

The Eclectic Report

Logo design Josiah Kopp



Published monthly by the North Dakota Home School Association

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301 701.662.6347

office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org Face Book: North Dakota Home School Association

Volume 7 Issue 4

Editor: Gail M. Biby

billbiby@msn.com

April 2017

Greetings!

They say that April showers bring May flowers. Whoo hoo! I love the approach of the best season of the year ... summer! I am a totally summer gal. I used to make fun of snowbirds, but now that I am slogging and slumping toward my 7th decade I have a lot better understanding of why folks flee from North Dakota during the winter months. But summer is splendid and it is preceded by spring (we call *the flood season* in the Red River Valley) which can be a most delicious period. I have heard hundreds of wild geese flying overhead, saw a flock of crows, heard the wailing of a coyote, and witnessed a large flock of daddy red-winged blackbirds in Argusville.

The legislative session is about over; it was both maddening and rewarding; and interesting to discover more about those who serve the citizens of North Dakota. Some discoveries were delightful; some were frightful. The homeschool bill allowing parents to opt out of standardized tests in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10 without requiring additional academic qualifications has passed both houses and awaits the governor's signature. One long-time homeschooling parent said she was praising the Lord for what this will mean for her grandchildren. And really, what do academic qualifications have to do with one's philosophical, moral or religious beliefs?

As we near the end of the traditional school term, I suppose some wonder if they have done all they could to engage their wee ones, and not-so-wee ones. Well, here is what I say: Are your children more in love with our dear Lord Jesus? Are they developing a love for learning? Are they working on godly character traits? Are they developing deeper relationships with their siblings and with you? Are they working hard to succeed in their studies? I'm talking about effort, not outcomes. Are your children learning to be gracious and merciful? Are they learning to die to self every day? Okay, academics are important, but the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. So it seems to me best to start with the spiritual. I'm praying for you.

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby



Upcoming event

The Lake Region Area Homeschoolers present
"Pride and Prejudice"
Sunday, **May 14**
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Robert Fawcett
Auditorium Lake Region
State College
Devils Lake
Free will donation.

SB 2221-Expansion of Horse Race Betting

Passed the Senate in Feb. (Y 30 N 15). Is scheduled for a vote soon in the House. For those strongly opposed to the expansion of gambling this bill will certainly expand betting on horse races. Contact your representative today!

Sip Family Fun Days-June 23-25, 2017

We know everyone's summer gets filled up quickly with weddings, graduations, and reunions so we are sending out the date for our family camp, held at our farm. Registration is open - so send us an email saying how many are coming - tenting or camper. We will send out more info as the time gets closer, but if you have any questions, just jot us an email and we'll get back to you. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!!

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Col 3:23

Thinking of you all,

Wendell and Beth Sip Family wbsip@loretel.net

The View from my Window

By Mrs. Theresa Deckert, office administrator

I have always encouraged homeschoolers to be proactive in knowing the homeschool laws of our state. Often a school administrator might not be familiar with the homeschool law and just make assumptions about requirements. Sometimes they are operating under an older version of the law and are not aware of the changes.

Over the years of working on homeschool legislation, I have also observed that legislators do not understand the homeschool law and sometimes even what the state constitution says regarding education. It is important as citizens that we understand our state constitution and how it affects us as homeschoolers.

I had several people contact me as they visited with their legislators about HB 1428 which would allow any parent to opt their child out of standardized testing based on a religious, philosophical or moral objection. One legislator made the statement that according to our constitution our state has the responsibility to educate all children including homeschooled students. A quick reading of the N.D. Constitution will show that this statement is not true. Upon being shown this, a legislator will usually respond that it is actually in the state Century Code. This statement is also false, but this argument is used to impose requirements on home educators. When a legislator gives you this answer, kindly ask that they show you where exactly this is in the constitution or Century Code. I have had this conversation a number of times with various legislators and they eventually give up because it is not there.

The following is from Article VIII of the North Dakota State Constitution regarding education.

Section 1. A high degree of intelligence, patriotism, integrity and morality on the part of every voter in a government by the people being necessary in order to insure the continuance of that government and the prosperity and happiness of the people, the legislative assembly shall make provision for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools which shall be open to all children of the state of North Dakota and free from sectarian control. This legislative requirement shall be irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of North Dakota.

Section 2. The legislative assembly shall provide for a uniform system of free public schools throughout the state, beginning with the primary and extending through all grades up to and including schools of higher education, except that the legislative assembly may authorize tuition, fees and service charges to assist in the financing of public schools of higher education.

Section 3. In all schools instruction shall be given as far as practicable in those branches of knowledge that tend to impress upon the mind the vital importance of truthfulness, temperance, purity, public spirit, and respect for honest labor of every kind.

Section 4. The legislative assembly shall take such other steps as may be necessary to prevent illiteracy, secure a reasonable degree of uniformity in course of study, and to promote industrial, scientific, and agricultural improvements.

The rest of Article VIII relates to higher education. That is it folks. You might note that many people homeschool because they want to ensure that their children have the character qualities listed in section 3!

HOMESCHOOLER WINS STATE SPELLING BEE!

Homeschooler **Rayne Korsmo** earns his way to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. This past week Rep. Trottier read into the journal congratulations to Rayne for becoming North Dakota's representative at the D.C. Bee. His older brother, Ty, also made a couple visits to the national event after winning the state title. Rayne is the son of Mark and Debbie Korsmo of Northwood.

Congratulations to the whole Korsmo family! Here is what was read into the House Journal on 03/21/17:

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE REMARKS OF REP. TROTTIER

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Assembly, it is my honor and privilege to have sitting at my side, 7th grader, Rayne Korsmo and his mother, Debbie Korsmo and Rayne's younger brother Bennet on my right. Rayne just yesterday, won the North Dakota State Spelling Bee competition, here in Bismarck, Rayne will now compete in the National Spelling Bee contest in Washington, D.C. Rayne's older brother Ty Korsmo, who is now a high school senior, won the competition in 2012, and also competed in the national contest in Washington, D.C. Rayne's mom home schools all four of her children. Rayne's parents, Mark & Debbie farm in the Northwood area. Mark and Debbie have 4 children, therefore they can now claim half of their children have won the North Dakota State Spelling Bee competition. I would like to offer my congratulations to Rayne and the family for this notable achievement.



Teaching Tip from Heart of Dakota Publishing

Another thing that I have done which really worked well for my little ones was an idea I got from Terri Maxwell. She suggested making a "Mommy Tape", which today can be recorded many other ways than on a tape! However, the idea is still great. I just recorded myself talking and reading aloud to my little one as if I was right in the room with him. I read my way through some simple Bible stories, nursery rhymes, counting up to 20, saying the names of the members of our family, asking questions (like how old are you, what color hair do you have, what color eyes do you have, can you point to your chair, can you point to your toys, etc.) and then answering the questions after I paused for the child to hypothetically answer first. I prayed with my child at both the beginning and end of the tape. So, you can be as creative with it as you like! I recorded 30 min. worth so that when the tape was done my little one knew his time was up. I used the same tape for my little one to listen to every day, and it was amazing how comforted he felt while listening to it! I used it first during his playing in his crib time and later during his playing in his room time. You could make more than one tape if time allows, but this is a great use of your summer as you get ready for the school year!

Blessings,
Carrie

Heart Of Dakota Publishing
1004 Westview Drive
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
Phone: (605)-428-4068

[Website](#) [Board](#) [About](#) [Request Catalog](#) [Programs](#) [Our Philosophy/Explore](#) [Awards](#) [FAQ's](#)

HB 1428 - Homeschool Test Opt Out Bill

AWAITING Governor Burgum's signature.

House vote: YEAS: Beadle; Becker, Rich S.; Becker, Rick C.; Blum; Boehning; Bosch; Brabandt; Brandenburg; Carlson; Damschen; Delzer; Devlin; Dockter; Ertelt; Grueneich; Headland; Howe; Johnson, C.; Johnston; Jones; Kading; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Koppelman, B.; Koppelman, K.; Laning; Lefor; Louser; Magrum; Maragos; Martinson; McWilliams; Meier; Monson; Oliver; Olson; Owens; Paur; Porter; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Satrom; Schatz; Schmidt; Schobinger; Seibel; Simons; Skroch; Steiner; Streyle; Toman; Trottier; Vetter; Vigasaa; Weisz
NAYS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, P.; Boe; Boschee; Delmore; Dobervich; Guggisberg; Hanson; Hatlestad; Heinert; Hogan; Holman; Johnson, D.; Johnson, M.; Keiser; Klemm; Longmuir; Mitskog; Mock; Nathe; Nelson, J.; Nelson, M.; O'Brien; Pollert; Sanford; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Sukut; Westlind; Zubke
ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Kreidt; Marschall; Pyle; Ruby, M.; Speaker Bellew

Senate vote: YEAS: Anderson; Armstrong; Bekkedahl; Bowman; Burckhard; Campbell; Casper; Clemens; Davison; Dever; Erbele; Heckaman; Hogue; Holmberg; Kannianen; Kilzer; Klein; Krebsbach; Larsen, O.; Larson, D.; Lee, G.; Luick; Meyer; Myrdal; Oehlke; Osland; Poolman; Sorvaag; Unruh; Wanzek
NAYS: Cook; Dotzenrod; Grabinger; Kreun; Laffen; Lee, J.; Marcellais; Mathern; Nelson; Oban; Piepkorn; Robinson; Roers; Rust; Schaible; Vedaa; Wardner

Five Writing Myths from HSLDA

Want to brush up on your writing skills? This entertaining article busts five writing myths—by analyzing Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch's judicial opinions.

[Read More](#)

Money Management from Dave Ramsey

Ramsey Solutions is excited to offer our Homeschool Curriculum discount to the North Dakota Homeschool Association members! Dave Ramsey's *Foundations in Personal Finance* is a complete turnkey curriculum available to both Middle and High School homeschool families. Using the discount code **HOMEDISCNR** on our website will save you **\$10 off** the High School Teacher/Student Pack and **\$5 off** the Middle School Teacher/Student Pack, along with **\$2 off each additional student text!** Contact Nikki Royston at 844.283.9378 or by email at nikki.royston@daveramsey.com if you would like more information.

Looking for a microscope?

Questions? Looking for something specific?

Contact: Dennis Hintz at 701.348.3359 or adhintz@westriv.com

April
showers
bring May
flowers!



Coalition for Responsible Home Education Sends Cranky Email

By Gail M. Biby

Several days ago an email from an east coast group that has been agitating across the country to roll back the freedoms many parent educators have fought long and hard to obtain was distributed to legislators and statewide news outlets. The email urged Gov. Burgum to veto HB 1428. The group is apparently pinpointing states with high regulations to use them as an example of responsible laws and when the state begins to increase freedom for parent educators the group targets them and discourages any additional freedoms for homeschoolers. North Dakota homeschoolers have a long history of dedication to obtaining the current parental freedoms in education. This group, the Coalition for Responsible Home Education, is an east group known for creating discord. It is a group of articulate, clearly well-educated, folks all of whom have been homeschooled. So apparently it provided them with an excellent education!

I have been working with parent educators in N.D. for the past 26 years. I *know* homeschooling in N.D. I *know* the makeup of the homeschool community in N.D. I *know* the legal struggles and court cases involved. The North Dakota Home School Association incorporated in 1985, has spent more than three decades providing information, resources, and support group assistance to parents in order for them to responsibly teach their children. The NDHSA has worked diligently with the legislature since 1989 to develop responsible homeschool laws.

The CRHE group would have you believe that an increase in parental freedoms in education will somehow produce illiterate children. There is absolutely no research to back up this claim. In fact the research is showing just the opposite. Home School Legal Defense Attorney Daniel Beasley, attorney of reference for N.D., states regarding this fallacious claim:

These statements are made without evidentiary support and are contradicted by empirical data. Empirical data consistently demonstrates that homeschool students excel academically and that the degree to which a state regulates homeschooling does not impact academic achievement. See: <https://www.nheri.org/research/research-facts-on-homeschooling.html> and <https://www.hslda.org/research/>.

Further, CRHE implies that their interest in part is to prevent child abuse in homeschooling families. Attorney Beasley states:

There are proven ways to prevent child abuse. In 2012, Congress authorized the creation of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities (CECANF). The commission was composed of top experts in the field and held meetings and hearings spanning several years in many localities around the nation. CECANF issued its final report in March 2016. The commission's top recommendation to the nation's policymakers was: 'Identify children and families most at risk of maltreatment fatality.' The report listed numerous risk factors. Homeschooling was never listed as a risk factor--or even mentioned in the study. View report here: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cecanf_final_report.pdf

Also, Dr. Brian Ray, National Home Education Research Institute, has addressed this issue. Read his findings here: (<https://www.nheri.org/research/homeschooling-and-child-abuse-child-neglect-and-child-fatalities.html>).

The CRHE also claims that there exists a possible 'math-gap' and that homeschoolers are taking the SAT at a lower rate. A review of 2014 SAT scores shows that homeschool students outscored the national average in every subject area, including math. Review the scores here: <https://www.hslda.org/docs/news/2016/201606240.asp>

Clearly this outside group of well-educated but discontented young adults has misrepresented the homeschool community in their claims. I don't know how things look in all other states, but I know North Dakota homeschooling. And frankly, homeschoolers in N.D. don't take too kindly to outside agitators from Massachusetts meddling in our affairs.

From our office administrator-REMINDERS:

- If people signed up for membership at the convention they may have access to the members only portion of the website. In order to access an account must be set up. They can do this by hitting the "request membership" tab on the left hand side of the screen. Once they fill out the information it will ask how they will pay. Simply click the box that says "I am a current member".
- The Lake Region Area Homeschoolers will be presenting the play "Pride and Prejudice" on Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) at the Robert Fawcett Auditorium located at Lake Region State College, Devils Lake. **There will be two performances, one at 3:00 and one at 7:00.** No admission fee, just a donation box at the desk for free will offering. A great opportunity for a family outing on Mother's Day.

Solar eclipse this summer!

Go here:
<http://archive.auer.com/classical-astro>

From "Who Needs Evidence? But, Here It Is Anyway!", Dr. Brian Ray, published in *The Old Schoolhouse*, 2016 Annual Print Book

- In repeated studies, home educated students typically score at the 65th to 80th percentile on nationally normed standardized achievement tests. This is 15 to 30 points higher, on average, than public school students.
- There is no correlation between the degree of state regulation or control of homeschooling and homeschool students' achievement. Home educated children in states with low regulation score just as well as those in high regulation states.
- ...a new nationwide study finds "...that homeschooled adolescents were significantly more likely to strongly disapprove of their peers drinking... and trying...and routinely using...marijuana.
- Homeschooled adolescents were significantly less likely to report using tobacco...alcohol...cannabis...and other illicit drugs and to be diagnosed with an alcohol...or marijuana...use disorder.
- The homeschooled [adults] are more civically engaged than other adults, shown by the fact that they vote, attend public meetings, write or telephone editors and public officials, participate in protests and boycotts, contribute money to political candidates, parties, and causes, and work for political candidates, parties, and causes as a higher rate than do their American adult peers.



Four Methods of Education

Public School - Publicly funded, brick-and-mortar; majority of U.S. students attend; state funds, provides teachers, sets course of study.

Private School - Parents choose school; parents pay; education takes place in classroom; special interest schools such as Montessori or church-based.

Private Homeschool - Parents pay for children's education, choose course of study, provide materials, do the teaching and pay for supplementary instruction.

Public-School-at-Home Programs - Government pays for school, but education in home; online schools, charter schools, students work under supervision of teacher.

From Oregon Christian Home Education Association Network.

[Editor's note: In-home public schools are not the same as homeschools in which parents have complete oversight and financial responsibility. So if government funds are used for in-home education this is *not* homeschooling.]



Free set of Word Study Cards from Montessori at:

<http://beautifulsunmontessori.blogspot.com/2012/08/free-montessori-word-study-sets.html>

http://www.freemontessori.org/?page_id=21

Other sources:

Pre-printed grammar cards:

www.montessoriprintshop.com/elementary-grammar-boxes.html

Inexpensive printable set of Grammar Symbols:

www.shop.montessoriprintshop.com/Grammar-Symbols-Cards-GF-4.htm

Grammar Farm printable cards that correspond to several popular sets:

www.idamontessorimaterials.com/language.html

Free set of cards for Safari, Ltd.'s Ocean Toob:

<http://www.graceandgreenpastures.com/2015/03/language-arts.html>

Learn more about Language Arts for an elementary-aged child here:

www.freemontessori.org/?page_id=9

(Snatched from the *Practical Homeschooling* magazine #127, "A Low-Cost Dose of Montessori Grammar", Bess Wuertz.)

NDHSA Board of Directors

Ken Knight, president & Llorra Knight, W region spt.grp. coordinator

701.880.6126 knight_publishing@hotmail.com

Pas. Jeff Kapelle, director & Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator

701.262.4446 kapkian@gondtc.com

Neil Toman, treasurer

701.222.0250 ritoman@nd.gov

Susan Huntington, director

701.663.7858 sooznh@gmail.com

Jeff Deckert, director & Theresa Deckert, office administrator & E region spt.grp. coord.

701.662.4790 jdeck@gondtc.com

Pas. Brian, director & Bev Skaar, convention choir director

701.247.2875 walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com

Troy Durham, conv. vendor hall coordinator & Kristin Durham, conv. art exhibit director

701.730.4159 tkdurham@centurylink.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 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 billbivy@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: billbivy@msn.com

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301

701.662.NDHS(6347) www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

Like us on Facebook:

[North Dakota Home School Association](http://www.northdakotahomeschoolassociation.org)

Visit us at: www.ndhsa.org

Pray without ceasing ... for the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

ASK God to continue to give wisdom in all governance affairs of the NDHSA to our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.**

BLESS those in your support group with encouragement and assistance.

INTERCEDE for the lost. Do we really believe in the after life? I do. Therefore, I believe those who do not belong to God do not go to be with Him when they die. It urges me to forwardness when speaking of spiritual matters. Pray for courage.

PRAISE God for HSLDA and the myriad ways they continue to assist and defend parent educators. Pray for our attorney of reference, Daniel Beasley.

ASK GOD for wisdom in all areas of life.

Continue to REMEMBER the Barkie family as Lisa recently died due to a severe infection. She was a long-time support group contact for the Watford City area.

Praise the LORD for good friends... they are a blessing!

PRAY for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, and assist them as the Lord leads.

INTERCEDE for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead with devotion and grace.

REMEMBER when you pray that the Lord is Sovereign; that He is good; that He intends good for His children; and that He will never leave or forsake those called by His Name. God is for us! He is for us.

PRAY for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

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. Eph.3:20-21