



HOME SCHOOL BULLETIN

FALL 2009



HOME SCHOOL SERVICES
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HOURS OF OPERATION:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
7:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

HOME SCHOOL LIAISON:
CANDACE COCHRAN

Website Makeover

The Maricopa County Home School Division has done a makeover to our website. Check out all of the new information we have for you like college information and educational links. You can also find the tabulated results for the recently conducted survey about home school families' needs. The web address is www.maricopa.gov/schools.

Resources for You!

The Home School Resource Directory has recently been updated! The new version can be found on our website or by calling to request a copy. The directory is updated on a semi-annual basis. If you know of some GREAT resources that we don't have in the directory contact us to share and we'll add it into the mix for the other home school families to check out.

Moved? Changed Addresses?

Let us know of your changes by either completing our online Address Change, filling out our Withdrawal form, or by calling.

Upcoming Events Information

The Home School Division has added a new Upcoming Events section on the website. This will tell you about all the cool events, contests, conventions, and activities that we hear about.

The new events section will be updated on a quarterly basis like this newsletter. The updates will be seasonal.

If you hear of anything that you would like to add to our Upcoming Events section please call the Home School Liaison at 602-506-3144 or e-mail at homeschool@mail.maricopa.gov. We appreciate all the feedback that we get.

Home School Fall Tip #1:

Make a list of different plants indigenous to the area and go on a nature walk to try to find all of the plants on your list. It will be nice weather to enjoy a scavenger hunt outside.



Satisfaction Means Everything...

The Maricopa County Home School Division will be e-mailing the survey link for the 2009 Home School Satisfaction Survey, which we feel is very important to our office for you to respond. When you get the link in your inbox please take a moment to let us know how we're doing. This survey is done annually . Let us know if we're doing a good job helping you.

New Programs Available!

There are two new programs available for home school families in Maricopa County:

- The Arizona Science Center now has a program called Home School Connections - Explorers. This program offers hands on experiments and lessons and even a science fair for home school students.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department also has a new program called the Arizona Homeschooling Program. This program offers hands on outdoor activities and education about the areas near you.

Check them out and let your friends know about them!

Where can I get the most updated home school forms and information?

Our website!

www.maricopa.gov/schools

E-mail us!

homeschool@mail.maricopa.gov

Discount City

Discount City has expanded! There is an informational flyer on the website telling you about discounts that you can get valleywide for your book and curriculum needs. There will still be a Discount City area of the newsletter for special discounts that are not permanent.

The website to check out the new Discount City information flyer is www.maricopa.gov/schools in the Home School Resources section. If you know of other discounts that you'd like to share, as always, contact the Home School Liaison by phone or e-mail to get the information out to other families.



Home School Fall Tip #2:

Try something new!

Either try eating or picking fall fruits or vegetables. A good start would be to visit a local pumpkin patch or try growing them in your garden next year as a fun project. You can see how pumpkins grow and you can even pick one to take home and decorate or eat.



Registration Reminders...

Registration of home school records is only required once, unless you have previously informed us that your student was withdrawing from home schooling.

When registering we need to see your student's original birth certificate. This means that if you mail it in we will mail it back to you. If you bring it in, you'll be able to leave with it the same day. There are no guarantees with the postal service.



Home School Factoid:

July, August, and September are the three busiest months for home school registrations. During this period, we average about 680 registrations every year in Maricopa County alone!

Support Services...

Not only does our office process all of the home school registrations that come through and provide this great newsletter for you, but we offer lots more!

If you're registering, we offer notary services for your affidavit form FREE of charge!

We also offer a HUGE Home School Resource Directory and many other resources for you on our website.

We also are here to answer any questions that come up during your home school journey!

Home School Question Corner

Q: Does my student have to take the AIMS test during this school year?

A: No. Under ARS 15-745, home schooled students in Arizona are not required to take any kind of standardized test. If you decide that you want your student to take the test, you can do that. All you have to do is contact the school district that you live in to register for the test and they will let you know the exact dates and times for the testing.

Have a question for our
Home School Liaison?
E-mail your inquiry to:
homeschool@mail.maricopa.gov



Home School Fall Tip #3:

Take a field trip outside the city to let your student see what it looks like when the leaves change colors during the fall season.



Special Services Needed?

If your student has special needs and requires special services, this is a reminder that by law, the school district that you live in has an obligation to provide those services. It does not matter if your student is a home schooler.

Contact the school district that you live in to get assessments done and services set up for your student. Just remember that the schools/districts are closed for the summer, so if you need assessments or services this needs to be done by the end of the year or first thing next school year.



Home School Fall Tip #4:

Start a creative countdown to the holidays! It's never too early to start getting excited about the upcoming festivities. Start a fun calendar or game to mark off the days until your next special holiday. Let your kids help and get them excited too!



Home School Factoid:

Home schooled students are only required to be registered between the ages of six and sixteen according to ARS 15-802.

Kids' Corner

WORD SCRAMBLER

LAFL _____

SVEALE _____

NCRO _____

NUKPIPM _____

HQSAUS _____

LOOHSC _____

RFESLWO _____

Answers to the Word Scrambler can be found on pg. 3



Home/Private School Services