

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.662.6347 office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org

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Editor's Musings:

Greetings,

I guess you can teach an old dog new tricks, but it sure takes a lot longer. Having computer/printer problems at my age is challenging to say the least. My dear husband after purchasing a new printer actually spent several days reading all about it, following directions, and getting it operational on my lap top. The PC on the other hand posed additional problems. *Too old* the little cheery note stated. *Not compatible* it read. Well, a computer program cannot print from is useless.

Made my heart flutter. I have hundreds and hundreds of files on that old computer. Some are rather important.

A call to two friends of ours who are young and experts on the subject soothed our worry and gave a method to simply retire that old metal box of goodies and save the files to a thumb-thingee.

Hundreds and hundreds of files to fit on a tiny little whatchamacallit no bigger than...a thumb. What a world

we live in! What a blessing to have a church family that loves us and is willing to help. We are so blessed and we are so often ungrateful. We don't mean to be ungrateful we are just too likely to take it all for granted.



I am learning at this ripe old age that ingratitude is truly one of the most awful traits a person can exhibit. We are so blessed to be living in America at this time in history. We ought to be the most grateful folks in the history of the world. I am hard at work on being thankful...every moment of every day. I'm praying the same for you!

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby



It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

Psalm 92:1-2

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March 5-7, 2020
NDHSA Convention
Jamestown, ND
Keynote:
Chuck Black



The VIEW from my WINDOW

By Theresa Deckert NDHSA Office Administrator



Are you a member of the NDHSA? If not, please consider becoming a member. Memberships help keep our office open and help us to maintain a public website with homeschooling information pertinent to North Dakota.

Members get **10% off of their registration fee for the convention**, but they can also sign up for the member portion of our website. The member side of the website offers a **free download** of the *Annotated Home School Statutes* (\$5.00 value) as well as a download of the *ND Guide to Home School High School* (\$20 value).

Members can list their businesses under the **business directory** as well as view listings of other businesses run by homeschooling families. What a great way to support each other! Other free publications include a list of testing services with links, a list of online curriculum options with links, the HSLDA discount number and a membership card which can be shown at various stores for an educator's discount.

As I work at developing other reference lists for office use they will be added to the member portion of the website. Any members who have suggestions for other things they would like to see on the member page, just drop me a line at office@ndhsa.org and I will try to add those things!

Remember: The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit. We rely on memberships and donations to keep operating.

JOIN today at www.ndhsa.org



The Closing of the American Mind

by Allan Bloom

“Every educational system has a moral goal that it tries to attain and that informs its curriculum. It wants to produce a certain kind of human being. Democratic education, whether it admits it or not, wants and needs to produce men and women who have the tastes, knowledge, and character supportive of a democratic regime.”

BOARD COLUMN

will
return
next
month!



And the beat goes on! Homeschooling continues to grow.

<https://hslida.org/content/docs/news/2019/20191001-federal-report-homeschooling-doubled-in-last-20-years.aspx>

Homeschooling: What in the World is Going On? – Dr. Brian Ray

<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclsee.us%2Fwhatintheworld&data=02%7C01%7C%7Ce7b513ee335842e8a26808d7484661f8%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637057339431024591&sdata=cT2wIFGR18erJBJYsMnKWqsMrgGFwVRsHFXRBQM%2FMI8%3D&reserved=0>

WOW! Check this out: www.SchoolhouseTeachers.com.

WORLD Magazine - ESAs - Tax Credits

August 31, 2019, “Blaine, Blaine, Short-Sighted Briber From the State of Maine”

By Marvin Olasky

If you are at all interested in news of the world from a Biblical perspective with even-handed reporting and commentary, I recommend *WORLD* magazine. We have been subscribers for many years. The August 31 issue featured an interesting look at the Blaine Amendments and how they make “state constitutional roadblocks to school choice.” I made copies of the article and passed it out to interested parties. Our ND State Constitution reads, “No money raised for the support of the public schools of the state shall be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school (Article VIII, Section 5).” The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging bans on the use of taxpayer funds to pay for, indirectly, tuition at evangelical and other religious schools. Since we have had two legislative sessions that have attempted to pass Education Savings Accounts bills, it behooves us to pay attention to this subject. ESAs are *not* savings accounts and if proponents wish to pass such legislation they ought to at least label it with honesty. ESAs as envisioned by bill sponsors are actually agreements made between the state treasurer and families to use taxpayer money for nonpublic education needs. In the 2019 legislative session, SB 2142 died in the Senate.

Also introduced was a tax credit bill (HB1321) which would have allowed a per child credit on state income tax for children in non-public or homeschools. Of course, it went down in flames. I support tax credits because a tax credit is dealing with YOUR money. An ESA is dealing with TAXPAYER money (this always necessitates attached strings!). An education ‘subsidy’ is still a form of welfare.

Editor’s note: These are my comments and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board of directors. So if you don’t like the comments address your complaints to me at billboby@msn.com.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education:**

Laurie Morstad
 9175 80th St. NE,
 Hampden, ND 58338
 Check expiration dates.



Find a support group near you at:
www.ndhsa.org
 Click on support groups.

For legal assistance
 JOIN
 Home School Legal
 Defense Association.
www.hslda.org

Definition of Education

From Noah Webster's original American dictionary, 1828

It is 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 station.

To give children a good education in manners, arts and science is important. To give them a religious education is indispensable and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

My strength is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9



Educating the Whole Hearted Child

by Clay and Sally Clarkson

"Home-centered learning is not just a new perspective on your home and family, it is a new perspective on your children. Not only did God design home and family to be a learning environment, but he also designed children to learn naturally within that environment. Because children are made in God's image, they are already intelligent, creative, and curious. No matter what you do (or don't do!), God has already put within them the drive to explore, discover, question and to learn. They do not learn because you show them how to make sense of things ... they make sense of things because they already know how to learn!"

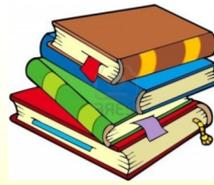
Following is a chart included in the Clarkson book. It is a good comparison between institutional education and homeschooling. The one thing I would strongly highlight is the variance of worldview teaching in comparing these two models. When you boil it all down there are really only two worldviews: God is the center and measure of ALL things OR man is the center and measure of ALL things. Which do you think is being taught in the public arena? For hours, and days, and weeks, and years.

Public Education	Home Education
The child is part of the group. Public education focuses on helping the child conform to group standards in order to learn certain things at certain times in certain ways with limited regard to maturity or ability.	The child is an individual. Home education focuses on the development of the whole person, responsiveness to individual learning needs and desires, and guidance in growing in Christian maturity.
Learning structures are created with the need for order, conformity, regimen, and control in mind. Formality is demotivating, stifling a child's curiosity, creativity and natural desire to learn.	Learning structures are created with the interests of the child, home, and family in mind. Time and freedom unleash the child's curiosity, creativity and natural desire to learn.
Instruction is 'dumbed down' to accommodate the poorest learners in the class. Motivated learners are frustrated by the slow pace; struggling learners by the fast pace; 'average' learners learn to stay average. 'Slow' learners are stigmatized, and 'fast' learners are ostracized.	Instruction is aimed high to challenge all in the home school. Learning abilities can vary without any attached meaning or stigma. All children advance at their own pace. Each child is treated as an individual without reference to others.
Teacher can give each child only limited individual attention in a class of 15-30 children, and is unable to respond to each child's individual needs and interests	Parent is able to give each child unlimited individual attention in a one-to-one tutoring relationship, and to respond to each child's individual needs and interests.
Routine reliance on mind-numbing, lifeless textbooks and workbooks. (Editor's note: And materials will be from a secular worldview.)	Parent is free to choose the best 'living' books and curricula available. (Editor's note: And all materials can be from a Christian worldview!)
Child advances in studies on the basis of age and grade with limited regard to knowledge or competence.	Child advances in studies on the basis of knowledge and competence without regard to age or grade.
Child is tested primarily for short-term linear knowledge. Retention is low. Written tests, though less effective, are easier to administer and grade; oral testing avoided.	Child is tested primarily for long-term global knowledge (ideas and concepts). Retention is high. Written tests are unnecessary; oral testing is more effective and a better gauge of learning.
Homework is necessary because of the teaching and learning constraints of institutionalized education.	Homework is unnecessary. All learning is accomplished during the teaching/tutoring times.
Child must learn to please various teachers. The authority relationships are unnatural and 'formal.'	Child instinctively wants to please his parents. The authority relationship is natural and loving.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge Proverbs 1:7

Children and Books

In my experience, children love books about animals. I have some homeschooled children that I meet with weekly and we have read several of the Lamplighter books aloud. This year we will begin reading some of Rudyard Kipling's tales and we are starting with *Rikki Tikki Tavi*.



While dusting (something I don't do very often) I ran across this classic from 1987: *Books Children Love* by Elizabeth Wilson. She has compiled a work that lists books according to subject and literature level. Following is a very limited peek at some of her lists.

Animals: Farm Babies by Russell Freedman; Pets by Alice Fields; The Otter's Tale by Gavin Maxwell; Rascal by Sterling North; Wild Orphan Babies by Dr. William Weber.

Horticulture: Your First Garden Book by Marc Brown; Making a Native Plant Terrarium by D.J. Herda; Kids Gardening: A First Indoor Gardening Book for Children by Aileen Paul; Eat the Fruit, Plant the Seed by Millicent Selsam; Farming in Boxes by Peter and Mike Stevenson; A Gardening Book: Indoors and Outdoors by Anne B. Walsh.

Biographies: Gladys Aylward, the Small Woman by Alan Burgess; Wilderness Wife (Rebecca Boone) by Etta DeGering; Touch of Light: The Story of Louis Braille by Anne E. Neimark; Ten Fingers for God by Dorothy Clarke Wilson; The Boy Who Loved Music by David Lasker (Haydn); The Flying Scotsman by Sally Magnusson (Eric Liddell); Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington.

And if you want a really, really comprehensive listing of books for children and young adults, pick up a copy of Jan Bloom's *Who Should We Then Read?*

Try locating some of these at www.abebooks.com. I have purchased hundreds of books through their sellers for generally not more than \$3-4 each (no shipping and handling).

"If you love God supremely, He will only give you what you yourself would have chosen if you knew everything that He knows."

From Genesis Park Newsletter



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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 bilibiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 29 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a 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: bilibiby@msn.com She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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www.ndhsa.org Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund

2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington

2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer

2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel

2018 Linus & Anna Evinger

2019 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer



PRAYER

- **PRAISE** God for His continued mercy over our land.
- **PRAY** for those who are hurting. Help if you can.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom's courage and perseverance. Pray for those who have given up.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. If one dies apart from Christ, one is eternally lost...think about it.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray we will be faithful, obedient, and willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for those in prison. Especially for Christians.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen our resolve in all manner of godly living. Courage, Lord, give us courage.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom. Remember Melanie Joerger as she deals with visual problems.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal legislation; for their continued work to expand freedom for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. Often. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Christians are dying daily. Don't forget.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:17-18