



The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Wow! Where did the summer go? Are you already thinking about a return to ‘school’ for your children? Here’s a reminder: No one, and I mean *no one* will know or love or care about the progress made by your child like you will. You are the one who best knows the needs of your child - spiritually, emotionally, and academically. No state-paid, state-licensed person can take the time and energy necessary to make your child succeed to the level God intends. And don’t forget: Even in ‘good’ government schools, God is at best simply ignored and at the worst He is completely denied.

Did anyone tell you homeschooling would be easy? They fibbed. It is not easy, but it has eternal consequences. It is replete with opportunities to teach godly character traits. The be-nice-don’t-bully mantra does not produce such character. But “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind and your neighbor as yourself” has power in it.

So don’t give up. Persevere. Finish well. God’s grace is sufficient in all situations. He is *FOR* you; He is *FOR* your children; He is *FOR* your homeschool!

Grace and peace,
Gail

www.ndhsa.org

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

Our **NDHSA Office SUMMER hours** vary so be sure to leave your message and our administrative assistant, Mrs. Theresa Deckert, will get back to you.

“Education and learning
is for human beings,
training is for slaves.”

C.S. Lewis

Interested in a **Generation Joshua club**? Contact:
abigail.karen.wilson@gmail.com



The View from My Window

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

Look for another important column from our administrative secretary Theresa Deckert in September!

“My Grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness,” 2 Corinthians 12:9

BOARD Column from Mrs. Ken (Llora) Knight

The other day my son and I were looking at his school books for this next year and he was getting excited about possibilities, a little apprehensive about the challenge and a little relieved that there weren’t more subjects (7th grade doesn’t have penmanship!). We have purchased all the supplies and curriculum for school this year and are looking forward to getting started. Then my husband asked a question and I realized we *haven’t* completely prepared for this school year. That question: “How are we going to accomplish character and spiritual training?”

The **definition of character**, according to the 1828 Webster’s dictionary, is “**The particular qualities impressed by nature or habit on a person which distinguishes him from others. These constitute real character and the qualities he is supposed to possess constitute his estimated character or reputation.**” In a homeschool setting there is a temptation to let some character qualities slip: “We don’t have to start on time.”; or “Grooming isn’t important, it’s just us.”; or “You did most of it, you don’t have to finish.” Remember that character is as often caught (by following an example) as it is taught.

Look at that definition again, notice the phrase “...impressed by nature or habit ...” Character in our children should become a habit. It is something we instruct, correct and reward often enough that it becomes a habit. There are curricula available which assist in teaching *about* character, but just teaching about it isn’t enough. We need to incorporate the reality of good character in *our* lives and instill it in our children as well. Don’t depend on the spiritual nature of your curriculum to be the main (or only) source of character training in your homeschool. Prayerfully evaluate areas where dad, mom and children need character improvement – then develop a plan to strengthen skills where they are weak, initiate ones that are lacking, and improve ones that are currently being practiced.

Character training is not necessarily spiritual training. There are atheists of excellent character. Just as you shouldn’t depend on your curriculum to teach character, you shouldn’t depend on your church as the only source of spiritual training for the children. Spirituality isn’t built by force of will, following a Bible study or other mechanical means like reading two chapters in the Bible every day, using the *Daily Bread*, or any of a plethora of Bible helps or instruction books, although any of these can help. **Spirituality is building a personal relationship with God through the blood of Jesus Christ.** If students have already accepted Christ your focus will be different than if they haven’t. Spiritual training is as necessary as character training or academics or any other portion of your homeschool experience. Actually it is imperative! It is the only training that will have an eternal effect.

The purpose of this article is not to write a “How to...” but rather to challenge you to decide as a family how you can make character and spiritual training a reality in your homeschool. After all, homeschooling needs to be more than just academics. One of the reasons we homeschool is because we want more than academics (and sports). So as you begin your school year, plan for a complete course of study – one that includes academics, character and spirituality.

Homeschooling has some surprising benefits. Here's how to start enjoying them!

By Mary Pride

"Is Homeschooling the Right Choice for My Child?"

The short answer: yes, it is, as long as you're a committed and involved parent with normal intelligence and no history of serious mental illness! You don't need an impressive educational background or lots of money to succeed at homeschooling. Research has shown that parents with only a high school education or less can do about as good a job as those with advanced degrees, or education degrees.¹ It has also shown that those who spend less than \$200 per child per year on homeschool curriculum can get as good results as those who spend \$400-\$599 per child per year.²

The Unsung Benefits of Homeschooling

Homeschooling yields positive academic, social, emotional, and spiritual benefits for any family that gives it an honest chance. By now it's no secret that all the research shows homeschooled children outstrip both their public- and private-school peers in every academic area. Less well known are these benefits:

Safety Benefits. Years ago, strangers used to ask me, "What about socialization?" Now, when I tell them I homeschool, they say, "I don't blame you. The schools have become so dangerous!" As a homeschooler, you won't have to worry about who is taking guns and knives to your local school. Your child also won't have to fear school bullies. According to a press release we received early this year:

Six out of ten American teenagers witness bullying in school once a day or even more frequently, reported John A. Calhoun, President and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC). The national group...released findings from a survey conducted by Wirthlin Worldwide that show that bullying is the terrorist threat that most frightens America's teenagers and interferes with their education.

Young people are far less concerned about external terrorist attacks on their schools and communities than they are about the bully terrorizing them and their classmates in the hallways and classrooms of their schools.

Less Exposure to Alcohol and Drugs. Most kids don't get their drugs at home. They get them at or near school. According to a study conducted by the National Center for Substance Abuse, and reported in Family Research Council's Washington Update online newsletter, "5 million high schoolers - 31% - say they "binge drink" at least once a month.... A teenager who starts drinking at 15 is four times more likely to become alcohol dependent than one who waits until the legal age to drink." Add to this the huge numbers of kids abusing inhalants, street drugs, and even their classmates' Ritalin, and it's a problem many of us would just as soon avoid.

Emotional Benefits. Emotional bullying-name calling, mockery, and humiliation-can be just as devastating as physical bullying. Smart kids, special-needs kids, and anyone unlucky enough to appear "different" can expect a steady diet of this negative emotional input in a typical school. Since research has shown that kids need to feel safe in order to learn, simply removing a child from the emotional pressure cooker of peer pressure, gangs, and cliques may produce enormous learning gains all by itself.

Ritalin-Free Kids. Boys get a double dose of labeling, as schools increasingly label typical male behavior as "ADD" or "ADHD." In fact, any child with low body fat (making it uncomfortable to sit still for long periods in a hard chair) is at risk of being labeled "ADD" or "ADHD," which in turn leads to pressure put on parents to medicate perfectly normal children with psychoactive drugs such as Ritalin, Adderall, or even Prozac. At home, kids can sit on a nice soft couch, lie on the rug, or run around when they need to burn off energy. Homeschool parents also tend to learn child training methods that work, if only for self preservation! Instead of blaming the kids' behavior on invisible "disorders" that are undetectable by any medical test³, homeschoolers learn to accept a wider range of normal behavior. Kid still misbehaving? Don't pay big bucks to a psychiatrist or open a self-help book. Ask any veteran homeschool mom with a big family. She'll tell you what works!

Removes Sexual Pressure. According to a recent survey from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 81 percent of kids aged 12-14 - including those who have lost their chastity - believe that kids today are pressured to have sex too early. Younger and younger kids are trying to dress and act sexy as well. Both school culture and sex-ed classes promote the idea that "everyone is doing it" and that this is OK. And don't assume this is not true in your local Christian or Catholic school, unless the administration is making a real effort to keep things simple and sweet. In homeschool, parents can wait until their children are of a reasonable age to learn the facts of life. At home, parents are also free to add morals and Scriptural teaching to the mix.

Builds Family Bonds. Homeschooling brings families closer together. Kids thrive under parental attention, and parents get to really know their kids. Homeschooled siblings tend to be more kind and helpful to each other, also.

Better Preparation for the Real World. Modern schools only seem normal to us because we have been brought up from birth to accept them. Actually, they are highly unnatural environments. Where else in your life will you have to spend all day with a group of 15 to 35 people of your same age, doing activities that never yield any usable result? In the real world, you are with people of different ages, working together on real projects. Families are more like this than schools are. And it's easier to give homeschooled kids real-world adventures, such as participating in community theatre, volunteering in a hospital, etc.

The Best Environment for Spiritual Training.

In the New Testament, the followers of Christ are called "disciples," not "students." There's a reason for that! Disciples observe and model their teacher's behavior. Students merely study; the word implies they receive information, not application. At home, your children can see you apply your beliefs, and hear what you think about life's various experiences, if they have the chance to be around you enough.

"So, Where Do I Start?"

In my book, [Mary Pride's Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling](#), I list steps to getting started with a successful homeschool. While the book has lots more information than I can provide here, at least the 10 steps below will clue you in to your best next moves.

1. Locate your state homeschool group. Just click on the word "[Groups](#)" on the black menu bar at the top of this page (and at the top of every page on this website!). Then go to your state listing. The group(s) at the top of the page are state groups. Those below are regional and local groups. We have provided phone numbers and addresses as well as web links to as many state groups as possible, so it should be easy for you to contact them.

2. Locate your local support group. For most states, you'll find it right on the "Groups" page you were just looking at! If you can't find one listed on our website, just ask your state group. They'll know where your nearest support group is. [Ed's note: *listings for ND at [www.ndhsa.org](#)*]

3. Join other homeschoolers online. I recommend you start with our [Forum](#) area, not just because it's our website, but because we have a boatload of great forums on all sorts of homeschool topics, including a "Getting Started" forum. Post your questions here!

4. Subscribe to a homeschool magazine. Naturally, we'd like it to be [Practical Homeschooling](#). Nothing gets you "in the swim" as quickly in a new professional area as reading a magazine on that topic. Homeschooling is no exception. The ads are an education all by themselves. You'll find yourself saying, "I had no idea there was a product that taught that!" Even articles on topics you think you will never need often turn out to be useful later on. There's a lot to be said for mentally preparing for high school while your child's still in preschool!

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5. Read "how to" books about homeschooling. Carefully read the author's biography (if one is supplied) to see if he or she is a veteran homeschooler who has demonstrated success, or just a professional writer whose publisher assigned the job of creating a book about homeschooling. Anyone can homeschool one child for a few months, but that does not make them a homeschool expert.

6. Locate curriculum providers. To do so, just go to the "[Mail](#)" area of this website, where you'll find all kinds of resources organized by type (software, online, or print curriculum), school subject, and more.

7. Go to your local teacher's store. They have great workbooks, educational toys and games, and school supplies.

8. Attend your first curriculum fair. Plan to buy, not just to browse. Go to the [Events](#) page on this site to find upcoming homeschool conventions and curriculum fairs.

9. Now that you've picked out your curriculum and have a plan, you're ready to join HSLDA. That stands for "[Home School Legal Defense Association](#)." The cost is about \$100 per year for your entire family, and well worth it in protecting your (and everybody else's) right to homeschool.

10. Like the Practical Homeschooling page on Facebook. While our Forum is the place to ask specific questions, buy and sell used curriculum, follow threads on academic topics, and so forth, our [Facebook page](#) provides inspiration, current news, homeschool humor, and lots more! [Visit us](#) and hit the "Like" button. This final step will welcome you into the full nationwide (and worldwide!) homeschool community. Join us!

You can skip a few of these steps, but for best success, try to do them all. The best homeschool teacher is a prepared parent. Think of it this way: the time and money you spend on your education as a homeschool teacher could save thousands of dollars more in college scholarships some day!

Footnotes

1. Home educated students' test scores remained between the 89th and 90th percentiles [on nationwide standardized tests] whether their mothers had a college degree or did not complete high school. Home Schooling Achievement, 2001, Home School Legal Defense Association brochure.

2. Ibid.

3. See *Ritalin is Not the Answer* by Dr. David B. Stein or even better, *Talking Back to Ritalin* by Dr. Peter Breggin. You can also find quite a bit to start with online at [Dr. Breggin's website](#). And if you've ever been told or suspect that your child has ADD or ADHD, please first look over this excellent checklist, "[50 Conditions Mimicking ADHD](#)"

Mary Pride is the publisher of [Practical Homeschooling](#) magazine. She is the mother of nine homeschooled children, two of them National Merit Scholarship finalists.

This article is based on an article by the same name originally published in [Practical Homeschooling #53](#) (May/June 2003).

Snatched from Marv's website: www.home-school.com

Copy of the NDCC homeschool law available from our website. Also the downloadable statement of intent, Certificate of Immunization and a complete listing of all support groups associated with the NDHSA. Check them out at: www.ndhsa.org

Snatched from a really GREAT magazine published by Memoria Press for *The Classical Teacher*

Date: September 2-5, 2016

Location: Crystal Springs Camp-Medina, ND. Workday arrival begins at 11:00 a.m. Friday. Regular arrival time starts at 1:00 p.m.

Accommodations: Dorm rooms with bunks available for individual families. Men's and women's bathrooms and showers. Bring your own bedding and toiletries. RV/Camper hook-ups available.

Meals: Provided Friday supper through Monday brunch. *Please Note:* We do *not* provide gluten, dairy, or otherwise allergy-free food. Kitchen available in the boys' dorm with fridge, stove etc. to prepare dietary restrictive foods. CLEAN it up after you use it, please!

Fellowship: Chapel times morning and evening. Frederic Gray (fredericgray.com) will join us from Florida. Steven Simonyi-Gindele will share about growing up in Hungary with concentration camps and of God's hand of grace in his life. He and his wife live in British Columbia. We also encourage you to come prepared with a word of encouragement or a song and testimony to share with others.

Reminders:

- (1) Please **bring snacks** to share.
- (2) The camp has a **no pets** policy.
- (3) Please **dress modestly**- no tight or low-cut shorts, shirts, skirts, or jeans. Shirt and shorts over swimsuit *required*.

Rates with workday:

Family: \$100
Couple: \$80
Family with camper: \$50

Rates without workday:

Family Max: \$200
Couple: \$120
Single: \$60
Age 13-17: \$40
Age 7-12: \$32
Family with camper: \$100

Labor Day
Family Camp

Currently taking registrations for full weekend only. Rooms filling quickly; RSVP ASAP!

Questions: Call 218.784.4804 or email wbsip@loretel.net

This event sponsored by the Wendell and Beth Sip Family. What a blessed ministry to homeschoolers!

Our Peculiar Language

When the English tongue we speak
Why is break not rhymed with freak?
Won't you tell me why it's true
We say sew, but also few?
And the maker of a verse
Cannot rhyme his horse with worse?
Beard is not the same as heard,
Cord is different from word,
Cow is cow, low is low,
Shoe is never rhymed with foe.
Think of hose and dose and lose,
And think of goose and yet of choose,
Think of comb and tomb and bomb,
Doll and roll and home and some.
And since pay is rhymed with say,
Why not paid with said I pray?
Think of blood and food and good;
Mould is not pronounced like could.
Why is done, but gone and lone--
Is there any reason known?
To sum it up, it seems to me
Sounds and letters disagree.

From the Heritage Foundation:

[Common Core Does Not Prepare Students for College, New Report Finds Research Review: Universal Preschool May Do More Harm than Good](#)

From HSLDA:

~Recently, an anonymous teacher leaked **4th grade Common Core test questions** to the world, setting the internet ablaze with angry comments from parents and educators. [Read more >>](#)

From National Home Education Research Institute:

<http://www.nheri.org/research/nheri-news/homeschool-sat-scores-for-2014-higher-than-national-average.html>

Review of the North Dakota Century Code Governing Parent-Directed Home Education

(Editor's note: Nothing contained herein is to be construed as legal advice. I am not an attorney. This is my understanding of the homeschool law which is easy to understand and easy to implement.)

Compulsory Attendance

Age 7 to age 16. Kindergarten is NOT required by law in N.D.

Statement of Intent

A statement of intent (soi) must be filed on each child between the ages of 7 and 16 annually with your local school district of residence. It is to be filed at least 14 days before beginning instruction. You are not asking permission, you are notifying.

The soi must include:

- Name and address of child.
- Child's birth date.
- Child's grade level.
- Name and address of parent educator.
- Qualifications of parent.
- Any public school courses in which the child intends to participate.
- Any extracurricular activities in which the child will participate in the local school or in an approved nonpublic school.

The soi must be accompanied by the child's proof of identity and immunization information. Opt out of testing notification is also included on the soi, accompanied by the parent's qualifications for same.

Required Instruction and Instructional Time

NDCC 15.1-21.01 includes general instructional requirements through grade 8. In addition, specific instruction is required in grades 4 and 8 in N.D. history. Read required course code here: [15.1-21](#).

You are required to provide 4 hours/day for 175 days of instructional time. Which 4 hours and which 175 days are at your discretion.

Parental Qualifications

The parent educator must have a high school diploma or G.E.D. But even if you have neither you may still homeschool by being in a monitored program for 2 years. You may request the monitor from your school district of residence or you may hire your own N.D. state certified teacher to act as your monitor. Read *entire* code here: [15.1-23](#).

Academic Records

You must maintain an annual record of courses and any academic progress assessments including standardized achievement test results. You need supply these records only if the child transfers to a public/private school and they are requested.

Testing

- Homeschooled children must be tested in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10 UNLESS the parent has opted out of testing. To do so you may claim a philosophical, moral, or religious objection. This can be claimed by the parent with a baccalaureate degree, or is a N.D. state licensed teacher, or has met or exceeded the cut-off scores on a national teacher exam. This notification is included on the statement of intent and is accompanied by appropriate documentation.
- If testing is required the instrument used must be a nationally normed standardized achievement test if you are renting your own, or it can be a standardized achievement test being employed by your school district of residence.
- The test must be administered in the child's learning environment or at the local school at the parent's discretion.
- If you rent the test, you pay. If you use the school's they pay.
- The test must be administered by a N.D. state certified teacher.
- The results are to be filed in a timely manner with your local school district of residence.

Remediation

If your child tests below the 30th percentile on the basic composite score a multidisciplinary assessment team must assess the child for a learning problem. The team then determines the child's level of disability. If the child is not developmentally disabled a remediation plan must be written with the advice and consent of a N.D. state certified teacher. The plan must be filed with the local superintendent. The parent pays the costs associated with the development of the plan. This plan is then used by the superintendent to determine the child's progress. It must remain in effect until the child tests at or above the 30th percentile. Be sure to read the code at 15.1-23-11, 12,13,14,15. If the child is determined to be *developmentally disabled* additional requirements are found at NDCC 15.1-23-14, 15.

Extracurricular Activities

Your child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities at their local school or under the auspices of an approved nonpublic school (if the administrator approves). The child must meet the same academic requirements as students enrolled in the public school.

Diplomas

Parents issue a child's diploma when he has met the requirements of the homeschool.

PRA Y 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 moms (and dads) as they plan for the 2016/17 school year. Ask God to give courage for those who are waivering.

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

~Pray for the Abler homeschool family; lost their home and possessions in a fire. Read story: <http://www.wdaz.com/news/north-dakota/4050635-mayville-family-eight-displaced-afternoon-house-fire>

~Praise God for the privilege to vote. Study the issues. Then vote!

~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 HSLDA attorney 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 families making the important decision to begin homeschooling. Help them.

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

Box Tops for Education needed for the NDHSA. Send your clipped labels to:

Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,

Hampden, ND 58338. Check for expiration date. **UPDATE: More than \$150 received to date!**



From Amy Carmichael, *Gold Cord*

There is a path which no fowl knoweth,
Nor vulture's eye hath seen;
A path beside a viewless river
Whose banks are always green,
For it is the way of prayer;
Holy Spirit, lead us there.

O lead us on, weigh not our merits,
For we have none to weigh,
But, Saviour, pardon our offenses,
Lead even us today
Further in the way of prayer;
Holy Spirit, lead us there.

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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

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 and memberships 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 Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, 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 25 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lamplighter 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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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS VARY

Leave a message; Mrs. Deckert will get back to you.