



<http://www.virtualschools.co.za>

## **'SCHOOL@HOME' GUIDE**

**GRADE R - 10 CURRICULUM**

(Available in English only)

## Foreword

According to the World Economic Forum's report released during 2015, South Africa finished *close to last* – **139 out of 143 countries** when looking at the overall quality of its education system and *last* in the quality of mathematics and science education. Source: [weforum.org/global-information-technology-report-2015/](http://weforum.org/global-information-technology-report-2015/)

Despite numerous promises over many years by the Minister of Education there is no sign of improvement. Unfortunately it will take a 'miracle' and a very long time for any significant improvement of the South African education system.

This document, compiled from various sources, contains a comprehensive overview of the state of Homeschooling in South Africa. Once you have worked through this document you should be able to decide if homeschooling your child with the support of VirtualSchools and/or alliance partners is the right solution for your family.

But first you need to eliminate any fears of homeschooling and a buy-in from both parents and children, unless of course you are already an active homeschooling family and you are merely looking for additional support services.

If you are considering Homeschooling for the first time due to your dissatisfaction with academic instruction and school environment issues, or for any other reason, then you have come to the right place, and you are strongly advised to *'take the leap of faith'* sooner than later. The education of your child and his or her security is of utmost importance.

Considering the above this should be one of the easiest decisions you have ever had to make. **Good luck!**



For all your Curriculum requirements from Grade R-12 (CAPS)



Homeschool Support Services. Tutoring, homework supervision etc.



TutorMaster is the quickest, easiest and most cost effective way to find a Tutor/Teacher in South Africa.



Study Skills two day workshop for homeschoolers - Students and Parents



Web based curriculum - hundreds of online lessons to meet SA core curriculum  
Learners textbooks, readers and teacher guides. Some of these are available in e-book format.



English Pronunciation Made Easy for all ages. Change lives with Early Reading Skills

## **School at Home**

School at home means teaching your children at home, and doing it the same way it is done in schools, using the same methods, workbooks, texts, worksheets, etc. that typical schools use. It's really like setting up a small classroom at home, for you and your children, but you still get the social benefits, higher academic benefits, etc. of home schooling. School at home is also called a "more structured" approach. If you are going to do this, it is best to get "home school" curriculums rather than use programs designed for schools. A good home school curriculum will explain to you as a parent, what and how to teach that day's material.

## **Frequently asked Questions & Answers**

### **1) Why do families homeschool?**

Many parents commit to schooling their children at home. Their motivation is the conviction that this is the best for the moral and spiritual development of their family, and it is the best way to provide a solid education for their children. They know what their children are being taught in the areas of spiritual and character development, as well as about the social and academic well being of their children.

### ***Specific Advantages have been expressed as follows:***

- Homeschooling makes quality time available to train and influence children in all areas of life.
- Each child receives individual attention and has his unique needs met. Parents can control destructive influences such as negative peer pressure and offensive curriculum.
- Opportunity is available for spiritual training and presenting a biblical perspective of all academic subjects.
- Children gain respect for their parents as teachers
- The family experiences unity, closeness, and mutual enjoyment of each other.
- Children develop confidence and independent thinking, away from negative peer pressure to conform, in the security of their own home.
- Children have time to think and explore new interests.
- Communication between different age groups is enhanced.
- Flexible scheduling can accommodate parents' work and vacation times and allow time for many activities.

### **2) What do I need to homeschool my children?**

There are ample learning materials available for home schooling in South Africa from a number of reputable curriculum suppliers. Some of them have been developed locally, some imported from abroad. A number are on computer, some are partially computerised, while others make use of textbooks. The materials available are usually easy to use, for parents too. Many homeschoolers also make use of distance education facilities, which a parent with a child in home education can use almost independently.

### **3) What qualifications do I need to homeschool?**

You know your children better than anyone and have the deepest love and concern for them. You also have the most direct and long-term responsibility for your children. Your example and enthusiasm in learning with your children will motivate and encourage them far more than striving to appear you know it all. You do not need to know everything in order to teach. Tutoring children

has always been superior to the typical classroom. Homeschooling epitomizes this method, providing the essentials for success and a close relationship between the student and the teacher, motivation, flexibility, and individualization.

#### **4) Is learning computer based?**

Most schooling curriculums place strong emphasis on children accessing information themselves, and computer-based learning is a daily feature of school life, where affordable. This should also, to a large degree, be the case in the homeschooling environment because, after all, computers have become an integral part of life so why not get an early start. <http://www.weblessonshome.co.za>

#### **5) What happens when my child has difficulty in one or more subjects?**

Most parents organize their home schooling in such a way that they provide for their children's specific needs and abilities. One does not have to do all the subjects at the same level. If a child has an aptitude for Maths, there is nothing to stop him or her from continuing with the next grade's work once this grade's work has been finished. Or vice versa: if the child/children have not mastered this year's Afrikaans, they simply return to the previous year's books and together with their parents start looking for the cause of the problems.

#### **6) What about tests and assessments and where do students complete their tests and exams?**

Parents / Tutors may compile their own progress reports, using tools supplied by most curriculum suppliers.

All exams, except grade 12, are written at the students home or alternative location, in the presence of an independent invigilator / teacher. The final grade 12 examination is written at **registered exam centres around South Africa.**

#### **7) What happens if I don't have any knowledge of a subject I need to teach?**

Most homeschooling materials are designed to be used by parents and students who are not familiar with the subject matter. They are therefore self-explanatory. In most cases a teacher's guide is provided for the subject.

#### **8) How much time does homeschooling take?**

It has been found that primary school age children in home schooling on average take more or less 2 to 3 hours per day to complete all their work (homework included) and secondary school age children on average more or less 3 to 4 hours per day. As a result children have more time to play, read, dream, socialize, get involved in hobbies, help in the house and in the garden, and make music. In short: they have time to live a normal life.

Homeschooling requires a time commitment, although not as much as you might expect. One-to-one tutoring is more efficient than classroom instruction and, therefore, requires less time. The time requirement varies according to the students' abilities, number of children in the family, and ages of the children. With the Virtual Schools Education curriculum there is a study plan. As a parent, you are there to supervise and make sure the student completes his work for the day.

#### **9) Can we teach several children at once?**

The Virtual Schools curriculum makes it easy to teach more than one child at a time. Because you are basically their supervisor, you can oversee a number of children at one time.

#### **10) What about socialization?**

This is perhaps the most misunderstood aspect of homeschooling. It is the positive aspects of socialization through the home that attracts many families to this lifestyle. Popular opinion assumes that children need periods on interaction with a group of peers to acquire social skills. By contrast,

however, many believe that extensive peer contact during childhood can cause undesirable and negative peer dependency.

Young children are more likely to be influenced by the majority than to be independent and an example to others. Children who receive their education outside the home are prone to accept their peers; and teachers' values over those of their parents. Some advantages of freedom from peer pressure can be self-confidence, independent thinking, the ability to relate to people of all ages, and better family relationships. Moral principles of interaction can be taught, demonstrated, and reinforced at home by parents. Children can learn needed social skills by interaction with siblings or other children and adults under their parents supervision. Young people who have had this type of training have adjusted very well to adult life. You can help your children build and maintain lasting friendships with people of all ages through church and family friends.

Do you want our child to model after you or after his peers, after his teachers at school or his teachers at home? What kind of socialization do you want for your child, positive or negative?

## **Home School Curriculums**

### **What Is a Curriculum?**

Technically, a curriculum is a list of topics, concepts, ideas, etc. that will be taught. A homeschool curriculum usually also includes the texts, workbooks, and other materials used to teach that subject, and "directions for parents." There are many great curriculums (or programs) designed just for homeschoolers.

Most people start home schooling with packaged curriculums, and then find their way from there, for what works best for their child. For some children this involves more formal studies. For others it is more informal hands-on play or exploring learning. For many, it is a mixture of methods.

### **Formal Curriculums**

Some subjects, like math, work better with a formal curriculum. This is probably because most math, particularly in the upper grades, must be done on paper.

### **Use "Home School" Curriculums**

If you are going to use formal curriculums, it is best to get "home school" curriculums rather than use programs designed for schools. A good home school curriculum will explain to you "as a parent," what and how to teach that day's material, and should have more hands-on exercises that are better suited to a home environment.

Homeschoolers can usually relate better than average both horizontally and vertically, take leadership positions often, are positive role models, have the tendency to build quality friendships and their self image is not dependent on group pressure.

### **How does VirtualSchools (VS) work?**

VirtualSchools South Africa is a complete school curriculum which is delivered both online and via traditional learning materials. The curriculum is compiled by registered South African teachers. We sell curriculum solutions to South African parents (Students) seeking to adopt homeschooling, either for their children or for themselves.

## **Core Curriculum**

The core curriculum consists of the following:

1. A Weekly Study Plan that tells you exactly what to study and when. This is flexible and can be changed to suite the learner. It comes with an easy to use checklist to ensure all areas are covered.
2. Text Books published by South African Publishers. (As well as various other open e-books)
3. E learning Solutions internally developed (WebLessons and Learners Online)
4. Tutoring Solutions (Optional)

## **Study Plan**



## **Study Material**

All the study material is provided via the web and via textbooks. The study material can be provided for grades R to 10, in **English. Afrikaans** might be available at a later date. Grade 10 to 12 are in development stage for release at a later date.

## **Assessment (Self / External)**

All supplied curriculum meets the standard as set by the South African Department of Education. (SAPS)

## **System**

Each grade consists of online content accessed via our Websites, textbooks, and a detailed study plan which ties all the learning together into a concise and professional distance learning solution. With our cutting edge solution your first day of learning is in your home with your parent / guardian / Tutor. Our curriculum has been developed by leading South African educators. Virtual Schools is a true home school solution and offers every learner endless possibilities to achieve their best. Join us on the journey to successful, lifelong learning.

## **Features**

- Virtual Schools is the ideal home school solution with a complete curriculum and assessment developed for South Africa.
- Learning material is provided via a guided study plan, textbooks and a web based portal, ensuring curriculum content is always up to date.
- Additional value added curriculum support and assessment services are available. This is either Virtual support or One on One tuition.
- 100% Aligned to the SA Curriculum requirements.
- Day to day lesson and progress plan. This is facilitated via the online portal.
- Online tracking system to track student performance.
- Loaded with Current Events studies that link learning back to actual world events.

The core curriculum consists of a fully integrated, blended, day-to-day, scheduled curriculum which allows the learner to study at their own pace, and to allow them to be fully aware of the requirements which are set out in our learning system. This leads to maturity in learning. The lessons and resources enable the teacher / parent or tutor to guide the student through the required materials in a systematic, professional manner and efficient manner. This results in the building of solid foundations on which future studies will be based. Learning materials are delivered via a range of both computer based as well as traditional textbook materials.

### **How does Assessment Work? (Self / External)**

#### **Self**

The Self-assessment method comes in the form of June / July and November / December test and is pre-packaged in the educational pack. Parents are provided with the answer keys required to complete the assessment.

#### **External**

External assessment is arranged with your dedicated educational consultant. This comes in the form of 2 annual examinations written under parental supervision.

#### **Report**

A formal Report is issued only when the learner is registered for External Formal Assessment. Speak to the customer services representative today.

#### **Assessment and Grading Codes**

Excellent 80% – 100%

Well Done 70% – 79%

Exceeding Expectations 60% – 69%

Satisfactory 50% – 59%

Moderate 40% – 49%

Requires Development 30% – 39%

Requires Significant Development 0% – 29%

#### **Curriculum Consulting Services**

2 Hours of curriculum consulting services are included in the standard package. Additional hours can be purchased at a rate of R200 per hour.

#### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year. Simply contact the office on

087 808 6972 and all admission requirements will be discussed with you by a friendly service representative.

#### **Curriculum - Grade R**

Grade R is the first formal year of school. Students are usually between 4.5 and 5.5 years old. The study in grade R covers the following;

1. ABC / 123 – The Alphabet and Number Set.
2. Play and Learn – A number of fun activities to be completed.
3. A Number of defined components such as:
  1. The human body.
  2. Shapes.
  3. Animals.
  4. Sports.
  5. Jobs and Careers.

6. Plants.
7. Fish and the Oceans.
8. Space and Earth.
9. Senses
10. Vegetables and Fruit
11. Days, months, years and seasons
12. Others...

**Base Cost:** R1990 (Payment options below subject to change without notice – stop orders only)

<b>GRADE R</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 1 890
Deposit + 4 instalments	990	250	250	250	250					R 1 990
Deposit + 6 instalments	1070	170	170	170	170	170	170			R 2 090
Deposit + 8 instalments	1070	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	R 2 190

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

## **Curriculum - Grade 1 – 3**

### **The Foundation Phase**

With our cutting edge solution your first day of learning is in your home with your parent / guardian / Tutor. Our curriculum has been developed by leading South African educators. Virtual School is a true home school solution and offers every learner endless possibilities to achieve their best. Join us on the journey to successful, lifelong learning.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year.

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) R3190 (Payment options below subject to change without notice – stop orders only)

<b>GRADE 1 - 3</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 3 030
Deposit + 4 instalments	1350	460	460	460	460					R 3 190
Deposit + 6 instalments	1350	360	360	360	360	360	360			R 3 510
Deposit + 8 instalments	1430	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	R 3 830

Formal assessment 1 R650 Formal assessment 2 R650

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client prior to delivery

### **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skills, English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language

## **Curriculum - Grade 4 – 6**

### **Intermediate Phase (Gr 4 – 6)**

A very flexible solution for the middle grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us Today.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year.

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R5 000** (Payment options below subject to change without notice – stop orders only)

<b>GRADE 4 - 6</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 4 750
Deposit + 4 instalments	2510	625	625	625	625					R 5 000
Deposit + 6 instalments	2510	500	500	500	500	500	500			R 5 500
Deposit + 8 instalments	2600	425	425	425	425	425	425	425	425	R 6 000

Formal assessment 1 R1000 Formal assessment 2 R1000

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

## **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skill,s English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language,

Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Geography & History), Economic and Management Sciences (only Gr 7)

## **Curriculum - Grade 7**

A very flexible solution for the middle grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us today.

### **Fees Grade 7**

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R5 900** (Payment options below subject to change without notice – debit orders only)

<b>GRADE 7</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 5 600
Deposit + 4 instalments	3000	725	725	725	725					R 5 900
Deposit + 6 instalments	3000	580	580	580	580	580	580			R 6 480
Deposit + 8 instalments	3080	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	R 7 080

Formal assessment 1 R1000 Formal assessment 2 R1000.

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

## **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skills, English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language,

Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Geography & History), Economic and Management Sciences (only Gr 7)

## **Curriculum - Grade 8 – 9**

### **Senior Phase (Gr 8 – 9)**

A very flexible solution for the middle grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us Today.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year.

## Fees

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R7 000** (Payment options below subject to change without notice – debit orders only)

<b>GRADE 8 - 9</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 6 650
Deposit + 4 instalments	3000	1000	1000	1000	1000					R 7 000
Deposit + 6 instalments	3000	780	780	780	780	780	780			R 7 680
Deposit + 8 instalments	3000	675	675	675	675	675	675	675	675	R 8 400
Formal assessment 1	R2 500									
Formal assessment 2	R2 500									

## Text book delivery charges

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

## Required Subjects

Mathematics, Life Skills, English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Geography & History), Economic and Management Sciences

## Curriculum - Grade 10

### The Further Education and Training Phase (FET) (Grades 10-12)

A very flexible solution for the NSC grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us Today.

### How different is the first nine years of schooling from that of grades 10-12?

During the first nine years of training in the General Education and Training Phase you were introduced to eight learning areas, which are a combination of various subjects. In the Further Education and Training Phase the learner will be introduced to additional individual subjects, which made up the eight learning areas.

## Fees

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R11 000** (Payment options below subject to change without notice – debit orders only)

<b>GRADE 10</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 10 450
Deposit + 4 instalments	5000	1500	1500	1500	1500					R 11 000
Deposit + 6 instalments	5000	1180	1180	1180	1180	1180	1180			R 12 080
Deposit + 8 instalments	5000	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	R 13 200
Formal assessment 1	R2 500									
Formal assessment 2	R2 500									

## Text book delivery charges

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

## Required Subjects

Seven subjects comprising 4 compulsory and three optional subjects. A learner in Further Education and Training must select the following four compulsory subjects from the list of compulsory subjects below:

English Home Language  
Afrikaans First Additional Language or IsiZulu  
Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy  
Life Orientation

*A learner must select a minimum of **any three subjects** selected from the list of optional subjects as below:*

Accounting, Agricultural Sciences, Business Studies, Computer Applications Technology, Consumer Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Engineering Graphics and Design, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Tourism.

## **Strategic Alliance Partnerships**

Strategic alliance partnerships have been concluded with other service providers to the education sector to ensure that Virtual Schools customers receive the best possible homeschool experience at an affordable price.

These are:

**Future Class Education** – Homeschool support [www.futureclass.co.za](http://www.futureclass.co.za)



For those who wish to send their children to private schools but cannot afford to, homeschooling is a more affordable alternative. However, not all home school parents are able to manage this on their own due to work commitments and cost restraints so they are left with three options:

1. Send their child/children back to school, which they are reluctant to do. or;
2. Enroll the services of a full-time Teacher/Tutor who comes to their home at a monthly cost of R 6,000 upwards. or;
3. Find a reputable private home school centre such as Future Class Education and Child Day Care Centre where their child/children can be better assisted and supervised at a more affordable price.

### **Unique selling point**

Future Class Education and Child Day Care Centres have a unique concept which contributes to its undeniable success. It is an affordable one-stop-learning-centre for the entire family covering Grades R – 12 as well as study skills, English pronunciation and early reading skills workshops as well as other related services. In addition to the extensive services and curriculum offered, each Future Class Home School will also offer weekend speciality classes for children and adults.

### **Future Class and Child Day Care Services offered**

1. Full-time Child Day Care
2. Part-time/After School Care
3. After School Tutoring
4. Homeschool Support
5. Study Skills workshops
6. Face Clues workshops
7. Computer literacy workshops
8. Adult literacy workshops
9. Language tuition

**Bookshelf** - Leading website textbook supplier in South Africa. [www.bookshelf.co.za](http://www.bookshelf.co.za)

bookshelf



*Fully aligned to the South African curriculum.*

**Weblessons eLearning Solutions** - A Complete Digital Learning System.  
[www.weblessons.co.za](http://www.weblessons.co.za)



For parents who make the commitment to either teach their children at home, or those that wish to supplement their school learning by purchasing appropriate learning materials, this can be both challenging and time consuming. Appropriate books, software, and other materials are available, but they can be difficult to find and expensive to purchase. Many excellent lesson resources are available on the Internet, but it takes too much time and effort to find the best sites and create lessons around them.

WebLessons is the solution. With WebLessons, a standard Internet connection turns your Web browser into a full-featured digital learning system. Imagine having the best sites on the Web right at your fingertips, with study questions, quizzes, vocabulary, and other learning activities built right in. It's all online so there are no printed materials to buy, and your children are free to work at their own individual pace.

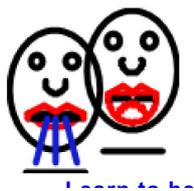
**Study Skills** - Study Skills for Homeschoolers. [www.studyskills.co.za](http://www.studyskills.co.za)



**The “Study Skills for Homeschoolers” courses are run for Grades 4 to 12**

The course will help learners to:

- Study and learn effectively
- Work hard and work smart
- Reduce study stress
- Achieve better marks and results
- Improve time management
- Build confidence and motivation



### **The Magic**

Communication is a kind of magic. It enables us to understand and be understood and gives us control over our environment. The Face Clues Programme shows, by means of simple mouth position diagrams, how easy it is to hear and pronounce all the different sounds of a language. Reading, comprehension and writing skills are vital for a child's future education, but they are dependent upon the correct hearing, pronunciation and manipulation of the sounds of the language. When learning to pronounce sounds, we need to first listen to them and learn how they are formed. This can be achieved with the aid of the Face Clues. The "Face Clues" for Home Schoolers" courses are run for all grades as well as parents, individuals and corporate employees.

### **Uses of the Face Clues**

The Face Clues is an ideal way for any individual to acquire.

- \* auditory discrimination
- \* accurate pronunciation
- \* auditory processing skills, such as:
  - analysis
  - synthesis
  - blending
  - sequencing
  - rhyming
  - alliteration, and elementary reading

### **Other uses of the Face Clues:**

- For use with speech and hearing difficulties
- Used to teach adults to read and for treating dyslexia

**TutorMaster** - Connecting Learners and Tutors. [www.tutormaster.co.za](http://www.tutormaster.co.za)



TutorMaster was established in 2007 and plays an important roll in matching the educational needs of learners with high caliber teaching and tutoring staff. We bring together technology and education to create comprehensive, cutting-edge solutions for learners, parents and corporates alike. TutorMaster is a virtual one-stop-tutoring-shop for the entire family covering primary school, high school and university. TutorMaster has a network of around 7000 teachers/tutors countrywide using our custom developed online management system.

### **TutorMaster Teacher & Tutor Placement Service**

Our teachers and tutors go to the customers home or office to do one-on-one tutoring. They are either educators or university students in their 2nd year or above and have excelled in the subject in which they tutor. All our tutors are screened for academic excellence. At TutorMaster, we develop the habits, attitudes; outlook and learning skills a child needs to achieve succeed in school, college and in life. We see the bigger picture, and we develop our operating model using best practice. Since 2007, we've helped hundreds of families and care providers safely connect online for local jobs. TutorMaster is the most trusted job matching service used by families to find affordable, trustworthy caregivers, providing a safe place to easily connect, get advice and hire with confidence.

The service helps families and caregivers find the best possible two-way match through personalized searches and detailed profiles including background checks, online interviews, references, reviews, and more.