

The Eclectic Report

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Face Book at: North Dakota Home School Association

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Greetings!

It's not summer officially until June 21 so maybe that is why we have had such depressing weather. We started out in a drought but have now had *many* inches of rain with some of the rivers flowing above flood stage. With the soggy, wet ground we haven't been any where near the 'big' garden. It is so late that I will probably have to revamp my garden plans--probably too late for the squashes, likely another distressing year for tomatoes (no salsa again!) though the tomato plants on my window ledges are two feet tall. Oh, well, like my granddaughters have reminded me, "It is God who opens the storehouses of heaven and sends forth the rain and the snow." So be it. No whining allowed!

We enjoy summers, even if cool, because of the wide variety of birds at the Blessed Life Ranch: robins, redstarts, killdeers, tree swallows, goldfinches, hummers, downy and hairy woodpeckers, orchard and Baltimore orioles, redwing blackbirds, bob-o-links and a variety of raptors. I have passed on a love of birding to my grandchildren; it will stay with them all their lives. Much more importantly I pray I am passing on a spiritual heritage. Once I have gone to be with Jesus, I pray my dear ones will know that despite my many failings (TNTC!) I loved them more than my own life and I loved our dear Lord Jesus wholeheartedly.

So as you spend time outdoors, vacationing, weeding in the garden, bird watching, swimming, biking, riding horseback, and many other great options during our brief summers, maybe you will think of the legacy you are leaving your dear ones . . . is it worthy of our dear Lord Jesus; is it eternal?

Gail



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

This month I want to send out a **SALUTE** to all those hard working **support group leaders**. I think of our own group leader who arranges our weekly schedule, sends out

emails, adds to our Face book page, makes up the bulletins for our annual fine arts programs, answers questions from new homeschoolers to the area and even directs our homeschool choir! There are other tasks too numerous to mention.

In some groups the support group leader also does testing for the group, maintains a website or arranges field trips. Each one is an encouragement and support person in their local area, giving a face to homeschooling or a listening ear.

They gladly answer questions and share advice. If they don't know an answer, they go looking for it. All this is done for the love of homeschooling and the desire to serve others. They do it without pay or accolades, often taking time away from helping their own children with school work.

Many of these leaders were never "voted" into their position, but just started a group in order to encourage home educators in their own area. They saw a need and filled it.

I rely on these local leaders, directing new homeschoolers to their groups regularly. **I want to personally thank each one for all you do to better the homeschool community.** God knows your heart and His dear Son, Jesus, is our example. May He richly bless your servant heart!

13th Annual Prairie Days

June 27 8:00 a.m. to June 28 10:00 a.m.

Mark Dagley Farmstead
3329 20th St.
New Salem, ND 58563

Family FUN Days

July 3-5, 2015

Make your Fourth of July weekend special and join the Sip Family.

More news to come!

wbspip@loretel.net

Home School Roundup

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Watford City, ND

Watford City Civic Center

Featured Speaker: Chuck Black

Workshop presenters: Chuck Black, Theresa Deckert, Lora Knight and others TBA.

Morning and afternoon general sessions and workshops held throughout the day. Plus a mini-vendor hall.

For more info on the **Roundup** contact

office@ndhsa.org



Glutton for punishment?

If you would like to review the entire set of 15 *Legislative WATCHes* for the 2015 legislative session, go to:

<https://goo.gl/gfHCXQ>

Thank you **Rep. Chris Olson** for making these so easy to retrieve. This link is also at our website:

www.ndhsa.org

Visit our website: www.ndhsa.org Summer office hours vary; emails preferable office@ndhsa.org

Like us on Face Book: North Dakota Home School Association

Home Educators Represented on New Task Force

From the NDHSA Board of Directors

Many have heard of the testing task force that Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler, is launching this summer. The NDHSA was contacted by her requesting that we have a representative from the homeschool community on that committee. The board consulted with Dewitt Black, senior counsel of Home School Legal Defense Association. Dee's comments:

"As long as homeschoolers are required by the law to test, it's important that they continue to be able to choose a nationally normed standardized achievement test instead of the state tests. Since N.D. has adopted the Common Core State Standards and the associated assessments, I wouldn't want DPI to think it would be a good idea to change the law to require homeschoolers to take the state tests instead of the other option now available. I don't think your participation would be an endorsement of the testing of homeschool students. It's simply being there to try to protect your interests in light of the current law."

After prayer and much discussion the board contacted Pastor Jeff Hoverson, Minot, to see if he would be willing to serve in this capacity. He has agreed. Pastor Jeff brings experience as a homeschooling dad, past legislative team member and has an education background. He also believes in parental rights and freedom in education. Please be in prayer for him and his family as he represents the interests of those homeschoolers who must still test. Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for your willingness to serve parent educators!

IMPORTANT NOTE: In North Dakota parent educators may opt out of testing in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10 if they have a philosophical, moral or religious belief in opposition to such. They must have a baccalaureate degree OR be N.D. state-certified teacher, OR have met or exceeded the cut-off scores on a national teacher exam.

Editor's Note: We have subscribed to *World* magazine for many years. For news from around the world and at home, news with thoughtful coverage, and all from a biblical worldview, *World* magazine can't be beat. I would subscribe for Andree Sue Peterson's column alone!

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This is the first study of its kind. And the findings are provocative.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to explore the academic achievement of Black homeschool students in Grades 4 to 8 as it relates to various demographic features of the students and their families. Also, the study was designed to better understand these African American parents' motivations for homeschooling. This study is meant to be the first of its type for approaching these two aspects of this group of homeschoolers' lives.

[See Dr. Ray talk about the study.](#)

Methods

This is a cross-sectional, explanatory nonexperimental study. The design controlled for limited background independent variables for the homeschool and public-school students in a way that very few studies have ever accomplished.

The homeschool students were engaged in private home-based education for 50 percent or more of his or her Kindergarten through current grade-level years. Black, when referring to the homeschool students in this study, is defined as the parent having identified the child as "Black (or African American)" and both of the child's parents were identified as "Black (or African American)" regarding race/ethnicity. About 40 percent of the homeschool students were boys, and 60 percent girls. Their academic achievement was measured using the well-recognized, nationally normed, standardized academic achievement test called the *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)*.

It is important to note that this study is not designed to compare Black homeschool students' achievement to all homeschool students' achievement in preceding studies. Also, it is not known whether this sample is representative of all U.S. Black homeschool families, and therefore one should be cautious regarding generalizations. Further, it is not an experimental study that is designed, in and of itself, to establish cause-and-effect.

Read more on this important study and its findings at: [See Dr. Ray talk about the study.](#) **Learn more about the study of Blacks homeschooling and how to get a copy of it, [click here.](#)**

Two ways to help NHERI:

1. Send a check to: NHERI, PO Box 13939, Salem OR 97309 (using a check puts the largest percent of your gift to work at NHERI)
2. [Donate online.](#)

NHERI, PO Box 13939, Salem OR 97309, USA

WWII Field Trip Guide

Dear friends at NDHSA,

My name is John Notgrass, and I am a homeschool graduate. My grandfather Wesley Notgrass served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Hearing his stories contributed to my personal interest in that period of history.

I have just compiled a guide to 450 sites in all 50 states where homeschooling families can learn about World War II. This illustrated guide helps families find WWII museums, planes, tanks, ships, submarines, POW camps, and more.

Our publishing company has made this ebook available at no charge with no obligation. Our website gives people the option to sign up for our company email newsletters, but that is not required to access the download.

Guide available at: <http://notgrass.com/ww2>

Notgrass History

Teaching the Heart, Soul, and Mind™

Direct Line: 636-336-2521

Toll-Free: 800-211-8793

www.notgrass.com books@notgrass.com

Animation Course

Chad Stewart, veteran Disney animator and homeschool Dad, is offering a 12 week **online animation course** for 11-18 year olds. He is also teaching an **online drawing class** for both elementary and upper grade levels. Weekly classes are one hour long and the cost is \$300. The fall session begins September 21st. Registration is limited to 20 students. Please send inquiries to kayla@theanimcourse.com or check out our website:

www.theanimcourse.com

Animation LEVEL 1 Covers:

- The Principles of Animation
- Traditional Hand Drawn Animation
- Computer Generated Animation
- Joint Critiques of Student Work
- Animation History
- "How did they do that?" - Explanation of Visual Effect Techniques from Film and Television and much more.

Drawing LEVEL 1 Covers:

- Perspective & How to "See"
- Texture & Line and Shape
- Design
- Light, Shadow & Silhouette
- Introduction to "Creating a Character" and much more

Please contact us for more information!

Chad and Kayla Stewart

661-755-5775



A word from Elisabeth Elliot in Twelve Baskets of Crumbs

God is not yet finished with his work. We are unfinished souls; his world is marred and bleared with suffering. But the hand that held the seven stars in the book of the Revelation is the hand that is laid on us as it was on John, and it is the voice that sounded like thunder and like a giant waterfall that speaks those quiet words, 'Fear not. I am the First and the Last. I died . . . I am alive . . . I have the keys.'

A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF!

From HSLDA:

[Arkansas: Law Removes State from Common Core Testing Consortium](#)

Governor Asa Hutchinson has signed into law a measure which removes Arkansas from the Common Core testing consortium. [Read more >>](#)

From Emily Dosch:

On Michael Farris day in Bismarck: [Michael Farris.pdf](#)

Thank you, Emily!

From Homeschool Life - One side of the issue

Recently released research [did not find any association](#) between autism and the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine.

From North Dakota Family Alliance

Legislative Scorecard Now Available!

View the scorecard on our website [here](#).

Download a copy of our scorecard [here](#).

Exciting Opportunity

Do you have an interest in **Christian filmmaking**? Are you not sure what is the next step to further your education?

The **Midwest Christian Filmmakers Academy** is announcing their 2nd annual hands-on film academy taking place this summer in **Detroit Lakes, MN**. This is a 5 day event where you will learn about promotional media production, hands-on. The first 2 days you will be coached through the process of writing, storyboarding, and shooting a short promotional video and the last 3 days you will be able to work on set as a Production Assistant for the 2015 official production.

The film our students and teachers made last year just won first place at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in San Antonio, TX. You can view it at our web site listed below.

What: Hands-on Filmmaking Academy

Where: Detroit Lakes, MN

When: July 20-24, 2015

Who: Serious filmmaking students ages 14 and above

Cost: \$799 early bird rate - includes professional training, 6 nights lodging, all meals, and ground transportation

More Info: www.mwcfa.org

Contact: Lori Kenney, lori@mwcfa.org

Featured article from CrossWalk.com

Is Socialization Really a Homeschool Problem After All?

By Dr. Gary Welton

Parents who home school their children are asked: What about socialization? But maybe socialization is a religious phenomenon.

[READ FULL ARTICLE >>](#)

Reading for the SUMMER

[TOS.Print.2013.SuperStorage.MollyGreen.docx](#) (19.1 KB) [View online](#) ,

[TOS.BB.2013.CarolBarnier.docx](#) (16.8 KB) [View online](#) ,

[TOS.BB.2014.HomeEducated.BrianDRay.docx](#) (66.2 KB) [View online](#) ,

[TOS.Feb.2013.OvercomingHurdles.DebWuehler.docx](#) (22.8 KB) [View online](#)

[TOS.Feb.2013.TheClarkCrew.ShannaClark.docx](#) (17.7 KB) [View online](#) ,

[TOS.Feb.2013.WhyDoesWritingMatter.Harper.doc](#) (32.4 KB) [View online](#)

From Home Science Tools

Simple DNA Extraction Project

Learn about DNA and do a simple experiment using common household items to extract some of your own DNA from your cheek cells!
[Get cheek cell DNA project](#)

Go here for more great ideas: [Home Science Tools](#)

Screenwriting, or writing for the movies, makes a fun option for a summer elective. Sarah Pride organized her own Christian film festival in Virginia for two years, mentored other writers through the **168 Film Project**, and produced short films in the DC area. She teaches online through her website, [historyandlanguage.com](#).

Now offered for the second summer-- **SCREENWRITING**-- cost: \$250/student; ages 14 and older; covers:

- The mechanics of screenwriting
- How to incorporate beauty, goodness, and truth into any story
- How to analyze movies for what works and what doesn't

The class is designed to fit flexibly into busy summer schedules, with most interactions occurring over a private, group blog. We will have biweekly chat sessions as well, with times scheduled for the convenience of those who enroll. Class will run June through August.

Visit [historyandlanguage.com](#) now and send Sarah a note through her [online form](#) to get started!

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING . . .

-**Pray for** our board: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham**. Pray for them regarding all issues of board governance. Pray for our new testing task force member, Pas. Jeff Hoverson, Minot.

-**Pray for** single parent homeschoolers. Maybe God would use you to come alongside and help them with childcare, finances, curriculum.

-**Continue to Pray** for those with health challenges: Nathaniel Breuer, 12th grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); Nancy Larsen (and family) as she continues to successfully recuperate from chemo; and Jon Leedahl (Adie, too) who is now back in the states learning to walk all over again with his new leg. Praise the Lord for His work in their lives.

-**Beseech** our dear Lord Jesus to make His presence known, pour out His mercy, and overwhelm with grace the Alvin Reich family. Alvin went to be with Jesus recently and leaves 3 children still being homeschooled, 4 children graduated, and his wife, Becky. This is a hard thing.

-**Pray** for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them to the very end. Pray for Iraqi, Syrian, and Libyan Christians. Pray for Christians in Kenya, and Niger. *Open Doors USA* reports that 100 million Christians are persecuted globally. Many are dying with the name of our dear Lord Jesus on their lips. Pray for those fearful mommies and their little ones as they run, hide or die because they are 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. **PRAISE the Lord** they are carefully watching the latest trend i.e. "medical kidnapping". **THANK God** for Dee Black and his many years of wise, gentle, and patient assistance to N.D. parent educators and NDHSA staff.

-**Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group, on your block, in your city, in North Dakota.

-**Pray** diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with godly wisdom.

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 billbibi@msn.com

NDHSA Board of Directors

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Troy and Kristin Durham, directors, 701.298.3414 or tkdurham@ideaone.net

NDHSA statement of faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

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

The Eclectic Report is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice 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 billbibi@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 has written a regular column for *Eternal Encouragement* magazine (a magazine by and for Christian women), serves on the advisory board for Mark Hamby's Lampighter 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: billbibi@msn.com

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