

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

DATES:

- Nov. 3 Explore Test, 8th graders
- Nov. 5—RW classes/vision & hearing screening/ Christmas Prac. 2-4 pm
- Nov. 6—MCS Auction 10 a.m.—3 p.m.
- 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
- Nov. 19 RW classes/ Christmas prac. 2-4 pm
- Dec. 3—RW Classes/ Christmas prac. 10 am-3 pm
- Dec. 8—Dress Rehearsal 2-5 pm—Grace Fellowship
- Dec. 9—IS Christmas Program—Grace Fell.
- Dec. 10—Salvation Army work day
- Jan. 14—Bird Banding at Gorman Nature Center
- 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." Joshua 24:15

NOVEMBER 2010

Cheerfully Busy Unspeakably Peaceful

"Cheerfulness is the support of our strength; in the joy of the Lord are we strong. It acts as the remover of difficulties. It is to our service what oil is to the wheels of a railway carriage. Without oil the axle soon grows hot, and accidents occur; and if there be not a holy cheerfulness to oil our wheels, our spirits will be clogged with weariness. . . Reader, let us put this question—do you serve the Lord with gladness? Let us show to the people of the world, who think our religion to be slavery, that it is to us a delight and a joy! Let our gladness proclaim that we serve a good Master."

Charles Spurgeon

(taken from www.girltalkhome.com)

"In all your ways acknowledge Him"
Proverbs 3:6

If obeyed, this verse can bring you peace in your soul during the approaching busy seasons of Thanksgiving & Christmas.

"Take one step at a time, every step under Divine warrant and direction. Every plan to yourself in simple dependence on God. It is nothing less than self-idolatry to conceive that we can carry on even the ordinary matters of the day without His counsel. He loves to be consulted. . . Consider no circumstances too clear to need His direction. In all thy ways, small as well as great; in all thy concerns, personal or relative, temporal or eternal, let Him be supreme. Who of us has not found the unspeakable "peace" of bringing to God matters too minute or individual to be entrusted to the most confidential ear?"

Charles Bridges

Eternally Thankful

We of all people ought to be most thankful; the Lord has blessed us with so much. We don't lack for food, clothing, shelter, and the greatest gift of all is ours—a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Let's not forget to thank and praise Him for our blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving



Important Reminders

For updates on activities specific to our program, check out the calendar at www.mcsflames.org. The new MCS website will be online soon. You should be able to find daily announcements, calendars, IS information, forms, field trip information, and much more.

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 K-6 classes.

MCS Holiday Auction—11/6/1 from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. High school gym—Support MCS and enjoy holiday atmosphere & wonderful gift opportunities. Thank you for the items you've donated for the IS Basket; thank you, Beezy Massa, for putting that together for us.

Picture Retakes will be taken November 9 from 8:30-noon in the multipurpose room at MCS. For those of you going on the field trip that day, you can have your

pictures taken right at 8:30 a.m.

If you are having retakes, the original picture packet also needs returned. If you were absent when pictures were taken, plan to have your picture taken Nov. 9 at MCS. All staff and students are required to have their pictures taken for ID purposes.

All students should have turned in **immunization records.** If you haven't done that yet, please do so as soon as possible;

*“Busy schedules
and tight
deadlines crowd
out thoughts of
the Sovereign
Lord”*



Activities in General

Beginning the week of November 8 at the New Life Church of Christ in Bellville **Upward Basketball & Cheerleading** will begin with evaluations and cheerleading orientations.

After November 1 cost is \$70. Practices begin the week of December 6 with the first game January 8. Flyers have been put in your folders. I know that Upward is also held at the Church of God in Ontario. Check with them if you're interested in that location.

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:
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 activities for the family.

IS Field Trips

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. All registrants must be preapproved.

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 a paying adult.

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.

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 ages 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.

Operation Christmas Child

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

Specifically 7th—12th

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 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.

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.

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! 1st practice is Nov. 5.

Call Angie Maglott at 419-756-1598 if you're interested in swimming. Thinking about it? Give it a try for

free. Call Angie with the details. **Nov. 10 afterschool mtg. at MCS, Rm. 111** from 3:15-4:30 p.m. will be spent explaining the new grading in the high school and the rest of the time spent in prayer.

Classes for 7th—8th grade at RW: Kim Dixon will be teaching art for 7th—8th graders November 5, 19, Dec. 3, 17. Cost is \$10/ student and classes begin this Friday, November 5. Let us know immediately if you're interested.

A **sewing class** will begin in January & last 6 weeks. Helpers work in the mornings and have class after lunch this year.

Interested in Basketball? go to highschoolsports.net & find schedules for open gyms & tryouts. Let me know if you need additional information.

“Our own example of patient, firm love and good personal habits will influence our dear children far more than persuasive words.”

IS Christmas Program— “It Happened in the Country”

Thursday, December 9—7:00 p.m. Grace Fellowship Church

Director: Mrs. Lori Bourcier
Questions? Call 419-564-5734

Parents needed to help with stage-prep, costumes, etc. Please let Lori know if you can help.

Supplies needed: Butter churn, rocking chairs, wash tub, hay bales, façade, Christmas tree, manger, whittling knife & stick, bowls of beans, corn stalks, clothes line with clothes on it, straw stack, trinkets & whittled boats & things laying

around, wooden park bench. Please let us know if you have any of these items we can use.

Make sure students are listening to their CDs at home and learning their parts. This will expedite practice times.

Practices: Nov. 4—6-8 p.m. at Bourciers—spkg. Parts only

Nov. 5—2-4 pm after RW classes

Nov. 19—2-4 pm after RW classes

Dec. 2—6-8 pm—spkg. Parts only

Dec. 3—10 am—3 pm—RW day

Dec. 8—2-5 pm—Dress Rehearsal—Grace Fellowship

Speaking Parts:

Joshua Johnson, Brooke Young, Katie Walthour, Trevor Overly, Katie Seher, Caleb Hignite, Samantha Klecka, Carolina Trumpower, Matthew Golias, Rebekkah Hupp;

Solo—Grace Surber

More musical parts are still to be assigned.

Begin to invite family & friends!!



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.

While at RW we have been giving students the **STAR Reading**

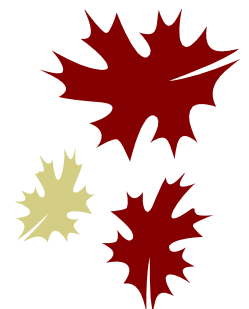
Diagnostic Test. I will be printing those results for you; At the end of the year students will be tested again to document progress. I think you'll be encouraged by these results.

Marie sent in 2,608 **box tops for education.** Good job to all who collected. Keep up the good work! The next deadline is February. Remember, this can reduce the price for the Heartland Outdoor School or bring in money for the IS program which will directly benefit

all of you.

Vision & Hearing Screening will be Nov. 5 during RW classes for all new students & students in Kdt., 1, 3, 5th grades. Please let me know if there are others you'd like screened.

Speech Meet packets will be in your folders at RW November 19. Each 1st—6th grade student is required to participate in tryouts held Jan. 21, but parents choose if they want their student to participate in the next level of competition if they win.



Science Classes for K-6



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 12:30-1:30 p.m. 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 Nota Starling.

Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and meals. What a blessing you have been to Jerry and I. The food has just been delicious; you are all very precious to me—my school family!

This has been quite a process and one that has truly humbled me and taken me out of my comfort zone. I do want you to know, though, that God has been faithful every step of the way! The night before surgery as I was reading my Bible, this is the scripture the Lord gave me: *Proverbs 3:5-8* “**Lean on the Lord with all your heart and mind, & don't rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; turn away from evil. It will be health to your nerves and sinews, and marrow and moistening to your bones.**” Isn't that amazing? God is so good. May the Lord bless each of you. I'm back to work in the mornings and

“Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty.”
Albert Einstein



Heartland Retreat Sign Up

Heartland Outdoor School, scheduled for 3 days and 2 nights **May 9-11, 2011**. Cost approximately \$110/student with adult costs being half that. Begin saving your box tops to help with the costs.

In order to become more familiar with Heartland Outdoor School you can sign up online to receive *Nature Notes*. You can subscribe by signing up at www.Heartlandretreat.com.

This is a great way to let students and parents know the camp, the staff, and enjoy some fun facts and activities. New this year at Heartland is an indoor climbing wall, a wetland/prairie grass area, “Email a Camper” link on the website and much more.

I know that \$110 is a lot, but I assure you, it is worth every dime you spend. The meals are wonderful, the activities

outstanding, the rules strictly enforced, and the staff excellent.

New this year will be the opportunity for you to **invite your friends that home school independently**. The more we have attend the cheaper the price. I do encourage you, however, to only invite those that you know are of like mind with our group with similar standards and behavioral expectation. I will be staying again this year and will welcome other adult supervision, both men and women.

There will be a sign up at RW for you at the next class. I'm excited and hope many of you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

This event is geared for 2nd—6th grade, however we did have Kdt.—8th grade participate last year and had a great time. Please let me

know if you have questions.

Check out their website. I personally know the director. He was in our IS program when he was young. Joe Hughes loves the Lord, nature, and kids!! What a great combination.

Let me know soon if you're interested in participating and if you're willing to stay as a chaperone. The more we sign up, the cheaper it is per



person!

Teaching Tips/Test Preparation Tips



<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. BENCHMARKS ARE THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE TESTED ON THE OAA TESTS!

<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.

Test Information Websites:

ACT test—www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html

OAA test—www.Ohio3-8.success.ode.state-oh-us.info

[Wwww.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)—Learning Express Library—Learning Centers: SAT, ACT, AP, CLEP, PSAT

Tutorials:

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

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

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

[Wwww.arcademicskillbuilders.com](http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com)

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

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

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

THE HOMESCHOOL EVENT OF THE YEAR—MIDWEST HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION CINCINNATI, OH MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2011 EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS AT :WWW.GREATHOMESCHOOLCONVENTIONS.COM

Helpful Websites

Crafts done with apples:

<http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/holiday-seasonal-crafts/fall-crafts/>

Free Resources from Nationwide Children's Hospital to meet Grades 7-12 Health, Technology standards—go to www.OnePairOfEyes.org—Free vision health and safety program for teens includes memorable, interactive learning, review games &

Weekly online webinar— "Building a Biblical Philosophy of Education" Enrollment is free—

www.ArtiosAcademies.com

[Wwww.girltalkhome.com](http://www.girltalkhome.com) This is a mom and three daughters talking about biblical womanhood (oh yeah, and other fun stuff). This is a great website complete with devotions & recipes.



[Wwww.fusefly.com](http://www.fusefly.com)—The social network connecting homeschoolers around the world! It's free, safe for teens 13 and up, areas for both students and parents. Check it out!

ACSI Events

IS 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). MCS is also participating in the Art Festival for grades 3-12, the Music Festival for 7-12, and the Science Fair.

I know we've had tentative sign up sheets, but now I need to know for sure who is interested in each event

so that I can get you the information.

The Creative Writing competition is a mail-in event and must be complete by January 31, 2011. There is a limit of 15 entries per school.

Math by Mail is also a mail-in event complete by February 11, 2011. This was the event with the most interest expressed so we will be able to send in more entries for this event.

Speech Meet is March 11, 2011 at

Delaware Christian. We will have tryouts for this regional competition Friday, January 21, during RW classes. Speech Meet Packets to choose from scripture or poetry will be in your folders November 19 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.



Family Profile **MEET THE BAUMANNs**



Let me introduce my family to you. We are the Baumanns. My husband, Ron, is the dental director at Mansfield Correctional Institution. I “retired” from a nursing career in 1992 to be a full-time mom. Now you see me in the Independent Studies office helping Linda in whatever way I can.

We were blessed with 2 daughters. Emily is now a college sophomore at Akron University and Hannah is a senior at Mansfield Christian.

We have always been a homeschooling family and a part of the Independent Studies program since Emily was in first grade. I never gave homeschooling a thought as a single woman. Once I became a wife and mother that all changed. I realized the awesome responsibility to teach my children and was concerned about the influences on children in public school. We

started investigating homeschooling when the girls were very young. I attended homeschool support meetings and even travelled to Columbus for a CHEO convention. That convention was absolutely overwhelming! I remember being so scared at the prospect of taking on the task of educating my children. But a song was sung by 2 moms that had me in tears and totally convinced that homeschooling was for me. The title of the song was “My Ministry Is You” and the chorus said,

*“For this special time in my life ,
My ministry is you.
Though so many things tug at
my heart,
My ministry is you.
So all the world can wait,
While I give myself to you.
For you only stay young for a
little while,
My ministry is you.”*

Well, now I am at the end stage of that ministry. My baby is a senior! The time went by so quickly. What wonderful memories we all have a reading great stories together and fun field trips. There were many days of tears and frustration, too, but God is so faithful. A favorite verse when I felt “in over my head” was

Proverbs 16:3, “Commit your works unto the Lord and your thoughts will be established”.

And what would I have done without the Independent Studies program of Mansfield Christian. It was such a Godsend to me and my family. I so appreciated the encouragement from Charlie, the wisdom of Linda, the friends of my children on class days, the opportunity to compare notes with the other homeschool moms.

We were truly blessed to have been a part of the Independent Studies program.

Marie Baumann