



Master's Hand Scroll

**Master's Hand
Christian School**

Issue 36
September

Are You Ready For Some Home Schooling?

By now you have the coach (God), your game plan (your Bible and your curriculum), your team (your children), and your sponsor (your spouse).

Whether you have played this game for years or have just gotten started, you are probably a little nervous. What if you make the wrong play because you didn't listen correctly to the coach?

What if you get distracted by someone else's game plan? What if your team is not cooperating? And, what if your sponsor doesn't seem to be giving you enough support? Whew! You just got started and you feel as if you are already losing! Time Out! Look to your Coach for more guidance. Get out your game plan. Don't compare it to other's. **Your** Coach has a plan for **your** team. Team grumbling? Huddle them together and work out a strategy. Losing your sponsorship? Hold a board meeting; just the two of you. Talk with the Coach to make sure you are still working towards the same goal. Oh, what about cheerleaders? All your friends at MHCS are cheering for you. We are excited to start our new year with you.



MHCS Family Picnic

How about a back to school bash to get you in the mood to start school or just to get you going? We have reserved both pavilions at Rhodes Ferry Park on Hwy. 20 in Decatur for August 28th at 6:00pm. We must each bring a large covered dish and dessert to share. There will be a designated spot for food and an area for us all to sit and fellowship together. MHCS will provide plates, napkins, forks and spoons. Families are responsible for bringing their own drinks. (We suggest a cooler with canned drinks or bottles) Some other items you may want to bring are chairs, balls, gloves, bats, Frisbees, musical instruments, etc. We would love for someone to bring a guitar or two to play and sing for us. There is a big open field for organized games. The play ground has sand, so you may want to bring sand shovels and buckets. There is a nice walk way to the river with an area to view boats going by. We are looking forward to having a great time of fellowship. If you need more information, you may contact Veronna Keen at 351-6324.

Pray without Ceasing

Veronna is organizing a **Prayer Walk** for September 3rd at 6:00pm to pray for our school, our children, our nation, and our churches. As you know all these things are under attack in today's world. We need to lift each other up in prayer and present these matters before the Lord. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring strollers for little ones. Meet in the MHCS parking lot.

Once again Veronna will be leading the **Opening Ceremonies** at Co-op on Fridays at 8:30 am sharp. During this time, students will lead the pledge to the American Flag, the Christian Flag, and the Bible. There will be a short devotion and prayer time. If you feel led to share the devotion, a song, or prayer, contact Veronna to let her know.

See You at the Pole will be September 18th at MHCS in the parking lot. Please join us for this moment of prayer for our children's educational freedom. This is a national event being held at schools all across the country. This will replace the normal opening ceremonies for the day.

Contact information

For Administrative/Co-op Questions:

Susie Rencher—
355-5699
susierencher@bellsouth.net

or

Allison Fleming—
974-4352
allison_fleming@bellsouth.net

For Special Events:

Veronna Keen—
476-1249 or 351-6324
veronna@bellsouth.net



MHCS

A Ministry of Westmeade Baptist Church
1626 Runnymede AV SW
Decatur, AL 35601
(256)353-8818 ext. 216
mhcs@westmeadebaptist.org

Office Hours

Mondays: 9:00am—3:00pm
Fridays: 9:00am—1:00pm

We will not be in the office on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7th.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Ben McLemore has had a rough summer. We have sent out a few emails on his health concerns. So far, doctors have said that he doesn't have a tumor. They are leaning more towards it being an aneurysm. He will still be having more tests. Please pray for a quick recovery for **Virginia Rieger** (6th grade MHCS student). She is having a tonsillectomy on August 21. Please pray for **the Tucker Family** (Family members to Carol and Jessica Ray.) Their trailer (home) was destroyed by fire. They have lost the stuff that was inside, but still have their Family and Dog Duke (all in good health.) Also for **Lena Steele** (Jessica Ray's Great Aunt,) she has fast acting Leukemia. She will be in the hospital for another five weeks or longer. Please continue to pray for **Ricky Hilliard** as he continues his chemo. medication.

Home School Skate Day at Skate Castle

Skate Day will be on the first Friday of every month from 12:00 to 2:30pm. Skate day for **September** will be **September 4th**. The music will be Contemporary Christian. Admission cost is \$3 (this includes skates) per child for those ages 3 and up whether they skate or not. Non-skating moms and those 2 and under get in free. There is a rental fee of \$3 for roller blades and low top skates. Everyone paying admission will get a free small coke. For lunch you will have the choice of hot dog\chips\drink or one slice of pizza\drink – either choice is \$1.25. How's that for a bargain!

Home School Ice Skating

Home school ice skating at the Point Mallard Ice Plex is on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 12:00-2:30. The dates for **September** are the **11th** and **25th**. The cost is \$7 per skater and includes a hot dog lunch. It will be \$6 without the lunch. There are lots of tables for moms to fellowship, do paperwork, or read. If your child doesn't know how to skate, you can rent an ice walker for \$2. Be sure to wear gloves, it gets cold!

Home School Swimming

Home school swim time is on the third Friday of every month from 1:00-2:30pm at the Aquadome in Decatur. The Aquadome is located next to Brookhaven Middle School. Cost is \$2 per swimmer.

DVD Showing at the Decatur Library

This month's DVD showing at Wheeler Basin Library will be *God of Wonders*. This DVD feature-length Discovery Channel -quality documentary contains four chapters—God of Power, God of Wisdom, God of Justice, God of Love—and a strong list of contributors including Ken Ham, Dr. David Menton, Dr. Gary Parker, John Whitcomb and more! *God of Wonders* is a breathtaking tour of God's creation wonders, visible and invisible, and the greatest wonder of all—His redeeming love! When: Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00pm. Where: Decatur Wheeler Basin Library in the Community Room. For more information contact Mrs. Klopfenstein at 35-2973.

Lawrence County 4H

Lawrence County 4H will have their 1st meeting of the year on **October 21st** at 1:30 pm. These meetings are held each month on the third Wednesday at the Extension Office in Moulton on Hwy 157. 4H is offered to students from 3rd grade through 12th grade. This particular club is made up of area home school students. This club is offered to anyone as long as you do not have a home school club in your county. If you need more information, please contact Mrs. Linda Robinson or Mrs. Juanita Baggett at 974-2464.

Sci-Quest

Sci-Quest invites families to participate in Home School Science on the second Wednesday of each month. This year, Sci-Quest is offering extended programs for middle school students. These 2-hour programs, for ages 11-14, will give your child a more in-depth look at each month's class topic. Sci-Quest will also sponsor an e-cybermission team again this year and will also sponsor a Robotics team. Last year's e-cybermission team took regional honors. This is an excellent opportunity for your student to compete against students from across the state and throughout the region. For more information on each month's programming, download the topic descriptions in printable PDF format at http://www.sci-quest.org/home/programs_camps/HomeSchoolScience_web.pdf. To register for Home School Science, call 256-837-0606, ext.252. Please see their website for complete information regarding programs, reservations, cancellations, costs, etc.



Way to go MHCS Students!!!!

Congratulations to the following students who earned a superior rating either on an instrumental solo or duet at the Solo and Ensemble Festival: **Cameron Kirsch, Caroline Kirsch, Hannah Pope, Kami Adamson, Joshua Newton, Anna Beck, Alex Beck, Faith Walker, Grace Walker, Luke Sutton and Garret Sutton.**



Chappell's Family Karate

We are working with Chappell's Family Karate to come teach Karate classes on Fridays after co-op classes.

These classes will be from 12:30 – 1:30pm. The age groups are: 3 – 6 years, 7 – 11 years and 12 – 99 years. The cost is \$35 a month plus each student would need to buy a uniform (these range from \$25 and up). Also there will be a graduation fee of approximately \$25 every quarter.

The Chappell's need at least 10 families to sign up to come do this at MHCS.

Please let us know if you are interested in this. We would like for this to start when co-op classes start.

Basketball Time Again!!!!

The North Alabama Homeschool Eagles Basketball team has started practicing! Hope everyone has had a good summer, Alabama and Auburn has start football practice, so I figure it is a good time for us to start basketball practice also.

This team is for boys in the 7th – 12th grades.

Please pass the word to your friends. I am working on scheduling gyms for practice and hopefully will have some sort of a schedule worked out in the next couple of weeks. If anyone has questions call Greg Miller at Home 350-2422 or Work 552-1296 or e-mail at gmliller468@bellsouth.net.

Calling All Piano Players!!!

Ben and James Nelson will be playing for the choir this year. However, if a piano student is interested in playing the second semester, please let Mrs. Cathy know. She can give you the music 1st semester so you can practice ahead of time. She is really interested in someone who can play a few classical pieces. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested whether you're a student, mom or dad, please contact her, Cathy Nelson at 974-3193 or e-mail at kitten1359@gmail.com. If you play the piano and are already attending classes, pray and ask the Lord if He would have you bless our choir with your talent.

Boy Scout Troop 77

Guys in the Hartselle/Falkville area are invited to join the Boy Scout Troop 77 which meets Tuesdays at 6:00pm at Fairview Church of God. The church is located on Huckaby Bridge Road about 7 miles outside of Hartselle. Homeschool Dad, Rob McGough, is the Troop Scoutmaster. Boys ages 11-17 may join. Please call 773-6327 for any questions or visit their website at www.troop77.webs.com.

Cub Scout Pack 68

Cub Scouts is a program for boys in the 1st- 5th grades where they experience the outdoors through family camping experiences. They work on achievements that will help them to develop character and be better citizens. But most of all, CUB SCOUTS HAVE FUN!!! If you would like more information you can contact Lisa Ramey by phone at 351-8455 or by email at lisa_ramey@bellsouth.net.



Co-op Announcements

We have a new Co-op Announcement Lady, Susan Stewart. She is taking on the job of collecting information, organizing it, filtering what is current, compiling it to a one sheet piece of paper, and sending it in to be printed for co-op Fridays. Please forward all announcements, prayer requests, etc. to Susan at srsasu83@hotmail.com by each Thursday at noon. We appreciate this gracious effort to help us all stay in touch.



Miller Pads and Paper's 2009 Art Contest

We are so excited about the 2009 Art Contest!! For the first time we are opening this contest up to everyone. There are a total of 5 categories and 3 age groups! You may enter one or all categories and you are limited to one entry per category. A single person may send in one entry for each of the 5 categories for a total of 5 entries.

Contest Dates: August 10th to September 30th

3 Age Groups: 5 Categories

Age 6 & under	Pencil	Painting
Age 7 to 11	Pastel	Pen and Ink
Age 12 to 18	Scratch Art	

Please put the following on each entry: Name, Age, Address and Email Address (all results will be sent via email)

Send Art Work To: Miller Pads and Paper c/o Art Contest at 1507 Elm St. Boscobel, WI. 53805

****If you would like your entry back, please include a check or money order for the dollar amount it cost to send the entry to us and state how you want it shipped to you. (Priority mail, UPS, etc...) We realize your art work is precious, so we will take good care of it, however we cannot be held responsible for damage in shipping, so please package it carefully!

Judging will take place October 2nd. Our judges vary in age from 22 to 87! They are great artists themselves!

There will a total of 45 prizes given out! Winners will be notified and prizes sent out by Oct. 9th. If you do not hear back from us, please contact us via email at info@millerpadsandpaper.com Put the words Art Contest Winner(s) Inquiry in the subject line.

A Little about NACHO

NACHO is the North Alabama Christian Homeschool Organization. They publish a monthly newsletter from September--May as well as sponsor 5-8 activities a month for homeschoolers during that time. Eighty five percent of these activities are usually within a 1 hour drive of Decatur and can include museum or historical site trips, special classes, hikes, plays, park days, tours of businesses or agencies, and regular monthly homeschool skating/ice skating/swimming get togethers. They also host several reading and coloring contests as well as a yearly field day, all with nice awards. NACHO members may also join the free NachoNews online e-group that provides updates, tips on local homeschool opportunities, links to useful websites, and general homeschool support to its members. NACHO dues are \$10 per school year. The group of moms who volunteer their time to run NACHO are busy homeschooling moms like the rest of us. It would help them tremendously for people to join or renew their memberships in May or June. Families waiting to join in August and September when these moms are busy trying to get their own school years off to a good start can create stress for them.

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NACHO Illustrated Subscription Form 2009-2010

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-mail address: _____

HSLDA Member: (circle one) YES or NO
 Receive newsletter by: (circle one) MAIL or EMAIL

Please include \$10 for a regular subscription or for email-Word format and mail to NACHO, 27099 Lewis Road, Athens, AL, 35613. Make checks payable to NACHO.

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Field trips for September

The Morgan County Water and Soil will have a class at MHCS on Wednesday the 16th at 1pm. Please sign up in the office if you will be attending. This will be for all age groups.

Put-put golf at Golf Shores on the Sept. 18th for \$5.00 a person at 12:30 after co-op. This includes 18 holes and an Icee. Please sign up in the MHCS office so we can have a head count for this.

Other Upcoming Events

Re-enactors will present a living history **re-enactment of the "Battle for Decatur" at Point Mallard Park** on Saturday and Sunday, September 5-6. Camps open at 10:00 am while the battles take place at 2:00 pm each day. On Sunday morning at 10 am, a 1860s-type worship service will be held in the Prayer Chapel. All are welcome.

The Decatur Public Library is sponsoring the Big Read for High Schoolers. The book that is being read is "To Kill a Mockingbird." If you go by the library and tell them you are doing the Big Read they will give you a copy for free and sign you up.

The field trips that go with this are on **Oct the 15th at the Morgan County Archives.** They are presenting an exhibit of elusive photographs and artifacts from the notorious "Scottsboro boys" Trial. Location Morgan County Archives, 624 Bank St. Decatur. Also on **Oct 15th the Decatur the Public Library** on Cherry St. will have the award winning film about the Scottsboro Boys or "To Kill a Mockingbird" then a discussion after. The website for more information is www.neathebigread.org.

Overtime, a Fifth Quarter Fellowship Concert, Friday, Sept 11th at Shiloh Baptist Church, 3941 Highway 36 East, Somerville, AL. Featuring Ohio Avenue and The Torn Curtain. Free... Following area football games

More info at www.Shilohstudents.net or www.facebook.com/shilostudents

MHCS Important Dates For the 2009/2010 School Year

(There are a total of 11 co-op days in the Fall semester and a total of 15 co-op days in the spring semester)

August Dates: Family picnic Friday, August 28th, at 6pm at Rhodes Ferry Park.

September Dates: We will begin co-op classes on Friday, Sept. 11th. We will start the St. Jude Math-a-thon on Friday, Sept. 11th. We will also start the poll for the High School Banquet theme on Sept. 11th.

Friday, Sept. 18th, See You at the Pole at 8:30am in the MHCS parking lot. Friday, Sept. 25th, will be the last day to switch classes.

October Dates: Friday, Oct. 2nd, Math-a-thon Registration due. Saturday, Oct. 3rd, CHEF Administrators Conference hosted by MHCS Westmeade Baptist Church. Friday, Oct. 23rd, end of poll for High School Banquet theme. History Fair will be on Monday, Oct. 26th. Money for St. Jude Math-a-thon will be due on Friday, Oct. 30th. MHCS co-op will have a Bible Character day on Friday, Oct. 30th.

November Dates: Last day of Fall co-op classes will be on Friday, Nov. 20th. There will be a Science Fair meeting on the 20th at 12 noon for those in 5th –12th grades interested in going to the Regional Science Fair in Huntsville. The Band and Choir Winter Performance will be held on Monday, Nov. 30th at 6pm with a reception following.

January Dates: Friday, Jan. 8th, is the first day of co-op. We start taking orders for SAT tests on Jan. 8th.

February Dates: Monday, Feb. 1st—MHCS Science Fair for 5th-12th grades. Friday, Feb. 5th—Deadline for SAT test orders. Monday, Feb. 8th, MHCS Science Fair for Kindergarten—4th grades.

March Dates: Monday, March 1st—MHCS Art Fair. No co-op classes on Friday, March 26th. SAT testing will be March 29th—30th. OLSAT will be March 31st.

April Dates: No co-op classes on Friday, April 2nd and 9th. The High School Banquet will be on Friday, April 9th. Registration of the MHCS 2010/2011 school year will start on Friday, April 30th.

May Dates: Last day of co-op—May 7th. Spring Band and Choir Performance will be on Monday, May 10th, at 6pm. Awards Day will be on Friday, May 14th from 10am-12pm. **MHCS Kindergarten Graduation will be on Thursday, May 20th at 6pm and MHCS High School Graduation will be on Friday, May 21st at 6pm.**



Senior Page

Senior Meeting August 31st @ 3:00pm

It is that time again. Senior meet and greet. We will be going over upcoming events, photo dates, graduation gowns, class officers, senior t-shirts, etc. We will be electing class officers that day. We will also be voting on our t-shirt design that day.

If you want to have some input on the t-shirt design, please bring a rough draft with you.

We can not start from scratch on t-shirt designs that day and be able to vote on them. We really want this ready to go when you leave so we can order them the following day. **Bring**

\$15 with you to order a shirt. If we get them cheaper, we will refund the difference or apply the difference towards your senior graduation fee. I (Allison) will be making pictures of each of you that day, so be prepared. I will be putting these photos along with a questionnaire (you will fill out that day) in the newsletter. We are proud of you and want to showcase you in our newsletter. **Parents are encouraged to come to this first meeting.** Mrs. Wendie Koshowsky is our Senior Mom again this year, but we want any of our senior parents who wish to be involved with her to join in. Melissa Smallwood will be assisting 2nd Semester. She can always use the extra help and support. **We will be meeting in the fellowship hall.**

Act Testing

Please pick up an ACT packet at the senior meeting. Whether you are heading to college after high school or not, we want you to be informed about this information. So many times, we have had students who have said they aren't going to college only to sign up in the fall and the college wants to know where their ACT score is. The packet contains an application, dates for testing, and an online option for filling out and scheduling the testing. You may take this test more than once. Our ACT code is 010869.

Scholarship Information

I will be passing along scholarship information as I find it. (I have a senior this year too) But, you each need to look on your own too. There are many opportunities out there that are need or field specific. A quick way to get started is to visit www.fastweb.com. You can plug in your own information and interests and it gives you a listing of scholarships that apply. If you plan to stay local, check out Calhoun's website at www.calhoun.edu for information on local businesses who give scholarships. We are in the process of preparing transcripts for all of our seniors. Make sure we have all your information, credits/progress reports, etc. in your file. If you are not working towards your fourth credits in Math, Science, Language, and History, you need to find out what you are missing. Most colleges require four credits of each of these subjects on your high school transcript. Although we try to stay up to date concerning credits for Alabama as a whole, **we are not responsible for checking each colleges' requirements; you are.** We will be glad to mail in transcripts or letters of recommendation when given sufficient time and an address of the school. (Please do not call us the night before or day of when it is due!) Really, we don't live at school and your information is not kept at our homes.

Looking Ahead

Grab a box and start collecting stuff. You will need pictures from when you were a baby until now. If you only have one copy of some of your pictures, scan them on a disc so we can copy them. Add any certificates/awards earned during high school, small mementos, etc. to use on your graduation table.





Classified Ads

Trombone for sale. Bought at Emiron Music for \$788, asking \$400. Call Donna Gilliland at 974-7565.

Koehler Yarbrough is offering **Self-Defense for Women and Girls** ages 13 and up. For more information on class times and locations contact her at 256/783-0868 or 0858.

Cheerleaders Wanted!!! The North Alabama Home School Eagles Basketball team would like to have cheerleaders. Girls in the 7th-12th grades are eligible to sign-up. There will be an informational meeting after classes in the fellowship hall at MHCS on May 8th at 12:00pm. Sign-up dates have been extended through June. If your daughter is interested, please contact Vona Keeling at 498-0096, 221-2315, or by email at vkeeling@otelco.net.

Karate Uniforms-1 black size 2 century karate uniform \$10 (patches have been removed); 1 blue size 2 century karate uniform \$10 (patches have been removed); and 1 black size 2 century karate uniform \$15 (no patches) contact Anita Hilliard for more info. at 898-5067 or anita.hilliard@gmail.com.

A Beka Home School Materials Displays will be in Huntsville on Wednesday, Sept. 2 and 23rd, at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites from 11 am—3 pm. They will be in Hartselle on Thursday, Sept. 10th at the Sparkman Civic Center from 11 am—3 pm.

Melody Locklair and Pamela Kiyak have started a **Formal and Bridal Alterations Business**. They both have alterations experience with David's Bridal in Huntsville and will be working out of their homes in Athens. They can provide alterations work for bridal gowns (including custom fitting, hems and bustles), brides-maid gowns, mother-of-the bride dresses and formal wear. For more info contact: Pamela Kiyak at 232-6560

Do you have school books that are out of date, some you will never use, or those you can't sell or pass down? If so, **Edwin Hodge's Ministries** needs them to send overseas. You may contact them at 355-3004 for more information. This is a good time to clean out the old or clutter as you prepare for the new school year. Mr. Hodges genuinely appreciates our help.

Senior Portraits are available by appointment from Jenny Smith Photography. For more information go to www.JennySmithPhoto.com.

Box Tops/Campbell's Labels

MHCS is set up to accept Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education. We earn money for our school with the Box Tops and points for supplies from Campbell's. You may turn in your labels to the MHCS office. We appreciate all your help with this. This year we will apply the Box Top money towards all three cooking classes for ingredients and cooking supplies.

Office Depot 5% Back to Schools Program

Help MHCS earn Free Supplies! Our school will earn credits equal to 5% of your qualifying school supply purchases to use for FREE supplies. **MHCS' school ID# is 70217821.** Every time you shop at Office Depot, remember to give our school ID#. We have cards in the MHCS office that we can give you to keep in your wallet. For more details and a list of qualifying products visit www.officedepot.com and click on the 5% Back to Schools Program link under Specials at the bottom of the page. Thank you for your help!!

Remember: Co-op Classes Start on Friday, Sept. 11th!

Weather Information

If Decatur City Schools are closed for **weather related problems only**, MHCS will not meet for co-op classes, field trips, or extra curricular activities. We do not follow any public school schedules.



If you have information for October's Master's Hand Scroll, please submit it to MHCS office or e-mail by September 15th.