

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church

Summer 2021

**Sacred Grove Academy
P.O. Box 505
Auburn, AL 36831-0505**

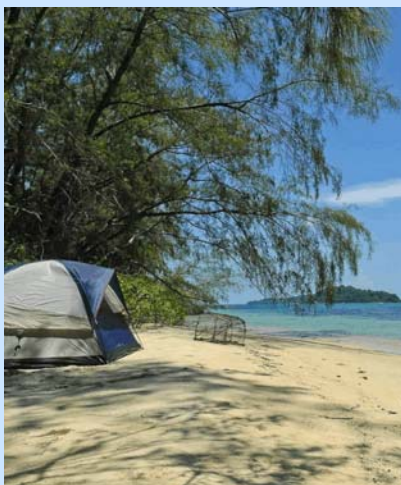
Linda Kerr, Director

**Phone:
(334) 408-7372**

**Email:
sacredgroveacademy@
gmail.com**

**Website:
www.sacredgroveacademy.
org**

Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama



Celebrate Diversity

As we try to return to some semblance of normalcy after Covid and the political upheavals of the past year (or more), it's good to finally be able to go to some in-person events, and not have to just rely on virtual events.

As Pagans/non-Christians, we find ourselves on the fringe, not part of the default mainstream religion of this country. As such, we often face backlash for our practices and beliefs, especially here in Alabama. Two other groups who suffer from discrimination are the LGBTQ community and African Americans.

June is LGBTQ Pride Month, and parades and festivals have already started taking place. Here is a website with a list of Pride events in Alabama:

<https://www.al.com/life/2021/06/pride-month-2021-your-guide-to-22-events-in-alabama.html>.

"Pride gatherings are rooted in the arduous history of minority groups who have struggled for decades to overcome prejudice and be accepted for who they are.

The original organizers chose this month to pay homage to the Stonewall uprising in June 1969 in New York City, which helped spark the modern gay rights movement. Most Pride events take place each year in June, although some cities hold their celebrations at other times of the year.

Pride events are geared toward anyone who feels like their sexual identity falls outside the mainstream—although many straight

people join in, too."

(Read the rest of the article at: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/01/health/pride-month-2021-trnd/index.html>)

Alabama also has several Juneteenth celebrations, in places such as Birmingham's Kelly Ingram Park, Anniston's Historic Zinn Park, downtown Prichard, downtown Opelika, and Montgomery's Rosa Parks Museum.

Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas and more generally the



emancipation of enslaved people throughout the Confederate South.

Alabama's National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOFF) is more than 20 years old, and has worked hard to make sure the state recognized the Juneteenth holiday, and now it is working to make Juneteenth a national paid holiday. If you'd like to join the movement, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheNationalJuneteenthObservanceFoundationofAlabama/>.

Attendance Forms Due by August 1

If You Move:

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, **immediately** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



Attendance forms for 2020-2021 are due now, and must be received by August 1. Your completed attendance forms are essential to fulfilling the letter of the law, and without them, you will not be able to re-enroll for the following year, even if you have sent your tuition fees.

EASY! Submit your attendance through our website! <www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html>

You can also email your attendance forms; either by scanning and emailing your handwritten copies, or by emailing your Word or Excel document.

Re-Enrollment Deadline: August 1

The deadline for sending in your attendance forms and for re-enrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2021-2022 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 for the first child, and \$25 for each additional child. In order to re-enroll, you must send the tuition fees and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved.

If You Miss the August 1 Deadline:

If you have not re-enrolled by August 1 and have not contacted us to let us know you will be late, you'll be considered withdrawn, and we will send the obligatory letter to the school board stating such. You can re-enroll after that time, but you will need to pay the \$25 admission fee per child in addition to the tuition fees, and fill out both the Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Admission Form again.

Late Re-Enrollments With Notice:

If you contact us PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 to tell us you will be late: You will have a grace period of 30 days, until August 31, to send in your re-enrollment tuition for the upcoming school year. There will be a late fee of \$25 per family, which must be paid, in addition to the tuition fees, before you will be considered to be re-enrolled. Please note that if your late re-enrollment is not received by August 31, we will begin un-enrollment procedures.

How to Pay for Your Re-Enrollment:

We accept re-enrollment tuition payments either via check or money order sent regular mail, or over the web using PayPal. You can use this free service to pay for your renewal each summer.

The link to pay via PayPal is <www.sacredgroveacademy.org/Paypal.html>.

Transcripts Policy

You may prepare your own transcript using the blank forms provided on our website. However, if you'd like Sacred Grove Academy to prepare an official transcript for you, with the director's signature, there is a \$25 transcript fee. You will need to fill out the Transcript Request Form (available on our website), and send it in with your check or money order (or pay via PayPal). If you'd like the records faxed, there is a \$5 fax fee, and there is also a \$15 rush fee for faster than two-week service (fax fee is extra).

The parent/teacher must supply the subjects and grades for the student, using the Transcript Request Form. Sacred Grove does not know what your child studied nor what his/her grades were. Parents must turn in attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has not turned in an attendance form, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts will not be made for non-graduating students withdrawing before the end of the school year. If a student withdraws during the school year to transfer to another school, parents will need to negotiate admission to another school on that school's terms, without a transcript from Sacred Grove Academy. Official transcripts will not be made for partial years of less than three months. For any partial year of the student's enrollment, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts can only be made for the period of time your child was enrolled with Sacred Grove. We can not create transcripts for any school years, full or partial, prior to or after your child's enrollment in Sacred Grove. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent, school, or college. All transcripts will be mailed, unless a fax is requested and the extra fee (\$5) paid.

Withdrawal Policies:

All enrollments end on July 1. If you do not re-enroll by August 1, you will be considered withdrawn, but may re-enroll at any point in the future, as long as all other policies have been adhered to. After August 1, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy (as required by state law).

You can also officially withdraw from Sacred Grove at any time during the school year. ****No refunds will be given at any time.**** Families withdraw for various reasons, including sending their children back to public school, or moving out-of-state. To officially withdraw during the school year, just send a notice to Sacred Grove by mail or by email, stating that you are withdrawing. An official letter to your local school superintendent will then be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy.

Removals & Improper Withdrawals:

NOTE: After **any** official or improper withdrawal or removal, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, and we will send a letter to your last known address stating the same. If you are not enrolled anywhere else, you will be subject to truancy laws.

You will be removed from enrollment with Sacred Grove if:

- You do not send your child's previous years' attendance forms in by August 1;
- If you write a worthless check, and restitution is not made within 30 days (civil charges may apply); or if any other fees are in arrears and are not paid within 30 days.

In the above cases, until your fees or forms are mailed in to us, no records or information will be

released about your child to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested about that child. Furthermore, if attendance forms are not received within 12 months of your withdrawal (for example, 2019-2020 forms sent in by August 1, 2021), all of the above will apply, and no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll in Sacred Grove Academy at any point in the future for any reason.

You will be considered to be improperly withdrawn if:

- If your summer or winter newsletter is returned undeliverable because you have moved and not sent in a change of address, and we cannot then get in touch with you by phone or email; as we will have no way of knowing whether you are still in your original school district or even in the state (Note: if your newsletter comes back, we make a reasonable attempt to contact you before removing you from the rolls);
- We discover that you have enrolled your child in a different school when that school sends us a request for your child's records, and you have not officially withdrawn (NOTE: We will NOT send any information without receiving an official withdrawal from you!)

In the above cases, no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll at any point in the future for any reason, and no records or information will be released to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested, AT ALL for that child.

7 Light Summer Schedule Ideas for Your Homeschool

By Shanxi Omoniyi

From: <https://midwesthomeschoolers.org/light-summer-schedule/>

Ever wondered about an effective yet light summer schedule for your family? As one mom wrote, "I'm wanting to continue school 'lightly' and very flexible through summer, but I know if I don't have a goal, nothing will get done."

Our blog post about summer homeschool ideas (<https://midwesthomeschoolers.org/summer-homeschool-ideas/>) shows that we like to be realistic yet structured about summer break. You have two extremes to avoid here.

One extreme is to push your children too hard until they burn out.

On the other hand, countless homeschool families will tell you that an extended summer break actually hurt their children's academic performances once they returned to school. Lessons had been forgotten and needed to be retaken. Kids were sluggish and unwilling to begin new classes.

To find the happy middle between these extremes, most area homeschoolers find that a light summer schedule works best. Keep academic work visible, but move it to the background and allow time for fun and summer recreation.

Here's a number of real-life scenarios that you can tailor to your family:

Light summer schedule 1: One or two subjects a day.

Instead of front-loading everything, homeschool families often choose to focus daily on just one (or two) subjects. Favorite

subjects include math, reading, handwriting, and Bible study.

Bonus tip: Even if you're doing the same subjects, you can switch it up with different activities. One mom does math flash cards on "reading" days, then audiobooks on "math" days.

This is also a great time to drill into any areas of weaknesses that your children may be displaying. As one mom wrote, "If one of my kids is struggling with a subject, I might get freebie learning packets from Pinterest and spend some extra time with them."

Light summer schedule 2: Use a quota system.

Some homeschoolers find that setting a certain number of minutes reading (or chapters finished) each day works best for their children.

"Even on vacation we had [our child] reading everyday," wrote one homeschool mom. "Just set whatever goal you want and then the expectation will be set."

Another family scheduled a weekly routine, with one math review and 1-2 pages from "Handwriting Without Tears" (www.lwtears.com/hwt) to be accomplished sometime during those seven days.

Light summer schedule 3: Transition workbooks.

Do you have children who like workbooks? While some students prefer hands-on activities, others like the structure and simplicity of working through papers and pre-planned lessons.

Many homeschool curricula

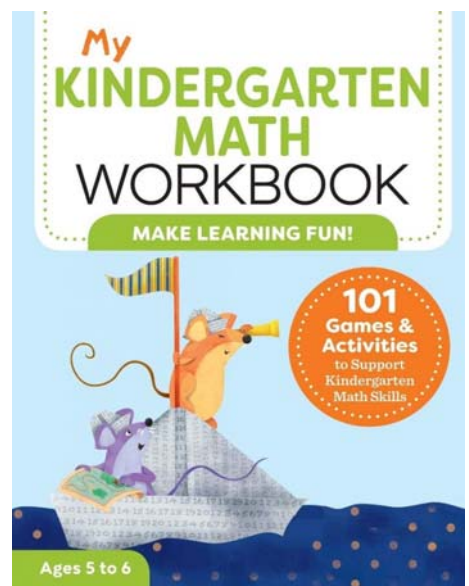
offer transition or summer workbooks, which parents can purchase and then give to their children to do a few pages each day.

Light summer schedule 4: Summer camps and other clubs.

A number of area homeschoolers take advantage of local summer camps and enrichment programs to keep their children occupied!

(For more summer activities and opportunities, check out this blog post: <https://midwesthomeschoolers.org/summer-activities-kc-homeschoolers/>)

Other options include Trail Life USA, which has a local troop chartered by MPE!



Please note: Due to COVID-19, many of these opportunities may be unavailable or re-envisioned this year.)

**Light summer schedule 5:
Contingency plans based on
your family's particular needs.**

Accidents happen – in some cases, a broken arm or other limb! – so summer swim plans and other activities may have to be put on hold.

If your children are staying home more often than usual this year, try planning books, picnics and other adventures they can read and write about. Math games or board games can also keep them interested in learning.

Another family found that requiring at least half an hour of reading before screen time worked well to avoid summer brain drain.

**Light summer schedule
6: Institute “half days.”**

Maybe having a “subject quota” or set number of minutes isn’t working for your children. In which case, try a less rigid, but still structured, approach by splitting your summer school into half days!

One enterprising mom committed to a little math each day (which was quite an achievement since her son hated math!) as well as one or two other subjects, which she rotated to keep interesting.

“One day we did math, Bible and language one day, then all the little short stuff the other day, like spelling, reading, science and history,” she wrote. “That worked well, time wise it was pretty balanced, then we were doing essentially 2.5 lessons a week. He was very cooperative about only doing a ‘half day,’ and we got a lot done over the summer. It really did add up.”

**Light summer schedule 7:
Choose seasonal subjects like
botany.**

If your homeschool incorporates subjects like American history or botany, summer is a great time to concentrate on those! Maybe you’re planning some summer field trips to supplement your science and social studies, or just to explore nature trails and hiking trips.

“We also practice math facts sometimes in the car, sometimes as a game, sometimes on a tablet,” one homeschooler wrote. “For me it’s not structured, it’s just making sure every day includes learning and reinforcing what we already know.”



(BONUS) Make room for rote learning!

Summer can also be a great time for reinforcing lessons already learned – such as math facts and timetables, language rules, and spelling.

“My kids read and do flash cards or drill sheets during the summer,” said one mom. “I use it as a chance to work on basic facts and speed.”

REMINDERS

Please do not mail any school work to our office! Also, please do not have your former school(s) mail any previous school records to us. We do not need any of these items. You, the parent, are the teacher, and as such, are fully responsible for grading, and keeping and maintaining school work and records.

What We Do NOT Provide:

- Curriculum (books, etc.)
- Teachers to come to your home
- Teachers at our office to check work or give grades
- An accredited school or program (no church cover school in Alabama is accredited)

**Join our Sacred Grove
Facebook group!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/190035067717206/>



How to Talk to Children About Juneteenth

By Aisha White

From: <https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/how-talk-children-about-juneteenth>

June 19, or Juneteenth, is a holiday that commemorates the day that Texas, the last Confederate state, learned about the Emancipation Proclamation—marking the end of slavery in the United States in 1865.

But as University of Pittsburgh historian Alaina Roberts notes, it's important to remember that the emancipation of slaves didn't actually happen in one fell swoop.

“Juneteenth is a reminder that emancipation was not one moment in time: the news about the Emancipation Proclamation (which outlawed slavery within Confederate states) and the Thirteenth Amendment (which abolished slavery throughout the country) came to African Americans in different parts of the United States at different times,” said Roberts, assistant professor in Pitt's Department of History in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

While Juneteenth is observed in many states, including Pennsylvania, it is not yet a federally recognized holiday.

How can we talk about Juneteenth and race with our children? To help, Pittwire sat down with Aisha White, director of the P.R.I.D.E. Program (Positive Racial Identity Development in Early Education) in the School of Education's Office of Child Development. The goal of the P.R.I.D.E Program is to help young Black children develop a positive racial identity by supporting teachers, parents and other caregivers by providing resources that build their racial knowledge and skills.

How can we talk about Juneteenth to children?

You might not want to explain Juneteenth to kids if you don't want to explain slavery to them. It may be too scary a topic for kids that aren't old enough—and while children's ability to understand and manage that kind of information varies, it's safer to not start until



they're closer to 6 or 7 years old. However, if children who are younger raise the issue, there are ways to explain it to them that won't cause anxiety.

I like to reference a TED Talk by author and scholar Beverly Daniel Tatum called “Is My Skin Brown Because I Drank Chocolate Milk?” The way she explained it to her son (who asked the question that became the title of her talk) was: A long time ago, before there were companies, stores and buildings, there were some people who needed to work the land in the United States. There was a need for smart, strong workers—and they went to Africa and brought them to the United States against their will which wasn't OK. They were people but they were called slaves. Those people made them

work, but never paid them and they were never allowed to leave the plantations where they worked; it was very unfair. But there were also good people who were working to end slavery, Black and White people, and they were eventually successful. Of course, this is an abbreviated version and you may need to add many more details, but you will have at least covered many of the main issues.

Once you get to the part of the story where you're explaining Juneteenth, you can tell children that during that time there were no things like TV or phones to communicate; information was written in letters and carried from one place to another on horses. Not everyone got the news at the same time that slavery had ended, so it took two years for people to find out about it in Texas. But on June 19, people in that state did learn about it.

Should this story be told in a different way to a Black child than it would to a White child?

The story I described can be told to anyone. However, a White family might need to explain more explicitly that it was White people who enslaved Black people. White families should also make sure to describe how there were many White people who were allies in the struggle who helped to abolish slavery. And, it's also important for White families to be prepared to answer questions if their children ask why White people enslaved Black people.

Why is it important to talk about Juneteenth?

Juneteenth gave people

freedom but it also gave them hope, something they had been longing for for a long time. Telling this particular story offers an opportunity for kids to know how important it was for people who had been treated so badly for so long to begin to experience a whole new way of life, to be truly free, and that's always something to celebrate.

How early should families be talking about race with children?

This doesn't differ between White and Black families. One way to introduce the conversation is by reading picture books. They're an easy and obvious way to introduce kids to people who don't look like them. Children need to have these conversations because they are seeing what we refer to as racial differences early. By the time a child is 3 months old, they can already notice someone whose skin color is different from their primary caregivers, just by looking at faces. They look longer at the face of someone whose skin color looks like their primary caregiver at that age. But at 6 months, they spend a longer amount of time looking at someone whose face is different from, for example someone who is darker than their primary caregiver.

As they grow and develop, kids are taking in all the information they get from everywhere in the world, including watching television, being engaged in local activities, the covers of magazines at the grocery store. They can put two and two together, but they don't always end up with four. If we don't talk to our kids, they often make their own sense of things on their own.

How might conversations about race look different for Black families and White families?

Black families should be consistently providing uplifting information for children. In the literature, it's called racial socialization: helping kids feel good about themselves as individuals, including their facial features and hair texture. It's important they understand they're part of a larger group of people who are part of their race and feel good about that, about the things those people created and the history of those people. The messages are more protective and can serve as a preventive measure that interrupts the process of them internalizing negative attitudes about themselves they can develop as a result of living in a racialized society.

For White families, it's important to do work that interrupts White children developing a false sense of racial superiority. Parents should be stifling the idea of racial superiority—and emphasizing that goodness, smartness or kindness is not assigned to a certain race of people.

What should parents be mindful of while teaching their kids about race and racism?

If a parent chooses not to talk about race with their kids, they should know that they're actually taking an action—being silent is taking action, just the wrong kind. When a child says something that may be racially unacceptable, parents should treat it like any other conversation that they may have with children and not react in ways that are extreme. They should not shush children when they ask questions. The conversation should be natural and comfortable so that children feel free to ask questions and sometimes make mistakes. Children will

easily pick up if you're uncomfortable during these conversations, so it's better to be sure you're ready to have them rather than jump into them unprepared. Parents should talk with other adults about race and racial issues in order to feel comfortable and well prepared to have those conversations with their children.

What is the most important thing a parent can be doing right now during this moment in history?

Conversations are important. People may not think they're significant, but the absence of conversation is doing a whole lot of harm. Their child might have lots of questions they don't know how to ask. If you open up the dialogue, you'll be more likely to know more about what they've seen, what they're thinking about, what they're wondering about.

For example, their child may be extremely afraid of what they're seeing on the news. Even for parents who are very careful about what their children watch, they might come into the living room when you don't expect it. And they can still have concerns even if they've heard about these things secondhand. If you don't have a conversation with them, they may be scared to death. Parents might want to open up the conversation by saying to their child: "We've never talked about this before, but I think now we need to as a family. There are lots of things happening with people protesting here in our city and in the country and I really would like to know what you're thinking or wondering about what's going on." Once they tell you, then, as a parent, you can help fill in the gaps, answer their questions and assure them that if they're worried or afraid, you'll help keep them as safe as possible.

10 First Day of Homeschool Ideas

By This Reading Mama

From: <https://thisreadingmama.com/first-day-of-homeschool-ideas/>

Are you looking for some first day of homeschool ideas? You'll find ten in this post, which is our last post from our Homeschool Tips Blog Series (<https://thisreadingmama.com/homeschool-tips-tricks/>).

Maybe your first day of homeschool is fast approaching. I know ours is. The best thing about homeschooling is the flexibility it affords. You get to decide what day you begin on and what you and your kids do-Woohoo! Here are 10 First Day of Homeschool Ideas to get your wheels turning.

Idea 1: Keep in short and simple.

I highly recommend starting simple. Instead of jumping into every single subject on day one, just go with a couple that you can do altogether. Keep your first day short. I recommend ending before lunch if you can.

Idea 2: DON'T start on a Monday.

I know this is probably all about preference, but I don't recommend starting on a Monday. This can make for a VERY long week. I recommend instead starting on a Wednesday or Thursday, introducing some of your routines and expectations. That way you can gently ease into your year.

Idea 3: Introduce routines slowly.

Like I mentioned in our post about creating a homeschool routine, you need to set up and teach routines so your year will run more smoothly.

For example, in the first few days, I taught my kids how to set their own timer before working on their keyboarding skills. This lasted all year and kept me from being responsible for this.

Idea 4: Do something fun together.

Cook something fun in the kitchen together on the first day like pancakes or cookies. Maybe your idea of "fun" is a craft or a game outside. Maybe is a scavenger hunt. It doesn't matter what it is. Just have fun.



Idea 5: Start a read aloud.

I firmly believe that reading aloud to your children is a wonderful way to bond and grow together. If you're thinking of starting a chapter book, all my kids {ages 7-13} and I HIGHLY recommend The Green Ember Series by S.D. Smith. Once you start, you'll seriously be hooked!

You could also read some silly

poetry from authors like Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky}.

Idea 6: Brainstorm ideas for the school year.

Ask your kiddos what they'd like to learn, what they'd like to read, or maybe even ideas for field trips for the year. You could even plan a few "fun" days into the year together. You could even write the ideas on a "School Bucket List" or put them in a jar to pull out later in the year.

Idea 7: Preview your curriculum.

Let your learners look through what they'll be learning this year. This doesn't have to take long and some learners might not even be interested. But it might be something fun to do together.

Idea 8: Complete an "All About Me" Page.

This page will be a keepsake for years to come...just be sure to date in on the back! I have some All About Me Pages for preschool, K-2, and grades 3-5.

Idea 9: Take a field trip.

Here's a serious perk of homeschooling! Chances are, if you start homeschooling when schools start back in session, the museums, parks, and zoos will be empty. You can have it all to yourself!

Idea 10: Have an indoor or outdoor picnic for lunch.

If it's too hot, spread out the blankets inside. If you can, go outside and soak up the sun while you dine!

Attendance Record

Student's Name: _____

Grade Just Completed: _____ School Year: _____ - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you check this email regularly? _____

Current Address: _____

Have you moved? _____ If yes, are you in a new school district? _____ (If yes, you will need to submit a new Church School Enrollment Form ASAP, so we can send it to the school superintendent in your new area)

Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

	Month Total	Year Total	
July	_____	_____	
August	_____	_____	
September	_____	_____	
October	_____	_____	
November	_____	_____	
December	_____	_____	
January	_____	_____	
February	_____	_____	
March	_____	_____	
April	_____	_____	
May	_____	_____	
June	_____	_____	

Have You Moved? If so, have you notified us?

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a *different public school district*, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, *immediately* (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

