

The Eclectic Report

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Face Book at: North Dakota Home School Association

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Greetings!

Just think: in about 4 months we will begin receiving 2015 seed catalogs. It's my way of dealing with the season that comes after fall. We have had such a lovely autumn that there is absolutely no room for complaint. I'm still harvesting cabbage, carrots, cukes, and onions. We had abundant crops in everything but

tomatoes. I'm looking for tips on guaranteeing ripe tomatoes before the first frost while living in the Red River Valley. Helpful hints welcome.

2014 slipped by in a hurry and we now approach 2015. Odd year; legislative session. The *Legislative Watch* will begin publication January 9.

Get out and vote (said sternly)! What a wonderful blessing to live in a land where we have a say in our government. Note the article below on Measure 1. Additional link included for the other 7 measures on the ballot.

I've included some information on testing requirements and on opting out of the testing; and information on VFW scholarships.

May you enjoy your fall activities keeping in mind that it is God who brings about the changes in the seasons, therefore they are *all* good.

Grace and peace,
Gail



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

I want to publicly thank the NDHSA board of directors this month. I appreciate each one for the unique gifts and perspectives God has given them. But especially I want to thank them for the appreciation party they surprised me with at our annual board retreat! I am still enjoying the beautiful bouquet and the office supplies will be very useful. I have to say the chocolate is long gone, however. *(They know my love of chocolate so well that I received two small chocolate scented candles!)* I **did not eat them**, but they sure smell yummy!

I also want to thank the board for allowing Karol, Jeff and me to attend the annual Alliance of Christian Home Education Leaders and Home School Legal Defense Association's National Conference. I am writing this before I leave and anticipate learning many things to help us better serve the homeschoolers of North Dakota and surrounding areas.

Finally I want to thank all who have prayed for me and my family after the loss of my brother. Your notes and emails have meant a lot. Thanks, as well, for your patience. Some days I still operate in a sort of fog. I don't know how long that will last, but talking to others who have lost a family member to suicide I realize this is pretty normal.

May the Lord continue to bless each one of you as you continue this adventure, called homeschooling, which He has led you to!

Editor's note: We praise God for raising up someone so diligent, wise, and encouraging. The board hit the jackpot when they picked Theresa!



Logo design by Josiah Kopp

COMMON CORE

From an Indiana state homeschool leader:

The author is a homeschooling mom with an engineering degree and has tutored public school children in Common Core math.

She bases her conclusions on what she has seen of the curriculum first hand. Her final summary statement: "If we want to destroy math and science education in this country, keep Common Core."

Read the article here:

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/09/ncommon_not_core.html

From the North Dakota Family Alliance:

The Quiet Revolution and a Call to Action

Sarah Perry, J.D., is the Common Core Coalition Manager, Family Research Council. She recently spoke at the NDFA's Family Values Forum. Perry described the Common Core Standards, giving a brief history of their development and describing how they are different from the previous standards and listed some of their shortcomings. Get Sarah Perry's presentation on Common Core by clicking [here](#).

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium was also a primary topic of discussion at the event. SBAC is the organization in charge of the new ND state assessment, aligned with Common Core Standards, which will begin use in the Spring of 2015. SBAC tests are computer-based and adaptive (which means that questions will get harder if a student answers questions correctly or easier if a student answers incorrectly), and they will be used to measure whether or not a district is meeting adequate yearly progress.

N.D. Testing Requirements

N.D. law requires testing for each homeschooled child in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10. The test must be a standardized achievement test if you are using one supplied by your school district or it must be a nationally normed standardized achievement test if you are renting one. The test must be administered in its norming period and in the child's learning environment or at the local public school. A North Dakota state certified teacher must administer the test. Test scores must be filed with the school district. If you wish to opt out of the testing based on your philosophical, moral or religious belief, you must meet certain academic requirements: be a state certified teacher **or** hold a baccalaureate degree **or** meet or exceed the cut off scores on a national teacher exam. If you choose to opt out you must include that notification *when you file your statement of intent*.

Mandatory Kindergarten

Comes up every Legislative Session

Read this fine article on the subject:

http://www.hslda.org/docs/nche/Issues/S/State_Early_Education.asp

Suggested reading: *Is Your Child Ready for School?* by Judith Davis Kuhn

Worth reading ... no such formula exists! Click on title.

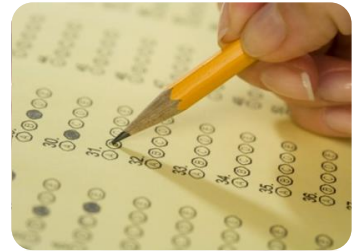
[How to Stop Searching for the Perfect Parenting Formula](#)

Testing to OPT OUT of Testing

The Praxis I test is no longer published by Educating Testing Services. This test was being used by parent educators in N.D. who wanted an academic qualification to opt out of testing based on philosophical, moral, or religious beliefs. ETS has ceased publishing it.

Core Academic Skills for Educators will now be available. These tests measure academic skills in reading, writing and mathematics (same as the Praxis I). They are designed to provide comprehensive assessments that measure the skills and content knowledge of candidates entering teacher preparation programs. [See Praxis Core information](#). The three tests cover the same subjects as the Praxis I, can be taken one at a time or all at once, and they are given in various locations around

the state on specified dates. There are cut-off scores as before. Cost: \$85 per test or \$135 if you do it all on one day. N.D. specific information at: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/nd>



NDHSA supports Measure 1 - The Human Life Amendment



Measure 1

The inalienable right to life of every human being at any stage of development must be recognized and protected.



The North Dakota Home School Association board SUPPORTS Measure 1, the Human Life Amendment.

The NDHSA strongly supports and encourages you to VOTE **YES** on one of the most historic measures to ever be decided by North Dakotans. The measure will add a statement about an otherwise unaddressed issue in the N.D. State Constitution. It is *not* a law and will *not* execute any laws. It is intended to protect the laws we already have in the Century Code. There are some rather disingenuous ads running; some implying passage would change current laws; some warning that its passage will void end-of-life directives (I'm thinking of the well-known senior citizen organization currently funding an anti-Measure 1 ad—another reason why *this* senior citizen does not belong to *that* group!). Pray for God's will regarding Measure 1. And do your part: Get out and vote!

We are grateful to the North Dakota Family Alliance for their information and work on this important vote. Also, thanks to Sen. Margaret Sitte who was the primary sponsor of the 2013 bill mandating this vote by N.D. electors. I saved a *World* magazine article (4-20-13) in which Sen. Sitte was quoted, "We are intending that it be a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*, since [Justice Antonin] Scalia said that the Supreme Court is waiting for states to raise a case."

Interesting note: [ND Choose Life](#), the committee supporting Measure I reported raising \$593,601, with all but \$2,700 coming from donors in North Dakota. North Dakotans Against Measure 1, however, raised \$1,118,063, but only \$57,013 in reported contributions (5%) came from North Dakotans.

There will be 8 measures on the 2014 General Election ballot to be decided by North Dakota voters. For general election information go to [the ND Sec of State Elections website](#). For measure language go to [official ballot language](#). For detailed measure analysis from the Secretary of State's website go to [Sec of State Analyses](#).

VFW & LADIES AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary scholarship programs:

Voice of Democracy

Grades 9-12

Audio Essay Scholarship

Deadline: November 1, 2014

Sponsored by: VFW and Ladies Auxiliary

Submit entry to: Local VFW

Patriot's Pen

Grades 6-8

Essay Scholarship

Deadline: November 1, 2014

Sponsored by: VFW and Ladies Auxiliary

Submit entry to: Local VFW

Young American Creative Patriot Art Award Contest

Grades 9-12

Deadline: March 31, 2015

Sponsored by: The VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Submit entry to: Local VFW

QUESTIONS? Don't know where your local VFW is? Contact Laurie Asmus, Fargo VFW Post #762, Ladies Auxiliary President and N.D. VFW LA Youth Activities Chairman, at imamus@aol.com or call her at 701.261.9793 (c)



The Charlotte Mason Method

By Karen Andreola

(From *The Old Schoolhouse's Spotlight on 5*)

Editor's note: I have found so many helpful ideas in *Charlotte Mason Companion* that I recommend it to many even if you do not use the CM method.

The teaching method of Christian British educator, Miss Charlotte Mason, makes a good fit in today's homeschool. In her writings Miss Mason insists upon using "living books" as schoolbooks. These enliven the mind and secure interest. Classroom textbooks, compiled by a committee, tend to be crammed with dry facts and information. Living books, by contrast, are often written by one author who enthusiastically shares his favorite subject with us.

[\(Rest of the article . . .\)](#)

PRAY without Ceasing . . .

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llora Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** **Ask** our dear Lord to give them courage and comfort and strength.
- **Pray** for single parent homeschoolers. Help them if you can.
- **Pray** for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them so that if they are called upon to make the ultimate avowal of their faith, death, their testimony will be one of victory to the very end. Pray for Iraqi and Syrian Christians.
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. treaties and parental rights.
- **Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group, on your block, in your city.
- **Intercede** for those with physical ailments; ask God to give them the measure of health that will most glorify Him.
- **Pray** that we will be known as Christians because we are devoted to one another and we meet the needs of those in distress.
- **Pray** diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with godly wisdom. Pray for his family (living in a fish bowl isn't easy!).
- **Pray** for wisdom and that God will keep us from foolish leaders, prevaricating teachers, and silly pursuits. Help us, Lord!

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb.4:15-16, ESV

Send your prayer requests to office@ndhsa.org or billbiby@msn.com

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concerning homeschooling, contact Dewitt Black, HSLDA attorney of reference, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at billbiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 24 years. She writes a regular column for *Eternal Encouragement* magazine (a magazine by and for Christian women), serves on the advisory board for Mark Hamby's Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill, and right next door to their daughter Aimee, son-in-love, Ray, and their six children. Contact her at: billbiby@msn.com

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NDHSA statement of faith

Trusting in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we believe in Almighty God, the author of all creation; the Bible as the inspired Word of God, complete in 66 books and the basis of faith and practice; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, His bodily resurrection and His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit.

NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

The Eclectic Report

Gail Biby, Editor

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