

The Modular Study Group Model

The Modular Study Group (MSG) is a hybrid education model which combines the best of homeschooling, online school, and traditional school for children of missionaries with limited access to educational resources.

Families send their Middle School and High School aged kids to a central location one week a month, nine times a year. They receive instruction in English, Math, and Science, and then return home to complete assignments and prepare for the next module.

Our curriculum comes from a mixture of Christian and secular sources. Math is a 2005-2008 Glencoe series. The science curriculum varies by campus and includes textbooks from Glencoe, Apologia, and BJU Press. English is a mixture involving fiction and non-fiction literature, frequent writing assignments, and speech.

The MSG is a Christian program and exists to support and promote work among the nations of the world. We are very proud of our chapel program which has a 7 year curriculum covering the Bible and is 30 minutes of every day during the weeks the students come together.

The MSG offers various on-line (not taught) classes in the Social Studies to help families complete the rest of the subject matter. Art, music, and foreign languages are left for individual families to do themselves. The MSG commits to fully teaching and supporting the three core subjects (math, science, and English).

The curriculum leaves a significant amount of time/space for families to fill in with whatever they choose for the additional subjects. Our school is very international and families from different parts of the world are able and encouraged to keep up with their home country subjects. There is enough room to accommodate both our mostly North American curriculum and the additional aspects of each student's passport country educational needs.

We are now in our twentieth year of operation and have seen the program be very successful. Students come out well prepared for college due to the natural mixture of lecture/teaching and self study/discipline built into the program.

Practically speaking, the school operates on the following rough fee structure: Tuition (including books and lunches) costs between 1500 and 2000 USD. Boarding is roughly 1200 USD for the nine modules. That means that one year for one child costs around or under 3000 USD (plus travel cost which varies by family).

The benefit of having the peer group and additional adult role models is hard to quantify. Many of our students come from strong and well-run home schooling families. However, the social draw and positive peer pressure of the group is the biggest reason about half of our families come.

The biggest benefit of the MSG has been enabling families to stay on the mission field longer than they would have otherwise. The MSG also acts as a safety net and incentive for families near MSGs to move away from big cities and into areas where they can do more hands-on ministry.

History of the MSG

Years ago in Thailand, a young teacher became disgruntled with the trend towards giant international schools taking people away from their supposed target people group. God and only God gave him the idea for an alternative model that would give the students both the academic support they needed and the social environment for growing up in a community of peers and adults.

From that idea came the Modular Study Group which began in Kunming, China in August of 2007. The program in Kunming grew to a steady 35-40 students until in September of 2018 it was unexpectedly forced to close.

On the very day of the shutting down of the operation in China, a new MSG plant began to grow in Vientiane, Laos. Known as the MSG-VTE, this location has grown to a very stable program which is now entering its 6th year of operation. The MSG in Laos now serves families from every corner of that country.

In 2019 with three of the staff members from the original school in Kunming, the MSG-CNX started in Chiangmai, Thailand. Within the first few years it quickly expanded to occupy a new building and serve 32 students filling two full dorms.

In 2020 Hanoi joined the MSG system under a partnership with Teach Beyond. The school in Hanoi is growing slowly but otherwise doing well.

In 2021 some families in Indonesia became tired of homeschooling and began looking for another option. After hearing about the MSG, those families launched a branch in Jakarta. That MSG is in its third year and is operating at full capacity with over 30 students.

After talking with some families in Pakistan in 2019, another school was launched in August of 2022. They have an experienced staff, willing kids and great potential to grow in the future.

A sixth school in India opened in August of 2023 with two teachers and seven students and is expected to grow as more families come to see the MSG as a viable option.

In 2024, MSG Cambodia soft-launched with 8 students in one of the provincial capitals. After a year, it moved to Phnom Penh to be more central and now serves 20 students coming from seven different provinces.

The MSG-Education group is currently in conversations about starting the first MSG in Europe in 2026 or 2027.

MSG Statement of Faith

The Bible: The Bible is God's Word to everyone. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. *2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Psalm 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5.*

God: God is the all-powerful sovereign creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. *Genesis 1; Psalm 90:2; Ephesians 4:4-5.*

Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is eternally the Son of God conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is God in human form and is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the entire world by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Acts 1:9-11.*

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. His primary work is to glorify God the Father and Jesus Christ. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that God's will is revealed to believers. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation to provide the Christian with the power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. *John 14:16,17; 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:13; Gal. 5:25.*

Humanity: People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. They are the supreme object of God's creation. Although everyone has potential for good, all are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. Sin separates us from a holy God. God created humanity as uniquely male and female. He also instituted marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman lasting until the death of one member. *Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-8; Psalm 139:14; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2; Romans 1:21-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, (Ephesians 5:22-33).*

Salvation: Salvation is a gift from God to us through faith. A person can never make up for sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ by faith. *Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12.*

Eternity: People were created to exist forever. They will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. *John 3:16; John 5:25-29; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15.*

Eternal Security: Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the saving grace and sustaining power of God that gives this security. *John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:14; 1 Peter 1:3-5.*

The Church: The church is an elect company of believers in the saving grace of Jesus Christ baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body; its mission is to witness concerning its Head, Jesus Christ, by preaching the gospel among all nations. *2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Revelation 3:13.*