

August 24, 2015

Dear Home School Parents or Guardians:

If you are planning on home schooling your child (children) this letter is to help you with that process.

You have made an important decision and a strong commitment to your child (children) to instruct your child (children). Montana law (MCA 20-5-109), allowing for compulsory school enrollment exemption, accommodates this choice. Please read the enclosed copy of Montana School Information concerning home schools and nonpublic schools.

Many resources are available to home educators. These resources are available online at: <http://www.mtche.org>.

Your commitment to your child or children includes an "organized course of study" required by law (MCA 20-5-109). In case of future entrance (or re-entrance) into a public school, elementary home school students are assessed by a placement team from the district for appropriate grade level placement. The high school in this region expects that a student has been following a fully accredited off-site educational program. Students enrolling from a home school environment or non-accredited school will be evaluated and placed in an appropriate grade level based on multiple criteria and appropriate documentation. Academic testing, administrative evaluation, performance on standardized test(s), and probationary grade placements are all possible tools which will be utilized to appropriately place students. Please contact the high school counseling staff to align your home school program or contact me for referral. You may also refer to the Montana Office of Public Instruction website (www.opi.state.mt.us) which has numerous resources including the "Montana Content Standards" and a "Get answers" tab to help you. An organized course of study is essential not only to enter public education, but to enter many colleges and universities or to join the military. Working together for the common good of each child is what we all want.

As a home school you are eligible to participate in federally funded education programs. For your convenience a form is attached to be filled in and returned to our office. Please sign the form and return it even if you do NOT wish to participate. There is a box to designate that preference.

The mandatory information you need to provide to our office is (1) a written notice of intent of home school, (2) immunization records if this is the first year of home schooling or if there has been a change, (3) an attendance report submitted each semester or yearly and (4) an organized course of study that includes instruction in the subjects required of public schools as a basic instructional program pursuant to 20-7-111. Again, forms are included for your convenience OR you may use other written means to provide the information.

Thank you and have a good year. If you have any questions, please call 547-3024 or email at hhanson@meaghercounty.mt.gov.

Sincerely,
Helen Hanson
Meagher County Superintendent of Schools Office