"Train up a child to chose the right path.." (Prov.22.6) THE PATHFINDER

July/August 2018 Back to School Newsletter

From the Principal

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his w...ge you will find refuge, his faithfulness will be your shield..." (Psalm 91:4)

Our daughter, Naomi, recently decided to raise chickens.
Her coop is filled with all kinds and sizes of hens and roosters,
Needless to say, this has been the site of lots of interesting and funny happenings. As we sit outside the coop and watch "chicken
TV", what has impressed me the most is how some of the roosters and hens take care of the flock. One rooster, especially, watches out for the smaller chickens, even fighting off larger roosters who might come too near. Another chicken, the broody or mother hen, spends hours and weeks sitting on her nest, fiercely guarding it from any intrusion, protecting her chicks.

As we go through the rest of the summer and the upcoming school year, we are going to encounter times in which we will need God's provision, guidance, and protection. The imagery of this verse and the rest of Psalm 91 declares the truth that He is able to be so much more in our lives than anything I could ever see happen in that chicken coop. Let us take refuge in Him, knowing that He will be there with us in all circumstances and situations, providing for our needs, as well as guiding and protecting us. I look forward to a blessed school year for all of us!

From the Principal and Faculty School Calendar

Please note that school will start for students on Mon. August 20 from 7:45-3:00. School staff will have workshop days on August 16 and 17. There will be no school Fri. Aug. 25. There will be no Sam's orders or hot dog lunches during the first week of school, so students will need to bring their own lunches. Sam's menus will be available for students to return to school by Thurs. Aug. 23, for the second week of school.

School Supplies Not Accurate on Website

Because our school website is being updated by our computer teacher, Mr. Roland Chabot, and changes in our classroom arrangements, some of the supply lists are out of date on our old website. Some of the teachers will give out lists the first week of school. Students are asked to come to school with the basics-notebook, art supplies, pencils, erasers, and other general supplies which are listed under the old supply lists.

School Policies

Please review the rest of this newsletter, going over school and classroom policies. Please remember that these policies are put in place so that all of us can have a peaceful learning environment. Please also be reminded that all tuition needs to be up-to—date from the 2017-18 school year and registration paid in order for each student to be placed on the class lists for the 2018-19 school year. We look forward to seeing everyone again!



CENTRAL MAINE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

390 Main Street, Lewiston, Me. 04240Tel. (207) 777-0007 www.centralmainechristianacademy.org

Dress Code Policies

Please review the school handbook and rules together as a family. Modesty, balance, safety, and moderation are what are stressed, not fads or new fashions. We need to remember that our behavior and appearance will either draw attention to the Lord or away from Him to us. These are some of the following policies that seem to need to be reviewed each school year:

- Boy's hair length needs to be at or above the collar level, neat, and with shaved sides and faces.
- No unnatural hair coloring, please.
- Girls dress lengths should be modest, no higher than two inches above the middle of the knees.
- Halter and tank tops, low necklines, open backs, camies, sheer blouses, tight pants or leggings, sandals, and shoes without socks and back straps may not be worn to school.
- Girls only may wear single earrings in their lower ear lobes, not ear clips. No other piercing or tattooing is allowed for either girls or boys.
- T-shirts and jeans may be worn at all times but Chapel, and they need to be neat, without frays and holes. Jeans are not to be tight fitting or too loose that they sag unnaturally. T-shirts should be in good taste, displaying Christian mottoes, sports characters, etc. T-shirts with rock group members, beverages, inappropriate characters and sayings may not be worn to school. White undershirts alone are not appropriate, as well as excessive dressing in black.
- Modest Bermuda length shorts, (no more than 2 inches above knee may be worn on the first week of school and other preannounced days but should not be tight fitting. Otherwise, gym shorts will be worn from the school closet or parents will bring a change of clothes.
- Students who have questions about the dress code need to speak with their teachers before purchasing any new fad and wearing it to school. Those who are unwilling to follow our moderate dress code will be asked to follow a stricter one of Chapel dress for a duration of time.

Behavior Considerations

The school board and staff have worked together through the years to develop some of the following school rules. Parents will be notified if their student is having difficulty following school rules and will be expected to work with staff to aid the student in improving their behavior. Any student who causes disruption in the classroom or on the playground to the extent that it affects other students' safety, learning environment, or Christian character development will be placed on probation for improved behavior or will be dismissed from the school's enrollment. These are some of the general rules for students in the classrooms at CMCA:

- Arrive at school between 7:30 and 7:45, or receive a tardy slip. After three tardy slips, time will be spent in afterschool study hall to make up for the late arrivals. Parents may contact school in case of an emergency situation or other circumstance that may cause a late arrival.
- Be ready for class, quiet, prepared with pencils and learning materials.
- Respect teachers and other students.
- Raise hand to talk. Peer teaching is allowed in some cases, as long as it is done with permission and in a quiet manner.
- Quiet behavior is needed in the bathrooms, hallways, and other school areas.
- Lockers, desks, and cubbies are school property and

Behavior Considerations (Con.)

need to be kept clean and in good condition, as well as other areas in the school building. Any destruction to school property will be paid for by the student.

- Restroom times are generally during breaks with all students being supervised because of safety reasons.
- Unfinished class work is sometimes done during recess break and/or taken home to be finished under parent supervision. Study hall, a change of program, or a change of school may be mandated if the student continues to have difficulty keeping up with class work. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the staff when the work load seems too difficult. Parents may be asked to notify their school district to begin a student evaluation process to be sure that the staff at CMCA is able to meet their child's learning needs as well as behavior needs.
- If the school work seems too easy for the student, it is again up to the student to communicate this to the staff. In some instances, students have been allowed to attend classes at a higher level of ability. This depends upon the staff's estimation of the situation, not the parents. The student will be observed and/or tested by the staff to make sure that the situation warrants change. If the student is moved up a level, a probationary period will be put into effect to determine if the change is necessary. In any event, it will the decision of the school staff as to the child's ability to handle the change.
- Profanity, obscene materials, inappropriate literature, inappropriate use of the internet and inappropriate e-mails, disrespectful remarks, and malicious gossip are not honoring to the Lord and will not be tolerated, as well as any bullying, aggressiveness, uncontrolled anger, harassment or violent actions, either expressed physically, verbally, through phone calls, texting, e-mails, or written. Parents will be contacted to discipline and find effective counsel for their student with removal from the school. During this time, it will be the responsibility of the student to do all school work at home. Enrollment will be terminated if actions warrant it and legal authorities will be contacted, if necessary.
- Student use of cell phones and personal electronics is prohibited in the classroom and school areas, as well as the use of other listening devices and cd players.
- Occasional field trips are taken throughout the school year.
 Chaperones will be asked to be sure that their vehicle is in safe condition and that they have a cell phone available in case of emergency. A copy of their automobile insurance card will also be required. Students with licenses will not be allowed to take other students, except for family members, on field trips or group sporting events.
- Total abstinence and absence (use and possession) from all alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescribed use of drugs is expected of students at all times. No clear forms of abuse will be tolerated in or out of the school environment. CMCA will fully investigate any incident suggesting any involvement of students in the usage of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, with termination of enrollment. Guns, knives, and any thing that might constitute a weapon are illegal at school. In the case of legal implications, the parties will be reported to the authorities and place that student on probation or immediate enrollment termination.

- When students bring medications to school, parents are to inform the staff and the office with written directions and authorization for the student to take the medication. It will be kept in the office. All students need to be up to date on their immunizations. When students are sick, they are asked to stay home to help contain the spread of the flu or viruses. They will be expected to make up work during the same amount of days that they have been away from school. Emergency education packets will be sent home at the first parent-teacher conference in October, which will be used to carry on academic activities in the event that the school has to be closed during a pandemic. Families will be charged \$15.00 if these packets are lost.
- One purpose of the atmosphere of CMCA is to provide an environment in which each student can participate in school work and activities as unto the Lord and strive for excellence. Acts of unacceptable conduct include leaving the classroom or school function without permission, public displays of affection while on school property or at school functions, note-passing during school time, exclusiveness from other classmates and the school staff, chewing gum on school grounds, cheating, practicing deception, and willfully breaking school rules. The school will hold both parents and students involved in unacceptable behaviors to deal with them in a Biblical manner, with Biblical guidelines being followed; otherwise, the students will be placed on probation or dismissed form the Academy.
- Friendships between students of the same sex and the opposite sex need to be above reproach and not impede classroom procedures and activities. All students will be expected to develop self-control in conduct and sexual purity, and follow school rules respectfully, or they will be asked to leave the school.
- The telephone/internet will be used for school business only. Students may use the phone/internet only under staff supervision. Any cell phones brought to school will be kept at the teacher's desk. After school plans need to be made prior to that school day without the use of the school phone as it unnecessarily ties up the school telephone. Parents need to notify staff in writing of any transportation arrangements that differ from the usual ones.
- Parents who are late in picking up their students will be asked to pay a daycare fee.
- The school staff is trained to recognize child abuse symptoms. In the event of suspicion, the staff is required by law to report expected abuse and neglect. Parents are expected to uphold their parental responsibilities, such as providing appropriate snacks and lunches, timely transportation of their child to and from school, and giving their children proper childcare and treatment when sick. In the event that these things do not occur consistently, the parent will be approached by the staff to remedy the situation or if warranted, a report will be filed with the state authorities.
- CMCA has a behavior management system as a part of its curriculum. Each classroom has a form of behavior management to help students know how they are doing with classroom behavior and class work. Parents are also kept aware of this and are asked to assist the teacher when their child's behavior or work is not up to the standard. Special activities and field trips are scheduled for those students who do well or show improvement.

Chapel Activities

Chapel is a time for all students and teachers to sing, pray, and learn about God's Word, outside of the regular classroom Bible study time. It is typically held on Wednesday mornings from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Students are expected to take part in Chapel activities respectfully. Parents will be informed of students who are not respectfully involved in Chapel and will be asked to counsel their child effectively. Chapel attire for girls are modest length dresses or skirts and blouses and for boys, dress pants or colored dress jeans and shirts. No tshirts, sweat shirts or blue jeans will be allowed. Chapel dress is not imposed on the students for legalistic reasons but to set apart this time from the rest of the school week. Students may bring a change of clothes for comfort in the classroom and for recess activities following Chapel. The first Chapel will be held on Wed. Aug. 29. Please contact the school office if you know of a pastor, youth pastor, of other Christian leader who might be interested in doing Chapel this year as there are spaces to be filled!

Pizza and Sandwich Orders

Students may order from Sam's Italian Sandwich Shop for lunches on Tuesdays and Thursday. Order forms and money need to be brought back to school in an envelope, by the student, the last day of each school week for the following week, otherwise, the order will be disregarded. The first order for this school year will be due on Thurs, Aug.23. Students will need to bring their own bag lunches the first week of school.

Summer Reading Program

A special field trip is in the planning for all students who participated in the summer reading program. It usually is a trip to a popular miniature golf and ice cream spot. New students are welcome to attend if they have participated in a summer library program or have read the required amounts for the three months of June, July, and August: kindergarten - 50 pgs/month, 1st-2nd grade – 150 pgs./month, 3rd-4th grade-200 pgs./month, 5th grade and up - 250 pgs./month. All reading records need to be written down by the book's title, amount of pages, month read, and initialed by a parent.



Reminders and Notes

- A tuition payment is due the first week of school. The following monthly tuition payment is due by Sept. 15.
 Only students who have paid their registration fee of \$150.00 and tuition fees will be considered enrolled.
- Due to the expectations of hot weather, modest length shorts may be worn the first weeks of school, except during Chapel time.
- Please contact Marie at school if your child will need after school care.
- Over the summer months, sometimes students forget some of the skills they have learned at school. Parents are asked to take the weeks before school starts to help their students prepare by doing some reading, writing, math, etc.
- Parents are also asked to check their student's head for head lice. Camp activities and other summer sleep-overs can be conducive to these little creatures!
- Vision and hearing screening will again be done this year, for students in kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, and ninth grades. Dates for these screenings will be announced.

Prayer Closet

- Please pray for God to provide for any needed staff and for new staff and students who will be with us this year.
- Pray that God will renew our vision as we start this new year.
- Praise the Lord that He is working all things out for His honor and glory!
- Pray for families who are struggling financially, that God will provide for all of their needs.

Physical Education Activities

All students are required to participate in physical education activities each week, unless they have a doctor's statement that shows a physical reason for not participat ing. Students are asked to bring to school shoes that are appropriate for outside physical education activities as well as a change of clothes. These may be left in lockers to be used as needed. Parents are required to have their own accident/medical insurance besides the limited policy held by the school to cover any injuries that may occur on the playground or during sports and physical education activities.

