Lots of Changes at Homelink This Year!

PLEASE READ!

We would have loved to have kept everything the same at Homelink this coming school year; however, circumstances have forced us to make many changes. In a nutshell, here they are:

#1. Location – We are excited to announce that we will still be on Tuesdays and Thursdays; however, don't go to St. Andrew. Rather, go about 1-1/2 miles SOUTH from our old space. The church is called Bethesda E-Free and our talks with them were really nice--lots of happy people who think that home education is a good thing!!! Pastor Josh Peterson homeschools his own children too.

Now, don't get us wrong, this will be different. We won't have the run of a complete school building like we had all these years and our rooms are smaller. We will be using their church rooms and their fellowship hall, and yes, their kitchen too! No gym, but a large parking lot with lots of greenery all around it will provide some supervised "run-around" space during lunch time. And we have a nice-sized fellowship hall that I think will work out well.

The church is located in a quaint little residential area, and it feels very safe and very quiet (cemetery on one side). Address is: **85 Lemay Gardens Drive, Lemay, MO 63125**

#2. Schedule hours – In an effort to shorten the waiting periods in between classes, and to also enable us to fit in more classes since we have fewer rooms, all classes are now 1 hour long with a 15-minute gap in between. Except for some high school classes like Biology, most classes were already an hour long anyway and keeping the schedule to accommodate just a couple 1-1/2 hour courses, was not working anymore.

9:00-10:00
10:15-11:15
11:30-12:30
12:30- 1:00 LUNCH
1:00-2:00
2:15-3:15
3:15-4:15

#3. Operation Fees – The Operation Fee has been restructured just a little bit. They are still based on how many total classes a family takes, NOT per individual. And they are still per year and not per month. This restructuring will help a little with higher rent, internet, copy paper and toner, insurance, and other costs that will be necessary in our new location.

1 Class Total per Family = $40 per year

2 Class Total per Family = $60 per year

3 Class Total per Family = $80 per year

4 Class Total per Family = $100 per year

5-9 Class Total per Family = $120 per year

10 or more classes per Family = $150 per year

#4. Drop-Off Fee – NEW THIS YEAR!
Last year quite a few parents were a bit annoyed because they felt like they had to supervise and watch out for the students who were dropped off and left for many hours of the day at Homelink. They expressed to us that, for example, the student who is dropped off for a 10:15 class but does not have another class until 1:00 pm needs to be supervised and parents should have to pay for that supervision. We pretty much agree.

But we sure do not want to keep any student from taking as many classes as they need, so for now we are keeping this fee very low and very simple to figure out. If you will be dropping off your student and not picking them up right after class but allowing them to stay and wait for another class at a later time, we are asking that you invoice yourself **$25.00 per family for the entire year.** (Yes, that comes to about $.80 a day to have someone watch over your child.)

e.g. Here is a schedule for 2 student from the same family:

Joshua and Lindsey have the following classes and are dropped off around 10:00 am:
Josh: Handyman Skills at 10:15; Basic Cooking at 1:00
Lindsey: Exploring Science at 10:15; Exploring Art at 11:30
Josh has a break at 11:30 while Lindsey is in Exploring Art.
Both stay for lunch.
Lindsey has a break from 1:00-2:00 while Josh is in Basic Cooking.

They are definitely in the fellowship hall and need supervision, so mom invoices herself the $25 Drop-Off fee, which is a one-time, yearly family fee and not an individual student fee.

#5. Class Deposit – This year we are not requiring a class deposit because going into a new location with smaller rooms, might require us to make schedule changes and the process of giving tons of refunds is not something we want to add on to our To Do Lists. ☺

#6. Orientation Night might be earlier this year. Since we know that everyone wants to see a new location, we will probably schedule Orientation Night a couple of weeks earlier this year. The date has yet to be determined so please watch out for information coming soon.

Personal from Cathy....

I do not like change! I hate change! I don't even like to change purses, and I (jokingly) tell my husband that we are married 50 years because I hate change. Tee-hee!
But one day I realized that if I had remained a single woman, I would not have had my beautiful children who are everything to me. That alone proves to me that change can be wonderful beyond words.. So I am trying hard to embrace change—and now especially with Homelink.

Please know that many of us have worked really hard making phone calls, emailing, visiting & touring lots of locations in an effort to keep what we had at St. Andrew. It can never be the same, but I think we can come close because Homelink is not about the location, but rather it is about the amazing, kind, loving, people who teach there and about the sweet families who bring their precious children to Homelink. I believe that we could hold classes anywhere and still be a blessing to each other.

*The first scripture I ever memorized was Romans 8:28, and I have clung to it so many times: "And we know that **all** things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

If you have any questions about any of the changes, please do not hesitate to let me know. Kelly and I really appreciate your patience this summer and, hopefully, it will all be worth waiting for and will definitely work out for our good. Amen? C & K2!

