



The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Technically it isn't my favorite season yet but it sure feels like in the Red River Valley of the North. My thoughts on summer: Oh, how lovely are these summer days in North Dakota. I relish the beauty of amber sunrises and rose-colored sunsets. I can't wait to smell the fresh-tilled soil and get a little dirt under my fingernails. I delight in the sound of birds and the hum of farm vehicles in the fields.

Another thought from someone turning 67 during these splendid summer months: "O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come," Psalm 71:17-18.

And wonder of wonders, He has promised never to leave or forsake His children. Think on this while enjoy the glory of His creation during these grand days of summer.

Gail

www.ndhsa.org

Look for updated HS PKTs, ND Guide to Home School High School & NDCC Annotated posted at our site.

Plan Now for Summer Fun by Joyce Blankenship

Spring is here and now is the time to begin making plans for summer! Will your family explore an unfamiliar beach, experience summer camp, or take a trip to a new theme park?

If you have a **child with special needs**, finding a summer opportunity that welcomes and accommodates your child can be a challenge. Follow this link to find exciting summer camp adventures and fun theme park activities that are available to families with special kids.

[Get ready for summer! >>](#)



The View from My Window

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

The bulk of the calls into the office this past month has been concerning testing. I thought I would write and try to address the most frequently asked questions.

The ND homeschool statute requires testing in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 unless the parent has chosen to opt their children out of standardized testing. In order to opt out, the parent must meet one of the following qualifications: (1) is licensed or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; (2) holds a baccalaureate degree; or (3) has met or exceeded the cutoff score on a national teacher examination. You must notify the school and provide the documentation that verifies one of the above. You can qualify to opt out under either parent's qualifications. (*Editor's note: the opt-out is to be noted on the statement of intent.*)

The test taken by parents who do not have one of the first two qualifications is called the Core Academic Skills for Educators. The test only has to be passed once and is then good for all your children. If choosing this option, you will submit your test scores to the district. For more information about this follow the link on our website (www.ndhsa.org) under "Testing Information."

If you need to test you have two options. You can test through your local public school and take the standardized achievement test the school uses. You will need to see when the school is doing their testing and may need to make arrangements to have your child present when they test. The law states that the test is to be given in the child's learning environment or the public school. Since most schools use computer based testing, it often requires going to the school. Most schools have already tested for the year so you may have to make arrangements with a friend or family member to administer the test. Remember, they must be a ND state certified teacher in order to administer the test. In this case the parent will find a test and will bear the cost of testing. Most homeschoolers use the CAT Survey and order it through Seton Testing Service. We maintain a list of other testing services in the office. If you do not know a certified teacher you can contact your local support group and see if they have an individual who can administer the test.

The ND Century Code defines a school year as July 1 – June 30. It is the opinion of HSLDA that this applies to ND homeschoolers so you will want to get your test scores submitted to your local public school before June 30. If you have other questions regarding testing feel free to contact the NDHSA office at office@ndhsa.org or call 701-662-6347.

Journalism CAMP

Attention aspiring writers! A multimedia Journalism Camp will be held **June 27-30, 2016**. The Minnesota State University Moorhead Community Outreach and the Marcil Center for Innovative Journalism and Forum Communications Company will sponsor a Multimedia Journalism Camp **June 27-30, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for grades 9-12**.

Learn storytelling from working professionals and educators in multimedia journalism. Tour working newsrooms and television studios. Generate story ideas and create print, television, Web-driven and community promotional stories.

Learn writing basics such as interviewing, reporting, video production, photojournalism, features, sports, editorials, columns, writing for the Web and using a media drone.

For more information contact:

Merrie Sue Holtan, assistant professor
Communication and Journalism

Director of the Marcil Center for Innovative Journalism, Minnesota State University Moorhead
Moorhead, Minnesota - Independent Contract Writer

holtanme@mnstate.edu msholtan@gmail.com 701-261-6144

Lake Region Homeschool Support Group Presents

Grandma's Best Years

By Eddie McPherson

Saturday, May 7, 2016

4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Robert Fawcett Auditorium
Devils Lake, ND

A cast of 16 homeschool students will present
the two-act comedy, "Grandma's Best Years".

Admission is FREE!

Donations will be accepted.

The Dewey Decimal System

How could one find anything in a library without this system? Imagine the frustration of locating a book based on its size and publication date!

(Snatched from Wikipedia 4/24/16)

One of the innovations of the Dewey Decimal system was that of positioning books on the shelves in relation to other books on similar topics. When the system was first introduced, most libraries in the US used fixed positioning: each book was assigned a permanent shelf position based on the book's height and date of acquisition. Library stacks were generally closed to all but the most privileged patrons, so shelf browsing was not considered of importance. The use of the Dewey Decimal system increased during the early 20th Century as librarians were convinced of the advantages of relative positioning and of open shelf access for patrons.

[000](#) – General works, computer science and information

[100](#) – Philosophy and psychology

[200](#) – Religion

[300](#) – Social sciences

[400](#) – Language

[500](#) – Pure science

[600](#) – Technology

[700](#) – Arts & recreation

[800](#) – Literature

[900](#) – History & geography

On Money Management

Bob Masterson and his wife, Mary, homeschool nine children in Rochester Hills, MI. Bob and Jeff Eusebio cofounded *FamilyMint* to help their own children and others to become money smart. **FamilyMint.com** was designed around the concept of SMART goals--goals that are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **w**Ritten, and **T**imely. The *FamilyMint* website provides a simple and fun tool (for kids age 6-18) that teaches and reinforces the concepts that help create money-smart children. For more information to use *FamilyMint* visit: FamilyMint.com.

Box Tops for Education needed for the NDHSA.

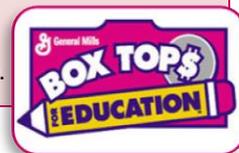
Send your clipped labels to:

Laurie Morstad

9175 80th St. NE,

Hampden, ND 58338.

Check for an expiration date.



Enjoy taking surveys? My name is Kellen and I am a former homeschooled kid turned entrepreneur. My wife, two kids and I are currently based in Seattle, Washington. I am researching the greatest needs within the homeschool community in order to develop a resource to better serve homeschoolers. Before I begin I want to gather as much perspective as possible regarding the current issues facing homeschoolers. I put together a 5 minute survey that asks some questions related homeschooling. I'm trying to get *1,000 people* to take this survey. Click on the following link and have your say.

<http://goo.gl/forms/gRLuMuTuka>

Board Column

From Mrs. Jeff (Karol) Kapelle, NDHSA convention coordinator

Wow! These past few months have been busy, but, I love it! I'm one of those people who seems to work better under pressure and with four or five different projects going at the same time. One of my projects this spring has been directing a full length play for our local homeschool support group. We have a cast of 16 talented high school students, and I'm having a blast. We'll be performing on Saturday, May 7, in the Robert Fawcett Auditorium at Lake Region College in Devils Lake.

I wanted to take a minute to encourage and/or challenge our readers to consider tackling a project like this with your own local homeschoolers. I can't tell you how excited our students are to actually have the opportunity to take part in this production. Many of them are not sports enthusiasts, so actually having an outlet to use their creative talents is really appreciated. In our rural communities especially, there aren't many opportunities to take part in the "arts". In the bigger cities, some of the productions they do have a chance to participate in may be a little "off color" or involve more socializing than parents may desire.

I think one of the greatest benefits of our drama productions (this will be our third in six years) has been the awesome public relations in our communities. The crowds have grown bigger each year and the response is overwhelming. The attendees love the fact that the plays have been good, clean fun and, more importantly, have been of great quality! Our homeschool kids are awesome! They are talented and articulate and they mess with society's stereotypical ideas of what a homeschooler is.

I say all this to encourage you to consider providing some extracurricular activities for your own support group students. Yes, it will involve some time and effort (okay, lots of time and effort) but it will be worth it. I'm not talking about just plugging your child into a community play, art program or choir. I'm suggesting YOU make your OWN program. Those programs can be great and we do need to be salt and light. I know. My kids have been involved in them. But, there's something special about an all homeschool production. Start out small if you'd like. Just prepare and perform a one-act play or musical. Work your way up to a larger production. If you don't have enough kids from your town, contact some in the surrounding area. We have students that come from a 60 mile radius to have the chance to be a part of our plays.

Think about it. Ponder the possibilities. Explore the options. See what kind of interest there is from your students. And in the meantime, you're all welcome to come to Devils Lake on May 7 for some inspiration! We'd love to see you there.

STEAM resources

(Click on article titles to read.)

Science: [17 Resources to Help Kids "Digest" the Human Body](#)

Technology: [Yay or Nay? Setting Rules for Using Technology at Home](#)

Engineering: [Blogger Review - Groovy Lab's Engineering Challenge](#)

Art: [This Easy Art Lesson Will Engage Children Across Curriculum](#)

Math: [Change the Ways Kids Learn Math - Use Life of Fred](#)

Courtesy:

Mary Pride

Home Life, Inc.

1731 Smizer Mill Rd.

Fenton, MO 63026.

Seeking Public Servants

Home School Legal Defense Association is looking for participants for our upcoming interview series featuring homeschoolers who are public servants.

If you homeschool or were homeschooled and work in public service (law enforcement, social work, public education, government, medical, etc.), email comdept@hsllda.org with a short description of your experience and we will be in touch!

If you know someone else who meets this description, please pass this along.



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 testing task force member, **Pas. Jeff Hoverson**, Minot.

~**Pray for** single parent homeschoolers. May God give them perseverance and peace as they follow His leading. Help them if you are able.

~**Continue to Pray** for those with health challenges. Pray that God will give the measure of health that will most glorify Him!

~**Praise** God for His mercies which are new every morning. Thank Him for His grace poured out without measure on His children.

~**Pray** for Christians in Iraq, Syria, and Libya. 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 daddies and their little ones as they run, hide or die because they are Christians. Then express your gratitude to the Lord for being born in America!

~**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. **Continue to pray for our new HSLDA attorney contact Daniel Beasley.**

~**Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group, on your block, in your city, in North Dakota & around the world. Support groups matter!

~**Pray** diligently for your Pastor. Ask God to make them students of the WORD and courageous speakers of the truth. Pray they will devote themselves to prayer. Pray for the unity of your church and the entire Body of Christ.

~**Pray** for homeschooling families that have lost loved ones recently. Ask for strength for the journey, comfort in the sorrow, and courage to do the hard things.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 KJV

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

From Elisabeth Elliot in *Be Still My Soul*

(Excerpts from the chapter "Longsuffering Love")

Let's settle it once and for all -- suffering happens to everyone and it happens daily.

The apostle Peter wrote, "My friends, do not be bewildered by the fiery ordeal that is upon you, as though it were something extraordinary. It gives you a share in Christ's sufferings, and that is cause for joy," (1 Peter 4:12-13, NEB).

Jesus told us we would have to give up the right to ourselves, take up His cross, and follow. He said we would have to enter the kingdom of God "through much tribulation." We were told we should expect a steep and narrow road, so why should we be so bewildered to find it steep and narrow?

Sometimes people wonder how on earth *their* kind of trouble can possibly have anything to do with Christ's sufferings. Ours are certainly nothing in comparison with His. We are not being crucified. Our burden is certainly not the weight of the sins of the world. No, but in all our afflictions He is afflicted. If we receive them in faith--faith that they are permitted by a Father who loves us, faith that He has an eternal purpose in them--we can offer them back to Him so that He can transform them. If, like Paul, we want to know Him and the power of His resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of His sufferings. The only way to enter that fellowship is to suffer. Can we say, Yes, Lord--even to that?

There is a mysterious process that goes into operation when we suffer for Christ. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," (2 Corinthians 4:17, KJV).

We suffer. We share in Christ's sufferings. We are purified. And our souls are enlarged.

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 M. Biby, editor

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Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for 25 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lampighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill. Contact her at: billbiby@msn.com

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Office hours: M-W-TH-F: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Office closed on Tuesday.



NORTH DAKOTA
Home School Association