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Lewis and Clark County

Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Home Educator:

As the County Superintendent of Schools, it is my role to inform you of the requirements for home schooling in Montana and your responsibilities concerning notification outlined in law (MCA 20-5-109(5)). Annual notification of your intent to home school is required and a form is enclosed for your convenience. Immunization records for your child(ren) need to be included if this is your **first** year of home schooling or whenever these records change. According to Montana Law 20-5-109, 20-1-301, and 20-1-303 MCA, nonpublic schools (including home schools) must provide 1080 hours (grades 4-12) of instruction or the equivalent and an organized course of study that includes instruction in the subjects required of public schools as a basic instructional program. You are encouraged to keep track of your instructional hours on a calendar or plan book.

For families within the Helena School District, you have several options for **part-time attendance** at all grade levels. The PEAK program, an innovative **after school program**, offers sessions during the year. A **talented and gifted program** one day a week is available for eligible home school students. Contact the PEAK office at 324-2900 or visit the website at www.helenaschools.org for more information. Explore School at Exploration Works continues to be a program for home school students. Contact Lauren Rivers at: lauren@explorationworks.org for more information, or visit the website: www.explorationworks.org. Another opportunity through the Helena School District is the Montana Digital Academy. Online coursework is available for high school students. Enrollment is through your school of attendance. Visit <http://www.montanadigitalacademy.org> for course availability and for further information.

If you are part of the East Helena School District, you have an option of part time attendance for 3 successive periods, either in the morning or afternoon. Contact the appropriate school's principal depending on your child's grade level—Eastgate (K), Prickly Pear (1-2), Radley (3-5), East Valley Middle School (6-8).

Finally, "Stuff the Bus" is a community effort that collects school supplies for students in need. Home school children are eligible to participate. If desired, contact your child's school of attendance.

Wishing you and your students a healthy, happy 2023-24 school year! ~ Katrina Chaney

FYI: HACHE emailhache@gmail.com Enrichment co-op enrichment.coop@gmail.com

