. Theatre—for Pre K—3rd grade \$3.50. The program is musical and lots of fun geared for younger students.

Resource Room

When signing out an item from the Resource Room, please include the month, day, and year you're checking it out. Please note that no more than 10 items may be checked out at a time; please promptly return items that you're finished with.

Features this month:
AlphaPhonics—an easy to use,

step by step intensive phonics program for teaching readers of all ages.

Writing Strands—The Perfect Tool to develop Successful Writing Skills; allows students to work independently, yet provide the guidance students need to sharpen their ability to inform, persuade, and entertain in writing.

Ordering

I won't be sending in any more orders until the first of year. If there's something you need, please check with me first; we may have what you need on the shelf in the IS office. If not, remember, you can order your own curriculum and probably receive your books faster anyway. Let me know if you have any questions.

Specifically High School

Class dues are charged for every high school student beginning the 9th grade year. Keep in mind that dues can be worked off by participating in class activities or can be paid for using scrip.

Grades are due the last day of the 9 weeks, October 27, given to your coordinator who will then turn in all their grades to me to enter into the computer. Please be prompt in getting your grades in. All grades must be turned in as percentages now, not letter grades.

MCS is now on a semester based grading system and is tabulating grades strictly by percentage and not a letter

grade. All students taking MCS classes will have semester exams in Jan. & June. GPA will be tabulated after each semester. JoAnn will help you with this change.

There will be no print out of IS grades the first quarter, but I should have the system up and running to print at the end of the 2nd semester.

Oct. 18-21, Clear Vision will be here for Spir. Emphasis Week—Grades 5-12—at 1:45 pm Mon-Thurs. Great group—Try to attend.

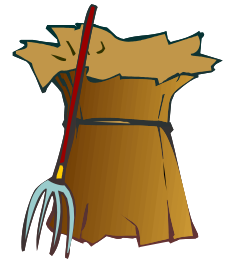
If your student is taking classes at

MCS in grades 7-12, I encourage you to sign up for **Parent/Teacher conferences** to discuss your child's progress. You can make appointments for that by calling the high school office.

Announcements are now available at the mcsflames.org every morning. Make sure you check that for important information that may pertain to your student.

HS Swim Team forming now! We need some boys on the team! Let us know if you're interested. Mtg. Oct. 14 @ 7:00 pm at MCS.

Nov. 10 afterschool mtg. at RW from 3:15-4:30 will be spent explaining the new grading in the high school and the rest of the time spent in prayer.



We can never truly be wise unless we are first humble.

Specifically Middle School

We would again like to offer classes in the afternoon at Ranchwood for 7-8 IS students. If any parents are willing to teach something, let me know. Last year Mrs. Overly taught dissection, Mrs. Dixon did charcoal drawing, and Mrs. Gregg taught First Aid. Helpers work in the mornings and have class after lunch this year.

7th-8th Grades are due the last day of the 9 weeks, October 27, given to your coordinator who will then turn in all their grades to me to enter into the computer when the new system is

ready. There will be no print out of IS grades the first quarter, but I should have the system up and running to print at the end of the 2nd semester.

Please be prompt in getting your grades in. Grades for students in 5-6 can be shown to your coordinator at the next visit after the end of the 9 weeks.

Check the high school section above; some of those activities also apply to Middle School

Operation Christmas Child

Watch for 100 Christmas Child boxes at Ranchwood available for you to fill; this is totally optional; take as many as you like. This is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse and helps disadvantaged children all over the world. Boxes need to be returned Friday, November 19 at RW classes. If anyone would like to volunteer to collect them and take them to Ontario Free Methodist that day we would appreciate it. What a wonderful opportunity to teach children it's really "better to give than to receive" especially during the upcoming holiday season.

Specifically Elementary

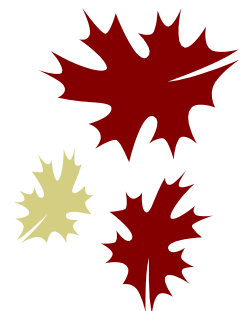
Mrs. Higgins needs the following for art classes this year: rick rack, buttons, crepe paper sheets, magazines with pictures of flowers, jars for vases,, pie pan tins, children's or baby socks. Please don't go buy these things new; we're only asking you to bring those in if you have them around the house; socks don't need to be new.

The first 9 weeks ends Wednesday, October 17; Grades for K-6 should be filled out on the appropriate grade card and shown to your coordinator at the next visit after the quarter's end. Hard copies of grade cards are to be turned in to the IS office by your coordinator at the end of the year.

Please note that K-6 RW classes this month are held the first and

4th Fridays, so we meet October 1 and October 22. There is no school at MCS October 15.

October 14 at 9:00 am in the multipurpose room is "Bananas for Jesus" Elementary students are invited to attend. Call the elementary office for details.





*You can't help
men permanently
by doing for them
what they could
and should be
doing for
themselves.
Abraham Lincoln*



Science Classes for K-6

This month the Hands-On-Science Classes will be held during Friday classes with Mrs. Starling substituting for Ms. Rothaar while she's in Utah. No sign up is needed. You will be learning about rockets, force and motion, and Newton's Laws of Motion as it applies to each grade level. The next date for the hands-on science class is November 12. The experiments will be about bases, acids and alkalis. Children may not want to wear their "best" clothing.

K-2 will be from 9-10 am; 3rd—4th from 10:30-11:30 am and 5th—6th will be from 1-2 pm. Sign up is required. The cost is \$3 per child to help cover the cost of supplies. Payments may be made the same way field trips are handled; be sure your name and "science days" is written clearly on the envelope. If writing a check, please make it out to Nola Starling.

Note from Linda:

My surgery is Monday, October 4 at 7:30 am. It is outpatient surgery; I'll be home by early afternoon. The dr. says I'll be out of work 2-3 weeks and unable to drive for 3 months. When I do come back, I'll either be working at RW or in the High School office at MCS due to the steps. I'll be in a cast for a long time then a boot. Marie will be working each day from 8-10 am. She and I will both be checking emails and phone messages. I am totally humbled by the meals and help you've offered. Blessings to you all.

Homeschooling Tips



Managing Multi-Level Teaching

1. Remember what you're trying to accomplish—focus on goals, priorities, godly character & academics. Planning takes away stress.
2. Discipline your children—obedience is top priority or it's hard to teach.
3. Get organized and schedule your day. Children
4. Choose curriculum according to your child's learning style and needs.—there is no "right" curriculum. Curriculum is only a tool.
5. Encourage your children to work independently
6. Use educational videos and software
7. Limit outside activities.—

when you say "yes" to something outside your home, you are saying "no" to your family. Make decisions wisely.

8. Make sure regular chores are part of daily activities.
9. Don't forget to smell the roses. Slow down and enjoy your kids. Teenagers take more time than toddlers.

(From Kathie Morrissey, Courtship Connection)

Classifieds

Special offer: Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 for only \$99.00. That's 85% off retail. If you're interested, go to www.paragonmicro.net/acspromo. \$5.00 will be donated back to MCS for every license placed.

Congratulations

Recently, the Mansfield Playhouse Youth Theatre Production of The Wizard of Oz was performed. Congratulations to the following IS students that were in the cast: Samuel Heinger, Carol Heinger, Sarah Heinger, Grace Surber, Bailey Young, Brooke Young, Katie Walthour, Jon Walthour. We're proud of you!

Teaching Tips/Test Preparation Tips



Academic Content Guides: I hope you're more confident in using the standards now that we had the meetings with Mrs. Tucker. I'd like to reiterate some of the websites that are free to you:

<http://portal.success-ode-state-oh.us/info/> This is a great website which provides teachers with the ability to create on-line practice tests for students to take. You can use questions used on previous OAA tests.

<http://ims.ode.state.oh.us/ode/ims/Default.asp?bhcp=1> Great website which provides lesson plans that

are specific to the benchmark you want to address. It provides dittos, transparencies, assessment tools, etc.

<https://www.moesc.k12.oh.us/CoursesofStudy/Pages/default.aspx>. This website will link you through ODE's portal most of the time; this site also has lesson plans and assessment tools for any benchmark you are teaching.

We are not teaching to the test. We just want to have our standards providing a framework to work from instead of working

solely from the teacher manual. We also want to make sure we are assessing whether or not our kids are learning what they're supposed to learn.

Testing Schedule: May 2-4, 2011

Grades 1-2—Stanford Test

Grade 3 & 4—OAA math & reading

Grade 5—OAA math, reading & science

Grade 6—OAA math & reading

Grade 7—OAA math & reading

Grade 8—OAA math, reading & science

*“SEARCH ME, O GOD AND KNOW MY HEART. TRY ME AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS. SEE IF THERE BE ANY GRIEVOUS WAY IN ME, AND LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING.”
PSALM 139:23-24*

Helpful Websites

[Www.Dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) - Don't know how to pronounce a word? Click on the word and it's pronounced for you.

Math websites:

[Www.explorellearning.com](http://www.explorellearning.com)—free 3 day trial available

[Www.homeschoolmath.net](http://www.homeschoolmath.net)

[Www.gamequarium.com](http://www.gamequarium.com)

[Www.brainbashers.com](http://www.brainbashers.com)

[Ww.arcademickillbuilders.com](http://www.arcademickillbuilders.com)

[Www.asknumbers.com](http://www.asknumbers.com)

[Www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com)

[Www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[Www.mathisfun.com](http://www.mathisfun.com)

[Www.dositey.com](http://www.dositey.com)

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/Lessons/>

[Www.iknowthat.com](http://www.iknowthat.com)

[Www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)

[Www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>- my favorite!



Toledo Christian has a good website with great teacher resources. go to <http://www.toledochristian.com> and then to the For Staff tab on the toolbar. Then go to Teacher Treasure Chest to access resources, lesson plans, content standard information, etc.

ACSI Events

Due to lack of interest in the other ACSI Activities areas, we will only be participating in the Speech Meet (grades 1-6), Creating Writing (grades 4-12) and the Mail in Math Olympics (grades 3-8).

I will get you information about those events as they become available.

The Creative Writing competition is a mail-in event and must be complete by

January 31, 2011.

Math Olympics by Mail is also a mail-in event complete by March 17, 2011. This was the event with the most interest expressed so we will be able to send in more entries for this even.

Speech Meet is March 11, 2011 at Delaware Christian. We will have tryouts for this regional competi-

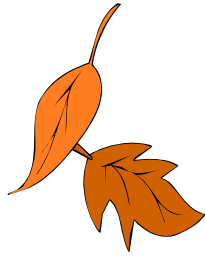
tion Friday, January 21, during RW classes.

We will also hold our own competitions in the other areas and are permitted to send in 1 winner from each grade per category. More details will be forthcoming.





Independent Studies



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

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Family Profile—The Ritenours



If you walk into our home you would see energy in motion as the inhabitants are 3 creative, adventurous, and curious boys. We began homeschooling over six years ago when our first boy began kindergarten. The reasons for our homeschooling were simple....I hate being cold...and my husband loves to travel. With that said, I took on the challenge of educating the boys at home with the help of the Independent Studies program at Mansfield Christian. I was what you might call a "Baby Christian" at the time, so teaching bible classes to the boys seemed the most intimidating to me. Isn't it funny how God works on our weaknesses in unusual ways? It was through simple Bible stories and lessons that have been weaved throughout the boys' curriculum that I have grown in my walk with the Lord. I am certain the Lord used homeschooling to educate me in His ways. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord" ---Isaiah 55:8 My eldest boy Adam could be described as a serious independent thinker. He is my entrepreneur and inventor. He is easy to homeschool

because he is constantly challenging himself with learning all about the latest technology or discovering everything about Japanese weaponry. He delights in learning skills that are extraordinary like playing a washboard, riding a unicycle, or learning the art of origami with towels. However, he has excelled this year with a more common role as the center and nose tackle for the sixth grade Ontario football team.

Our second born boy, Ethan, could be described as "everybody's friend". He is a "task master". He is someone you can count on to get the job done. He is easy to homeschool because he has a gift for expressing himself through writing. He also thrives on seeing accomplishment. He enjoys playing Legos, making comics of his own, and writing rap songs for beatboxing. He has been told by many adults that he is a very good reader. This is Ethan's sixth year playing recreation soccer for Ontario. Ethan is an asset to his team because he is obedient to his coach, dedicated, and a great defender.

Zachary, our baby boy, is described by

his brothers as the "kiss-up", and I admit he is good at it. Being a mother of three boys, I can always count on this child to grant me scraps of emotion and sensitivity at the appropriate time. Zachary wakes up with a smile on his face every morning and has a lot of joy. He is our little evangelist quoting scripture like, "A gentle answer turns away anger" Proverbs 15:1, when he hears any squabbling. He is easy to homeschool because he loves to do anything that gets him one-on-one attention. He likes to cook in my kitchen and play board games. He runs very fast, and he is very good at scoring goals for his Ontario soccer team.

My husband, Paul, is an internist and emergency room physician, and performs endoscopy procedures. He is very adventurous and keeps our family engaged in many activities. In the summer months you might find us at Cedar Point or on our boat at Lake Erie. When fall arrives, the boys' football games and soccer games get into full swing, and we spend time together watching college football. Winter opens the door to travel time in our

family. We usually take a trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and spend a month in San Diego visiting Grandma and Grandpa Ritenour. Otherwise, Paul and the boys have me out on the bunny hill at Snow Trails learning to ski while they all zip past me on snowboards. Spring is spent doing lots of work to finish school and get our flower beds cleaned out.

Our family attends Ontario Christian Fellowship. Our boys attend Awana at Westwood Alliance Church, and we are involved in a year-long study of the book of Genesis through Community Bible Study at our church.

We are very thankful to have the opportunity to homeschool through Mansfield Christian. It has been the vehicle through which our family has been anchored to fellowship with other believers for the past six years. We struggle as many of you do to maintain balance, yet provide opportunities for learning and living. We believe that continuing to provide our boys and ourselves with a biblical worldview through Christian education has helped our family to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"--- Hebrews 12:2a.