

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

- DATES:
- Aug. 26 6 pm IS Picnic, 7 pm parent mtg. RW
 - Sept. 1,2—start after-school classes
 - Sept. 3—K-6 RW classes
 - Sept. 6 No school
 - Sept. 7 12th gr. Parent mtg. 7 pm, MCS
 - Sept. 8 3:15 pm— 7-12 mtg. OGT/ACT
 - Sept. 10 Akron Fossils & Science Center
 - Sept. 13 Christian College Fair, MCS
 - Sept. 17 12:30 pm OAA, Acad. Standards RW
 - Sept. 17 School pictures
 - Sept. 25-26 OH Heritage Days,
 - Sept. 29 Senior Retreat
 - 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 7 pm prayer at Linda's (note date change)
 - Oct. 20 PLAN test, 9th grade, MCS
 - Oct. 22 RW classes
 - Oct. 28-29 No school
 - Oct. 30 MCS Auction
 - Nov. 1-4 OGT make ups
 - Nov. 8 Huck Finn, Renaissance
 - Nov. 9 Money Museum Fed. Reserve
 - Nov. 9 Junie B. Jones, Renaissance
 - Nov. 10 Explore Test, 8th graders

- 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.

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

Heed Instruction

Welcome back to another year with the Independent Studies Program at Mansfield Christian School. We have several new families; we welcome you and are excited to have you join us; it is my prayer that we can be a blessing to you as you seek to obey the Lord in the education of your children.

This summer I have enjoyed reading Proverbs and Psalms. Proverbs 10:17 stands out to me every time I read it: “He who heeds instruction and correction is not only himself in the way of life, but is a way of life for others. He who neglects or refuses reproof not only himself goes astray, but causes to err and is a path toward ruin for others.” Wow! What a responsibility we have to stay “in the way of life”

ourselves then train our children to do the same.

“My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.” Proverbs 4:20-23

“The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge, its starting point and its essence; but fools despise skillful and godly wisdom, instruction and discipline.” Proverbs 1:7

This is my admonition to you this

year: “Roll your works on the Lord—commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and so shall your plans be established and succeed.”

I will be praying for you this year and trust that you will grow in your relationship with the Lord and in the relationships within your family.

On a personal note:

I appreciate those of you that continue to pray for Evan, our grandson. He is having another surgery to correct his eye muscles September 20.

I am also scheduled for surgery October 4 to repair a torn Achilles tendon and remove a broken heel spur. Thank you for your prayers.

Important Reminders

For updates on activities specific to our program, check out the calendar at www.mcsflames.org.

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

Daily high school announcements can also be found at www.mcsflames.org

Again this year, IS students will be included in the **elementary and high school year books**. Please keep that in mind when attending sporting events, field trips, etc. You can submit pictures via CD or email attachment.

This year as a service to you, if you have anything related to homeschooling that you would

like to advertise or sell, please let me know and I will include it in the newsletter under a classified section.

If any of you would like to volunteer to help the IS program please let me know. I'm sure when I'm off with surgery I will need some extra help. Marie will be keeping things in order while I'm out.



Field Trips in General

Saturday, August 28th @ 8:30 p.m. **Mohican Bat Banding** at Mohican's covered bridge-watch as biologists capture, identify, band and release wild bats. Bring a flashlight.

Malabar Farm—Annual Ohio Heritage Days— September 25th from 10 am to 4 pm—& Sept. 26th beginning at 10 am. free outdoor living history and crafts, vintage farm machinery, live music, civil war demos, buck skinnners and much more.

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:
Sept. 2 Magnets
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.

Roscoe Village—2010 Home School Days Sept. 13 & 14
www.roscoevillage.com or 800-877-1830. Canal Town Journey Tour, Hands-on Canal Era Crafts, Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum, Canal Boat ride.

Apple Hill Orchard: Sept. 24 Harvest Moon Hayrides 7-10 pm
Oct. 3 Apple Hill Kids Day noon—6 pm. www.applehill.biz



*Excellence
demands a
standard and
the Word of
God is the
standard*

Field Trips arranged for IS Families

September 10 from 10:00 am—1:00 pm—Akron Fossils & Science Center in Copley, Ohio (rain date is Sept. 24) cost is \$6/person. The museum teaches Creation Science & Intelligent Design. Bonus: Dino Kiddieland, 2 1/2 acre playground with suspension bridge, giant swing, toy cars, bikes, etc.

October 8, 2010—Canal Boat Rides, Canal Fulton at 10:00 am. \$5/person for the canal boat

museum and canal boat ride followed by the Glassworks tour which is \$4 per person. The boat ride lasts an hour with an on-board historian; the Glassworks is within walking distance and includes a glass-blowing demonstration.

Heartland Outdoor School, May 9-11, 2011. cost approximately \$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. More information to follow.

Nov. 9—Junie B. Jones at Ren. Theatre—for Pre K—3rd grade \$3.50

Resource Room

When the school year gets started I will plan to be at **Ranchwood every Friday between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm** for your convenience. Just ring the front doorbell and I'll let you in.

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.

Each month I will feature items in our Resource Rm.:

Considering God's Creation—can be used by a family of students of different grade levels;

focuses on observing & investigating the natural world, integrating science with the Bible. Recommended for grades 2-7 but would probably only use in elementary.

Drive Thru History—DVDs—Christian truths with humor; fast pace lessons."Extremely entertaining! Outstanding! Getting kids interested in history is no challenge with this program." – Home schooling Parent Magazine



Specifically High School



Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward

worked off by participating in class activities or can be paid for using scrip.

It is critical that at your first coordinator visit that you fill out which classes your student is taking, where, and what books you're using, including book numbers.

Grades are due the last day of the 9 weeks this year and hard copies are required at the end of the year. It is not sufficient to email or call in final grades! This year we will have final semester grades as well.

If your student is taking any class at MCS a **contract** signed by the student and the parent is required to be turned in to the IS office. Those have been mailed to you.

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.

Honor Society consideration will be in the winter this year with the NHS trip April 6-10.

Excellence has it's roots in character and integrity

School pictures will be taken September 17 for grades 9-12 at MCS. Specific times will come via email.

Class dues are charged for every high school student beginning the 9th grade year. Keep in mind that dues can be

Specifically Middle School

School pictures will be taken for grades 5-6 at RW and 7-8 at MCS. Specific ties will come via email.

All students entering 7th grade are required to have a booster of the Tdap immunization.

For those taking classes at MCS in 5th—8th grades, the first three day of school will be chapel schedule. I have sent that schedule via email. If your student is taking classes at MCS, those first 3 chapels will be very informative and set the pace for the year—rules,

goals, vision, etc. Wednesday will cover new procedures, schedules, etc. Thursday will be challenging students spiritually and Friday will focus on building community.

Middle school students will eat in the multipurpose room this year.

Schedules for those of you taking classes can pick up schedules beginning August 20.

Like the high school, middle school students are invited to attend chapels any time.

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.

I can also use helpers at RW. Helpers would work in the mornings and have class after lunch this year.



Specifically Elementary

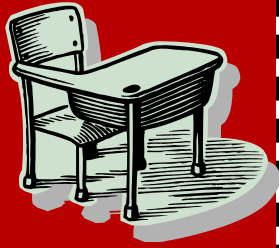
Scholastic Book orders are due to Charlotte Higgins by September 17. Catalogs for Scholastic will be in your folders the first day of classes, September 3. Checks are made out to Charlotte Higgins for books, not MCS.

School Pictures will be taken Friday, September 17. K-6 pictures will be taken at the Ranchwood Campus, but all 7-12th grade pictures will be

taken at MCS this year in the multipurpose room. Information will be passed out the first day of RW classes.

This year each family must register individually for the **pizza hut book it program**. Here is a link that goes right to the home school registration page. Very easy! www.bookitprogram.com.

Mrs. Higgins needs the following for art classes this year: rick rack, buttons, crepe paper sheets, magazines with pictures of flowers, jars for vases, 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.



After School Classes

The afterschool classes will start on Sept. 1. We have a great line-up of classes and strong enrollment so it looks to be an exciting year. Contact information for the teachers :

Art Classes Jayne Stahlke
419-512-7920
thepottershop42@yahoo.com

English Classes Beth Feia
419-526-0805
bethfeia2@gmail.com

Science Classes Brad Kentosh
419-631-2548
BKentosh@mansfield.K12.OH.US

Bible Class Kyle Robbins
419-606-6831/6832
kylerobbins@gmail.com

If you have any questions about these classes contact JoAnn Walthour at 419-989-6963 or jjwalthour@yahoo.com

You should be hearing from your student's teacher soon with class expectations. Reminder: parents are to attend the short parent meeting as indicated in the letter you received from the teacher .

ACSI Events

I need to know as soon as possible if you're interested in any of the following competitions this year: Creative Writing, Geography Bee, Music Festival, Math Olympics, Speech Meet, & Spelling Bee. I am registering us this year for these events. Check out more information at www.acsi.org—click on student then on student activities for an explanation of each category. I am willing to pursue upper level competitions, however, we usually only offer this for elementary.

*Your
expectation will
determine the
manifestation of
what's coming
to you. Little
expectation
produces little*



Homeschooling Tips

Homeschoolers are eligible to receive **online discounts** at *hundreds* of retailers. To be alerted to new and exclusive discounts, go to: <http://homeschoolingonashoe-string.com/educatordiscount.html> Letters of home school proof have been put in your folders.

Taking time to set goals for your year is a great help in

planning for your year. Consider the following goals:

1. Knowledge of God & His Word (Deut. 6:4-7)
2. Salvation & Spiritual Growth
3. Character Development
4. A Christian World View
5. A solid Foundation in the Basics (math, writing, rdg.)
6. An Excellent, Well-rounded

education

7. Confidence & Independent thinking
8. Family Unity
9. Social Skills (I Cor. 15:33)
10. Life Skills: practical preparation for life

I'm pray for you this year. Remember, "you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you."

Classifieds

In future newsletters, you can advertise home school materials, services, or anything pertaining to your family within reason. This is a free service to each of you; please email me your items by the 3rd week of each month.

I would like to take this oppor-

Welcome Nola

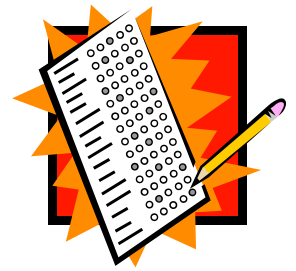
tunity to introduce to you our newest coordinator, Mrs. Nola Starling. Nola taught at Mansfield Christian for several years before leaving that job to stay at home to home school their 2 boys, Ben and Lucas. Nola has her degree is Kdt.—3rd grade and is a science enthusiast. We are excited to

add Nola to our IS staff and know she will be a blessing to all of you.

You will soon be hearing more about Science Days with Nola at Ranchwood. Watch for details in future emails and at the IS picnic.

Welcome, Nola!

Teaching Tips/Test Preparation Tips



The Student Success Web site at <http://portal.success-ode-state-oh.us.info> contains questions on the spring achievement tests. This web site gives a detailed explanation of each question, the scoring guidelines for the questions, and explanations of each possible answer choice. The website also gives parents easy-to-understand explanations of the concepts that children need to understand to be proficient. I encourage you to make this website a regular part of your homeschooling this year.

OAA and OGT tests are based on the information required to be taught at each grade level. I will be copying these for you, however, they can be found at the following website: www.ohio.gov and search for "standards guides for families."

We have the opportunity to hear from Nyssa Tucker, a home school mom and also an expert on the standards and state testing. She is uniquely qualified to help us understand more about the standards and how to prepare our students as we teach them

throughout the year. She has some great ideas and a lot of knowledge in this area. Nyssa will give tips to help students do better on OAA and OGT testing. This is a seminar you will not want to miss. We hope to see every family represented.

Please plan to attend the following: 7th –12th grade parent meeting in the high school computer lab at MCS Sept. 8 from 3:15—5:00 pm & 3rd—6th grade parent from 12:30—2:00 Sept. 17 at Ranchwood.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR EXCELLENCE: MAKE RIGHT CHOICES, HAVE A GOOD ATTITUDE, KEEP GODLY ASSOCIATIONS, HAVE GODLY PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS, HAVE CONTROL OVER YOUR THOUGHT LIFE (ROM. 12:2)

Helpful Websites

For a complete sports schedule visit: www.highschoolsports.net then type in Mansfield Christian School in the search box.

Keyboarding websites:

- www.goodtyping.com
- www.powertyping.com
- www.nimblefingers.com

www.hotmath.com Homework help service; For \$49 per student you click on their textbook, page, and problem number and

immediately click through a teacher-prepared, hint-step tutorial for that actual problem (odd only). Hotmath is used in over 10000 schools and consistently improves test scores. There are also some free offerings there as well

Check out **www.sadlier-oxford.com** and take advantage of some free games and reinforcements for math as well. - problem of the day, math minutes, etc.

www.homeschool.com

Products, articles about home-schooling—a wealth of information

<http://sat.collegeboard.com/practice/sat-question-of-the-day>—excellent preparation for college entrance testing. Much more also available at this website. Why not take advantage of this from those that write the tests?

www.buyersco-op.org—Home school materials at a discount

From your Coordinators

Several families will be changing coordinators this year; your coordinator should be contacting you soon. Returning families may be setting up appointments with your coordinator at our picnic August 26.

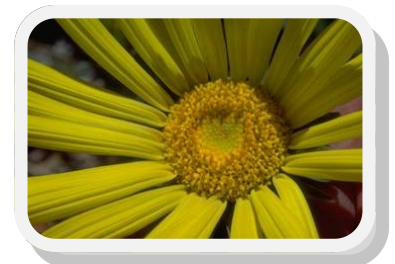
I will not be coordinating any families this year due to my surgery and the increased number of families. I

leave you in good hands with Jo-Ann.

It is critical that you make sure to note your appointment time and be prompt and ready for your visit. The coordinators are required to look over and note work done since the last visit; they will be making suggestions for test preparation, going over an-

nouncements, etc.

Instead of turning in goals for your students to the IS office, be prepared to discuss those with your coordinators at the monthly visit. They will also answer questions about lesson plans and grading.



"In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

Independent Studies

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



Independent Studies Staff

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lordanbo84@yahoo.com

Family Profile—The Walthours

The Walthours were missionaries with Campus Crusade for Christ in Nigeria for 20 years. They loved their work there but now God has called them to a very different but equally as challenging and enriching life here in Mansfield.

Jeff is a pharmacist at MedCetral. He works several days a week at the anticoagulation clinic helping to monitor patients taking Coumadin. He also works at the MedCentral and Shelby hospital pharmacies. Since he works every other weekend and 4 ten hour days, he often has two days off during the school week which is a big help as they home school.

JoAnn loved discipling university students and others in Africa and now loves using those gifts to teach her children and also work part time as a family coordinator in the IS program working primarily with High School families.

While in Africa, the children had

several types of educational opportunities attending an African school, a mission school and home-schooling.

They have homeschooled for a total of 7 years with 3 of those years being with IS. They love having the connection with MCS and opportunity for sports, music, field trips and other activities.

The Walthours attend Berean Baptist Church and their favorite family activities are reading, watching movies, playing games, bowling and eating ice cream.

At Christmas last year Jeff and JoAnn adopted 2 children from Ethiopia, Eyeruselem and Befkadu. What a joy they've been to all of us.

Their children are Sara - grade 11 (now fulltime at MCS), Jon - grade 8, Eyeruselem and Katie - grade 6 and Befkadu - grade 5.

(Each month you will be hearing about a different family. If you are willing to write up something about your family, let me know.)



Luke 12:7 "The very hairs of your head are all numbered; you are worth more than many sparrows."