

The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

As a dedicated summerphile I am always ecstatic when the skies clear, the temperatures soar (94 F as I write!), and the zephyr whispers through the west tree rows. Some of my best childhood memories are from days at the beach, just a short walk from our home. What great remembrances.

Summer is usually a time for less structured learning and a time for greater freedom in our daily schedules. Take advantage of it. Spend lots of time outdoors (remember we have 6 months of winter!). Study plants, birds, bugs, cloud formations, the night sky (solar eclipse in August), collect rocks and study a little geology, read good historical fiction or better yet read David McCullough's books. Read missionary stories; memorize passages of Scripture together as a family; if you vacation, go to historical sites; go to the zoo; spend time with your grandparents or parents; write a letter of appreciation (yes, write, not type, but write!); visit ND historical sites (they are all over the place; ever heard of the 1945 Great Train Wreck at Michigan, ND?); go through your pictures and identify the folks in them (the old kind; remember when you used to put them in a photo album; do you know who all those folks are? Ask your parents, your grandparents.) And I agree with Mrs. Knight when she suggests in her column that we avoid all technology gadgets for a time. I gave up on Facebook simply because it is a time waster, often filled with lies, too much psychobabble and other nonBiblical suggestions, and it seemed like a giant voyeuristic and gossip gang. I'm just saying that for ME it was a bad idea. You're an adult and quite capable of making your own decisions. Having said all that though, I am very grateful for technology. I remember when I started my 'career' as secretary back in 1966 helping a missionary put out his newsletter. I typed onto a rubber sheet, no mistakes, spread ink on a drum, and produced copies by turning a handle. It took forever and then the newsletter still had to be mailed out. Today I do this newsletter on my computer, make corrections with ease (spell check even reminds me of errors), then simply send out via email without charge. It is a true blessing. But a vacation from the computer and other gadgets forces us to spend our time in other pursuits. This is likely good for us. So as I pray through the summer for you I will ask God to make each of us wise in our daily activities so that we will spend our time on what is of eternal value.

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby

P. S. For great summer reading I recommend the James Herriot books. What fun I had when I recently reread them. Also, one of the best books on country living is Carla Emery's *The Encyclopedia of Country Living*. I got a used copy for a friend from abebooks.com I got mine years ago from Mrs. Emery and read it through from cover to cover. Since then I have enjoyed rereading many sections, many times. Also, if you garden, I found great advice in *Square Foot Gardening* by Mel Bartholomew.

New STATEMENTS OF INTENT published by the NDHSA will be posted at our website during July. The form will reflect the new law allowing any parent, regardless of academic qualifications, to opt their child out of testing based on a philosophical, moral or religious belief. **New law takes affect August 1, 2017.**

The View from my Window

By Mrs. Theresa Deckert,
office administrator

This column will begin again in August.

Teaching Tip from Heart of Dakota

As we're heading into our summer season here in South Dakota, I'm reminded of the importance of having some time off from the rigors of schooling. Even if you are someone who enjoys schooling year-round, I think it is a good idea to take at least a month off at some time during your school year to recharge. I find I am much more focused during my "school year", if I have had some time off to regroup. During our break, my kiddos read endless books for pleasure, play outside, swim, play strategic board games, bake, bike, and work on projects. They love their time off, and so do I. It helps us all focus better on school when it rolls around again. So, I encourage you to make sure to take some time for both you and your children to recharge your batteries at some point during your school year. We take several months off in the summer, and then are very focused during our school year once it begins (taking little to no time off until summer rolls around again). This may not work for you, but whatever your schedule, be sure to make time for yourself and your kiddos to have a more lengthy break!

Blessings,
Carrie

BOARD Column - SUMMER!

By Mrs. Lora Knight

Summer! Even the word conjures up memories of cross-country (or state) road trips; swimming in a water hole, river, pool, or ocean; picnics with all the food, fun and fellowship that goes them; and of course – NO SCHOOL! That picture is more accurately true for the traditional public school family because as homeschool families we have the freedom to take road trips and all other forms of no-school activities throughout the year.

During our past thirty-five years of homeschooling, we have had a myriad of school schedules including: the regular nine month, five days per week which allows for the traditional three month summer vacation; five days per week, three weeks on and one week off which allows for a six week summer vacation; four days per week for forty-four weeks which allows for an eight week summer vacation; and then there's the five days per week, three months on and one month off all year school.

Whatever your schedule, even though the children see summer's number one benefit as no school, take time, no rather make time, for teachable moments. Summer activities promote a wide variety of teaching. The following list gives a few examples by subject:

- **Agriculture** – gardening, visiting the local farmer's market, watching calves and cows in the fields, or maybe visiting a farm and bottle feeding an orphaned calf.
- **English** – encourage your children to pick up the long lost habit of journaling. Much of what we know from early history was taken from someone's journal. And don't accept "Facebook," "Twitter," "Insta-gram," or any other webpage, chat board, text tool, or other electronic based program as a substitute. They need to use an on fashioned pencil (or pen) and paper. Summer English projects could also include a family newsletter (why wait until Christmas?).
- **History** – take a road trip, stop at any rest stop, pick up one of every brochure available, peruse them, and follow your heart. While driving watch for brown signs along the road which say, "Point of Interest" or "Historical Site." North Dakota has 57 State Historical Sites and over 500 National Historical sites, buildings, and or districts. Start visiting them!
- **Math** – math is everyday life. It could be shopping for groceries and figuring out the best buy, reading a recipe and creating a gourmet masterpiece - French cordon bleu, chocolate chip cookies or homemade ice cream. Math is figuring out how many more miles until we reach grandma's, the gas mileage our rebuilt engine is getting, and average costs of meals or cost per person on a road trip. What if your son wants to paint his newly acquired pink bedroom? He would need to use math to figure out how much paint to buy.
- **Physical Education** – This is the easiest "subject" for summer. This is walking, skipping, running, swimming, bicycling, jumping on a trampoline, climbing trees or jungle gym, or anything else that gets that little (or not so little) body moving.
- **Science** – the study or perhaps just the learning (we often learn without studying) of science incorporates everything from cooking, car repairs and chemical additions to the pool to salamanders, spelunking, and star gazing (watch for the Perseids Meteor Shower, July 13 – August 26 with peak sightings August 12 or 13).

To help stimulate the brain, this summer, try "No Tech Tuesdays (or Thursdays)" or pick any other day and come up with a catchy title. On those days, the entire family refrains from using advanced technology – that would include cell phones for anything other than answering a phone call (NO TEXTING), tablets, lap tops, computers, television, video games, DVD players in the car, etc. They need to play outside or if the weather is bad read a book or play a board, card or dice game.

I've only touched on a few summer activities, or lack thereof. As homeschool moms and dads we have learned to recognize and seize those teachable moments – even in summer!

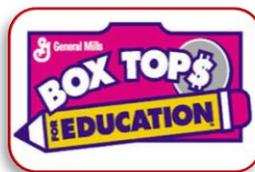
JOIN!

What? You are not a member family of the NDHSA yet? It matters. Maybe you won't be in desperate need of our services, but your membership allows the staff and association to continue to write, research, lead support group workshops, make contacts with school districts, keep up to date on national homeschool issues, plan and coordinate statewide conventions, answer questions and provide guidance, and much more. Go to www.ndhsa.org and join today.

Yes, it really does matter.

Summer... the season of hot dog roasts, swim parties, fireworks, lightning bugs, family vacations, lazy mornings...and, at some point, that spoken statement that almost all parents dread, "I'm bored!"

But don't fret! Both [Homeschool.com's 101 Things To Do This Summer lists](http://Homeschool.com) and Rebecca Kochenderfer's [The Summertime Survival Guide for Parents](#) offer wonderful ideas for summer fun and summer learning.



Laurie Morstad is collecting **Box Tops for Education** for the NDHSA. Send your clipped labels to her at: Laurie Morstad, 9175 80th St. NE, Hampden, ND 58338. Be sure to check for an expiration date.

Charge to the Christian Graduate

By Sarah Dixon Young

As you begin the next chapter in your life, you probably have more questions than answers. What will you do? Where will you live? Who will you marry? How can you best serve the Lord?

As you set out to find answers to these questions, I would direct you to a question David asked. He didn't have to look far for the answer.

David asked, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" No matter where you go, what you do, whom you marry, or how you serve, you will need the answer to this question. Perhaps you already know it. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word."

Guard your way according to the Word of the Lord. You must be proactive to accomplish this. No one just happens onto the right way by accident. You must be intentional in staying on the right path that your parents have shown you. You must set a guard so that you do not lose your way or become tempted to follow a different path.

So, how can you guard your way according to God's word? I'd like to give you three suggestions.

In Proverbs, Solomon wrote, "Say to Wisdom, 'You are my sister.'" Older sisters ask all the tough, pesky questions. They ask things like, "When was the last time you read your Bible?" or "Did you submit that job application?" or "Who is *that* girl?" They give unsolicited advice such as, "Call mom." Or "You should choose this college." Or "Change your socks."

Wisdom may sometimes seem like she is asking the tough questions. She may sometimes be like a pesky sister. We know from God's Word that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom," and that once you obtain Wisdom, she will be like a hedge around you, keeping you on the right way. Don't be afraid of the tough questions. Don't be afraid of accountability. Just because you are an adult now doesn't mean that you can cast Wisdom aside! Spend time seeking Wisdom daily by reading and meditating on God's word! Let the Wisdom found in God's word ask your spirit those tough questions. She will keep you on the right way.

Second, guard your way by remembering what you've been taught. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossian church, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Whether you go to college, enter the workforce, or even turn on the nightly news, there will be many voices saying that your upbringing is old fashioned, in error, or even completely wrong. Everywhere you turn, people with opposing worldviews will try to talk you out of yours. You've been rooted in Him, and built up in Him, and established in the faith by your parents. Now, you must take the baton from their hand and continue in the way on your own. *You* must decide to wake up and attend church. *You* must decide to decline drugs and alcohol. *You* must decide to make your faith in Christ the rule that you live your life by. While you become more independent by having a job, your own bank account, and your own vehicle- become even more dependent on the worldview your parents instilled in you since the day you were born.

Finally, be willing to die to yourself.

It's tempting when you become independent to live for yourself. You now have the freedom to go where you want to go and do what you want to do. However, as a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven, your duty is now to die daily to self. Dying to self means denying yourself.

Be like Christ, who emptied Himself and became nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. You too must empty yourself if you are going to follow Him.

I could include all sorts of advice about not going into debt, working hard, choosing a Godly wife, serving in the church, and doing missions, but I think if you guard your way according to God's word, you will find His advice on these topics and many others to be sufficient.

Editor's note: Wise counsel, Sarah. Good advice for us all. Thank you for thoughtfully preparing these remarks. I saw they were also printed in the Devils Lake Daily Journal. Excellent!

3 Essentials for Employable Teens

A message from Carol Becker and Diane Kummer, HSLDA High School Consultants

Do you remember your first summer job? Maybe it was great, maybe it was awful, but there's no feeling like earning your own paycheck. Most teens eagerly look forward to earning their own money. As a parent, you can leverage this enthusiasm to prepare your teens for employment by selecting pertinent academics, modeling soft skills, and imparting practical tools.

[Tell me more about how to land that first job >>](#)



Need to contact the NDHSA office manager. Contact Mrs. Theresa Deckert at: office@ndhsa.org or call, leave a clear, slow message, repeat your number at: 701.662.6347 She'll get back to you.

Chuck Black has a newsletter! Go to Perfect Praise Publishing | www.KingdomSeries.com | www.WarsoftheRealm.com

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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 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

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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 & Lora Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** And **THANK Him** for the unheralded work they do on behalf of parent educators.
- **PRAY** for your support group families through the summer months. Maybe plan a picnic together?
- **INTERCEDE** for those struggling with harmful lifestyles, disregard for Scriptural teaching, and lack of love for the Saviour. Is it you, dear one?
- **PRAISE** God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney of reference, Daniel Beasley.
- **ASK GOD** for wisdom; how desperately we need it.
- **Continue to REMEMBER** in prayer those who are facing the loss of a loved one, the loss of a friendship, the loss of a child.
- **Praise the LORD** for good friends ... and be one!
- **PRAY** for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, and assist them as the Lord leads. Being a shepherd to a flock of unruly sheep is no picnic!
- **INTERCEDE** for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead with devotion and grace.
- **REMEMBER** these words of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."
- **PRAY** for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. The Lord of hosts is with us. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us.
From Psalm 46

O how sweet to be there! Blessed hour of prayer; What a balm for the weary! O how sweet to be there!

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915