

Greetings!

When the sweet corn is ripe we know several things: summer is nearing an end; autumn is on its heels; and eat enough of the golden kernels and your gastro-intestinal system may rebel.

Since time seems to fly with great rapidity I urge you to enjoy your wee ones (and not so wee ones). Savor each moment with them (even better than that first bite of steaming corn slathered with butter!). Do not get caught up in *activities* when *character* is what really counts.

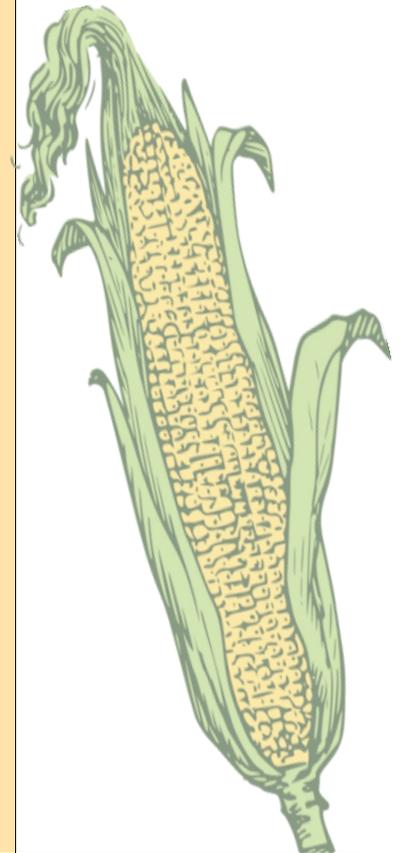
During the summer months I have had the privilege of teaching Sunday School to a very wonderful group of children. We have been learning about three important character traits: loyalty; responsibility; and courage. The Bible is replete with folks who *did* and *did NOT* exhibit such traits and we are purposing to model our lives on the 'did' and not the 'did nots'. As Tozer said the Christian life is a long, slow obedience in the same direction. Development of godly character takes such obedience. And it lasts for the remainder of your life.

The Christian life is not easy. Did you really expect it would be, considering how those alive at the time of Jesus treated Him? It is the speed of life, the changes in life, the troubles in life that remind us of our dear Lord Jesus and what is really important for our wee ones to assimilate into their lives. I am not saying academics are not important; they are. But academics without godliness is truly a chasing after the wind.

So you think homeschooling should be easier than it is? Really? Devotion to another (and not to self) is always very difficult. Devotion to husband, wife, family, children, and church family is absolutely required of the disciple of Jesus Christ. But the flesh constantly wages a war to be first. (Just eat too much corn and see how the flesh reacts!)

But we are not left adrift. Our Great God and Savior, the High and Lofty One, has made a way for us and He is with us. He will help you when the seasons end, when life changes, when sorrows come, when you are discouraged and dispirited. He will strengthen you: He will remind you of myriad past blessings. He will bear your burdens. Go ahead--ask Him.

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby



The View from my Window

From Mrs. Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

Well a new school year is just around the corner and the NDHSA office phone has been receiving numerous calls! I would urge each parent to be fully aware of the N.D. home education law. Most calls have centered around school districts trying to make requirements that are beyond the requirements of the law. If you know the law, then stick to what you know! **DO NOT be intimidated!**

A couple of districts have "rejected" the NDHSA statement of intent (SOI) this year requiring the parent to fill out the N.D. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) form. First of all – a district cannot reject your SOI. **You are not ASKING for permission to homeschool, you are INFORMING them that you are doing so.**

Secondly, no form is required, only certain information. We make a form available on our website just to make it a bit easier. At least two N.D. districts sent out the NDHSA form to homeschool families this year as the DPI form was not posted until after August 1. We encourage families to use our form as it will always list only the information required by law. In going over the DPI form I noted the following items listed that are not required by N.D. Century Code.

- The child's gender
- Ethnicity
- Superintendent's signature

You will also note that the monitoring information is confusing. As I look over the form, I could easily surmise that the monitoring requirements must be fulfilled for each child, however once those requirements are fulfilled for one child, **they do not have to be met for other children.**

Finally the DPI form states that the National Teacher's Exam or Praxis II is one of the fulfillments for opting out of testing. We have always stated that the Praxis I (now called Core Academic Skills for Educators) **meets the requirements to opt out of testing as the Century Code defines the test as** "a national teacher examination given in this state".

So be informed, remain courteous, but do not be intimidated. Sometimes simply printing off a copy of the N.D. home school law (available on our website under "laws and legislation") and highlighting the section in question is all it takes to resolve an issue. Also, remember that I am more than happy to visit with a school administrator about homeschool questions. I can be reached at 701-662-6347 during office hours posted on the website (www.ndhsa.org).

Read and download the laws here: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t15-1c23.pdf>

School vs. Education

From Mrs. Kristin Durham, NDHSA board member

And we enter yet another _____ year. Hmmm? How do we want to fill in the blank? School? Education? Thank goodness for Google or I would have to get a dictionary and look up the definitions. This girl takes an educated approach in making life as simple, convenient, and smooth as possible...so online Webster dictionary it is!

School: *noun; an institution for educating children.* First, I hope we never consider our homes as institutions, and second, educating should be done everywhere. So, short and sweet, school means a place of formal instruction, nothing more. A place to open vessels and pour in knowledge, not to consider if the vessels are holding anything or even inspired to sail anywhere.

Education: *noun; the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.* Whoa! I kinda want to dig a little deeper because there is just so much here!

Webster's dictionary 1828 definition of education:

The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future lives.

I don't know about you, but that Noah Webster was quite inspiring! I love how the comprehensive piece in this is the gaining of knowledge as well as character and virtues. That's what I want for me and my children. I want to gain knowledge and character my whole life as well as guide them into a desire for the same.

Now we know that another education year has started, although it probably never really ended. We instruct, guide, and form our little life-long learners to never stop their education because it is such a wonderful gift to be able to have an inquisitive mind our whole lives!

On the HOME from Karen Andreola's *Charlotte Mason Companion*

It is the life-supporting atmosphere of home working in a child's life that is such an important element of his education. "There are many important aspects of home-life from a child's first training to his highest education, but there is nothing in the way of direct teaching that will ever have so wide and lasting effect as the atmosphere of home", M.F. Jerrold.

What do we need to insure that this atmosphere inspires them on to the kinds of things we want them to learn? First, someone loving needs to be home to make it a home. ...a mother is the irreplaceable foundation of a home.

Charles Spurgeon said about the religious atmosphere of home:

When home is ruled according to God's word, angels might be asked to stay with us, and they would not find themselves out of their element.

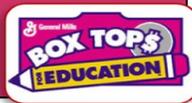
Don't be discouraged, dear parent, with the heavenly command, "Be ye perfect." We may not reach our ideals, but it is our fervent, faithful reaching towards them that matters greatly.

RESEARCH DECLARES:

- The home educated are doing well, typically above average, on measures of social, emotional, and psychological development. Research measures include peer interaction, self-concept, leadership skills, family cohesion, participation in community service
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in social and educational activities outside their homes and with people other than their nuclear-family members. They are commonly involved in ... field trips, scouting, 4-H, political drives, church ministry, sports teams, and community volunteer work.

From NHERI, Dr. Brian Ray, www.nheri.org

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



New STATEMENT OF INTENT ...

... published by the NDHSA is posted at www.ndhsa.org. 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. Make sure you notify of opt-out on your statement of intent. You cannot do so later on in the year as the law requires that it be included on your SOI. Also, the form is to be filed at least 14 days before you plan to begin homeschooling.**





MACHE Homeschool Workshops

(Both MN and ND homeschool law covered.)

Dakota Medical Foundation 4141 28th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58104

Saturday, September 30, 2017 ~ 1-4 p.m.

Early bird price: \$15 through Sept. 22 for individual adult or husband/wife couple
Teens free with parents who attend the High School & Beyond

After Sept. 22: \$25 (including at the door) for individual adult or husband/wife couple
Workshops are held simultaneously. Choose the one that fits your needs.

How to Begin with Kris Cox, MACHE Representative and Educational Consultant

Homeschooling is a wonderful way to experience the joy of teaching and learning with your children! Learn how to get started and have a smooth transition into homeschooling. We'll talk about the laws for homeschooling in Minnesota and North Dakota; what subjects to cover, organizing your time, record-keeping, annual testing options, learning styles and popular teaching methods. We'll also cover some teaching tips and common mistakes to avoid. This workshop will give you a solid foundation as you begin your homeschool journey!

High School and Beyond with Cheri Frame, MACHE Representative and Educational Consultant

Homeschooling through high school might seem intimidating, but be encouraged! These can be the most enjoyable and influential years you have with your teens. This 3-hour seminar will help you develop a comprehensive 7-12 grade plan. Starting with a strong academic foundation of high school courses and credits, you will learn how to individualize your students' education based on their graduation goals. Learn how to create a transcript, include earning college credit in high school with PSEO, Dual Enrollment, and CLEP, and explore the guiding steps for career exploration. Minnesota and North Dakota parents and students will gain confidence and encouragement to homeschool through high school as they see the big picture unfold and create a vision for these extraordinary years. Teens are encouraged to attend with their parents!

REGISTER: <http://mache.org/events/4527/09-30-2017/homeschool-workshops-fargomoorhead>

QUESTIONS: Contact: MACHE info@mache.org or 866-717-9070 REACH info@reachhomeschool.org or 218-234-6766

This Constitution [curriculum](#) is amazing! The words of the Constitution come alive and it finally makes sense!

And it's free.

It's called [Five Clauses Everyone Should Know](#). It consists of six, 20-minute videos that are really helpful because they do all the work for you. They have analogies, games, mnemonic devices and each video even has an age-specific quiz that makes sure the kids are understanding the principles - not just the trivia - of the Constitution.

Hundreds of homeschoolers have fallen in love with the videos. Find out why [HERE](#).

Finally, a Constitution curriculum that's fun, interesting and principle-based - and it's FREE!



Online High School Writing Class

with Ashley Wangerin
<http://hswritingtutor.weebly.com>



- Monthly assignments include full-length essays & revisions, mini papers, reading homework, critical & creative thinking, grammar & vocabulary
- Students write for an authentic audience and receive tutor & peer feedback on their writing
- Concrete writing, thinking, and teamwork skills to help students prepare for college and the workplace

DATES: Begins Sept 25

GRADES: 8-12

TUITION: \$200/student

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept. 15

Please visit <http://hswritingtutor.weebly.com> for more info and requirements.

Email Ashley directly if you have any questions or to register: hswritingtutor@gmail.com

Visit our website TODAY!

Updated HS PKTs, ND Guide to Home School High School, Monitors' INFO PKT, Superintendents' INFO PKT. Can't access everything? Then you need to join the NDHSA. It's easy, it's inexpensive, it's necessary to continue services, information, conventions, support group assistance, state and federal tracking of legislation, and much more.

www.ndhsa.org



Reasons for Home Educating

From Dr. Brian Ray, NHERI

Most parents and youth decide to homeschool for more than one reason. Here are the most common reasons given:

- customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child
- accomplish more academically than in schools
- use pedagogical approaches other than those typical in institutional schools
- enhance family relationships between children and parents and among siblings
- provide guided and reasoned social interactions with youthful peers and adults
- provide a safer environment for children and youth because of physical violence, drugs and alcohol, psychological abuse, and improper and unhealthy sexuality associated with institutional schools
- teach and impart a particular set of values, beliefs, and worldview to children and youth

For more great info on the reasons to and results of parent-directed education visit: www.neri.org

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.**

Applying for ACT Accommodations? Big Change Ahead!

A note from the HSLDA Special Needs Consultant Department: We recently received word that starting in September 2017, the ACT will move to an entirely online filing system. This means that **they will no longer accept accommodations requests via paper, email, or fax.** If your student is planning to apply for accommodations on the ACT, we encourage you to [start that process now!](#)

Additionally, under the new online system, **any parent or administrator wishing to apply for accommodations for a student must obtain a school administrator account with the ACT.** Alternatively, you may want to consider instead having your child apply for accommodations for the SAT through the College Board, which still accepts and has stated they will always accept paper filing requests from homeschoolers. As a third option, if you have classically trained your student, you may choose to have him or her take the Classic Learning Test (CLT). Many colleges are now accepting this test, and it is an untimed assessment. Now get out there and request your ACT accommodation, because September 1 isn't that far away!

Members: *If you have questions about this or any issue relating to homeschooling students with special needs, HSLDA's special needs consultants are always available to assist you! Call (540) 338-5600 or [email us.](#)*



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

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 more than 26 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 and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her at: billbiby@msn.com She has been blessed beyond measurability and once had a very long bucket list.

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[North Dakota Home School Association](#)

Visit us at:

www.ndhsa.org



PRAY with us and FOR us!

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.** Pray they will be strengthened and encouraged by the Lord to continue faithfully in the work God has given them.

PRAY for your support group families as you begin the 2017-1018 school year. Volunteer!

INTERCEDE for those struggling with loss, lack of diligence, even disobedience. Help them if you can.

PRAISE God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney of reference, Daniel Beasley.

ASK GOD for resilience to weather the storms of life.

Continue to REMEMBER in prayer those thinking about giving up ... on life, on homeschooling, on marriage, on church.

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. Quit complaining; God has placed you in this church, with this pastor. Bless him every chance you get!

INTERCEDE for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead with devotion and grace. And may they be encouraged to *participate!*

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.

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 1:9-12