

Dear Parents,

This may well be the most irregular school note that I have ever put together. Who could have predicted the events of the last weeks? And yet, while we had no control over the events themselves, we do however, have a choice as to how we will respond to them. History reveals that it is often in the times of greatest difficulty that some of the greatest acts of creativity and heroism are performed. How we respond to these circumstances will make a great difference as to the outcome. Let us not forget to praise our God for the foundation He provides, the strength He supplies, and for the many good things that are happening, that could not have happened otherwise.

After much thought, conversation, and revision, the following plan has been formed.

The first assignments will begin this coming Wednesday. For the following week and a half, we will stick to the more important subjects which we have listed for each class below. After this, if homeschool continues, (it very likely will) we will probably add some additional subjects which will increase the workload somewhat.

Please do not be overwhelmed by the amount of information that you will be given in this document as well as in the further instructions that each classroom teacher will be sending. We understand that a lot of this is new and it may take awhile to get used to it. Still, we feel that it is important to err on the side of **overcommunicating** (especially between teachers and parents) over the next number of weeks, so that we can continue to move forward together as one unified school as much as is possible.

Having said that, we also encourage you to be creative and incorporate other fun ways for your children to learn that go above and beyond the normal daily work that will be assigned.

Finally, please know that we as teachers want very much to be a strong support to you as parents as you take a more prominent role in education. Please, do not hesitate at all to reach out to us with any questions that you have along the way. If part of the program or setup just isn't working, we would rather know about it sooner than later. There will be designated times for communicating personally with teachers, but I want you as parents to feel free to give me a call at any time if the need arises.

No doubt there will be some wrinkles to be ironed out and places where the plan will need some adjustment, and so we ask for your continued patience as we **all learn together**. That's what school is all about after all. 😊

On behalf of the MCS teaching team,

*Brother Ryan*

**MCS Homeschool Plan**

**1. Communication**

- a. The assignments that are sent twice a week will be sent via email.
- b. Each teacher will also be making a WhatsApp group that they will use to send additional information and teaching helps to the parents. You will not be able to reply to messages sent on this chat. If you have questions, you can send a WhatsApp directly to the teacher.
- c. The teachers are very willing and eager to help! Here are the ways that this can happen.
  - i. Phone calls: Teachers will be available for phone calls from 9:00 – 12:00, Monday – Friday
  - ii. We do ask that if you have a question for a teacher, that you send them a WhatsApp message first explaining the question. The teacher will then respond with a message or phone call.
  - iii. Emails: Teachers will make every attempt to respond to emails or WhatsApp messages in a prompt manner between 9a.m. – 3p.m. every day, Monday to Friday.
  - iv. Teachers will not be on call 24/7 but will be available in the above listed times.

## 2. Assignments

- a. Twice a week, an email containing assignments for the next several days will be sent by each teacher.
  - i. The first email will contain assignments for Monday-Tuesday
    - This email will be sent on Friday afternoon between 1:00 – 3:00
  - ii. The second email will contain the assignments for Wednesday-Friday.
    - This email will be sent on Tuesday afternoon between 1:00 and 3:00
- b. If at all possible, we would like to try to plan in such a way that parents do not need to come to school to pick anything up or drop anything in the first week and a half. This means that checking will need to be done in the home. Further details will be provided by the teachers but please note:
  - i. **FOR GRADES 1 – 6:** Checking needs to be done by a parent or older sibling.
  - ii. **FOR GRADES 7 – 10:** Checking will be done by the students themselves.

## 3. Guidelines for completing work

- a. Students may work ahead and are welcome to do more than 1 day's assignments in a day. HOWEVER;
- b. Students MUST complete all assignments for one day before beginning the assignments for the next day's work. This will help to keep things organized and ensure that work isn't getting missed.
- c. Teachers will send home a checklist on which students will check off each subject when they have it completed, and which parents will also sign once each day's work has been completed.
- d. Parents can send a picture of the completed checklists on Friday afternoon or evening of each week. If the student isn't finished by Friday afternoon, parents should still contact teacher to update.

## 4. Education Plan for Grades 1 - 4: We are expecting that a parent or older sibling will fill the role of teacher for students at this age level. MCS teachers will be giving assignments and instructions directly to the parents.

### a. Gr. 1 -Gr. 2

- i. Starting off with the following required subjects:
  1. Reading
  2. Math
  3. Phonics
  4. Spelling
  5. Pentime
  6. Memory Work\*
- ii. Other subjects or activities may need to be added if homeschooling continues past April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- iii. Additional work (running list of optional assignments for the eager/bored students/parents)

### b. Gr. 3-Gr.4

- i. To start we plan to have 3 or 4 of the following required subjects assigned per day.
  1. Reading
  2. Math
  3. English
  4. Spelling
  5. Pentime
  6. Memory Work\*
- ii. Other subjects or activities will need to be added if homeschooling continues past April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- iii. Additional work (running list of optional assignments for the eager/bored students/parents)

5. **Education for Grades 5 - 10:** Teachers will be thinking more in terms of giving instructions that the students themselves can directly follow. Please note that **significant parental supervision** is still very necessary for students in Grades 5 and 6 with moderate parental supervision in Grade 7 & 8.

Students in grades 7 – 10 should also note that the History Day project is put on hold for now. Please do not be worried about meeting the original deadlines for this project. At the same time, taking notes for your project would be a good thing to do if you have spare time.

a. **Gr. 5 - 6**

- i. To start we plan to have 3 or 4 of the following required subjects assigned per day.
  1. **Math**
  2. **English**
  3. **Reading**
  4. **Vocab**
  5. **Spelling**
  6. **Bible**
  7. **Memory Work\***
- ii. Other subjects or activities will need to be added if homeschooling continues past April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- iii. Additional work (running list of optional assignments for the eager/bored students/parents)

b. **Gr. 7 – 8**

- i. To start, we plan to have 3 or 4 of the following required subjects assigned per day.
  1. **Math**
  2. **English**
  3. **Reading**
  4. **Writing/Composition**
  5. **Spelling**
  6. **Bible**
  7. **Memory Work \***
- ii. Other subjects or activities will need to be added if homeschooling continues past April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- iii. Additional work (running list of optional assignments for the eager/bored students/parents)

c. **High School**

- i. To start, we plan to cover these subjects within a week, much like normal.
  1. **Math**
  2. **Literature**
  3. **Grammar**
  4. **Typing**
  5. **Bible**
  6. **Science**
  7. **Memory Work\***
- ii. There will be no Friday assignment given to high school. ***It is hoped that high school's workload is such, that they can also have time to teach younger siblings or lighten their parent's workload in some other way.***
- iii. The final shop and home-ec class has been cancelled. Further studies such as cooking, baking, cleaning, changing tires, and plumbing repairs can happen in the comfort of your own home... with the consent and under the direction of parents, of course. 😊
- iv. Other subjects or activities will need to be added if homeschooling continues past April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- v. Additional work (running list of optional assignments for the eager/bored students/parents)

**6. Supplies and Textbooks**

- a. Teachers plan to have your desks cleaned out everything that is necessary for students to do their work will be placed in a white plastic bag which will then be put on top of your locker.
- b. There will be items in the bag that students won't need right away as well as other items which are owned by the school. These should stay in the bag until needed to avoid being lost.
- c. Items such as scissors, glue etc. that are owned by the school should be labeled if they are used.
- d. We will include one student dictionary per household in case it is needed.

**7. Whole School Memory Work Plan** – We are working on a memory work plan where all students work at the same passage so that siblings can work together as they study. This memory work plan will start next week Lord willing. More details to come.

**8. Tips for parents to make your homeschooling experience a success.** (Some of these come from a homeschool mom who has taught for over 20 years.)

- a. **Have daily structure that remains fairly consistent for the most part.**
  - i. We understand that each home is unique and want you to do what is best for your situation.
  - ii. Having said that, we would recommend the following schedule.
    - o **9:00 – School Begins**
    - o **10:30 – First break**
    - o **12:00 – Lunch time**
    - o **1:00 – Schoolwork Resumes**
    - o **2:00 – Short break if schoolwork isn't completed**
  - iii. Our brains (for the most part) do well with set patterns, routines and things that happen at the same time every day.
- b. **Have a “classroom”; a designated place where schoolwork always happens.**
  - i. This is also helpful mentally for the students. It helps to put their mind in “school mode”
  - ii. A student who tries to do his schoolwork while sprawled out in the recliner probably won't get much done because his surroundings are telling his brain to relax.... zzzzzzz
- c. **Attitude** – A positive cheerful attitude towards this new adventure will go a long way in easing the stress of figuring out the new normal.
- d. **Post a schedule** – It really helps to get up before the children in the morning. Having a structured day is going to help everyone stay on course.
- e. **Be present and available** – even though there may be sometimes when you feel like you want to go and hide. 😊
- f. **Incentives and Goals** – Think about ways that you can inspire your child to continue working hard. Give them a goal to work towards or consider a simple incentive chart for younger ones.

| MCS Staff Contact Info |           |            |               |
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| First Name             | Last Name | Cell Phone | Email Address |
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