

# The Eclectic Report

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Face Book at: [North Dakota Home School Association](http://North Dakota Home School Association)

Volume 5 Issue 8 Editor: Gail M. Biby [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com) August 2015

## Greetings!

We've reached another milestone in our lives. Bill and I have been married 35 years and I turned 66. I am amazed at how quickly those years have passed. I've spent a lot of time in my garden this summer weeding and praying and sometimes weeping; at times I have regrettably pleaded, whined and bargained with the King of Glory--very impudent and imprudent of me. I have been reading a thought provoking book by one of the all-time-great theologians A.W.Pink, loaned to me by a great friend of ours. The book has given me many hours of thought (Pink was a lot smarter than me so some things have required MUCH thought!). It has also curbed the whining and complaining considerably. And the sloth.

As summer slips away we begin to gear up for the coming school season. I have included a brief overview of the law in this edition, just as a gentle reminder of what is required in North Dakota. For a copy of the NDCC for parent education go to our website: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

Enjoy the remainder of this most wonderful time of the year!  
It passes so quickly!  
Grace and peace,  
**Gail**



Logo design by Josiah Kopp

## 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, Llorra 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](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

You will not want to miss this!

## SIP Family Camp SEPT. 4-7, 2015

Space is limited -- filling up quickly so we are only taking registration for *full weekend visitors*. Fees same as previously; save expense by coming at noon Friday & working on camp projects. Exciting family adventure. Contact Sips for more info at : [wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net)

## SPECIAL PRAYER reminder:

Please pray for **Pas. Jeff Hoverson** as he serves on the testing task force convened by the Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Baesler. It appears two other parent educators will also serve on this large task force (Is it just a behemoth committee to induce 'consensus?') so we can pray that at least the parent educators will be in agreement on assessment testing. Pray for the gift of wisdom from above (which "cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."). Pray also that Pas. Jeff will be wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove. Ask God to give him courage when needed and that He will speak through him.



## The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Many of us somewhat follow the public school calendar and so our thoughts are turning to a new school year. I wanted to share a few reminders as you begin. First, don't forget to file your statement of intent at least 14 days before you begin. This is filed with your local school district. The current form is available on our website ([ndhsa.org](http://ndhsa.org)) under "Forms and Publications."

If you have a high school student who is considering applying for the N.D. state scholarship, remember there are certain criteria that must be followed. There is a link on our website to the Department of Public Instruction's site which explains the requirements. Make sure you begin to document and meet the requirements beginning with the freshman year.

It was recently brought to my attention that there was new legislation this past session regarding the N.D. state grant. Homeschoolers were inadvertently missed in the language and so the N.D. University System has established documenting requirements for homeschoolers. Brenda from the N.D. University System states the following. "To qualify for the N.D. State Grant, students must now meet certain qualifications based on their high school credentials. Homeschooled students can qualify if they were schooled in accordance with NDCC 15.1-23. Specifically, this statute requires parents to file a **Statement of Intent each year** and for the curriculum to match those subjects required by N.D. law to be taught to public school students. In order for our office to determine eligibility for the N.D. State Grant for homeschool students, we are requiring the final high school transcript and the Statement of Intent for each year of high school. These documents are then evaluated to ensure that the student met the intent of NDCC 15.1-23."

**Please note: to be considered for this grant you must file a statement of intent each year of high school, not just until your child turns 16.**

May God bless you in this new school year as you raise your youngsters for His honor and glory! May He give you wisdom from above, patience that surprises you, and strength for each day!!

**"My Grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."**

2 Corinthians 12:9

**Convention 2016 UPDATE:** Keynote speaker has been changed *from* Gregg Harris *to* ISRAEL WAYNE!

Some goodies from [fairtest.org](http://fairtest.org):

Are the PARCC Consortium Exams Toast?

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state\\_edwatch/2015/07/parcc\\_common\\_core\\_testing\\_shifting\\_strategy\\_and\\_landscape.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2015/07/parcc_common_core_testing_shifting_strategy_and_landscape.html)

More Students Than Ever Opted Out of Spring Testing

[http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/07/27/after-widespread-test-protests-last-fall-even-fewer-colorado-students-took-spring-tests/#.Vba\\_SZdLUZx](http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/07/27/after-widespread-test-protests-last-fall-even-fewer-colorado-students-took-spring-tests/#.Vba_SZdLUZx)

Teacher Survey Shows Negative Response to PARCC Tests

[https://greatschoolwars.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/riteachers\\_responses\\_to\\_parcc-2.pdf](https://greatschoolwars.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/riteachers_responses_to_parcc-2.pdf)

Parents Across America Decry Student Abuse From Test-Related Stress

<http://parentsacrossamerica.org/paa-position-paper-parents-stand-test-stress/>

### Mercy Every Minute

[Deborah Wuehler, TOS Senior Editor](#)

I **really need** a fresh start, which is why planning for the new school year brings great refreshment, and it comes right when I feel like I need to just scrap everything and start over! Anyone else feel that way?

Some of you plan years in advance what you will be studying and the curriculum you will use. Some plan during the summer for the next year. Some of you are very detailed oriented and some are not. Some plan each morning, and some of you wait until the end of the day and write down what really happened. God can use all these methods as they are yielded to Him. Seek Him FIRST, and God will give you wisdom for each child, and strength to carry it through. What I've learned about planning:

- Plan to make pursuing God your family's main purpose; don't just add God to your own cleverly devised plans. Don't ask Him to follow you and bless you; follow Him and bless Him.
- Our life is not our own to do with as we please, but to do what would please God. In the same way, our children are not ours to do with as we please, but to do what would please Him.
- After prayer, evaluate each child, do some research, make a simple plan, and present it to your spouse. Pray together, and then listen to what they have to say! They see things from a different perspective, so be willing to adapt the plan.
- Plan to give God's Word and prayer preeminence in your school day, and He will bless your efforts in the academics. He has a way of filling in gaps with knowledge and wisdom that we know nothing of.

*"Be confident of this very thing: that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6)*

*"For in Him we live, and move, and have our being . . ." (Acts 17:28).*

*"I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me" (Psalm 57:2).*

- Take heart in this: if you are seeking God, His wisdom, and His ways for each child, He will be faithful to lead you--today, and in the new school year. We gain strength and confidence by staying close to the Lord's side, doing His will in His strength for His children.

~Deborah  
[dwuehler@theoldschoolhouse.com](mailto:dwuehler@theoldschoolhouse.com)



# Why We Home Educate

By **Melissa Brown**, Williston Area Christian Home Educators (WACHE)

Why we chose to home educate (I personally love this term much more than homeschool because it tells more of what we really do. This is not school at home--school is set up to teach 30 kids of the same age the same set curriculum at a set pace-- that is exactly what we don't do.):

1. We set our own schedule--we learn a ton in the car, late at night, while sitting by the lake, on Saturdays, on Tuesdays--learning is not 8-3 M-F. And we can take vacations anytime we want!
2. My kids can learn at their own pace without being labeled. Some soar in reading, some in math, some struggle for it to really click a bit later than school would have liked. I appreciate that they aren't being labeled as slow or as gifted. They are just kids learning new things and working hard at it all--that is what I want for their entire lives!
3. I have a lot of control over what we teach. Of course my kids are kids and they learn things and read things I wish they never had for we are not living in some Utopia. We discuss all sides to situations and thoughts. I for sure teach them what we believe and what the Bible teaches (every teacher teaches their agenda whether consciously or not) but we also talk about what other people believe and why they believe it. We have time for all of the kids' questions. We can pour into some topics and we have the freedom to learn about whatever interests us, anything from computer programming to quilting--my kids have the freedom to learn real stuff, not just memorize facts for a test.
4. I love to put teachers in their lives; we seek out mentors constantly. The thing is: once again I get to choose. I know there are amazing, wonderful, gifted teachers out there, but they all aren't. I am glad that any teachers we do sit under, especially for long periods of time, are hand picked and we are not forced to have their influence over our children's lives if we don't want it.
5. We want a very strong root system for our children to grow from. I want these bonds to be strong and life giving. I so appreciate the relationship my older kids have with the younger; it is something that comes about by so much time together.
6. A friend figured out the hours once, sadly I don't have it exactly, but it was over 15,000 extra hours you get with your kids if you are home educating. I only have about 18 years (God willing) to love on these kids, to train them up, to let them dive into the topics that are on their hearts. I wouldn't trade it for all the lunches with friends, childless shopping trips, time at the gym and the clean house I sometimes dream of.

I could probably write an entire book on just this one topic, but I will stop here. I know this can come off a bit anti school- and my family is- FOR US. We all are called to different things; you do what you are led to. But, if you have been wondering about home educating your own kids, I am here to say you can do it, and do a great job of it!!!

Melissa Brown (WACHE – Williston Area Christian Home Educators)

Editor's note: *Thanks, Melissa, for sharing this great article with us. If readers have a why-we-homeschool article to be considered for publication, send it to: [billboby@msn.com](mailto:billboby@msn.com)*

From HSLDA

### [Reading Lists for Teens](#)

Whether you have a teen who is a voracious reader or one who is reluctant to pick up a book, you may be looking for suggestions to keep your teen reading, especially during the summer months. [Read more >>](#)



HSLDA's new and improved blog is live! Check out *Homeschooling Now* for great homeschooling tips, encouragement, success stories, and what the presidential candidates are saying about education. [View the blog >>](#)

## North Dakota Homeschool Laws--A Little Reminder

By Gail M. Biby



**Compulsory attendance law:** Even though every legislative session an attempt is made to either lower or raise the compulsory attendance law it remains at age 7 to age 16.

**State of intent:** You must file an annual statement of intent on each child between the ages of 7 and 16. It is filed with your school district of residence and must be accompanied by the child's proof of identity and immunization record. This form also provides a way to show which public school academic courses or extracurricular activities or approved nonpublic extracurricular activities you wish your child to participate in. No specific form is required, but I strongly recommend using the one published by the NDHSA and HSLDA as those published by the DPI have requested information NOT required by law. Find the form at our website: [ndhsa.org](http://ndhsa.org). The form contains the name and address of the child, his birth date and grade level (the parent decides the grade level, not necessarily based on age), the qualifications of the parent, the address of the family and **a section to opt out of mandatory testing based on philosophical, religious or moral beliefs**. I believe that your opt-out-of-testing choice must appear on the initial annual soi. This form is to be filed at least 14 days before you plan to begin homeschooling (or within 14 days of establishing a new residency). If you do not have a high school diploma or G.E.D. you may request a monitor from your local school district on the statement of intent.

**Parental qualifications:** In order to homeschool in N.D. the parent need have only a high school diploma or G.E.D. If the parent has neither she may still homeschool but will be required to be monitored for the first two years.

**Standardized achievement tests:** Testing is required in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10. However, you may opt out of testing based on philosophical, moral or religious beliefs in opposition to mandatory testing if you are academically qualified to do so. You must have a baccalaureate degree, be licensed to teach in N.D. or have met or exceeded the cutoff scores on a national teacher exam. If you choose to test you can request a standardized test be provided by your school district or you can rent test instruments available from a number of suppliers. Private testing means you bear all costs. And the test must be administered by a N.D. state certified teacher in either the local public school or in the child's learning environment. You are required to file the test results with your school district. I recommend you file a copy of the results and keep the original in your files.

**Files:** You are required by law to keep an annual record of the courses your child has taken and copies of progress assessments and standardized test results.

**Immunizations and proof of identity:** A copy of the child's immunization record (Dept. of Health's form at our website.) must accompany the soi; the lower section of the form deals with the opt-out provision based on a parent's philosophical, moral, or religious beliefs. Medical exemptions also allowed. The proof of identity must also be attached to the soi and can be a copy of the child's birth certificate (If you give them the original it is likely you will never get it back; copies cost money!) or it can be anything the school superintendent deems proof of identity.

**Developmental disability:** You may homeschool a developmentally disabled child; the law contains a list of requirements.

**Extracurricular activities:** The law allows homeschooled children to participate in extracurricular activities at the local school district or at an approved nonpublic school (if allowed by the school); the child must meet the same standards as required by students enrolled in the district.

**High school diplomas:** A public school or approved nonpublic school may issue a diploma to a homeschool graduate. The child would have to meet any requirements set by the issuing entity. To my knowledge, school districts in N.D. offer such a diploma only if the child becomes a public school student for a certain period of time (e.g. senior year). Such a diploma then is really a public school diploma.



More details on the law at: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) and [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

### Think on this . . .

(Snatched from Jonathan Lewis' article "Jesus or Homeschooling?", *Home School Enrichment* magazine, July/August 2015.)

Ultimately, homeschooling isn't an academic pursuit, but a spiritual one. It's not about producing geniuses, but raising a generation of godly young men and women to be salt and light in the world around us.

No form of education is the answer to our children's needs. But while secular public education excludes any mention of the real answer, as a homeschooling parent, you can exalt Him every day. That's the difference. That's why homeschooling is worth it.

### Congressman Wants CDC Investigated

Published August 3, 2015 | [Medical Literature](#)

"It's troubling to me that in a recent Senate hearing on childhood vaccinations, it was never mentioned that our government has paid out over \$3 billion to a Vaccine Injury Compensation Program for children who have been injured by vaccinations. Regardless of the subject matter, parents making decisions about their children's health deserve to have the best information available to them."

[Read More >](#)

# Are You Ready? A Workshop to Jumpstart Your School Year

Sessions:

The Morning Meeting - A Mother's Best Opportunity  
Setting Up for a Successful School Year  
Homeschooling with Preschoolers  
Teaching Ideas  
Parenting Principles  
Practically Getting It Done  
Keeping the Vision Before You

Send name, phone, email address, year of homeschooling and grades of homeschooled plus your \$15 check to:

Roxy Shorma  
8113 Brink Drive  
Horace, ND 58047

Check payable to Roxy Shorma—write MomsTeach on the memo line.  
(Presented by *MomsTeach*, a monthly teaching class for homeschool mothers.)

**Time: August 10** 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15 fee includes lunch

**Location:** Dakota Medical Foundation, 4141  
28th Ave. S., Fargo, ND

**Sponsored by:** MomsTeach

**Workshop leaders:** Natalie Krier, Roxy Shorma,  
Debbie Synstelien

**Contact for more info:** [roxyshorma@gmail.com](mailto:roxyshorma@gmail.com)

**REGISTER TODAY via email  
if you plan to attend!**



## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING . . .

~**Pray for** our board: **Ken & Llor 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 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, and curriculum. Pray they will persevere.

~**Continue to Pray** for those with health challenges: Nathaniel Breuer, 12<sup>th</sup> grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); for the Aberle family during this time of medical challenge.

~**Pray for** parents still making decisions about fully directing the education of their children. Ask God to give them wisdom.

~**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 service to N.D. parent educators and NDHSA staff. How I praise the Lord for Home School Legal Defense Association! Join me.

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

~**Pray** diligently for your Pastor; there are many temptations and challenges in our culture . . . pastors are not exempt!

**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](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com)

### NDHSA Board of Directors

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### 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 [billbiby@msn.com](mailto: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 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 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](mailto:billbiby@msn.com)

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