Dear Parentteacher: (Reading time :10 minutes)

<u>No Surprise</u>—Hopefully, it should come as no surprise that Gateway's program is intended for parents to enroll their children at the *beginning* of the school year. Acceptance of applications after this is intended for those who transfer out of public or private schools during the school year.

<u>Grade/Attendance Report</u>—The target date for sending second semester and final grades is June 30. (Target date for first semester was January 31.) Note: This letter is being sent to <u>all</u> families, <u>even those who have already sent in grades</u>. *It is, therefore not necessary to call if you have already sent in your grades*.) The necessary forms were included with your confirmation of enrollment letter. Test Question: Have you read the directions on the reverse of the form?

We have a new policy of <u>returning</u> Grade/Attendance forms if they have significant problems, such as: failure to use specific course titles for high-school subjects, lack of appropriate dates, or omission of parental signature. (Previously such problems were not addressed until the student transferred to another school or prepared to graduate.)

<u>What's New</u>—For the next school year (2006-07) we are planning an increase in the suggested offering. This is to offset increased fuel, postage and other costs. Suggested offering for the first student in a family will increase to \$50. (The last increase was in 1995.) For each additional student in a family, the suggested offering will remain \$20. (Family maximum will increase to \$100.)

When you send enrollment applications for high school students to us, we now ask for specific course names for high school subjects (along with the specific book titles or publishers or a description of the program). At the high-school level, studies in science should be specified appropriately as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.; those in math designated as Algebra I, Geometry, etc. If you are home educating your child, you should know what specific courses are being taught. In some cases, you may need to check the website or catalog of the publisher of your curriculum (or simply give them a phone call). Again, this new policy is designed to remedy problems encountered when preparing transcripts.

We have included a set of our "High-School Guidelines" in this mailing. We want to share with you the guidelines we have used to prepare credible transcripts. Many parents have found them helpful.

Our Senior Counselor suggested the following reminders to help avoid some of the more common problems: Personal Finance, Accounting and Home Economics do not satisfy the Economics requirement for high-school graduation. Course titles such as Life Science and Earth Science typically designate junior-high-school-level courses. Don't forget Physical Education or Health.

<u>E-mail Considerations</u>—In order to prevent infection by viruses or worms, our policy is not to open e-mail attachments. Also note: We do not accept applications or grade forms by e-mail.

<u>Who's Teaching At Your House?</u>—Gateway's program of home education is designed for parents or guardians to teach their own children. Home-educating parents may utilize a tutor or group class for a specific subject, but these are not to take the place of home education. Beware if someone offers to school your child, saying you must pretend home education and register with Gateway to make it legal.

Because Gateway's home-education program is based on a teacher-student relationship between parent (or guardian) and child, Gateway considers a student to be Withdrawn if the student moves out of the home. Also, we consider it a serious ethical violation for a student to prepare and sign his or her own Grade/Attendance Report. Because this compromises Gateway's honor system, such students are typically dismissed from the Total Home Education program.

<u>Website Update</u>—Check out GatewayChristianSchools.com on the web. Check the "Total Home Education" page. It includes links to "High-School Guidelines" and "High-School Course of Study." The latter includes further links to some great resources for foreign languages and other subjects.

Getting-Started Seminars—About once a month we have a free seminar at Gateway entitled, "A Good Start in Home Education." The next will be from 10 a.m. till noon on Saturday, July 29, 2006. The seminar will include:

- •The importance of a right foundation
- •Turning the hearts of the children

- •Curriculum as a tool—not a tyrant
- •The importance of wise counsel

•Minimizing frustration & discouragement

•Working with learning styles

•Lifestyle of learning

•Ouestions & Answers

About four times a year we also have a free supplemental seminar entitled, "**Teaching High School at Home.**" The next will be on a Saturday in **Fall 2006** (to be scheduled). Check the Gateway website for more information and directions. This seminar will include:

•High-school credits

•How to prepare for college

•Resources for challenging courses

•Advanced math courses

•Foreign languages

•Questions & Answers

<u>Curriculum Fairs</u>—Mark your calendar for the curriculum fair in your area. We hope to see you:

Knoxville June 23-24 Farragut Middle School Jackson, TN July 14-15 Woodland Baptist Church Chattanooga July 21-22 Camp Jordan Arena

Gateway Curriculum Center—We have a curriculum center in Memphis where you can see firsthand a variety of educational materials and supplements reflecting our educational philosophy. (Sorry, we do not sell by mail order, nor do we have a catalog.) The center is a combination bookstore and library. It is staffed by knowledgeable parent-teachers who can offer counsel concerning home education and curriculum choice. The center is open Fridays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 4 p.m. (closed holiday weekends). The curriculum center phone number is (901) 454-0951 (Fri. & Sat. 12 to 4 only).

From the Heart—Reality check. Effective education should be practical and relevant. Try premeditated education. Live life with a plan to learn more. To apply what is learned to the real world, try the E 'n' E plan: Estimate and Evaluate. As you go about, ask questions. What is the temperature in here? Out there? After a question, make your best estimate, then check and see how close you are. Take a measurement or look it up. How many minutes later will the sun set today than yesterday? Don't be content to be ignorant; check your answer—look it up. How much will it cost to fill the gas tank? If a person ate at this restaurant every day for a year, how much would it cost? How far is it from here to there? How long will it take to get home from here? What direction is the wind blowing from? What does this tell about the weather? How tall is that (you name it)? What is the cause of Irukandji syndrome? Where did this word come from? Look at the word *permission*. What language is it derived from? What other words come from the same root? Try to make a list of other words you think might be related to it. Then check a reference and see. Everything from weather to word origins comes from somewhere. What is the source? When you learn something new, investigate to find out more. Be a learner all the time and invite your children to join you. Each day provides numerous opportunities to remain ignorant or to learn more—the choice is yours.

Seeking the truth,

Greg Stablein